

Chip's Chatter



A number of years ago I worked for a large company. During its history, it acquired another west coast company, a little smaller, and blended the two together. The purchased company employees saw the benefit of this new, larger company, and embraced the purchase and blending. The new, larger company, immediately saw the results and looked for another company to purchase. The potential candidate, a southeast company, was much larger than the west coast company. When the three companies were linked it would create unbelievable opportunities for the company and its employees. Sadly, this final acquisition was undermined by this group of employees who did not share the vision. When the acquisition was complete, they fought the blending of procedures at nearly every turn. They even made negative comments to the public and drove business away.

As a member of the company shortly after the acquisition of the west coast company, I saw and experienced first-hand how complaining can have an adverse effect. We used to say about the southeast company, "How many of them does it take to change a light-bulb? Answer: Four. One to change the bulb and 3 to talk about how good the old one was." These people were looking in the review mirror and couldn't see the opportunities ahead.

And so it can be with us. Do we look in the review mirror when we look at our relationships, friendships, and even our church? Are we so focused on our memories of years gone by that

we fail to see new opportunities? If a company only looks in the rear view mirror it is destined for failure.

In the fighter pilot world, when engaged in a dog fight, you are constantly scanning the sky. First, you are concerned about an adversary attacking you from behind. So, looking backwards offers some security that you are safe, for now. We actually had convex mirrors mounted on the canopy to aid in identifying potential adversaries from behind.

But, just as important as looking behind, was looking all around to detect the adversary and to plan your attack. Even while pressing the attack, you needed to continue to look for other aircraft, both friends and adversaries, above and below. You would work as a team with your wingman who might be in better position to quickly engage the adversary. As a fighter pilot, we would say our heads needed to be on a "swivel," constantly searching the skies and maintaining situational awareness. It was a three dimensional challenge.

So what does this have to do with this month's church newsletter? The answer is relatively straight forward. This month is February and as we all know it is the month of "Valentines Day." In fact, I saw an ad on TV that says February is really "Loveuary." We should be letting the people closest to us know how much we love them.

When we go through life, it is important for us to look behind, just as the fighter pilot does. But this time, we are looking back at the wonderful blessings of Grace and love that God has given us. We need to recall and remember His wonderful love for us by sending us Jesus. Often times it is when we look back, we see God's love for us manifested and, like the fighter pilot, we gain a sense of security since we do not see an adversary attacking us at the moment. We can also look back and remember the old days at church and the blessings that got us where we are.

Like the fighter pilot, we must keep our heads on a swivel looking for every opportunity to share the love of Christ with each and every one to whom we come into contact. We need to be ready to answer God's call to reach out to someone in need. We need to be ready to send assistance to someone in our church family that is helping another. We need to work as a team, just like the fighter pilot and his/her wingman. But we must still look above, around, and under to find opportunities to share God's love.

Our attempts to reach out to share God's love may sometimes be thwarted. There were many times, as a fighter pilot, I saw a possible solution to "reach out and touch someone." A few seconds later it became apparent this wasn't going to work. Two choices come to the surface. The first is to let it go, for now. The second is to re-evaluate what we could have done better or differently. So it is as we reach out to share God's love. Not always will someone be willing to listen or even understand what we are trying to do. It might be time to pull back a bit and re-think our approach.

We must also be ready to face new challenges. The pandemic continues to pose new problems and issues for the church. This is the environment in which we find ourselves today. Persecution of the church is beginning to mount. The

pandemic continues to spread fear in congregations but doesn't stop people from going out for dinner/entertainment/sporting events. To me, it is like asking our opponents to limit what they can do in a dog-fight. We could deny them the use of the sun to take advantage. We could limit the fight to certain altitude restrictions. We could also limit the use of clouds for their advantage. Isn't this exactly what we've been facing through the pandemic? Churches have been given limitations that other organizations have been given exemptions.

We've talked about "Loveuary" meaning the month of February. I find it odd we only stress "love" in society during this romantic month. What about the remaining 11 months? Shouldn't we be sharing our love during those months also? Shouldn't we be sharing the love of Christ in every year, month, and day? How about every moment when the opportunity presents itself.

How about this month we "reach out and touch someone with the love of Christ?" When the month is over, don't stop, just "keep on keeping on." Let's find new and creative ways to spread the gospel.

Chip



A peek into your congregation.

Jenny Miller.

I was born in Bemidji and this has been my place of residence since. I attended grade school, middle school and graduated high school in Bemidji.

After high school I began a job with North Country Hospital and worked there for 18 years.

I left there and began at Paul Bunyan Communications where I am currently working.

I am married and have 2 boys and 4 grandchildren and we so enjoy spending as much time with them as possible.

I love gardening, camping or anything to do with being outdoors as much as possible.

Brenda Strowbridge

I was born in Clearbrook, MN. My dad died when I was a baby and then my mom and I moved to Bemidji. Unfortunately she died when I was 7 years old. I then went to live with my sister. I went to school in Bemidji until 10th grade when I left school.

I did odd jobs here and there until I met my husband Larry. We married in 1974 and had 5 children. Larry had ALS until he died about 6 years ago.

I have 12 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren who keep me busy and I enjoy very much.

I do have some health problems, but still enjoy working with my flowers.

"THEN COMES THE WIND; A COLLECTION OF POETRY, VOLUME 1 by Terri Lea
The following poems are from a book of poems by our own Terri Murray.

Then Comes the Wind
Images of the past
We keep and hold,
Scenes from Childhood;
Never wanting to grow old.
Then comes the wind.

Dreaming of the future
Youth and innocence denied,
Life becomes the teacher;
Time takes a slide.
Then comes the wind.

Visions of a house
The games we used to play,
Growing older and wiser;
Our youth we tried to save.
Then comes the wind.

Age has become the teacher
Or rather a faithful friend,
Dreaming of the past;
Never to return home again.
Then comes the wind.

A Letter for your Journey

May your life be filled with happiness,
And may the roads you choose,
Be smooth and always rewarding.
Don't be afraid to make new friends
Along the way,
But never forget the one's you have.
Life is full of give and take;
Give what you can to others,
And be just as willing to take
What others may give.
Take care my friend,
To you I wish only the best;
With part of my heart sent along.
I too, must make new friends'
In life's many journeys,
Yet, our friendship,
Shall remain high above the rest.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 12-31-2021

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$ 15,027.28
Total Expenses	\$ 13,596.05
Net Income	\$ 1,431.23

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

December 26	20
2022	
January 2	24
January 9	25
January 16	25
January 23	



- 3 Terri Murray
- 6 Palmer Berg
- 7 Duane Hayes
- 14 Donna Dickinson

“YOU YOURSELF, AS MUCH AS ANYBODY IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, DESERVE YOUR LOVE AND AFFECTION”
 – BUDDHA
 ETTAARLENE.COM

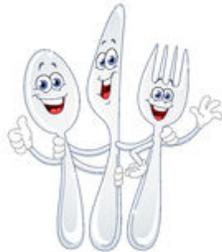
February Head Usher: Libby Underhill

	Liturgist	Greeter
February 6	Donna Enfield	Gini Sande
February 13	Bill Beck	Brenda Miller
February 20	Mary Hayes	Linnea Mostad
February 27	Dianne Roholt	Donna Dickinson

Supper Club



PERKINS



RESTAURANT

Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, February 17 at 6:00

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!



Evergreen
Youth & Family Services
Strengthening Youth. Preserving Families.

Our Mission

Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a community-based organization committed to strengthening youth, preserving families and building relationships with an emphasis on those living in Northern Minnesota.

Our Values

Evergreen believes that communities are strongest when every individual is treated with dignity and respect and has support to achieve his/her full human potential. Evergreen chooses to remain client-centered with an emphasis on being responsive to each individual and families' needs while maintaining a high level of professionalism, compassion and empathy. We operate from a position of hope, faith and support. Our services and perspective are often grassroots in nature and it is because of our strong relationships and resources that Evergreen Youth & Family Services remains a catalyst in the region for proactive services, education and advocacy.

Evergreen has an extensive intake survey to determine program placement in these programs. These programs are a part of a comprehensive approach to providing services and success to our youth.

Drop-In Center

Housing

Independent Living Skills

Mental Health & Counseling

Rock Sober

Street Outreach

Crime Victim Services

Safe Harbor

Youth-At-Work

Youth Shelter

Crisis Intervention

Short Term Shelter Program

35-Day Evaluation Program

Youth & Family Coaching

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church

**Bemidji, MN
January 18, 2022**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the conference room on January 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, and Linnea Mostad

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP to adopt the agenda

MEETING MINUTES MSP to approve the minutes from the December Session meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

- Baby announcement from the Mark Robinson family
- Thank-you from the Bemidji Chorale
- Information on the Church Vitality Fund with the possibility of securing a grant to update the church website; no action taken

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report December 21, 2021

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: 1 (Naomi Lowth)

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: None

Communion: January 2, 2022: 38 served

Membership as of January 18, 2022: 71

Sunday Worship Attendance:

December 24th: 64	December 26th: 20	January 2nd: 24	January 9th: 24
January 16th: 25			

FINANCIAL REPORT Finances from December were presented and reviewed. Cheryl Hiltz presented the budget for 2022. **MSP to accept.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson reported on updated personnel salaries

Buildings & Grounds A motion was made to approve the proposed Boiler Operating Service agreement between First Presbyterian Church and David Bahr of 3SunsLLC. **MSP**

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz reported on the pledges received to date

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad The Seekers' class will resume February 9th.

Nominating: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz The committee has found three people to serve the three open Elder positions for the next three years. **MSP** to bring these names to the Congregational Meeting in January.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps No report

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report

Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report

OTHER BUSINESS

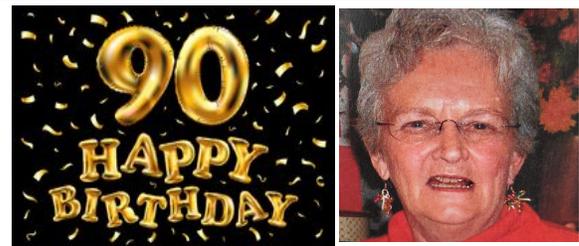
The Hayes have donated the Christmas tree used for the sanctuary. A thank-you card will be sent.

Next Meeting: February 22nd at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Mostad
Acting Clerk of Session



Donna is turning 90!!

Join us for Birthday treats,
Sunday, February 13th
Ruttgers Birchmont Lodge,
7598 Bemidji RD NE,
1:00pm to 3:00pm.

FYI

Once again I offer a sincere thank you to my loyal Food Shelf volunteers; Donna, Gini, Joan, Gloria, and Kelly Brunetta. We served the fifth Friday in December as a favor to the Volunteer Coordinator. Hereafter we'll be serving our usual fourth Friday each month. You girls are gems. The Food Shelf thanks you and so do I.
Linnea

Meals on Wheels

We are looking for someone to take over the scheduling for Meals on Wheels. Currently Joan Forbes is scheduling as this was a rewarding opportunity for her and Joe. We do need someone to take over for Joan as she and Joe have done this over 15 years.

We also need volunteers to do the driving and delivering. It takes 3 cars with 2 people per car, 1 to drive and 1 to bring the meal into the home. We currently do have some wonderful volunteers who enjoy helping, but there are still openings that we need to fill. Bringing meals to the home-bound gives great satisfaction to those who are able to volunteer.

A New Year is here and we are thinking of ways to brighten our days. In 2021 many of you did just that by bringing flowers. Jan Kuleta and Donna Enfield shared flowers from their gardens. Terri Murray, Ray Hamblin, and Joan Forbes shared flowers in memory of a loved one. We thank them for sharing.

You will find a "Flower Bouquet" next to the sanctuary where you too may sign up to brighten our days. Flowers may come from your garden. They may be in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, a special birthday, an anniversary, or special occasion. You might even want to share "incognito"!

SEEKERS ARE BACK

"Silencing the Devil" is the title of the upcoming Seekers beginning February 9, 12:00pm in the conference room. This runs until March 23, with no Seekers meeting on March 2, Ash Wednesday.

The title of the next Seekers subject will be "Trust the Bible" . Watch for dates.

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Chip/ Communion fellowship	7 7pm-Scouts	8	9 12pm Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	10	11	12
13 Chip	14"Valentines Day" 	15 1pm-Session Meeting	16 12pm Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	17 6:00-Supper Club, Perkins	18	19
20 Chip/ fellowship	21 7pm-Scouts	22	23 12pm Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	24	25	26
27 Rick Weinert	28 7pm-Scouts					



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