



## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF MURPHYSBORO AND PINCKNEYVILLE, ILLINOIS

SPRING, 2016

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### WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

*From the Pastor . . . . Pg. 1, 2*

*Murphysboro News*            3, 4  
Committee Reports  
Upcoming Events

*Pinckneyville News*        5



FROM THE



### “HOW TIME FLIES”

By Pastor Sam Foskey

Wow! Easter has already come and gone! This year is truly flying by. I guess time seems to be moving fast because Easter was so early this year. But still . .

As I have hit my late fifties, I've become much more aware of time's passing. It seems like just yesterday, as they say, that my former wife Kathy and I moved to Southern Illinois in 1999. She came to attend Southern Illinois University and I came to pastor a church in Carbondale. We thought we'd be here about five years or so. And now it's 2016!

Since I came to the area (I lived in the Makanda Township, by the way, for the first seven years) so MUCH has happened! We've had four presidential elections and now another one is coming up this November. But I assume you all are very much aware of that!

In that same timeframe, the Twin Towers were attacked and we've fought two wars. And we are still fighting terrorists. Just ask the people of Boston, San Bernardino, Paris, and Brussels, not to mention the residents of numerous places in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

Oh yeah, there have also been more mass shootings than I can count in the past seventeen years. It's just so awful. There's also been a terrible recession and several natural disasters, a devastating tsunami that hit Indonesia a few years ago, and then Hurricane Katrina slammed New Orleans the very next year. The Deepwater Horizon oil rig belched a tremendous amount of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. On top of all this, there've been a number of awful earthquakes and more than a few deadly tornadoes. And don't forget last December's unseasonable floods.

Some good things have happened too. We've elected an African-American president, full marriage equality for GLBTQ individuals is now the law of the land, the Dow Jones is currently at almost 18,000, the Confederate battle flag has come down in a lot of places, and combat roles in the military have been opened up to women. And smart phones just keep a-getting' smarter! Oh, as a bonus, now we know that red wine, dark chocolate, and coffee are good for you!

A lot of things have happened in my personal life as well. I've gotten divorced and re-married. I've done my best to stand by Linda (my wife) since 2010 as she has battled cancer. I've changed denominations and the trajectory of my

(continued page 2)

ministerial call; I’ve transitioned from “settled” or “installed” pastorates to interim ministry. In my current call, I am considered to be “temporary supply.” And, oh yeah, I’ve also gotten into acting!

Additionally, since Linda and I have been together, we’ve been to Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard, San Francisco, Alaska, the United Kingdom, and Paris. Not bad! And all of this has happened in the blink of an eye. As Ferris Bueller reminds us, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” I imagine I have missed a few things in the past seventeen years that should have gotten more of my attention. However, I suspect I am not alone in that.

In life, there’s a time to take it slow, stop and smell the roses, and there’s a time to act. There are some things we have to wait to unfold, like a new romance, for example, but there are other things that require us to do something right away, to go ahead and make a move. If your house is on fire, for example, you don’t have the luxury of saying, “Well, let’s just see how this plays out!”

When churches are faced with the issues that the Presbyterian churches of Murphysboro and Pinckneyville are facing, the time for waiting and watching is over. It’s a call to “general quarters,” all hands on deck. If you are an attendee of either church and you have said, “One day I think our church should get a ‘blah blah blah’ or hold a ‘such and such,’ then I say, put your dreams into action. “Now is the acceptable time,” as Paul says in II Corinthians 6.

If you have a good idea about something that might help our churches serve the Lord, perhaps a new ministry that could be started, then put it into action! Get others to help you! There’s no time like the present! Let’s take some risks for God; what’s the worst that could happen? (Don’t answer that!) If we don’t DO something, time WILL pass us by.

And, my goodness, how the time flies.



## HELP BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH

Are you interested in beautifying the front of our church?

Your donation could help us purchase some new urns and flowers for the front of our building. If you would like to help, please place your donation in one of the envelopes marked “Flower Fund.” Your help with this project is greatly appreciated!

### CONNECT WITH THE PASTOR . . .

Pastor Sam Foskey’s contact information and offices hours are:

Cell phone: 618-412-1188

E-mail: [mboropvillepastor@gmail.com](mailto:mboropvillepastor@gmail.com)

Hours: *Pinckneyville* - Monday (all day), Tuesday mornings;

*Murphysboro* – Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

### 2016 BIRTHDAY OFFERING IS MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

This Presbyterian Women’s Birthday offering this Mother’s Day, May 8, helps fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world. In 2016, we will answer the call to show Jesus’ love to the world by offering our prayers and financial support to four projects that support the critical need for education and healthy environments in the areas they serve:

- A school for girls by Building Minds in South Sudan
- Hearland 180, a core values and life skills training program for at-risk youth in Overland Park, Kansas
- Habitat for Humanity’s repair of manufactured homes in the East Bay and Silicon Valley of California
- DART’s Closing off the school-to-prison Pipeline Program in Mid-Kentucky, Scioto Valley, the James, Charleston and greater Atlanta presbyteries



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MURPHYSBORO, IL

Address: 51 Crescent Drive, Murphysboro, IL 62966 Phone: 618-684-3466

Secretary e-mail: [neacephyllis@yahoo.com](mailto:neacephyllis@yahoo.com); Secretary office hours: Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO SHOOT

On Sunday, April 24, we are still taking photos, before and after the service, for the upcoming First Presbyterian Photo Directory. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this great project!

Ann and Frank Puttman are taking the photos. Group or family photos will also be taken.

#### BIKE SUNDAY

Bike to Church Sunday is a Murphysboro community event taking place on Sunday, May 1, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Our church will have fruit, granola bars, and bottled waters for bikers, a kid's bike course, and bike safety tips. A nutrition and health table will also feature important information. Come by and welcome the bikers! A flyer with additional information about the bike tour is on the Church bulletin board.

#### BOOK STUDY

The book study on Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray and led by Pastor Sam Foskey continues at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24. A light lunch is served.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Book Study will NOT be held on Sunday, May 1.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### AUGUST ICE CREAM SOCIAL

This event marks the third annual social, with lots of ice cream toppings and, hopefully, homemade ice cream. Watch for more details soon.

#### OCTOBER YARD SALE

Start collecting items now for the annual yard sale. This is a great opportunity to support the church and help our community as well!

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

In the last six months, Building and Grounds has repaired and serviced the church bell and it is back in working order. The bell is from the original church that was on Walnut Street. The bell is over 100 year old! ● Tree branches have been trimmed back from the roof of the Fellowship Hall. Baine Roofing replaced several missing roof shingles and, after inspecting the entire roof, discovered several other items of concern. They were repaired at that time. ● Shuman Lawn Care of Murphysboro is contracted again this year to mow the Church grounds and the empty lots west of the Church. Many Building and Grounds Committee members have volunteered to plant and care for the church planters to help with 'curb appeal.' ● Building and Grounds is looking into the repair of (or replacement of) loose floor tiles in Fellowship Hall. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Committee Chairman, Howard Crawshaw.

*Thank You*

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Helped with the Baked Potato fundraiser
- Coordinated and ran the successful Easter Brunch
- Made ribbon bookmarkers for the hymnals; the goal is to make them for all the books
- Study continues on "Fruit of the Spirit."
- Send cards to new visitors to our church and to all women in the church, inviting them to the Presbyterian Women meetings
- Cards are also sent to those individuals who haven't been to church in a while.
- Have good organization skills? Join us as we plan another kitchen organization 'party.'

*Submitted by Peggy Carpenter*

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The Outreach Committee works together to develop new church outreach programs to connect with the community we serve in fulfilling the mission of the church. Outreach meets on the Saturday each month before Session meets. Everyone is invited! Active members include Dan Bost, Committee Chair, Cindy York-Camden, Secretary; Frank and Ann Puttman, Sue York, Lester Hensley. In addition to spearheading many of the activities, they often partner with the Presbyterian Women for events. Their help throughout the year is greatly appreciated!

Outreach has applied for a presbytery grant to support a Christian wellness program at the church. The session and Pastor Sam were supportive of this project. **Phase One:** is to build a simple brick and grass Labyrinth in the church lot. Some bricks have already been donated for the project. Outreach, with the help of others willing to volunteer, will begin its construction in June, hoping for completion by September, 2016. **Phase Two:** A community garden is planned. Outreach will seek to work with the local scouts and/or students with information from the University Extension Service on a garden which will, in part, help support the Murphysboro Food Pantry. Planned is a demonstration garden using an organic straw gardening technique making weeding easier and helping members of the community learn of new ways to grow fruits and vegetables.

*Submitted by Cindy York-Camden*

*Of Interest to All . . .*

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF MURPHYSBORO**

presents

*Afternoon With the Classics*

**Sunday, May 22 – 2:00 p.m.**

Featuring Murphysboro musicians, Lyn Strothmann, Tracy (Strothmann) Garrett, and Vanessa (Strothmann) Hebrank

All proceeds benefit the  
Murphysboro Food Bank.

**HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL  
COLLECTION**

**SIUC ARENA – SOUTH PARKING LOT**

FRIDAY, MAY 6

2:00 – 5:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 7

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO JACKSON & PERRY COUNTY  
RESIDENTS. YOU MUST SHOW A VALID STATE ID OR  
RECENT UTILITY BILL**

**Questions? Call 684-3143, ext. 128**

**[www.RecycleJacksonCounty.org](http://www.RecycleJacksonCounty.org)**



## FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE, IL

Address: 3811 State Route 13/127, Pinckneyville, IL 62274 Phone: 618-357-8017  
Secretary e-mail: [fupcville@frontier.com](mailto:fupcville@frontier.com) Secretary office hours: Monday, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon.

### COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR PINCKNEYVILLE

2016

May 15

August 21

October 2

December 4

December 24



BOOK CLUB MEETS THURSDAY, JUNE 2 • 7:00 PM  
Join us as we read about Dead Wake by Eric Larson

**CHURCH PARAMENTS FUND** - Church paraments are the cloths that adorn the pulpit, altar, communion table, and other parts of a church sanctuary. Like a pastor's vestments, the paraments are changed with the church calendar, and have specific colors and symbols to highlight various seasons and festival days, e.g., purple for Advent and Lent, green for the season after Pentecost. I have asked the Session if we could get some paraments for Pinckneyville. They agreed but we don't have the funds right now. A full set of basic, reversible paraments for the church year, sufficient to cover the pulpit and communion table, is \$1,325.00 from Cokesbury. If you'd like to contribute toward the paraments, just make a check to the church and write "paraments" in the memo line. There are smaller parament sets with just two colors for the pulpit that cost \$345.00 each. You can see all the parament options at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com). Just search for "paraments." Of course, if you wish to purchase some, you can do your own online search and see what's out there! Thank you for your interest in this project!

*Pastor Sam*

### SESSION UPDATE

**Next Session Meeting: April 27, 6:00 p.m.**

The Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville met on March 16, 2016. Members present were Rev. Sam Foskey, moderator; Glenn McKinstry, clerk; Cheryl Schneider, Treasurer; and elders Nathan Chapman and Lewis Schweizer. Treasurer Schneider reported that the church had a money market account total, as of February 29, 2016, of \$26,607.32. The Session agreed to give \$100 to the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. The communion committee was organized for March 20. The Session agreed to pay the church's website fees for another year. At the request of Pastor Foskey, the session agreed to ask the congregation for donations towards buying a set of paraments for the church. The Session also agreed to update the church's pictorial directory and Cheryl Schneider volunteered to take the pictures. The directory will be published through an online company such as Snapfish or Shutterfly. The Pastor made a report of his activities for the past month. The Session also agreed to explore engaging in a service project to help some local students. They decided to buy pizza for the Beta Club at Pinckneyville High School. The pastor will work with the high school principal to implement this project.