

THE BLADE

December 2016 & January 2017

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12 NIV



Saturday

December 24, 2016

7:30 pm

Everyone Welcome



The Sunday School children and youth will be presenting the Christmas Pageant *Follow the Star* during the worship service on December 11th. Come join us for a musical retelling of the Christmas story from the perspective of those shepherds visited by angels so long ago!



The Fellowship and Christian Education committees are hosting the Advent Potluck suppers on Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21 at 6:00 pm. Feel free to bring your own plates and silverware along with a dish to share! Come join us for some good Christmas fun!

Remember to Bring in Your Hy-Vee Receipts

Grocery, gasoline, and prescription receipts count. Our church receives a \$1000 check from Hy-Vee for \$150,000 in receipts. Please make sure the receipts are from the Brookings Hy-Vee Store only.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$143,076.33

Needed: \$6,923.67

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00am Fellowship Hour

10:30am Worship Service

Lord's Supper—First Sunday of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

9:30am Worship Service

Nursery care is available

on first floor during

Sunday School and

Sunday Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday

9:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm

1:00pm-4:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9:00am - 2:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm



December & January



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Published Monthly
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Combined)

First Presbyterian Church

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Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates and
photos, like us on

Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings



For daily prayers, inspiring
quotes, and church updates,
follow us on Twitter

twitter.com/FPCBrookings

Prayer Families

Prayer is an important part of our life as a community of faith. We encourage you to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer. The families and individuals are selected at random.

December 4: Roger & Teri Bierstedt; Barbara Borstad

December 11: Linda Barnett

December 18: Don & Jan Boe; Skip & Sharon Webster

December 25: Betty Gehring; Dean & Sharon Hofland

January 1: Judy Sebring

January 8: Adele Sudlow

January 15: Sam & Darlene Artz

January 22: Delores Koepsell

January 29: Robby & Donna Flint



PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer Requests

If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, bojon@brookings.net, or any of the other prayer chain volunteers: Dolores Canaday, Arlyce Thorne, Lee Peterson, Karie Mohamed, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Ann Spitzenberger, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, and Kristie Berglund.

*From the
Pastor*



Celebrating the Light of the World

*Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.*

- "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," from the
4th-century liturgy of St. James

Dear friends,

In the middle school Sunday school class this year, we begin each class with a little candle lighting liturgy. We recite John 8:12: "Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World. The one who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life'" as we light a big pillar candle to represent the light of Jesus. Then we each pick up and light a small votive candle to represent how the light of Jesus shines in each one of us.

I've found this simple ritual to be very meaningful (I hope the students have too!) and it has helped me prepare for Advent—the time of the year when we are most focused on the image of Jesus as the Light that dispels the darkness and illumines the way forward. Amid the many changes and challenges we face this year, amid the periods of fogginess and confusion, we can be sure of this: Jesus Christ is still the light of the world.

As we journey together through Advent and Christmas and into the New Year, may we have eyes to see the light of Jesus and courage to follow where he leads. And may we reflect the light of Jesus in all our attitudes, our words, our actions, so that those around us too may be brought into the his glorious light— "that the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away."

With hope, peace, joy, and love,

Pastor Kristie



DEACONS' NOTE

The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Deacons will again be participating in Project Joy. The mission for Project Joy is to provide children and families living in Brookings County, who are in need, an opportunity to receive holiday gifts. Volunteers organize a store that is stocked with toys, gift cards, and clothing for parents to shop for their children. The Deacons will collect donations of unwrapped toys and clothing. Money may be donated and the Deacons will do the shopping for you. **Please have your donation to the church by Tuesday, December 6.** Let's open our hearts this holiday season and bring Joy to area children and families in need by generously donating to Project Joy.



Presbyterian Circle

The women of the Presbyterian Circle would like to extend an invitation to all women of First Presbyterian Church to our monthly meetings.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 20. We will be meeting at The Pheasant to have our Luncheon at 11:30am.

The January meeting will be held on January 17. We will meet at First Presbyterian Church in the Central Meeting Room at 9:30am. We will be continuing our video bible study on "Jesus the One and Only" by Beth Moore.

All women of First Presbyterian Church are welcome to attend, we would love to have you join us!

Dolores Canaday
Co-Moderator

Christian Education Volunteer Opportunities

The Christian Education committee has some volunteer opportunities available. Please talk to any current member of the committee (Donna Flint, chair, Gary Larson, Sunday School Superintendent, Carri Van Buren, or Sally Maca) if you are interested.

1. Librarian- The library has been maintained for several years by Elizabeth Fox and Sue Young. Both have decided to step back from this responsibility (thank you Elizabeth and Sue for your dedication through the years), so we are looking for someone or some people who would like to work together to maintain the library. This opportunity should take less than an hour a week. Possible activities:
 - A. Re-shelving books that are checked out and returned
 - B. Keeping library neat and inviting
 - C. Purchasing books or other materials for the library (this would be part of the CE budget)
 - D. Processing purchased or donated books for church members' use
 - E. Writing or soliciting periodic book reviews for the Blade and
 - F. Other things you would like to do to make the library an inviting place.
2. Vacation Bible School director- The curriculum has been purchased. The role of the VBS director would be to recruit volunteers, decide on a date with CE committee, facilitate decorating, plan and attend each evening of VBS, provide support for volunteers.
3. CE Committee members – we are currently a committee of four, but would love to have another member or two. We meet the first Thursday of every month. This is your chance to have a positive impact on the Christian education of our children, youth, and congregation.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

Scripture Reading: Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. - 1 Peter 3:8



Quote: "When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen." - Ernest Hemingway

Men's Brotherhood Notes: The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday November 17. The program was a study on the gospel of Mark. Next month plan on Men's Brotherhood being December 15. Hopefully we can sing some Christmas carols as has been our tradition.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for understanding, a sympathetic and compassionate attitude towards everyone.

Action: Listen to others when they have a problem they need to share. Show empathy and compassion. Be supportive of each other.

Ecumenism refers to efforts by Christians of different church traditions to develop closer relationships and better understandings. Historically there have been many splits and schisms in the Church. This has resulted in very different forms of worship and doctrine to the point where it might look to some non-churched folks like these groups aren't even worshipping the same God.

Since the early 1960's many churches have done a lot of work to try to reconcile differences where they can, and to build unity in the faith. Working towards a greater understanding is important work. Historians can point to past differences resulting in wars and purges and pogroms against folks whose spiritual path was a different one even when following the same God.

Working together, trying to find commonality is important work. It is important work anywhere and anyplace where people find differences existing. In our culture it is too easy sometimes to just not work together. We don't have to since we can always easily find people of like minds and we retreat to those places where they are. We may think we are better than others and because we are an exceptional group we can remain apart. Are we losing not just the ability to work together but the heart to do so?

Can we overcome this approach to life where we have an "I don't have to have anything to do with you" mentality? We can. It is called "Love thy neighbor as thyself." If we take this biblical teaching/philosophy and apply to all that we do and say and in every situation where we are in a position where we are working together with folks who may not always agree with us or who have different agendas, maybe we can tear down walls we have erected that keep us separated.

Jesus said "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." If we wonder how we should treat all in our relationships, keep this simple yet important command in mind.

This Christmas when we celebrate Christ's birth let us not forget that His desire for all of us is that we work together, love one another and see where and how we can do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. And we can enjoy peace on earth and joy to people of good will.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report

During this time of transition between pastors, we will be engaging in a spiritual discernment process to discover or reconfirm our call to ministry—what God wants our church to be and do in the next phase of our congregation's life. We need your help as we begin this discernment process. We hope you'll spend some time over the next few weeks thinking about our congregation and what we have accomplished over the last few years. Then think about what you hope we'll accomplish together over the next few years.



To help with this, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has written a set of questions for you to answer to help us complete the Ministry Information Form. This form will be used to match our church with candidates and will be read by those considering applying for the position at our church. We would like input from everyone involved in the church—all ages are invited to participate in one or more of these ways:

1. Complete the survey (either handwritten or electronically) and return it to the PNC.
2. Participate in a Focus Group
 - a. Thursday, December 1, 9:30 am, Women's Bible Study Group
 - b. Thursday, December 1, 6:00 pm, (committee meeting night) Committee Members and Deacons
 - c. Sunday, December 4, 9:00 am Sunday School ages Pre-K through High School
 - d. Sunday, December 4, 9:30 am (before church) All invited
 - e. Sunday, December 11, 11:40 am (after church) All invited

Once we have received feedback from you, the pastor nominating committee (PNC), in consultation with the presbytery, will begin the process of discovering who God is calling to be the pastor in this next chapter of our congregation's life and ministry. Because Session has determined that we will not request an interim pastor at this time, our hope is to complete these early steps of the process as quickly as possible while still listening carefully to your hopes and dreams for our congregation. Therefore, we would like the surveys completed and returned by Sunday, December 11, 2016. You may return paper copies to any member of the PNC, or e-mail electronic versions to flintd99@yahoo.com.

Members of the PNC are Donna Flint, Rick Salonen, Melanie Shepherd, Susan Smith, Skip Webster, Bruce Westergaard and Sue Young. We hope you will include us and our work in your prayers over the next few months- that we will listen for and hear God's call for the right person to minister our church in this next chapter of our church life. Please feel free to contact any of us should you have any questions.

Survey Questions

- What positive things do you think we've accomplished here in the last 3-5 years?
- If money were no object, what would you like to see us strive for in the next 3-5 years?
- How do you see the role of our church and pastor in the greater Brookings community?
- What qualities (professional skills/expertise and personal) should our next pastor possess? What is your profile of our hoped-for pastor?
- If you attend worship services and church activities regularly, what helps you stay active? If you do not attend worship services and church activities regularly, what keeps you away?
- What other thoughts would you like to share with the PNC?



"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30

I feel blessed to have grown up in a stable Christian home. Some of the inmates have not had an easy time growing up. A number of them have not had any stability in their life, and they have grown up in dysfunctional, broken homes. Some of them have mentioned that they went from foster home to foster home. Many have been verbally and physically abused. This leaves them with stuffed anger! That anger will usually come out in explosive ways.

I read the book, "The Freedom Factor", by Bruce Wilkinson, and it reminded me again how anger can control and destroy a person's life. One young man who was being processed into the prison told me that he wanted to know more about the Lord and wanted to get to know Him personally. I asked him if he had anger against anyone. He told me that he had a lot of anger and bitterness. I told him he would not be able to live the Christian life if he held on to his anger. I shared with him Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18. Jesus makes it plain at the end of the parable that if a person does not forgive others from the heart, He will turn them over to the tormentors. This anger and bitterness will be like a cancer within the angry person. I explained that this anger is not hurting the other people he was angry with, but only hurting himself. I asked him to ask the Lord who he had bitterness against. He came up with a dozen names of people who had hurt him in the past. He said he was willing to forgive them and ask the Lord to forgive him for his bitterness. Then we prayed together for the Lord to bless these people he forgave. After that prayer he wanted to repent of all his sins, and invite Jesus Christ to take over his life. He became watery eyed and said, "I feel like a burden has been lifted off me!" He was ready to do the Bible study I gave him. After he finished the first Bible study he wanted another one. The interesting thing was that he could not help but tell others what had happened to him. He told other inmates that they should ask me if I could help them work through their bitterness as well! Praise the Lord for Jesus' example of forgiving others when they did not deserve His forgiveness.

One middle aged inmate told me he was ready to have Christ change his life because this was the fourth time he was back in prison. He told me that he had a family and couldn't keep doing this prison thing. I drew out the plan of salvation on a piece of paper as I explained it to him. He told me that he knew what he had to do, but had never committed his life to Christ. He made the commitment to Christ that day. Since then he has been very faithful in doing his Bible study. He told me that doing the Bible study was like laying bricks. He said one lesson builds on the next lesson. I thought that was an interesting and true statement. As Isaiah said, "Line upon line, precept upon precept." It is a blessing for me to see God at work in these men. Thank you for being faithful with your prayers and financial gifts. Pray for the men because this time of the year is especially difficult with the holiday season upon us.

In Christ,
Harlan Moss

Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. The checks can be made out to and sent to: South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), P.O. Box 90509, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0509. My phone: 605-940-4220 email address: hpmoss1@yahoo.com **Please designate my name in the memo section of your check.**



December Volunteers: **Ushers:** Daniel & Michele Kemp **Counters:** Dave Peterson
Sound: Bruce Westergaard Dee Watson
Dave Peterson Lynn Foster & Trent Broksieck Henrietta Gohring

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Focus Group) 6:00 Committees Focus Group Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	2	3
4 Regular Sunday Schedule 9:00 Focus Group with PreK-HS before Sunday School 9:30 Focus Group Before Church Greeters: Chad & Diane Broksieck & family (North) Dolores Canaday (South) 6:00 Youth Group	5 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Outreach 6:30 Trustees BIRTHDAY: Dean Hofland	6 6:00 Advent Potluck	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session	9 BIRTHDAY: LaVonne Broksieck	10 9-10:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
11 Regular Sunday Schedule - Christmas Pageant Greeters: Ginny Conger (North) Dolores Canaday (South) 11:40 Focus Group After Church 6:00 Youth Group	12 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	13 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	14 6:00 Advent Potluck	15 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood	16 BIRTHDAY: Rollo Nussbaum	17 BIRTHDAY: Carrie Van Buren ANNIVERSARY: Dee & Lois Watson
18 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Choir Sunday Greeters: Harold & Marjorie Poppen (North) Dolores Canaday (South) NO YOUTH GROUP	19 BIRTHDAY: Quincy Flint	20 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 11:30 Presbyterian Circle (Luncheon @The Pheasant) ANNIVERSARY: Stephen & Carrie Van Buren	21 6:00 Advent Potluck	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30 Candlelight Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Greeters: Neal Foster (North) Dolores Canaday (South) NO YOUTH GROUP	26 OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Heidi Miller ANNIVERSARY: Robert & Pat Fishback	27 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	28 ANNIVERSARIES: Neal & Julie Foster Skip & Sharon Webster	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAYS: Sally Maca Marjorie Poppen	30 11:30 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant BIRTHDAYS: Tasneem Rottluff Larry Shepherd	31



January Volunteers: Ushers: John Eich; Adam & Susan
 Sound: Bruce Westergaard Young; Ginny Conger;
 Mike McCann

2017

Counters: Nelda Holden
 Bob Bartling
 Elizabeth Fox

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEARS DAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Greeters: John MaComb (North) Richard & Donna Wilson (South) NO YOUTH GROUP	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	4 BIRTHDAY: Marlys Moore	5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees BIRTHDAY: Lisa Bretsch	6 BIRTHDAY: Matthew Schuurman	7 BIRTHDAY: Susan Schuurman
8 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Donna Wilson (North) Richard Wilson (South) 6:00 Youth Group	9 BIRTHDAY: Gerald Potthast	10 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees BIRTHDAY: Neal Foster	11 BIRTHDAY: Joel Foster	12 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session	13 BIRTHDAY: Daniel Moerke	14
15 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Donna Wilson (North) Richard Wilson (South) 6:00 Youth Group BIRTHDAY: Katy Young	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Julie Scubelek	17 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 9:30 Presbyterian Circle	18 BIRTHDAY: Karie Rottluff	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood BIRTHDAY: Adele Sudlow	20	21
22 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Donna Wilson (North) Richard Wilson (South) 6:00 Youth Group	23	24 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	25 BIRTHDAY: Art VanderWaal	26 9:30 Women's Bible Study	27 11:30 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant	28
29 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Donna Wilson (North) Richard Wilson (South) 6:00 Youth Group	30 BIRTHDAY: Frances Trapp	31 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)				

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested



**THE
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IS
AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of by post mail, contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 692-2416.