

THE VALLEY BRIDGE



June 23, 2015

**JUNE 28: 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Active Life

Fellowship of Prayer: First Presbyterian Church of Slayton

Music Director/Organist: Cathy Magnus

Sunday School Superintendent: Leslie Wajer

Secretary – Treasurer: Jannette Carlson

Clerk of Session: Nola Annenson

Moderator: Pastor Lynne Matthews

Pastoral Leader: Dave Hollis

Ruling Elders: Ron Behrends, Barb Bergman, Gail, Johnson, Bud Kooiman, Shannon Pederson

Deacons/Trustees: Kevin Annenson, Bruce Haken, Craig Johanson, Cal Johnson



Prayer Concerns:

- Shut ins and those who are fighting illness
- Six of our youth who are going to Summer Camp—that they will be blessed and inspired
- Four of our youth who will be in the next Confirmation Class beginning in September
- For our Sunday School teachers as they prepare for new classes in September
- For healing, wholeness, comfort and encouragement for all including the following: Lorraine Van Klei, Peggy Southwick, Arlys Post, Gary Woitaszewski, Maxwell Ray, Janese Knips, Ellen Parker

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THE WORD FROM RICK: "REFLECTIONS"



Where do I begin? The fatal shooting of nine Christian brothers and sisters at the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina continues to stagger the minds and hearts of people across this land.

Once again, "mankind's inhumanity to mankind" has reared its ugly head in our midst, and we are reminded of how real the presence of evil is in our world.

For me, one of the most distressing parts of this tragedy is the rhetoric that has followed the events of last Wednesday evening. I don't know about you, but beyond the shock and sadness, the greatest emotion I have felt has been anger. I have found myself angered, not only by the fact that nine lives have been so callously taken, but angered by many of the words that have been spoken - words that have trivialized this event, or shifted it to reflect a particular political or social point of view. In the flurry of words, I feel that the underlying cause of this tragedy has been forgotten - hate.

Maybe I am being too simplistic or naïve, and maybe I am failing to see all the complexities that exist in the moment, but in my mind the actions of the shooter on Wednesday evening were motivated by hate and Dylann Roof's hatred for those who were different from him . . . and I am afraid that he is not alone.

It has become too easy for people to hate, because it doesn't take the same amount of time and commitment that it does to love another person. Love requires an investment of time and a giving of self; it involves taking time to listen to another and understand who they are, what motivates them, and what their hopes and aspirations are. Love requires us to practice humility and to not place ourselves in a position of believing that we are superior to another. Love is acceptance, even when we don't agree on everything, and it is granting grace in those times. For me, it also is the acknowledgement that there are times that I could be wrong.

Friends, I know that we have all been in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Charleston, and I pray that we will continue to lift up the families and friends of those who have died. Lest we think that this is an event that happened "over there" in South Carolina, please think again. This tragedy has hit especially close to home for several teaching elders in our presbytery, whose Austin Seminary classmate lost her mother, Ethel Lance, in last week's tragic events.

I pray that we who are called to follow Jesus Christ will recommit ourselves to live his way of love. By doing so, may we honor and give thanks to God for the lives of Tywanza Sanders, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Sen. Clementa Pinckney, Myra Thompson, Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr., Cynthia Hurd, and Ethel Lance, blessed children of God.

As Resurrection People, we know that, in the end - even in the midst of the evil that is hatred, love will win, and God will be glorified. Until that day, may our lives give witness to the challenge of Romans 12:21 to "overcome evil with good."

Grace and Peace,

Rick

NEWS FROM LOUISVILLE

Last Tuesday, Ruling Elder Linda Valentine announced her resignation as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Ministry Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The following is a letter that we received from Marilyn Gamm, Chair of the PMA Board:

June 16, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ:

After nine years of energetic, imaginative and dedicated service to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Executive Director Linda Valentine today announced her resignation, effective July 10, 2015.

We are so grateful for Linda's many years of faithful service to the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the greater church. Serving since 2006, Linda is the longest serving Executive Director of the PMA and its various predecessor organizations. With the engagement of key stakeholders, Linda and her leadership team have reshaped the Mission Agency from one that does mission on behalf of the church to one that "inspires, equips and connects" the church to serve Christ in the world.

The accomplishments of the Presbyterian Mission Agency during Linda's tenure are widespread and diverse, including:

- Mission co-workers connecting U.S. Presbyterians with global partners and equipping them for faithful and effective mission.*
- Young adults finding new welcome and inspiration through the UKirk college ministry and the Young Adult Volunteer program.*
- New disciples finding communities of faith through the movement to start 1001 new worshipping communities continues.*
- Churches challenged by maintenance of buildings and dwindling and aging memberships discerning fresh futures through the New Beginnings program.*
- The Office of Public Witness equipping Presbyterians to advocate for justice and peace.*
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helping the whole church "bring hope out of chaos" in the wake of disasters of natural causes and human violence.*

We will miss Linda's dedication and leadership. Please join with us in expressing your appreciation to Linda for her faithful service, and offer your prayers with ours as she prepares to embrace whatever new calling God may place in her life.

The Executive Committee is now beginning the process of taking all steps necessary to ensure there is appropriate temporary leadership in place on July 11, 2015. As quickly as possible we will establish a position description and seek an Interim Executive Director. We ask for your prayers as we discern the person or persons God is already calling to serve during this interim time.

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

*The Rev. Marilyn S. Gamm
Chair, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board*

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN FOR SYNOD SCHOOL

The word is that Synod School, the midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is the last, weeklong Synod School that exists within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Registration remains open for the six-day, 70-class event July 26-31 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Right now registration numbers tally above 500. And those classes? Here's a three-class sample: "Clutter 101 or Why I Don't Have a Dining Room Table," "Improvisation" and "One in Four: Responding with Compassion to individuals with a Mental Illness and Their Families." Theresa Cho, co-pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and renowned author and speaker, is this year's adult convocation speaker. Everything, including registration forms and other details, can be found at <http://lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>



INPUT SOUGHT ON THE PROPOSED REVISION TO THE DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP: FINAL CALL FOR COMMENTS!

Last summer, the 221st General Assembly called on Presbyterians to study and offer comments on the proposed revision to the Directory for Worship, a reorganization and simplification of the current document. There still is time for interested individuals across the presbytery to review this document and offer their insights. All comments must be received in writing via email no later than July 1, 2015.

To learn more and access the response forms, please follow this link:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/directory-for-worship/>

MISSION RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: TOOLS FOR MISSION LEADERS

The office of Equipping for Mission Involvement has a newly-designed web page for mission resources. The site provides resources to help you plan a mission trip, lead your mission committee, teach Sunday school, connect with mission co-workers, and more. Check out this resource by following this link:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-resources/>

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP MONEY!

Congregational Resources and Development Committee has \$75 scholarships per camper to attend Presbyterian Clearwater Forest or Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji summer camp programs. If your church has already applied for scholarships and you have more campers going, please apply for more! Here is the link on our website: [Scholarship Form](#).

HELP US CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE WORD!

The Valley Bridge newsletter is mailed to a list of individuals who do not have internet access at a cost of around \$77 per year per individual. Per capita dollars are used for this, but it is a big hit on the budget. Contributions are most welcome!

FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS: 2015 RBCs PROMOTE CONVERSATIONS ON REDESIGNING BENEFITS PLAN

How can we serve more?

The President of the Board of Pensions, the Reverend Frank Clark Spencer, put that question to participants at the 2015 Regional Benefits Consultations (RBCs). The Board used the RBCs to gather input on how best to provide benefits to the servants of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this era of great change.

For more news from the RBCs, please follow this link:

<http://www.pensions.org/AvailableResources/FeaturedArticles/Pages/RBC-Conversations-Focus-on-Serving-More.aspx>

For those who haven't had a chance to contribute, please go to the Board's Facebook [page](#) to make your voice heard. Your input will be helpful as the Board works to redesign the Benefits Plan for the future of the Church. <https://www.facebook.com/boardofpensions?fref=nf>

PDA RESPONDS TO MIDWEST AND TEXAS FLOODS

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping communities impacted by the massive flooding in the Midwest, especially in Texas and Oklahoma. One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been sent and eight members of the National Response Team are currently in Texas. Please pray for those affected by flooding and those responding to needs. More information can be found at: <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/us-flooding/>

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT XVII

By Stan Menning

Way back in January, I attended a workshop on Evangelism at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. It was led by Rev. Robert Houser. Bob is a retired pastor and Presbytery Executive, most recently the EP at Central Nebraska Presbytery. Our conversation for the day included the different phases of evangelism, activating and assimilating new members, hospitality and inactive members. This will be the fifth in a series about inactive members and will be the final article overall.

Let's assume your church has successfully restored inactive members to active membership. You have selected the appropriate people who have been trained to minister to the inactives in your congregation and they have been able to work through the issues that caused them to drop out.

Listed below are some potential fears of those formerly inactive members as they prepare to return:

- What will everyone think?
- Will I be accepted?
- Will people still consider me a Christian?
- Will people recognize me?
- Will people make jokes at my expense?
- Was I missed?
- Will people look down on me?
- Will anyone talk to me?
- Will people make too much of a fuss over me?

Here are some appropriate statements of welcome.

- It's good to see you.
- How have you been?
- Can I get you a cup of coffee?
- How's your family?
- I'm happy to see you!

Along with some statements to avoid:

- Where have you been?
- Oh, you're back.
- It's about time you got your act together.
- Since you're back, let me sign you up for.....
- Good grief, the roofs going to fall in.
- It must be Christmas or Easter if you're here.
- Are you new here? (followed by guffaws)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT XVII, CONTINUED

Inactives react defensively when they perceive:

- You are evaluating them.
- You are attempting to control them.
- You are operating from more than one motivation.
- You are being dishonest by pretending to be neutral.
- You are giving an impression of being superior.
- You are acting certain of the rightness of his or her cause.

Restoring inactive members to active membership is a long and difficult process. I will conclude with some suggestions for preventing inactivity.

- New member training—Be clear about expectations
- New member bonding—Get them involved in more than worship
- Pay attention to warning signs
- Respond early
- Emphasize quality worship
- Equip people for ministry
- Provide open channels of communication
- Assess needs of the congregation
- Foster meaningful relationships

SESSION RECORD REVIEWS

Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Falls church

Contact person: Patricia Rosa ° 507-336-2433 ° ripafarm@hotmail.com

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Iona church

Contact person: Jim Krapf ° 507-350-1662 ° jwkrapf@knology.net

If you have questions, please contact Session Records Review Chair Randy Lubbers or Stated Clerk Pam Prouty.

PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

There are six extra 2015-2016 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available at the presbytery office for \$9.00 each. Contact Virginia at 320-235-7910 or virginia@minnesotavalleys.org. Hurry and order before they disappear!

FPC MADELIA SEEKS GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Mission Redevelopment Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Madelia is seeking applications to receive grants. Qualifying projects may include:

- Development, formation, or redevelopment of Presbyterian churches
- Evangelism or recruitment of new members
- New building construction
- Renovations or capital improvements
- Presbyterian-sponsored mission projects

A written letter of application should be submitted to the Mission Redevelopment Committee by September 1, 2015.

Mission Redevelopment Committee
 P.O. Box 156
 Madelia, MN 56062
1stpres@cccinternet.net

FEDERATED CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS SEEKING DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Federated Church of Fergus Falls is beginning the search for a new Director of Christian Education. The Director of Christian Education (DCE) will manage the essential, joyful, and creative faith-based learning and spiritual growth experiences for our congregation. The DCE will be responsible for the planning of programs, the recruiting and training of volunteers, and the supervision of all Christian Education programs at The Federated Church, including (but not limited to): Adult Education, Confirmation (7th-9th grades), Kid’s Club (K-6th grades), Mission Trips, Sunday School (pre-K - 12th grade), and Vacation Bible School (K-6th grade). The DCE would report directly to the Pastor.

Compensation: \$30,569

This is a part-time position (30-hours per week)

Salary:	\$24,960	\$16/hour x 30 hours/week x 52 weeks
SSI:	\$1,909	salary x 0.0765
Benefits:	\$2,700	contribution toward medical or pension plan
Travel:	\$500	
Con. Ed.:	\$500	

The presbytery office has the complete job description.

Come to the Waters!

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

BIBLE STUDY, WORSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, FOOD, LAUGHTER, AND LOVE!

Get away from the busy-ness of life as you relax with friends, share stories, and spend time with God.

Focusing on the Psalms, we will be encouraged by God's love and faithfulness.

When? Monday and Tuesday, September 28-29, 2015

Registration-12:30-1:15 PM--Monday

Opening session—1:30 PM—Monday

Closing Worship—11 AM—Tuesday

(Noon meal following worship)

Where? Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN

Cost: Including Meals (3) and Lodging—\$75.00 or 1 day \$40.00

Program leader: Rev. Elaine Boyd

This retreat is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, but **every Presbyterian (or non-Presbyterian) woman is invited to this event.**

Please fill out and send the registration form below to Darlene before September 7th.

Feel free to copy this form as many times as necessary.

Darlene O'Neil
32505 300th St
Worthington, MN 56131

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail address if available _____

Fee enclosed: Full event \$ _____ One day \$ _____

Special Needs _____

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 23: 10:00 Congregational Resources & Development conference call

Friday, June 26: Virginia out of the office; Book Club meets at noon: *Me Before You*

Sunday, June 28: Rick attends FPC Wheaton's Celebration of Ministry



MARK 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

