Outside is where my dog wants to be. It’s where he always wants to go and if it was completely up to him, he would have me simply open the door and let him run. In his mind, it would be perfectly sensible for him to be able to go wherever he wanted for as long as he wanted without men around at all. I know better.

I know that if I just open the door and let him run, there’s a good chance that I’ll never see him again and that would break my heart. He thinks that he can do everything on his own without my guidance or influence. I know that he can do many things, but I also know that he won’t be able to stay away from trouble or even danger or keep himself from getting messy and, most important; he won’t be able to find his way home. He thinks that he should be able to run through the neighborhood and the woods without a care. He continues to display a shocking inability to remember that he belongs to me.

He also thinks that it doesn’t matter when he gets home and he thinks that it doesn’t matter what condition he’s in when he gets there. In other words, he doesn’t give a thought to how life in the outdoors will affect his ability to live indoors. I want him to be as clean and as wise and as disciplined and as healthy as he can be when he walks through that door and there’s only one way all of that is going to happen—I have to go with him. I do this because it matters to me what my dog does and it matters to me how he does things while he’s outside and it’s obvious that being outside by himself is just way too much freedom for my dog to handle on his own.

Because of all of this; because I know his true nature better than he does, when it’s the proper time for a walk, I elect to grab the leash and even though it’s not his idea of a perfect arrangement, he welcomes the beginning of our journey with excitement. Yet, as soon as we get outside, he pulls hard in the direction that he wants to go. That won’t work. The collar tightens and begins to hurt his neck and with that, he quickly learns to go slower; to mind his pace, and to stay close to me.

Right away, he assumes that we’re hunting rabbits. That’s what he wants to be doing, so he allows himself to get so lost in that assumption that he doesn’t even notice many other wonderful things that are all around us. Even though I’ve got a firm grip on the leash, it’s like I’m not even there at all. I’ve chosen a path for us to follow. It begins at home with me and it will end at home with me and while it’s all a gift for his benefit and for him to enjoy, it’s ultimately where I want to go. He’ll never know or appreciate how much his time outdoors has been improved by my choices.

When we finally do arrive home, he is done with a walk that he wouldn’t have chosen himself, but it’s also one that has ended far better than any that he could’ve designed. I break open a bag of dog treats. His eyes get really big and his ears prick up like they did when he was a puppy as he watches me take out a treat and toss it to him. With that, I’ve gone above and beyond; I’ve given him everything that I can. He quickly gobbles it down without a thought. He doesn’t even bother to savor the sweet flavor at all. He offers no thank you to me for all of this, of course; only an adorable look that clearly declares, “Give me more and give it to me now!”

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.
**The Beach is coming to The Prairie!**

On Sunday, August 24 at 7:00 pm, the legendary band The Beach Boys – led by founding member Mike Love and Bruce Johnston – surf their way to the Conner Prairie Amphitheater to perform their chart-topping favorites. First Pres is getting a group together for fun and fellowship! Let's celebrate the 60's at our own **private tables.** We will go in the church bus and car pool. We plan to leave the church parking lot at 5:00 pm. Bob & Julia Wadsworth along with Janie Miller will lead our merry band. Please join us! The price is $38 including the ticket and table. To register, please email Cathy Alexander (cathy@firstpresmuncie.org). Deadline to register is August 10.

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**Adult Mission Trip Opportunity: Oklahoma, Oct. 5—11**

Pastor JD will lead an adult mission trip to Oklahoma, October 5-11. Several communities in Oklahoma were impacted by the spring 2013 storms. Many agencies are working together in a coordinated effort during this difficult time and plan to continue over the months and years to come to help the communities recover and rebuild.

One of the biggest VOIDS and challenges in long term recovery is the availability and coordination of adequate resources and skilled and unskilled labor to repair and rebuild survivors’ homes.

If you feel called to serve the disaster survivors in Oklahoma, please contact Cathy Alexander or sign up at the information desk to get your name on the list. Thank you for your willingness to serve those in need!

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**Greater Muncie, Indiana Habitat for Humanity**

**is having a Faith Build this year.** This is an opportunity for area churches to join together to build a house. We at First Pres are going to participate!!

Our Session has approved a $5,000 donation from the mission fund for the Faith Build. We are also going to participate in the actual build and our dates are **August 6-9, Wed - Sat.**

The house is a rehab instead of new construction. The house is located at 1011 E. Memorial and was donated by the city. The house will be gutted and rebuilt at a cost of approx $68,000. A BSU immersive learning class did the design work.

The new owner is Michelle Stewart. Michelle has a teenage daughter and 2 sons in college. Her daughter’s only question to the design team was would her bedroom have a door. She has never had a private space of her own.

We will have a sign up sheet for construction volunteers and volunteers to provide breakfast and lunch each day. You can see me, Cathy Alexander, or Tony Yakos or call the office to sign up.

It would be great to have a lot of people participate. If you are not able to participate, you can always add to our financial donation.

This is wonderful to opportunity to participate in local mission.

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**Back to Church, Back to Sunday School, Back to Serve! Sunday, September 7**

September 7 marks our return to our fall schedule. Both services will be held in the sanctuary. Children and youth will begin their fall Sunday school classes at 9:45 to 10:30. Adults will spend the Sunday school time visiting a mission fair to be held in Fellowship Hall. Please greet representatives from our partner agencies and learn more about how they serve our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Delaware County. Following the 11:00 service, there will be a catered picnic in the garden. After a wonderful meal, 2:00 marks tee time for the Gishler Golf tournament at the Delaware Country Club. Get a team together now!
One simple thing will make a big difference in the life of an at-risk child: One-on-one, positive attention from a responsible, caring adult.

KIDS HOPE USA mentors from FPC spend one hour per week reading, talking, playing and listening to a child at Southview Elementary School. By helping the child feel loved and valued, we help that child to learn, grow and succeed.

There are Southview school children who need a mentor. If you have one hour a week, you can change a life...and that’s no small change! Please contact Cathy Alexander for more information about becoming a mentor.

On Saturday September 6th, we are offering a new member class. The class will begin at 4:30 PM and will be followed by dinner and fellowship. It is guaranteed to be a night of learning and fun as you transition into becoming a full and active member of First Presbyterian. Call the church office (289-4431) to reserve your spot. The deadline is Tuesday, September 2nd, at noon. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. J.D. at 289.4431 or by email at revjd@firstpresmuncie.org.

What is a small group????? Let’s figure it out together!
If you are interested in starting a small group or have a suggestion for a group, let’s talk! Call me at church or email me (cathy@firstpresmuncie.org). Thanks! Cathy

First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
8:30 a.m.—Garden Service (Garden)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The Rev. J. D. Georlett, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
revjd@firstpresmuncie.org

The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
ninebrights@hotmail.com

Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Small Group Activities
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry
prek@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Jane Smith, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org

Art Exhibit
Sharing & celebrating God’s creative gifts

More information/entry forms are available at the information desk and from the FPC website home page.
YOUTH MISSION TRIP REPORT!
The Branches youth group traveled to Camp Westminster in Roscommon, Michigan on June 22nd and returned on June 27th after a fruitful week of mission. While at Camp Westminster, we framed doorways and shelving units, leveled the ground under a pavilion, mulched their rustic campsite, weeded, planted flowers, cleared all but one trail on the camp’s grounds, and lined the trails with logs.

It is easy to list off all the work we accomplished, but what is more important is that we did this work in fellowship and in the name of our Lord. Reflecting on our team of seven youth and two adults, it is evident that we were called together by God to serve. Each evening as we came together to worship, two individuals shared their devotional. This year Thea challenged us to select our favorite Christian song or hymn and write a devotional explaining what it means to us and what we can learn from the lyrics. Through this sharing we cried together, laughed together, grew closer to one another, and most importantly, we worshiped together.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip possible, it is truly a highlight of our summer!

—Mackenzie Clinger

Branches’ Update...and Upcoming Events

To glorify God, Branches’ activities provide education, fellowship, mission, stewardship, and worship experiences for all junior high and senior high students. Many of you know Cathy (Thea) Alexander has transitioned into her new position as Director of Mission & Small Group Activities, so our youth are in a period of transition until the APNC’s search has been completed and a new associate pastor has been called.

September 7  Gishler Golf Outing (STILL NEED PARENTS! Contact Jeff Clinger)

Other events are in the process of being planned. Watch for updated information for each event in Happenings and FYI e-mails. Any questions, concerns, ideas...please contact Jeff Clinger, Moderator of Christian Education (tdclinger@yahoo.com).

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5
Sunday School for ages 4 – 5th grade kicks off September 7 with the Mission Fair and Picnic. 
Class will begin September 14 at 9:45 am in room 103.

Desperately seeking couples, friends or teams of people to teach our combined Sunday School class for young children ages 4 – 5th grade this year. 4-to-5-week blocks of teaching time are available:

- Sept. 14 – Oct. 12
- Oct. 19 – Nov. 9
- Nov. 16 – Dec. 14
- Jan. 4 – 25
- Feb. 1 – 22
- Mar. 1 – 22
- Apr. 12 – May 17 (no class May 10)

Please, prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this ministry. This particular ministry will be important as we continue our desire to grow and welcome young families. Looking to form a team of people to serve; if you feel called to teach and love our children please contact Tracy at tdclinger@yahoo.com or 751-7960.

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**PRE-SCHOOL 2014-15 UPDATE**

from Director of Children’s Ministry Tracy Clinger

**The start of school is just around the corner!**

Preschool here at FPC begins September 2, 2014! We will be welcoming many families and their children to the preschool and our faith community.

**August 24, 2014 at 5:00 pm** the Preschool Advisory Board and staff will be hosting an orientation for parents in Fellowship Hall.

**August 26 & 27** will be our Meet and Greet days for parents to meet their child’s teacher, tour the classrooms and register for Parent’s Day Out (PDO).

Interested in enrollment? Please visit firstpresmuncie.org, call 751-7960 or email Tracy at prek@firstpresmuncie.org.

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**Our staff is excited to begin a new school year!**

**Returning staff...**

**Michele Barber** will be teaching our 4-5 year olds on Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings as well as Tuesday/Thursday all day.

**Kathy Pretzsch** will be teaching our 4-5 year olds who will attend a full day on Monday/Wednesday/Friday.

**Niki Gillis** will continue to teach our 2 year olds on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

**We welcome two new teachers to our staff this year!**

**Carole Cardemon** will be leading our Parent’s Day Out Program on Monday/Thursday/Friday. She comes to us with previous kindergarten experience, a love for First Pres Preschool (her fourth child, Reid, will be finishing his last year with us before kindergarten) and has served on our preschool advisory board in the past!

**Sarah Daugherty** will be teaching our 3 year olds on Tuesday/Thursday mornings and afternoons. Sarah has her Master’s in Education plus 14 years experience with preschool age children. She has worked in the public school but her passion lies with the preschool age child!
Dear Friends in Whitewater Valley,

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ!

I write to thank you most heartily for the warm welcome I received last week in your presbytery! Your hospitality was gracious and your attentiveness and participation in the various discussions about mission and about the Dominican church gave evidence to your deep commitment to God’s mission in the world. Thank you for receiving me, for the fellowship, the good food, and the great conversations about mission!

A special thank you to Felipe for all the organizing and to Cathy Alexander and JD Georlett for the welcome to the pulpit at First Muncie and the lovely dinner with the mission committee and those who have traveled to the DR. And to Quentin Small and Felipe for transporting to and from Indianapolis.

My last mission letter is about the DR and mentions your presbytery’s visit of last February. I hope you will enjoy it and it will stimulate your interest to learn more. I look forward to seeing you there! This mission letter, as well as others are posted at: http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/holman-jo-ella/

I covet your prayers as I prepare to return to the DR in another week. It is hurricane season there, of course, and much work to be done. I have a heavy travel schedule in the region, beginning in August. Also, some of you know that my father died in June and my brother and I are working on the legal and financial matters that must be attended to in the midst of grieving. So I covet your prayers and I also pray God’s rich blessings on each of you and your ministries in Whitewater Valley and around the world.

May the love of God surround and uphold you,
Jo Ella Holman
PCUSA Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean

Save the Dates!

Confirmation Class for Grades 7-9
December, 2014 - May, 2015
More information to follow

Volunteer Mentors Needed

Project Leadership is seeking volunteers to mentor 21st Century Scholars attending Ball State University. Mentors use their experience and problem-solving skills to help students achieve their personal and academic goals. Training and resources are provided by the program. Mentors focus on establishing the personal relationships that are critical to helping many students overcome hurdles and persist through degree completion.

For more information, please contact Julie McGee at (765) 747-5250 or jmcgee@muncie.k12.in.us, OR Myron Earhart at (765) 760-3104 or mearhart6@gmail.com.

From Rev. Jo Ella Holman of the Dominican Republic

SOUPS & CRACKERS

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.
Dealing with Pain and Suffering

Pain and suffering are inevitable, but giving in to them is not. A path through the most difficult times is offered by Timothy Keller in his new book *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (248.86 KELL).

When pain and suffering come, as they inevitably do, we are faced with the reality that we are not in control of our life. We never were in control. Knowing this, the individual must then recognize that he is in the hands of Jesus, and Jesus lights the way to get through the most difficult of times.

The author is the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. The church now has more than 5,000 attendees each Sunday.

A Thriller Based on Fact

Although the fighting stopped almost 70 years ago, the World War II era continues to inspire authors of both fiction and non-fiction. The epic events of 1939-45 are the subject of innumerable movies and TV shows.

A new novel about those dark days has been written by the widely read author Joel C. Rosenberg. His book is *The Auschwitz Escape* (FIC ROSE). It is based on the true stories of Jews and others who were captured by the Nazis and shipped off to death camps in Eastern Europe. One of the principle characters is a French protestant minister who became — almost by accident — the head of an underground organization helping Jews flee the Nazis and escape the continent. The other is a young Jew who fled Germany and joined a resistance group in Belgium. Both are eventually captured and sentenced to hard labor at Auschwitz. Here they join forces and plot an escape attempt. The author has skillfully combined elements of the historical novel and modern thriller to tell this engrossing story.

Money-wise Children

Financial expert Dave Ramsey and his daughter Rachael Cruze have joined forces to equip parents to teach their children how to handle money. Their new book is *Smart Money Smart Kids* (332.02 RAMS).

This book provides strategies for kids from toddlers to teens starting with basics like working, saving, spending, and giving. From there, they move on to challenges like avoiding debt and paying cash for college.

Dave Ramsey is the author of four previous books about personal finance. Rachael Cruze has been lecturing on personal finance for the last decade.

Current study topic (Life of Peter) ends Wednesday, August 13

New 4-week topic (Heaven) begins on Wednesday, August 27

Dinner together at 6:00 pm
Youth/Adult Bible Study & Children's Programming at 6:45 pm

χΟΙΝΟVΙΑ—A night of food, fellowship and learning for all ages at First Presbyterian Koinonia (Koy-nuh-nee'-ah)—noun—Fellowship, Participation, Close Relationship [with God], Gift
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First Presbyterian Church
28th Annual Golf Outing
benefiting the
Gishler College Scholarship
Fund

Delaware Country Club
Sunday, September 7, 2014
2:00 pm Tee Time

Food & Prizes
• Meal Provided After Golf
• Prizes for 1st Three Teams
• Longest Drive (Men’s/Women’s)
• Closest To Pin On Par 3 (Men’s/Women’s)
• Longest Putt (Men’s/Women’s)
• 50/50 Drawing
• On-Course Games

Welcome
• All-Women Teams
• Non-First Pres Members

Register your team today!

Registration Form
First Presbyterian Church
2014 Gishler Golf Outing
Please detach and return with payment
by August 18, 2014, for early registration,
or by August 29, 2014, to:
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303

□ Team Entry - $280 on or before Aug. 18
$300 after Aug. 18 (18 holes; cart; driving range; lunch)
Team Captain Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

□ Individual Entry - $70 on or before Aug. 18
$75 after Aug. 18 (same as above)
Individual Name ____________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

□ Major Sponsorship - $500 (name on large sign)
No Team Included With $500 Sponsorship

□ Hole Sponsorship - $100 (tee box sign w/ name)

□ Personal Contribution - $____________
Name ____________________________

□ PAYMENT ENCLOSED:  □ Cash  □ Check