

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

2018 Stewardship Campaign Announcement

On September 24th FPC will kick-off the 2018 Stewardship Campaign with a two-week (three Sundays) stewardship series called “LIVE GENEROUSLY”. We will be learning how to become more generous givers and faithful stewards as we focus each week on a Live Generously component: A “Minute for Stewardship”, sermons, and scripture readings will focus on stewardship. Our children and youth will be learning about the biblical concept of living a generous life through Bible studies, object lessons, and demonstrations. In Sunday School and on Wednesday evenings children will learn what “LIVE GENEROUSLY” means and how they can live out this concept.



Later in September, you will receive a stewardship letter of invitation with a pledge card. On the reverse side of the letter will be an ESTIMATED 2018 Operating Budget. We hope this estimate of income and expenses will help you understand how our congregation can best use the contributions we receive to live out the mission and ministry to which we are called.

After prayerful consideration, please fill out the pledge card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 8th. You will be invited to bring your completed pledge card to the front of the Sanctuary for deposit in the Joash Chest, a visible symbol of people coming together to offer our gifts to God.

Together we will learn more about what it means to more fully follow and rely on Jesus while loving and serving our community, and how we can experience more deeply the joy of a simple and abundant life---to “LIVE GENEROUSLY”.

In Christian Fellowship,
Bob Jeffus, Stewardship Committee Chair



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Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael G. Elliott (Pastor)-pastor@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

June Kouba (Church Administrator/Treasurer)-admin@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Linda Reffert (Children's Ministry Director)-lkreffert@aol.com
Tu, W, Th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (hours may vary)

Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)-youthdirector@bellevuefpc.org
Tu, Th 10:30 am to 3:00 pm (hours may vary)

Alice Renner (Chancel Choir Director)-akrenner@cox.net

Liane Kirmis (Westminster Bells Director)-rkirmis@windstream.net

Dirk Lindner (Organist)-dirk16@cox.net

Eric Van Sky (Financial Secretary)-eric.vansky@yahoo.com



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Gary Marks for a new kidney to become available soon.
- ◆ Prayers for Carl Seaman and his family as he battles pancreatic cancer.

Bakersplus.com

Baker's is offering the community rewards program again in **2017**. You **will not** need to re-enroll. The church received **\$251.69** from the second quarter of 2017. If you have not enrolled please do, this helps us pay for various items that are not budgeted such as the new TV in the classroom downstairs and new light weight tables for the Craft Room.

Financial Information

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$26,533.18	\$220,213.88
Expenses	<u>\$26,191.98</u>	<u>\$232,705.28</u>
Difference	\$341.20	<\$12,491.40>



Happenings

Kick-off Sunday September 10th

9:00am– Sunday School classes for all ages

We'll start the day with a short intergenerational gathering in the Library which will include donuts, coffee and juice. It's a chance for all of our Sunday School participants children, youth and adults to come together and celebrate the upcoming year of classes. Following our gathering, each class will go to their rooms for their regular lesson.

10:30am– Worship

All of our Christian Education volunteers will be commissioned during the worship service.



When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages break, bank accounts run low, friendships end and every day demands of a fast pace life get us down. In the book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope. Jeremiah offers women hope for living in an uncertain world by learning to navigate the challenges and circumstances of their lives. Combining the study of the book of Jeremiah with practical application that resonates with the realities and experiences of today's women. The Monday night Women's Bible Study will be delving in to the study of Jeremiah daring to hope in an unstable world. We invite you to join us Monday nights at 7:00 pm here at the church beginning September 11th.



For many years, Presbyterian Women (PW), the women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (USA), played an active role in First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. Several years after the local PW group disbanded, a Bible Study group continues after 40+ years. We meet the 2nd Thursday each month, September thru May, at 7:00pm. We will begin a new study on September 14, 2017 and meet at a member's home each month. On September 14th we will meet at the home of Marsha Holbert, 903 Willow Ave.

This year we will use the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study '*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*' by Melissa Bane Sevier. We will explore nine major themes, relate those themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. Our prayer is that the study of community in Hebrews will help us strengthen our own communities.



Happenings

Crossroads Connections Dinner



Crossroads Connection ministers to current inmates at Omaha Work Release Center and provides social services to former inmates who are transitioning to outside life. They conduct a weekly Sunday evening worship service attended by inmates, former inmates, sponsors and volunteers. Providing the meal and worship service is an outreach that our congregation has participated in for many years.

In September our event is on **Sunday, September 17th.**

This is an excellent outreach to volunteer for because you decide what level of participation

interests you.

- We need salads and desserts for the meal. These can be prepared ahead of time and delivered to the church on the day of the event.
- We also need help preparing the meal. The time commitment varies based upon the meal.
- You can also go with us to serve the meal. We meet here at the church at 5:00 pm and carpool to the location of the dinner. We usually return by 9:00 pm.

Thank you for your support of this ministry over the years and in the future!



Join us for Ladies' Lunch. We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month at noon. **September 28th** we'll meet at John's Grecian Delight in Bellevue. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 402-291-1104 or e-mailing bellevuefpc.org.



Smile! Lifetouch Company, a professional photography and church directory company that did our last pictorial directory will come and take pictures for our new pictorial directory. The directory will also be available in a digital version.

There are time slots available for everyone interested at the end of September, please select your time on line at www.bellevuefpc.org/events or sign up on the sheets in the Library.

Each family that participates will receive a free 8 X 10 photo and a completed pictorial directory. The photographer will be taking additional pictures of your choosing (clothing changes, props and pets are okay with your personal pictures) and they will be asking for you to purchase them. They will be great for Christmas cards or just updated family portraits. All families age 60+, military, and first responders will receive 20% off all portraits as well.





Fun day at the Parade!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SARPY COUNTY

Sarpy Habitat has started its 43rd house at 207 E. 15th St, Bellevue and will start its 44th later this year. As of this writing #43 “hole” has been dug. As with all organizations, they must keep up to date with their contractors. As a result, they are looking to expand their use of Sarpy companies; specifically plumbing, electrical, mechanical, roofing, concrete, and drywall finishing. Members of this congregation may have acquaintances in these trades. If they are interested in joining the list of sources for new construction, please ask them to contact Jon Costello, Executive Director, at 402-292-6560.

**Starting September 10th-Worship will begin at 10:30 am.
Sunday School for children and adults will begin at 9:00 am.**



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus



Update on Dinner Groups Please Join Us!

Early last year (2016) we organized four dinner groups. Unfortunately, over the past few months two of the groups disbanded. However, the remaining two groups have flourished and grown significantly in numbers. Both groups now have 16-18 members which is much larger than our original concept of limiting each group to 10-12. There are folks from the disbanded groups that want to continue but we can't add them to the remaining two groups.

We now want to add one or two new groups and open them up to other interested members. If you are interested in meeting regularly we would add you to one of the new groups. If due to your busy schedule you are interested in being on a substitute list, that

would work well also. Please let me know, or call June in the office at (402) 291-1104.



The Dinner Group concept is working well. We are enjoying good food, having lots of fun, and most importantly we are enjoying great fellowship. We meet monthly and the Host Couple or Individual decides where and when to meet. We also invite Pastor Mike and Sharon to join us whenever their busy schedules permit. The gatherings are very informal and require minimal planning or organizing.
Please Join Us!

Bob Jeffus
Dinner Groups Coordinator
(402) 733-2642

Thank you to Linda Reffert and the Christian Education Committee for the nice celebration of my children's music ministry after worship on August 20. The kind words from Sue Tabler, the beautiful and delicious cake, and the gift card were so meaningful and appreciated! . Thank you! **Mandi Crick**

Making a Joyful Noise!

Where did summer go? I know that many of you are thinking the same thing. Despite Dirk being out, I think we had some wonderful special music this summer!

Special thanks to Maggie Blazek, who is a wonderful pianist as well as trumpeter, Brian Wells, Liane Kirmis, Sara Renner, Lexie Ryks, Scott Reffert, Jim Chatelain, Morgan Braun, the very musical Crick family, Sharon Elliott, and Bethany Dart who will be singing on Sept. 3rd. Also, a special thanks to Ryan

Crick and Liane Kirmis, who helped spell me on piano duties.

Chancel choir will begin rehearsals, Wednesday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m. We will be singing in worship on September 10 and we will be welcoming Dirk back to the organ bench. I don't think that anyone will be as glad to see him as I will be!

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful singers and instrumentalists in our congregation who are willing to share their talents!

Making a Joyful Noise, Alice



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Yippee! It's September and that means that fall programming is starting up. I get excited just thinking about it and I hope you do too! Our Wednesday evening Children's program

(hereafter called WOW) will kick off on Wednesday,

September 6th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM with a Pizza Party Preview. We'll have pizza, run through where we will be and what we will be doing this year at WOW and play lots of games (and yes, that includes GaGa Ball). I invite all our kindergarteners through 6th graders to join me for the evening. Parents of new students and visitors are invited to join us as well. I want to thank Cindy Reilly for helping me put on this fun evening.

The WOW schedule and menu for the year is now available. It's on the Christian Education table in the Library. Also on that table is a 2017/18 Registration form for Children and Youth programming at First Presbyterian. If you have a child or youth ages 3 through 12th grade and plan to have your child involved in Sunday School, WOW or Illuminate, please fill out a registration form. We are thankful that we are able to hold the cost of WOW and Illuminate dinners to \$50 per child for the entire year. If cost is an issue though, please remember that scholarships are available for the asking. We are blessed to have Mike Tabler heading up the WOW Cooking Team again this year.

WOW meets for dinner at 5:30 PM and then between 6:00 and 7:00 PM, students move

between Faith Education and Music Rotations in two different groups (K- 2 and 3 – 6). Our younger group will be focusing on the 10 Commandments in Faith Education first semester. They will have a brief lesson and do a craft or play a game to reinforce each particular commandment. Ages 3 through 6 will explore World Religions. Our intent is to promote knowledge of and respect for other peoples and faiths of the world.

Sunday School will be starting up with a bang for all ages in the Library at 9:00 AM on Sunday, September 10th. We'll have donuts and juice and coffee and invite everyone to join us for goodies and an opening prayer before heading off to our classrooms to meet the teachers. That same day in worship, with the help of our students, we will bless and commission our teachers and leaders.

The Christian Education Committee voted to continue sponsoring the Presbyterian Mission Agency again this year with our Sunday School offering. Students will vote on what animals or projects they want to set as goals for their donations to the Agency. I will let you know in an upcoming newsletter what the children choose.

One final and very important thing to mention – Bibles will be presented to our third graders on Sunday, September 24th in worship. We've got kids who have been counting down to this day for as long as 2 years. And it's one of my very favorite days as well. Bibles are such awesome and precious gifts, aren't they! I hope you will be in worship that day to share the excitement.



August Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Shelli Dart

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Sending a kiddo off to college is an interesting life change, for those who have done it I'm sure you can relate and for those who have yet to experience it, just wait! The scripture from Philippians is one of my favorites and popped to mind a few times the last few months and weeks. It also goes well for friends going back to school, starting Middle School or High School for the first time. Change can be unsettling but doesn't need to be frightening, be anxious for nothing - God has some pretty cool plans for you!

School is back in session and we get back into the swing of things with Sunday School, Confirmation and Illuminate. We go back to regular worship time on September 10th at 10:30am and Sunday school resumes that same day at 9:00am. We will all meet together in the Library for doughnuts, juice and prayer, then move down to our individual classrooms.

We will be having Second Sunday Youth Fellowship each month with our first being September 10th from 3:00-5:00pm. Our first

time together will be Game Night, please bring snacks to share and we will provide the beverages. We will have a number of different board games, GaGa Ball will be set up, I can introduce you to Tenzi and of course we will have a round or two of Ultimate Spoons. It will probably be a bit safer with no one in the building this time so we don't have as many obstacles.

September 6th is the Confirmation Parent meeting at 6:00pm and WOW kick-off at 5:30pm. Illuminate will start on September 13th.

If you have not already done so, please sign-up for Remind for communication about activities and reminders of events in the life of our youth. It's an easy way to contact people quickly. REMIND.COM -Register your e-mail and cell phone. To receive messages via text, text@fpcyf to 81010. Or to receive messages via email, send an email to fpcyf@mail.remind.com. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I would also love to know what you think is the best method of communication. I have the weekly e-mails and we do have a Facebook page but a lot of folks stopped doing Facebook and moved to Twitter and Instagram. So let me know what you prefer so we can all stay on the same page and everyone is “in the know”. Thanks!

Be friendly, smile, greet someone new. Scatter kindness.

Be a Blessing! Shelli



September Youth Events

Sept 6	6:00pm	Confirmation Parent Meeting
Sept 10	9:00am	Sunday School Kick-off
Sept 10	3:00-5:00pm	YF Game Night
Sept 13	5:30-7:00pm	Illuminate Resumes



~ September 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10a Piecemakers Quilt Group	2
3 Pantry Sunday 10a Worship Service 11a Nominating Committee (VVR) 7p Venture Crew 26	4 Labor Day Church Office is Closed	5 10a P.E.O. (VVR) 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 6p Mission Mtg (VVR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 5:30p W.O.W. Preview Pizza Party 6p Confirmation Parents Meeting (VVR) 7p Choir Rehearsal	7 7p Fellowship Mtg (VVR) 7p Troop 467	8	9
10 9a Sunday School Kick-Off (L) 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 3p YF Game Night	11 6:30p Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Banquet 7p Women's Bible Study (CR)	12 5:30p Christian Education Mtg (L) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 8:45a PEO (VVR/FH) 5:30p Confirmation Class (VVR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 6p Finance Mtg (Admin Ofc) 6:30p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR) 7p Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p PW Bible Study 7p Troop 467 7p Worship Mtg (CR)	15	16
17 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 5p Crossroads Connection	18 7p Venture Crew 26 7p Women's Bible Study (CR)	19 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	20 5:30p Confirmation Class (VVR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	21 7p Troop 467	22	23
24 Next Sunday Pantry Sunday 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Directory Pictures	25 2p Directory Pictures 7p Women's Bible Study (CR)	26 2p Directory Pictures 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 2p Directory Pictures 5:30p Confirmation Class (VVR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	28 12p Ladies Lunch (John's Grecian Delight) 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467	29 1p Piecemakers Quilt Group	30



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September Birthdays:

2 Jodie Graham	17 Beth Dawson
3 Elaine Sanborn	18 Makayla Burg
4 Becca Griffin	18 Joan Farley
5 John Kieran	18 Brian Urwin
8 Maria Lewis	19 Mary Bond
8 Riley Hasbrouck	20 Valerie Yates
9 Jan Robinson	20 David Albert
11 Jason Bloom	23 Rod deZafra
11 Mary Hughey	24 Tannis Clark
12 Lloyd Dowding	28 Jeanette McLaughlin
12 Anne Webster	28 Brian Renter
14 Nancy Hartranft	29 Don Fenster
14 Faith Hartranft	30 Marty Davis
14 Makayla Coats	



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