

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
May 24, 2018

The Presbytery Connection is a bi-weekly joint newsletter for the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to contribute to the Connection, please contact Jeannie Stolee in the Presbytery office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com.

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this communication, please email or call Jeannie.

Please consider making copies of this newsletter for your Session and running several copies to make available to your congregation.

Normal Presbytery office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To see North Central Iowa's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

To see Prospect Hill's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Loren Shellabarger (First Presbyterian Church, Algona) and Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon (First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park), both of whom graduated with a Doctor of Ministry Degree from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary on May 19, 2018.



Rev. Dr. Loren Shellabarger (center) is pictured with (from left to right):

Clarine Campbell, grandmother
Connie Goodman, mother
Becky Shellabarger, wife
David Shellabarger, son
Ed Hassler, father-in-law



Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon (right) is pictured with (from left to right):

Heather Harmon, wife
Hannah Harmon, daughter

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Barbara Gaddis on her retirement from Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Ames, Pentecost Sunday. Barb is transferring to Des Moines Presbytery, where they now live.



Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of May 27	Unity Presbyterian Church, Waterloo – Rev. Christine Kaplunas
Week of June 3	First Presbyterian Church, Mason City – Rev. Paul Collier
Week of June 10	Pray for the General Assembly, which will meet June 16 – June 23
Week of June 17	Pray for honorably retired pastors of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa (not currently serving churches): Rev. Bruce Baillie, Rev. John Bates, Rev. Fran Beyea, Rev. Susan Cluts, Rev. Dan Emmert, Rev. Robert EnTin, Rev. Jerry Evelsizer, Rev. John Hanna, Rev. Richard Harken, Rev. Wesley Harker, Rev. Jack Mauldin, Rev. Harold Martin, Rev. Marian “Pete” McCart, Rev. Larry Mitchell, Rev. Charles Orr, Rev. John Osborn, Rev. Mark Pell, Rev. Charles Quirk, Rev. Robert Roof, Rev. LaVern Seth, Rev. Mary Wilber, Rev. Cathy Young Pray for those who have served as Commissioned Pastors and are now retired: Clair Hein, Donna Steven, Marcia Rich, John Butler
Week of June 24	First Presbyterian Church, Greene, and First Presbyterian Church, Rudd – Rev. Catherine Belles

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of May 27	First Presbyterian Church, Ringsted – Rev. Suzanne Wobig
Week of June 3	Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson – Rev. Dale Lint, Moderator
Week of June 10	Pray for the General Assembly, which will meet June 16 – June 23
Week of June 17	Faith United Presbyterian Church, Sioux City – Rev. David Koehler
Week of June 24	First Presbyterian Church, Paullina – Rev. Angel de la Cruz

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please continue to remember Rev. Dr. Rich and Val King and family in your prayers as they recover from losing their home to a fire on April 27.

Please continue to keep Angie Reemtsma, daughter-in-law of Walt and Jan Reemtsma, in your prayers as she remains hospitalized.

Please keep Rev. Al Polito in your prayers.

Churches and Pastors in Transition

The following churches and pastors are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Ames
First Presbyterian Church, Jesup
First Presbyterian Church, Toledo

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Breda
Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
First Presbyterian Church, Cleghorn
Union Church, Lake City
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
First Presbyterian Church, Sac City
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

*The plant
is beautiful!*

*The Family of
Janette H. Willer*

gratefully acknowledges
your caring expression
of sympathy.



Your kindness will not be forgotten!

*Blessings to the Presbytery
for all your support and
love during the past 8 mos
as I mourn the loss of
both parents!*

Shari O'Bannon



Thank you for the cards, e-mails, phone calls, words of encouragement and prayers on the death of my mom. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Thank you, too, to the Presbyteries for the beautiful Norfolk Island Pine that now helps brighten my office.

Jeannie Stolee

The Presbytery office will be closed on Friday May 25 and Monday May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

Please remember Rev. Dr. Rich and Val King and their family in your prayers following a tragic fire that took their home on April 27. Rich is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Marshalltown.

If you wish to help support the family, there are two options:

- Partner with the Presbytery and send your check to:

Presbytery Office
Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
1864 Hwy. 86
Milford, IA 51351

- Make contribution checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church: and in the note field write: "Benevolence Fund." Mail your check to:

First Presbyterian Church
101 S. Center St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Poor Richard's Almanac

By Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



While visiting family in the Cleveland, Ohio, area last week we passed by a nondenominational church that has as its mission statement, "Making Jesus Famous."

It seems to me that Jesus was already pretty well known before that particular congregation came into being, but an even more basic question might be this: does Jesus *want* to be famous? Did anyone think to ask him?

After all, in the Gospels Jesus often seems to shun the spotlight. After healing a leper, for example, Jesus tells him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." (Mark 1:44 NRSV). Though Jesus attracted large crowds, he seems not to have seen that as his primary goal. A few verses before the passage I just quoted, Mark tells us that the whole village of Capernaum came to see Jesus, bringing their sick for healing. Mark writes that Jesus "cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. (Mark 1:34). Then Mark goes on,

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." (Mark 1:35-38).

Crowds gathered around Jesus, but the crowds were a byproduct of his mission: proclaiming the message. You might say that Jesus became famous, but not through wanting to be famous; he became famous for doing what God wanted him to do.

And Jesus was well aware that fame is not necessarily desirable. The Gospel of John reports that Jesus entered the temple and drove out the buyers and sellers, attracting a lot of attention to himself (John 2:13-22). John then says this:

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone. (John 2:23-25)

Our Book of Order tells us that “The great ends [that is, purposes] of the Church are: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” (F-1.0304). Nothing about making Jesus famous; quite a bit about being faithful.

I say this not to show how superior we are to that nondenominational church but to wonder if we, too, have sometimes thought that our job was to make Jesus famous instead of following him.

Blessings,



A Word from Pastor Donna Gray, Moderator of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” Psalm 127:1.

Many of you know the lodge at Lakeshore Center – our Presbyterian Camp at Okoboji – is working to build a deck that will look out on the beautiful lakefront of West Lake. The price tag of around \$300,000 makes many of us gasp, so I would like to fill in a few details.

First of all, this won't be the home deck where you go to the lumber yard or hardware store to pick up some boards and nails. This kind of deck requires maintenance and is relatively easy to do. If it were this kind of deck, the proposed dollar amount would be crazy. But it's not like this.

The lodge is already around ten years old. Many of you have donated your time and expertise to finish the indoor areas of the lodge. According to original plans, the lodge was designed to have a deck on the front looking out onto West Lake. That's why there are two doors near the front that lead to nothing but a steep drop to the ground. With everything else going into the building when it was

built, the deck was always something to be added later. We believe now is the time to add this addition.

The camp is located on the property of what was the Floete Mansion. After it burned, the owners chose not to rebuild. A few men with great insight and vision arranged for two presbyteries to purchase this property, with plans to begin a Presbyterian Church camp presence in the lakes area. More information about the history of the camp is available at Lakeshore Center.

The design is based on a picture of the lake view of the original Floete Mansion. Architects carefully studied the area and the history of the camp grounds before they drew their proposal. You can see this picture, along with the architects' rendering of the proposed deck, in this newsletter under All Hands on Deck. As the picture shows, the deck will be supported by stone pillars. The deck itself will be 24 feet by 52 feet, big enough to host gatherings of a good size. And if it's raining that day, there is a patio below, so the event can still take place outdoors. If you're thinking decks aren't very waterproof, part of the design of this deck is that there will be a liner under the deck that will empty into a gutter type system, so while it may be raining on top, the patio will be protected from the elements. That means there will not only be a deck, but also a covered open space below that will add to the versatility of Lakeshore Lodge. That's two large outdoor spaces for the price!

The deck will be handicapped accessible, allowing all guests access to experience the beauty of this outdoor space. The cost includes design and building costs, electrical work, earth moving, tree removal and stone work. When you include all of these numbers, the price doesn't seem so outrageous.

At this time, Lakeshore Center has pledges and donations to cover about two-thirds of the cost. That means with pledges and donations of around \$100,000, this deck will be a reality in the near future.

Those of you who have seen the camp grow from its humble beginnings know the improvements that have been made so far. They've built cabins, updated cabins and moved cabins to build the lodge, to name a few improvements. Much more waits to be done.

When I first came to Iowa back in 2000, I loved to walk on the camp grounds and sit looking at the lake. This truly is a sacred space for all to find God and enjoy God's creation. Many congregations have adopted cabins and work to maintain them. Others come to help with upkeep of buildings and grounds. This is a camp that belongs to the people. I believe all the work being done at Lakeshore Center is being done with our Lord's help and approval. As scripture says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1) I believe God is well pleased with the work being done in this space where youth and adults can come to learn about God and experience God's good creation. I pray this next phase will come to fruition in the near future. May it be so, soon.

Blessings,
Pastor Donna

Job Postings

Director of Campus Ministry and Adult Spiritual Formation, Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Ames, Iowa. For more information, please click [here](#).

Ordained Minister, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information, please click [here](#).

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 2

7:00 am to 11:00 am

First Presbyterian Church

101 North Main Street in Algona, Iowa



*Many
interesting
items!*

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa will NOT hold a called presbytery meeting on June 11, 2018.

Women of the Presbyterian Church



The Women of the Presbyterian Church invite you to their **Summer Program** on Wednesday, **June 27th** at the 1st Presbyterian Church at 812 Audubon Street, Sac City, Iowa.

We will feature Sammie Bruce as she “Tickles the Ivories” with some “Fun with Musical Notes” for our program.

We begin the evening at 6:30 pm with a light dessert & drink. This program is open to the public and there will be a free-will offering.

Please bring a couple friends with you for a fun-filled evening.

This is a night You Will NOT Want to Miss!

Please RSVP to 662-4304

~ 8 ~

Meet the Missionaries



Rev. Nadia Ayoub –
Ukraine

Nadia serves as a trainer in an early childhood education program that is an outreach of the Reformed Church in Carpath-Ukraine to the Roma people, one of the most marginalized groups in Europe. “I believe through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, I was called and enabled to serve Christ among unreached people,” Nadia says.

Home presbytery: Elizabeth
E200473, D506029



Rev. Dr. Karla Koll –
Costa Rica

Karla is professor of history, mission and religions at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), a PC(USA) mission partner that has been training church leaders throughout Latin America for over 90 years. “I have the joy of guiding women and men into deeper understanding of their faith in Christ, as my colleagues and I provide them with tools for working in God’s mission in ways that transform lives and communities,” says Karla.

Home presbytery: Pueblo
E200373, D506645

Apply to the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program today!! Final round for the '18 –'19 season is open until June 1. National sites only are available. Program benefits include a regular stipend, housing, transportation and student-loan repayment options through the duration of the service year. For more information visit the FAQ tab at the top of the YAV homepage. Also, follow @yavprogram as current YAVs take over the account. Help plant seeds of service and spread the word!

Washington Island Forum

“Reading the Verbs:
Finding the Scripture in the Scripture”
with Dr. Anna Carter Florence
June 25 – 29, 2018

For more information, please click [here](#).

Being Proactive Rather than Reactive: Planning for the Future

Where: Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls
When: Saturday, July 21, 2018
9:45 a.m. Registration and Coffee
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided at no cost)
How: Email Jeannie Stolee at northiowapresby@gmail.com by Monday, July 9, indicating the number attending from your church

For more information, please click [here](#).



September 24 - 26, 2018

St. Louis, MO

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac



Keynoter

Diana Butler Bass
Author of "Grateful, The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks" due out April 2018.



Keynoter

Chick Lane
Author of "Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation"



Worship Leader

Larissa Kwong Abazia
Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA)

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

To register and for more information visit:
www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org



Visit www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org to see a full brochure of camps and to register online!

Please click [here](#) for information on “All Hands on Deck” fundraising for improvements.

For a summary of the Spring Meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies held at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minnesota, April 29-30 and May 1, 2018, please click [here](#).

Please click [here](#) for information on Presbytery of North Central Iowa Ruling Elder Cohort led by Dr. Joe Small.

Please click [here](#) for information on The Academy.