

## Chip's Chatter



James 4: 8a

**<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you.**

Jeremiah 29: 12-14

**<sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."**

This month's newsletter can be entitled: "Drawing Close to God – or – Intimacy with the Almighty." I chose this topic as many of us are facing the coming of fall and the start of school with all its uncertainties and rhetoric. We also face the uncertainties of the upcoming election cycle and the onslaught of political ads. One of the ways to survive this hectic period of time is to "Come near to God" for help, reassurance, confidence, and hope. The above scriptures make it extremely clear we always need to draw closer to God, but for some of us, it seems that times of turmoil bring us to a time to "be with God." It doesn't matter the issue or the time of year. We can always, and should always, draw close to God.

Some might ask, "How do I do that?" Well, the answers are as varied as there are people asking the question. Some people begin their process of drawing close to God by arriving at church a bit early and simply sitting in the sanctuary. Early arrival has the benefit of allowing us to look at all the reminders of our faith contained in the Sanctuary: The Chancel containing the choir loft, organ, pulpit and lectern from which we hear the word of God. The Narthex where we gather before worship with our friends and guests. The stained glass windows in the Nave (Sanctuary) and especially the Rose window, with the petals representing the unfolding of the revelation of God. The Cross. The Communion Table.

Still others find a private quiet and special place in which to clear their minds of the outside world. This is a place free from all the distractions of life including people. Still others find a quiet meditative walk to have similar affect. Caution, the golf course or fishing boat or sailboat is not necessary the place to which I am referring!

Our prayers during these time should be short, allowing time to reflect on God's work in our lives. As Benedict of Nursia in the 4<sup>th</sup> century said, we should "listen with the ear

of our heart." You can only do this when completely alone with God. But, people sometimes ask "I should I pray?" Is there a way to do it?

Years ago I was taught this acronym: "ACTS". We begin our prayer with Adoration of God. Next, is Confession where we confess our sins in our own words. The "T" stands for Thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received including the people God has placed into our lives. Finally, the "S" stand for Supplication which literally means "to plead humbly." It is here was ask for help or intervention. It carries with it, however, a sense of awe or adoration. If you break down our worship service on Sunday mornings, you will find all these elements and in nearly that same order.

The whole point is to develop intimacy with the Almighty. Church Swindoll has some great ideas on this subject; He states we should strive for Simplicity, Silence, Solitude (that leads to Serenity), and Surrender. Surrender, from his point of view is to "humbly surrender" where we say "I want the Father's will for my life." During this time of intimacy, we should ask God for a vision of what our surrender will accomplish. Contained within this intimacy with the Father is a process. Swindoll goes on to write, it is the process of letting go of our possessions, our position, our plans, and our people.

Swindoll further states intimacy with God is the closest of all relationships. It is where we can be "blatantly honest, completely open, and able to share our deepest fear or our most frightening thoughts without shame or risk of rejection. This is the heart of a personal relationship with God.

I wonder how much of this would apply to our personal relationships, especially our spouses. How many of us can truly say we follow Swindoll's definition in our close relationships.

The intimacy I am talking about just doesn't happen instantly. It doesn't happen once and then forgotten. It must be developed over time. It doesn't happen just on Sunday morning. It doesn't happen by watching church on TV. You must constantly work at it!!

Some get intimidated by the effort and have a tendency to draw back or pull away. The only solution is to make this intimacy with God the highest priority in our lives. Citing the examples found at the beginning of this article, you can see our efforts will be rewarded. As we draw closer to God, he will draw close to us. And, even though times may change, he is still with us even when he is correcting us of our sinful behavior. His love never fails. Through this kind of intimacy, we can truly say,

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

HOW DOES YOUR STORY END?

# A peek into your congregation.

## A TRIBUTE TO HELEN SPAULDING WHO PASSED AWAY JULY 7, 2022

Helen was born on May 27, 1925 in Crookston to Lloyd Swisdal and Ruth Stay. She was delivered at her grandmother's home by a Doctor. Helen lived and attended schools in the following areas. Calumet, Minnesota kindergarten; Seattle, Washington 1st grade; Crookston, MN, 2nd grade through 9th grade; Bemidji, MN, 10th grade through 12 grade where she graduated from High School in 1943. Hibbing, MN where she attended Junior College. Helen graduated from Moorhead State Teachers College, August 15, 1947 with a BS in Art and History. At the time she attended MSTC, the student enrollment was mostly women, due to the war and the facilities consisted of 2 connected buildings.

Helen and Gordon Skaar were married August 27, 1948 in Moorhead, MN. Four children were born to this family, Vicki, Bob, Tom and Gordy. The family lived in various cities in Michigan and Minnesota. They moved to Bemidji in 1972 where they established the Skaar Distributing Company. While in Bemidji, they belonged to the First Presbyterian Church, the Bemidji Town and Country Club, and donated or pledged many building projects at the Church and North Country Hospital. They donated to establish a maternity waiting room at the Hospital. They founded the Skaar Pabst Golf Tournament to provide scholarships for the athletes at Bemidji State University. This tournament has continued for 45 years and is still ongoing. Gordon passed away in 1992 and the tournament is now called the Gordy Skaar Memorial Tournament. The couple enjoyed traveling and golf trips in retirement.

Helen married Buster (Willis J. Spaulding) on July 26th 1995 in Crookston, MN. They made their home in Bemidji, Buster was the owner of Spaulding

Motors. They were members of the Bemidji Town and Country Club and actively enjoyed and supported the community and BSU Arts. They donated through pledges and donations to North Country Hospital and a piano room in the Music Department of Bemidji State University. Helen supported Minnesota State University, Moorhead and the Arts department. They made many trips to Europe and the USA, where they met many interesting people. They especially enjoyed the trips and cruises sponsored by Bemidji State. In 1946, Helen was the Northwest Water Carnival Queen in Detroit Lakes, MN. She went on to the Minneapolis Aquatennial Pageant where she was a finalist. Helen taught Art in Fargo, Lansing, and Edina Public Schools. She taught Art and History in the Bemidji Middle School and retired in 1980. She enjoyed playing golf and bridge, the arts, teaching school and caring for her family. Helen belonged to the Hospital Auxiliary, PEO, and the Presbyterian Church in Bemidji. Her involvement in the Church included Clerk of Session, the Search Committee for the new pastor, and President of the Corinthian Circle.

We are coming to the end of our Peek into the congregation. If you have not sent in your bio's and would still like to participate, please feel free to do so. We would love to hear from you.

Vera Weis has moved to a new address—  
Vera Weis  
Edgewood Baxter Memory Care, 14211 Firewood  
Drive #6, Baxter, MN 56425  
She would love to receive cards

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 6-31-2022**

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

Total Income	\$ 5,229.27
Total Expenses	\$ 8,123.36
Net Income	\$(2,894.09)

**Thank you** for supporting our church

**Sunday Worship Attendance**

July 24	30
July 31	26
Aug 7	29
Aug 14	28
Aug 21	23



- Aug 9 Judy Damp
- Aug 12 Mary Hayes
- Aug 17 Lois Hill
- Aug 20 Marlin Kimmes
- Aug 22 Gini Sande



If we have left off your birthday, please let the office know, 444-5016

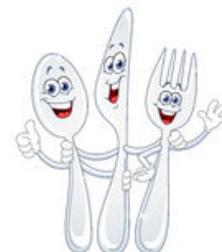
<b>September Head Usher:</b>	<b>Terri Murray</b>	
	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<b>Sept 4</b>	<b>Linda Wagner</b>	<b>Gini Sande</b>
<b>Sept 11</b>	<b>Bill Beck</b>	<b>Shirlee Harold</b>
<b>Sept 18</b>	<b>Dianne Roholt</b>	<b>Mary Lou Miller</b>
<b>Sept 25</b>	<b>Mary Hayes</b>	<b>Duane Hayes</b>

<b>Serving Communion</b>	Gloria Phelps
<b>Setting up Communion</b>	Bob and Linda Wagner



# Supper Club

**At**  
**5:30**  
**Rutgers**



**Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, September 15th**

Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 444-2859 for your reservations!

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

**All are welcome!**

## Bemidji Meals on Wheels



Nonprofit that provides balanced meals and socialization in a warm caring setting and meals on wheels to the elderly homebound, enabling them to continue living in their own homes

What does meals on Wheels do?

Meals-on-wheels service is a critical component of the continuum of care services that enable older people to remain living in the community or to return to their own homes after hospitalisation.

Who is eligible for Meals on Wheels NSW?

You're 65 years or older, Are registered for My Aged Care, Are registered with the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), or. Are younger with a disability and registered under National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Consistent well-balanced meals can boost your immune system, reduce your risk for many health-related conditions and prevent the need for premature nursing home or assisted living care.

Our affordable meals are available to older adults age 60 and older for a suggested donation.

Our volunteers personally greet and get to know each person when they deliver the fresh, hot meals. Older adults enjoy the friendly, personal interaction which for many is the only person they see or speak to all day.

Family members gain peace of mind in knowing that someone is checking on their loved one daily. If the delivery volunteer notices anything of concern, with the older adult's permission, we can notify family members.

Our volunteers personally greet and get to know each person when they deliver the fresh, hot meals. Older adults enjoy the friendly, personal interaction which for many is the only person they see or speak to all day.

Family members gain peace of mind in knowing that someone is checking on their loved one daily. If the delivery volunteer notices anything of concern, with the older adult's permission, we can notify family members.



# Your session at work

**First Presbyterian Church**      **APPROVED: 8-16-22**

**Bemidji, MN**  
**July 13, 2022**

Chip conducted a telephone vote for the session to approve the use of the church’s Fellowship Hall on July 22, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The group that will be using the hall is part of the Class of 1960 All School Reunion. They were originally planning to use the Headwaters School of Music, but due to a double booking problem, Headwaters asked the church if we could accommodate.

Terri is working here that Friday and will be our on site representative.

The Session placed a limitation of no alcohol and no use of the kitchen.

The money the group had planned to pay Headwaters will be given to the church to cover additional costs of having the group here.

The vote was a unanimous YES.

**First Presbyterian Church**      **APPROVED: 8-16-22**

**Bemidji, MN**  
**July 19, 2022**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Fellowship Hall on July 19, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, and Gloria Phelps.

**QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - MSP to approve

**MEETING MINUTES** - MSP to approve the minutes from the June Session meeting as corrected.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**CLERK’S REPORT**

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk’s Report - July 19, 2022

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Deaths:** 1 (Helen Spaulding)

**New Members:** None

**Return to Active Membership:** None

**Request Transfer of Membership:** None

**Removed from Membership Roll:** 0

**Communion:** July 3, 2022: 32 served

**Membership** as of July 19, 2022: 68

**Sunday Worship Attendance:**

June 26th: 30	July 3rd: 32	July 10th: 18	July 17 <sup>th</sup> : 22
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**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Finances from June were reviewed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson; no report

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Terri Murray; Guardian Pest Control serviced the church – seems to have solved the problem; broken window repaired; gate fixed at back of church; received estimate for painting wooden doors - **MSP** for Terri to proceed with this project; still trying to receive landscapers’ estimates on improving the curb appeal of the church.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that she and Chip will attend a Zoom presentation on possible educational materials for

the Seekers class.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in June. Meals on Wheels schedule is as follows: August 22-26 (conflict with serving the Food Shelf), October 31-November 4, January 23-27 (conflict with serving the Food Shelf). Linnea is working on resolving the schedule conflicts.

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; First City Singers will sing at the August 7<sup>th</sup> service.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Computer Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

**Kitchen Fellowship Committee:** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

**Nominating Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; No report

### **New BUSINESS**

Vacation Request from Chip – **MSP** to approve July 21-31<sup>st</sup> as vacation for Chip. Pulpit supply has been obtained for the two Sundays.

Section 8 Housing and the Homeless on Sunday – discussion was held regarding the possible increase in homelessness due to lack of housing and the impact this could have on the church. A recent incident was discussed. It was decided to have the head usher lock the front door after locking the back door during the church service for safety purposes.

All School Reunion – discussion was held regarding the last minute request for use of the Fellowship Hall.

**Next Meeting:** August 16th at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 2:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill, Clerk of Session

## Christian One Liners

"To get back to my youth, I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable." Oscar Wilde

"Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your retirement home." Phyllis Diller

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me—they're cramming for their final exam." George Carlin

As I get older I realize sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

"You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." George Burns

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." Andy Rooney

I'm sitting in my lounge chair watching TV, NCIS.

My TV remote is next to my chair.

My computer is on, in case I need it.

My printer is on in case I need it.

My iPad, my iPhone, and my land line are on my chair side table, in case I need them.

Is there something wrong with this picture?

**Sundays**  
**10:00 am**  
**Worship**  
**11:00am**  
**Fellowship**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	5 	6 	7	8	9	10
11 Pastor Chip	12 7pm Scouts	13	14	15 5:30pm Supper Club At Rutgers	16	17
18 Pastor Chip Fellowship	19 7pm Scouts	20 1:00 pm Session Mtg.	21	22	23	24
25 Lori Kangas Olson	26 7pm Scouts	27	28	29	30	



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