

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

PASTORS' PAGES	2
AMONG OUR PEOPLE	3
YOUTH	4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	5
CONNECT	6
NURSERY SCHOOL	7
SESSION	8
DISCERNMENT	9
COMMUNITY	10
JUNE CALENDAR	11

**OVER 80
BIRTHDAYS**

June 1
Margerry Berriman

June 6
Patty Stillings

June 12
June Hayes

June 22
John Engstrom



Over the last two months, we have examined the first eight and a half chapters of the book of Acts. We have watched the early church form, multiply, experience persecution, and begin to spread into Samaria and Damascus. As we move into summer, we will continue to study the Acts of the Apostles as the church continues to spread throughout the known world!

Here is the reading schedule for June:

June 7– Acts 8:26-40 and Acts 9:20-25

June 14– Acts 9:32-43

June 21– Acts 10

June 28– Acts 11

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

To the Congregation of First Pres. Endicott,

We have come to the end of the formal congregation-wide discernment process that began last summer. At the May 17 congregational meeting, FPC members voted 82% to 18% in support of the Session's recommendation to request that FPC be dismissed from the PC(USA) to realign with ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Taking the request to the Presbytery on May 30 is the final step, which will happen about the time you receive this newsletter.

Pending confirmation by Presbytery, what happens next? There will be the necessary but less important "nuts and bolts" of the transition, such as the legal work required by NYS, the duplication and turning over of records required by the Presbytery, and the transition to different benefits programs for staff.

The much more important task before us is to sort out together how to move forward as a congregation. The Session has always known that whatever the outcome, there may be people who decide they cannot continue to be part of FPC. We understand this: their decision comes from a deeply held conviction, just as the deep convictions of Session led to the recommendation that the congregation request dismissal. Although it is a sad and difficult possibility, we will honor their decision, and together with the Presbytery, work to help those who feel they must leave to find a new church home. Others have said they will need some time to figure out what they will do, and there will be options for this as well.

For those who are ready to move ahead at FPC in partnership with ECO, we will ask you to join the leadership and use this transition to become even more committed and intentional to *"reach more people and together grow in Christ."* Our purpose statement reflects the core commitments embodied in the full name of ECO, and we believe ECO will actively challenge and help us to pursue that purpose:

COVENANT—to connect leaders in accountable relationships and encourage collaboration

ORDER—to commit to a shared way of life as we unite around a shared theological core

EVANGELICAL—to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and plant new missional communities

PRESBYTERIANS—to stand within our Reformed heritage and celebrate the life of the mind

Let us live into these commitments, not just talk about them! Built up in God's Word, prayer, the fellowship of believers, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can trust that God can and will use us as we move into the world *God so loved.*

*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us
and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,
encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.
(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)*

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

Pending approval by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley on May 30, our congregation will be moving to a new denomination. This move will bring both new opportunities and new challenges to our life together at FPC. Though it is an end to the discernment process, the work of Christ through FPC continues with vigor. In this new season, as we encounter blessings and storms, I would encourage you all to *“be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thes. 5:16-18).

As you pray, please remember these particular people who have been brought to our attention in your prayers:

- Jeff Thomas, as his health continues to improve.
- Carole Cockrell's sister, as she continues to heal.
- Gloria Johnston's son, who has secured a local internship to fulfill his degree.
- The Kerr family, who spent time in Colorado with their new grandson, William Reid Shulski, born to Andréa and Aaron Shulski on April 28.
- Those who have served, are currently serving, or have given their lives to protect our country.
- Kathy Wright, who had a knee replacement.
- Ethel Whittemore, who had two operations on her back, followed by rehab.
- Charlie Waughtel, who had a heart catheterization on May 21 and valve replacement on May 22 in NJ.
- Jon and Gretchen Yerger and their family in the midst of a difficult situation.
- The Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church, as they pull together following a fire that destroyed their sanctuary.
- Sheila Bevlavy and Connie Stanton's father, who had surgery.
- Cathy Landon's father, who is home after dealing with complications following surgery.
- Dick Campbell, who is recovering from a knee replacement.
- The Finn family, as Alisha's uncle, Richard Pridmore, passed away.
- The family of Barry Driggs' cousin, Jim, as Jim died in a parachuting accident.
- The Tokarz family, upon the death of Val's father.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS UPDATE



The stained glass windows have returned! Thank you to all those who were involved in coordinating the project with Cumberland Stained Glass and to all who have contributed to the restoration fund. Cumberland will be returning soon to finish the work on the remaining windows.



FPC YOUTH

JUNE
'15

FPC YOUTH: The Same Yesterday, Today, and FOREVER!

This is officially my final chapter written for the First Pres Press.

In times of transition it is always good to remember the truth: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **Our Lord NEVER changes.**"

It has been my pleasure serving the Lord at FPC for the past nine-plus years. However, the time has come for me to step aside and consider God's future plans both for you all at FPC and in my life.

My time at FPC has been instrumental in my spiritual growth. I have learned many great lessons here and **I thank you** all for the part you have played in that.

As my final charge to you all I ask that you consider 1 Timothy

1:5 which reads, **"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith."**

Paul's desire is to see the church love God and one another. The Greek word for "love" chosen in this text is Agape. Agape might best be defined as an act of self denial that seeks God's best for another person. This is a costly but necessary love that God will use to grow His church.

Paul says that this **LOVE WILL COME FROM THREE SOURCES:**

1. **A PURE HEART** - The hearts's natural condition is sinful (Jeremiah 17:9). It can be washed clean by the Holy Spirit as a result of our salvation (Titus 3:5). Our heart can remain pure/right with

God by being obedient to the Scriptures (Romans 6:17-18).

2. **A GOOD CONSCIENCE** - A good conscience comes from being free from guilt (Romans 2:15).

3. **SINCERE FAITH** - A sincere faith is genuine and without pretense (2 Timothy 1:5).

The love that God desires to see exemplified in the church cannot be produced by human means. We are not capable of producing a pure heart, good conscience, or sincere faith. These are conditions that can only be given to us by God.

So my prayer is that in repentance we would receive what God has promised: The ability to grow in the church with the tool He has prescribed - "Agape!"

SUMMER BREAK ≠ SPIRITUAL BREAK

Following are 5 great family summer devotion ideas from
www.ministry-to-children.com.

Try them out as you travel, stay home, get outside, or simply have family time!

1. **THE ZOO:** Hunt for five of the most bizarre animal facts. Discuss God's purpose in His specific design of each animal. Try to find an animal for each letter of the alphabet. Make an A to Z book. Talk about Adam's job to name the animals. What names would you have chosen?
2. **THE BEACH:** Build a sandcastle near the tide, on the sand. Build another one on a rock on higher land. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Discuss the wise man and the foolish man. How does that apply to us? Sing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock."
3. **THE BACKYARD:** Go cloud watching. Read Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
 - a. Plant a vegetable or flower garden. Take care of it daily. Read Mark 4:30-32, the parable of the mustard seed.
 - b. Hunt for bugs. Find a caterpillar and a butterfly. Discuss 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - c. At night, chase fireflies. Notice how they stand out in the darkness. Discuss John 8:12. Play flashlight tag. Sing, "This Little Light of Mine." Search for constellations.
4. **THE FARM:** Ask a local farmer if you can assist him for the day (or even an hour). Ask him questions about his job. Discuss how it relates to scripture. Try to find the four soils explained in Matthew 13.
5. **A ROAD RACE:** Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 or Hebrews 12:1-2. Train for a race yourself and model healthy living for your children. If your child is old enough, have them participate in a race with you just for the fun of it. What do races teach us about living the Christian life?

Don't let your family take a **SPIRITUAL BREAK** this summer!



FOR INFORMATION ON

ROCK MOUNTAIN BIBLE CAMP

Mini-Camp (6-10 yr olds with a guardian)

June 26-28

Jr. Camp AND Jr. Day Camp (8-12 yr olds)

JULY 12 - 17

CONTACT ALISHA FINN @607-427-9565

CONNECTING THOUGHTS**— SHARON EARLY**

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Summertime is a bit different here than in the church I grew up in. In Michigan, summer was a full three months long with school getting out the first week of June. With school not getting out till the end of June, we quickly fell into the thought process that summer was only two months long and one must jam every opportunity to experience summer within the two months of July and August. That being said, in the life of small groups, many groups take a break over summer from doing a study since coordinating group members' schedules becomes nearly impossible. However, at our last small group leaders' gathering, we strongly encouraged groups (as we do each summer) to be proactive and schedule events over the summer months to gather and fellowship together.

It may feel like we are giving up meeting together, but instead, we can look at it as a different season of life in the church and to focus on how we meet together in alternative ways. Groups were encouraged to take the opportunity to be creative and explore how they might connect within our community of faith and be intentional to invite others to their fellowship times. For us, the summer months have been a time of reconnecting with other families within the church in different ways: from visiting summer cottages, to camping trips (with huge bonfires!) to daytrips of hiking, to enjoying summer bands outside This area has so much to offer and I encourage each person within the church to proactively plan ways to connect during the summer with someone you might not normally have had time to be with.

We are looking forward to our Memorial Day Camping trip—the official kick-off to our summer. And most importantly, just because we are not doing a study does not mean that we don't pray together and wrestle with how Scripture speaks into our lives. So be intentional this summer and invite someone along to share your summer experiences. Be

sure and share your faith also—whether in dialogue, sharing how your devotional life is shaping you or in prayer! And be sure and take that 'epic' picture to share with our FPC community! This one was just one of our 'epic' bonfire pictures from a group camping trip!



NURSERY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

– RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS



Join in on the outdoor fun June 6 at the **3rd Annual Janet Cook Scholarship Golf Tournament** “fore” a great day of golfing, prizes, eating, dancing, and fellowship! **Traditions at the Glen** will once again be our host for a **1:00 pm shotgun start**. If golfing is not your bag, gather up your friends and come later for **dinner under the tent starting at 5:00 pm!** Ten teams have already signed on with **room still available** for yours. Unable to come but would like to support our cause? Any donations — big or small— for the Silent Auction and door prizes will be gratefully accepted through Friday, June 5. With almost \$4,000 thus far in hole sponsorships, we are excited for the number of children this tuition assistance fundraiser will be a blessing to.



Kindergarten Information Night—Monday, June 8

Parents of soon-to-be kindergarteners are invited to sit down with George F. Johnson Elementary Principal Larry Dake and some First Pres. parents experienced with the Kindergarten transition for an informal Q&A pow-wow. Held in the FPC dining room from 6:30-7:30pm, leaders will help answer questions that are on caregivers’ minds these days, questions like, “How has Kindergarten changed?”; “How can I help prepare her?”; and, “What are the schools doing about bullying?” Jot down your own and gather ‘round the circle. Childcare will be available.

Awaiting New Life...

An enriching ingredient to our Farm theme was the arrival of an incubator filled with soon-to-hatch baby chicks! Ann Supa from Cornell Co-Op 4-H treated us to 18 eggs that needed to be kept warm, moist, and rotated daily. One of our four-year-old students (pictured on the left) exercised great patience in anticipation of our new fuzzy friends!



SESSION UPDATE

-JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

On May 6, the Session met in its regular monthly meeting and dealt mostly with matters related to the discernment process. However, we did take action on the following items:

- Elected Linda Willets to serve as Interim Clerk of Session until the end of 2015; she will assume the duties of Clerk when Janet Frederick moves in June.
- Approved Rev. Dr. Tim Devine's request to sponsor the Summer Outreach Program in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Western Broome County. This is the third year we have participated in this community outreach program, and we are able to fund it using that portion of the payment from the endowment fund.
- Approved the recommendation from the Mission and Stewardship Committee for the 2015 General Mission Budget Session approved causes.

The Discernment Update in this newsletter includes many details about the May 3 informational sessions and the May 17 congregational meeting.

TRANSITIONS IN YOUTH MINISTRY

-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

At the beginning of May, Jeremy Finn, our Associate to the Pastors in Youth Ministry, formally transitioned to a part-time role so that he could also explore employment outside of FPC. With the expectation that this new job will become full-time, Jeremy will continue to work part-time at FPC, leading our youth and those in the community until the end of June when he will finish his service with us.

Jeremy has a passion for bringing youth into relationship with Jesus Christ and discipling them to become strong and obedient in faith. He has helped young people (and adults) understand the gospel and study God's Word, and has used weekly programming, events, camps and retreats to engage students in growth and service. The youth ministry has moved beyond the walls of this church to reach out to young people in the community as well. To thank Jeremy for his service, we will be recognizing him during worship on June 21 and with a reception between services. The Personnel Committee will begin work to determine a plan to meet the needs of our youth in the future.



DISCERNMENT PROCESS UPDATE

– JANET FREDERICK

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR FPC IN 2015?

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

On Sunday, May 17, 136 active members of First Pres. Endicott met to cast their vote on whether to approve the recommendation from the Session of FPC to request dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and go to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. The results of that vote are as follows:

- 109 Yes votes - in favor of the recommendation (82%)
- 24 No votes - opposed to the recommendation (18%)
- 2 Abstentions
- 1 Ballot not returned

In addition, the results of Absentee Ballots (from active members unable to attend the meeting) and Opinion Ballots (from active non-members of the congregation) were presented before the vote, as well as the results of the contacts made by Session members to individual church members. The results of the contacts and ballots were:

March/April Contacts – 95 in favor of going to ECO; 30 in favor of remaining with PC(USA); 27 Unsure

Opinion Ballots from Active Non-Members – 17 Yes votes; 0 No votes

Absentee Ballots from Active Members – 13 Yes votes; 9 No votes

Session has tried throughout this process to be responsive to the requests from the congregation for information, and we are appreciative of all those who stayed with us throughout the discernment period – trying to learn more from the informational sessions, participating in congregational conversations and discussions, and lastly, attending the congregational meeting, if possible, or submitting your opinion/absentee ballots. For some of you, the results of the vote were disappointing and for others they were a joy.

On Saturday, May 30, the Resolution for Dismissal will go to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley to be voted upon there, since our congregational vote is advisory to the Presbytery. Because this meeting will occur after the June newsletter is printed, we are not able to provide the results of their vote in this update. The results will be announced in worship on Sunday, May 31, and in announcements in the following weeks.

If the Presbytery votes to approve our recommendation to leave the PC(USA) and join ECO, a letter will then go out that outlines the next steps for us as a congregation, as well as the options for individuals at First Pres. Whether as members of ECO or active non-members, please continue to pray for and support those ministries and missions that we here at First Pres. feel God is calling us to do in His name.

And Jesus said, “May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:23

COMMUNITY

Samaritan Supper

The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, “Yes I can and you can too!” We would like to extend a big heartfelt thanks to all those who have volunteered at Samaritan Supper. We realize that without you there would not be a dinner every Tuesday night. We would especially like to thank Flo Powley and Janet and Harry Frederick for their years of service. They will be greatly missed by the kitchen staff as well as those who come to dine with us. Best of luck to the Fredericks as they move to the sunny south.

–Analise and Laura

Graduates

Each year we recognize our high school and college graduates in June. If you know of someone who is graduating, please contact the office (office@firstpresendicott.org) with their information: Name, School, Degree, and Future Plans.

Joseph at Sight and Sound

Tuesday, July 14, the First Presbyterian Church of Nichols is sponsoring a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see *Joseph*. The bus will be doing a pick up at FPC Endicott at 7:30am. Cost is \$125/adult, \$80/child under 12. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Barb Quick at 699-3736. The deadline for reservations is June 15.

Homebound? Traveling? Missed a Sunday?

Just a reminder that we livestream our services on Sunday morning. If you would like to view our services, contact Nathan at office@firstpresendicott.org to get set up. Also, if you missed a Sunday or would just like to view past sermons, they can be found online at: www.vimeo.com/channels/fpcendicottsermons

BASICS

BASICS– our Thursday evening gathering to read Scripture, sing praise, pray together, and bless people– will resume meeting in the fall.

Saying “Goodbye” (God Be with You)

It is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to Harry and Janet Frederick. We are sad as they will be dearly missed here, but excited for them as they begin a well-deserved rest in Florida. For 21 years, the Fredericks have faithfully served this church. Janet has served as a multi-capacity staff member (nursery school/Christian education/office administrator), an elder (and Clerk of Session), and a choir/bell choir member, while Harry has gifted the church by maintaining our pianos as the Piano Doctor, singing in the choir, and serving as an elder. We wish them blessings on their new journey!

If you wish to contact them after their move, here is their new information:

524 Waterford Ave., Mount Dora, FL 32757; (607) 754-0587; janfredFL@gmail.com.

FPC Calendar

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Deacons	3 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	4 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	5	6 1:00 pm NS Golf Tournament and Dinner
7 Family Day 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:00 pm FPC Youth	8 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 6:30 pm Nursery School Kindergarten Info Night	9	10 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	11 5:30 pm NS Board Meeting 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	12	13
14 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:00 pm FPC Youth	15	16 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	17 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	18 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	19	20
21 Father's Day Graduate Sunday 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Reception for Jeremy Finn 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	22	23	24 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm House Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	25	26 Rock Mountain Mini Camp	27 Rock Mountain Mini Camp
28 Rock Mountain Mini Camp 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	29 Nursery School Summer Program (am only)	30 Nursery School Summer Program (am only) 12:30 pm Staff Meeting				

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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