



The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

No. 558

May 2016

THE PASTOR'S PEN



Some months ago our congregation took a survey with the purpose of helping our Session to understand our church family, its needs, and to chart the way ahead for the future. One realization that came to the Session was the need to articulate better the mission and goals of our congregation. In this article and in the months to come, I would like to spell out that mission and those goals as clearly as I can. Additionally, beginning this Sunday, our mission statement and goals will also be put on the front cover of the church bulletin as a helpful reminder and encouragement to all of us.

Our mission was given to us by our Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20).

So the mission of our church – and therefore everything we say and do and pray about and spend – should be done with the intention of making devoted followers of Jesus. The bottom line is that our church is to be a disciple-making factory. **The mission of our church is to make devoted followers of Jesus; it's as simple and challenging as that!**

To help us accomplish our mission we believe that there are six specific goals that guide us. In our denomination's Constitution they are called "The Great Ends of the Church." In the coming months in this column I'll address each one in a bit more detail. For now, however, here is the list. How would you answer the questions listed below each goal?

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
Do you listen attentively when God's word is preached? Do you attend Sunday School? Do you share your faith in Jesus with others?
2. The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
When you see someone in need, do you help them? Do you welcome visitors or introduce yourself to people you don't know when you're at church?
3. The maintenance of divine worship;
Do you attend worship regularly?
4. The preservation of the truth;
Do you give a faithful Christian witness to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers?
5. The promotion of social righteousness;
Do you encourage and participate doing what is taught in the Bible?
6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.
Is your will aligned with God's will?

In the service of the King,
Pastor Gregg

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Beginning on June 5, our 8:30 A.M and 11:00 A.M. worship services will change to one service at 9:30 A.M during the summer months. On September 4, we will resume back to our two services. Sunday School will be on hiatus until September, also.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Come celebrate your birthday at a luncheon Sunday, May 22 following the 11:00 A.M. service.

You are a treasured link in the future of our mission outreach at First Presbyterian Church of North East.

Ideas for future programs, joy of fellowship, giving, sharing – all good things and lunch included!

Bring your pennies, nickels, dimes to total your age as an offering for the “P.W. 2016 Mission Goal.”

See you there!



ELMWOOD GARDENS AUXILIARY ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The month of May not only brings the beautiful flowers into bloom, but it also means another year has passed since the last membership drive for the Elmwood Gardens Auxiliary.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to enrich the lives of those who reside at Elmwood Gardens. We aim to brighten their days by providing a monthly birthday party; special parties each month with entertainment, including special holiday parties, cakes on Mother's Day and Father's Day; a gift for everyone for Christmas; a summer picnic; and a special luncheon in September. We provide transportation through

the LIFT program for shopping and lunches out. We arrange for the weekly church service, provide the daily newspaper and spend time with the residents.

Our support comes through the May Membership Drive, bake sales, and basket raffles. The membership fee of the Auxiliary is \$10. Any amount you are able to give will be greatly appreciated. Envelopes are available in the Assembly Room at the church. Please return your envelope to the church office or Charlene Baird.

DEACONS

Thrift Store Baskets

We want to thank everyone for the Thrift Store donations. So far, we have sent over 3 personal baskets and 1 household basket. We will continue to send over baskets as they are filled. If you think of something that you think might be nice to add to the baskets but it's not on either list, please feel free to add it. As more people continue to be laid off, this project will continue to meet an important need. Each person that benefits from this will thank you.

Sincerely,
The Deacons

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee is happy to bring the church community The Spring Clean Up event.

Mark your calendars for May 21, 2016 starting at 9:00 A.M. and going until approximately 12:00 P.M. A light lunch will follow at the church.

If you know someone that needs help or wants help or just wants to volunteer, there will be signup sheets in the assembly room starting Sunday April 24, 2016. All are welcome. Bring your rakes, shovels, and any other yard tools. Come join in the Lord's work and great fellowship.



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A Youth Sunday

I am daily reminded of the many blessings that the Lord has provided me through the people I work with and the joy they (and our kids) bring. This year's Youth Sunday-Senior Lunch was yet another reminder of the blessings and love that overflows from my own heart (through the gifts of so many). This year's Youth Sunday Service, as well as the Youth/Senior luncheon was an extremely successful and joy-filled day, as we chose to "Celebrate our Youth Becoming the Church." None of it could have happened without the dedicated and talented youth from our church. We were able to acknowledge and celebrate the graduating seniors, including Brennan Burch, Brittany Jones, Jesse Magee, Nathan Mayes and Amber McKenery. Both the service and the luncheon were enjoyed by youth and adults of all ages.

The service was filled with many delightful surprises and gifts; beginning with Christian Education Director, Donna Banks' message about acknowledging and trusting God with all of your heart. In addition, many of our youth participated by showcasing their reading skills and musical talent. Readers included: Makayla Albney, Garrett Connors, Evelyn Daughrity, Vivian Daughrity, Mark Townsend, Brooks Townsend and Sophie Tyler. In addition, there was a piano medley performance by Ali Nagle and two special pieces by our own Kids Choir. Finally, staying with the theme of "Youth Sunday," other youth that participated by greeting, ushering and/or singing included John McClure; Sparrow and Charlotte Magill; Mimi Nagle; Madison, Tommy, and Ashley Hartner; Marissa Kelly; Tessa and Braeden Bemiss; Morgan and Drake Lash; McCoy and McKyle Albney; Ava and Taylor Alcorn; and Emmalea and Madison Thomson.

Lunch was provided by the Christian Education Committee, along with some delightful cooks from the congregation. Once again, blessings and offerings were overflowing. As I think back, I need to restate how my plate abundantly overflows with the love, joy and blessings of all of those who continue to give of their Gifts. I would like to especially thank Jane Livingston for her dedication and help with the music and program. In addition, a huge thank you to all who helped set up for our lunch, put together the meal and program, including Jenn and Tom McClure; Don and Dianne Tyler; Katie Gallagher; Beth Seymour; Tracy and Scott Connors and all of those many helping hands who helped make the day a joyful and memorable occasion.

Kids' Choir

The *Kids Choir* wrapped up the year with a final performance on Sunday, April 24, in honor of Youth Sunday. The kids performed two songs which included a precious, meaningful rendition of "*Here I Am To Worship*," and their "singer's choice," the more upbeat, "*Hallelujah! (Your Love is Amazing)*." The kids sang with their voices but from their hearts and gave a stellar performance.

Stay tuned this summer for News Flashes on the start-up of *Kids Choir* for next year. In the meantime a huge THANK YOU to our dedicated Kids Choir Director, Jenn McClure for sharing her gift of music with our children.

Palm Sunday

The children and Youth Sunday School of our church participated in the presentation for the Procession of the Palms at the 11:00 A.M. worship service on Palm Sunday. In addition, during the 11:00 A.M. service, the children were able to enjoy a special Easter Puppet Show program on "Why God Gave Us Easter," which was followed by a fun and "egg-citing" Easter Egg Hunt. More than 25 children from Pre-School age through 5th Grade attend this fun-filled, blessed event. A HUGE Easter Egg Thank You goes out to the Middle-High School Youth Sunday School class.

Mission Convocation

On Sunday, April 10, along with the snowstorm, Kris Wamsley from World Vision, Philippi, West Virginia joined our congregation to present an informational talk on the work of World Vision in Philippi. Kris and her husband Mike presented background on World Vision, as well as more specific information about the impact our own church teams have made there; to a group of more than 30 church and Sunday School members. Kris' presentation included activities and details about their work in West Virginia, which definitely enlightened many of our members. The Christian Education and Mission Committees hosted a coffee hour in Kris' honor. Kris' presentation was a meaningful way to prepare our Mission Team for their upcoming trip beginning the week of July 10.

Teacher Recognition Day

Please join us on Sunday, May 15, during our 11:00 A.M. worship service, as we honor our Sunday School and Bible Study teachers, facilitators, and substitutes. We will celebrate and recognize all their hard work and dedication they have given each Sunday to both the Christian Education program and our students over the past year. Be sure to keep them in your prayers as they complete their classes to make disciples out of our participating children, young people, and adults.

2015 Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

The Christian Education and Mission Committees recently sponsored a spectacular "Bake Sale" Coffee Hour in order to raise funds in support of the 2016 Youth Mission trip to Philippi, West Virginia. The Bake Sale was a huge success. We received an abundance of donations of baked goods to sell, along with many monetary donations from some very generous church members. Thanks to the generosity of all of our amazing church members, we were able to raise more than \$500. A gigantic thanks goes to many church members as well as the members of the Christian Education and Mission Committee for their help and assistance with the Bake Sale.



North East Preschool Graduation

On June 2 and June 3, our sanctuary will be filled with proud parents and eager children graduating from our 3 and 4 year old Preschool programs. Please keep our teachers and preschoolers in your prayers and give thanks for the young minds and hearts that are taught with such professional and loving care as our school year comes to a close.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Applications for the Holmes and Burrows Scholarship Funds are now available in the church office. Traditional and/or adult students who have completed at least one year of post-high school studies may qualify. Completed applications, including an essay and copy of grade transcripts, must be returned to the church office or to Sue Moore by June 1. Please contact Sue at 725-9391 for questions.

DIVE DEEP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Fun-loving kids and spirit-filled youth and adult volunteers!

Get ready to *Dive into the Deep Blue Sea* as kids discover that “God is with them Wherever They Go!” We will be diving into the deep blue sea beginning on June 22 at 9:00 A.M. and going until about Noon. All kids Preschool to 6th grade are welcome to dive in with us. Register early by registering on the FPCNE Website or by calling the church directly so you can order your t-shirt and be ready to go when we journey into the Deep Blue Sea, right here at the **FPCNE!**

Each day will begin with large-group music, a skit, and lots of fun where kids will be introduced to a specific Bible story. Then, after kids experience the other activities of the day, kids will regroup to review, to be encouraged, and to be motivated to serve others!

Other activities will include exploration of selected Bible stories in a variety of interactive

ways, and learning about applying the story by completing the “It’s Your Serve” service challenge. Kids will also enjoy a time for creating crafts, fun and games, and interactive snack time. All of these fun activities connect to the Bible story, Bible Memory, and the Life Focus of the day.

Preregistration will be available in the Assembly Room after the 11:00 A.M. worship services throughout May and June. It will also be available on our church website www.fpcne.org, or call our church office 814-725-8641.

The staff is waiting for all those kids who want to *Dive into the Deep Blue Sea* so come and join us in serving and having a blast! Please see Donna Banks for questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS 2016

Speaking of Vacation Bible School, we wouldn’t be able to provide such an amazing experience for the children and youth of our church and community without our wonderful volunteers. So, consider this the *call* for your services. We are looking for volunteers for setting up, tearing down and experiencing the week. This year’s VBS will begin on Monday, June 20, with set-up on June 19 and take-down on the 25th. Please look for the volunteer sign up in the Assembly Room or see Donna Banks. Remember, there are jobs for anyone and everyone. Come and enjoy the “experience of a lifetime.” Join us for VBS!



“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK AND KEEP UP ON THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. We post important news and church happenings and upload lots of great photos and videos. Have something you’d like to share? Send it to Jennifer in the Church Office at jspencer@fpcne.org and we’ll post it for you. Or feel free to post to our wall.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

VBS 2016



DISCOVERING THE DEEP BLUE SEA

Vacation Bible School

June 20 – 24, 2016

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Please fill out the registration form below and return it to the church. Registration can also be done on our website at www.fpcne.org. Please speak with Donna Banks if you are interested in volunteering.

Registration Form

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Completed _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Special Needs/Allergies _____

T-shirt Size (**Please Circle**)

Youth S — Youth M — Youth L — Youth XL — Adult S — Adult M — Adult L — Adult XL — Adult XXL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CHERRY PIE WEEK

This year's cherry pie week is July 18-23.

Cherry Pie Week is the primary fundraiser for the Presbyterian Women to fund our mission giving each year. We are supported by many of our youth, husbands, fathers, and even friends and family from out of town who return for the great fellowship and "just plain fun" that we have rolling, filling, popping out tops, crimping, baking, laughing, and sharing good stories. Before you know it, the morning is over, and cleanup is quick. Then the baking begins in earnest — cooling, packaging, counting, and then off to the tent for sale. Our pies are always the first to go!



This year we hope to make over 1,000 pies. Look for the signup sheets in the assembly room during the first week of June.



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SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	READER
May 1	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler	
May 8	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	
May 15	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	
May 22	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	
May 29	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Peggy Walsh	
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE
May 1	Evelyn Daughrity and Makayla Albney	John McClure
May 8	Kathy and Lynn Peterson	McCoy Albney
May 15	Cathy, Tom and Jenn McClure	Sparrow Magill
May 22	Andy and Jaimee Knight	McKYLE Albney
May 29	Dave and Kristen Streeper	Tommy Hartner



THE PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, speak with Pastor Gregg, call Jennifer in the church office (814-725-8641), or email our prayer chain (jlivingston@neo.rr.com OR jspencer@fpcne.org). Email us if you'd like to be added to our email prayer chain.



Pentecost Flowers

If you would like to order flowers for Pentecost this year, all orders must be placed by May 8. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put "Pentecost Flowers" on the memo line.

ALL FLOWERS ARE \$4.40.
Qty_____Red Geraniums

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY of

IN HONOR of

Flowers may be picked up after worship on Pentecost Sunday.