If a tree falls down in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound? You’ve heard that question before and perhaps you’ve even participated in the debate that this question sometimes creates. Some people argue that in order for a sound to qualify as a sound, it has to be heard by someone or something that possesses the ears and the brain that are capable of receiving and processing that sound.

Those on the other side of the debate declare that sound is sound and that it isn’t dependent upon whether or not anyone is present to hear it. If a sound is made, it’s made and that’s that. I am a member of this latter group of philosophers rather than the former, but if you think that the tree doesn’t make a sound, I promise, we can still be friends.

The question of whether or not that tree made a sound was first asked by an Irish philosopher who lived during the early 1700’s by the name of George Berkeley. In his view, if no one could see or hear a certain object or sound, it became so insignificant and so inconsequential that it literally ceased to exist. According to Berkeley, in order for something or someone to exist, it had to be seen and it had to be heard. Berkeley’s favorite phrase was, “Esse est percipi” which means “To be is to be perceived.” To him, it didn’t matter how big or how loud or profound or important a sound was. If that sound wasn’t heard and understood by someone, it didn’t have any value at all.

Now, if we could somehow stop thinking about trees in very lonely forests for a moment and take this question and apply it to Church and Christianity, we may gain a different perspective of our relationship with God. With this as our hope, I ask, “If God speaks and no one hears it, has God spoken?”

As Christians, we know and we celebrate the fact that God has indeed spoken to us and that God continues to speak to us through the beauty of creation and especially by means of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and the life and the death and the resurrection and the eternal reign of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has shown us incredible, amazing grace by choosing to speak to us through all of these things and more, but I can’t help noticing that when it comes to the voice of God, all of us, myself included and especially, have a bit of a hearing problem. We hear God speaking, but we forget what was said. We hear God’s voice, but we fail to make changes and truly apply God’s instruction to the way we live our lives. We hear what God has to say, but we tell ourselves that God is talking to someone else.

In the worst case scenario, God shouts his truth and glory right in our presence, but we’re too busy, tired, and distracted to even notice. So then, if we refuse to listen, did God make a sound? The right answer to that one ought to be obvious.

I think that we have a very good sound system here at First Presbyterian, but even so, a sound system can’t do everything. It helps us to hear better, but it isn’t worth much unless we decide to do everything that we need to do to be ready for that moment when God speaks. We will still have to listen intently, knowing that, quite often, God likes to whisper and that even if no one was around to hear what God had to say, it would still be the most profound and important noise ever made.

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.
Dominican Republic Trip News

The following eleven missionaries from our church will travel to the village of Mella in the Dominican Republic, March 22-29:

Cathy Alexander
Jessica Burkey
John Foster
Marty Kendrick
Carrie Jo Miller
Alan Simmons

Dan Alexander
Marie Burkey
Michelle Kaitchuck
Pastor Myungku Lee
Wesley Potter

Everyone has mission trip experience! Seven of these missionaries were part of our first trip to the Dominican Republic last year.

During the 2014 trip, we plan* to participate in children’s activities, as well as a Bible study with IED (Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana) church women. Pastor Lee will teach taekwondo to children of IED church members. A construction project on the manse is also in the planning stages. We hope to visit Batey 7 again, too.

(*We go with a “plan”, but also with the understanding that God’s plan for this trip might be different than ours!)

If you would like to donate any items to the trip, we will be taking: children’s jump ropes, DMC floss for friendship bracelets, and sidewalk chalk. Items may be dropped off in the bin in the north lobby.

If you would like to be a prayer partner for any of these missionaries, please contact Cathy (cathy@firstpresmuncie.org).

Reminders for our DR missionaries:

- Informational meetings will be held on Mondays, February 3, February 17, and March 10, at 7 pm in the church lounge.
- The balance for the trip is due on March 1.
- We will be commissioned on Sunday, March 16, during both worship services.

THANKS to people who served food at Christian Ministries Sleeping Room.

During the worst snow and freezing cold weather several Presbyterians brought and served food at the Sleeping Room. Thanks to:

- Myron Earhart
- Dick, Peg, and Jim Edwards
- Marty Kendrick
- Bill and Jan McCune
- Janie Miller
- Barb Ottinger
- Mike and Patricia Painter
- Carol Pyle

- Pam Riegle
- Jerry and Nanette Rushton
- Tom Schwartz
- Dave and Sandy Spade
- Claudia Sursa
- Warren and Joy Vander Hill
- Bob and Julia Wadsworth
- Bob and Christy Wauzzinski
Sunday Liturgists

I’m happy to announce a new opportunity to participate in the worship ministry here at First Presbyterian. We are now in need of members from the congregation to read the Scripture passages on each Sunday, so a sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board for people to sign up to be the liturgist during the worship service. Please take the time to sign-up to serve the Lord in this wonderful way.

—Rev. J.D.

Please Let Us Know!

In the name of love and genuine concern for your ministry needs, all of the members of First Presbyterian should know that, because of laws designed to protect patient privacy, hospitals will not give out any information to the church if you or someone from your family is in the hospital. For this reason, we encourage you to call the church office or have someone call us on your behalf if you are hospitalized.

2014 Per Capita

Please help offset First Pres’ $20,949.50 Per Capita expense to Presbytery for 2013 (already paid by the church) by reimbursing the church for the per capita ($35.75) of each FPC member in your family. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian, memo: “Per Capita”, or you may pay online at firstpresmuncie.org under the Stewardship tab. Thank you!

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.—Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
Branches' Upcoming Events

To glorify God, Branches’ activities provide education, fellowship, mission, stewardship, and worship experiences for all junior high and senior high students. All gatherings are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the church unless otherwise noted and will usually include dinner. Always check your email for more details and last minute changes. If I don’t have your email address, please send it to cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Feb. 2  Super Bowl Sunday
Super Bowl subs in the morning and Super Bowl party in the evening! We'll be assembling subs during the first service. Please arrive at 8:00 am. This is a fundraiser for youth trip(s), so please make every effort to participate if you plan to go on a trip(s). Would anyone like to host a Super Bowl party in the evening?

Feb. 5 (Wed.)  KOINONIA
Feb. 8 (Sat.)  Walk a Mile
We'll meet at the church at 8:30 am for the Walk A Mile fundraiser for the Muncie Mission. Start collecting your pledges now! Bring money for breakfast afterward.

Feb. 9  No Meeting
Feb. 12 (Wed.)  KOINONIA
Feb. 16  Mystery Meeting
Feb. 19 (Wed.)  KOINONIA
Feb. 23  No Meeting
Feb. 26 (Wed.)  KOINONIA

“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

Save the Dates in 2014!
May 18  Youth Sunday / Recognition Sunday
June 16 - 20  VBS
June 22 - 27  Mission Trip
Mark your calendars for our next youth mission trip: June 22 through 27, 2014. We will travel to Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake, Roscommon Michigan. **Deadline for the trip is May 15.**

For more than 85 years, Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake has been teaching and guiding children while providing important leadership opportunities along the way.

What type of work will we do?
- Scraping/ painting/ staining
- Grounds keeping (mulching, planting, raking)
- Light construction

What else will we do during the week?
- Swim in crystal clear Higgins Lake
- Enjoy meals in the Dining Hall, with the camp community
- Toast marshmallows and make s’mores around our own campfire
- Hike the forested trails, kayak and canoe, or learn the skill of archery
- Worship in the outdoor chapel overlooking Higgins Lake or walk the labyrinth during evening devotions

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

**2014 VBS: PYOCA DAY CAMP!**

*(Right here at First Pres!)*

**June 16-20, 2014**

If you have great memories of summer church camp, you won’t want your children to miss VBS this year! Working with lots of FPC volunteers, staff from Camp Pyoca, in Brownstown, Indiana will be here for a week-long VBS packed with study, fun, games and even some campfire songs! Mark your calendars for June 16-20. VBS will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will need lots of kids and lots of volunteers!
We Welcome Children and Families on Sunday Mornings to First Presbyterian!

Infants through 3 year olds receive child care and Christian nurturing in Room 101 with Marie Burkey and Nancy Conn throughout Sunday morning from 8:15 am to noon.

**During Worship Services: Children’s Worship Center**

Children 4 years old through 2nd grade join their parents in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship and are dismissed with a leader for Children’s Worship Center. Held in Youth Hall, Children’s Worship Center is a way to be in worship with young children. Storytelling is used as a primary means for encountering God, so God is experienced, not just learned about. Children in the 3rd grade and older remain in worship with their parents.

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**9:45-10:30 am Sunday School for Children and Youth:**

- Room 104: 4-year-olds through 5th graders with Jeff & Tracy Clinger*
- Room 23 (on the stage): 6th-12th graders with Aaron & Jacqueline Burton

*We combine our elementary classes into a single class, using the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum. This curriculum provides comprehensive Bible study, application of Bible lessons and a variety of age-appropriate activities.

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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

**Wednesdays** – Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study* & Children’s Programming at 6:45 pm

*January 8 - February 26
(7 weeks - No class on January 29)
Developing a Heart for God—a study of the life of King David

**March 5 (Ash Wednesday)**
A very special Koinonia including an Ash Wednesday communion service

**March 12 - April 9 (5 weeks)**
The Sermon on the Mount

**May 7 - 21 (3 weeks)**
The Essential Elements of Christian Worship and

**Koinonia for Kids!**
continues!
CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES...from Maxine and Chuck Leslie

Taking Them Out and Bringing Them Back

Checking a book out of the library and returning it is designed to be simple and easy. Here are a few reminders that will save time for you and us.

When you check out a book or other materials, please fill out the card in the attached jacket and leave it in the basket atop the return box. Fill out the card completely with your first and last name and the date. When you return the book, simply place it in the return box. We will do the rest. (Please don’t bother the card files.) Leaving a book anywhere except the return box delays the process of getting it back where other readers can find it. (These procedures also apply to other library media such as DVDs and CDs.)

An Exploration of Grace

The popular Christian author Max Lucado has written a comprehensive book on a fundamental concept. Titled simply Grace (234 LUCA), his book provides many illustrations of how God’s boundless love consoles, strengthens, and emboldens everyone who accepts it.

Rev. Lucado is a prolific writer with more than 100 million books in print. He serves the Oak Hill Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Exercise Better and Smarter

*The First 20 Minutes* (613.7 REYN) is a book for people who exercise and those who would like to get started with an exercise program. The author is Gretchen Reynolds, writer of the “Phys Ed” column for the *New York Times*.

Drawing on the expertise of scientists and physicians, she explains how long workouts should be, how often one should exercise, how to avoid injury, and how to find the right routines and equipment to achieve one’s goals.

Some of her concepts are surprising. For example, 20 minutes of cardio is often enough to achieve maximum health benefits and stretching before a workout is counterproductive. (It’s better to start easy – walk before you run.)

St. Luke’s Gospel

The library has obtained a copy of one of the classic works of Christian fiction. The book is a biographical novel based on the life of St. Luke. Titled *Dear and Glorious Physician* (FIC CALD), it is considered to be the greatest work of Taylor Caldwell, one of the most popular authors of the mid 20th century.

St. Luke was a Greek who studied medicine in Alexandria and became one of the most renowned physicians of the ancient world. He traveled widely healing the sick. He eventually heard of Jesus and realized that he had found the God he had been seeking. He came to write what we now know as the Gospel According to St. Luke after going to the Holy Land and talking with people who had known Jesus.

Salvation Army Pantry Needs:

February donation item: PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

First Presbyterian Pre-School Registration for the 2014-2015 school year will begin in February!

Registration for church members and current Pre-School families will begin February 3 - 7, 2014. Open registration for the community will begin February 10, 2014. You may register online at Firstpresmuncie.org and go to the Pre-School link under the Education tab. Any questions, you may call Tracy Clinger, Interim Director at 751-7960 or 730-0735.
2014 at First Presbyterian

The Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 12th, following the second service. At the meeting, the proposed budget for 2014 was approved and new officers, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) members and the 2014 Nominating Committee members were elected. Leaders for the coming year include those listed to the right.

Many thanks to those officers whose terms just ended, to all those who are currently serving in leadership roles, and to the many who work behind the scenes to keep the church and its ministry programs running smoothly.

APNC

Norm Beck
Susan Clay
Melissa Daniels
Mary Kaminsky

CLASS OF 2014
Missy Arnold
Ron Kaitchuck
John Linder
Bill Rogers
Jonathan Schmidt
Julia Wadsworth

CLASS OF 2015
Aaron Burton
Jeff Clinger
Barbara Kram
Denise Reedy
Charlie Sursa
Jim Williams
Abraham Chang

CLASS OF 2016
Mike Cox
Susan Desmond
Michelle Kaitchuck
Jan McCune
Alan Simmons
Christy Wauzzinski

SESSION
Moderator: J.D. Georlett Clerk of Session: Clara Rice

CLASS OF 2014
Lee Ann Brown
Olga Butler
Barbara Dennis
Chris Hostetler
Mike McCauley
Debby Winkle
Jessica Burkey (youth)

CLASS OF 2015
Diana Beebe
Tim Koontz
Joel Shrock
Brad Southwick
Tony Yakos

CLASS OF 2016
Doug Gehrke
Pam Gehrke
Debbie Hill
Mike Hill
Heather Rogers

DEACONS

2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jason Arnold
Tracy Clinger
Dan House
Mona Simmons
1 representative from Deacons
2 representatives from Session