First Presbyterian Church
March 2014

“On this rock, I will build my Church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it” Matt.16:18

Even before I came to First Presbyterian Church, way back when I was engaged in my first interview with the search committee, I discussed my desire and intention to convene a leadership retreat for the purpose of discussing the strengths and weaknesses of First Presbyterian and to develop a vision for the future. In August of last year, I started that process with all of the members of the Session and a few other select leaders in the church.

We took an off-site retreat and then, three weeks later, we gathered once again in Fellowship Hall to continue our work. Since then, I have reviewed and organized our discussions and have spent a great deal of time praying and applying the goals and priorities that were articulated to our current situation and to our future. I have since shared my summary of these retreats at a joint meeting of the Elders and Deacons and have also recently shared these ideas in a general way during worship. Here’s a summary of what’s happening:

At the leadership retreats, we talked about many things and all of these discussions eventually merged into five leading priorities. First, our leaders talked about wanting to develop a church where genuine relationships could be built and nurtured. They talked about our need to improve our efforts in the area of outreach, particularly to young families, and improve hospitality and fun and fellowship. Next, our leaders prioritized discipleship, particularly as it applies to our Christian Education program. They wanted a church where everything that we did would help us to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him.

Third, even though we have an excellent history of mission leadership, our leaders talked about improving and broadening our mission efforts to include more people and to do more things in this community and the world. We also talked about improving the way that we organize and communi-cate our mission work. Next, we talked about our worship, how it could be altered and improved to appeal to a wider audience and how our worship services may become more dynamic. Finally, our leaders talked about the need for a greater emphasis on stewardship as it applies to all areas of our lives.

These were the general categories into which our dreams for First Presbyterian organized themselves. Here are some of the things that we are doing right now in an attempt to begin to address those priorities and fulfill those dreams:

At the moment, our primary area of focus has to do with re-defining and re-building our staff. The Personnel Team is working to create and fill a brand new, full-time position. This person will direct the Pre-School and be the Director of our Children’s Ministry program. Next, we have a seven person Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that’s hard at work trying to find a new Associate Pastor to oversee Youth and Family Ministry. Then, over the next several months, we will begin to transition toward new staff leadership in the areas of mission, small-group ministry, and elder-care ministries. As you can see, all of these staff adjustments and transitions are the product of wanting to address the priorities that we have previously discussed.

Yet, staff adjustments are only one piece of the puzzle, and it is a puzzle...with several pieces! If we are to be true to our priorities, we must also examine our building. Now, don’t worry! Most of the changes that we make to our building will hardly be noticeable. Most will have to do with improving our security and traffic flow, particularly as it applies to improving the presentation of our Pre-School program to young families. In addition, we will work to improve our...
The following eleven missionaries from our church will travel to the village of Mella in the Dominican Republic, March 22-29:

- Cathy Alexander
- Dan Alexander
- Jessica Burkey
- Marie Burkey
- John Foster
- Michelle Kaitchuck
- Marty Kendrick
- Pastor Myungku Lee
- Carrie Jo Miller
- Wesley Potter
- Alan Simmons

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. As a church, we will be financing the construction of a cistern at the church which will provide a reliable water source. 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, March 3 and 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.

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**REMINDER:**
Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9!
Remember to "Spring Forward" one hour or you’ll be late for church!
continued from page 1

technological communication and outreach and examine what we can do to perhaps make the North Lobby area a little
more inviting.

One discussion that I’ve been pushing and will continue to push is how we can update Fellowship Hall so that it,
along with our kitchen, can become a dynamic tool for ministry. We’ve been blessed by that wonderful space and I’m
fascinated to see how we can make the kitchen become the leading edge of food ministry to those in need in our com-

munity and a means of outreach to new people of a wide variety of ages.

In addition, while I’m thrilled with how Koinonia has been received, I don’t wish for it to be-

come stuck where it is right now. Like everything else that we do here, Koinonia needs to continue to
evolve and grow and be re-created so that everything that we do may be fresh and challenging and
filled with the Spirit of God for all to see.

Finally, I hope that we all know that following God involves more than simply writing checks
and hiring a few people and perhaps throwing some paint on a few walls. It has to do with our attitude. It has to do
with what we really believe about our relationship with God.

This church has been created by God for the purposes of God. God made this church and continues to sustain
this church not so that we would be served, but so that in and through everything that we do here, we might become
more fully the servants of God. This is a sacred place from which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed! What an in-
credible honor and privilege it is for us to be included in that mission! Before we do anything else, this is the idea; this
is the principal truth that we must understand and embrace: First Presbyterian belongs to God, not to us. With that in our
minds and in our hearts, let us go boldly into the future.

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of
Christian women joined together to observe a common
day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March.

Locally, this event is hosted by Church Women United
from several Methodist and Catholic churches. This year
they will be praying for the country of Egypt. The event
will be held in First Presbyterian Church’s Fellowship
Hall. The meal is **Friday March 7th at 5:30 pm** followed
by the program. First Presbyterian families are invited to
come. Adult dinners are $6, kids’ meals are $3. Please
RSVP by Monday March 3, to Michelle Kaitchuck at 747-
9836 or mkaitchuck@comcast.net.

First Presbyterian Church
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Fax: 765-289-4486
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**SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:**
8:30 a.m.—Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)
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, Youth Director
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Interim Pre-Kindergarten Director
prek@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Jane Smith, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
March 2014

**THE COLUMNS**

**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@firstprespuncie.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>No Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 5 (Wed.)</td>
<td>KOINONIA—Special Ash Wednesday worship service, including dinner, in Fellowship Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Prayer Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 12 (Wed.)</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Celebration of Carrie Jo's Ministry!</td>
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<td>Following the 11:00 am service, a catered lunch will be enjoyed by all to celebrate Carrie Jo’s ministry at our church. We will help by serving beverages and clearing tables.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 19 (Wed.)</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Mystery Meeting—Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26 (Wed.)</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>Mystery Meeting—Part 2</td>
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**“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.

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.

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

March 5 (Ash Wednesday)
A very special Koinonia
(see back page of this newsletter)

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

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

Koinonia for Kids!
and
continues!
A Mother’s Story

A fateful journey began with a prosaic phone call. A school principal called a mother with the news that her seven-year-old son had thrown up on the bus returning to school after a field trip. But soon more symptoms manifested themselves and the frantic parents were rushing from one specialist to another. Eventually, the parents learned that their son was suffering from a very rare form of brain cancer.

The boy’s mother has written a memoir, Hold Me, Help Me, Heal Me (248.8 RICH), about her journey through the valley of the shadow. Sandy Wyman Richert prayed for a miracle, but she had not yet learned a new definition of miracle. Eventually she came to realize that joy and pain both play a part in God’s perfect pattern for our lives.

Overcoming Grief

In the Book of Matthew, we read that “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Offering help in the process of grieving is God’s Plan for Your Life: Overcoming Grief (248.8 FAM). This is a collection of 30 devotions using Biblical principles as a guide through the journey of grief.

Besides the Bible, the book includes materials from numerous Christian authors including Joni Eareckson Tada, D.L. Moody, Bill Bright, C.S. Lewis, Fulton J. Sheen, Saint Augustine, and Franklin Graham.

Muncie Families Face Autism

The stories of 17 Muncie families that include an autistic child are told in Facing Autism in Muncie (248.8 FACI). The stories were gathered and published by The Facing Project, a program of Interlock of East Central Indiana, an organization that assists and educates families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In a foreword to the book, Dennis Tyler, mayor of Muncie and grandfather of an autistic child, cites the need for individuals and organizations “to work closely together each day to educate the broader community, provide resources for families, and make classrooms a better environment for our teachers and our kids.”

The Next Generation

The next decade will bring radical changes to American life. That’s the prediction of the authors of Millennials Rising (305.235 HOWE). Drawing on their experience in public policy, economics, and history, authors Neil Howe and William Strauss predict that teenagers now in high school and college will recast the image of youth. Previously the authors have written books about the Baby Boom generation and Generation X.

In this new work, they predict that the coming generation will set high standards, join organizations, work together, value community, and emphasize action over talk. In these and many other ways, they will differ sharply from the Baby Boomers.

Sunday Liturgists

It’s not too late to take the opportunity to participate in the worship ministry here at First Presbyterian! We are 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 you 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.
Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The Holy Season of Lent is an essential time of the year for us to renew our relationship with the Lord by means of preparing ourselves for the events Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Our spiritual preparation begins with a very special worship service on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Starting at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall, we will offer a worship service that will include dinner and all of the elements of worship including the distribution of the ashes and the sharing of the Lord's Supper. This will be a deeply personal and humble experience of the amazing grace of our Lord.

I sincerely hope that you will join us for this very special time together that will lead us into a Koinonia study of the Sermon on the Mount beginning March 12, followed by Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary on April 17 and two very special Easter services on April 20. In and through all of these wonderful, blessed opportunities, let us all prepare the way of the Lord!

---Rev. J.D.

In Summary
(March events are bolded)

- **Ash Wednesday Service (including meal)**
  - Wednesday, March 5, 6:00 pm
  - Fellowship Hall

- **Koinonia study of The Sermon on the Mount**
  - beginning Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 pm
  - Fellowship Hall

- **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**
  - Thursday evening, April 17
  - Sanctuary

- **Easter Services**
  - Sunday morning, April 20
  - Sanctuary