



FPC FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2015

**Issue No. 2
Published Monthly**

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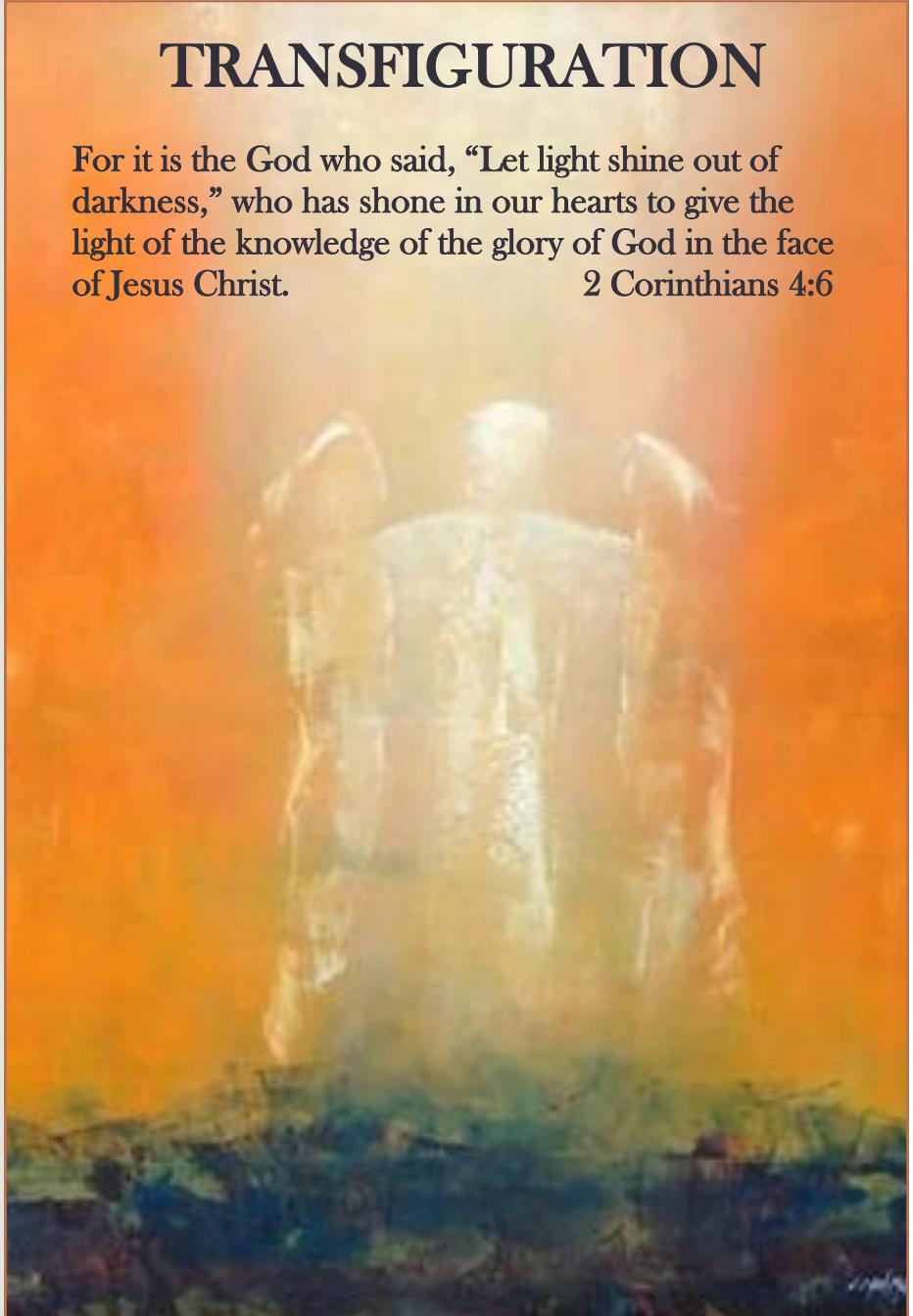
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TRANSFIGURATION

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6



I was reading a book on evangelism by my favorite Biblical scholar, Walter Brueggemann, and I was shocked that he started out by comparing it to football. This was January 17, when we all had dreams and still cared about football! Brueggemann described an NFL championship game, before Super Bowls and instant replay, when the game depended on a last-second ruling. He remembers vividly how it came down to a conference among the referees about whether it was a catch or not. Yes! His team won, he rejoiced and everyone discussed the game all week.

Evangelism, Brueggemann says, involves a victory, a witness, and a retelling – just like football, though the victory is God’s. One thing that fascinated me in this analogy was that the victory we celebrate is never complete. God may in some significant way triumph over evil this week, but immediately greed and racism and self-centeredness and the New England Patriots have another chance, and next week you are on edge because they don’t stay down for long.

As I mentioned in church January 21 and 28, God’s victories are real, but always hidden – “in the weakness of neighbor love, in the foolishness of mercy, in the vulnerability of compassion, in the staggering alternatives of forgiveness and generosity which permit new life to emerge in situations of despair and brutality. It is hidden in the cross where it is always hidden, and in all subsequent manifestations of the power of the cross.” (Brueggemann’s words)

We rejoice in God’s victories when we can see them, but we are not surprised that they are not permanent. We do not lose faith, we do not get discouraged, because, in the end, “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

PRAYER TIMES

Throughout Lent, the church will have a prayer time from 7:30-8:00 am on Tuesdays and 1:00 -1:30 pm on Fridays. We hope some of you will gather with us in the chapel, and others will set the time on your phone or computer as a reminder to pause for a few minutes of prayer.

For **February 1**, our preacher is Rev. Larry Jackman, stated clerk of the presbytery. Communion will be served.

Worship on **February 8** will center on the powerful words of Isaiah 40:21-31: “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the Everlasting God, who created the ends of the earth.” Children’s Worship Arts will help interpret these words for us.

February 15 is Transfiguration Sunday. Rev. Norie Erickson will preach.

Ash Wednesday is **February 18**. We will share worship with North Christian Church at their church at 7 p.m., with imposition of ashes.

The First Sunday in Lent is **February 22**, with a focus on Jesus’ Temptation, Mark 1:9-15. TeenImpact@ worship will interpret through the eyes of the stones in the story. We will ordain and install elders and deacons, and the new Director of Camp Pyoca, Rev. Jake Hofmeister, will be with us.

PATHS OF THE FLOCK

Condolences to Jo Lucas, on the passing of husband, Jim Lucas who passed away on January 2, 2015 after a strong fight with cancer.

February 1, HOSPITALITY - Welcome, kindness to visitors, friendliness, warmth. How are we doing? Where can we improve?

February 8, MUSIC/WORSHIP - Get to know our new Choir Director/Organist Dianne Sprunger and hear about choir and music opportunities.

February 15, WORSHIP LITURGY- Why do we worship the way we do? Join Ray Hass as he leads this discussion about the Worship and Liturgy shared each Sunday at FPC.

February 22, CAMP PYOCA - Camp Pyoca's New Camp Director, Jake Hofmeister will join us and share his passion for Christian outdoor ministry.

OTHER LOCAL ADULT NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES.....

The House I Live In, Free Documentary Film, February 7, 1:00 pm (Exploring the effects of the War on Drugs) Bartholomew County Library Red Room.

Reaching & Unleashing Baby Boomers & Beyond, Thursday, February 12, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in Indianapolis. Baby Boomers are essential to the ministry of church and community. Learn how to engage and unleash us/them to make a significant impact and to become more intergenerational in the process. If you are interested in joining those attending this workshop (sponsored by the Center for Congregations), contact pastor Scott Hill or Adult Nurture chair B Watt Jorck (342-4011) for more information and carpooling.

Truth and Reconciliation with Native America, public seminar, Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Shelton Auditorium, Christian Theological Seminary; 1000 W. 42nd St, Indianapolis. Free event.

NEWS FROM THE SESSION MEETING

Session members, Pastor Nominating committee members and Stewardship and Finance committee members met on January 14, 2015.

The majority of the business meeting time was spent discussing the Ministry Information Form authored by the PNC and the timetable of their work; and the 2014 FPC financial results and the 2015 budget.

The Ministry Information Form was approved with some minor changes. The 2014 financial results and 2015 budget were approved for presentation at the FPC annual meeting on January 25. The 2015 budget does include provision for the hiring of a Director of Children's & Youth Ministry.

The Session also approved The Rev. Larry Jackman to preach on February 1 and The Rev. Norie Erickson to preach on February 15. Interim Pastor, Scott Hill will be on study leave and vacation on these Sundays.

The Session approved dates that communion will be served during worship in 2015. It was announced that teachers are needed for the children's Sunday School program and interested volunteers should contact Colleen Herrick.

It was noted that Deborah Fogt is the 2015 moderator for the Board of Deacons. The next Session meeting is February 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Dan Spurgeon, as Treasurer, presented a proposed budget during the recent Congregational meeting held after the service Jan. 25th. This budget was showing a deficit of \$26,426. This deficit situation is not viable, and there is a need to actively plan to alleviate this deficit. The Session and Finance / Stewardship committee are convinced, and committed, that the final budget will be balanced and that we will not do it by sacrificing our purpose and potential as a congregation.

Our Session believes strongly that our future hinges upon moving forward with our strategic plan which includes hiring a professional Christian Educator. This position will continue the positive work that has taken place over the years. The children and youth are engaged and active in their spiritual journeys. This has been evident through the Sunday worship service participation, mission trip planning, children's time activities, and not to mention Sunday school.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee has been working diligently by completing the first step in the process and beginning to search for the best candidate for our next installed pastor. Their focus is finding a pastor who can help us implement our strategic vision and objectives – including integrating spirituality into our daily lives, continuing to build our children and youth programs, connecting with our members, reaching out to all people, addressing poverty and serving through mission. We want a pastor who will help us achieve our strategic vision.

You are the reason our church has been able to support our Christian education, worship, congregational care, and mission efforts in our community, both locally and globally. Many people have been touched through your generosity so please plan to attend one of the following meetings to further the discussion on the part you play to keeping us moving in a positive direction.

February 3 (Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Large Youth Room

February 5 (Thursday), 7:00 pm, Laws Room

February 8 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Laws Room

We look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings.

Sincerely,

Alan Kilbarger

Stewardship and Finance Moderator

Colleen Herrick

PNC Moderator and Children's Nurture Moderator

And God created music. I'm sure that the biblical writers just forgot to include that in the Creation Stories. Making music together is always a glimmer of joy in the cold and drear of winter for me. Singing old hymns and new ones, singing choruses and responses, hearing poetry set to music, or just instruments creating melodies and harmonies, all add sound worlds that open my ears to more of God's world.

This congregation has so many gifted musicians. Several of our youth are preparing to perform for ISSMA solo and ensemble contest. I am excited that they will grace our worship services this month with their music. The adult choir, youth choir, and children's choir dedicate time each week to practice. We enjoy the fruits of their labor every Sunday. (Each choir is open for anyone to join. Feel free to contact me or Lisa Porter if you would like more information about rehearsal times and plans.) Livin' By Faith band is coming back soon. I hope more adults like Ted Sharpe will jump in to add to our worship sounds.

FPC is invited to North Christian Church for an ecumenical start to the season of Lent. The FPC adult choir will join voices with the NCC choir for the Ash Wednesday service, **February 18**.

Music at FPC is planning two wonderful concerts this spring. First, we will welcome the Butler University Chorale on Sunday, **February 22** at 3:00 pm. Under the direction of (our own) Dr. Eric Stark, the choir will cheer us with a joyful sound. Dr. Stark grew up in this congregation, starting his choral profession at age six in our children's choir. Eric is the son of FPC member Sherry Stark. In addition to his duties as Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, Stark is also Professor of Music, Director of Graduate Studies and Assistant Chair of the School of Music at Butler University's Jordan College of the Arts. There he conducts the Butler Chorale, teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting and choral literature, and serves as coordinator of the vocal and choral areas. A 1988 graduate of Wabash College, he is also a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight, a non-profit network of pilots providing free air transportation for those with medical needs. In a dynamic career that combines performance, scholarship and collaborative leadership, conductor Eric Stark has established himself as a choral-orchestral specialist.

Cindy MacMillan and Ray Hass are planning a delightful afternoon of flute and piano music for us on Sunday, **April 19** at 3:00 pm. For many of us, Cindy and Ray are well-known. Cindy has graced us with flute music, collaborating with Colin Andrews, with Mirabella Minut and Rebecca Stenner and others. She has taught many budding flutists. Ray is our Minister of Music Emeritus, having served us with care and musical excellence for many years.

I am glad to join with you in making music to the glory of our Creator. I hope that the music you hear when we gather adds that glimmer of joy for you as well.

Dianne Sprunger

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF MISSION TRIPS

We often assume that going on a mission trip is a life-altering event. I've sort of taken that for granted as I've seen my own kids come back changed human beings after being gone for just a week. This week a light switch flipped in my mind. I suddenly realized that 6 of our church's 7 graduating seniors had done something to support mission and those in need for their Senior Projects. Just to be clear – mission and philanthropy are not a requirement for a senior project. Each school is different, but these kids could have chosen to learn to play guitar or fix up an old car for their projects. Most of them chose something directly philanthropic. They gravitated to those roles in part because of what they have learned as part of this church, directly serving those in need, striving to be God's hands in the world.

Maggie and Abby Frazier hosted Taking It to the Streets and raised \$2,570 with 75% going locally to Horizon House and 25% going to Open Doors, a food pantry in Detroit where they served on a mission trip in 8th grade. They also took five van-loads of donated food and clothing to Love Chapel and Horizon House. Five van-loads. That's a lot of donations. You helped – whether you realize it or not. You empowered Maggie and Abby as leaders through supporting their participation in Mission Trips.

Ben Porter coordinated, hosted, and performed at a Jazz Concert to benefit church mission trips to the Dominican Republic. He raised \$1,100 that has been deposited in Fund 22, the fund designated for mission trip funds. He also gathered toiletries and medical supplies (worth \$300) that are on their way to the Dominican Republic right now. You were part of that success also. You helped create a leader when you supported Ben's mission trips over the past 6 years.

Alexandra Friend coordinated the Heart Tree Project this year, raising funds and gathering donations for five families in need. Kelcie Davie organized a 5K race, donating the funds raised to the Davie Galbraith Liver and Colon Cancers Fund at the St. Vincent Foundation. Lexi Jackman-Wheitner is gathering coupons and writing a grant request in hopes of purchasing \$1,000 worth of non-perishables such as diapers, deodorant, shampoo, and cleaning supplies for only \$200. She'll be

donating all goods purchased to Love Chapel. Amelia Herrick’s project is teaching dance to children. Her leadership skills, honed through assisting with VBS here and on mission trips, have supported her in her senior project.

Your support, your prayers, your gifts, your suggestions, your assistance, your smile, your congratulations, and your pride in these youth matters. You have made a difference in the lives of these kids. And, more importantly, you’ve empowered them to be servants in the world.

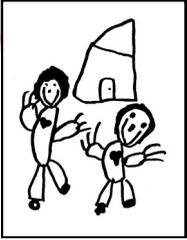
Thank you. Thank you for sending these kids out to serve others. You’ve helped them grow and helped them share God’s love in a meaningful, tangible way.

Leah Jackman-Wheitner

Current service projects our youth are active in within our community and others that you can support.....

LOGAN PUTNEY IS DOING HIS 8TH GRADE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT TO HELP THE SECOND MILE CENTER OF DETROIT. Logan spent a day at The Second Mile Center last June during the youth group's mission trip. He realized he would like to help them again. The Second Mile Center is a not for profit organization for kids who have no place to go after school. While they are there they can play sports and board games. Logan is trying to help The Second Mile Center by collecting donations of sports equipment, games and toys. He will be collecting donations from **February 8 through March 8**. Logan will have a Moment for Mission on February 8 to describe what things he would like to collect for The Second Mile Center. If you have questions about this project or would like to donate, please email Logan at loganputney@gmail.com or call (812) 603-2059.

LEXI JACKMAN-WHEITNER'S SENIOR PROJECT IS SUPPORTING LOVE CHAPEL. She is collecting coupons to do an “Extreme Couponing” event to purchase non-perishable items such as diapers, shampoo, and deodorant at a very low cost. Please save your coupons and put them in the blue shoe box in the church office by **February 22**. Please call or email Lexi with any questions at (812) 374-4483 or lexijackmanwheitner@gmail.com.



Preschool registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun. If you know of families with children ages 2-5, send them our way – word of mouth is our best advertisement. Some classes are already full! Registration packets are available in the business office and online.

This month we will be busy with Valentine's Day activities and mom's parties. Preschool classes will not be in session on Thursday, February 26th and Friday, February 27th for parent conferences, however, Wee Care childcare will be available.

Please stop by anytime to visit FPC's preschool program. Great things are happening every day!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group will meet at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, **February 3**, in the Crump Room. The book that will be discussed is "The Paris Architect" by Charles Belfoure. All women are invited to attend.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, **February 5**, 10:30 am in the Crump Room. All men are invited to attend. We are continuing a study on rivers running through the Bible.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU LUNCHEON

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, **February 11**, at 11:30 am for this month's Women's Luncheon celebrating Valentine's Day at The Mulligan Grille in the Elks Club, 4664 Ray Boll Blvd. We will be able to sit together at a round table and order from a select menu with a cost of \$13.00, gratuity and tax included. This is a nice opportunity to visit and get to know each other a little better. Please RSVP to Janet Sharpe, jesharpe@sbcglobal.net or (812) 376-6075 to let her know if you are coming.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women of the church are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, which meets this Wednesday, **February 18**, 10:30 am at Four Seasons Retirement Center. Our study this year is entitled "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of Second Corinthians." The study is written by a woman theologian, and she does, indeed, have a fresh perspective. For any questions, please call Norie Erickson at 344-9667.

LANGSTON HUGHES PROJECT/BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, and one of the earliest innovators of the art form, jazz poetry. To celebrate Black History Month in February, you may enter the 1930s Harlem Renaissance through the poetic narration of Langston Hughes' twelve part epic poem, *Ask Your MAMA*. The Ron McCurdy jazz quartet (USC) will entertain with a special guest appearance by our local Broadway star, Marja Harmon. The event will be Friday, **February 20**, 7:00 pm, The Commons. Come early for dessert and drink.

The fundraiser will assist the pediatric AIDS programs supported by Granny Connection and enrich the lives of African Americans locally through the African American Fund. It is partially underwritten also by a grant from Heritage Fund, the Community Foundation of Bartholomew County. This event is a creative masterpiece with a kaleidoscope of images, narration, jazz, and song brought to life by excellent musicians. Come join the magic! Student and adult tickets can be purchased at Viewpoint Books or from any Granny Connection member. Experience a compelling evening by supporting others, near and far!

BUTLER UNIVERSITY CHORALE CONCERT

Join us Sunday, **February 22**, 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary as Music at FPC presents the Butler University Chorale and Chamber Choir. The Butler University Chorale is the premier choral organization of the Jordan College of the Arts. The Chorale's membership is made up of graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of professional academic disciplines in music including music education, performance, and arts administration. The Chorale has a long history of excellence and has toured through much of the continental United States, Mexico and Europe, including a 1992 tour to Austria and Italy, a 1995 tour to the Czech Republic and France, and a 1998 tour to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

REHBEIN MUSICIANS FUND

Through February, we are asking for monetary gifts to rebuild the Rehbein Musicians Fund that will enhance our worship life through music. As you know from our Moment for Mission presentation on January 11 and the letter you received, we have an opportunity for a matching grant of \$5,000 from our Presbyterian Foundation. To date, we have been blessed with gifts totaling \$5,265. Please join us and make your gift.

IN CASE OF A “SIMPLE SUNDAY”

If the Sheriff announces a snow emergency, urging cars off the roads, we will cancel all activities. If a Sunday morning appears unusually dangerous, but there is not a snow emergency declared, we may announce a “Simple Sunday.”

1. On a Simple Sunday, the Pastor will take responsibility for leadership that morning.
2. No other staff or leaders will be required or unnecessarily encouraged to attend.
3. Any members who wish to come to worship will be led by the staff in a simplified worship service.
4. The leaders will assign a few tasks from among those who attend.

LOCAL SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE RESULTS

The final tally: Seahawks: 338.45 Patriots: 37.32
Seahawks won by a landslide. All proceeds will go to Love Chapel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Sandy Mahon | 12 | Alex Selheim |
| 2 | Betty Nead | 14 | Julie Orben |
| 5 | Tim Frazier,
Edith Ziegler | 15 | Steve Franz |
| 6 | Emma Edwards | 17 | Dave Kresovsky |
| 7 | Tom Carmichael,
Vern Jorck,
Ted Sharpe | 18 | Chris Cox,
Mary Orben |
| 8 | Bonnie Boatwright | 21 | Christopher Schneider |
| 9 | Lynne Hyatt, | 24 | Elizabeth Frazier,
Bailey Keaton |
| 10 | Graham Keele,
Helen Kinsey | 25 | Cal Brand |
| 11 | Victor Friend
Tisha Terry | 26 | Eleanor Haltom,
Angela Wilkerson |
| | | 27 | Lloyd Bruner |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Katherine (Watt Jorck) &
Justin Holley | 14 | Karen & Dale Gaumer |
|---|---|----|---------------------|

Sunday 1st

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Worship Location: Sanctuary

11:00 am - Noon - Adult Nurture Location: Laws Room

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Groups Meet Location: Entire Church

Tuesday 3rd

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm - Women's Book Group Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Property Committee Meeting Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Budget Discussion Meeting Location: Large Youth Room

Wednesday 4th

8:00 am - 9:30 am - FPC Foundation Meeting Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Deacon Meeting Location: Laws Room

Thursday 5th

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Men's Bible Study Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice Location: Sanctuary & Choir Room

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Budget Discussion Meeting Location: Laws Room

Friday 6th

6:45 am - 8:00 am - Men's Support Group Location: Crump Room

7:00 am - 8:30 am - Women's Support Group Location: Reeves Room

10:30 am - Noon - Church Care Group Location: Crump Room

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Hot Meals Location: Gymnasium

Sunday 8th

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Worship Location: Sanctuary

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Adult Nurture Location: Laws Room

11:00 am - 12:30 pm - New Member Inquirer's Class Location: Crump Room

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Budget Discussion Meeting Location: Crump Room

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Group Meet Location: All Church

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Officer Training Location: Crump Room

Monday 9th

9:00am - 11:00 am - Preschool Board Meeting Location: Crump Room

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Peace Fellowship Location: Reeves Room

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Youth Nurture Meeting Location: Miller Room

Tuesday 10th

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Personnel Committee Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Children's Nurture Committee Location: Library

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Worship Committee Meeting Location: Miller Room

Wednesday 11th

10:30 am - 12:00 pm - Evangelism & Adult Nurture Meeting Location: Miller Rm

11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Women's Gathering Luncheon Location: Elk's Club

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Session Meeting Location: Laws Room

Thursday 12th

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Sustained Dialogue Meeting Location: Laws Room

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Stewardship and Finance Committee Location: Crump Room

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice Location: Sanctuary & Choir Room

Friday 13th

6:45am - 8:00 am - Men's Support Group Location: Crump Room

7:00 am - 8:30 am - Women's Support Group Location: Reeves Room

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Prayer Circle Location: Crump Room

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Hot Meals Location: Gymnasium

Sunday 15th

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Worship Location: Sanctuary

11:00 am - Noon - Adult Nurture Location: Laws Room

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Group Meet Location: All Church

Monday 16th

9:00am - 11:00 am - Preschool Board Meeting Location: Crump Room

Wednesday 18th

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Women's Bible Study Location: Four Seasons

7:00 - 8:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service Location: North Christian Church

Thursday 19th

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice Location: Sanctuary & Choir Room

Friday 20th

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL DUE

6:45am - 8:00 am - Men's Support Group Location: Crump Room

7:00 am - 8:30 am - Women's Support Group Location: Reeves Room

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Hot Meals Location: Gymnasium

Sunday 22nd

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Worship Location: Sanctuary

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Adult Nurture Location: Laws Room

11:00 am - 12:30 pm - New Member's Inquirer's Class 2 Location: Crump Room

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Butler Chorale & Chamber Choir Location: Sanctuary

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Group Meet Location: All Church

Wednesday 25th

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Social Justice Committee Meeting Location: Crump Room

Thursday 26th

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice Location: Sanctuary & Choir Room

Friday 27th

6:45am - 8:00 am - Men's Support Group Location: Crump Room

7:00 am - 8:30 am - Women's Support Group Location: Reeves Room

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Hot Meals Location: Gymnasium

THANK YOU

As many of you know, our First Presbyterian sanctuary and youth group hosted my senior project, a Combo Benefit Event in which my jazz buddies and I played a concert and my youth group friends served delicious food at intermission, all to raise money for our church's global mission efforts.

Thanks to the support of so many generous people, our youth group collected \$1,110 toward our mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Asheville, NC this summer. We also collected \$300 worth of hygiene supplies to give to people in need in the Dominican Republic, whom the high school youth will be serving with this summer. I want to thank everybody who donated to the mission trip fund, hygiene supplies, or both. I also want to thank everybody who came to the event; the musicians really appreciated the enthusiastic audience and were impressed with the turnout. Lastly, I want to thank the youth group for the many volunteers that came and helped out with the event. First Presbyterian has supported me in so many ways, and I hope for opportunities to pay that forward locally and globally in the future.

Sincerely,

Ben Porter



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