They say that it’s a very fine line between insanity and what we call a hobby. That’s because many of our hobbies involve and assume a certain amount of suffering and disappointment. The question of insanity begins with the fact that within the realm of a hobby, suffering and disappointment are often self-inflicted.

I have a friend of mine who is a fly fisherman. That’s his beloved hobby. He has been gracious and very generous in sharing his hobby with me, even to the point of taking me along with him on a couple of fishing trips a few years ago. Before we went, he made it readily clear to me that there wasn’t anything that he liked more than fly-fishing. It was easy to see that this was something that gave him incredible joy, but he also made sure that I understood that fly-fishing was the most difficult form of fishing that there was. He said that other forms of fishing required less effort and came with guaranteed results. The fly-fisherman, on the other hand, consciously chooses the hardest method possible and often faces several days in which they do everything correctly only to end up having no success at all. In addition, the fly fisherman has the hardship of facing very difficult circumstances. They face long hikes through bone-chilling cold water, knee deep mud and mosquito infested creeks. They do all of this in the glorious pursuit of a trout that they’ll more than likely catch and then release. Insanity!

Yet, before we become too critical of fly-fisherman, let’s talk about the crazy suffering and frustration that go into the hobbies that the rest of us love, shall we? I’ve seen authors and poets agonize over a couple of words that no one else will even notice. I’ve seen artists of all kinds obsess over one note of music or one stroke of a paint brush that they just can’t get right. I’ve seen athletes push their bodies beyond all limits during training, not so that they can win some glorious prize that everyone will see, but just so that they can finally break new ground and achieve a new personal best that only they will know and treasure. I know joggers and bicyclists who can be found plying their trade in any kind of weather, guitarists who play until their fingers bleed, cooks who agonize over the precise mixture of ingredients and foods, and I’m not even going to talk about all of the self-inflicted suffering that a golfer endures.

Obviously, suffering is a natural part of achieving anything of real, lasting value. More than that, since these hobbies are so important to us and to the people that we love, and since this suffering is a such an integral part of the things that we like to do, it’s clear that we have no chance of really understanding or really appreciating what others love to do until we learn to appreciate and value the suffering and the difficulty and the disappointment that they endured on the road to doing and being.

We may not like to fish or golf or make quilts or write music. We may not even be able to understand a particular field of interest at all, but even so, we can understand what it takes to produce something of lasting value. We have the capacity to celebrate and treasure what it took for someone else to produce and achieve something that they feel is important. We can appreciate and respect their suffering and then begin to love them better than we ever have.

We are now right in the middle of the season of Lent. These are the days; these are the moments of our Lord’s suffering for those he loves. If we ignore what He did; if we refuse to value what He felt and experienced in those moments, we will never really know Him at all.

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.
The following eleven missionaries from our church are in the village of Mella RIGHT NOW:

Cathy Alexander  Dan Alexander  Amanda Brown  Megan Brown
Scott Brown  Jessica Bryzek  Jessica Burkey  Lucas Clay
Michelle Kaitchuck  Wesley Potter  Lauren Simmons

Nine of these missionaries were part of our first or second trips to the Dominican Republic.

While we are in Mella, we will use The Tale of the Three Trees during our children’s Bible school. Drama, music, dance, story time, and games have all been planned to bring the story alive.

In addition to our activities in Mella, each of these missionaries will be carrying a suitcase full of VBS curriculum and supplies for 11 churches (including Mella) in the Southwest region of the Dominican Republic. This area is the poorest area in the country and the least served by outside groups. The VBS curriculum, supplies, and even the suitcases were all donated by churches from Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

Your prayers for our trip are appreciated. We will return to Muncie on March 6. Please turn up the heat while we are gone!

 Volunteer at the Salvation Army Food Pantry March 3rd, 4th, and 5th! Volunteers are needed from 1pm until approximately 2:30 – 4:30pm. Please arrive no later than 12:45pm. Sign-up on the bulletin board behind the information desk or email cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Hot Meal Program

Volunteers are being recruited for the month of March. Sign up on the bulletin board or email cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Also, drivers are especially needed on Monday at Inside Out, 300 N. Madison. Drivers need to arrive by 2:30. Delivery takes approximately 45 minutes and involves overseeing the loading of the food into your vehicle, transportation to the center (maps will be provided), and a return trip to Inside Out with the empty food containers from the prior day’s delivery. Email Cathy if you want to volunteer at Inside Out.

Hot Meals Program volunteers: the kids really enjoyed their Valentine’s! The sweet messages were much appreciated and the staff at the centers were encouraged to see a demonstration of support for their kids.
High School seniors interested in applying for First Presbyterian, Muncie college scholarships may pick up applications at the information desk or in the church office.

The deadline for submission is April 13, 2015

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.—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

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

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 Bentley, Administrative Assistant
keena@firstpresmuncie.org

Fellowship Framework - Stay Tuned...

- Rows
- Circles
- Small Groups
Pre-K Announcements

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year began February 1 for church members and current preschool families and on February 16 registration opened up to the community. Currently we have 52 students registered for next school year! If you know someone looking for a great preschool please refer them to our website www.firstpresmuncie.org for more information or call Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry at 751-7960.

Trivia Night was a HUGE success in so many ways! The event provided the opportunity for church and preschool families to enjoy fun and fellowship together while raising money to benefit the Pre-Kindergarten Program. The weather did not hinder 90 plus people coming together to eat, laugh and answer trivia questions to support our preschool! Thank you to all who helped organize and promote the event, worked the night of the event, and a special thank you to Pastor J.D.’s friends, Mike and Reita Kuster, for their travel and willingness to emcee and help score the answers! We raised $1650.00 which will supplement our scholarship program and help purchase new supplies and new equipment for the preschool children.

First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten will be celebrating 60 years of education to young children in the Muncie area this October! The preschool opened its doors to the first class of students on October 3, 1955.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 26-27 WILL BE A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION CULMINATING WITH A SUNDAY WORSHIP!
SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible School

June 23-25, 2015
OUTBACK ROCK: “WHERE KIDS VENTURE INTO ROCK SOLID FAITH”

Three days of high energy songs, crafts, Bible stories and games!

Needing Volunteers
please contact Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry at 751-7960 or tracy@firstprespumc.org if you are able to help! FPC offers one of the best VBS programs thanks to those who volunteer and give generously of their time! Thank you in advance for continuing to support this ministry to the community!

Variety Show  March 14, 2015  6:30 pm

First Pres Performs!
Who: Members and friends of all ages!
Where: Fellowship Hall
Why: Entertainment and Fellowship on a Saturday night!
Refreshments provided and served by Branches!
Movie Night in Youth Hall for children to 5th grade!
Sign up by March 1 to perform
Registration forms are available at the information desk or online at www.firstprespumc.org)

Youth and Parent Night

March 15 is an important night for our youth program. Youth and Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the evening. We will work on visioning for the future of the youth program at FPC. It is incredibly important that as many youth AND parents attend as possible! Please mark it on your calendars and plan to be there.
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

**W**ednesdays ~ Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study* & Children's Programming at 6:45 pm

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**February 25 - April 1**
(6 weeks - Lent)
The Passion of the Christ - (Movie)

**April 2 - Maunday Thursday Worship**

**April 8 - May 6**
(5 weeks)
Prayer

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**Thank you to everyone who purchased a Super Bowl Sub!**
This year we raised **$604.04** to help the youth go on their summer trips to New Orleans, LA and Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina.

*Thanks again!*

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**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*

March 1: Mission around the church
March 8: Dinner at Panera!
March 14: Talent Show
March 15: Youth and Parent Night
March 29: Movie Night at FPC
The Meaning of Easter

With Easter Sunday fast approaching, readers may wish to reconsider the meaning and significance of the holiday for Christians. Here are some suggestions for study and reflection.

*God Is on the Cross* (242.34 BONH) is a series of devotions for Lent taken from the letters and sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most prominent theologians of the 20th century. Much of the content was written during the two years that pastor Bonhoeffer was imprisoned in Nazi Germany. He was executed in 1945, just days before the downfall of Hitler’s regime.

*The Last Days of Jesus* (232.96 BOVO) is an exploration of the passion and resurrection of Christ. The noted Biblical scholar Francois Bovon provides a clear and concise overview of the primary texts and of the historical context of these events.

*He Chose the Nails* (232.91 LUCA) is a work by the popular Christian author Max Lucado. He focuses readers’ attention on seemingly minor details of the resurrection to dramatize the significance of Christ’s sacrifice. Another book by the same author is *Six Hours One Friday* (LUCA 232.96) It takes readers to the foot of the cross “where God gave us the anchor points sturdy enough to withstand any hurricane life may send us.”

*Joy Comes in the Morning* (232 ANDE) is Don Anderson’s view of the passion and resurrection. He emphasizes the significance of the empty tomb and the pure joy that results from embracing the glorious victory of the resurrection.

These works are representative of the library’s books on Easter which also includes several books for children.

Profound Ideas

Does life have meaning? Does God exist? Do pain and suffering have any purpose? Everyone ponders these fundamental questions at least occasionally. Finding satisfactory answers may prove elusive. A British author has provided a way to discuss these matters with a leading Christian theologian.

*If I Had Lunch with C.S. Lewis* (648.8 McGR) is the title of a book by Alister McGrath. He presents the ideas of C.S. Lewis in an informal conversational manner that makes profound ideas available and pertinent. Reading it is almost like having an informal chat at the kitchen table.

The author is professor of theology, ministry, and education at King’s College, London.

“Sorry” May Not Be Enough

“What can I say, dear, after I say “I’m sorry,” is the first line of an old pop tune. The fact is that much more may need to said, according to the authors of book on healing relationships.

In *The Five Languages of Apology* (158.2 CHAP) Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas offer a five-step process to heal the damage caused by failure to apologize properly. The process involves expressing regret, accepting responsibility, making restitution, genuinely repenting, and requesting forgiveness.

Gary Chapman is a counselor with more than 30 years experience. Jennifer Thomas is a clinical psychologist with extensive experience counseling individuals and couples.

Maxine and Chuck Leslie
We hope to see the sanctuary filled with beautiful Easter lilies on Sunday, April 5. As in previous years you have the opportunity to order lilies in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may then be taken home with you after the Easter service.

To order, please place this completed form and payment in the offering plate or send to the church office at 1400 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie IN 47303.

To ensure accuracy please print clearly.

Orders forms must be received by the church office by Sunday, March 29, 2015!

Qty. Ordered: _______ X $12.00 each = Total due __________

Date paid: ____________ Amt paid: $____________

Chk#___________

In loving memory of:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

In honor or celebration of:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Given by:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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