



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
June/July/August 2016 ■ Volume 64, Number 6



WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Congregational Life | 2 |
| Transitions | 3 |
| Children & Families | 4 |
| Youth Connection | 4 |
| Graduates | 5 |
| Faith in Action | 6 |
| Adult Education | 9 |
| Financial Stewardship | 9 |
| Opportunities for Women..... | 10 |

Dear Friends,

Summer is almost here! Gardens are growing, swimming pools are open, and high school graduations are mere days away. Around church, plans are in place for our annual picnic, the youth will leave soon on their annual mission trip, a group of children and youth will travel to Montreat, North Carolina for a worship and music conference, and our kids will gather for Vacation Bible School and a week at Camp Westminster. There is lots more planned for the summer, including a celebration of the church's 190th anniversary. We will worship outside at 9:30 a.m. on the five Sundays in July, and our 11:00 a.m. service will be held in air-conditioned Monteith Hall from June 19 – September 4. Read this issue of First Press carefully for more information about worship, service, educational, and fellowship opportunities in the next couple of months. Our next newsletter will be distributed in mid-August.

The end of June I will begin an eleven-week sabbatical. I am so very grateful to the session for making this time of study and exploration possible. There is much I hope to accomplish. My major project is to contact a number of people and hear their first-hand accounts of the tumultuous

1960's civil right struggle. I am focusing primarily on church folk – especially Presbyterians – who lived and served in the South during that era. This is a project I have wanted to pursue for over twenty years have never had the luxury of time to do so.

Melissa Anne Rogers will lead our staff team in my absence, ably assisted by her fellow associate pastor Jay Sanderford. I will be back for University Sunday, September 11, and in the pulpit September 18. I will be praying for you all during my time away and hope you will pray for me. In 28 years of ministry I've never taken a sabbatical. Some friends have accused me of trying to squeeze 28 years' worth of projects into this one! We'll see. What I know for sure is that I will miss you, there will be lots to share when I return, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Have a wonderful summer. Stay attuned to God's presence among us and God's love for all..

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor/Head of Staff



Summer Open Hours & Worship Schedule

Summer Worship Schedule

June 19 - July 31

8:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Worship in Monteith Hall

July 3 - 31

9:30 a.m. - Worship on the Front Lawn

August 7 - September 4

8:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Worship in Monteith Hall

9:30 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary

Summer Open Hours from May 23 – September 5

First Pres doors will be unlocked and open for business during the following days and times this summer.

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Sign Up Now for the All-Church Picnic Sunday, June 12 after 9:30 a.m. Worship

Enjoy Satchel's BBQ, the Bluegrass band Thunderwüde, inflatables, live animals with "superpowers" from the Howell Nature Center, and games for kids of all ages. There is no 11:00 a.m. worship service on June 12. The cost is \$8 per person if you pay ahead of time or \$9 per person if you pay at the event. Children under five are free. There is no family maximum for this event. Make your reservation for the church picnic by calling the Church Office, or sign up online by clicking this link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/allchurch-picnic-reservation-2016/>.

Daniel Ervin to be Ordained in June

Resident Minister Daniel Ervin's ordination as a teaching elder of the PC(USA) is right around the corner! First Pres is honored to be hosting his ordination service, which will take place on the afternoon of Sunday, June 26. Ministers and ruling elders from our congregation and the Presbytery of Detroit will provide worship leadership, with Rev. Dr. Paul Galbreath, Professor at Union Seminary in Richmond, preaching. Please come celebrate this important milestone in Daniel's ministry.



Register online for Mature Ministries Summer

Reserve your spot for upcoming Mature Ministries summer events online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/mature-ministries-summer-events-2016/> After you register, please mail in your payment or drop a check off in the Church Office.

Reserve Your Spot for the 2017 All-Church Retreat on Mackinac Island

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to travel and spend some time on Mackinac Island with your church family in May of 2017! More information about the event will follow in the coming months. Reserve your room at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/all-church-retreat-may-2017/>

Mature Ministries Goes to Meadow Brook Hall

On Thursday, July 28 travel with us by chartered bus to Rochester for a trip to one of America's great historic houses, Meadow Brook Hall. Built for the Dodge family on the eve of the Great Depression, this 110-room estate survives as the fourth largest historic home in the United States. Our outing will include a guided tour through many of the fully furnished rooms, a catered lunch, a welcome from Meadow Brook's Director, and a presentation on the Dodge family's Presbyterian faith by the Curator. Those seeking an upstairs/downstairs fix following the end of Downton Abbey will find it here – a truly remarkable house and a compelling family story. Transportation and admission will be provided by the Mature Ministries program. Lunch will be \$20, paid in advance. Buses leave Ann Arbor at 9:30 a.m. and return around 3:30 p.m. Did you know that a very young Frank Sinatra appeared as featured entertainer at a family birthday party in Meadow Brook Hall's music gallery? Join us for lunch in the same space this summer and become part of the ongoing story of Meadow Brook Hall. Make your reservation today in the Church Office.



Gerry Leckrone Retires as Orchestra Conductor

At our May 22 services, our congregation and orchestra thanked Gerry Leckrone for his years of volunteer service conducting the orchestra. We thank him for all he has done to enhance our music ministry and help us glorify God through instrumental music. Thank you, Gerry!

Stephen Ministry

Did you know that we are beginning our tenth year as a Stephen Ministry congregation? On Sunday, July 24, we will celebrate this great helping and healing ministry at the 9:30 worship, and the Stephen Ministers will sponsor Coffee Hour on the terrace. Training begins for a new class in January 2017, so we will be recruiting this fall. Is this the right ministry of care for you? We need people who are called with special gifts for listening, and for walking with those in need during a time of uncertainty and struggle. Training (50 hours!) is provided. For more information, contact any member of the Stephen Ministry Leader Team (Bill Findlay, Mary McKeever, Evonne Plantinga, Kathy Wirstrom, Deanne Woodruff, Rev. Rogers). Here we share a prayer we as Stephen Ministers pray often, as we walk with those in our care (called Care Receivers): a Celtic Prayer, written by Deanne Woodruff.

As I walk beside my Care Receiver I pray-
God hold my right hand.
God be in my heart and in my words.
God go with us on the unknown road that we will journey together.

As I listen to my Care Receiver I pray-
Jesus redeem my fears so I can give comfort,
Jesus help me give compassion to another who suffers and
Jesus give me strength to hold fast, to you, O God.

Let me be the vessel of your healing With the help of the Holy Spirit-
The Spirit that prays and intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
The Spirit that works all things for God's good purposes,
The Spirit who shields believers in the mighty armor of God's Grace.

Holy Trinity, cleanse my imperfect heart so that I can reflect God's perfect love. Amen.



Welcome New Members!

We welcome those who joined on May 22.

Left to Right, Front Row - Matt McCammant, Shannon McCammant, Doug Hollingsworth, Karen Hollingsworth, Jung Eun, Ron David, and John Barks

Left to Right, Back Row - Bruce Thomson, Marilyn Simpson, Lisa Shultz, Roger Shultz, Stevany Peters, Mike Neighbors, and Jessica Menke

Not shown - Carol Fairweather

The Next Edition of First Press

The September/Fall Start Up edition of First Press will be issued the last week of August. Submissions are due August 10 and should be sent to publications@firstpresbyterian.org.



Transitions

A Celebration of Life through Song

The choir presents this program July 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary in memory of Marcia Van Tuyl, who died March 24, 2016. Prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving will be offered for her beautiful life and peaceful death. All are welcome to attend.



Children & Families

Life in Jesus' Time - Summer Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 21 – Thursday, June 23, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



VBS is fast approaching! For three days, children (Kindergarten - fifth grade complete) will experience what life was like when Jesus lived. They will visit the arts and craft shops in the Marketplace, travel to the Story Teller's tent, witness events in Jesus' life re-enacted by our street players, and play games at the Jerusalem playground. Join us for a great Bible time experience, and invite a friend! Registration forms will be mailed to homes shortly or visit ww.firstpresbyterian.org, search "Vacation Bible School." There are many adult, middle schooler, and high schooler volunteer opportunities. Questions? Contact Deborah MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Cindy King at cking@firstpresbyterian.org.

Sign Up Now for your Camp Westminster Adventure!

First Pres Goes to Camp July 31- August 6

Boating, swimming, archery, arts and crafts, campfires, and more! What is summer without Camp Westminster? Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake, 200 miles north of Ann Arbor that offers a traditional camp experience. Second through eighth graders, come and spend time in the woods, make friends and have a wonderful time. Pre-register today for Camp Westminster at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/camp-westminster-preregistration-form/> Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org, or Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org.



Youth Connections

Keystone Mission Trip - June 19-26

In June, the high school mission team travels to Mt. Vernon in southern Indiana, where they will paint the exterior of a home, demolish a shed for the local AME church, do landscaping work for Posey County Habitat for Humanity, paint the Senior Center and do riverfront cleanup. The team is led by seniors Kate Monnett, Jenna King, Adela Baker, Allie Lindstrom, and Chad Wilson; and adults Marc Buchanan, Kelsey King, Tom Kaercher, Rev. Emily Béghin, Peer Minister Lex Allum, and Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett.. The team has three members from the First Presbyterian churches of Nampa and Boise, Idaho who have partnered with First Pres on past trips. After the work week, the team will hike in the Shawnee National Forest's Garden of the Gods and visit King's Island amusement and waterpark.



Keystones at the Lake – July 12



School is over and our 8th graders are now high school freshmen! Welcome to Keystones, our high school youth group. Our first event together is Keystones at Clear Lake. We are going to the Jones' cottage on Clear Lake on Tuesday, July 12, 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. Carpools will be leaving from the Meijer parking lot on Ann Arbor –Saline Rd. at 3:30 p.m. We will be swimming, laughing, eating, and having a wonderful time together. All rising 9th graders through recent graduates are invited. Bring friends! A signed Consent Release is needed. RSVP for both coming and how many seats in the car pool you need to Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett "R]" at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org.

Art Fair Parking – July 21- 24

Come work two shifts or more to raise money for Youth Mission. This is an all-hands-on-deck event with shifts from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:00-4:00 p.m., and 3:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a parent or a friend to earn more money. To earn money you must work two shifts. We need eight people per shift.



Congratulations 2016 Graduates!

High School Graduates

Catholic Central High School

Justin Baker

Son of Carol and Gary Baker
Attending Michigan State University

Greenhills High School

Nathaniel Tomtishen

Son of Lynda Oswald and Brad Tomtishen

Huron High School

Blanca Davis

Daughter of Elizabeth Davis

Sarah Gargan

Daughter of Julie and Peter Kozma
Attending Hope College

Allie Lindstrom

Daughter of Andrea and Scott Lindstrom
Attending Washington University

Kate Monnett

Daughter of Karin and Jim Monnett
Attending Belmont University

Alan Stahl

Son of Jennie and Gary Stahl
Attending the University of Michigan

Grace VanRenterghem

Daughter of Cynthia and Rob
VanRenterghem
Attending the University of Michigan

Hadley VanRenterghem

Daughter of Cynthia and Rob
VanRenterghem
Attending Johns Hopkins University

Milan High School

Ryan Waryas

Son of Kam Waryas
Son of Vince Waryas
Attending Michigan State University

Pioneer High School

John Crawford

Son of Nancy and Bob Crawford
Attending Davidson College

Jenna King

Daughter of Cindy and Chris King
Attending Hope College

John Kunec

Son of Jenny and Rob Kunec
Attending Kalamazoo College

Margaret Mooney

Granddaughter of Eleanora Charlson
Attending Michigan State University

John Matthew Nicklas

Son of Ann and John Nicklas
Attending Brown University

Madeline Perrett

Daughter of Margie and John Perrett
Attending The Ohio State University

Gage Sansbury

Son of Jennifer and Greg Sansbury
Attending Eastern Michigan University

Saline High School

Andrea Doa

Daughter of Anne Murray-Doa and
Mike Doa
Attending Grand Valley State University

Jonathan Firehammer

Son of Susan and Paul Firehammer
Attending Michigan State University

Chad Wilson

Son of Jennifer and Paul Wilson
Attending the University of Michigan

Skyline High School

Grace Heidorn

Daughter of Deb Kop and Jon Heidorn
Attending Michigan State University

Undergraduate & Advanced Degrees

Paul David Beery

B.A., Political Science
Willamette University

Emily Bellfi

Master of Public Health
University of North Carolina

Jason Berger

Master of Music, Voice Performance
University of Michigan

Caitlin Berrigan

B.S., Aerospace Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology

Erika Boothman

M.D.
The Ohio State University

Amelia Brinkerhoff

B.S., Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
McGill University

Jacob Caldwell

B.A. Philosophy
College of Wooster

Betsy Clyde

Masters in Educational Psychology
Eastern Michigan University

Claire DeLancey

B.A., Economics
University of Michigan

Meredith Firehammer

B.S. Cellular and Molecular Biology
University of Michigan

Rachel Firehammer

B.S., History, Secondary Education
Michigan State University

Corinne Froning

B.A., Social Theory and Practice,
Sustainable Food Systems
University of Michigan

Undergraduate & Advanced Degrees (Cont.)

Jeanne Louise Goodman

B.A. International Relations
and Afro-American Studies
University of Michigan

Mary Winn Granum

B.A., English
Boston University

Chris Haddlesey

B.A., Music and English Education
University of Michigan

Andrew Herold

B.S., Mechanical Engineering
Rose-Hulman Institute

Sarah Jahnke

B.A. Political Science and History
University of Michigan

Alexandre Jolliet

B.A. Philosophy and Political Science
University of Michigan

Kathryn Johnson

Doctor of Pharmacy
University of Michigan

Kelsey King

B.S.N., Nursing
Hope College

Klarrisa Kinzinger

B.S., Nursing
Oakland University

Lauriann LaMoreaux

B.A., Cinema
San Francisco State University

Margaret LeDuc

B.A., Communications
Western Michigan University

Ryan Lindstrom

B.A., Biology
Rollins College

Stephanie Lyons

B.S. Education
Hope College

Jack McKarns

B.S. Petroleum Engineering
Marietta College

Michael Miller

Bachelor of Music, Voice Performance
University of Michigan

Lauren Mulcrone

B.S. Natural Sciences
Michigan State University

Sarah Nussdorfer

MA, Educational Leadership
St. Leo's University

Julia Pakela

B.S., Physics
University of Michigan

Kate Pepple

B.A., History
University of Pittsburgh

George Perrett

BA., Psychology
University of Wisconsin



Katherine Gill St. Claire

Masters in Special Education
George Mason University

Dagmar Schoettle

Masters in Accounting
Ross School of Business
University of Michigan

Sterling VanderVoort

B.A. Industrial Engineering
University of Tennessee

Hannah Walsh

Masters in Education
Southern Methodist University

Maddy Walsh

B.B.A.
Ross School of Business
University of Michigan

Alec Washabaugh

B.S. Mathematics
University of Michigan

Cassandra Webster

D.D.S.
University of Michigan



Faith In Action

Adopt a Garden Bed at First Pres

The Green Thumbers need help maintaining First Pres' lovely grounds. They have divided the grounds into small areas (zones) and invite you to adopt one! Some zones require annual planting, some require trash monitoring and raking only. You choose and sign up to adopt the zone that suits you. For example, Zone 1b is the area around the church sign. This area would take one person to maintain: rake, clean up debris, and trim the boxwood behind the sign. You would plant annuals in the spring (soon). We provide the plants, you put them in. And you check regularly to make sure that they are getting enough water. Zone 2b contains the patio, and requires only debris pickup and raking, no planting. Working on the church grounds is a meditative task that results in happy feelings! You may often run into old friends here! Please contact Kathy Clark at kclarkscio@comcast.net or Kathy Sample at 846-4080 to ask about a zone.



Habitat House of Faith Dedication

Recognition of Lois Nissly

The most important day of a Habitat project is the dedication ceremony when homeowners are recognized and share their journey to homeownership. Join us on Sunday, June 12, for the dedication of the 2016 Habitat House of Faith at 1222 Clarita St. in Ypsilanti, from 3:00-4:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Come early, tour the home, and meet the Riggs family.

Over the past five months, First Pres volunteers helped to completely renovate the house. Now the Riggs' home in the West Willow neighborhood is an energy-efficient space featuring a new roof, insulation, siding, energy star appliances, and high efficiency heating and cooling. The interior has a new kitchen, flooring, doors, trim, blinds, and paint. This year's ceremony is doubly meaningful, as Lois Nissly's contributions to Habitat for Humanity and this House of Faith will be recognized. Lois has served on the Board of Directors, and has been interim executive director. Through Lois' initiative, a Jeanne Seeley grant was secured which restarted First Pres' relationship with Habitat and resulted in the rehabbing of six homes.



Better Together – Welcome Refugees to Ann Arbor

Let us make them welcome! The Mission Committee, Pastors, and Session of First Pres as well as individual members of the congregation are deeply concerned with the ongoing resettlement crisis for refugees, particularly those fleeing from Syria. Rev. Jay Sanderford is working with volunteers from the congregation to explore how First Pres can best respond. A number of other local congregations interested in taking action are exploring the issue as well.

At this time, Jewish Family Services (JFS) is the agency in Washtenaw County with the knowledge and ability to resettle refugees, be they individuals or families. So as a first step, First Pres will be joining Westminster Presbyterian from Memorial Day to July 4 (holiday to holiday) to collect items in several categories that JFS can put directly to use:



- Kitchen items - pots & pans, utensils, dishes, table ware, etc.
- Personal items - toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.
- School supplies - notebooks, paper, pens & pencils, backpacks, etc.
- Household items - linens, cleaning supplies, alarm clocks, etc.
- Gift cards - from major stores such as Meijer, Kroger or Target (Please drop them off in the Church Office.)
- Clean, used kitchen and household items in good condition

There will be boxes to collect these items at the Welcome Center and outside of the Church Office from Memorial Day through July 4. Please consider that Jesus was a refugee when his family fled to Egypt, and that many of our ancestors fled persecution when they came to this country, then give generously to support the newest refugees. Please contact Carol Fletcher cefletch@umich.edu or Rev. Jay Sanderford for more information.

Rehobeth Garden

“Dirt under my fingernails and an aching tiredness in my shoulders. Ah, Spring, it's so good to be back in the garden!!”

By the time you read this, the 2016 version of Rehoboth Interfaith Garden will be a beautiful thing to behold. Young tomato plants from Presbytery, carrot and kale seedlings in tidy rows, and peas blooming on the fence share space in the soil beneath God's generous sun. Please come take a look at the garden on the Hill Street property, next to the pre-school playground. Better yet, grab a pair of gloves and pull a few weeds while you're there.

If that sounds like a shameless cry for help – it is! Last year's harvest of 365 pounds (all donated to Food Gatherers) was made possible by the dedication of a very small group of volunteers, who are asking you to join them. Not only would we like to share the work with you, but also the incredible blessing that pulling this nutritious produce from the ground and sharing it with others has been to us. God's goodness in plump red tomatoes, crisp green lettuce, and spicy jalapeños is a feast for our eyes and others' stomachs. Please contact Kathy Wirstrom at kwirstrom@yahoo.com; Paul Smith at psmith6641@aol.com; or Marolin Bellefleur at marolinbellefleur@gmail.com to find out how you can become the hands of God serving up the harvest.



"Seeing Nicaragua with Faithful Eyes"

Sunday, June 12 in the Lewis room - (Special Time) 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Come, meet our PCUSA mission co-workers serving in Nicaragua, Renée and Justin Sundberg, see Nicaragua through eyes of faith, and enjoy Nicaraguan coffee. Hear the stories from our First Pres Nicaragua Mission Team who spent a week in April in hills of Nicaragua building a much-needed schoolroom for the community of Quebrada Honda. Justin and Renée live in Managua and work with the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD), facilitating mission teams from the United States who come to Nicaragua to work with and learn from Nicaraguans. The Sundbergs have hosted two mission teams from First Pres and have formed a good partnership. Renée and Justin share the conviction that wonderful things happen when people from the United States connect to the needs of Nicaraguans: "Nicaraguan hearts are filled with hope, North American hearts get patched up, and real economic change can take root in Nicaragua." Be with us before worship to share the Sundbergs' faith and benefit from the rich experience of our First Pres Nicaragua Mission Team.



Para Aprender, Para Construir, Para Entender

To Learn, To Build, To Understand

In April, twelve First Pres members, including three teens traveled to Nicaragua. Our delegation leader was Justin Sundberg, a PCUSA mission co-worker assigned to CEPAD, Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua. After spending a day in Managua learning more about the country, we traveled to the small community of Quebrada Honda where we worked shoulder to shoulder with local community members mixing mortar, cutting and laying concrete blocks, and making rebar reinforcements for a small classroom. We also painted two existing classrooms. We enjoyed getting to know the Nicaraguans as we shared meals, played soccer, read story books, taught lessons, sang and laughed together. We were certainly blessed to see God every day in the faces of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters. Each day we had devotions and reflections led by Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers and on our last evening in Granada we worshiped and celebrated communion together. We all felt our time in the community was too short and we've begun planning our next visit in 2017.



Communion Sunday Food Collection Schedule

June 5 – Bring food and offering for Food Gatherers (Sponsored by Local Mission)

July 3 – Bring food and offering for Hope Clinic (Sponsored by Mature Ministries)

August 7 – Bring food and offering for Detroit Hunger Ministry (Sponsored by Presbyterian Women)

Philippines Mission Team Scholarship Ministry

For the past 16 years First Presbyterian Church, through the work of the Philippines Mission Team, has provided scholarships to give talented Filipino students from poor families the opportunity to attend school. For the 2015-2016 school year, \$7,000 was raised for these scholarships, enabling 54 elementary through college age students to receive an education. Scholarships are restricted to one offer per family. After graduation students that benefited from First Pres scholarships find jobs and support their siblings, allowing them to quit work and go back to school. College students attend schools in the Dumaguete area including Silliman University, Negres Oriental State University and Foundation University. Each time First Pres missionaries visit Damaguete, the scholars demonstrate their gratitude by performing dances and songs and by giving testimonies as to how the scholarships have changed their lives. We are all inspired and changed by this partnership with the students. – *Ward Bouwsma, Ginny Rezmierski*



Give Blood Monday, July 18

The Deacons' Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, July 18, from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Monteith Hall. As the Red Cross says, "The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood." Please help! Sign up to donate blood, online at www.redcrossblood.org. Questions? Contact Susan Sweet Scott at 320-5819. Donating blood is a simple thing to do, and it will make a huge difference in the lives of others.

News from Niger - Ludwigs' Update

It's been a month of good movement on many fronts. The plans for Community Health Evangelism (CHE), our progression in language, and the rickshaw taxi business have all moved along nicely. We thank you all for your prayers and encouragement! Please pray for the US travel visa to be granted for the boy we hope to adopt so he may meet aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. May we be willing to submit to God's knowledge and will on this and not just our heart's hopes! Pray we will survive the hottest weather in the past 40 years!



Adult Education

ConnectEd Conversations

Summer After-Worship Conversations

As adult education classes wind down for the summer in June, the Adult Education Workgroup is beginning a series of small group conversations following the 9:30 a.m. worship service based on the scripture readings for the day, the sermon, and other parts of worship. The first of these ConnectEd Conversations begins June 19, and will include an informal time of sharing, learning, and praying together in community around God's Word for us. These groups are open to people of all ages. Keep abreast of this opportunity by reading the weekly bulletin.



June Classes

Sunday, June 5 at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall

Common Ground & Exploring the Faith Classes Meet Together

Estate Planning: Estates, Bequests and Planned Giving

Join Ron and Diana Gardner from First Presbyterian and explore how gifts, planned gifts and bequests can play an instrumental role in estate planning for your family.

Sunday, June 12 at 8:15 a.m. in the Lewis Room *Note Special Time*

"Seeing Nicaragua with Faithful Eyes" – Meet our Presbyterian Coworkers serving in Nicaragua, Renée and Justin Sundberg and see Nicaragua through eyes of faith and enjoy Nicaraguan Coffee! For more information, see the article on page 8.



Financial Stewardship

June 5 Is Legacy Giving Sunday

At 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. we welcome guest preacher Rev. John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago and retired editor of *The Christian Century*. At 11:00 a.m., Estate and Trust attorneys and First Pres members Ron and Diana Gardner present "Planned Giving: Estate Planning 101" in Monteith Hall. Rev. Buchanan will also speak at noon at the Legacy Partners Luncheon, recognizing those who have remembered First Pres in their will. Join us for worship. And consider remembering First Pres in your will. Be sure to let us know that you have taken that step to be a Legacy Partner.

Legacy Partners Bill and Dusty Upton

When we were first married we had a decision to make regarding what church to join. Bill had been raised as an Episcopalian here in Ann Arbor, while Dusty had grown up in the First Presbyterian Church in her hometown of Jamestown, NY. We decided to give a number of churches a try, with visit #1 being to First Pres. We never made it to visit #2, and we've never had any regrets about that. First Pres was here and ready for us when we were ready to join. We want to do what we can to ensure that First Pres will continue to be here and ready for others long into the future, and that's why we've chosen to be Legacy Partners and include First Presbyterian in our wills.



Words of Grace and Gratitude – Chris Queen

Stewardship involves responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. As disciples of Jesus Christ, stewards are caretakers of all God's gifts. For many years, I reaped the benefits of a rewarding and highly lucrative career and many years of financial success. However, I was not a good steward of those resources; at the same time, I failed to use those resources to the glory of the Lord. Today, that success is gone, along with the resources. It has taken a sea of change in my circumstances to help me realize that the "treasures" I acquired weren't completely my own, but rather were God's gifts to me. Today, I pledge more money in the service of God on a fixed income than I did when my income was much higher. During my period of success, I also failed to use my time and talents for God; time that should have been spent in His service was spent in worldly pursuits and the procurement of more money and material possessions. Now I spend my time in a variety of services at and through First Pres.

Every day, I am learning what it means to be a "good steward", and am seeking to improve my stewardship narrative. I have a lot of catching up to do in this regard, even at the age of sixty. Honoring God through stewardship produces its own rewards; I get more out of stewardship than I put in, whether it be from a financial perspective or time and talents.

The theme for the 2017 stewardship campaign is "Grace and Gratitude". Seeing ourselves as daily receivers of grace and expressing gratitude to God can be difficult for many - I know it is for me. Charles Wisely said, "Gratitude is our only appropriate response to the grace of God. Gratitude for our lives, for our families, for our material possessions." I think Charles Wisely is a smart man; we should show God gratitude for all that we have, whether we live a life of abundance or parsimony. We should strive to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure with others. In doing so, we will reap the blessings that come from a loving God and will be his true stewards.



Opportunities for Women

Hats Off to a Wonderful Celebration!

It was an evening of high spirits, wonderful food, and of course, fabulous hats ... On Wednesday, May 19, Presbyterian Women celebrated 170 years of women's service at First Presbyterian Church during a dinner that featured a potluck meal, remarks by Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, and some astonishing facts about the impact women have had on the mission and ministry of First Pres. During the gathering, Jeannette Middleton and Judy Landau were awarded Lifetime Honorary Life Memberships for the exceptional service they have given to God and to the church. In addition, the 2016-2017 PW officers were installed.

