Perhaps you’re familiar with the story of the blind men and the elephant. It’s a very old fable that originated in India. Even though there are many different versions of the story, all of them follow the same basic points and movements. It goes something like this: a certain number of blind men come upon an elephant and each of them tries to discern what they have found by simply touching one part. One man touches the elephant’s trunk, while another touches its ear, while another touches the tusks and another touches its tail and so on.

After touching the animal, all of the men come back together to debate what an elephant is like. The man who touched the elephant’s leg says that an elephant is like a pillar. The man who touched its back said that the elephant is like a wall. The man who touched the tail said that the elephant is like a rope. The man who touched the ear said that an elephant is like a great big fan. The one who felt the trunk thought that the elephant must be like a tree branch.

It didn’t end there. The men continued their discussion and then began to argue with each other under the assumption that each of them already knew all that there was to know about the elephant. All of them had conveniently forgotten that they were blind. None of them gave any consideration to the possibility that they were only “seeing” one small part of a very large and complex being. In some versions of the story, a man who is able to see comes upon the men arguing with each other and, being able to see the whole elephant, he settles their differences by describing an animal that was far beyond their comprehension.

Of course, one possible interpretation of this story is that the elephant is analogous of God, with all of humanity struggling to understand the small part of God that they are able to see while also making the mistake of assuming that what they know about God is all that there is to know about God. Then, we inevitably allow our assumptions about God to negatively affect our relationships with others. Who hasn’t made that mistake? In this scenario, the man who comes along and is able to see the elephant clearly and completely is Jesus Christ.

This is a thought provoking interpretation by itself, but for our purposes, I’d like for us to imagine that the elephant is First Presbyterian Church. As it was in the story, so it is here; all of us have an opinion about what First Presbyterian is. All of our opinions about this elephant are important and accurate, but none of them are complete.

Since I came here in March of 2013, I’ve been working closely with all of the leaders of this church to try to figure out what kind of elephant First Presbyterian is and what God is calling First Presbyterian to be. I’ve always tried to remember that while I might be able see a good part of the elephant, God is able to see it all. So, everything that we have done, and everything that we will continue to do will be consistent with what God sees.

God sees us touching the lives of people from every generation, so we will continue to improve our building and our programming so that more and more people may be able to hear and experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God sees us helping those in need, so we will continue to expand mission opportunities for all ages, here and around the world. God sees us expressing praise and worship to God that is a joy in God’s sight and so we will continue to proclaim the Word and sing with great joy. God sees a great church here and so we will make the sacrifices that are needed to enable us to fulfill the vision of God and not just our own.

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.
Whitely Partnership Journal
by Cathy Alexander

Day #1
We had a great first day in the Whitely neighborhood! And what a great turnout from First Presby members! The team included: Mackenzie, Tracy and Weston Clinger, Steve Cooper, Barb Dennis, Chris Hostetler, Michelle Kaitchurck, Mike and Jean McCauley, Terri Truex.

After breakfast and prayer at 8:00 at the Buley Center, we headed to our first house. We mowed, weed-whacked, trimmed, pulled, sawed in the front and back yard, and repaired the railing to the front porch. At the second house, we power-washed the porch, and cleaned out the gutters. The members of the Union Missionary Baptist Church supplied wonderful sack lunches at the church. After lunch, we whacked, trimmed, pulled and sawed at another house, and caulked some windows. We cleaned gutters on the last house of the day! It was a great day of fellowship and hard work. Mary Dollison said the Lord would take care of the weather and we had NO RAIN! I think Mary and the Lord are close! :)

PS: Ask Terri Truex about our little journey with the extension ladder! Bahaha! :)

Day #2
We had a wonderful second day in the Whitely neighborhood with another great team! The team included: Cassie Alexander, Mackenzie and Tracy Clinger, Steve and Judy Cooper, Barb Dennis, Karen Hayden, JD and Kayla Georlett, Chris Hostetler, MyungKu Lee, Mike and Jean McCauley, Patricia Painter, and Richard Weir.

After breakfast and prayer at 8:00 at the Buley Center, we hit the neighborhood. We did a lot of painting (two garages) and a lot of yard work (more weed-whacking, trimming, and planting flowers). We have now completed all the projects in Area 5! Tomorrow, we move onto Area 3. There will be more painting and plenty of yard work. Among the projects we will do in Area 3 is painting the porch railing for Belinda. Belinda and her grandson joined us today to help paint one of the garages.

There is great work being done this week in our community...actual physical work and relationship building. God is in Whitely.

Day #3
Day 3 in the neighborhood! Here's some real progress: I am getting to know my way around and can find the Buley Center and the Union Missionary Baptist Church from anywhere in Area 5 and Area 3! In addition to all the physical work, I know everyone who has participated from First Pres has met some great people!

Yesterday, Belinda and her grandson, Prince, helped us paint a garage in Area 5. Today, we were in Area 3 painting Belinda's porch, with wonderful help from Prince and his cousin. Both boys are rising 7th graders at Northside. Barb Dennis worked all day with these two boys...some great relationship-building took place on that front porch!

We also had some folks from Hazelwood join our team. They asked us to pray for their church as they search for a new pastor.

At lunch, First Pres members spread out in the church basement to sit with new friends. I sat with Cornelius, Frank, Butch, Leroy, Big Mike, and two guys from the city who are doing the demolition work. (I would like to run a backhoe and knock a house over!) Big Mike said I was the rose among the thorns and he called me “Rose” later that day! (I gotta put “Rose” on my name tag tomorrow!)

Now, about the work...today we tackled the projects in Area 3. We were on Highland Ave., Butler Street and Hines Street. We finished all the projects except one. We painted a front and back porch and the porch floor, did lots of yard work, cleaned and repaired gutters and scraped a shed. We will come back another day to paint the shed (the wood siding was damp from all the rain). Today's team included: Keena Bentley, Steve Cooper, Elinor Dale, Barb Dennis, Lenny Kaminsky, Jim Needham, Patricia Painter, Brad Southwick, and Lisa Ulrich.

RAIN OR SHINE, Cornelius, Mary and Frank would like everyone to come for coffee and fellowship at 8:00 am at the Buley Center and a special lunch at 11:30 at the Union Missionary Baptist Church. During the early coffee time, there will be an opportunity to evaluate the experience. I know Mary is very sincere when she tells me she wants input to make the next Whitely Makeover even better! I must confess...after VBS and a Fellowship and Church Growth Meeting last night, I didn't feel like writing this email! But today is a new day!

Day #4
The rain knocked us off our game today. However, it was still a great day in the neighborhood (I sound like Mr Rogers!) About 50 people gathered at the Buley Center for coffee, fellowship and

(Continued on page 3)
a discussion/evaluation time. Thank you to JD, Jim Needham, and Barb Dennis for joining me there. There will be more opportunities to share input, so if you have a suggestion for how to improve our Whitely Partnership, please let me know.

At 11:30, JD, Elinor Dale, Lisa Ulrich, Keena Bentley, Mac and Tracy Clinger, Barb Dennis, Jim Needham, and I met at the Union Missionary Baptist Church for a celebration lunch. The members of the church provided baked spaghetti, two kinds of chicken, green beans, corn, biscuits, bread sticks, salad, and wonderful cake for dessert. The food was lovingly prepared and this was another great fellowship opportunity. Jim and I enjoyed eating/talking with Josh, a Central grad and football player who is heading to St. Francis in the fall. What a wonderful young man! We talked football and books...he loves to read (his favorite book is Tom Sawyer because “Tom is so ornery!”)

Now...looking ahead...we do have some things to finish. On our Area 5 project list was “Landscaping at Shafer Chapel”. The donated trees, shrubs, etc. did not arrive this week. There is a shed in Area 3 that is scrapped and ready for paint, but we need some sunshine first. There is also a fence in Area 5 that needs to be fortified. I told Frank that we would gladly come back at a later date to finish. I will keep you posted and hope that you can join me again in Whitely.

To one and all...Mary, Cornelius and Frank repeated over and over how grateful they were that we answered their invitation to be in the Whitely neighborhood. Let me add my voice to the chorus. We had a wonderful turnout from our church. Every day I went to Whitely not sure who might show up and, every day God provided! Thank you for living out your faith in OUR neighborhood.

(Continued from page 2)
4th of July Tailgate

Bring your own food and 
drinks and join us at dusk 
for the fireworks!

Save the Date!
Pre-K 60th Anniversary Celebration 
September 19th - 20th

A night of food, fellowship, and learning for all ages!

Koinonia (Koy-nuh-nee'-ah)—noun—Fellowship, 
Participation, Close Relationship [with God], Gift

Same Day, New Time!
Wednesdays – Dinner together at 5:45 pm;
Bible Study* & Children’s Programming at 6:30 pm

August 12 - September 23 — 7 weeks 
Genesis

Upcoming Sermons:
July 5—Mark 6:1-13
July 12—Worship isn’t just about how it looks—2 Samuel 6:1-11
July 19—What the presence of Jesus reveals about us—Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 26—The kinds of questions that Jesus asks—John 6:1-15
August 2—The power of one—Ephesians 4:1-16

Got Spring fever? Just itching to get outdoors? Come join the 
Weekly Weeders as we beautify the church grounds. We meet each 
Wednesday morning from 8:30-10:30 through August. 
Bring your own tools, but we’ll provide the fellowship and 
laughter.

Pre-K enrollment for the 2015-16 school 
year is open! Sign up online at 
www.firstpresmuncie.org

“KINDERGARTEN, HERE WE COME”
COME JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF 
FUN AND LEARNING!

Mrs. Kathy Pretzsch and Helper Miss Sam 
July 13 - 17, 2015 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
$20.00 registration/supply fee, non-refundable
$95.00 for the week, payable the first day of class
Registration is required, spaces are limited!
Registration forms can be found online at 
www.firstpresmuncie.org and on the information 
desk. Forms are due by July 10, 2015. If you have 
questions please contact Tracy Clinger 751-7960 or 
tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

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

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
8:30 a.m.—Garden Services (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

The Rev. Elinor Dale, Associate Pastor 
elinor@firstpresmuncie.org

Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Circle 
Ministry
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

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

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator 
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Keena Bentley, Administrative Assistant 
keena@firstpresmuncie.org
Our one day VBS, Outback Rock, served 36 children with the help of 30 volunteers! God is good! Crafts, games, pizza, and a children’s message centered on the Bible point “God is always with us” were enjoyed by all who participated! The evening culminated with Amazon John and his animal friends from Silly Safaris performing. He opened the show by telling the children he brought a “terror” of an animal with him (he had everyone’s attention!) and presented a “Boston Terrier” dog to the audience. Everyone laughed and more chuckles came as the show progressed. God created all the creatures like the blue tongued skink, a HUGE python, an owl named “Owl” Fred and a fox to mention a few. Amazon John was so kind to allow the children, parents, and volunteers to touch some of the animals at the end of the show. Three brave youth Allison Simmons, Weston Clinger, and Owen Shrock allowed the python to be draped around their necks!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in the kitchen, during registration, with crafts, games, the children’s message, and clean up! Pastor Elinor emceed the evening, thank you to her and all the youth who made the evening special for so many kids!

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20
We have already been on several trips this summer! The Confirmation Class took a weekend trip to Cedar Point as a celebration for all their hard work in Confirmation over the past year.

High school youth went on a week-long trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina where we explored the theme “This Is Our Story” through small group time, recreation, morning keynotes, and nightly worship. It was a great trip and wonderful way to deepen our faith together.

Upcoming:

July 4: Tailgate & Fireworks!
July 5: Indianapolis Indians baseball game for youth and families
July 12: Canoe trip
July 19-26: Mission Trip to New Orleans

**Check your email for times and more details!**

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**“In Jesus name we pray. Amen.”**

Last month, I attended my daughter’s college graduation ceremony. As a minister, I never expected any religious references included in such a ceremony. However, on one hand, I anticipated the possibility that it could be included, given the Christian principles and foundations the nation was built upon. As if it were an answer to my thoughts, the very first order proceeded with a prayer from a Protestant pastor introduced by the president of the university.

Praying to God at the start of a graduation ceremony was something I had not expected, but still thrilled to do. This excitement was short-lived, as the pastor ended the prayer without the usual words, “In Jesus name we pray”. He only ended with the word, “Amen”.

This was not my first disappointment. At the end of the ceremony, the pastor was called upon to pray again, and again he ended without the words, “In Jesus name we pray”.

America was founded on Christian beliefs, and it is widely regarded that Jesus Christ is our Savior. For those who believe in the name of Jesus, all will come true. In our society today, America is home to those with different cultures and religions, and I completely understand that the name of Jesus is omitted in order to show respect to others. So praying to a single god or general deity at such a public gathering is a compromise, a reduction of disagreement and divide.

Now let us hone in and focus only on Christians. So many Christians today pray without the words, “In Jesus name we pray”. It’s not a problem if it’s unintentional, but it turns into one when the name of Jesus is intentionally taken out. Those who do this cannot call themselves Christians.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior and all things in life are fulfilled under the grace and blessing of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only one sent by God the Father for our salvation. All Christians should remember and pray with the words, “In Jesus name we pray, Amen”.

Acts 4: 12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Pastor Lee  (translated by: Mr. Sunwoo Lee)
“Differents” Becoming One

Our world seems to be very much concerned with differences – different creeds, different races, different genders, different nationalities, and on and on. In a world made up of “differents,” is any kind of unity possible? Absolutely, declares Scot McKnight in his new book *A Fellowship of Differents* (262.23 McKN).

The church God designed, McKnight believes, is to be a “fellowship of difference and different. A mixture of people from all across the map and spectrum: men and women, rich and poor, black and white, and everything in between.”

In this book, he explores the church as God’s world-changing social experiment of bringing unlikes and differents to the table to share life with one another as a new kind of family, showing the world what love, justice, peace, reconciliation, and life together is designed by God to be.

The author is professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary, Lombard, Illinois.

Teaching Kids About Money

In his new book, *The Opposite of Spoiled* (649.1 LIEB), author Ron Lieber counsels parents on how to raise children who are knowledgeable, generous, and smart about money. He believes that children are very much aware of money. He advises that good parenting requires talking with our kids about money much more often.

When parents avoid these conversations they lose a tremendous opportunity – not only to model important financial behaviors, but also to imprint lessons about what the family cares about most.

The author is a father and also personal finance columnist for *The New York Times*.

Finding God

Nancy Ortberg offers thoughts about faith that have been deemed “slightly unorthodox, highly unconventional, and entirely unexpected” in her book *Looking for God* (248.4 ORTB). She decries the tendency to “box God up and compartmentalize Him.”

“In reality, He is waiting for us to realize that He invades all the parts of our days . . . if only we would just pay attention.” Readers are encouraged to embrace the extraordinary power of God’s grace.

Mrs. Ortberg is director of leadership development at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in California.

Promises of Jesus

On the eve of history’s darkest hour, a small group of men gathered in a banquet room in Jerusalem. Their leader was about to be betrayed, tortured, and executed. His followers would be scattered. Some would deny even knowing him.

Even realizing that He faced unimaginable torment and woe, Jesus was able to focus on others. He gave to His disciples, and thus to the whole world and for all time, His final promises. The final teachings of Jesus are recorded in John 13-16 and have become known as the Upper Room Discourse.

In his new book, *The Upper Room* (232.96. MACA), pastor and author John MacArthur offers an exposition of the text that calls readers to know and love the One who loved us to the end.

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.

Salvation Army Pantry: July donation item: Canned meats

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

Join our mailing list!

Our weekly FYI e-mails let you know what’s happening and how you can be involved. If you would like to start/stop receiving these e-mails, or maybe your email has changed, let us know by emailing keena@firstpresmuncie.org
Registration Form

First Presbyterian Church
2015 Gishler Golf Outing
For more info: www.firstpresmuncie.org

Please detach and return with payment
by August 24, 2015 to:
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303

☐ Team Entry - $280 on or before July 31
$300 After July 31

Team Captain Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Contact Phone No. _____________________________

☐ Individual Entry - $70 on or before July 31
$75 After July 31

Individual Name ______________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

☐ Major Sponsorship - $500
No Team Included With $500 Sponsorship

☐ Hole Sponsorship - $100

☐ Personal Contribution - $______________
Name ________________________________

☐ Payment Enclosed:  □ Cash  □ Check