

The Home Page

Vol. 13.25

July 13, 2008

OPEN TABLE SACK LUNCH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, July 13, 20 & 27

Volunteers will be preparing sack lunches for the Open Table for the month of July. Donations of food would be appreciated. Needed items are: Bread, individual chip packets, snack crackers, granola bars, rice krispy treats, brownies, cookies, cheese crackers, pudding cups, fruit cups, drink boxes. All must be in individual containers.



Langenberg Recital Series presents METALES M5

- a lot of brass, a lot of music, and a whole lot of fun!
Mexico's leading brass quintet.
Tuesday, July 15, 7 pm , Alexander Park (7th & Lincoln)
Free & open to the public.

M5, Mexico's leading brass quintet, breaks musical barriers by taking the blues to the opera and Bach to the roads of Mochoacan. With their unique style which combines fine chamber music with popular entertainment, Metales M5 is fresh, funny and extraordinary. So bring your lawn chairs, blankets, etc. and enjoy an evening of entertainment. In case of inclement weather the group will perform in the sanctuary of the church. The Tropical Snow stand will be available for cool refreshment.

-- **COUPON** --

Good for 50 cent Discount (one per person)
Tropical Snow
Redeemable only on July 15, 2008
Metales M5 Concert, Alexander Park
First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church Mission:

*To glorify God as we share
the hope, joy and promises
we are given through Jesus
Christ.*

Pastor:
Rev. Dr. William Nottage-Tacey
Associate Pastor:
Rev. John H. G. Curtiss
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Silas G. Kessler

Director of Christian Education:
Elizabeth Moses
Church Secretary:
Rebecca Plambeck
Financial Secretary:
Sue Nedderman

**Music Coordinator and
Chancel Choir:**
Dr. Robin R. Koozer
Bell Choir:
Dr. Byron Jensen
Youth Bell Choirs:
Janey Nottage-Tacey
**Director, Alleluia and
Praise Choirs:**
Teresa and Tim Canady
Director, Calvin Choir:
Joy White
Director, Westminster Choir:
Tim Canady
Organist:
Vernon Groves
Accompanists:
April Christensen
Mary Plock
Custodians:
Leroy Echernach
Ken Tjaden
Wedding Coordinator:
Cyndie Sidlo
Web Site Manager:
Betty Kooy
Parish Nurse:
Erica Brooks
Prayer Chain Coordinator:
Harriett Johnson

HOME PAGE

First Presbyterian Church
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Hastings, NE 68901
402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818
email: fpcc@fpchastings.org
website: www.fpchastings.org

NON-PROFIT

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Hastings, NE

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP

October 3-4, 2008, First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, NE

The Presbytery of Central Nebraska will present the Healthy Congregations workshop. The workshop uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders become more effective stewards of their congregations. **Who will benefit?** Pastors, church staff, Session, Personnel Committee, Committee on Ministry members and all congregation members and leaders.

Workshop Leader: Dave Moore, M.Div, pastor of New Summit Church. This workshop will help you learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation, how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community, how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious, gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities, how to focus on strengths, resources, options and the future.

Registration fee: \$40 per person (includes manual and lunch)
Submit registration by mailing form to Presbytery of Central Nebraska office by 9-22-08. For more information phone 308-236-6996 or email: office@centralnepresby.org. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Worship News

Sunday, July 13

9:00 Adult Bible Study
Sunday School 1st-5th grades
Forum - Fellowship Hall

10:00 Worship

Preaching: Rev. Cynthia Rigby

Pastor/Head-of-Staff:

Rev. Dr. Wm. G. Nottage-Tacey

Associate Pastor:

Rev. John H. G. Curtiss

Summer office hours

8:00-12:00 and 1:00 - 4:00

If you would like a ride to church (10:00 service-summer) please call the church office, 462-5147 by 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon. You must be able to get into the church van.

Youth Corner

The place to find out what's happening in Youth programming Grades 7-12.
John's email: revjohn@fpchastings.org
John's cell phone: 469-6045

Sunday, July 20 - Go & Serve Sunday

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

LAKESIDE PAVILION ECUMENICAL VESPERS SUMMER SCHEDULE

7:00 p.m. each Sunday - Good Samaritan Village

July 13 - Rev. Lee Wigert, Grace United Methodist Church

July 20 - Rev. John H. G. Curtiss

If you change your phone number please contact someone in the church office. We need to keep our records and the One Call System up to date.

STAMPS FOR MISSION - Part 1

Do you ever wonder what happens to the stamps that you bring to the church office? Alice Throckmorton, through her daughter Lyn, is working with Stamps for Mission and their mission work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Stamps for Missions began in the mid 1990's when the Press (IMPROKA) was plagued with equipment breakdowns, needed replacement parts and there was a great demand for supplies. Rev. Robert Reinhold, who had served 25 years in the Congo, discovered a way to raise money to help out. With advice from stamp collectors, Rev. Reinhold and his wife Peggy, began collecting envelopes from businesses. They cut around the stamps, then soaked, sorted, filed and packaged the stamps to sell to stamp companies who in turn sell them to stamp collectors. From a meager beginning in 1990 of under \$800 the project now averages between \$5000 and \$6000 a year depending on the help of churches and people in 19 states. All money received from the sale of stamps goes to the work of the church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(Part 2 - What is the mission in the Congo?) More info - next Home Page

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

In the hospital: Mary Heineman, Jack Horsham

THANK YOU. . .

Thanks for the scholarship. I enjoyed camp. I had tons of fun. I made bunches of friends and learned about God.

Ricki Frasier

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Meals on Wheels program. Your congregation is making a difference by ensuring that anyone who is homebound and unable to prepare a meal will receive Meals on Wheels. Your generosity is appreciated.

The Staff, Volunteers and Meals on Wheels clients

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, visits and food. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.

Marie Rasmussen

College View Assisted Living is in need of volunteers for Bingo, readers in a group setting, one-on-one room visits, Card Club leaders, entertainment, programs and sing-a-long leaders. If you would like to volunteer call Becky Bruns, 462-6264.

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 13

9:00 Adult Bible Study
1st-5th grades Sunday School
Forum - Fellowship Hall

10:00 Worship

Tuesday, July 15

1:00 Quilters

6:45 Deacons

7:00 Metales M5 free concert in Alexander Pk.

Wednesday, July 16

12:00 Brown Bag Book Club

Saturday, July 19

2:00-4:00 80th Birthday Open House for Don Goodrich - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 20

Go and Serve Sunday

9:00 Adult Bible Study

Sunday School 1st-5th

10:00 Worship

5:00 Boy Scout/Family Pinewood Derby - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 22

1:00 Quilters

Wednesday, July 23

11:30 Fellowship of the Cloth

12:00 Brown Bag Book Club

IOWA CLEANUP NEEDS

Iowa residents are in the midst of cleaning up after recent widespread flooding. There are several ways you can help. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Call Center is receiving calls from volunteer work teams that would like to help in Iowa. There are locations ready to receive work teams. Interested teams may call the PDA Call Center at 866-7323-6121 or may register online at: www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm

Please keep people in these affected areas and those working to offer assistance in your prayers.

218th PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS:

Rev. Dr. William G. Nottage-Tacey

The theme of this year's General Assembly in San Jose, California was based on Micah 6:8. Central Nebraska Presbytery was represented by three commissioners, all from First Presbyterian Church, Hastings: Elder, Sue Nedderman, Youth Advisory Delegate, James Freetly and Minister, Rev. Dr. William G. Nottage-Tacey. Should the electronic devices reveal their secrets, my guess is that the three of us did not always vote along the same lines on every issue any more than other Commissioners at the Assembly. We are, after all, a diverse church with diverse views. One of the great joys of this Assembly was the marvelous way in which we Presbyterians modeled the ideal of civility in our ecclesiastical discourses and disagreements. This is something to be applauded and commended to others in our nation as we go about discussing the great issues of our day in the realm of secular politics. The Assembly also reflected the beautiful cultural and ethnic diversity that is becoming more and more a part of our denominational life within the United States and overseas.

We have a wonderful young Moderator, The Rev. Mr. Bruce Reyes-Chow, who then selected an equally young Vice-Moderator, The Rev. Mr. Byron Wade. Both of these fine men led our Assembly with parliamentary ability and a spirit of inclusiveness. As always there were moments when we got tied up in parliamentary knots which did not help deal with some of the mistrust that still remains in our beloved denomination, but with good humor and genuine kindness, we got through the roughest spots.

The Assembly approved our Session and the Presbytery's overture to expand the Board of Pensions coverage to meet the special physical and extraordinary developmental requirements of special needs children. I have called it the "Martha" overture because it was inspired by the blessings we all received from our own Martha Haythorn's presence among us. Now our blessings have become the blessings of countless children in our Pension Program whose needs had gone unrecognized.

The Assembly overwhelmingly approved a two year study for the implementation of the Form of Government report which will be moving our denomination into a more missional mode of governance and work in the 21st century. With our own Session already on board through the study being done of our church's life and ministry we will be in a proactive position to begin implementing much of the new designs well ahead of our sister churches. Diana Barber from our Synod offices will return the week of August 17-20th for further input and conversation. Please make every effort to be part of this unique opportunity for First Presbyterian Church in Hastings to lead the way.

The Assembly endorsed a two year study of the Belhar Confession to be included in our Book of Confessions. This confession comes to us from the experience of our brothers and sisters in South Africa as they spoke (and speak) to the continuing problem of racism in the church.

The Assembly voted to send to our Presbyteries for approval a revised translation of the Heidelberg Catechism which will be more faithful to the original text. Question and Answer 87 of our current translation would be revised to exclude the phrase "or of homosexual perversion" because it was not in either of the original German and Latin texts.

The Assembly voted to send to our Presbyteries for approval the removal from our Book of Order's ordination standards section G-6.016b: the so called "fidelity and chastity" provision. This controversial section of our constitution has been a source of great conflict in our denomination for many years. This will be the third major vote on this matter in the last 20 years.

The Assembly voted to remove any reference to "definitive guidance" on matters of sexual orientation and practice in the documents of our church and in the interpretations of our constitution as setting precedence for governing body decisions relative to ordination standards. This removes the "case law" references in judicial procedures which have been used to deny ordination to persons who are self-affirming/practicing homosexuals when there have been challenges to that person's ordination.

Needless to say, these three matters generated considerable debate and their passage has stirred up a lively controversy in our denomination. **On all these matters the General Assembly has spoken its wisdom. It remains to be seen whether or not the Assembly has spoken for the whole church. That will be revealed by the vote of our Presbyteries.**

The General Assembly did a great deal more than take up these critical concerns which I shall report in a later Home Page edition. **If you wish to discuss the General Assembly and hear about more decisions that were made and have your questions addressed, please plan to attend the ADULT FORUM, Sunday, July 13, 2008 in Fellowship Hall, 9:00 a.m.**

Be it resolved that whereas: the greatest majority of the response sheets included statements desiring that whatever decision we make concerning the use of the Manual Arts Building and its adjacent property be in keeping with our mission statement; Whereas the majority of response sheets hoped for a clear missional and programmatic focus for our church's use of all its properties; Whereas it has been well over a decade since a full mission study has been conducted by First Presbyterian Church; Therefore we recommend to Session that a new mission study be done using the expertise of Presbytery and Synod personnel and resources; and that said study go beyond the mere creation of a new Mission Statement, but in fact primarily focus on concrete programmatic and missional actions to be taken by First Presbyterian Church.

--A resolution from the Long Range Planning Committee adopted by the Session in November 2007.

Dear Friends,

We have a wonderful opportunity to shape the future of First Presbyterian Church. Based upon the above resolution, the Session has engaged the services of Diana Barber, Associate Synod Executive for Leadership Development from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies (First Presbyterian Church is a member of Central Nebraska Presbytery which belongs to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies).

Diana Barber's first visit to Hastings was in May. She met with the staff, Trustees, Board of Deacons, Session and members of various committees. Ms. Barber began the process of listening to us, getting to know us and learning about who we are and where we've been as a congregation.

I am incredibly hopeful for this process because I believe that our ministry will be strengthened by a broad mission study of this kind. But I also recognize that in order for this process to be the best it can be, every member of our church family needs to participate. Diana Barber will return to Hastings August 17 through August 20 for a series of small group listening sessions. My hope is that each and every member of the congregation will make an effort to get involved in this process. Every member is an important part of this process. Please make plans to let your voice be heard!

The Board of Deacons will begin facilitating the process of signing up for the various sessions. Sign-ups will begin on Sunday, July 20, immediately following worship. You can either sign up by finding the Deacon's registration table in Memorial Room or by calling the church office, 462-5147 (beginning July 21).

Please prayerfully consider participating in this process.

Sincerely,

John Curtiss, Associate Pastor

GO AND SERVE SUNDAY

July 20, 2008

10:00 a.m. Worship

**"Thank You" luncheon immediately following the service.
Please RSVP by calling the church office, 462-5147
by Tuesday, July 15.**



Dear Friends,

This year's trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota was a great experience for our young people. Please make plans to join us for both worship and lunch on Sunday, July 20 to hear the senior high mission team share their stories, experiences and pictures from the 2008 Go and Serve mission trip.

Also, since this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Go and Serve Program we will offer a special dedication to the 40 Years/40 Trees project in honor of all who have participated in Go and Serve.

Gratefully,
John Curtiss

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - Bible Stories Veggie Tales Style

1st - 5th grades, 9:00-9:45 on Sundays in Room 114

July 13 - Josh and the Big Wall	Doing It God's Way
July 20 - Are You My Neighbor?	Loving Your Neighbor
July 27 - Wonderful Wizard of Ha's	Prodigal Son
Aug. 3 - Minnesota Cuke	Handling Bullies (Samson's story)
Aug. 10 - Duke & the Great Pie War	Thinking of Others First
Aug. 17 - Moe & the Big Exit	Following God's Directions (the Exodus from Egypt)

Join us for any or all of these Sunday morning experiences!