

NOTES FROM JANUARY SESSION MEETING:

- Reviewed pastor's report and discussed upcoming joint meeting with area churches.
- Clerk circulated draft copies of the 2011 Annual Report for review. The report will be ready for distribution on Sunday, January 22th in response to the requests made at the annual meeting in 2011.
- Approved paying the projected "\$26.22 per capita" amount to the Presbytery for each member of our church. We will again ask our members to pay this amount in addition to the amount pledged to our church.
- Signed the engagement letter with Robinson Ruhnke to provide all financial services for the church at a fee of \$50 per month.
- Discussed the various "funds" and how those moneys are to be spent.
- Received the financial reports for December and for the year of 2011. This information will be included in the annual report.
- The "Usher's Club" has been filled for each month through November. The duties include opening the church for various activities plus overseeing the preparation of the offering for deposit. Anyone interested, please contact Craig.
- Fellowship is planning the breakfast brunch to be served after the annual meeting.
- Approved having a Maundy Thursday service including a seder service.
- Elected Lucille to serve as Clerk for another year and Pat to serve as Treasurer.
- Nominated Craig Luchtel and Paul Marvin Sr. to serve on the Nominating Committee for the year with Craig to serve as chair. Deacons will have to nominate 1 & 2 will be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting.
- Approved having the Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter.
- Approved sending a letter to all members to encourage the attendance at the Annual Meeting.
- Received a report on the success of the breakfast served each Sunday after church. A charge account will be updated to cover the costs. Also, help in the preparation, serving and clean-up was requested.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

927 N. Carroll - PO Box 681
Carroll, Iowa 51401-0681

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

First Presbyterian Church "Serving God by Serving Others" Carroll, Iowa

Do you remember reading the children's book by P. D. Eastman, "Are You My Mother?" It was a part of the Early Readers series of the Dr. Seuss books, published in 1960. In this book, a just-hatched baby bird whose mother has left the nest to find food, goes in search of its mother. It's journey brings it into contact with a kitten, a hen, a dog and a cow -- as he asks each if they are his mother. This baby bird even thinks for a few moments that its mother is an old car, a plane, a boat or a steam shovel.

So often we go through life trying to be who we are not, without knowing (like the bird) where we belong or how we fit in.

Of course, it is something that we all have to go through as we advance through our education, uncertain of just what it is we want to be & where we will fit in in the world around us. I remember struggling with that, to a degree, all the way to my senior year in college.

But I'm actually thinking today of how many times we try to shoe-horn our spirituality into other people's preferences and personality types. We are frequently exposed to persons who feel one must have a "conversion experience" - perhaps like Paul's - to truly be a follower of Christ. Others will insist on baptism by immersion - or use language dominated by phrases like having "a personal relationship" with Christ. Still others are certain that only one denomination or one translation of the Bible or one particular type of worship is authentic and the only true way to follow Jesus. I think not.

As is the point of Eastman's book, we need to understand that God made us unique. Some come to know Christ through day to day relationships as they grow up in their family and church -- without the necessity for a "Damascus Road" experience to make their faith authentic. Some find their spirituality best enriched and sustained by very traditional worship - changed little from their childhood. Others will find their inspiration in new, very contemporary worship and music. Neither way is right or wrong -- just different. And each Christian needs to give the other "space" to find God, who made us unique - in the way that works for them. Moreover, each should be open enough to appreciate the different ways in which God can reach out in love to draw people to himself. We can learn from each other, if we but try.

God has made us unique -- but there is more to the story. God calls each of us to be in community -- a part of something much larger than ourselves. When we know who we are and how we fit into that community we find ourselves -- and that community (Christ's Church) is able to be the means of blessing for the world that God intended. The little bird in the story searched for his mother -- until she found him. That's the way it is with God, too -- our Father finds us, in whatever way works best. -B. J.



**February
2012**

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BRUNCH AFTER CHURCH!!!

Something new will be happening after church each Sunday morning starting in January: breakfast will be served immediately following regular church service! Jennie Reicks and Craig Luchtel have graciously volunteered to prepare and serve breakfast each Sunday. Now instead of deciding where to go to eat after Sunday service, we can just go downstairs and enjoy not only good food but good fellowship. Please call your friends and fellow members and encourage them to come join us for Sunday service and then stay to enjoy the food and fellowship after church. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Annual Reports

The Annual Reports are on the back table. Pick yours up today!!



Note: Pastor Ukena is in Carroll one day of each week (see calendar) and as long as needed on the Sundays he leads worship to do calling and other tasks. If you need to see him, leave a message on the church phone or call him at 712-830-7727.



Bible Quiz (check your answers on the back of this page)

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. After the flood, what sign did God give that He would not destroy the earth with a flood again?
3. Who found baby Moses in the river?
4. What river was Jesus baptized in?
5. What was the first miracle of Jesus recorded in the Bible?

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH February 2012

			1	2	3	4
Sunday Worship 10:00 am			BJ here			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Bingo at 2pm St. Anthony's			
Darrel Griffin			Lifeline Screening			
			BJ here			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			6 pm Session Meeting			
BJ Ukena Communion			BJ Ukena			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Ash Wednesday Evening Circle 7:00 pm			
Darrel Griffin			BJ here			
26	27	28	29			
Deacon's Meeting						
BJ Ukena						



Please arrive at the church by 9:30 am. If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find someone to trade with. Call the church office 792-2146 by noon on Wednesday and let them know of the change if possible.

Greeters

February 5th	Paul and Lucille Marvin
February 12th	Justin, Jessie, Cullen, and Wyatt Venner
February 19th	David, Sasha, and Skylar Bloyer
February 26th	Jim and Becky Venner
March 4th	Mark and Lori Bluml
March 11th	Brad, Rachel, and Ava Ruhnke

Head Usher– February

LeRoy Johnson

Head Usher– March

Bob Running

If the Head Usher needs a substitute for one Sunday, call Craig Luchtel, Jolene Meyer, or Wanda Sporrer

Offering Collectors

February 5th	Scott and BeckyJo Dillehay
February 12th	Sue Johnson and Phyllis Petersen
February 19th	LaVonne Baumhover and Vickie Worley
February 26th	Michelle Scranton and Wanda Sporrer
March 4th	Jeanie Running and John Zimmerman
March 11th	Jack Edson and Craig Luchtel

February 2012



1st Hayden Ostrich	21st Chad Wagner
1st Jenni Schlichte	21st Phil Roos
4th Wyatt Venner	23rd Penny Wade
7th Jeanie Running	26th Sandy Vennink
12th Lynne Dvorak	27th Lucille Marvin

Carroll Health Center: Billie Hoff, Norma Conner, John Rozendaal
Regency Park: Leola Timmerman
Shady Oaks: Bonnie Christensen
Swan House: Don Dreessen, Blondina Stoffers
Sunny Brook: Lorene Mason, Keith & Lonnie Tait, Lelah Peters
Thomas Rest Haven: Delma Richards

Know someone in the hospital or in need of prayers? Please contact the church or Sally Patten.



In Need of Prayer

January, February, and March

Chairman: Wanda Sporrer
 LaVonne Baumhover, Laurie Oxley, and Candice Ostrich
 Substitute: Becky Venner

The committee will be in charge of: contacting women to make bars and salads, buying groceries, and contacting women to help set the tables and/or to help at the funeral luncheon.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Wednesday, February 8th :

Bingo- 2:00 pm

St. Anthony's Nursing Home

Wednesday, February 22nd :

Evening Circle 7:00 pm

(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Hostess: Sandy Vennink

Lesson: Sandy Vennink

NO Afternoon Circle Meeting

Friday, March 2nd : **World Day of Prayer**

Host Church: Church of Christ

“Haiku for the Heart”

Listen to your heart
For within there is an “ear”
Attuned to God’s voice.
—Peggy Ferrell



LIFELINE SCREENING DATE



Our church will be hosting a “Life Line Screening” service on Wednesday, Feb. 8 -- an opportunity to be screened for Stroke, Atrial Fibrillation, Aneurism and Osteoporosis potential. Put it on your calendar, if you wish to be included. Posters at the church offer “tear off” phone numbers to make an appointment.

Quiz Answers!! NO PEEKING!!

1. 66
2. Rainbow,
3. Pharaoh’s daughter
4. Jordan River
5. Turning the water into wine.

Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry – trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred – return good for evil.
- Give up anger – be more patient.
- Give up pettiness – become mature.
- Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
- Give up sin – turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up – persevere.



**What
Are You Giving
Up?**



*The Newsletter Deadline for March is
February 24th.*

**Please bring any information for newsletter or bulletin
to the church, call 792-2146 or email
firstpccarroll@msn.com**