



First Presbyterian Church

Tower Tidings

January 2016

Pastor Paul's Post

This first month of the year is an opportunity to look back at the last year and to celebrate all that God has led us through. 1 Chronicles 16:12 "Remember God's wonderful deeds which God has done, God's marvels and the judgments from His mouth." 2015 was another full year in the life of the congregation of First Presbyterian. One way for us to gather and recall the events from the past is at the annual meeting on Sunday after church on January 31st. Each committee will have their report and highlight the work of God among them as they addressed where they saw the Spirit leading them. We have much to be thankful for!

This will also be a time to look into this next year and prepare for annual occasions in the life of our church as well as those special times where we will participate in something unique. The good news of Jesus Christ is alive and at work in the world and among us. God continues to renew people and brings what was previously understood to be without life to flourish and to bring vision where there was none before. It is good to be on this journey together and share how good God is as we all grow in grace.

Confirmation

"Confirmation": The four-syllable term denoting a rite of passage in the church, a course of study and activity intended to bridge the chasm from childhood faith to adult discipleship.

"Confirmation Retreat": A creative way to engage youth in new relationships wherein faith can be experienced and examined.

Confirmation class members have the opportunity to work with youth from other churches on challenging group projects. In addition, planned time for participation in discussion and reflection within their own home church groups. Stronghold will provide experienced leadership to guide confirmands through a weekend filled with a balance of spiritual, academic, and physical components. The Confirmation Retreat at Stronghold includes: small group discussion, team building activities, study, worship experiences, challenge games What will the retreat cover? Confirmation Retreat leaders will present retreat study materials that will compliment your group's confirmation curriculum. Through experiential learning and discussion participants will explore: the Sacraments, Presbyterian polity, church structure, Creeds, and Confessions.

When is the Retreat? The participants will gather in the afternoon to carpool Friday and ends early on Sunday (Feb 26-28).

How do we register? Let Andrea or Paul know in the office and we will supply a suggested packing list.

It is official! The Air National Guard Band of the Midwest out of Peoria, IL, will be coming to Monticello on May 7, 2016. The E & F Committee have been working for quite some time to get them here. Our church will be sponsors for the band and we'll open it up to Monticello and surrounding communities. The band will perform a concert at 5:00 p.m. at the Forrest Preserve Park Pavillion with a back up for bad weather to be held at Monticello Middle School. We will be asking for folks from the church to help with advertising, fixing food, and all sorts of jobs. More details to follow; Please mark your calendars.



**NOW
HIRING**
APPLY TODAY

Monticello Christian Academy is searching for a full time Administrator. Please contact the school at 762-3544 or office@mcacad.org.



Guest Theologian Quote of the Month

“Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.”
- St. Augustine of Hippo

The Clown Report

By Butterfly the Clown



February is a special month for our Christian clowns and our ministry. It's the month when our clown troupe began—back in 1989! So...What is coming soon?

What: Annual Clown Sunday

When: Sunday, February 28, 2016

Where: First Presbyterian Church

Time: 10 a.m. Worship Service

Why: To recognize and celebrate the anniversary of the formation of “Jesters for Jesus”

The Jesters always look forward to this event! We hope to see you there!

Until next time....“Butterfly” (The Clown)

Presbyterian Women

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Feb. 4, 2016, at 6 p.m. in the church library room. All team members need to attend. We will be making plans for the year—questions? Contact Bonnie Smith.



Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 7

SM “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.” More than 20 years ago, this simple prayer inspired the initiation of a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Since that time, young people across the country have generated over \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities. FPC will be participating in this Souper Bowl Sunday—please bring contributions on February 7, and we will collect them.

2016 Church Directory

The 2016 Church Directory will be printed in February! Please notify the church office if you have changed your home address, e-mail address, or phone number in the past year so that we can keep our directory up to date.



FPU Update

This has been an entertaining class! Dave Ramsey is thoroughly knowledgeable about finances and teaches effectively through personal examples, stories of people he has helped—and all this in a humorous and engaging style. We started off with five couples around the table in the parlor room and have been growing every week. We do a quick greeting then play the DVD and fol-

low up with questions and sharing by the couples who also have a story to tell. It has been great to meet new people in the community as well as get to know people in our own congregation better. We are still in the early stages of the lessons and we look forward to progress, even beginning to see change in how we approach and deal with money.





February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|-----|
| | 1 6:30 pm TOPS | 2 Groundhog Day 6:30 pm Financial Peace University (FPU)  | 3 6 pm Choir 7 pm Worship Mtg. 7 pm E&F Mtg. | 4 9 am Women's Breakfast at Red Wheel 6 pm PW Coordi- nation Team Mtg. 8 pm TN Group | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Communion 9 am SS 10 am Worship Souper Bowl Sun- day | 8 6:30 pm TOPS 7 pm Mary- Martha Circle | 9  6 pm Friendship Circle 6:30 pm FPU | 10 Ash Wednesday 7 pm Service  | 11 9 am Women's Breakfast at Red Wheel 2 pm Pastor Paul at PCNH 8 pm TN Group | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Valentine's Day 9 am SS 10 am Worship  | 15 Church Office Closed Presidents' Day 6:30 pm TOPS  | 16 6:30 pm FPU 7 pm Stephen Ministers Mtg. | 17 6 pm Choir 7 pm CE Mtg. 7 pm Mission Mtg. | 18 9 am Women's Breakfast at Red Wheel 8 pm TN Group | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9 am SS 10 am Worship "J4J" rehearsal after Worship | 22 6:30 pm TOPS | 23 6:30 pm FPU | 24 6 pm Choir 7 pm Session Mtg. | 25 9 am Women's Breakfast at Red Wheel March TT Due 8 pm TN Group  | 26 Confirmation Retreat (2/26— 2/28) | 27 |
| 28 Clown Sunday 9 am SS 10 am Worship  | 29 6:30 pm TOPS March TT Mailed  | | | | | |