There’s a tradition in this country concerning houses. First-time homebuyers tend to have hopeful outlooks, and strong backs so old, worn-out houses and these first-timers naturally find each other. These homeowners have even developed a kind phrase to describe these dwellings and their experiences with them. They call them “fixer-uppers”. Fixer-uppers are never ending projects of improvement.

The first house that I owned needed more work than I can describe. It had a lot to offer; it was small AND in poor condition. It hadn’t been painted since Lincoln was President, it had small trees growing in the gutters, bacteria in the bathroom that was organized enough to be considered a small country, and a backyard that looked as if it had barely survived a rather intense meteor shower. It needed me and I needed it.

This was a work that was going to be a joyous blessing for me. I started my mission thinking only about quick success. I was not only going to fix the house, it was going to be an easy journey all the way. I was young, hopeful, and ambitious. In my mind, this was a project that actually came with an ending. I was a fool beyond words.

Like a bad hamburger, my rehab project got bigger the more I chewed on it. One wall was so thirsty for paint that it actually burped when I was done. The paint soaked in so fast that it disappeared. The house also offered the standard features that come with every fixer-upper—a leaky roof, a toilet that wouldn’t stop running, and several wild animals living in the crawl space. My fixer-upper very quickly went from being a noble project filled with blessing to a never ending dilemma. My desire to quit grew with every passing day. Who wants to work this hard for a blessing any way?

Let’s face facts; most of us prefer a house that is perfect when we buy it. The blessings of perfection are obvious to all. There’s nothing wrong with this desire, except when we come to church! Church is God’s house, yet even so, God’s house is in constant need of workers whose hope and joy and dedication are much stronger than their desire for immediate gratification, success, and finality. At God’s house, faithfulness and responsible ownership is always more important than simple residence and occupancy.

Every single church is a fixer-upper! Knit into the fabric of every church is the need of its members to take on the constant responsibility of building, mending, and renewing everything in their particular congregation. At church, the blessing is in the doing; it’s in the fixing. Here is where we work on our relationship with God and work on our ministries that are done in God’s name. The blessing never ends because the work never ends. As soon as one project is finished, another need arises, and another bountiful blessing sprouts for the one dedicated enough to see it and get to it.

The truth is that unless you have the outlook of a hopeful, patient, worker, you’ll never taste the unique blessing that Christ’s Church offers. We may want a perfect, finished, church that requires little effort from us. We may want that so badly that we will lie to ourselves even as the plumbing and dry wall and shingles of our ministry leak and rust and rot all around us. Do you like Jesus? Well then, get over to His house and get to work. The house of Jesus Christ is a fixer-upper to say the least. That’s O.K., there are plenty of able workers out there and there’s plenty of blessing to go around.

See you in church,
Rev. J.D.
The APNC is pleased to announce that Elinor Dale will be our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Outreach. After an extensive search, spanning more than seven months, we are excited to introduce Elinor. Please save the following dates:

**Wednesday, November 12th** – Elinor will be at Koinonia

**Friday, November 14th** – Open house in the Lounge 4pm – 6pm

**Sunday, November 16th** – one service at 11:00 am, Elinor will preach (Congregational meeting to follow then a catered lunch in Fellowship Hall)

We will be sharing more information about Elinor in the near future.
It has been an honor to serve First Presbyterian Church in this process.

Melissa Daniels and Charlie Sursa, co-chairs APNC

**Thanks from the Worship and Religious Arts Committee for everyone who participated in and assisted with the Arts and Crafts Exhibit!**
On Sunday, October 26 we welcomed over 40 Pre-k families to worship as part of the Pre-k open house and Art and Craft Fair. The children sang and created artwork for the exhibit.

To First Presbyterian Church friends,

We have returned from a Habitat mission trip to Asuncion, Paraguay. Our hearts are grateful to First Presbyterian Church for your support, encouragement, and prayers for the project. Your tangible and heartfelt gifts helped to further Habitat’s mission of “a world where everyone has a decent place to live.”

Such an incredible experience is humbling and life-changing. It has deepened our appreciation of our own country, its opportunities and comfortable life styles. We are so richly blessed. Thanks be to God for his goodness.

Carol Pyle and Marty Kendrick

Sunday Liturgists

The pastor would like to involve more members of the congregation in our Sunday worship. If you are willing to serve as a Scripture reader for a Sunday service, please sign up on the poster behind the information desk.

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 Worship (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, Director of Mission & Small Group Activities
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

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

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Keena Troyer, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
Our Mission Team is looking for 18 individuals/families who would like to spread holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Food baskets will be assembled at the church, and volunteers are needed to deliver them as follows:

**Thanksgiving** Baskets  November 23
**Christmas** Baskets  December 21

A volunteer usually delivers both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the same family; however, if you are not available to deliver on both dates, you can sign up to deliver on one date and someone else will deliver the other date. Please call Janie Miller (289-3652) or email janiem13@att.net for more information, or to sign up for this wonderful holiday project—especially fun for families or for 2 or 3 friends together.

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**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Lounge hallway on Sunday, December 1, and you can help decorate it with ornaments which are displayed on the table beside the tree. Please select an ornament or several, remove the tag from the ornament and place the ornament on the tree. Then purchase the gift, wrap it, PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT IDENTIFYING THE RECIPIENT, MAKING SURE THE FAMILY NUMBER IS ON IT. And put it under the tree.

Many ornaments represent a very special need of a family of children or of persons identified by the Salvation Army, A Better Way or the YWCA. Other ornaments represent gifts for agencies with whom we partner - some specific gifts and some monetary gifts.

It’s such a joy to buy for a child knowing how excited he or she will be. Each child will have two ornaments: one with toy or game suggestions and one with clothing suggestions and sizes. We ask that you choose only one of the suggestions per ornament because all the families have more than one child represented by ornaments. It wouldn't be fair for one child in the family to receive 12 gifts while the others each receive two. If you want to buy many gifts, you could take ornaments for all the children in the family.

Agencies represented by some of the ornaments include Christian Ministries, Muncie Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), and Muncie Mission.

Place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 19, for delivery on December 21.

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**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY NEEDS:**

**November donation item:**

CEREAL

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

**HIRONS FUND needs help!** Please help replenish this fund which purchases food for the pantry beyond individual donations. Checks to FPC, memo Hirons.

**Be a Bell Ringer for Salvation Army**

at the Muncie Mall (just inside the entrance by MCL Cafeteria).

First Pres members will be ringing the bells on December 8-11 and December 15-18 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Choose a one-hour time slot and sign up later this month in the Lounge Hallway.

This is a great holiday activity for the whole family!
Operation Christmas Child

The collection of items for Operation Christmas Child has been extend until November 9! We are still in need of hygiene items, markers and crayons and toys for each box! You may pick up a list of needed items at the information desk and items may be placed in the totes marked Operation Christmas Child in the north lobby! Thank you to all those who have donated shoeboxes.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our youth will be assembling these boxes and have them ready for delivery by November 24.

Thank you for your continued support of our children and youth as they learn the importance of “mission” as they give to those children in need.

If you have any questions please contact Tracy Clinger at 751-7960 or email tracy@firstprespuncie.org.

Advent Workshop

Who: Elementary and preschool children of First Pres
When: Sunday afternoon, December 7, 2014, 2:00 – 4:30 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall, Youth Hall, various classrooms
What: Crafts, stories, games, and snacks
Why: This is the youth group’s present to the families in our congregation. Parents are welcome to stay, but the youth group will supervise the children so parents can spend the afternoon preparing for the season.

Please call the church office (289-4431) or email Tracy (tracy@firstprespuncie.org) by December 1 to make a reservation.

Oh, Come All Ye Faithful…and Sing!

Time for the all-church caroling party, Sunday, December 14, from 6:00 to 8:00! Bring the whole family! We will caravan to church members’ homes to spread holiday cheer (which means we do need some good singers!) and return to the church for refreshments. Cider and hot chocolate provided... bring a plate of goodies to share.
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.

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

Nov. 2 College Care Packages
Nov. 5 (Wed.) KOINONIA
Nov. 9 Therapeutic Riding Mini Mission
Nov. 12 (Wed.) KOINONIA!
Nov. 16 Operation Christmas Child Assembly
Nov. 19 (Wed.) KOINONIA
Nov. 22 Operation Christmas Child Assembly
Nov. 26 (Wed.) No KOINONIA
Nov. 30 Hanging of the Greens

Adult Ministry Luncheon
Join us for lunch on
Wednesday, November 19
12 noon in Fellowship Hall
Presentation "Let's Get Organized" by Melissa Daniels
If you’re an adult, male or female, young, old or in-between and can join us for lunch ($3.00 per person), please call the church office (289-4431) to make reservations by Monday, November 17.

Every Sunday at 9:45 am
• Age 4 - 3rd grade: Rm 103 (Judy Cooper)
• 4th - 6th grade: in Jr. High Room (Susan Clay)
• 7th - 12th grade: Rm 23 - on the stage (Aaron/Jacqueline Burton)

If you have any questions or if you would like to teach a Sunday School class please contact Tracy Clinger at tracy@firstpresmuncie.org or 751-7960.

Adult Sunday Forums
The Christian Education Committee continues to explore new opportunities for spiritual fellowship. Please stay tuned for future opportunities.

Confirmation Class
The members of the Christian Education Committee here at First Presbyterian are dedicated to the education and the discipleship of the youth and children in our church.

Toward this goal, we have developed and approved a plan to offer a Confirmation Class this year. Please contact Tracy Clinger at 765-751-7960 to reserve your spot for our November 28th introductory/informational meeting.

Día Dahi Day
Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group
November 14th and 28th 9am-11am in the lounge
All are welcome!
Miracles for Today

The Jesus who worked miracles and even raised a man from the grave is the same Jesus who can perform miracles for us today. This is the theme of The Grave Robber (248.4 BATT), a new book by Mark Batterson.

The author relates the stories of people today who are experiencing miracles in their lives. He brings to light the countless miracles that take place every day but are often unnoticed. No matter how big the problem, God is bigger, the author declares.

Rev. Batterson is the lead pastor of National Community Church which has seven campuses in Washington, D.C.

People with No Conscience

It is estimated that as many as one in every 25 Americans has no conscience. These people can lie, cheat, steal, or assault others without feeling any pangs of guilt or remorse. They have no empathy for others and feel free to do anything they can to get what they want. These people are identified as sociopaths or psychopaths. While most people believe they are violent criminals, few actually commit criminal acts. They are described in two books by psychotherapists.

In The Sociopath Next Door (616.8 STOU), author Martha Stout describes the traits of sociopaths and gives suggestions on how to identify people who have this personality disorder. She points out that these people can manifest their behavioral traits in non-violent ways. She recommends ways to identify sociopaths and protect against them.

Women are quite likely to encounter male psychopaths and many will become involved with them. Such relationships are described in Women Who Love Psychopaths (616.85 BROW) by Sandra L. Brown. The author has developed a profile of women who are likely to be attracted to a psychopath. The author directs a support and treatment program for women who are recovering from the harmful effects of a relationship with a psychopath.

Attention Thoene Fans

Readers of the historical novels of Brodie and Brock Thoene may be interested to know that the library has three more entries in The Zion Chronicles series set in Europe during the World War II era. The titles are London Refrain, Paris Encore, and Dunkirk Crescendo. Unless they have been checked out, they can be found on the rack outside the library.

Maxine and Chuck Leslie
Save the Dates!
Believe it or not, it's already time to get these on your calendar!

- **Operation Christmas Child deadline** – Sunday, Nov. 9
- **Thanksgiving Basket distribution** – Sunday, Nov. 23
- **Hanging of the Greens** – Sunday, Nov. 30
- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** – various dates (see p. 4)
- **Advent Workshop** – Sunday, Dec. 7, 2:00 pm
- **Poinsettia Order deadline** – Sunday, Dec. 14
- **Caroling Party** – Sunday, Dec. 14, 6:00 pm
- **Christmas Basket distribution** – Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:00 pm