This publication comes to you from:
First Presbyterian Church
600 3rd St.
Battle Creek, IA  51006
712-365-4938

Pastor: Rev. Kevin Freese  365-4704
Clerk of Session:  Lucille Mason
Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Sorensen
Custodian:  Mae Hedberg
Email: bcpres@frontiernet.net
Website: www.battlecreekpresbyterian.com

Ministers:
Every Member of First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek

Elders:
2012 - Dixie Brueck, Lorraine Davis, James Fundermann, Todd Riessen
2013 - Karen Krayenhagen, Robin Lorenzen, Nancy Rogge, Diane Schreiber
2014 - Stuart Kelley, Rusty Sadler, Deron Schmidt, Jean Yohnke
Youth Elders - Austin Sadler & Justin Sadler
Clerk of Session - Lucille Mason

Deacons:
2012 - Benita Carlson, Vic Jepsen, Liz Rice
2013 - Jan Ezell, Jim Lewis, Linda Wingert
2014 - Barb Meier, Lisa Sorensen, VaLaura Tarr
Youth Deacons - Austin Fritz & Justin Van Houten

Sunday School Superintendent: Carol Sadler
DJ’s Leaders: Tammy Rusch & Randy Bean
DOGS Leaders: Kevin & Wanda Freese
Cherub Choir: Renee Fritz
Chancel Choir: Dixie Brueck
Shepherd Bells: Dixie Brueck
Praise Team Leaders: Renee Fritz & Carol Sadler
The Elder “on call” for July for is
Lorraine Davis
(712-490-0944)

The Elder “on call” for August for is
Jean Yohnke
(712-369-1367)

Remember this also includes counting the Sunday offering after each service & preparing a brief devotion & prayer for this month’s session meeting.

*Elders who prepare elements

Sunday July 1, 2012
Holy Communion
Karen Krayenhagen
Stuart Kelley
Dixie Brueck
Todd Riessen
Diane Schreiber
James Fundermann
Deron Schmidt
Robin Lorenzen

Sunday August 5, 2012
Holy Communion
James Fundermann
Todd Riessen
Jean Yohnke
Lorraine Davis
Karen Krayenhagen
Nancy Rogge
Diane Schreiber
Dixie Brueck

You are Invited

Please join us for a Brunch on
Sunday, August 12th, celebrating our parents,
Wanda and Kevin Freese
40th Wedding Anniversary.
Sunday, August 12, 11:00 to 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church
Battle Creek.
Hosted by their children & families;
Justin & Janet, Jarred & Hannah, Mia Freese

July Ushers
Head Usher: Don Lewis

July 1~Danielle Meyer, Miranda Stowe, Emma Mullins & Justin Van Houten
July 8~Hana Berry, Austin Sadler, Justin Sadler & Austin Fritz
July 15~Danielle Meyer, Miranda Stowe, Cassidy Markert & Emma Mullins
July 22~Hana Berry, Austin Sadler, Justin Sadler & Justin Van Houten
July 29~Danielle Meyer, Miranda Stowe, Emma Mullins & Cassidy Markert

August Ushers
Head Usher: Gordon Morrice

August 5~Hana Berry, Austin Sadler, Justin Sadler & Taylor Young
August 12~Danielle Meyer, Miranda Stowe, Emma Mullins, & Justin Van Houten
August 19~Hana Berry, Austin Sadler, Justin Sadler & Cassidy Markert
August 26~Danielle Meyer, Miranda Stowe, Austin Fritz & Domenic Fritz
**July Candle Lighters**

- July 1~Jordyn Hedberg & Rylie Hedberg
- July 8~Ryder Meek & Terry Lundeen
- July 15~Devon Fritz & Tyler Mefferd
- July 22~Summit Nielsen & Denali Nielsen
- July 29~Ethan Young & Alex Rehse

**August Candle Lighters**

- August 5~Jordyn Hedberg & Rylie Hedberg
- August 12~Terry Lundeen & Conner Wallace
- August 19~Nathaniel Tarr & Ryder Meek
- August 26~Ethan Young & Peyton Young

**Found**

Set of two keys on a ring in the East Church Parking Lot. Contact Lisa if these might be yours. Thanks!

**Battle Creek American Legion Auxiliary**

Craft and Bake Sale
July 4th, 2010
12:00-4:00 pm
Battle Creek Community Building

Coffee and cookies Free Will Donation

**Elevator Finance Update**

Donations received $207,790.73
Bills paid out $144,422.82
Balance 06/24/12 $ 63,367.91

Your gifts, donations and pledges are needed to reach our financial goals. See any Committee member for more information.
Banner IX-Statement of Faith of 1983

In 1983, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was formed by the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

A rainbow of colors in the CROSS represents the celebration of unity with the diversity of cultures and races living in Christ.

The BLUE BACKGROUND symbolizes our divisiveness and diversity yet the faith we confess unites us with the one universal Church.

The EARTH has cracks symbolizing the universe as the light of the WORD of GOD bringing us together.

The SECURE HANDS OF GOD remind us that He who holds our world together in Turmoil will unite us in the grace of Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of our knowledge of God’s sovereign love and our living together in the Holy Spirit.

The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 9U.S.A.) is the symbol of a Brief Statement of Faith and has a prominent position on this banner. This symbol represents the descending dove of peace and the baptism of Christ. The open Bible symbol is the word of God. The font recalls the other Sacrament of Communion, the Last Supper, and the pulpit as the preaching of the Word. The flames represent the burning bush and Pentecost. The overall image suggests the human figure with stretched out arms.

Banner X-The Belhar Confession of 2011

The number ‘1’ in the CROSS symbolizes that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause and share one hope.

The DOVE and HEART represent God’s Holy Spirit as a binding force of love. The multicolored continuous ribbon represents unity, peace, justice, and righteousness, like an ever flowing stream having no beginning and no end.

The PEOPLE figures of various colors are linked together in visible unity as a people of God. They represent equality for all as created by God.

The HANDS of GOD hold the cross up for salvation for all who believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God.
Understanding the Sacraments – Baptism

This is the final GOOD NEWS installment in our exploration to a deeper understanding of the first sacrament, Holy Baptism. We continue with excerpts from Donald K. Kim’s book, “Introducing the Reformed Faith” (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001). Look for articles on the Lord’s Supper in future Good News.

The Contemporary Significance of Baptism

Ecumenical discussions today seek to overcome older barriers among churches about the nature of baptism and its practices. While these efforts have not brought agreements, they have opened new avenues of exploration and have helped Christian communities reflect upon and declare what is essential in their views of baptism.

The 1982 World Council of Churches document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, sought to draw an ecumenical consensus on these three important topics. In the section of baptism, the document highlights the clusters of New Testament meaning that are associated with the meaning of baptism. These continue to serve as guiding lights as churches consider the significance of baptism and its meaning today. Baptism is

1. Participation in Christ’s Death and Resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)
2. Conversion, Pardoning, and Cleansing (1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:22)
3. The Gift of the Spirit (John 3:5; Acts 2:38)
4. Incorporation into the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-6)
5. The Sign of God’s Reign (Romans 8:23)

These images, which vary in the emphases, point to the one reality: that baptism is “the sign of new life through Jesus Christ. It unites the one baptized with Christ and with his people.”

Yet this ecumenical document also highlights issues that continue to divide the Christian community among its varying traditions. One dividing issue is the relation of baptism and salvation. In baptism, does God convey the new birth in Christ? One scholar noted:

Orthodox, Catholics, and most Reformation churches have historically maintained that baptism is the act in which a woman or man is born again in Christ and is forgiven of past sins. Reformed confessions and Methodist doctrinal statements allow that although this may be generally asserted, the moment of new birth may be separate from the moment when water is applied. Distinctive of many evangelical churches is the belief that only by affective and explicit faith (conversion) is a person born again in Christ.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does your baptism mean?
2. Why is infant baptism important?
3. In what ways is baptism related to the covenant?
4. What ethical obligations does one assume when one is baptized?
5. In what ways might Reformed churches put more emphasis on the meaning of baptism for those who are baptized and for the congregation?
Images from the Elevator-Atrium Construction Project
Thought for the month…

"Most of our Christianity is based on clichés that we read on the back of Christian t-shirts. Most of our Christianity comes from songwriters and not the Bible. Most of what we believe to be true is dictated to us by our culture and not by the Bible. The Bible never teaches that a person can be a genuine Christian and live in continuous carnality and wickedness and sin all the days of their life. But the Bible teaches that the genuine Christian has been given a new nature; the genuine Christian has a Father who loves them and disciplines them and watches over them and cares for them." - Paul Washer, The Shocking Youth Message

Bible Verse for July & August:

“This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 NLT

September Good News articles and information are due Friday, August 24th.

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, or has a hospital stay scheduled, please let Pastor Kevin know. The hospital may or may not contact the church, so it is best for you to contact Pastor Kevin as he would like to know you’re in the hospital so he can stop by for a prayer or at least give you a call of encouragement.

Elevator Meeting

Monday, July 2, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.
Monday, July 16, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.
Monday, July 30, 2012 @ 6:00 pm

Elevator Meeting

Monday, August 13, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 27, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.
Note time change on August 13th.

July Devotions

The following are the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for July. These scripture lessons can be used as your guide to Bible reading, devotions and prayer each week.

July 1~2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43
July 8~2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
July 15~2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 22~2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89; Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 29~2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

August Devotions

The following are the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for August. These scripture lessons can be used as your guide to Bible reading, devotions and prayer each week.

August 5~2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 4:1-25; Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 12~2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps. 130; Eph. 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
August 19~1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Ps. 111; Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 26~1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Ps. 84; Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
Willow Dale Communion
July 19th @ 2:00 pm
Serving Lunch ~PW
Liz Rice & Bonnie Van Houten
Serving Communion ~ Deacons
Liz Rice & Jimmie Lewis

Willow Dale Communion
August 16th @ 2:00 pm
Serving Lunch ~PW
Iris Witt & Lucille Mason
Serving Communion ~ Deacons
Liz Rice & Linda Wingert

No Lions Club Meeting in July

No Congregational Life Meeting in July or August

No PW Meetings in July or August

No Session Meetings in July or August

No Deacon Meetings in July or August

Church Offices Closed
Wednesday, July 4th

Lions Club
August 1st @ 12:00 pm
Chairperson: Dixie Brueck
Workers: Iris Witt, Tammie Tarr, Wanda Hieber, & Kelly Harris.
Contributors: Lisa Sorensen, Randi Shever, Jan Ezell, & Donna Georgopoulos.

Mid Sioux
There is a box underneath the coat rack, near the church office, for non-perishable items for Mid-Sioux Opportunity.

Mid Sioux items for the month of July...Condiment: ketchup, mustard, pickles, salt, pepper, etc.

Mid Sioux items for the month of August...Baking items: flour, sugar, soda, vanilla, cake mixes, etc.

Month of May donated: 8 items

Your donations of food supplies are truly needed because of the increased demand from families needing assistance. Please consider this mission opportunity and make it part of your giving each month.

Thank You!!

Pictured above are the DJ’s at their final meeting for the school year. They gathered at Crawford Creek for Olympic games, lunch and prizes. Special thanks to their leader Tammy Rusch for another great year!
### Music Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 1</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship/Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolores Modrell, Piano</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 8</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>Dixie Brueck, Organ</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 15</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Watson, Piano</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 22</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>Dixie Brueck, Organ</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 29</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>Dolores Modrell, Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 5</td>
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<td>Worship/Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Dolores Modrell, Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 12</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Watson, Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 19</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Sadler, Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 26</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolores Modrell, Piano</td>
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### Vacation Bible School

"SKY"

"Everything is Possible with God!"

This year we are asking you to pre-register for VBS. There is no charge to attend, but we would like to have an idea of how many we can expect. Dates are July 16th thru 20th.

Child’s Name ________________________________

Parent’s Name ________________________________

Address ___________________________ City ___________________________

Phone ___________________________ Cell phone ___________________________

Email ___________________________ Age ________ (at least 4 yrs. old)

Grade completed 1 yr. of pre-school thru 6th _______ Allergies________________
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR May 2012

(INCOME)                                      (DISBURSEMENTS )

GENERAL FUND
Pledges, gifts, loose offering  $ 7,978.40
Mission Support  $ 82.66
Sunday School  $ 10.05
Other special offerings  $ 197.50

Total Income for the month  $ 8,268.61

YTD Income  $ 53,826.15

Pastor Salary  $ 2,508.74
Housing Allow.  $ 318.75
Mileage Reimbursement  $ 308.03
Pension/Health Insurance  $ 1,286.89
Professional Expense  $ 187.63
Music Salary  $ 143.23
Secretary Salary  $ 660.34
Custodian Salary  $ 714.70
Presbytery/Synod/GA  $ 1,250.01
Per Capita  $ 2,093.25
Office Supplies  $ 137.03
Postage  $ 51.66
Service Contract  $ 588.96
Computer Hardware  $ 96.30
Water  $ 28.80
Electricity  $ 303.36
Phones  $ 265.08
Gas  $ 664.64
Building Repair  $ 230.00
Congregational Life  $ 150.00
Music-mise items  $ 49.95
Video Ministry  $ 64.00
Worship Supplies  $ 230.48
Special Events  $ 105.00
Kitchen Supply  $ 60.51
Pulpit Supply  $ 95.40
Misc. Expense  $ 11.57
State Taxes  $ 366.00
FICA Taxes  $ 1,322.74

Total Expenses:  $ 14,293.05
YTD expenses:  $ 65,680.25

Greeters Schedule...

Each congregate member is assigned a week to be greeters at the Sunday morning worship service. These names will be listed in the Good News each month. Also, there is a sign up sheet in the vestibule if you would like to be an “on call” greeter. If someone cannot make their scheduled week, please find a replacement from the “on call” list or switch with those scheduled on another week. Thank You!!

Those scheduled for July:
July 1~Mike Williamson family
July 8~Linda Wingert family
July 15~Wendell & Jean Wilcke
July 22~Fred Yohnke family
July 29~Diane Young & Dawn Young & family

Those scheduled for August:
August 5~Craig & Kelly Young & family
August 12~Jordan & Malinda Alm
August 19~Randy & Susan Bean
August 26~Lonnie & Marva Bennigsdorf
Remember with a prayer, card or visit, our members who are nursing home residents:

- Willow Dale Care Center & Apts
  - Helen Lehmann
  - Thelma Schau
  - Alvera Gosch
  - Bonnie DeJong
  - Don Kerr
  - Edith Brock

- Morningside Care Center, Ida Grove
  - Pete Nielsen
  - Gladys Bower
  - Helen Sales

- Albert City Nursing Home
  - Helen Durston

- Diane Reitz at Smithland with her parents.

Please notify Pastor Freese or the Church Secretary, of those who are hospitalized or in need of pastoral care. We appreciate your help.

Thank You!

Please remember in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized:

- Stuart Lee, Henry Brueck, Audrey Harrison, Don Kerr, Jason Jensen, Iris Witt, Lola Van Houten, Robin Lorenzen, Karen Krayenhagen, Kim Hieber, Helen Sales, Verna Marten, Andy Marten, Bonnie DeJong, Vera Gosch, Myrle Nielsen, Bette Schmidt, Darc Barrett, Sheryl Riessen, Marylin Kuyper, Keri Van Houten, Linda Tietsort, David Cummings (grandson of Debbie (Lorenzen Cummings), and Diana Bean.

Audrey Harrison’s address:
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
Room 224A
5401 South Street
Lincoln, NE  68506-2134

Also those who serve in the armed services:
Becca Anderson, Austin & Jessie Armstrong, Eric & Erica Ford, Matthew Reitz, Christopher Smith.

Congratulations...Tarin Maier and Adam Swanger on their wedding Saturday, June 9, 2012

Work Day at the Manse
A work day is planned for August 17th & 18th to re-roof the Church Manse. Workers are needed. Mark your calendars. Watch for more information and details from the Building and Finance Committee. Everyone can do something to help.

The Elevator Fund Raising Committee is asking for volunteers in many aspects to help raise money for our addition during the 4th of July festivities. There are many ways one can help.

1) Pies...Calling all pie bakers. We plan to have an ice cream and pie fundraiser at the church along with the Lion’s meal and also at the Intermediate Building along with the meal being served there. We need 25 apple, 15 peach, and 15 cherry pies. There is a sign up sheet at the church or call Lisa at the office. We also need people to help serve pie and ice cream. 3 people at the church and 3 people at the Intermediate Building. Times will be following the parade until 6:00 or 6:30.

2) Bingo...We also plan to have a Bingo fundraiser at the Intermediate Building from 6:30-8:30. We will need volunteers to help with that activity.

3) 1K Kiddie and 5K Fun Run/Walk...Start and End at the church. Registration at 8:00 am, beginning at 9:00 am. We need participants!! We also need a few workers. Registration is $15.00 to participate with cash prizes given to the top 3 places. Kiddies, (Prek-9 yrs) can participate for a freewill donation. Prizes will be given for all kiddie participants.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6
## July 2012

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<tr>
<td>9:30–Worship/Holy Communion</td>
<td>6:00–Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>No PW Meeting</td>
<td>No Congregational Life Meeting</td>
<td>OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<td>9:30–Worship</td>
<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>6:00–Building &amp; Finance Meeting</td>
<td>10:00–COM</td>
<td>No Session</td>
<td>No Lions Club</td>
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### First Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School

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<td>9:30–Worship</td>
<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>No Deacons</td>
<td>2:00–Willow Dale Communion</td>
<td>7:00–VBS Program</td>
<td>No Good News</td>
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<td>9:30–Worship</td>
<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>6:00–Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>2:30–Golden Horizon Devotions</td>
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## August 2012

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<tr>
<td>12:00–Lions Club</td>
<td>No Congregational Life Meeting</td>
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<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
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### Church Work Days Re-roof the Manse

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<td>9:30–Worship</td>
<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>6:00–Building &amp; Finance Meeting</td>
<td>7:00–Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>No Deacons</td>
<td>1st Day of School</td>
<td>2:00–Willow Dale Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30–Worship</td>
<td>10:40–Fellowship &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>6:00–Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>9:00–Mail Good News</td>
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<td>6:00–Elevator Meeting</td>
<td>2:30–Golden Horizon Devotions</td>
<td>9:00–Mail Good News</td>
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June 2012 Session Highlights

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, IA met @ 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 13, 2012. Ruling Elders present were Todd Riessen, Lorraine Davis, Dixie Brueck, Robin Lorenzen, Nancy Rogge, Diane Schreiber, Stuart Kelley, Rusty Sadler, Deron Schmidt, Jean Yohnke and Clerk of Session, Lucille Mason. Elders excused were Karen Krayenhagen, James Fundemanni and youth elders Austin Sadler and Justin Sadler. Pastor Kevin moderated the meeting. The meeting opened with devotions and prayer led by Elder Dixie Brueck.

Minutes of the previous stated May 9, 2012 session meeting were approved.

The following reports were received and approved:

Clerk of Session Report

Holy Communion: served May 17 (Willow Dale) and June 3 (Sunday Worship). Communion will be served June 21, July 19 & August 16 (Willow Dale), July 1 (Sunday Worship) and August 5 (Sunday Worship).

Baptism: May 13 – Bodi James Eason, son of Ben Eason and Nikki Smith Dausel

Wedding: June 9 – Tarin Lee Maier and Adam Michael Swanger

Reports from standing church committees, elevator committee, deacons and pastor were reviewed and received. Of special note, VBS Leaders, teachers and other volunteers are needed. VBS dates are July 16-20. Please see Pastor Kevin or Lisa. Church committee work continues on Articles of Re-Incorporation, Bylaws as well as developing policies concerning technology use, reference checks, church trip drivers, and church property inventory for insurance policy.

New Business:

- Approve request for Baptism: Silas Rhoads, son of Brittany Goodenow Rhoads and Matt Rhoads
- Approved participation in Presbytery Cluster 5 pulpit exchange, September 2, 2012
- Ruling Elders will serve VBS meal on Tuesday, July 17
- Ruling Elders will meet with Building & Finance Committee on July 9 for informative meeting with New Covenant Funds representative
- Approved Pastor’s mileage for May

Joys and concerns shared. Meeting adjourned with closing prayer led by Pastor Kevin and the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Next Stated Session Meeting will be Sunday, August 5 following Sunday morning worship.

[Please note: Session Highlights are for information only. Official minutes of this meeting will be presented for approval at the August 5, 2012 meeting.]

Upcoming Events in July & August

Mark your calendars

July 4–Church Offices Closed
July 16–VBS (all week) starting at 5:30
July 20–VBS Program at 7:00
August 10 & 11–Pastor Kevin on vacation
August 13 & 14–Pastor Kevin on vacation
August 17–Church project (Reroof manse)
Dear Friends,

Over the past weeks, I have experienced a rash of computer problems, malfunctions, pitfalls, lock-ups and drag-downs with my home PC. And to make a long story short (you don't want to hear the details), I purchased a new computer, in hopes to leave all the troubles behind and move on. Excited, I brought my new computer home and unpacked it from it's beautiful package. I was dismayed. I looked and looked again; no manual! I had so many questions and things I didn't know about this "different brand" computer. "Where do I go from here...there's got to be a way....there has got to be a book to help me!" I called the dealer and yes the manual was "in" the computer...but no printed book.

Now, I am the kind of guy who likes a hard-copy manual by my side (just like every other guy who tries to put something together first and then refers to the instructions to find out how to really do it!). So in my frustration and desperation, I ordered and received through the mail, "The Missing Manual" (that's actually the title, with the subtitle: "the book that should have been in the box"). I have now received "The Missing Manual" and its great! I can turn to it, look things up, refer to it, learn from it and proceed with confidence. Worth every penny! (Actually twenty-six bucks...but I digress.)

Life is like that...we need a manual that we can refer to, to return to again and again, to find out how to proceed, how to put this thing we call life together and live a better life. And yes, there is a manual and my friends, (I know you have already guessed it), is the BIBLE. God's Word, the Instruction Manual of LIFE, given, provided for us to read, learn from and know the will and way of God. And what better place to start than with the main frame of God's instructions found in Exodus 20:

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

*Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

God's instructions...THEE INSTRUCTIONS...the basic, core rules of operation, to help us through the problems, malfunctions, pitfalls, lock-ups and drag-downs of our lives. In print, for us to follow each and every day.

In my e-mail inbox, just this morning, I received these beautiful words from a friend (yes, I finally did get my e-mail account set up). These words are laced with a bit of imagery, humor and wit. Take them like an addendum, if you will, to the ten commandments.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. A Car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

In Christ's Amazing Love,