

First Church News

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY, 2019

Chip's Chatter

February

Technology. Now there is a word that can sometimes stir a broad range of reactions. At one end of the spectrum are people who hear the word and say, "I don't use it. I don't understand it. I don't need it." The other end of the spectrum are the people that begin to "salivate" at the very thought of a better "smart phone" or a voice recognition device. Voice recognition that seemed so far-fetched in the late 1960s, is common place today.

I think struggles by some with today's rapidly expanding use of technology trace back to our individual learning styles. Here is a simple example: Years ago, we were told not only "how to tell the time" on a watch, but we also learned the basics of "how to build the watch". Today, because technology expands so rapidly each and every day, we hang on just to be able to tell the time. Learning the mechanics of a new device requires extensive experience with the earlier models of this newly introduced device. That is why, whenever I have difficulties with my computer, my first question is, "Where is the nearest high school student!" Owner's manuals hardly exist anymore. Today's youth have grown up in both an overwhelming visual environment in which smart phones and computers are as normal as eating. Like food, one can easily overeat on "technology."

Technology, when used properly can enhance learning. In the 1980s, studies were made revealing people learn by three distinct styles. They are: Visual (seeing). Audio (hearing). Hands-on (called kinesthetic). We have every single type of learner in our church today. Today's generation have grown up on an abundance of visual. They would rather watch a You-Tube video on how to repair a car than to read it from the Maintenance Manual. I feel this is a rather sad development for they do not know how to dig out the truth using their minds alone. There needs to be a caution when discussing learning style. I feel we sometimes go down the wrong path when we think our style is better than anyone else's. Further, I do not believe we stay exclusively in each learning style but use styles based on the situation. My experience as a USAF and civilian flight instructor required use all three styles in learning to best train the student. For nearly 20 years of my 26 year career in the USAF I was a fighter pilot instructor. I can absolutely say no fighter pilot learns via visual alone. It takes hours of teaching, discussing and demonstrating various tasks. The student is then give the opportunity for hands on learning followed by an in depth discussion of how they performed.

Think about your own learning style. Some of us were taught "penmanship" in school. First, our teacher posted above the black boards cards with how upper and lower case cursive letters were drawn. This is the visual. Next, our teacher tracked out each letter and told us how to form each letter. This is the audio portion. Next, we went to the black board or took out a piece of specially lined paper and practiced our cursive writing. This is hands-on learning.

Now, what does all of this have to do with church and our worship experience? To begin, let's review the two types of Elders in our denomination. First, there are "Ruling Elders." Ruling Elders comprise the Session of the church and oversee our church. The next elder type is the "Teaching Elder." A Teaching Elder is the pastor of the church and moderator of the Session. It is the responsibility of the Teaching Elder to not only lead worship and bring the Word and Sacrament, but also provide instruction and guidance to the members as they follow their individual spiritual journey. You might be shocked to know we use all three learning styles in our Sunday worship. First the visual. When you enter the Sanctuary, you are greeted by visual cues you are in a place of worship. Our stained glass windows, our Communion Table, our banners, and many other symbols of our Christian faith are there to greet us. For all of us, we get a profound sense of peace by the setting or

feel” of our sanctuary. Second, is the audio portion. We hear familiar liturgy, sing familiar songs, pray familiar prayers, and join together to express our faith. We hear the spoken word during the sermon. We develop a sense of peace as we hear the Word and are immersed in our church, with our church family. We take a short respite from the noisy outside world. The last one, hands-on or kinesthetic, is a bit harder to see and is somewhat dependent on the preacher. Effective pastors always teach by example or uses illustrations to help the listener do “hands-on” by relating to the experience. People, understandably get nervous whenever we make some change in worship that has provided comfort to us for most of our lives. But is necessarily the best?

It is in all three areas that our ever increasing use of technology in worship can benefit. We see many modern designed churches quickly adapting their sanctuary environment to capitalize on the technology that enhances their worship experience. Modern designed churches are able to add tremendous sound and media styles. Over the years, the visual of our sanctuary has remained constant and even breathtaking to some. I have heard countless people, no matter their age, comment on the beauty of our sanctuary. We have an excellent sound system, even though it has some limitations. Our acoustics are particularly noteworthy.

However, given modern advances in sight and sound, it is easy to go “over the top”. I worshipped at a church in Arizona a couple of times. They use a stage, not a chancel. They had two very large screens at either end. A TV camera followed the pastor up and down the stage and the image was displayed on the two large screens. People focused exclusively on the screens! All the music came from a rock-style band. As they played, lights flashed and a smoke generator distributed smoke all over the stage. I never understood the words from songs. I don’t even recall the message that was given. Yet, it was quite a show. A bit over the top for me. It made me wonder if people came for a show or came to worship. Anyway, I never went back.

We have a couple of challenges we need to think about and evaluate if modern day technology will help teach the gospel to our members and guests. I discovered at the Annual meeting last week, using a power point presentation is all but impossible, given the orientation of our south windows. The sunlight washes out any slides that are viewed. I will not be able to use Power Point to help illustrate any message. Our sound system has some limitations too. Guest musicians are unable to “tie in” to our audio system and we have to create “work arounds” to aid in their performance.

The real key in using modern technology is how we can use it to expand the teaching of the Word. Technology is a tool to **aid** in leading others to Christ. It is **not** the goal. For you see, our primary mission is to provide information to help others learn about God and to bring them to a relationship with God through His son, Jesus Christ. This is, has been, and always will be the goal of the church. If you think about it, it was the modern technology of the Roman road that enabled the Gospel to be quickly spread following the Resurrection. It was the invention of the printing press that enabled the Protestant Reformation to take hold. It was the creation of geosynchronous communications satellites in orbit that enabled the late Rev Billy Graham to simultaneously preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. This is, has been, and always be the goal of the church. Maybe it is time to once again look at today’s modern technology to see how we can carry out His work and reach those in desperate need of a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Volunteers

We are in need of your help. We are asking you to help fill the spots for greeters, liturgists, and ushers. You don’t need to worry if you have not done it before as we will give good instructions. The sign up sheets are down in the fellowship hall on the desk and pens are there also.



6 Palmer Berg
 6 Duane Hayes
 14 Donna Dickinson



February Service Chair: Brenda Miller

Darrel & Kathy Bahr	444-8695	Bill Beck	586-2770
Joe & Joan Forbes	751-3965	Dona Mae Naylor	751-5466
Bob & Nancy Weber	751-5328	Vera Weis	751-2595

Communion in January

Set-up: Joan Forbes and Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Brenda Miller; Gini Sande; Linnea Mostad; Joan Forbes; Vera Weis

Set-Up: Joan Forbes and Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Duane & Mary Hayes; Libby Underhill; Joyce Ackerman; Donna Dickinson

Head Usher: _____

Ushers:

Greeter

Liturgists:

February 3

Bill Beck

February 10

Vera Weis

February 17

Gini Sande

Ruth Andersen

February 24

Vera Weis

Dianne Roholt



Supper Club

Mi Rancho Restaurant

February 15th, @ 5:30

Supper Club will be meeting Friday, February 15th at 5:30 at Mi Rancho, 677 Anne Street, NW

Please sign up at the church office: by email; presbji@paulbunyan.net -or- by phone; 444-5016, on or before Wednesday, February 13th.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending December 31, 2018

Total Income	\$12,788.37
Total Expenses	14,091.88
Net Income	(1,303.51)
Memorial Fund	\$13,493.24
Endowment Fund	\$74,285.40
Communion Served—36	

öMake the Changeö Benevolence

The Outreach Committee would like to try something new this year as a way to inspire us to build a better community through giving. Beginning in February, there will be a fish bowl in the narthex. This fish bowl is for your loose change and is based on the idea that small change ó the extra coins lying around under couch cushions, in coat pockets, and in desk drawers ó can be used to make big changes in our communities.



For the months of February, March, and April, the change that is collected will go towards purchasing Easter hams for needy families. The Outreach Committee will partner with Churches United to ensure the hams go to those in need.

If you have a suggestion for a future öMake the Changeö benevolence, please see Libby Underhill.

Hello to all,

We have some immediate needs at the food shelf.

We could use baking items: Sugar, flour, cake mixes, salt, baking powder and soda, etc.

We are also in need of pancake mix, baby formula, diapers and baby food.

Thank you very much for getting the word out!

Mary Mitchell, Director



February's 4th Sunday Benevolence: Bemidji Community Table

The mission of the Bemidji Community Table is to provide meals and promote an "open table" atmosphere for those in the community needing fellowship who might otherwise go hungry.

The Bemidji Community Table has been serving members of the community with meals for over 25 years. Their guests include elderly who may have difficulty preparing meals for themselves, individuals lacking adequate cooking facilities, families lacking adequate food supplies and those seeking an evening meal for other reasons.

The Bemidji Community Table organizes four meals a week at two area churches to anyone who is hungry, there are no income guidelines or forms required. Monday and Tuesday meals are served at Mount Zion Church, and Wednesday and Thursday meals are served at United Methodist Church. The meal is free to anyone who comes through the doors. Thus an open table! Bemidji Community Table anticipates serving nearly 18,000 meals this year with about approximately 20% of those meals being provided to individuals under 18 years of age.

First Presbyterians have volunteered at this local mission by helping to prepare and serve meals. Our next time to serve is **Wednesday, February 27th**. You can also help by volunteering your time and/or giving of your donation to this needed mission. Please contact Libby Underhill if you would like to help serve.

Resources:

www.bemidjisoupkitchen.org

<http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/news/local/4076128-helping-feed-community-all-are-welcome-bemidji-community-table>



The First Presbyterian Church Choir has been put on hold for the time being.

If you wish to become a member of the future choir, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113 or the church office.

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
January 15, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on January 15, 2019 at 9:04 am. The meeting was opened with a reading from the book of James and prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Cheryl Hiltz, Bob Weber, Donna Dickinson, Bill Beck, Leroy Hill,

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Duane Hayes

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Approved with additions to Other Business: Summer Music Recital Series, Scout Pancake Breakfast, Outreach Idea, Upcoming Session transition, Special Correspondence

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the December session meeting were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE A letter from Lyn Doran expressed positive feelings about her time at First Presbyterian. Northwoods Caregivers sent an update, thanks, and donation request. Info about the February Presbytery meeting was received along with the updated Presbytery Directory.

CLERK'S REPORT was accepted.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report January 15, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: Ina T. Roholt January 30, 1922-December 17, 2018. Memorial service to be held later.

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: 33

Darrell Bahr	Robyn Edwards	Patricia Lewis	Libby Sorenson
Kathy Bahr	Carla Ellingson	Greg Martinson	Harold VanLeeuwen
Josie Begay	Paula Ellingson	James Matheney	Diane VanLeeuwen
Bobbi Borowski	LuAnn Fuller	Laura Matheney	Don Wintersteen
Bo Borowski	Robert A Hiltz	Vance Miller	Chris Forbes
Mark Cronemiller	Russell Hiltz	John Nelson	Nicole Forbes
Dan Cronemiller	Becky Kummet	Holly Nelson	Erica Paulson Westgaard
Lyn Doran	Taylor Hiltz-Kummet	Hannah Sorenson	April Mendoza Roger Ricci

Communion: January 6 36 served Serving: Gini Sande, Joe Forbes, Gloria Phelps, Vera Weis, Brenda Miller

Membership as of January 15, 2019 76 (includes clerk records adjustment of +1)

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed.

The 2019 budget proposal was reviewed. **MSP** to include a \$12,500 line item under Administration for Technology. The inclusion of this line item resulted from a meeting between a member family, the Finance subcommittee and Pastor Chip. The Session approved this line entry. The finance committee meeting was held to resolve the member's issue with a Memorial Fund. Record of the meeting along with Session follow-up is attached to the December Administration minutes. **MSP** to include a \$735 line item for BSU Intern. This would provide transparency in the spending of BSU grant funds. **MSP** to approve the 2019 Budget Proposal with the aforementioned line items included.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Worship/CENurture

MSP to approve the new Endowment Fund Report Form. A permanent record book will be created listing the donors and holdings in the Endowment Fund. The endowment committee will do this.

MSP to delay building and grounds work until February.

Outreach No report

OTHER BUSINESS

MSP to host the Summer Music Recital Series on June 12.

MSP to allow the Scouts to hold a pancake breakfast on April 14, Palm Sunday.

MSP for an idea to host a chili feed for furloughed government workers to be shared with Outreach.

Ordination/Installation of new elders is planned for Feb. 3 in conjunction with communion.

A summary of conversation and subsequent e-mail confirmation between Pastor Chip and a member was shared with Session. That member was present. The member has communicated to Chip that unless Session votes within the next four months to install message boards in the sanctuary, the church will face its own demise and the possible departure of this member from our church family.

Pastor Chip advised Session in case it has future discussion regarding this ultimatum. Pastor Chip obtained the counsel of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and followed all their suggestions regarding this entire situation. If Session gives consideration to whether multimedia technology use in worship would enhance the mission of our church, bring worshippers closer to Jesus, and preserve the beauty of our sanctuary, the discussion needs to include careful research. Assessment of the time and effort that its use would demand of our pastor and tech support people would be another important facet to be considered. No action was taken.

A copy of the email will be kept on file with session records. It has been redacted to protect privacy.

Next Meeting: February meeting to be scheduled

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Chip at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays
 10:00 Worship
 Service
 11:00 Fellowship

February 2019



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

					1	2
3 Chip Holt Preaching Communion Ordination Installation	4 5pm-Bell Choir 6pm-Boy Scouts	5	6 6:30-Calvary Chapel	7	8	9
10 Chip Holt Preaching	11 6pm-Boy Scouts	12	13 6:30-Calvary Chapel	14	15 Supper Club 5:30 @ Mi Ran- cho on Anne Street	16
17 Chip Holt Preaching	18 6pm-Boy Scouts	19 9AM Session Mtg.	20 6:30-Calvary Chapel	21	22	23
24 Tony Peffer Preaching	25 6pm-Boy Scouts	26	27 6:30-Calvary Chapel	28		