Right from the beginning, in the very first chapter, our Book of Order makes a fascinating and very challenging declaration about what the Church will do and be. It’s something that Presbyterians have been saying about themselves for hundreds of years. It says that the Church is Reformed and always reforming.

That means that the Presbyterian Church is of the Reformed faith and theology. This is a theology that came into being in the sixteenth century with Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. It was then strengthened and clarified by folks like John Calvin in Geneva and John Knox, the father of the Presbyterian Church, in Scotland. So we are Reformed in history and theology and we always will be in the best way that we can.

Yet we will also always be reforming. That means that in addition to our Reformed theological heritage, we Presbyterians will be dedicated to the goal of never settling in to one specific spot under the assumption that what we are doing right now is perfect. It requires us to be supportive of Godly change. It requires us to be patient and trusting and respectful as we listen to and participate in conversations that question how we do things. It requires us to get rid of things that aren’t working; eliminate well intentioned habits that aren’t blessing our lives. It also means that we will inevitably have to replace all of those sacred cows with something new and unknown and then have faith! It would be so much easier if we could just choose a way to do everything and then tell ourselves that it’s all perfect and never, ever change it!

This, of course, is downright frightening. It requires us to be supportive of Godly change. It requires us to be open to new things that are inspired by the Holy Spirit. It requires us to be patient and trusting and respectful as we listen to and participate in conversations that question how we do things. Worst of all, it quite often requires us to get rid of things that aren’t working; eliminate well intentioned habits that aren’t blessing our lives. It also means that we will inevitably have to replace all of those sacred cows with something new and unknown and then have faith! It would be so much easier if we could just choose a way to do everything and then tell ourselves that it’s all perfect and never, ever change it!

Being Reformed and always reforming is scary. I recently heard someone compare it to building an airplane while you are flying through the air. One former moderator of our denomination compared it to taking an old, worn-out black and white television set and transforming it into a new, flat-screen, high definition set with a remote control while also constantly receiving and displaying the programs on screen. Impossible!

As ridiculous as it may sound for us to embrace this goal of always reforming, the only other choice is completely unacceptable. We do not stand before God as perfect beings with perfect institutions. We stand before God in the grace of Christ, needing grace for forgiveness and continually needing God’s grace to live and grow and become what God wants us to be.

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.
At the tender age of seven, I knew I wanted to be a missionary when three women missionaries came to speak to our Sunday School and I was transfixed by their message. As a member of this excitingly mission-minded church, I’ve been privileged to be part of numerous mission trips. However, none have been both challenging and satisfying in the way the trip to the Dominican Republic was. I’ve never been so actively involved in helping develop a long-term mission partnership—and it’s developing well along two paths.

Dan Alexander was fantastic in analyzing what we did on our trip and where it might lead us. (Mission Committee Moderator Julia Wadsworth said it’s the most thorough report of a mission project she’s ever seen.) For now, our main effort is working with the PCUSA’s partner church in the Dominican Republic, Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED) in a village called Mella (pronounced May-yah). In our visit last March, we worshiped with members in the church, the construction crew poured new cement floors for the manse, and our young people led a whopper of a Vacation Bible School—very well received. We loved getting to know the people who welcomed us into their homes and to their dining tables and keep in contact with them as best we can. (Email makes it easier but still has glitches.)

The other path introduced us to communities in the DR called “bateyes” (sugar workers’ towns, pronounced “bay-tees”) which are largely made up of people who are either Haitian or of Haitian descent. The living conditions there are deplorable. We desperately wanted to do something there to make a difference, but where to start? Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, husband-wife team, the PCUSA mission co-workers who had worked out the logistics of our mission trip, are actively working in Batey 7 to improve the lives of people living there.

Jenny works fulltime in Batey 7’s Good Samaritan Clinic sponsored by the IED. Mark divides his time between Haiti and Batey 7. In Haiti, Mark, a community developer/agricultural specialist, works with the Farmer’s Movement using discarded auto tires to help people increase food production for Haitian families. The tires are converted into miniature vegetable garden plots, which can grow a relatively large amount of food with a small amount of water (always in short supply). He has brought the technique to the DR’s Batey 7 where we worked one day of our mission trip preparing the tires for planting a crop.

While we were there, Mark rented a small truck for transportation. Otherwise, he and Jenny use public transportation (including motorcycle taxis) which can be unreliable and unsafe at night and can make for lengthy travel. Knowing that we were eager to do something to help Batey 7, Mark emailed us (and 12 other of his mission supporters) to ask if we could help purchase a small truck for him and Jenny. They need a different means of transportation due to the growing needs related to the community health program that is emerging out of Jenny’s work with the IED clinic. Mark and Jenny are part of a 4-member team mentoring the development of the community health program, guided by the principles of what is known as Community Health Evangelism (CHE). As they use those strategies, their interactions with Batey 7’s new Community Health Committee are becoming more and more exciting. The committee has been meeting once or twice a month, but their growing excitement has convinced them that they have to assure that Jenny can safely meet with the committee once a week, at least.

I’m happy to report that our Session recently approved a Mission Committee recommendation to send $2,000 for the work at Batey 7. Recently in a Mission Crossroads magazine, I read about another project of PCUSA a couple years ago which made clean water available for those living in the DR bateyes. We saw the efforts of the church that make that possible—water tower and all. How exciting to know we will be helping the people of Batey 7 to help themselves to better health.

Thanks be to God for your generous hearts, and please keep Mark and Jenny in your prayers,

Carrie Jo
Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of you who participated in the wonderful gifts that were presented to me at the Retirement Party. Words do not express my feelings for the generosity and love that surrounded that whole evening. I will always treasure my tenure here as Pastor for 28 years. You all have been a blessing to me and my family through the years and for that I am extremely grateful.

The beautiful Maurice Lacroix watch, the Brian Gordy painting and the fishing trip to Alaska next August with my sons Ryan and Joel are gifts that will be reminders through the years of your love and kindness at this time of my retirement. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

My prayers will continually be with all of you at First Presbyterian Church as you move into an exciting future.

Blessings,
Ron Naylor

(Ron’s new e-mail address is naylorpres@gmail.com.)
Spring Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

**Who:** A team of 15 missionaries from FPC

**What:** Our second international mission trip to the Dominican Republic

**When:** March 21 through March 29, 2014

**Where:** We will travel again to the village of Mella, in the southwest part of the DR, where the PCUSA has a partner church, the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana. This is fairly close to Barahona, where PCUSA missionaries Mark Hare and Jenny Bent live.

**Why:** To continue to build a relationship between First Pres Muncie and the wonderful people of Mella.

To answer these questions...

- What can I learn about myself?
- How is my understanding of God growing?
- What is the impact of culture on faith/faith on culture?
- What am I learning about my lifestyle?
- How does the PCUSA do mission?
- What might God be calling me to do as a result of this experience?

**Cost:** TBA

**Deadlines:** Because of the church-wide interest in last year’s trip, an application process is necessary. Applications will be available at the information desk on September 15, 2013. Completed applications are due in the office by October 6. If you are selected for the trip, a copy of your passport and $100 will be due by November 15. Full payment (or a payment plan) will be due by January 6, 2014.

**Special Considerations:** While this is a transformative experience, please be aware that the travel is arduous, the days are long, the temperature is high, the accommodations are extremely primitive by US standards, the food is different and lacks variety, and additional vaccinations are required.

**Want to learn more?** Talk to someone who went last year: Dan Alexander, Jack Alexander, Amanda Brown, Scott Brown, Mackenzie Clinger, Hyejung Cho, Lucas Clay, Dan House, John Foster, Alan Simmons, Lauren Simmons, Michelle Kaitchuck, Cathy Alexander, Pastor Lee, Carrie Jo Miller.

Check out these websites:


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**Adult Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 8!**

**9:45 - 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall**

**Sept. 8 through Oct. 13** Series on Tim Keller's book *Generous Justice* and social justice from a Christian perspective, led by Jim Williams

**Oct. 20** "I Am Second" - How faith shapes our lives and how we talk about it to impact others, led by Bill Rogers

**Oct. 27 through Nov. 10** "The Universe and Faith", led by Ron Kaitchuck

**Nov. 17** - "I Am Second", led by Bill Rogers

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**Presbyterian College Ministry**

**Sundays - 9:45 - 10:30 am**

College Sunday School class

**12 noon**

Eat ‘n’ Run lunch

**Wednesdays - 6:00-8:15 pm**

KOINONIA all-church dinner & Bible study
**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@firstpresmuncie.org.

- **Sept. 1**  
  **No Meeting—Labor Day**

- **Sept. 4 (Wed.)**  
  **KOINONIA starts!**

- **Sept. 8**  
  **College Care Packages-Part 2** - We will pack the college care packages for our FPC college students.

- **Sept. 11 (Wed.)**  
  **KOINONIA!**

- **Sept. 15**  
  **Gishler Golf** - We won't be golfing...we'll be working! Watch for more information about how we can help out at Delaware Country Club.

- **Sept. 18 (Wed.)**  
  **KOINONIA!**

- **Sept. 22**  
  **Mystery Meeting**

- **Sept. 18 (Wed.)**  
  **KOINONIA!**

- **Sept. 29**  
  **CROP Walk** - The CROP Walk raises funds and awareness to combat hunger. The Walk starts at 2:00! Wear comfortable walking shoes, but leave your i-pods at home (talk to your neighbor!). Please get at least one donation (any amount) from your own piggy bank or Mom/Dad/Grandparent/etc. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP and bring them with you on Sunday. Watch for more information on when/where we will meet.

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**SOME SAY THE YOUTH TODAY**

*Some say the youth today are stuffed to the brim, full of themselves, much like unopened sacks of flour.*

That may be true of some, but I know many who will certainly be the seeds, the wheat, the flour who will make the bread that feeds and enriches the world tomorrow.

Roger O. Sherwood - July 2013
Adult Ministry Luncheon

Join us for a healthy, delicious lunch on Wednesday, September 18
12 noon in Fellowship Hall

and

A Special Presentation On Healthy Aging by Dave Gobble

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, September 16.

Koinonia for Kids!

What will children, K-5th, do during Koinonia Bible Study?

Holy Moly, we’re glad you asked! Holy Moly is children’s curriculum from Spark House, a division of Augsburg Press.

What happens during a Holy Moly lesson?

Each lesson has four components. During Discover, kids watch an animated Bible story video. In Relate, they talk about the story they just watched. Then, in Connect, kids engage with the story again in the NRSV Bible to understand the story. Finally, they complete the Create activity with their leaflets.

Sign up your kids today! Holy Moly, they won’t want to miss it!

For more information, check out http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/holymoly

(Childcare will be provided for children under age 5.)

JOIN THE FUN AND HELP THE HOMELESS

On Sunday, September 15, 2013, Project Stepping Stone will hold a DESSERT AUCTION to raise money to support its ministry to the homeless.

Project Stepping Stone is a not-for-profit agency started by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Cross more than 20 years ago. It provides temporary housing for homeless families for 3 months or more, giving them a chance to save some money so they can then pay for housing themselves. First Presbyterian is now a partner in this important mission, so we urge you to lend a helping hand.

You can help by baking a storm. Plan now to help by baking a homemade dessert (1 dozen brownies, bars, or cupcakes; 2 dozen cookies; a pie; or a cake), and bringing it to Fellowship Hall by 10:45 a.m. on Sunday morning September 15. You can also help by attending the auction at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 900 W. White River Blvd. starting at about 12:30 p.m. and bidding on auction items.

If you have any questions about the auction or Project Stepping Stone, please call Roger Sherwood at 284-5260.
Ron’s Farewell

Rev. Ron Naylor’s final sermon (and his singing farewell) are now on a DVD available from the library. Look for Ronald Naylor’s Retirement Sermon (DVD RON) on the rack outside the library entrance.

Dramas from the Bible

The TV miniseries “The Bible” brought the good book to millions of viewers in 10 episodes. The broadcasts are the basis for a work of fiction called A Story of God and All of Us (FIC DOWN) by Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, producers of the miniseries.

Like the TV drama, the novel begins with Genesis and ends with Revelation. The authors make no claim to being theologians but choose to dramatize God’s Word through the stories of numerous significant figures from the Old and New Testaments. Prominent in the narrative are Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samson, Saul, David, John the Baptist, Mary, Jesus, and Paul. The encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate is representative of the many fictionalized episodes that tell of God’s relationship with humanity from the creation of man to the revelation of a new world.

Waste Not Want Not?

Hardly anyone would admit to being wasteful, but an investigation revealed that Americans manage to waste about 40 percent of the food produced in this country. When Jonathan Bloom, a journalist, studied the situation, he was shocked to find that from farm to fork Americans throw away almost half of all food produced.

His report is called American Wasteland (363.8 BLOO). His revelations are especially shocking in view of the many children who do not have enough to eat. Fields sometimes go un-harvested, restaurant meals are only half eaten, produce spoils in the refrigerator. But the book is not all about waste. The author also provides numerous tips on avoiding waste and saving money.

Jesus as Person

In his book Beautiful Outlaw (2232.9 ELDR), John Eldredge presents an uncommon biography of Christ. He hopes to show readers “the playful, disruptive, extravagant personality of Jesus.”

Jesus was accused of many things including breaking the law and keeping bad company. He said outrageous things and was uncommonly generous. Despite his many contradictions, those who knew him best loved him. Through this book, the author seeks to reveal the real man who inspired so many in profound ways.

Jefferson: Philosopher President

Presiding over a White House dinner for various luminaries, President John F. Kennedy once said, “There is more talent assembled here tonight than at any time since Thomas Jefferson dined here alone.”

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, has been hailed as our only philosopher president. Passionate about personal liberty, education, science, agriculture, architecture, and much else, he was one of the principal founders of our nation and also the founder of the University of Virginia. In his biography, Thomas Jefferson: the Art of Power (920 JEFF), John Meacham reveals a man who combined the ability of the philosopher to think and the art of the politician to maneuver.

The author won the Pulitzer Prize for his earlier book, American Lion, a biography of President Andrew Jackson. □

Window Replacement Project
Final Phase - Your Help Needed

Please prayerfully consider what you can give in addition to your yearly pledge to help defray the cost of this most-needed project, which we hope will be completed before winter weather arrives. Thank you to all who have already donated to this project!

*Checks payable to First Presbyterian, memo: windows —Rev. J.D.
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303

...Lifting Up Christ
Building Up People

www.firstpresmuncie.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Presbyterian Church
25th Annual Golf Outing
benefiting the Gishler College Scholarship

DELAWARE COUNTRY CLUB
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2013
2:00 PM TEE TIME

Register your team today!

Food & Prizes
• Meal Provided after Golf
• Prizes for 1st Three Teams
• Longest Drive (Men’s/Women’s)
• Closest to Pin on Par 3 (Men’s/Women’s)
• Car for 1st Hole-in-One on #16 (provided by Toyota of Muncie)
• 50/50 Drawing

Welcome
• All-Women Teams
• Non-First Pres Members

Registration Form
First Presbyterian Church
2013 Gishler Golf Outing
For more info: www.firstpresmuncie.org

Please detach and return with payment by September 8, 2013, to:
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303

☐ Team Entry - $300 (18 holes; cart; driving range; lunch)
Team Captain Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Team Member Name ____________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

☐ Individual Entry - $75 (same as above)
Individual Name ________________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

☐ Major Sponsorship - $500 (name on large sign)
No Team Included With $500 Sponsorship

☐ Hole Sponsorship - $100 (tee box sign w/ name)

☐ Personal Contribution - $______________
Name ________________________________

☐ Payment Enclosed:  ☐ Cash  ☐ Check