

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 20 No 2: February 2015

**Pastor:** Rev. Dave Taylor

**Prayer Chain:** Marsha Mower: 875-0733

Email: [m.mower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.mower@sbcglobal.net)

**Playmates Preschool:**

Director, Amy Miller

**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Huebner

Telephone: 876-1446 Cell: 855-7677

Email: [wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net](mailto:wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net)

## Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216 Fax: 877-9665

Email: [firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.firstchurchdecatur.com](http://www.firstchurchdecatur.com)

Office Hours: Mon. –Thursday, 8:00-4:30

## Worship and Sunday School Times

9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:15-10:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

11:00 am - Contemporary Worship  
Service

11:15-12:00 am Sunday School



Our Mission is to worship God,  
Welcome all who seek God, and  
Express our faith in our actions.



*Pastor Dave Taylor*

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**THE SEASON OF LENT**

Lent is the 40 days (not counting six Sundays) that fall between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent because every Sunday is considered a “little Easter.”

In the early church, Lent was a time of final preparation for people who were seeking to be baptized. During this period of baptismal preparation, the church community adopted a 40-day discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Prayer was for healing souls, fasting for healing bodies, and almsgiving for sharing— which heals community.

In our day, we’re relearning the power and significance of preparing during Lent to celebrate baptism, and renewal of baptism at Easter. Many people in the northern hemisphere have believed that the word “Lent” comes from the same root as “length,” and refers to the lengthening of days of spring. Some now believe, however, that it may actually derive from the Latin word *lentare* which means “to bend.” This understanding reinforces a sense of Lent as a time of preparation for personal and collective transformation.

Having nurtured ourselves through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Lent becomes the time to look truthfully at ourselves and make changes. Like the prophets of old, we go through our “dark night” to become the whole persons God intends. Risking coming apart, we come together anew in “at-one-moment.”

During Lent, we focus in a special way on Jesus’ call to repent, to change our point of view and our way of living by trying to respond more faithfully to God’s gift of grace. The most basic way we repent, of course, is by trying to grow in our love of God, neighbor, and self. To that end, the church has traditionally emphasized specific practices that help us turn from sin, to disciplines such as fasting, sacrificial giving, prayer and serving others in need.

To be whole is to be at peace with God. Atonement is the peace of God, a peace the world without God cannot give. Atonement frees us for justice and kindness and love.

And time and time again God is present, not just in strength but in

weakness. God is working creatively with pain and struggling throughout our lives, and working creatively in us to give us hope. God's Spirit creates new life in us and the world calling us to help build God's peace and kingdom here and now.

Come join us at First Church on Sundays at 9 and 11 am for worship and 10 am for fellowship and Christian education opportunities at 9, 10 and 11 am. Come try our great LOGOS program for children and youth Wednesdays at 4:45–7:15 pm.

Come join us as we grow in our understanding of who Jesus, our Savior is and what that he means for our lives and how we are called to live.

*Pastor Dave*



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 18th - 7 PM**

You are invited to take part in our special Ash Wednesday tradition. A simple **Soup Supper at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall** will be prepared and provided by LOGOS Ministries for everyone! **Call the church office by Feb 17th, 877-2216, to help those planning the meal. Please know, even if you haven't called, you are welcome to join us for our Soup Supper. Following the Supper **at 7 PM, we will have an Ash Wednesday Service**, which will include the tradition of imposition of ashes. Come join us in a meaningful start to this sacred season.**

**THANK YOU**

We appreciate your caroling Sunday. Walter really enjoyed it (we both did). Thank you all so much.

Carolyn Jones

## **HOSPITALIZED?**

When you or a family member enter any hospital or nursing care facility, please phone the church office so that the minister, church leaders and prayer chain members can pray for you or your loved one and family.

Regulations to protect your privacy as a patient prohibit hospitals from notifying your pastor as they previously did. For the hospital to release this information requires your specific permission, and often your permission is never even requested, especially if you enter the hospital through the Emergency Room.

Any time you are in the hospital a few days and the pastor hasn't visited you, you may be sure that the church does not know you are hospitalized. Help us provide good pastoral care by contacting the pastor by phone 877-2216, or 853-9067 cell, text or by email [pastor-daveucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastor-daveucc@sbcglobal.net) Thank you.

## **OUR SYMPATHY...**

for the family of Doris Nees. Doris passed from this life to life eternal on January 4, 2015.

the family of Charles Stringer. Charles passed from this life to life eternal on December 27, 2014.

We give thanks for Doris and Charles' lives and that they with God in life eternal. We pray God 's love and support be with their families and friends.

"I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."  
John 11: 25-26

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

In an effort to keep our prayer list "fresh," we will be removing names after one month, unless we are contacted. A name can always be added back at anytime. Thank you for your help with this caring and vital ministry.



## FOODS RESOURCE BANK UPDATE

Here is a wrap-up on the Foods Resource Bank growing project for 2014.

It rained the night before our September Harvest Celebration so we were not able to combine in the field, but we still had fun with wagon rides and Al Gehold's gator. Everyone enjoyed BBQ sandwiches and treats, and the kids lined up to take a whack at a monkey piñata which eventually showered candy corn for all. Our harvest blessing service included inspiring words by FRB staffer Eric Mattsen who shared his FRB story.

Our corn crop made a record-breaking 260 bushels per acre! But, the market price had dropped and we sold for only \$3.70 a bushel. With this sale amount added to the funds donated to the FRB growing project, we have \$7,641.67 for our donation to Foods Resource Bank.

Ten percent of this amount was designated to the general operating expenses of the Foods Resource Bank. During the Harvest Celebration, we voted to give the remaining 90 percent to support a sustainable food program in Cambodia. This program is working with small farmers to help them adapt their farming methods to deal with the dramatic changes in weather -- both droughts and flooding. Through farmer field schools, this program introduces improved practices such as crop diversity, conservation farming, irrigation resources, improved animal raising, soil improvement, system of rice intensification, and nutrition. The classroom is a field -- set up as a training/demonstration plot -- and a place where participating farmers regularly meet to share, learn, explore, problem-solve and try out new technologies including composting, liquid fertilizer, botanical pesticide, poultry farming, and wet and dry season vegetable growing.

Thanks to all First Congregational members and friends for helping the people of Cambodia experience the dignity and pride of feeding themselves through our Foods Resource Bank growing project.



*You're Invited.....*

*Ash Wednesday Soup Supper*

**Wednesday, February 18, 5:45-6:45 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Followed by worship in the sanctuary,  
7:00 p.m.*

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a soup supper for our congregation and our LOGOS families. The Ash Wednesday worship service starts at 7:00, and we will invite our LOGOS families to join us for this service upstairs in the sanctuary. Our LOGOS schedule for this evening will be adjusted to accommodate the worship service. Your RSVP will help us plan for dinner, but is not required.



Sponsored by  
LOGOS Ministry



## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

On Sunday February 1, Pastoral Care Ministry will be having a card sale in Fellowship Hall between services. Purchase price is a free-will offering. Featured will be cards for Valentine's Day, but other types of cards will also be available.



In the past, card sales have been the first Sunday of every month, but this year sales will be on an approximately every-other-month basis. A card-making day is tentatively planned for early spring; a final date will be printed in the newsletter. Anyone interested in participating may contact any of the Pastoral Care Ministry members: Shelly Smith, Ellen Starace, Alice Huebner, or Jodi Baldwin.

## Changes Coming to Kroger Community Rewards Program

As of Jan 1, the Kroger program will not operate as it has. We will be explaining all of the details when we get our participation forms all filled -out. Meanwhile, you won't need to use your Kroger gift card for the church to get benefits. Any money you put on your card before Dec. 15 was still credited to the church. Your card is still worth however much your balance is. The new program will involve registering our Kroger Plus cards so whenever we use them, no matter how we pay our bill, the church will be rewarded. Please stay tuned for the details.

Jeanette Flenner

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>
<b>1</b>  <b>Pastoral Card Sale</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 6:00 AAUW Fellowship Hall</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Church Services</b>  <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>9</b> <b>5:30 Admin</b> <b>6:00 Worship/Music</b> <b>7:00 Property</b>	<b>10</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Children's Valentine Social</b>  <b>Children Singing</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>7:00 Church Council</b>	<b>17</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:00 Ash</b> <b>Wednesd</b> <b>Service</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Church Services</b>  <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>Church Services</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>			



	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> oir	<b>5</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
oir	<b>12</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>6:00 Youth Sweetheart Dinner</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> ay	<b>19</b> <b>1:15 Book Club</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> oir	<b>26</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
			



**DECEMBER 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$15,672.57	\$188,070.88
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,414.05	\$208,968.58
<b>Income</b>	\$24,950.27	\$208,035.43
<b>Expenses</b>	\$22,608.22	\$201,269.81

# LOGOS THEMES 2014-2015

## JANUARY

- 7 - LOGOS (Staff?)
- 14 - Opposites
- 21 - Board Games
- 28 - Super Bowl

JANUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## FEBRUARY 2015

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## FEBRUARY

- 4 - Animal Friends
- 11 - NO LOGOS
- 18 - Ash Wednesday
- 25 - Hooray for Hollywood

## MARCH

- 4 - Colors of the Rainbow
- 11 - Spuds 'n Suds
- 18 - NO LOGOS
- 25 - March Madness

MARCH 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## APRIL 2015

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## APRIL

- 1 - Autograph T's
- 8 - FINAL Banquet

LOGOS meets 4:45 - 7:15pm, unless otherwise noted.

## Children's Ministry Dates

Valentine's Social on Sunday Feb.15th. There will be activities and a snack provided in the back of the fellowship hall after choir practice. The children's choir will perform during first service.

St.Patrick's Social on Sunday March 15th. There will be activities and a snack provided in the back of the fellowship hall after choir practice. The children's choir will perform during first service.

Easter Social on Sunday March 29th. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and a snack provided in the back of the fellowship hall after choir practice. The children will wave the palm branches at the beginning of first service.

# Youth Activities

## SUPER BOWL

It will soon be time for **THE SUPER BOWL**. You can't stop it, so you might as well get prepared for it, and the Youth Group has a great idea. On February 1, 2015, if you are having a party or just relaxing in your arm-chair, why not enjoy the game with a big plate of **Chili Mac** prepared for you by our very own Youth Group. You can even pick it up between services that morning.

The Youth will be taking orders between services in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 25. You can also call the Church office (877-2216), email Joe Moretti at [ajmo40@comcast.net](mailto:ajmo40@comcast.net), or tell any Youth Ministry member how much you need by January 30 and it will be ready for you on February 1.

All proceeds will go toward the Youth Mission Trip in July 2015.

## Sweetheart Dinner

On Saturday, February 14, 2015 the Youth will be hosting the Annual Sweetheart Dinner at 6:00 p.m. This event, held in Fellowship Hall, will be a pasta dinner and Trivia Night for families. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 for a family (up to 5) and can be purchased from any member of the youth group between services in Fellowship Hall, youth ministry, or ask Kapora in the church office. We hope to see you and your family and friends for an evening full of fun and fellowship. All proceeds will be used for the 2015 youth Mission Trip to Bayou LaBatre Alabama in July.

# 2015 SENIOR APPRECIATION DINNER

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, thirty+ seniors from the church had a great dinner provided by the youth of our church and youth from the United Methodist church of Moweauqua. Thank you to the youth of the United Methodist church for helping our youth put on this dinner.



Photos by Dave Capenter





*God bless you on your birthday and each day the whole year through. May all His blessings bring you joy in everything you do.*

2. Robert Henry
3. Judi Carpenter  
William Huebner
8. Katherine Koyak  
Claudia Metzger  
Harriette Horn
10. Christen Cantrell
12. Keith Carmichael
13. Andrew Mower
15. Rick Boldizar
16. Shirley Ritchie
17. Nellie Brookhauzen  
Clarence Elliott  
Alice Roach  
Hannah Cordts  
Shirley Young
18. Devon Moretti  
Marsha Mower
19. Jean Hoelzen
20. Benjamin Carter  
Mable McCane
21. Andrew Tucker
23. Janet Mockaitis
27. Quincy Janvrin
28. Pat Mahr

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

*And may the many blessings that have come from God above fill your hearts with all the joys of His enduring love.  
Happy Anniversary!*



**FIRST SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 1**

**LITURGIST:** Sharon Burbes  
**FLOWERS:** Frank & Shelly Smith  
**COFFEE:** Women's Fellowship  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Alice Huebner, Ellen Starace, Darby Mitchell, Melinda Redman

**FEBRUARY 8**

**LITURGIST:** Chuck Zweck  
**FLOWERS:** Don & Stacy Carter  
**COFFEE:** Kristin Hargrove  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Mike Koyak, Dave Carpenter, Bill Huebner, Carol Robertson

**FEBRUARY 15**

**LITURGIST:** Marsha Mower  
**FLOWERS:** Skip & Marsha Mower  
**COFFEE:** Darla & Lynn Weltmer  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Ted & Darby Mitchell, Joe Robertson, Sandi Pleasants

**FEBRUARY 18**

**USHERS/GREETER:** Dave Carpenter, Jim & Jodi Baldwin, Frank Smith

**FEBRUARY 22**

**LITURGIST:** Amy Leman  
**FLOWERS:** Ted & Darby Mitchell  
**COFFEE:** Shelly & Frank Smith  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Kristin Hargrove, Bob Bunselmeyer, Dave Carpenter, Sheila Mannweiler

**SECOND SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 1**

**USHER/GREETER:** Sandy Harmison  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Sandy Harmison

**FEBRUARY 8**

**USHER/GREETER:** Ashley Lofland  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Missy Boldizar

**FEBRUARY 15**

**USHER/GREETER:** Betty Wheatley  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Betty Wheatley

**FEBRUARY 22**

**USHER/GREETER:** Debbie & Bruce Whitney  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Debbie & Bruce Whitney



# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Board of Directors for the Women's Fellowship met and we have the following to present for 2015 dates. Please mark these dates down on your calendars and keep the date clear to attend our meetings.

February 1<sup>st</sup> is Celebrated as Women's Sunday and we need four volunteers to serve as ushers on that Sunday. Please contact Darla Weltmer if you can help out.

February 13<sup>th</sup> will be our Valentine Tea at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Program to be announced.

March 13<sup>th</sup> our Annual Irish Luncheon will be served.

May 1<sup>st</sup> we will travel to Allerton Park and on to Monticello to the Brown Bag for lunch.

July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - set up for rummage sale. July 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 - 4:00 and 18<sup>th</sup> -8:00 - 11:00 sale. We are asking for all kinds of helpers for these 4 days and especially on Sat. to pack up and haul down to Blessingdales.

No meetings in July and August

October 9 to Amish Country in Arthur for a lunch and tour of Pumpkin Patch

November 13 SOUP Luncheon 12:00

December 11<sup>th</sup> our Christmas Tea 1:00

Questions? Contact any of our Officers  
Ellen Whitrock and Norma Lingenfelter Advisors  
Ellen Starace, Secretary, Martha Crookshank, Treasurer,  
Sandi Pleasants Vice President and Darla D. Weltmer, President