

# November



## Chip's Chatter

As I write this edition of the newsletter, I can't believe we are beginning to talk about Thanksgiving and the coming Advent Season. It seems like only yesterday we were decorating the church for Advent.

One other major event always occurs in the fall and is usually not treated with much fanfare. In some churches, the fall stewardship drive is just another event we must work our way through until we get to the fun of the Holiday Season.

For the past two years, we have adopted a radically new way of treating our fall stewardship campaign and building of the next year's budget. You will recall the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program approaches stewardship by asking members and attenders "What percentage of your income do you feel God is calling you to give?" From there, the results are quantified and a new budget created. We then operate our church within that budget after recording all types of income we receive. This stewardship program asks people to grow spiritually by giving a percentage of their income to the Lord's work through their congregation.

The alternate, or perhaps previous method, required us to build a budget first, then ask for money to implement the budget. The problem is simply trying to get agreement between the church's vision and the congregation's willingness to support it. The new system of New Consecration Sunday puts God at the center

and is an individual's response to the calling they are hearing from God.

By the time you read this, we will have kicked off the campaign on Oct 27. As it was last year, you will receive periodic mailings and will have time to discern your response. Your response is purely between you and the Lord.

Sometimes, external factors may enter into someone's decision. Sometimes those factors are not fully understood and can have a negative impact on our decision. I won't beat around the bush. Some people say "Why should I give to this campaign since we have this huge Endowment Fund on which to draw." So let's briefly review what the endowment fund is and what it is not.

Many members who have gone before us donated funds to First Presbyterian Church. The funds were donated by many members over a long period of time. A few years ago, some wise members decided to place the funds into an Endowment Fund managed by an investment firm. The purpose is to ensure the survivability of FPC in the face of shrinking membership. There are significant protections placed on the use of the Endowment Fund. Simply stated, it can only be used if the church is on fire and we have to buy the water.

The Endowment Fund works for us. It creates interest which is deposited into a special checking account and access is controlled by the Session. The purpose of this resource is

to accommodate budget busters+ throughout the year. When we calculate our budget each year, the Session never includes this interest because it is driven by the investment account. Our annual budget is based on income we receive from the Bemidji School District (Gym rental), rental fees resulting from use of our facility, Sunday offerings, and pledges from the Congregation to the operating budget of the church.

Many churches use this form of investing to ensure survival. The wonderful group of visionaries in our church took great care in creating this system+. I hope this explains the purpose of the Endowment Fund and gives you a better understanding of its use. Feel free to ask for more information at any time.

### **From the Stewardship Committee**

First Presbyterian's stewardship program is based on a spiritual-growth-oriented process designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, the experience concentrates on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development.

The program will culminate on Consecration Sunday, November 24 when we will each make our private financial commitment as an act of worship in the church sanctuary. A catered Celebration Luncheon at (will be announced at a later date) will follow worship.

As we prepare for this stewardship Sunday, personal Bible study regarding stewardship may be aided by this list of important Scripture readings:

Exodus 25:2 . Giving with a willing heart  
 Exodus 36:2-7 . Giving to the Lord in overabundance  
 1 Chronicles 29: 3-4 . Personal treasures given to temple  
 1 Chronicles 29: 14 . Giving back to God what God has given to us  
 Psalm 37: 21,26 . Giving generously  
 Psalm 50:23 . Value of sacrifice and offering  
 Psalm 54:6-7 . Giving out of gratitude for deliverance  
 Psalm 112:5 . Blessings on generous people  
 Proverbs 3:9-10 . Honor the Lord with ones wealth  
 Proverbs 22:9 . Blessing for generous man  
 Malachi 3:8-10 . Stealing from God  
 Matthew 5:23-24 . Giving with clean heart  
 Matthew 6:2-4 . Private stewardship  
 Matthew 6:19-21 . Treasures on earth and treasures in heaven  
 Matthew 23:23 . Fullest measure of giving  
 Mark 4:24-25 . Those given much and those given little  
 Mark 12:13-17 . Paying taxes to government  
 Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4 . Widow's small offering  
 Luke 3:11 . Sharing with others  
 Luke 6:38 . Abundance repays those who give  
 Luke 12:33-34 . Selling ones possessions for the poor  
 Acts 10:2 . Devout centurion  
 1 Corinthians 4:2 . Need to prove faithful  
 Hebrews 13:16 . Share with others  
 1 Peter 4:10 . Using ones gifts for the good of others

Let each of us pray for God's guidance as we get ready to answer the spiritual question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

# NOVEMBER

- 3 Suzy Langhout
- 26 LeRoy Hill
- 29 Bob Hiltz



## Communion in November: Set Up:

**Serving/helping with clean-up:** Barb McGregor, Dixie Wirkus, Betty Hanson-Lehman, Donna Dickinson, Bill Beck

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCH? NAME THE PLACES!



1.



2



4



5



6



7



8

- 1. Communion Table
- 2 Lectern
- 3 Pulpit
- 4 Altar
- 5 Baptismal Font
- 6 Nave
- 7 Narthex
- 8 Chapel

Don't forget to call the church office if you are interested in bringing flowers for the Sanctuary. and thank you to all who add the beauty of flowers to our worship.

## From the Outreach Committee –

### Name Tags

It has been exciting to have guests attend our Sunday services! This has become nearly a weekly event. To be even more welcoming, the Outreach Committee is asking that members please wear their nametags each and every Sunday. This will help our guests put a name to a face. We will also have nametags available for guests so that members can quickly learn their names, also.

Thank you!



**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending Sept 30, 2019**

**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$12,778.45
Total Expenses	\$9,001.64
Net Income	\$3,776.81

**Thank you** for supporting our church

**Sunday Worship Attendance Report**

**Oct 6.....50**  
**Oct 13.....45**  
**Oct 20.....40**

**November Service Chair: Dianne Roholt 444-2859**

Joyce Ackerman	218-407-0869	Harry & Noemi Aylesworth	760-6119, 760-4689
Morris & Judy Damp	444-7205	Donna Dickinson	751-2158
Gloria Phelps	444-6972		

**Head Usher—Linnea Mostad**

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
November 3	Gloria Phelps	Donna Dickinson	Bill Beck
November 10	Gloria Phelps	Terri Murray	Libby Underhill
November 17	Gloria Phelps	Gini Sande	Ruth Andersen
November 24	Gloria Phelps	Barb McGregor	Dianne Roholt

**Our church choir is back singing.**



If you love to sing, come and join us. We rehearse at 9am on Sundays before church. **We need you and welcome you!!**



**Help us, O Lord, when we want to do the right thing, but know not what it is. But help us most when we know perfectly well what we ought to do, and do not want to do it. Amen.**

***Peter Marshall***



**SUPPER CLUB**  
5:30 on November 15 at  
Tutto Bene\$



***Supper Club will be meeting Friday,  
November 15 @ Tutto Bene's, 300 Beltrami Ave. NW***

Please sign up at the church office: by email [presbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:presbji@paulbunyan.net)—or—by phone; 444-5016 or the sign up sheet on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.

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

**All are welcome!**

# November Benevolence Presbyterian Peacemaking Program



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**“Peace at all times in all ways.”**

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

Our November benevolence will be to one of the Presbyterian Special Offerings known as the Peace and Global Witness offering. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world.

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, a mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a program of Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries, in urgent response to the overwhelming culture of violence in our world is working toward...

**Transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace.**

**Responding to communities to inspire new approaches to active peacemaking and**

**equipping God’s people to be compassionate and prophetic peacemakers.**

The Peace & Global Witness Offering challenges us to look at the world not as a place where conflict is inevitable, but where Christ’s peace is possible.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking>

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**You are cordially invited to the EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR  
for JOEL ROBERTS,**

Troop 4025, Bemidji, Minnesota, Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2508 Washington Ave SE, Bemidji, MN 56601.

RSVP to Gay Albers: [revupnorth@gmail.com](mailto:revupnorth@gmail.com)

Reception to follow



# Our session at work for you

## First Presbyterian Church Bemidji, MN October 15, 2019

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on October 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Gloria Phelps, Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad, Libby Underhill, Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz

**ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

### QUORUM DECLARED

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA Approved

**MEETING MINUTES** The minutes from the September session meeting were **approved**.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Letters of thanks were received from Northwoods Caregivers and Support Within Reach.

**CLERK'S REPORT** was reviewed.

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

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths :None

New Members: Jarad Syrstad and Kate Bartlett

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: Oct. 6 -49 served Serving: Cheryl Hiltz, Duane & Mary Hayes, Linnea Mostad, Gloria Phelps

Membership as of October 15, 2019 76

**Sunday Worship Attendance** Sept. 29 - 47; October 6 - 50; October 13 - 45

**FINANCIAL REPORT** The financial report was distributed and reviewed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report.

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Palmer Berg There is now a leak in the church entry. Roof leak analysis continues.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz **Recommendation to Session:** Add the Purchasing Packet that was presented to the MOO (Manual of Operations). **Approved. Recommendation to Session:** Use the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program again this year. **Approved. Recommendation to Session:** Move the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to the last Sunday of January. **Approved. Recommendation to Session:** Change the reporting year for the Endowment Fund to January to December. **Approved.**

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Activity books for children are available to be used during worship.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill No meeting was held.

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps An All Saints Day service honoring those who have passed on during the last year will be held November 3. Veteran's Recognition will be held November 10. The flower chart in the fellowship hall will no longer be used. Notices about flowers will be put in the newsletter.

**Computer** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz A review of the church computer has begun in order to assess possible needs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

A missing church key was found.

The session contact person for the Kitchen Committee and Shepherding will be Cheryl Hiltz.

**Next Meeting:** November 19 at 2:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Chip at 3:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays

10:00 Worship  
Service

11:00 Fellowship

# November 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Chip Holt Preaching	4 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	5	6 12:00 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	7  6:30 Seekers	8	9
10 Chip Holt Preaching	11 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	12	13 12:00 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	14 3-7 Hope House Dinner 6:30 Seekers	15  5:30 Supper Club @ Tutto Bene	16
17 Peter Nordquist Preaching	18 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	19 **2pm- Session Meeting	20 12:00 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	21  6:30 Seekers	22	23
24 Chip Holt Preaching Consecration Sunday	25 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00-Scouts	26	27 No Seekers 6:30 Calvary	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30