



FIRST PRES. PRESS

JULY/AUGUST 2014

**A NEW DIRECTOR: JESSE GALLI
-LARRY HOEY**

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We were all saddened by the news that Andrea Wade was retiring as director of our Mary-El Ringers. It was Andrea's prayer and desire that our handbell choir would continue performing as a group. Her prayers (and ours) were answered, and we

are truly grateful to God to announce that our handbell choir will indeed continue ringing His praises as we welcome our new handbell director, Jesse Galli.

Music has been Jesse's passion ever since she started playing the saxophone in the 3rd grade. Jesse graduated from Johnson City High School and received a dual bachelor's degree in music education from Syracuse University. She then went on and received her master's degree in Educational Studies from Binghamton University. For the past 12 years, Jesse has had the privilege of being an elementary band director in the Susquehanna Valley School District. Throughout her musical career, she has been on the executive council for the Broome County Music Education Association and a judge for BCMEA. Jesse has been a member of the New York State School Music Association and has also taught private saxophone lessons.

Church has always been an essential part of her life. Over the years, she has participated in choir, taught a children's choir, co-directed a vacation Bible school, and was music director for several years for VBS. Jesse also co-started a soup kitchen which is still running today.

Jessie has been married to her husband Chris for almost 3 years. They have 9-month-old twin boys Jonathan and William, and Jesse will now be staying home with the boys full time. She is looking forward to the opportunity to continue teaching and participating in music ministry of First Presbyterian Church as our new handbell choir director. Welcome, Jesse!!

OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

- July 31
Elwood Campbell
- August 1
Kent Stoffel
- August 30
Eleanor Taylor

PASTORS' PAGE**- JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS**

Friends,

As many of you are aware, the biennial gathering of our denomination's highest council, General Assembly, just met in Detroit, MI. For eight days, commissioners worshiped and prayed, wrestled with important issues, and made decisions about the future of the denomination. Two decisions have political, theological and international ramifications, and are controversial enough to be divisive within the denomination, with our global partners, and beyond. The first decision was to divest from three companies that sell products to the Israeli military. The second was to permit PC(USA) pastors to conduct same-sex weddings and to recommend for vote by presbyteries a change in the traditional definition of marriage between "a woman and a man" to "two people." Those who celebrate and those who grieve all understand that these decisions will be game-changers on the local, national and international levels.

The decisions about marriage have the most immediate and personal impact upon local congregations, including ours. As our Session begins to prayerfully and carefully discern how this congregation will navigate the changes, let us refuse to compromise on these four things stated in our Core Beliefs:

CONVICTION

"We believe in God's Word for life. The Bible is God's Truth and the inspired Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience."

COMMUNITY

"As Christ-followers we are called to worship God both as a body of believers and continually as individuals. We are called to fellowship with one another and minister to each other's needs."

CONSIDERATION

"Our loving God calls us to love all people and minister to their needs regardless of spiritual or social status."

COMPOSURE

"The Holy Spirit is God's transforming power and presence at work in and through us, and gives us the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him."

We echo the words written in a Pastoral Letter, sent by The Fellowship of Presbyterians following the Assembly: "We urge you in the strongest possible way to refrain from actions, attitudes, and language that would mar the image of Christ in your response to the Assembly's actions."

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

June was a challenging month in many ways. Some of those challenges are welcomed with open arms, like the challenge of a new child and all that comes with it, or the challenge of new faith. Other challenges are not as welcome, like those resulting from General Assembly (see Pastors' Page) or the loss of family and friends. Welcomed or not, we face all of these challenges with the same confidence that our God, Maker

of heaven and of earth, is listening to each of us and loving us through our struggles. James 5:16 tells to "pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." So in this season of turmoil and challenge, the greatest thing that we can do is to pray fervently for each other. Please pray especially for those who have been brought to our attention this month:

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER...

- The Shafer family, on the death of Jeff's mother
- Saima Tandi, on traveling to India to be with her mother
- Bob Thomas, who has had complications in rehab after surgery
- Jeff Thomas, Bob's son, who was critically ill and hospitalized
- Janet Cook's grandnephew, who was in a serious accident
- Larry Pierce's dad, in his ongoing battle with cancer
- Patti Stillings' two sons, who have had serious health concerns
- Tina Mitchell's mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer
- William and Steven Wilson Jr.'s aunt, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- Kelly Willets, as she moves to NC for a new job
- Teens who responded to the gospel through the Life and Witness course that Jeremy taught in association with Franklin Graham
- Jason and Tina Mitchell, who welcomed a new daughter, Zoe Marie, on 5/27
- Micah Banner-Baine and Olga Bugai, who were married on 6/15
- Kara and Jeremy McGinniss, who welcomed a new son, Jesse Mark, on 6/15
- John and Gretchen Yerger, who welcomed a new granddaughter, Larkin Elise Neal
- Flo Powley's family, on the death of Flo's brother-in-law, George McBride
- Carol Cockrell, who was in the hospital
- Steve Kamper, who had a surgical procedure
- Linda Willets, on the death of her cousin
- Dawn Weber, on the death of her oldest brother
- The PC(USA)

On June 22, we welcomed three new members to our FPC family! We are excited to have such wonderful people affirming their beliefs and officially joining our community.



Kathy Wright comes to us by letter of transfer. She has one daughter, Sabrina.



Kevin and Tracy Adams come to us by letter of transfer with their daughters, Jocelyn, Juliet, and Joanna.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STAFF: SHARON BAUMANN
- PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

There are many people that contribute to the daily operations of our church whose work is not highly visible and may go unnoticed by many, but their efforts are essential to the continuation of our church and nursery school activities. One of those fine folks is Sharon Baumann, our church bookkeeper. Her work on a weekly basis ensures the financial obligations of our church are attended to. Sharon is responsible for paying the bills for the church and nursery school, checking all invoices and reconciling bank statements, depositing our donations into the bank, paying staff of both the church and nursery school, preparing monthly reports and tax statements, and paying taxes, among other things. Her office sits at the top of the balcony that overlooks the gathering area at the back of the sanctuary and from there she gets to enjoy the activities of the nursery school students from time to time as they pass by her office window.

Sharon and her husband, Carl, are members of our church and have been attending with their son, Brad, and daughter, Lindsey, for about 5 years. Sharon was born and raised in Endicott and worked for IBM as a buyer before taking the position as bookkeeper at the church. Sharon is a graduate of R.I.T. with a Bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing. She met Carl in 1984 when she started her position at IBM and they married in 1988.

Their son, Brad, attends our church regularly with his girlfriend, Alyssa Beck. The two of them spend time helping to babysit the Pierce children during the summer. Lindsey is getting ready to move to Seattle in the Fall to explore new job opportunities in the area.

Sharon has many hobbies including gardening, some sewing when she gets a chance, and entertaining guests at their cottage on Owasco Lake, where they are surrounded by other church friends, such as the Flannagans and the Barneys, who will also spend time at the lake this summer.

We are blessed for the time and talents of our staff and are glad to take the opportunity to recognize Sharon this month for all that she does for us behind the scenes.

CONNECTING THOUGHTS FOR THE SUMMER

— SHARON EARLY

Recently we were invited to a friend's cottage for the afternoon. As we came upon them relaxing down by the water, I really wondered what it would be like to have long periods of time to just sit and reflect. Quite a number of years ago, I went to a retreat based upon the scripture "Be Still and Know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10), and I can honestly say this is still an area I struggle with constantly. It is much easier to keep moving and doing than to sit, be still, and listen for God. It was quite interesting that two separate devotions I read for the same day were based upon this concept of quieting oneself and tuning in to God:



- When you approach Me in stillness and in trust, you are strengthened. You need a buffer zone of silence around you in order to *focus on things that are unseen*. ... Spending time alone with Me is the best way to develop seeing eyes and hearing ears. (*Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, June 15)
- Who knows what God will reveal in our time as we tune in to his Spirit through prayer and position our hearts and minds to hear him? (*Praying through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller, June 15)

So, as we approach summer and a time when activities quiet down at FPC, can we take this time to be still and listen for God? I know my tendency can be to replace the time opened up during the summer with other activities (biking, kayaking, gardening, etc.), but what if some of this time were filled with listening to God? Small groups naturally tend to meet less often, but can we continue to hold each other accountable to spend time listening to God and then share with each other where God is moving in our lives?

I would encourage everyone to be intentional this summer and form a prayer triad (whether from your small group or with others you would like to connect with) and meet regularly with them. Hold each other accountable to spending time with God. Share with each other what you have been hearing during that time, read Scripture together and pray together. In between times, keep each other in prayer regarding prayer concerns and specifically where each of you is being challenged by God.

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his
word I put my hope. — Psalm 130:5*

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP**— DOUG KERR, COMMITTEE CHAIR**

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

(Acts 1:8)

FPC Endicott is growing in important ways in our understanding and commitment to go into our local, national, and global community to share the gospel by word, action, and through our financial resources. This growth pushes us to continually review and evaluate our biblical foundation, purpose, cultural consciousness, accountability, and preparation for mission.

Recently, Session asked the Mission and Stewardship Committee to address three mission-related items:

1. Review FPC mission commitments in terms of our financial resources, the balance of local-national-international causes, the involvement of our pastors, and participation within the FPC community of faith.

M&S Committee recognizes that the breadth of mission activities is challenging in terms of our people and financial resources. At the same time, we believe it is healthy to be continually challenged to go beyond our walls with the good news of the gospel in word and action. We support the current involvement of our pastors, in light of their passion, sense of call to mission, and the cultural importance of their involvement and presence in places like Kenya and India. Likewise, it is important to recognize and encourage the passion of mission leaders and participants here at home and beyond.

2. Develop Guidelines for Church-Sponsored Mission Trips/Projects.

We are working on these guidelines and will present them to Session. Our goal is that the guidelines will truly enhance the effectiveness and value of mission trips/projects.

3. Develop an Evaluative Tool to be used when a request is made to support a new Mission Cause.

We are working on this evaluative tool as well. Our goal is to encourage generosity and ensure consistent oversight of how money given to or through FPC Endicott is used, for the sake of mission participants, recipients, and donors.

“Mission is the meaning of the church. The church can exist only insofar as it is in mission, insofar as it participates in the act of Christ, which is mission. The church becomes the mission, the living outreach of God into the world. The church exists only insofar as it carries Christ to the world.” (Christianity Rediscovered, by Vincent Donovan)

SESSION UPDATE

-JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

Each meeting, we, as Session members, try to live up to the challenge the Book of Order gives us to be the spiritual leaders of the church. Jan and Tim open each meeting using resources that are meant to make us think about what that responsibility means to us in our everyday lives. At our June meeting, we used a resource called *The Quality of Spiritual Leaders* by John MacArthur. We also continued discussing the Narrative Questions; this time focusing on Question 7. Later we heard from those who attended a get-together with three Pennsylvania churches (see the Pastors' Page in the

June newsletter) to explore the possibility of forming a Mission Affinity Group with them.

Tim Devine provided an update on the progress of plans for the summer tennis program we will again be doing with the Boys and Girls Club and the U-E School District. Other summer plans we heard about included a weekend camp for young children and their parents at the end of June at Rock Mountain Bible Camp, and we approved a recommendation from the Christian Education Team to hold a Jr. High Work Camp at Camp LeTourneau later this summer. We also

heard about plans to involve the Sr. High Youth in local work camp projects during the next several months.

The Mission and Stewardship Committee has been especially busy recently and brought to Session their recommendation for a speaker for Peacemaking Sunday and a plan to clarify the protocol for applying to become a new mission of First Pres.

In an attempt to stay on top of financial and budget questions that were raised during the last budget process, we outlined some ideas involving the Invest-

ment Committee, the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and the staff and various ministry teams to better prepare us for the 2015 budget deliberations.

As the time for the General Assembly meeting of the PC (USA) was fast approaching, we discussed ways we could keep the congregation informed about highlights of the gathering. Several options have been made available, and we are hopeful that all who are part of this congregation will avail themselves of at least one of the resources offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Supplies

The Deacons will once again be collecting school supplies for the children at Charles F. Johnson School for the fall term. Donations will be accepted starting August 1. Take advantage of the good deals you see now on crayons, #2 pencils, pens, scissors, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, backpacks, 2 pocket folders, tissues, Clorox Wipes, colored pencils, markers, dry erase markers, erasers, highlighters, rulers, post-its, pencil sharpeners with lids, composition books (marbled) and loose-leaf lined paper. All items must be turned in to the church office (Copy Room) by August 17. Thank you in advance for your help!

College Addresses

Whether you have college students going away to school for the first time or returning to college for their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year, please let the office know their contact information. We do send newsletters to our college students, so names and addresses are helpful. At the Christmas break, a fun evening is organized for students returning home, and that information is usually communicated via e-mail. It would also be helpful if we have cell phone numbers for those occasional last-minute communications. Please let the office know how we can stay in touch with our college students.

GRADUATES

This last month, we celebrated those friends who graduated both from high school and college. For those of you who couldn't be at FPC to celebrate, here is what you missed:

High School

- Erica Barney** Vestal High School
Erica will be attending Houghton College to major in Environmental Biology.
- Austin Beck** Vestal High School
Austin is planning on attending SUNY Broome in the fall.
- Caitlin Berner** Union Endicott High School
Caitlin will be studying Computer Engineering at Villanova University in the fall.
- Pat Carlin** Vestal High School
- John Early** Vestal High School
John will be studying Mechanical Engineering in the fall at Michigan Tech.
- Brad Eckert** Vestal High School
Brad is leaving in July to attend Lincoln Technical Institute to pursue a career in welding.
- Alyssa Luna** Union Endicott High School
Alyssa is graduating with an Honors Diploma with Distinction. She will be attending Loyola University in Maryland to major in Psychology.
- Connor McCormack** Seton Catholic Central
Connor will be studying Civil Engineering at University of Buffalo.
- Starr Pringle** Union Endicott High School
- Morgan Talley** Union Endicott High School
Morgan plans to attend Sacred Heart University for Exercise Science and then pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.
- Upasana (Shelly) Tandi** Union Endicott High School
Shelly plans to study Nursing at SUNY Broome.
- Derek Wang** Vestal High School
Derek plans to attend University of Buffalo for Biomedical Engineering.
- Jordan Wilson** Seton Catholic Central
Jordan is planning to attend Niagara University to double major in Human Resources and Marketing.

GRADUATES

William Wilson IV Vestal High School
William plans to attend Boston College to pursue Bio-Chemistry.

Mitchel Youngs Vestal High School
Mitchel will be studying Mechanical Engineering and Military Science at Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO.

College

Oliver Barney Utica College
Oliver received a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Trevor Barney SUNY Broome
Trevor received his Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. He will be attending SUNY Cortland to pursue his Bachelor's Degree.

Sandy Cook SUNY Broome
Sandy received her Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapy Assistant.

Sarah Early Lehigh University
Sarah received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She plans to stay on at Lehigh to pursue a Master's degree.

Olivia Fiaschi Binghamton University
Olivia received her RN-BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing).

Erin Flannagan Lincoln Memorial University
Erin received a degree of Master Physician's Assistant.

Steven Kamper Binghamton University
Steven Kamper received his Master of Public Administration degree.

Sarah McKeown Liberty University
Sarah's Bachelor of Science in Visual Communication Arts: Graphic Design was posthumously conferred to her parents, Beth and Steve McKeown.

Kristen Shafer University of Pennsylvania, Cook Honors College
Kristen received her Bachelor of Science for Pre-Medicine from the department of Chemistry.

Hanan Sokol West Virginia University
Hanan received his Master's Degree in Athletic Training.

Val Tokarz SUNY Empire State College
Val received her Master of Business Administration degree.

FPP Calendar

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team	2 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	3	4 Independence Day All Day Office Closed	5
6 Ed Fiaschi Preaching 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	7 All Day Office Closed 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	8 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	9 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	10	11	12
13 Communion Rock Mountain Junior Camp 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:30 pm GPMO Board	14 Rock Mountain Junior Camp 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	15 Rock Mountain Junior Camp 6:45pm Small Group Leaders Gathering 7:00pm Presbytery Special Meeting	16 Rock Mountain Junior Camp 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	17 Rock Mountain Junior Camp	18 Rock Mountain Junior Camp	19
20 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	21 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries 6:00pm Nominating Committee 24-hour Fast	22 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting	23 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	24	25	26
27 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	28 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	29	30 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	31		

FPP Calendar

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	4 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	5 7:00 pm Deacons	6 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	11 Jr. High Summer Camp (Grades 6-8) 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	12 Jr. High Summer Camp (Grades 6-8)	13 Jr. High Summer Camp (Grades 6-8) 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	14 Jr. High Summer Camp (Grades 6-8)	15 Jr. High Summer Camp (Grades 6-8)	16
17 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	18 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	19 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team	20 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	21	22	23 4:00 pm Heidrich Wedding
24 Communion 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	25 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	26 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	27 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)						

VISION STATEMENT

(What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

¹ *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

³ *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

⁴ *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

MISSION STATEMENT

(What God wants us to do)

We believe God wants us to share the life-changing power and love of Jesus Christ in such compelling ways that more people become fully devoted followers of Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

(The reason we exist)

To reach more people and together grow in Christ.



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AS YOU GO ON VACATION THIS SUMMER

Remember, there is no vacation (or retirement) from:

- ◆ Living a life that pleases God
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Spiritual growth
- ◆ Sharing the gospel with others by word and action
- ◆ Maintaining our commitment/pledge to financially support God's mission/ministry in the world