



Chip's Chatter

I recently attended a pastor's text study on the day Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was burning. All attendees were saddened by the tremendous loss. We "pooled" what we had heard from various news sources to try and come to grips with what was happening.

Notre Dame, as well as being a place of worship, has become a huge tourist destination. It contains many priceless artifacts that can be viewed much like a museum. One of the senior pastors made a very thought provoking comment: "When does a church become a museum?" I began to ponder his comment in light of the current cultural push towards eliminating God from our nation. This phenomenon is called secular humanism. At its core it means rejecting all forms and thoughts of religion including morality and decision making. As I thought more about the question posed, I felt needed to consider not only "when" does a church become a museum, but also "how" this can happen. I came up with two distinct ways: From outside and from within.

From outside

A Hollywood screen play writer could easily create a sci-fi movie depicting life in America with the absence of religion and closing places of worship. Writers would not have to dig too deep or be too creative. They could simply look back at the old Soviet Union and its socialism/communism form of government. You will recall churches in the old USSR had, indeed, become museums and were reduced to places for artistic performance. But, the government failed to eliminate all great masterpieces of music that had a belief in God at their center. The Soviet popula-

tion only heard the gospel of Jesus Christ when performed as part of an orchestral/choral work. Handel's "Messiah" or Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" are just two good examples. The church went underground but quickly re-immersed when the old USSR fell. Today's secular humanists will not make the same mistake.

From within

This concept is bit tricky to study. Why? Because it involves individuals that make up the church. It involves both attitude and focus/outlook. Individuals within the church can have a tremendous impact on both its demise as well as its growth. Focus or outlook is second only to attitude. A good attitude carries us through life's journey better than anything else. It affects our focus and outlook towards life.

I once worked for a large company offering a service. During the years of growth, we purchased several other companies that offered the same service. Sadly, the last acquisition was comprised of employees who failed to adjust their attitudes and their outlook. Their attitude spilled over to our customers who, in turn, stopped using our product. The employees of the acquired company failed to see the new opportunities and lived with their focus on "how good their former company was." The new larger company was weakened and began to struggle. The company could not withstand the sad events following 9/11. Bankruptcy and loss of retirement was the outcome. Attitude and focus can, indeed, take down a company. These employees had their focus and attitude in the "rear view mirror"

Living Life in the Rear View Mirror

We all love to reminisce. Recalling good memories and fun times is good for the soul. But, it must never become one's primary focus. An attitude focusing on the past presents some potential problems. Like the driver of a car who only looks in the rear view mirror, the car will eventually have to pull over to the side of the road or crash. Only by looking forward through the windshield can the driver resume the journey.

I recall attending a Presbytery meeting last year during which the subject of church revitalization came up. The speaker was from Lake Nokomis Presbyterian in Minneapolis. Like us, their membership is aging and dwindling. This congregation may have been looking in the "rear view mirror." The speaker changed the subject from "Church Revitalization" to "Church Death and Resurrection." The presentation addressed several issues that are present in all churches experiencing shrink. Statements were presented regarding common thought. The presenter made a list of these thoughts and then crossed them out with a good counter argument. Pay particular attention to see attitude and focus in this list. Interestingly, their attitude and outlook began to change.

Growth seems to be returning.

Here's the list:

1. Our glory days are over. God is doing something here and now that incorporates the past and leads us into the future.
2. We are too small and don't have enough money. We are exactly the right size and have all the resources we need for what God wants to do in and through us.
3. If you volunteer for something you will be stuck there for life! We all participate from our particularities and passions.
4. The same few people do all the work! We all share in the ministry of the church.

Conclusion: "This is God's ministry. How are you joining in the ministry of God?"

Chuck Swindoll wrote an article/story that truly summarizes everything. The poem is entitled "Attitude."

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important

than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it."
And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes"

Did you catch the part that says, "Attitude will make or break a company... a church (emphasis mine) a home?" We are currently hindered bringing visitors and younger people to our church following their first experience with us. They come as guests. They wish to become involved, but we offer nothing for them outside of Sunday services. They would love to participate in an evening activity since most are working families. We are resuming a weekly bible study, it is done during the noon hour missing the group to which I refer. While a great first step, we are still missing what working folks need. I am hoping we can start looking through the windshield again and start a weekday evening gathering involving both fellowship and bible study. But, it will need a willingness to support this endeavor.

I heard these encouraging words from several people on Easter Sunday. I've heard it before. "This church seems to be alive more today than in the past." It reflects a good attitude towards our desire to provide a Presbyterian presence in Bemidji. Let's make a promise to each other to keep our eyes fixed on the road ahead, to periodically look in the rear view mirror for lessons learned, to keep developing a good attitude and focus, and to continue serving our Lord through the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Chip



- 4 Juanita Bahr
- 17 Betty Murray
- 19 Grace Privratsky

- 27 Helen Spaulding
- 28 Irene Keil

Service Chair: KFC members will each take a Sunday			
Harry & Noemi Aylesworth	760-6119/760-4689	Donna Dickinson	751-2158
Morris & Judy Damp	444-7205	LeRoy & Lois Hill	760-1346
Gloria Phelps	444-6972	Velma Ward	444-5471

Communion in May:

Set-up: Bob & Nancy Weber

Serving/helping with clean up: Joan Forbes, Gloria Phelps, Libby Underhill, Barb McGregor, Joe Forbes

Set-Up: April: Bob & Nancy Weber

Serving/helping with clean up: Bob Weber, Gini Sande, LeRoy Hill, Brenda Miller, Joyce Ackerman

Head Usher: Cheryl Hiltz

	<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
May 5	Gloria Phelps		
May 12	Gloria Phelps		
May 19	Gloria Phelps		
May 26	Gloria Phelps	Dianne Roholt	Ruth Andersen



öMake the Changeö Benevolence

For the months of April, May, and June, the change that is collected will go towards the Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center of Bemidji.

Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women, men, and families facing not only unexpected and challenging pregnancies, but also everyday parenting challenges.

<http://www.bemidjipregnancyoptions.com/>

A baby bottle for your loose change will be located on the small table in the narthex. If this bottle becomes filled, we have additional bottles available. Let's see how many baby bottles we can fill!

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending March 31, 2019

Total Income	\$ 9,898.35
Total Expenses	\$11,252.78
Net Income	(1,354.43)
Memorial Fund	\$12,620.79
Endowment Fund	\$79,323.73

Sunday Worship

Attendance Report

April 7	= 40
April Communion Served—35	
April 14	= 61
April 21	= 51
April 28	=

First Presbyterian Church is beginning a **Bible Study**, beginning Tuesday, May 14 and running for 6 weeks through June 18. It will be at 12:00pm until 1:00pm in the conference room by the church of-fices. Please feel free to bring a bag lunch. Pastor Chip would like this first set of classes to focus on the topic of Presbyterianism.



WE NEED YOU!!

The First Presbyterian Church Choir has resumed. Our rehearsals will be at 9:00am before Church with Steve Saari leading.

If you wish to become a member of the choir, and we could use each and every-one of you, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113 or the church office at 444-5016. We even have a good time and a few giggles.

For all who worship at First Presbyterian, thank you. From our small congregation came a bounty for the Food Shelf. We brought 139 pounds of various supplies to help those in need. Awesome! In addition to this, the very generous amount of \$608 was given for the Fourth Sunday Benevolence. A heartfelt thank you to those who regularly give generously of their time to help “man” the 4th Wednesday shift at the Food Shelf store. They are: Becky Bastien, Kelly Burnetta, Donna Dickinson, Joe and Joan Forbes, Betty Hanson-Lehman, Cheryl Hiltz, Bonnie Miller, Gloria Phelps and Gini Sande. I am humbled. The Food Shelf thanks you and so do I. Godspeed, Linnea Mostad



Supper Club
will meet the month of
May at Sparkling Waters or Green Mill



Supper Club will be meeting the month of May at Sparkling Waters or at The Green Mill you need to choose.

Please sign up at the church office and tell us which one you would rather go to: by email or the sign up sheet on Sundays: presbji@paulbunyan.net—or—by phone; 444-5016.

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

All are welcome!

**4th Sunday Benevolence for May:
THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH**

“O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

~ Psalm 71:17

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

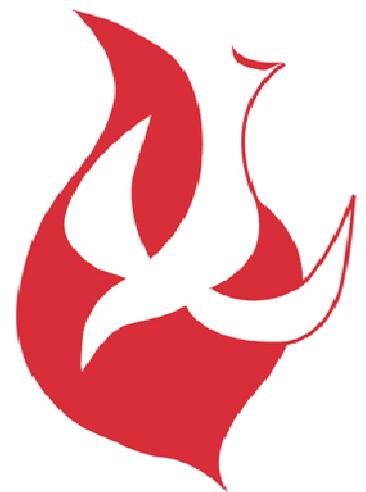
Each year on Pentecost Sunday (June 9, 2019), we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and *pointing us to the church of the future*.

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk
- Pentecost Offering Financials



When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you help to enrich the lives and deepen the faith of youth in your church and around the world. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
April 16, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on April 16, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Gloria Phelps, Libby Underhill,
Donna Dickinson, Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad
ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Cheryl Hiltz
OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Approved.

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the March session meeting were **approved with correction** of the date of communion from March 3 to March 10.

CORRESPONDENCE Received notice of Presbytery Meeting for May 4.

Letter from Scoutmaster Greg Roberts reported on outlets that were not operational.
Received check of \$5710.05 from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance for water damage from roof leaks.

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed. Sunday Worship Attendance corrections were made.
First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report April 16, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: Betty Favor Aug. 23, 1947 - April 1, 2019 Funeral at 2 p.m., Friday, April 5, at Olson -Schwartz Funeral Home in Bemidji. Pastor Mike Naylor officiant. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership:

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: April 7, 35 served. Serving: Palmer Berg, Gini Sande, Joe Forbes, Bob Weber

Membership as of April 16, 2019 76

Sunday Worship Attendance

March 3	6	March 31	47
March 10	30	April 7	35
March 17	50	April 14	61
March 24	37	April 21	51

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed and reviewed. Donna will close an Affinity account containing \$10. A brief review of permanent fund investment returns from 2017-2019 was presented. Balance sheet reports that show Endowment Funds as -restrictedø and -unrestrictedø are considered confusing since only Money Market Endowment Funds comprised of interest from investments are unrestricted. Cheryl and Donna will work to address this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg A church walk through was completed. Suggested needs will be prioritized at the next meeting. The matter of getting weekend snow removal has been referred to the committee.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Duane and Mary Hayes have been added to the Stewardship sub-committee. Keys have been transferred from outgoing session members to new ones.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad, Linnea will seek committee members.

A canvass of the congregation regarding Bible study was inconclusive. **MSP** to have Adult Education Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1:00 for six weeks May 14 through June 18. Participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Chip would like this first set of classes to focus on the topic of Presbyterianism.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill The Change Jar for the first quarter totaled \$42.

Funds for the next quarter will go to the Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center. A suggestion was given to the committee to consider having a church Open House.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps The committee is coordinating work with Shirlee. Palms from Palm Sunday will be burned for ashes. **MSP** to approve adult baptism of Ray Hamblein. 2 The adult baptism and reception of two new members will take place during the Motherø's Day service and Motherø's Day flowers will be handed out. Prospective members will meet with session prior to the worship service. **MSP** to accept Ray Hamblein and Donna Enfield into membership if the way be cleared.

OTHER BUSINESS

The charter school than inquired about our facility have chosen a different location.

Chip will be out of the office April 30-May7.

There will be no communion in May.

Chip will serve on a Presbytery committee to find and identify pulpit supply pastors.

Chipø's contract with First Presbyterian will be in review by Presbytery, then it will be referred back to us.

Next Meeting: May 21 at 2:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lordø's Prayer led by Pastor Chip at 3:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

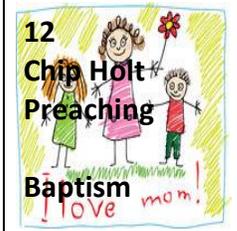
Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays
 10:00 Worship
 Service
 11:00 Fellowship

May 2019



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			<p>1 6:30-Calvary Chapel</p>	<p>2 Chip gone to Presbytery Meeting until May 9.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Tony Peffer Preaching No Communion</p>	<p>6 5pm-Bells 6pm-Scouts</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6:30-Calvary Chapel</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Chip Holt Preaching Baptism I love mom! Mother's Day</p> 	<p>13 6pm-Scouts</p>	<p>14 12pm-1pm Bible Study **2pm-Session Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:30-Calvary Chapel</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 5:30 Supper Club @ The Sparkling Waters or Green Mill?</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Chip Holt Preaching</p>	<p>20 6pm-Scouts</p>	<p>21 12pm-1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>22 6:30-Calvary Chapel</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Tony Peffer Preaching</p>	<p>27 Office Closed Memorial Day  Don't forget to remember</p>	<p>28 12pm-1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>29 6:30-Calvary Chapel</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	