

Presby Tidings

FEBRUARY 2018

*Our mission is to be an extension of God's hands, helping and nurturing all of God's people.
We worship together as brothers and sisters of the First Presbyterian Church,
joined by the word of Jesus and the limitless love of God.*

First Presbyterian Church
419-238-3670

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From the Pastor's Desk:

In this newsletter I want to discuss what TAG will entail out of the Play Book session was given. I now have a better picture of what the church will go through as we finish the Discovery Phase.

The Discovery Phase began in January 7 and will conclude on January 29, 2018. This phase was an introductory phase that enabled us all to take inventory. With the survey TAG will do a neighborhood demographic study within a five mile radius and combine the demographic while the survey was taken. Within this time period TAG will compile the material they received, review it, and prepare it for the Focus Groups, in which many have been contacted by session members to participate.

During TAG's Discovery Phase additional information has been sent to TAG which entails:

- a. Summary of membership/worship attendances, trends for the past 5 years.
- b. A brief history of the church.
- c. A listing of programs, services, and ministries at your church
- d. Age demographics for members/attendees
- e. The Senior Pastor's personal vision of the church (which is after this newsletter)
- f. A summary of financial information and five-year giving trends, including any capital campaigns during this period of time,
- g. A summary of any previously completed strategic plans, with an update on their status.
- h. a focus group schedule, which is almost completed.

i. finally, a one page synopsis of the church; most effective and/or creative ministry/program. All of these requests were done.

From the discovery phase will evolve coaching from Todd Hahn. Todd will coach the Focus groups which will take place the weekend of February 16 and 17, and 18, while Todd will stay to observe worship that Sunday. Each group will meet during those days in a schedule that will be given to those who will participate.

After TAG assimilates all the data they will promote the survey to the congregation for 4 weeks and will tabulate survey results compared to the national norms.

Step 1: The Visioning Phase will begin Saturday March 17 & 18, which is Retreat 1, Retreat 2 will be May 12 and 13, and Retreat 3 will be July 14 & 15 Each will be on Saturday 9:00 to 3:00pm and Sunday afternoon 12:00 to 3:00pm. Those participating will have received the Discovery Report at least two weeks prior to the first retreat.

Step 2: The congregation will be invited and the leadership team will create an ad hoc breakout exercise for congregational input, around the church's strategic priorities called the CoreSCORE. Afterward all this is accomplished Step 3 will be ongoing coaching.

Thank you for allowing me to give a summary of what will happen in 2018. May we keep our minds attuned to the Lord and His will through the process. Godspeed!

In Christ's Love, Rev. Hal

VISION STATEMENT

The Armstrong Group —TAG will with us soon. I wanted to display my vision statement that I gave to TAG as requested in the material they needed from us. A Vision Statement is a work in progress with these fundamentals.

A. Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to be an extension of God's hands, helping and nurturing all of God's people. We worship together as brothers and sisters of the First Presbyterian Church, joined by the word of Jesus and the limitless love of God.

Preface

My job as a Minister of Word and Sacrament or as the new Book of Order states Ruling Elder, is to help create a vision statement and implement it in the church where I pastor. The vision must be done with a foundational premise in which I explain in this brief summary of my vision for the church. I've always felt that the vision statement was to be done with the governing boards and the congregation, with them understanding and practicing it. This is the format from which I preach with this undercurrent:

In addition to understanding and implementing the vision, I am to help my parishioners grow and know that they too can be directed by the Holy Spirit and live in the realm of the Kingdom present to us today, with the Helper Jesus sent for us to share our lives in life's vicissitudes.

Vision Statement

My vision for any church is Biblical. As scripture tells us we are to practice being of the same mind as Christ, and with the Holy Spirit, understanding we can do all things through Jesus (Philippians 4:13). We must practice being of the same mind as Jesus (Philippians 2:5). What is the same mind of Christ? These are expressed in Galatians 5:22-23 as we turn to the Holy Spirit to practice the nine fruits in our lives. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These nine fruits of the Spirit is the mind of Christ and the practice of these nine attributes is Christ's personality in our lives.

By emulating Christ as our vision there is nothing a church can't accomplish, because become humble as Jesus was humble even unto the cross. Though this statement is a broad vision, there is room in this vision-statement to implement strategy to implement and promote our church's mission. Yet, spiritually, we must go deeper to practice these nine fruits of the Spirit. We must know the core values from which we will work. Core values are stated, implemented, and not assumed. When we work out of core values, that have been established by the church, and apply them, then the mind of Christ is more easily attained and humility grows. Thus, we are emboldened and better committed in fellowship to one another and those we meet. Henceforth, better able to do all things in Christ who strengthens us.

When we choose integrity, ethics, and respect as our main core values, we integrate doing the right thing, in that moment, in a honest, fair, and responsible way with respect for one another. Therefore, we accomplish being able to better promote and implement our mission in the limitless love of God. Godspeed!

In Christ's Service
Rev Hal Shafer

This
Do In Remembrance of Me... Luke 22:19

Communion Sunday

February 4, 2018

Holy Communion will be served during our Worship Service

Join us this **Sunday, February 4**, and the 1st Sunday of each month, in bringing the love of Jesus to those who cannot come to our services. A small team from First Presbyterian Church goes with Pastor Hal to share God's Word, love, and compassion with the residents at **VanCrest** at **2:30PM**. This is a great opportunity to share your faith through action, and the residents are so appreciative!

Just some of the **Special Events** coming up in February:

- 4 – Chancel Choir, Communion & Congregational Meeting**
- 11 - Scout Sunday**
David VanTilburg will be playing the organ
- 18 - The Chancel Choir**
- 25 – The Chancel Choir & Bell Choir**

Our Daily Bread devotional booklets for December-January-February are located at our three entrances. Please feel free to take one for yourself and one for a friend.

Meetings

- ✓ **Deacons** Thursday, February 8 at 7pm
- ✓ **Missions Committee** Tuesday, February 13 at 5pm
- ✓ **Session** Tuesday, February 27 at 7pm
- ✓ **Trustees** Wednesday, February 14 at 5:30pm
- ✓ **Worship Committee** Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

January 10, 2018, Van Wert Salvation Army Wed Noon Meal

The Van Wert Salvation Army Mission, 120 N. Cherry St, Wednesday noon free meal was on January 10th. Thirty-seven people were served. The meal menu was: "Pigs in a Blanket, baked beans, cole slaw, potato chips, pudding, and beverages.

Volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church were: Louie Crow, Earl Green, Jo Conover, Leslie Wilkin and Fred Early, along with 2 other volunteers from Van Wert.

We have committed to help serve the Wednesday noon meal on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. 4 volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church are needed to serve 10:30AM – 12:30 PM.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy Christian fellowship and share Christian love with our hands.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

The signup sheet for February servers is located on our Missions bulletin board in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

Report of our January 2017 support of the
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission
125 S. Central Ave, Lima, Ohio

Our January 2018 serving day was Wednesday, January 24th.

Meals were served to 112 people.

Freezing rain and light snow made for lighter than normal attendance this day.

Volunteers from Van Wert who served were: Louie Crow, Earl Green, Dianna Early and Fred Early. Donated was approximately 100 stocking caps knitted by Florence Saunier.

A short Scripture lesson and prayer of thanks was followed by a meal of tossed BBQ chicken, Sloppy Joe sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potato's with marsh mellows, Cupcakes, beverage.

The noon meal is served from 10:30AM until 12:00Noon. Bible study is offered at 1:00PM every Wednesday.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, February 28. The signup sheet for February is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

THE READ & REVIEW BOOK CLUB

Join us on **Thursday, February 1st at noon** in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. The group will participate in a book discussion of *One Good Thing* by Kevin Milne led by Evelyn Schwartz. Drinks and deserts will be provided by Barb Everidge. A \$2.50 offering shall be collected for the group's mission projects. All are welcome to bring a sack lunch and participate in this book review.

Annual Church Valentine Bake Sale

Mark your calendar to shop the **Annual Valentine Bake Sale, which** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13th**, from **8:00am-11:30 am** in the basement of the courthouse. Donations of pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, noodles, peanut brittle, candy, or any of your special homemade goodies are needed. Please contact Dianna Early at 238-3643 to let her know what type of goodies you will be donating this year and if you will be able to help with the sales. All proceeds will go to the church organ fund.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION EFFECTIVE 2/15/18

Personnel recommended and Council approved hiring Rev. Lynn Bova as Interim Temporary Presbyterian for Common Life for 3/4 time until her responsibilities at First Presbyterian Church of Defiance are completed, then full time. Her contract is for three months, then month to month until the Temporary Presbyterian for Common Life is hired. A thirty day notice may be given by either party at any time. The February 15 date is to allow Rev. Bova and Rev. Meier to work together for a smooth transition.

More information is available in the Personnel and Council reports in the Presbytery meeting packet. Please address questions to any member of Personnel or Council.

Diana Wagar
Personnel Committee moderator

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Dear Friends,

Retirement called, and Susan Meier answered. Our beloved Presbyterian for Common Life for the past eight years is stepping down on February 28, 2018 to start the next chapter in her life. This is also a celebration of the 40th anniversary of her ordination.

We have celebrated her time with us in the Maumee Valley Presbytery with get-togethers that have included gifts and talents of all sorts. If you would like to share a gift with Susan, please consider making a monetary gift that she can use as the need arises in her transition to her new life.

Monetary donations can be made to Maumee Valley Presbytery, PO Box 638164, Cincinnati, OH 45263-8164. Please be sure to write Susan's Retirement in the memo line.

Please take part in a heartfelt "so long" to Susan, who has done so much for so many in our Presbytery.

CRISIS CARE TRIVIA NIGHT

On Saturday, February 17, 2018, Crisis Care will hold its first TRIVIA NIGHT fundraising event at the Van Wert Elks. Teams of 6 to 8 participants will compete. All proceeds from the event will be given to Crisis Care, a non-profit agency, for repairs and maintenance of the community's emergency shelter. If your team would like to participate, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact Leslie Wilkin at 419-203-0424 or Janet Crummey at 419-771-9665, for more information. See flyer on bulletin board in south hallway.

February

Birthdays!

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|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 02 | Mary Kay Purmort
650 Golden Oaks Dr #21, VWO | 14 | Joyce Harrow
133 Boyd Ave., VWO |
| 03 | Don Uhl
1000 Mayfair, VWO | 16 | Louis Crow
847 W. Main Street, VWO |
| 04 | Brendan Carr
714 Perry Street, VWO | 20 | Cheryl Griffith
220 Kenwick Drive, VWO |
| 05 | Barbara Purmort
1024 Maplewood Dr., VWO | 21 | Kathy Fell
c/o Burlen Corp
PO Box 168
Tifton GA 31793-0168 |
| 06 | Claire White
12793 Edgewood Dr., VWO | 22 | Dan Speer
975 Linn Hirsher Rd.
Marion, OH 43302 |
| 07 | Dianna Early
134 Boyd Avenue, VWO | 24 | Florence Saunier
4 Willow Lane, VWO |
| 08 | Jeff Young
511 Elliott St., VWO | 28 | Mary Ellen Thomas
751 Susan Dr., VWO |
| 13 | Miriam Feters
6720 State Route 707
Mendon, OH 45862-9504 | | |
| | Jean Ringwald
8968 John Brown Rd., VWO | | |

Celebrating February Anniversaries!

If we missed your February anniversary, please let the Church office know.

Please contact the church office (419-238-3670) if there are any changes to be made on the birthday list, have a change of address, etc.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ~ Vern Adams
- ~ Carrie and Cherrie Evans
- ~ Bob Exline
- ~ Doug Parrish
- ~ Chuck Sheets
- ~ Marlene Warnecke
- ~ Keaton Welch

To keep our list current, names will be listed for six weeks unless notified. Please call or email the church office.

Serving in our Military:

Captain Cassandra Bullock, US Army, San Antonio, TX (daughter of Tom & Leslie Wilkin)
SPC Spencer Creekmore, US Army Reserves (son of Chirs & Diana Creekmore)
Lt. Colonel Eric Doctor, Air Force, Colorado Springs (son-in-law of Louie & Diana Crow)
Airman Jarrett Krick, Air Force, stationed in Korea (son of Brett & Annette Krick)
1st Lieutenant Ashley Mohr, US Army, stationed in Germany (daughter of Jim & Rhonda Mohr)
Lucas Myers, United States Navy, stationed in Bahrain (grandson of Larry & Linda Stutz)
Chaplain Matthew Purmort, United States Navy (nephew of Laurie Purmort)
Philip Schwartz (nephew of Jean Ringwald)
Lieutenant Colonel Jason Toole, US Army, Anchorage, Alaska (husband of Heather Wilkin-Toole
and son-in-law of Tom & Leslie Wilkin)

If you have a family member serving in the military, please submit their names to the church office.

2018 MISSIONS SUPPORT BUDGET

<u>Acct No.</u> (see e-mail verison)	<u>Mission Name</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
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February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Liturgist: Billy Knoll</p>				<p>1 Read & Review Book Club 12pm</p> <p>AA & AI Anon 8p</p>	2	3 AA 8pm
<p>4 Communion Chancel Choir Congregational Meeting VanCrest 2:30pm Girl Scout 3-5p</p>	<p>5 Cub Scouts 6:30p AA 8pm</p>	<p>6 Boy Scouts 7p</p>	<p>7 Worship Mtg 6p Rehearsals – Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>8 Deacon Mtg 7p AA & AI Anon 8p</p>	<p>9 Girl Scout 6-8p</p>	<p>10 Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby 8a-5p A 8pm</p>
<p>11 Scout Sunday Organ: David VanTilburg Special Music</p>	<p>12 AA 8pm</p>	<p>13 Missions Mtg 5p Boy Scouts 7p</p>	<p>14 Salvation Army 10:45-12:30 Ash Wednesday Trustee Mtg 5:30 Valentine's Day Rehearsals – Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>15 AA & AI Anon 8p</p>	<p>16 Focus Groups</p>	<p>17 Focus Groups AA 8pm</p>
<p>18 Chancel Choir TAG Girl Scout 3-5p</p>	<p>19 OFFICE CLOSED Cub Scouts 6:30p AA 8pm</p>	<p>20 Boy Scouts 7p</p>	<p>21 Rehearsals – Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>22 AA & AI Anon 8p</p>	<p>23 Girl Scout 6-8p</p>	<p>24 AA 8pm</p>
<p>25 Chancel Choir & Bell Choir</p>	<p>26 AA 8pm</p>	<p>27 Session Mtg 7p Boy Scouts 7p</p>	<p>28 Soup Kitchen Serving Day 9am (Lima) Rehearsals – Choir 7:15pm</p>			