It’s interesting when a pastor returns from Study Leave. After a long stretch of doing ministry, the pastor goes off to some far-away land for a church conference where he or she listens to experts in the field and hopefully learns a thing or two before returning home.

Of course, when the pastor returns, most congregations have learned to be wary of what might happen next. When pastors return from Study Leave, it’s possible that they’ve gotten all excited about some new way of doing things and they’ve got their minds set on making some sort of radical change of direction to the church. Congregations tend to nod their heads at whatever new thing the pastor proposes, knowing full well that it’s only a faze and that soon the pastor will come back to reality and give up on all of those wild dreams that he or she acquired in the far-away land and that we’ll all soon go right back to what we’ve always done. Even so, I’d still like to share something that I learned while on Study Leave.

One of the speakers at the conference I recently attended said that churches that are growing have one thing in common. Almost every member can clearly articulate the purpose of their particular church. This, of course got me wondering what should be the purpose of First Presbyterian. So, I started playing with some words and I arrived at the phrase, “God’s Will, becoming ours, being done”. Then I began thinking of several other words that could be spun into that line as if on a dial and interchanged for the word “will” and I came up with this:

Grace
Forgiveness
Love
Community
God’s Will, becoming ours, being done
Word
Work
Future
Everything

I hope that we would all agree that Church should be more than just a habitual part of our weekly routine. “Church” is an active and continuous practice that is never complete. Instead, as children of God, we are in a constant state of becoming. In its proper form, Church is a place, and a state of being, where God’s will and everything about God is being learned and applied to our lives, in a way that couldn’t happen in any other context.

I also like the phrase “being done”. Obviously, this means that these things are being done in our church. Yet, it can also mean that we are made complete by doing them and being them. In other words, a human being can only ever be “done” or “complete” when all of the things of God are completely and actively alive in us. I don’t know what will come of these words; I’m just always excited to think about what a blessed thing Church really is.

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.
KIDS HOPE STORIES 2014-2015

Another school year has come to an end for Kids Hope students and their mentors. Our dedicated mentors, who spend one hour a week with one Southview student include: Cathy Alexander, Doug Bakken, Lee Ann Brown, Joyce Carmichael, Barb Dennis, Muggs Gooden, Sheila Lachat, Carrie Jo Miller, Denise Reedy and Richard Reedy. Our substitute mentors include: Olga Butler, Carole Caldemeyer, Myron Earhart, Carol Pyle, Jerry Rushton and Jan Stratton.

In addition, Kids Hope prayer partners include: Allan and Carolyn Thomas, Ann Gishler, Carol Ester, Don and Sue Whitaker, Jean McCauley, Joan Smith, Kelly Shrock, Steve Cooper, Sue Ann Wantz, and Tracy Chambers.

As part of the year wrap-ups, Kids Hope mentors reflected on the year by answering the question: What was your biggest joy? What was your biggest challenge? Favorite story? Goal for next year? The following are some of the responses...

I have had 3 "kids" this year - Lillianne, Tristan, and currently, Gabby. The "joys" are many but I really enjoy hearing the comments from their parents, grandparents or other persons who pick them up on how they see such a difference in the child and how much the child loves coming to Kids Hope. And, of course, hearing from the child themselves how much they look forward to Tuesdays. I've heard from all the students that I have mentored that they feel very special because they have a mentor and that lots of students at Southview would love to have a mentor. Also, Adrianna, Lee Ann's mentee, said she saw Lillianne at the park and Lillianne told her how much she missed being with Barb at Kids Hope.

I think my biggest challenge is to not get discouraged when I hear from a child some of the circumstances they are dealing with. Or, when a child suddenly leaves the program for whatever reason.

My story of hope begins when Gabby asks me why we can't have Kids Hope every day. That statement tells me in that short period of time each week, Kids Hope is able to give her something that she isn't able to get anywhere else. Whether its structure, friendship, a sense of belonging -- whatever. It tells me this program is helping her in ways we will never know. It tells me this program is working, and that we are really making a difference in these kid's lives.

My main goal for next year is just to remain a source of stability for Gabby whether it's helping her with homework or just having FUN. My secondary goal, but just as important, is to teach her a great "poker face" which is absolutely necessary when you're playing Old Maid, ha, ha.

Barb Dennis

My biggest joy during the year was my student wanting to be sure that I had a Capri Sun drink during a birthday celebration! I thought it was a "good" sign that first he was aware I did not have one; second that he considered my feelings on being left out; third, that he was "in tune" with how one relates to others.

My biggest challenge during the year was encouraging him to do his homework and in his personal manner.

My favorite story was his telling me of playing the card games that I gave him at home with his brother.

A goal for next year would be to strengthen his work habits in regard to homework and to encourage him to strengthen his desire and ability to read on grade level.

Joyce Carmichael

I am completing my third year with Adrianna, and it has been a joy and blessing every step of the way. The biggest joy is seeing the beautiful smile as she runs to me every week. I have missed very few times, and then she is with people she knows and is seeing the beautiful smile as she runs to me every week.

The biggest challenge is keeping her focused on what we are doing and showing her some consistency in life. When we first started, she lived in a motel room with her grandmother, and her father was in jail still is. Last year she was not doing well in school at all. She slept in class and did no homework. Her teacher told me she was a lost cause. I went to the counselor with lots of concern and anger. No child is a lost cause.

This year she is doing so much better and is in a special after school program. I have hope that she will succeed in school. My goal for next year is to keep her on this successful course. This young girl brings joy to my life, and I am there to be her friend, confidant, and mentor. I have found as we mentor these children, we become a big family helping each other. Thank you to our church for sponsoring this program where we can make such a difference in the life of a child.

Lee Ann Brown
(Kids Hope Stories 2014-2015 continued)

"Biggest Joy:
Seeing her smile. She has been so solemn and silent in the three years I’ve mentored her. This year she smiles and is more animated. Other mentors have commented on that, too. It’s a beautiful smile.

Biggest Challenge:
Our challenge has always been homework. This year her teacher said if she got her work finished during the school day, she would not have any homework. That’s been a relief because I always asked about it and just got a shoulder shrug. This year I didn’t feel guilty about just playing games. I just tried to see that I could find games to help her with math which worked out fine.

Favorite Story:
For her birthday I gave her a book of poems. She reads really well and I asked her to read one for us. Joyce, Robert joined us for the party. When I talked to her mother a week or so later, she thanked me for giving her a birthday party and for the book. She said she walks around the house reading the poems out loud.

One goal:
To see if I can continue contact with her. Her mother said she really hoped I could work out something because she really wants the relationship to continue.”

Carrie Jo Miller
Upcoming Sermons:
Finding Meaning in Life—A Sermon Series from the Book of Ecclesiastes
June 7—The Value of Work—Ecclesiastes 2:17-26
June 14—Living Under Authority—Ecclesiastes 8:2-17
June 21—How Death Brings Meaning to Life—Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
June 28—The Fear of God—Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

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.

Got Spring fever? Just itching to get outdoors? Come join the Weekly Weeners as we beautify the church grounds. We meet each Wednesday morning from 8:30-10:30 starting May 6 and continue through August. Bring your own tools, but we’ll provide the fellowship and laughter. Any questions, call Jan McCune (717-4291) or Nanette Rushton (288-0366).

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

SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:
June donation item:
Cereals
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

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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
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Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Circle Ministry
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Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry
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Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
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Keena Bentley, Administrative Assistant
keena@firstpresmuncie.org
“KINDERGARTEN HERE WE COME!”

First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten is offering our first ever Kindergarten Readiness program for children entering kindergarten in the fall, 2015. Our one week program will allow the children the opportunity to review academic skills as well as social and independent skills needed for success in kindergarten. Daily activities will include but not limited to story time, letter identification and sound recognition, early math skills, problem solving, self-help skills and socialization with peers. The children will also bring a sack lunch which will provide the opportunity for children to eat with their peers and socialize through table conversation but also eat their lunch within a designated time frame.

COME JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF FUN AND LEARNING!

Mrs. Kathy Pretzsch and Helper Miss Katie
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 June 30, 2015. If you have questions please contact Tracy Clinger 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Wacky Wednesdays

First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten is offering, first ever, summer programming for ages 3-5 (or just completed preschool) This mid-week program is an opportunity for your child to connect with friends in a Christian environment! Your child must be at least 3 years of age and potty trained to participate in this program. This program will run for 6 weeks beginning June 3, 2015 and ending July 8, 2015. Every week will have its own theme! You may pick and choose those that are appealing or enjoy all six!

Wednesdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm! Cost: $16 (Bring a sack lunch).

Registration forms can be found online at firstpresmuncie.org and on the information desk. If you have questions please contact Tracy Clinger 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

~Weekly Themes~

June 3: Fun with Bubbles
June 10: Farm Exploration
June 17: The Beach
June 24: Outdoor Art
July 1: Fourth of July Celebration
July 8: Camp Adventure
Mark your calendars! Branches Lite will meet over the summer so that we can continue to build relationships with one another and have some fun on:

- **June 7** to Ivanhoe’s for dinner and ice cream
- **June 28** to watch *Inside Out* in the theater! Keep watching for times.
- **July 5** to an Indianapolis Indians evening game.
- **July 12** to tentatively go canoeing on the White River
- **August 2** to have a cookout before school begins.

**“There will be two other dates, one in June and one in July, that will be mission-based days. Keep an eye out for more details as it comes together!”**

A big **THANK YOU** to all the youth who participated in Youth Sunday! Both worship services were wonderful and your leadership and hard work did not go unnoticed. You made the day so wonderful!
Thank You, Book Lovers

The church’s Book Fair was a great success thanks to many contributors. The new books are becoming available as they are processed. If you missed the fair, it’s not too late to contribute. Just leave a check with the church office, and write “Book Fair” on the subject line.

“Nothing Worth Doing Right Is Easy”

The quotation above is from Mike Matheny’s new book The Matheny Manifesto (796.07 MATH) in which the author who is manager of the St. Louis Cardinals expresses his rather old-fashioned views on success in sports and in life.

The book grew out of a letter he wrote to the parents of his players when he coached a little league team. He stressed that authority should be respected, discipline and hard work rewarded, spiritual faith cultivated, family made a priority, and humility considered a virtue. He noted that player improvement begins with the parents.

As a major league manager, he continues to apply his principles with success. In each of his first three seasons, the Cardinals have qualified for post-season play. As this piece as written, the Cardinals were in first place in their division and had the highest winning percentage in the majors.

Establishing a Relationship with God

“We must learn to pray. We have to,” Timothy Keller declares in a new book titled Prayer (248.3 KELL). “Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need do and be in life.”

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

Finding the Time

Everyone should carve out some space each day for the things that give joy and feed the soul, believes Jessica N. Turner. In her new book The Fringe Hours (248.8 TURN). She seeks to empower women to take back the fringe hours which she defines as “those little pockets of time you already have in your day.” The fringe hours then can be devoted to “your passions and self-care.”

The book combines practical ideas with the stories of real women who have found ways to create time for themselves among the church activities, soccer practices, and meetings that fill their days. The author is founder of a popular lifestyle blog, “The Mom Creative.”

Maxine and Chuck Leslie

Our youth have two summer trips in June, one to Cedar Point the 12th-13th for the Confirmation Class and the other a youth conference in Montreat, NC, the 14th-20th.

Please keep those on the trips in your prayers: Grace Belangee, Hailey Chang, Nolan Clay, Caleb Gillis, Brendan Ottinger, Laura Rogers, Lance Ottinger, Jessica Burkey, Kayla Georlett, Owen Shrock, Sarah Stewart, Bryce Conway, and Anne Stewart.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FIRST PRESbyterian Church

OUTBACK ROCK: WHERE KIDS VENTURE INTO SOLID FAITH!

JUNE 23, 24, 25
Dinner 5:30-6:00 p.m.
VBS 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

You are invited to venture through the Outback and learn about God’s amazing love and that He is always with you! Two days of rock solid Bible Adventures, Outback games, Projects with a Purpose and Rockin’ Music will excite any child to grow closer to God! The third day will culminate with Amazon John (Silly Safaris) and his animal show at 6:30 p.m.!

Registration forms are available at the information desk and online at www.firstpresmuncie.org. Please complete a separate form for each child and return to Tracy Clinger or the church office. Thank You!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Fill out a form online at www.firstpresmuncie.org or pick one up at the information desk!

VBS COLLECTION:
(tote will be located in the North lobby for drop off)

VBS is around the corner and a few items are needed for "Crafts with a Purpose". This year the kids will not only make a craft for themselves but one or two to give as part of a local mission project. A Better Way will be the recipients of our washcloth kangaroos!! Please help the kids help others in need. Thank you for your generous donations! If you have any questions, you may contact Tracy Clinger at 751-7960.

♦ 180 NEW tan or brown washcloths for craft project
♦ 360 wooden spring clothes pins
♦ 180 bars of OVAL shaped soap (i.e. dove, caress)
♦ Finger nail polish. ALL COLORS! (new & used)