



Presbyterian Parables

August 2018

First Presbyterian Church
Lexington, Nebraska

Volume 18,
Issue 8

VBS DONATION TO FOOD PANTRY

Our Vacation Bible School participants collected and delivered **677 pounds of food** to our local Food Pantry this summer! The Food Pantry provides essential programs that help individuals, families and communities reach their fullest potential through advocacy and partnerships. The dedicated staff provides access to opportunities in education, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation. These services empower people to make a positive difference in their lives and communities!



IT'S OFFICIAL!

Pastor Eddie is now The Reverend Edgar Cleveland Mariel! His ordination took place on Sunday, July 22nd, and was followed by a celebration supper in Fellowship Hall. Pictured below left is Rev. Eddie celebrating his first communion as a Minister of The Word and Sacrament; right Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams anointing him. Congratulations Rev. Eddie!



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CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTS

AUGUST 19!

Confirmation Class will be starting soon for students 8th grade and older! There is an informational letter **on page 8** of this newsletter that you should read and tape to your refrigerator. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a confirmation class member, please contact Pastor Eddie at: Cell# 757-777-5808, Office: 308-324-5507 or E-mail: eddiemariel@gmail.com



First Presbyterian Church

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First Presbyterian Church of Lexington

Summer Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship

9:30 a.m. - Children's Mini-Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship/nursery provided

11:00 a.m. - Coffee

Church Staff

Teaching Elder: Rev. Eddie Mariel

Hostess: Linda Anthony

Financial Secretary: Julie Rickertsen

Office Manager: Alice Screws

Director of Worship Ministries: Holly Rickertsen

Ruling Elders

Dale Biehl

Mary Reed

Robert Copper

Curt Rickertsen

Ed Heusinkvelt

Beth Rogers

Da'Lacy Lans

Tempie Roberts

Steve Luther

Clerk of Session: Gene Nansel

Deacons

Linda Anthony

Tom Musil

Dorothy Bremer

Carol Nelson

Jonelle Lans

Pat Sherman

LaDonna McClure

Julie Rickertsen

Larry Moomey

Sharon Steinberger

Rhea Musil

Carol Stock

Serving in August

Head Ushers: Ed and Sally Heusinkvelt

Greeters: Vicki Davis and Mary Reed

Offering Counters: Curt Rickertsen and a Properties Volunteer

Lay Leaders:

August 5 – Bricen Margritz

August 12 – Jonelle Lans

August 19 – Diane Yeutter

August 26 –

***** Lay Leaders: If you switch Sundays with another Lay Leader, please let the church office know by Thursday noon of that week so that the Lay Leader can be listed correctly in the Sunday bulletin.**

Nursery Volunteers:

August 5 – Isabella Carlson

August 12 – Jordan Lans

August 19 – Abbie Owens

August 26 – Kamryn Pike

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Giving Team – August 6, 7:00 p.m.

Faith Team – August, 7, 6:30 p.m.

Welcoming Team – August 16, 6:15 p.m.

Properties Team – August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Team – August 21, 6:30 p.m.

Session – August 21, 7:30 p.m. ** note different day

CONGRATULATIONS!



-CONGRATULATIONS to Lindsay (Steinberger) and Christopher Whitney who were married in Omaha on May 12.

Lindsay is the daughter of Larry and Sharon Steinberger.

SYMPATHY



-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Jo Sherman and family on the death of Dale Sherman.

-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Yvonne Rickertsen and family on the death of her mother, Jessie Meyer.

-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with the family of Gail Magnuson, who passed away July 21, 2018.

-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with the family of Dwight Trautman, who passed away on July 22, 2018.



EXERPTS FROM EDDIE

Greetings Friends,

June's newsletter contribution from me was quite heady and academic. I was really in a place where I felt I needed to, beyond a shadow of a doubt, show that irresponsible biblical interpretation is exceedingly bad and destructive.

As we enter August, the proverbial "dog days", I am feeling exhausted and lethargic. At one point in history, summer was refreshing, exhilarating and an opportunity to recharge the batteries. If anything, I feel more drained than I was before and I certainly do not feel recharged. Perhaps I do not know how to take a true vacation? Perhaps I do not know how to truly stop working so as to fully engage and participate in wholistic rest?

I'm really not quite sure to be honest and the reason I share that so freely and vulnerably is because it is my suspicion that that is many of you too. It seems that, as a culture, as a society, we have come to a place where what is expected is perpetual motion. Expressions like "get busy moving or get busy dying" once far more prevalent than they are now, are no longer needed as motivating catchphrases because the unwritten rule is perpetual motion. We do not know, as adults, how to rest which means that we have not taught our children how to rest and so the cycle continues.

And yet, here is the major problem, perpetual motion is impossible. Here is an opportunity to let science and faith coexist and be mutually informative. Physics has taught us that in order to have motion, you have to have energy. It starts as potential energy, while the ball remains motionless, and then the motion eventually uses up the potential, stored energy and creates kinetic energy by its motion. However, we're still stuck on how to convert potential to kinetic. How did the ball start rolling? What activated it? As kinetic energy cannot be spontaneously created from nothing, the ball needed to be activated; something else had to sacrifice or expend energy for the ball to start going. Further, as stated earlier, once the potential energy is used up, the ball stops rolling as the kinetic energy created is not self-sustaining. Perpetual motion is impossible. "And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." (*Genesis 2:2-3*)

God *rested* . Do we have a tendency to assume that we are better than or smarter than God? Yes we do. Do we not have a true understanding of what it is to rest? Instead settling for any myriad things we distract ourselves with *posing* as rest; television, books, video games, etc. I wonder what it would look like to truly rest like God rests at the beginning of Genesis 2. Maybe that is something we should explore together.

In His Service,
Pastor Eddie



Birthday Club

BIRTHDAY CLUB

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB! In your birthday month contribute \$1.00 (or 10 cents or a quarter, etc.) for each year of your life so far. The thousands of dollars contributed each year go to the Endowment Fund. The fund generates interest which is divided between Physical Facilities and Outreach Fund. If you would like to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes in the pews, or you can write "Birthday Club" on your check.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

-SOUTHSIDE BIBLE STUDY will resume meeting



FAITH CIRCLE will meet August 23. Hostess is Marilyn Biehl. The group has the lesson.

MARTHA CIRCLE will resume meeting on September 20th. Carol Nelson is hostess. Lesson leader to be determined.



LOGOS

LOGOS will start again soon! Watch your Sunday bulletin for details. We will be needing volunteers for table parents and kitchen helpers and dessert makers, so please think about where you might be willing to help!

CAMPFIRE GATHERING



There will be one more Campfire Gathering in the church courtyard on August 8th. Come and join us for S'mores, friendship, singing and fellowship. Bring lawn chairs if you have them or blankets, whatever you prefer, and your singing voice!

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD



Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the "father of black gospel music." At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as "the devil's music."

In 1932, after Dorsey's wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Once every six weeks we spend a week helping folks get a good hot noon meal, delivered with a friendly face and a smile! Thank you to the following people who helped deliver Meals-On-Wheels in April: THANK YOU to the couples who delivered MOW's for the church this week, Tom and Rhea Musil, Dick and Liz Sanderman, Larry and Sharon Steinberger. **Our next MOW's delivery will be Sept. 17-21.** If you are able to volunteer, please Contact Sharon Steinberger at 324-2060



LOOSE OFFERINGS

Loose Offerings during the month of August go to **L2 for Kids**, a program that purchases one new set of school clothes for qualifying children at the start of the new school year.



GROCERY CART

The grocery cart is in the narthex ready for your non-perishable food items for the Lexington Food Pantry. The Lexington Food Pantry serves **many** people in need. **Holly Rickertsen took 677 pounds of food from the contributions at Vacation Bible School!!**

The local Food Pantry shelves are always in need of your donations.

SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A

SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A

Co-Chairs: Marlene DeLap 324-4263
 Janice Lans 324-5147
 Tempie Roberts 324-4191



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Linda Barton (contact Dorothy W.) | Sally Margritz | 324-2730 |
| Tracy Biehl 324-2125 | Julie Kearney Mohnsen | 746-0461 |
| Linda Blackman 308-455-3140 | Chris Mueller | 324-2250 |
| Geraldine Bricker 324-3323 | Boni Muzzey | 324-5414 |
| Sharon Booth 324-6949 | Betty Nelson | 324-4133 |
| Brenda Colvin 324-5389 | Amy Biehl-Owens | 325-0400 |
| Kay Denker 324-4393 | Kristen Psota | 746-1046 |
| Nancy Evans 324-6056 | Beth Rogers | 324-6892 |
| Loretta Falkinburg 325-1242 | Julie Rickertsen | 324-2825 |
| Teri Gould 324-2226 | Joan Rupke | 324-4144 |
| Donna Holbein 324-3387 | Sarah Taylor | 324-6996 |
| Mickey Hundely 785-2359 | Dorothy Woodside | 324-4721 |
| Katie Kearney 325-5419 | * Jan Blevins | |
| Paula Kearney 325-7062 | * Geraldine Jorn | |
| Penny Knapp 325-1254 | | |
| Jonelle Lans 324-4508 | | |

*A TREASURY OF MIRACLES*

by Karen Kingsbury

A book report by Jo Sherman

Karen Kingsbury is a well-known Christian author with more than 25 million copies of her award-winning books in print. Many of her novels will become Hallmark Films and major motion pictures. Her *Baxter Family* books will be made into a TV series.

Many of her miracle stories are in *A Treasury of Miracles*. She tells us, "... God loves you. He is in charge. He has a purpose for everything you're going through. Not only that, but He is with you."

She writes that, "In the rush of life we rarely take time to revel in the miracles around us—the living examples and awe-inspiring proof of God's love.

The baby that should have died but lived.

The child saved from a pond without a trace of the rescuer.

The paralyzed young woman who walked the aisle a year later and married her high-school sweetheart.

The angelic reminder that even in death, God is there.

Miracles abound if only we take time to look."

The book is divided into four groups of different miracles. The first part is about Miracles for Women. She then writes about Miracles for Friends. The third part is about Adoption Miracles, and the fourth part is about Christmas Miracles. She concludes her book with Bonus Stories.

She tells us about her own experience of enlarging her family in the Adoption Miracles section. Two normal children were born to Karen and her husband, but soon after their third child arrived, he was diagnosed with a deadly heart defect. After his surgery they decided not to have any more biological children.

By the time little Austin was about two years old, they investigated domestic adoption. Many of the children in the United States who were eligible for adoption had emotional, sexual, or physical abuse issues. One of their friends suggested international adoption. This is what they decided to do. After much paperwork and many months, they agreed that a child from a Haiti orphanage would be an addition to their family. Later they learned of a second boy who was also available to be adopted. Karen eventually received notice that yes, those two little boys could be adopted by her and her husband, Don. While Don stayed home with their three children, Karen flew to Haiti to bring the two boys home. When she was visiting the orphanage a third boy won her heart, so instead of bringing two little boys home with her, she brought three - doubling their family.

She writes, "Ever since that first novel, I've been writing life-changing fiction, certain that when God puts a story on my heart, He has your heart in mind."

She and her husband, Don, live in Tennessee near five of their six children.



NEW ITEMS IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

THANK YOU to Barb Knapple, Presbyterian Women, Yanc Aden and Nancy Hundley-Aden, and some anonymous donors for books for the library.

NEW BOOKS

ANGELS

Where Angels Walk by Joan W. Anderson

BIOGRAPHY

Autobiography of a Lessor Man by Rev. John Craig. Pastor Craig served the Lexington Methodist Church and later became an active retiree here.

Red Bandanna, The by Tom Rinaldi. Beautifully written as a novel, this is the true story of Welles Crowther, a first responder when the World Trade Center Towers went down. A red bandanna will become a symbol to you, too.

This Odd and Wondrous Calling by Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver is the story of the public and private lives of these two ministers.

“One of the most human and most helpful books on ministry! With moving, often humorous stories, they open windows onto the major and the mundane in the life of a minister – shaking hands at the door, navigating a clergy marriage, handling money, visiting the hospital.” **Don’t miss this one!**

Treasury of Miracles, A by Karen Kingsbury. Each chapter is based on a true story. Read Jo’s review in this newsletter.

CHILDREN

Winnie the Pooh, Somebody’s Treasure by K. Emily Hutta

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Power of Positive Thinking, The by Norman Vincent Peale. This is a replacement book.

CONCORDANCE

Guidepost’s Family Concordance, The

FICTION

Crossings, a book of four stories of inspirational romance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Compiled by Jo Petty

Apples of God

An Apple a Day

Wings of Silver

Greetings church family,

Confirmation class 2018 is swiftly approaching! In conjunction and coordination both with families whose child is likely to participate and our Faith Committee here at church, we decided that the best time to do this year's Confirmation Class would be to have it coincide with the start of school. For this year's Confirmation Class, we will limit participation to those students who are in **8TH GRADE AND ABOVE**. To that end, the purpose of this e-mail is as follows:

- to communicate to the congregation a bit about the Confirmation program we will be using which is different from years past, though I am intimately familiar with it as it is the one I used when I served GBPC in Virginia
- to lay out the schedule of the Confirmation class so that those who will decide to participate can do their level best to make sure that the Confirmation class fits within their schedules

First, the class program. We will be using *I Believe: Getting Ready to Profess My Faith* by Jessie Schut. I like this program for two reasons: First, it is specifically designed to walk the student through what will become their Statement of Faith as week by week, the student processes and studies what they believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, etc. To put it in perspective, my Master's level class on Presbyterian theology was structured similarly. By the end of it, I had produced my Statement of Faith which is the same document the PNC had in their possession when they were considering me for hire; Second, the program is structured such that the student has a mentor with whom the student processes these important faith related ideas. I know personally, as well as the myriad of studies that have corroborated it, that one of the most important things children can have in their faith communities, are adults who are not their parents or relatives, who are willing to invest in them and truly get to know them; to be in relationship with them. Being able to relate to adults in a church environment is an important contributing factor to church attendance retention rates as the children leave the home.

Thus, **this e-mail is going to the whole church because the whole church is being called upon to support and uplift our Confirmation class!** You may be called upon by a student to be a mentor. You may be called upon by the pastor to provide snacks/lunch one of five times. You may be called upon to facilitate a supper for Confirmation students and members of Session when Statements of Faith are read prior to Confirmation Sunday.

For adults and students, a mentor must meet the following requirements:

- A student's mentor shall not be related to the student. A mentor shall be a member in good standing of the First Presbyterian Church and a regular participant in the activities of the church.
- Students and parents will begin the process of finding mentors by reaching out to folks who meet the above requirements and inviting them to serve as their mentor. If you would like to serve as a mentor, call (757) 777-5808 or e-mail Eddie (eddiemariel@gmail.com), and I will populate a list of people who are willing to serve in such a capacity.

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, August 19: Preliminary meeting immediately following worship for students and mentors. *Students and mentor are required to attend. All* are invited to attend and sign up to help with various food requirements throughout the class

Week of August 26: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 1

Week of September 2: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 2

Sunday, September 9: Students meet with Pastor Eddie immediately following worship for their first of three teaching sessions. This one will be an overview of the Old Testament. *Students are required to attend.* Mentors are not required though, they are welcome to attend. Volunteers needed to provide lunch/snacks.

Week of September 16: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 3

Week of September 23: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 4

Week of September 30: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 5

Sunday, October 7: Students meet with Pastor Eddie immediately following worship for their second of three teaching sessions. This one will be an overview of the New Testament. *Students are required to attend.* Mentors are not required though they are welcome to attend. Volunteers needed to provide lunch/snacks.

Week of October 14: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 6

Week of October 21: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 7

Week of October 28: Student and mentor meet to complete Session 8

Sunday, November 4: Students meet with Pastor Eddie immediately following worship for their third of three teaching sessions. This one will be an overview of Church History with a particular focus on Presbyterianism. *Students are required to attend.* Mentors are not required though, they are welcome to attend. Volunteers needed to provide lunch/snacks.

Sunday, November 11: Students meet with Pastor Eddie immediately following worship to go over and review their statements of faith. **QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME AND HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!** *Students are required to attend. Mentors are encouraged to attend.* Volunteers needed to provide lunch/snacks.

Wednesday, November 14: Students meet with Session to read their Statements of Faith and profess their faith. Session meets to accept students as members of the First Presbyterian Church. *Students and mentors required to attend. Session members are required to attend.* Volunteers needed to provide supper.

Sunday, November 18: Confirmation Sunday. *Students and mentors are required to attend.*

And THAT is a lot of information. I am looking forward to this year's class. Confirmation, I hope, is one of the highlights of the church calendar and year. Grace and peace to you all.

In His Service, Rev. Eddie Mariel, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Lexington



August 2018

Monthly Planner



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																												
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