



Chip's Chatter

Humility. Gratitude. Attitude and Grace.

The title of this article is "Humility, Attitude, Gratitude, and Grace." In it, I hope to help us discover how all of these words are interrelated and how they seem to follow a certain pattern.

I was thinking about gratitude the other day. Perhaps as a result of a newsletter from friends or a sign in front of a church. Either way, it got me thinking about my own gratitude and thankfulness I feel for the events in my life and the people who have helped shape me. I am especially thankful to First Presbyterian Church for their outpouring of friendship to all who come through the doors of the church. The most recent example of my gratitude comes from the 15 anonymous donors who gave a total of \$ 19,200 for our new sound system. Many of those gifts were given as some form of memorial. I hesitate to list the specific names for fear of violating anonymity. In general, gifts were given in memory of spouses, children, and grandchildren. Several gifts were given in memory of Betty and George Murray. Still other were given with no reason specified. One gift came on behalf of the choir; past, present, and future. Other gifts came with the statement, "I like the direction the church is going." We all should be grateful for the do-

nors generosity to sustain and maintain our worship experience.

I also took the opportunity to reflect on something I discovered shortly after my parent's passing in 2008. For years, my mother had maintained a "Gratitude Journal" in which she wrote about the day to day reasons for her gratitude. Not the big events like a sound system. But rather how people had made her day and life special. There were the obvious entries of gratitude for my Dad and his caring for her. There were statements about her gratitude for health and her Doctor. She recalled kindnesses done by a neighbor as well as kindness shown by a clerk in a department store. While these are all wonderful stories and a prized look into my mother's character, I think there is far more to gratitude than we think.

Let's begin with a review of humility. You might recall we talked about humility during our worship on September 1st using a parable of Jesus. In the discussion we learned humility begins with our relationship to God and how a humble person always has God at the center. We learned the importance of listening to others and the concept of "enoughness." We also discovered the opposite of humility is arrogance and pride. The irony, you will recall, is if we have humility we are destined for greatness because we are

destined for God.

It is from the humble heart, we develop a proper attitude towards others and toward life. We accept ourselves as we are, including our strengths and weaknesses. We know our limitations and we know we can never be “perfect”. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. A humble attitude allows us to fully accept those that are different from us. We learn to have dialog with whom we differ by not trying to impose our view but rather to seek clarity and understanding of the other’s position or thoughts. It is from this perspective we begin to experience gratitude for everything that makes up our life experience, including our differences with others.

Gratitude is more than a simple thankfulness. It is broader than that. Through humility and attitude, we are enabled to see all of life as a gift from the Creator. When we approach the Bible with a humble heart, and an attitude of gratitude, we immediately see God’s love for each of us, no matter what our circumstances or sinfulness. We now more fully appreciate the saving work of Jesus done on the cross for our benefit. That work came at a great price. The sacrifice of God’s only son. By accepting Jesus, we have entered into the realm of Grace. As our Book of Order says, we are saved “By Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone.”

Paul tells us we are saved by grace alone and not by works “lest any man should boast.”

It is with a deep sense of gratitude we should enter into worship. Sometimes I am overcome with gratitude to the point of tears. The tremendous price and love of God expressed through the cross of Jesus can touch my heart as nothing else can. When I realize my own sinfulness and how Jesus has made it possible

for me to be with the Father, I can’t help but be humbled by His loving care for me and for us.

You see, all these words: humility, attitude, gratitude, and grace for a sort of “circle.”

Our humility affects our attitude

Our attitude affects our gratitude,

Our gratitude affects our understanding of Grace.

It is Grace that is the foundation of humility.

Sadly, while arrogance and pride are the opposite of humility, the opposite of gratitude is a sense of entitlement. Everywhere we turn these days we see people artificially creating “rights” that do not exist in our constitution. We see people asking for special treatment when they demand “they have a right.....” Once we go down the path of entitlement, gratitude goes out the window because we expect that we deserve everything we get. This is human secularism at its core. Nothing about grace. Nothing about humility. Nothing about attitude expect “give me, give me.” When we adopt that attitude and apply it to the bible, we come up with idea that God is our puppet and we are the puppeteer asking God to “dance and give us what we feel we are entitled to receive.” A sense of entitlement is, perhaps, at the core of a lack of theological understanding.

Let us all make an effort to develop humility leading to an attitude of gratitude that leads us closer to the Grace of God. We must also remember these words from the Book of Order: “The sacraments are the means of Grace that unite us to the living Christ.” Keep focused on God’s Grace and the others will follow. Try thinking about Grace as we remember our baptism when we celebrate the Eucharist together.

OCTOBER

- 1 Joyce Ackerman
- 5 Naomi Lowth
- 9 Dona Mae Naylor
- 15 Ken Paulson



Communion in October: Set Up: TBD

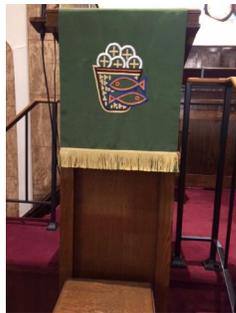
Serving/helping with clean-up: Duane & Mary Hayes, Gloria Phelps, Cheryl Hiltz, LeRoy Hill



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



1.



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

Answers in November

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending July 31, 2019

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$11,073.16
Total Expenses	9,434.70
Net Income	1,638.46

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance Report

Sept 1	50
Sept 8	40
Sept 15	38
Sept 22	41

October Service Chair: Brenda Miller 766-3053

Duane & Mary Hayes	218-694-2290	Loren Kimmes	751-1971
Arlene Lee	586-2857	Dianne Roholt	444-2859
Raymond Hamblin & Donna Enfield	444-9002		

Head Usher—Donna Dickinson

	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
October 6	Linnea Mostad	Betty Hanson-Lehman
October 13	Terry Murray	Bill Beck
October 20	Gloria Aylesworth	Ruth Andersen
October 27	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!!

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 16th at 1:30 at Raphaels. This is open to all women of the church and all are invited to attend.



SUPPER CLUB
5:30 on October 18 at
Applebees+



***Supper Club will be meeting Friday,
October 18th @ Applebees.***

Please sign up at the church office: by email 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!



Our 4th Sunday Benevolence For October Nameless Coalition for the Homeless -or- The Wolfe Center

A nighttime shelter for chronic homeless people struggling with chemical dependency. Able to house 16 people during the winter months. Serving single adults 18+ years old, male or female. Open 8:00am – 8:00pm each day. Showers and laundry facilities are available on site. Clients CAN be intoxicated upon arrival. Thanks to a recent boost in funding, the organization now has a formal executive director. Reed Olson, who long served as the nonprofit's chair, was hired into a more formal half-time role. The new position isn't the only change thanks to the increase in dollars, though, as the organization will now be able to keep its overnight shelter, The Wolfe Center, open for more weeks than before.

The Wolfe has consistently offered shelter for more than 400 guests in the winter months. According to reports given to the Bemidji City Council from the organization, the 2016-2017 winter had 400 individuals stay and the 2017-2018 winter offered shelter to 424 people.

In years past, the shelter was open from October through April. However, this year and for the foreseeable future, the Wolfe will be open in September through May. Olson said this year, the Wolfe was open for the season at 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16.

"We were saying when we had enough money, we would stay open longer," Olson said. "May and September, like we're seeing now, can be cold and rainy. People can still succumb to hypothermia when it's above freezing. Our guests may already have compromised immune systems. So we've always wanted to stay open longer. Now we have the funds to do so."

"When you look at the services we provide, you'd be hard pressed to find an organization that could do what we do at the amount we've spent," Olson said. "We served more than 400 people through last season with over 2,000 night stays. Some years we've done it for a lot less. The year before our budget was south of \$100,000. We'll get the job done however we can, but it can be a lot more difficult."

Remember these are people who have fallen on hard times. They are our neighbors with stories, gifts and problems. Financial donations are also welcome. Checks can be made to Nameless Coalition for the Home-less, PO Box 353, Bemidji, MN 56619



Our session at work for you

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
September 24, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on September 24, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened 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 with the addition of 'Other' items: Committees, Hope House Request, Scout Request

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

CORRESPONDENCE Email for Buildings & Grounds Committee; Restore receipt for donation of small shed; Notice of upcoming Presbytery Meeting Oct. 25 & 26

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

Clerk's Report

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report September 24, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: None

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: September 1 44 served Serving: Joe Forbes, Joyce Ackerman, Joan Forbes, Mary Lou Miller, Betty Hanson-Lehman

Membership as of September 24, 2019 74

Sunday Worship Attendance Aug. 25 – 38, Sept. 1 - 50, Sept. 8 – 40, Sept. 15 – 38, Sept. 22 - 41

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed and reviewed. The lighting project paid for itself by the end of July. **RECOMMENDED TO SESSION:** Add a Payroll Guideline Sheet to the Manual of Operations (MOO). **Approved.** A 'Contractor Packet' will be assembled to ensure all important information is received from contractors. Session consensus was to set up a committee to assess computer needs, members to include Treasurer Cheryl Hiltz, Administrative Assistant Shirlee Harold, and Bookkeeper Lyn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson **Approved:** Organist Steve Saari requested a \$25

per time increase. This will be made retroactive to September 1.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg **Recommendation to Session:** Accept the bid from The Caulkers Company for \$6300 to caulk masonry. **Session Response:** Another bid will be sought. **Recommendation to Session:** Accept the bid from Pete Lund for north entry gutter installation and drainage extension in the NW corner of the CE wing. **Approved** with the total cost not to exceed \$500. Palmer is to first verify the veracity of the bid.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Stewardship drive planning will commence soon.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Seekers group for fall will be held weekly with the same topic being used Wednesdays at noon and Thursday evenings at 6 pm. The starting dates are October 16 and 17.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill The October-December 'Make A Change' collection will be for the Salvation Army.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps The 2020 Communion Servers list is in progress and candle maintenance volunteers are in place.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jarad Syrstad and Kate Bartlett will be brought into church membership on October 13.

Chip is now certified to do premarital counseling.

A Yearly Task List was distributed that will be useful to committee chairpersons.

A session retreat for discussion and idea sharing will be held on October 5.

Approved: Hope House request to hold their annual Thanksgiving Dinner here November 14, 3-7 PM.

Approved: Scout request for a Lock In to be held January 10.

A session contact person will be set up for the Kitchen Committee and those doing Shepherding activities to simplify their communication with Session.

The Christian Education committee will take over the care of the children's activity bags for worship services. The Mary-Martha circle continues to be active.

Next Meeting: October 15 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 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Once again our thanks go to Jan Kuleta for sharing her talents
by sharing the flowers she grows to
brighten our Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship!



To those of us who don't have a green thumb, if you would like to offer flowers for someone's birthday or in honor of a friend or family member you may call Shirlee in the church office with the person's name and the date the flowers will arrive.

Thanks a bunch!
The Worship Committee

Sundays

10:00 Worship
Service

11:00 Fellowship

October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Chip Holt Preaching	7 Meals on Wheels 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	8 Meals on Wheels	9 Meals on Wheels 6:30 Calvary	10 Meals on Wheels	11 Meals on Wheels	12
13 Chip Holt Preaching	14 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	15 **2pm- Session	16 6:30 Calvary	17	18 5:30 Supper Club Applebees	19
20 Chip Holt Preaching	21 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	22	23 6:30 Calvary	24	25	26
27 Tony Pepper Preaching	28 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00-Scouts	29	30 6:30 Calvary	31		