"CALLING ALL DISCIPLES"

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

Last month Art and I were in Ft. Wayne to attend a workshop entitled "The Healthy Small Church". Dennis Bickers author of the book presented the workshop.

There is a lot of good information in this small little book and I would recommend that if you get a chance you might want to read it. The author states that there are over 100,000 churches that meet every Sunday with a congregation of 50 members or less.

The book begins with all the ways we think about what it means to be a small church and unfortunately we are often negative in our thinking.

- Many suffer from serious self-esteem issues. They can't see themselves as churches God can significantly use. They often tell me that their task is to be a place where student pastors can learn how to be ministers so they'll be prepared when they leave for their next pastorate. I usually ask them to show me where the Bible says that's the mission for any church.
- Most of them lack any common vision except for survival. This often causes the church to plateau and eventually decline.
- Some are very exclusive due to the strong family ties that exist within the church. This can make it very difficult for new people to feel welcome, and it limits the growth of the church. It can also mean that even the pastor will find it difficult to be accepted and unable to exercise any real leadership.
- Resources are usually limited. Enough money comes in to pay the bills and other essentials, but there may not be enough to fund new programs or ministries. Interestingly enough, if an emergency arises within the church, the money always turns up to meet that emergency.
- Leadership is in the hands of a few people who may or may not be spiritually qualified to exercise such leadership. Sometimes these leadership positions are protected by serious turf wars.

What of those negatives would you say are part of how you think about being a small church? Be honest!

The **Good News** is there are a lot of positives to being a healthy small church:

- They have a very positive self-image. They don't equate church size with church significance. They understand that God has placed them in their community to represent Him as they minister to the needs of the community.
- The church shares a common vision that gives it a sense of purpose and unity. Rather than being pulled in many different directions, it's moving forward to accomplish its God-given task.
- Although family ties and community are important, those who visit the church are warmly welcomed and affirmed. These guests often return and may later join the church, simply because of the way they were treated.

- Church members understand the importance of faithful stewardship and financially support the ministry of the church. Such a church routinely receives more than its budget requirements each week, which allows it to develop new ministries and programs. This also enables the congregation to support mission work around the world. Such a church may give 10 to 20 percent of its weekly offerings to its denominational mission work.

- Ministry is understood to be the responsibility of all the members of the church, not just the pastor. Laypeople are involved in outreach and visitation programs. They often lead the worship service, and sometimes they fill the pulpit when the pastor is away. Members seek opportunities to learn more so they can be better equipped to serve.

How are we doing with this list? Be honest!

What are the strengths of First Presbyterian Church here in Connersville and what is our vision for 2 years from now? 5 years from now? 10 years from now? We are going to be working on that. I can wholeheartedly buy into what Bickers says is the mission of the church, every church, everywhere. It is found in scripture:

Matthew 28:19 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

Mark 16: 15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation."

And the great commandment as Luke states it:

Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, an d with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Now the question is: Trusting in the power and presence of God how do we see First Presbyterian ministering to fulfill our mission of loving God, loving one another and making disciples within our own congregations and in the world. How has God gifted this congregation to serve and minister in this time and place?

Are you ready to take that next step? Let's go!

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In God's great grace,

Pastor Judy

Becky Morris' mother turns 95 on December 6th. She thought "if she got a whole stack of cards it would brighten her day with a big smile. "

Martha Hunter
1010 Hornaday Rd.
Brownsburg Health Care Center
Brownsburg, IN 46112
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Communion Sunday will be November 6, 2016

Deacons to prepare the Sacrament are: Art Fitchett & Cathy Kirk

DEACONS' MEETING
7:15 pm
November 9th

SESSION MEETING
7:15 pm
November 16th

First Presbyterian Church
700 Central Avenue
Connersville IN 47331
765-825-4189

PASTOR:
Rev. Judy Fitchett

CLERK OF SESSION:
Carla Beard

OFFICE HOURS FOR SECRETARY:
Wednesday and Thursday
9:00am – 2:00pm
Friday
8:00am – 1:00pm

Email and Website:
pastor@connerpres.org
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www.connerpres.org

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Keep in PRAYER our Members and Friends

Will Rose
Bill Newquist
Chandler Matthews
Rita Callahan
Linda Gettinger
Kinney Bills
Eric & Marsha Moore
John and Lynnette Bills & Family
Helen Parvis
Tom & Sue Evans
Matt Smeller
Connie Isom
Bill & Bob Yocum
Ron Fox
Betty Mason
Nancy Jack

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH ANY CHANGES TO THIS LIST.

THIS MONTH at FPC

Liturgist for the month of November is:
Cindy Crispin

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Coffee Hour

November 6th – Ann Kirschner
November 13th – *OPEN*
November 20th – Jill Yaryan
November 27th – Carla Beard

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The Price for altar flowers will continue to be $15.00 this year.

November 6th – Nan Rose
November 13th – *OPEN*
November 20th – *OPEN*
November 27th – *OPEN*

Please let the church office know how you want the flowers to be dedicated.

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DEADLINE
December
NEWSLETTER
November 18th

Deacon of the Week Visitation Schedule

October 30th-Nov 5th – John Fairchild
November 6th-12th – Art Fitchett
November 13th-19th – Ann Kirschner
November 20th-26th – Jill Yaryan
November 27th-December 3rd – *TBA*

Usher/Counter Teams Schedule

November 6th – Sarah Smith & Kay Bishop
November 13th – John Bohlander & Doug Ross
November 20th – Lisa Hazelrigg & Don Kirk
November 27th – Myra King & John Fairchild

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Church and Community Activity Schedule

Nov 1st – Budget Revision Committee Meeting – 7 pm

Nov 2nd – Choir – 6 pm

Nov 5th – Ann Kirschner Birthday Party – 1-5 pm

Nov 6th – Community Meal – 5:00-6:00 pm

Nov 7th – Rotary Club – Noon
Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Yoga Class – 6:30 pm

Nov 9th – Choir – 6 pm
Deacons' Meeting – 7:15 pm

Nov 13th – Piano Recital –Sue Conway – 2 pm
Community Meal – 5:00-6:00 pm

Nov 14th – Rotary Club – Noon
Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Yoga Class – 6:30 pm

Nov 16th – Choir – 6 pm
Session Meeting – 7:15 pm

Nov 19th – MEMORIAL SERVICE for Nancy Harrell–time TBA

Nov 20th – Congregational Meeting – Officers & Terms of Call, After Worship
Community Meal – 5:00-6:00 pm

Nov 21st – Rotary Club – Noon
Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Yoga Class – 6:30 pm

Nov 22nd – Community Thanksgiving Service at New Heights Christian Church – 7-8 pm

Nov 24th – THANKSGIVING
OFFICE CLOSED

Nov 25th – OFFICE CLOSED

Nov 27th – Community Meal – 5:00-6:00 pm

Nov 28th – Rotary Club – Noon
Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Yoga Class – 6:30 pm

Nov 30th – Choir – 6 pm

FROM THE SESSION

Session didn't meet in October due to lack of a quorum.

Here are some highlights from reports that were submitted.

- The Mission Committee sent a donation of $1500. to PYOCA Camp.

- Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed November 21st. Christmas baskets will be distributed on December 19th.

- We celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 2nd with breads from other cultures, special music and communion cloths from other nations.

- We celebrated International Peace & Harmony Day on October 23rd with a pitch-in dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

- We presented Pastor Judy with a gift in appreciation for all she does.

Thank-you so very much for your words of appreciation, cards, notes, and gift certificates.

I love being your Pastor and ministering with you!

Pastor Judy

Deacons Meeting
12 October 2016

PRESENT: John Fairchild, Ann Kirschner, Pastor Judy & Jill Yaryan

ABSENT: Art Fitchett, Cathy Kirk, John Bohlander

Devotionals: Jill gave the Devotional from the book Come Away My Beloved. The Title was "Run with Patience" based on Hebrews 12:1. She also read a second entry from this book written by Francis J Roberts titled, "Rains of Refreshing", which reminded her of our Rally Day sidewalk project under Carla's direction. She brought pictures from Carla and Pastor Judy mentioned seeing the real revealed messages as she entered for our meeting. John Fairchild will give devotions for the November 8th meeting.

Ann Kirschner moved to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. Jill Yaryan 2nd and motion carried.

Deacon Business: Ann Kirschner had prepared the birthday/anniversary cards for signatures for November. We signed sympathy cards for Dick Harrell & Paul Schuler families.

Communion: Nov 6 team B (Art & Cathy), Dec 4th & Dec 24th team C (John B & Jill), January 1st-Art Fitchett

Deacon of the Week: Oct 16-22 Cathy Kirk, Oct 23-29 Ann Kirschner, Oct 30-Nov 5 John F, Nov 6-12 Art Fitchett, Nov 13-19 Ann Kirschner, Nov 20-26 Jill Yaryan

Deacon visits: Pastor Judy, John Bohlander, Jeanne Johnson, Carla Beard & Jill Yaryan visited with Wilma McLean on her 95th Birthday (complete with flowers, door wreath, cookies & singing). Wilma looked good and enjoyed our visit and the Congregations' cards. Pastor Judy took last Sunday's flowers to Fern King. Fern was okay and told her she misses church. Jill mailed the card from the congregation for Dick Pea. She & Pastor Judy will follow up on his recuperation.

Flower Report: Ann Kirschner reported that order forms for the Poinsettias will be available starting October 23rd and all orders will need to be returned to the office by November 20th. Cost remains at $15. They will be delivered on Friday, December 2nd in order to be in place in our sanctuary for our annual Breakfast with the Christmas Angel. In order to keep the poinsettias in beautiful display, watering will need to be a priority. Hopefully, everyone will leave the poinsettias in place till after the Christmas morning service. Pastor Judy suggested the Congregation member deliver to the person they purchase the poinsettia for in addition to their own poinsettia. Deacons will see that any extras are given to other shut-ins that remain.

Giving Tree: Jill Yaryan reported that the Deacons are waiting for the information from the office of Division of Children. We will provide the congregation with information for the 25 children we continue to support as soon as we can. Pastor Judy remarked how commendable of our small congregation to offer sponsoring this many children and our generosity to provide for such needs. Ronda Leiter has so graciously agreed to provide the cute ornaments for our Giving Tree. We will have it set up in the Parlor on Sunday, November 27th (Hanging of the Greens).

Prayer Concerns: We continue to pray for all we lift up on a regular basis and those we list on our shut-in list. In addition: Nicholas Bills who is in Cincinnati Hospital; Dick Harrell and family and Paul Schuler and family; Carl Hylton in Heritage House (from ongoing complications from a Memorial weekend fall); Margaret & Bob Hurst.

Con't on pg 6

New Business: Ann Kirschner mentioned that this year's Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket shopping will take place at Kroger. Marsh has changed their policy and are not offering a discount as in the past. She mentioned that since we have been collecting monthly, this food basket mission is going well. Pastor Judy has already been receiving calls of need. John Fairchild continues to help with our Food Pantry. The hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1-3 pm.

John Fairchild led us in the Lord's Prayer to close our meeting.

Next meeting: November 8, 2016- 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Yaryan
Secretary

ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE

The Deacons will be sponsoring our annual poinsettia sale for the coming Christmas season. The price will be $15 each and will be used for decorations at the church for the Christmas season. Orders need to be in by November 20th so they may be delivered prior to our Breakfast with the Christmas Angel. We would ask those who purchase the flowers to leave them at the church until after the Christmas morning service. As in years past, the purchaser may take the poinsettia home with them or designate it to be delivered to a shut in. Please make that designation at the time of the order. The Deacons can supply an updated list of our shut in members if you wish to donate one for that purpose.

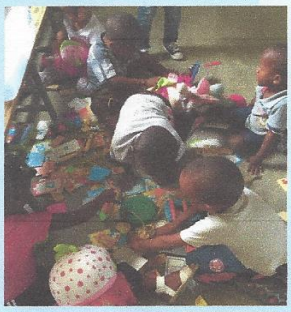
These beautiful flowers always add so much to our decorations for the Advent and Christmas seasons. An order form will be available at the church starting October 23.

Thank you
Ann Kirschner, Flower Committee

YOU ARE INVITED...

Whitewater Valley Presbytery (WVP) began forming a partnership with the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED) in 2013. This has included two vision trips with leaders from the Hispanic Ministry Lead Team, Music Workshops, and providing supplies for VBS through Dorcas Baskets. We seek to continue building our relationship with the IED by connecting congregations (pastors and members) in WVP with the IED. On this trip we will learn more about our partner church through visiting churches and speaking with their pastors, leaders, and members. Participants will be asked to share in trip preparations, as well as interpreting their experiences to their church.

We invite you to join in this process of building relationships, as we seek to faithfully live out God's mission in partnership with our brothers and sisters in the DR!



Location:	Barahona, Dominican Republic
Dates:	February 18-24, 2017
Cost:	Approximately $1200; This includes $750 for airfare and the rest for housing, food, and transportation. Limited scholarships available.
Ages:	18 and older
Passport:	Required
Language:	None required; Spanish speakers are a blessing.
Contact:	Karen Herbst-Kim (revkaren@gmail.com or 815.354.0017) Barry Sumner (bsumner@indy.rr.com or 317.840.5638)
To Register:	Complete registration form (available from Karen or Barry) and pay $500 by December 1.