

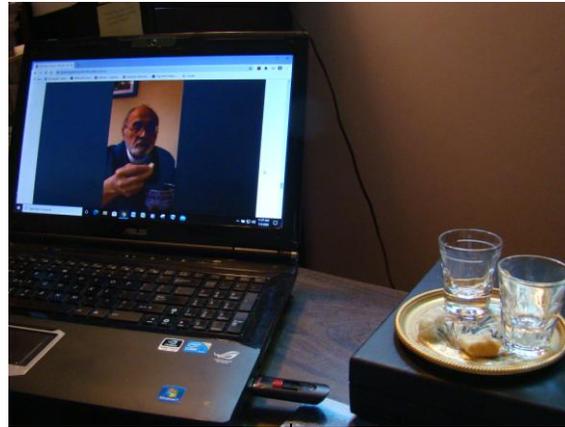


THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
August 2020

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
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Welcome to a special August issue of *The Carillon* in order to keep us connected during the Covid 19 pandemic. Our sanctuary is still closed at this time, but Zoom is allowing the church boards to meet and our website plus YouTube allows us to have virtual worship.

FROM THE PASTOR

Much of the writing about church renewal differentiates technical from adaptive challenges. A technical challenge might be do we print more bulletins because we ran out the last Sunday. An adaptive challenge comes about when none of the technical challenges works. For us, there was no way we could safely continue to gather in the same physical space. Ironically, *technology* became our *adaptive* response. How many of us a year ago would have thought we would go to a worship service in the comfort of our own home? How many would have thought we would have meetings using Zoom?

Teaching Elder is one of the ways we refer to clergy persons in our denomination. I grew up with the idea that pastors are Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders are the people ordained to be on the Session. I believe that a good teacher doesn't pour knowledge into another person. A good teacher encourages and supports learners.

My dismay over the disruption from this pandemic is balanced by my delight in seeing so many people at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood step up and step out: people taking leadership in worship; people using technology to participate in meetings; and people imagining new and different ways to use technology to gather, celebrate, and *educate*.

When I see the energy, imagination, and creativity bubbling in our congregation, I also see the Holy Spirit getting loose. The winds of the Spirit, if taken into our sails, bode for a vital and potentially unknown future. The winds of the Spirit move us into a renewed assurance of God's presence and power. The winds of the Spirit bring us refreshing hope.

Teaching Elder, *Dudley Elvery*

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

During the virtual worship service on Sunday, August 2, Pastor Dudley will lead us in a celebration of the sacrament of Communion. Remember to have a glass of juice and a piece of bread ready before starting the service on your phone, laptop, or computer.



SESSION REPORT

Regular Session Meeting, July 20, 2020

Once again, our Teaching Elder/Moderator Rev. Dudley Elvery and all nine of our Ruling Elders met via Zoom from the comfort and safety of our homes. We used email to send meeting papers and report documents to one another, so every person had the same information in front of them.

In response to a request from a former member living in another state, Session decided to approve the spreading of the ashes of the deceased husband (also a former member) on the grounds of the church he loved. The family may choose how, when, and where to spread the ashes into the soil, but the urn may not be buried. Our church is not responsible for maintaining a burial facility.

It may seem like an odd time (when we are closed) to be discussing a new church policy regarding the proper way to respond to the request of a registered sex offender who asks to attend worship services in our sanctuary. Each case will be different depending on the history of the person having been identified as a sex offender (child or adult) and the need to appropriately chaperone the person while he or she is on the grounds and in the building. Our society and laws place a legal burden on our ordained church officers and other elected officials as Mandated Reporters if we see anything that appears to be improper or illegal behavior and conduct in our presence. The adoption of a new policy helps to shield us from possible liability claims against us individually or collectively should there be an incident. Therefore, the best time to put a new policy in place is when there is no pending problem during a period of campus closure. Session voted to approve a draft of a policy developed by the Personnel & Administration Ministry Team, with another vote on the final wording when it is available in August.

Elder Kathleen O'Hanlon has sent the paperwork for a new covenant relationship with Rev. Elvery to the Presbytery of Chicago for signatures. His former covenant agreement as Interim Pastor expired on July 15, 2020. The new covenant extends from July 16, 2020, through (if necessary) July 15, 2021. In the meantime, Rev. Elvery continues to provide his customary pastoral leadership services.

Rev. Elvery thanked the Rev. Jane Tuma for leading our virtual worship services on Sunday, June 21, and June 28, while he was on Vacation Leave. Rev. Elvery led the Sacrament of Communion during the virtual worship

service on Sunday, July 5, 2020 (see photo on page 1). Session again encouraged all persons attending the virtual services to participate in Communion with their own setting of bread and juice. The next opportunity will be on Sunday, August 2, 2020.

Notification of two deaths was received during the last month.

-  **James Hanley**, grandfather of Richard Hanley (husband of Emily Hanley and great-grandfather of Grace and Olivia Hanley), on Saturday, June 27, 2020.
-  **Rev. Larry Leonard**, former Interim Pastor (1998-2000) of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood, on Sunday, June 28, 2020.

Session thanked Elder Kathie Darman and Elder Kathie Hazlett for the coordination of the virtual worship services. The members who have recorded segments of the services with their voices heard on Sundays were also thanked. Just hearing our members add their voices to the worship experience adds to our sense of community during our otherwise physical isolation.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



Shelter in Place - Lee Hilario

**An edict was declared
To mask and social distance
Due to pandemic on the land,
Easily transmitted to everyone.**

**Shelter in place it is,
Confined in these four walls
To work and to play
With children around to carry on.**

**How long this time will be!
Pent up emotions build up,
Desires to do what has been,
Social contacts denied.**

**We realized it now
How much it changed our lives,
To reset in what it used to be
And bring new ways of life.**

**This is the time to reflect
How our lives have been
And to seek thee, Oh Lord,
For guidance day to day.**

CHICAGO HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP



Men's Fellowship

Some of the men of our church re-joined the Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship that met on Friday, May 22, and again on June 12.

They all met outside in a large circle on the grounds of the Chicago Heights First Presbyterian Church, bringing their own lunch and beverage and lawn chair. The weather cooperated. The men did it again on July 17, but this time returning to Paulie's Pub, 2736 Chicago Road, South Chicago Hts. Paulie's Pub at 12:30 p.m. is now the plan for Friday, August 21. We will be notified if that will not work at that time.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Many, many thanks to Johnnie Dorsey, Rod Dunlap, Paul Gerrish, Laura Dillman, and Phil Dillman for cleaning up the storm water on Sunday, July 19, after the storms. Once again, we experienced torrential rains that overwhelmed the combined primary and back-up sump pumps. Despite all the water, there was no permanent damage. The air-conditioning in the sanctuary is not cooling, and service has been scheduled. The timer for the east and south parking lot lights had to be replaced. Laura Dillman and Paul Gerrish have been weeding in the Aki Garden. Marge Errant has been weeding in front of the church. The perimeter of the C.E. Building and the parking lot are being weeded, also.



Jim Foster

This thought for grandparents would actually apply to any time, but Elmhurst therapist, Harold Bendicson speaks to this particular crisis-filled time: how to answer children's questions. SURPRISE! It's LISTENING that is more beneficial. *"The net result is to generate in the child a sense of secure attachment, and with being understood, a sense of safety in an insecure world."* I would add to that a willingness to share with the child a bit of how you find steadiness in a scary time. I've heard recently quoted a piece of Mister Rogers' wisdom: when confronted as a child with something that scared him, his mother advised him to *"look for the helpers."* To read the whole article, find it in Tuesday, July 21, *Chicago Tribune*, section 1, page 15: "How to Talk to Your Grandkids about These Turbulent Times."

Karen Maurer

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

When you receive this special issue of *The Carillon*, you will have received a blue envelope containing your 2020 giving statement through June 30, 2020. Please look at your statement carefully. Some of our members have been very diligent in continuing their offerings since the church closed last March. Sadly, too many of the statements showed no financial support at all during the 2nd quarter. We are now depending on offerings mailed to the church's Homewood Post Office box [P.O. Box 1519] for paying our staff and the costs of maintaining our building and grounds. If you have let your church offerings slip your mind, please consider this a gentle reminder to catch up.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending June 30, 2020, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through June</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$63,973	\$130,000
Loose Offering	211	1,500
Initial Offering	413	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	8,266	5,000
Community Dinners Donations	770	3,000
Other Income	15,359	3,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	591	14,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	37,400
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>1,250</u>	<u>0</u>
Total General Fund Income	90,833	203,400
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$1,194	6,500
Faith Formation	167	1,800
Facilities	20,205	51,500
Staff	35,896	82,000
Transition	22,262	54,300
Administrative Support	2,842	7,300
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	82,566	203,400
Designated Fund Income	\$8,875	
Designated Fund Expenses	12,033	
<i>Total Active Members—June 30, 2020</i>		<i>108</i>
<i>Average Sunday Attendance—March 2020</i>		<i>50</i>
<i>Average Sunday Attendance—April 2020</i>		<i>0</i>
<i>Average Sunday Attendance—May 2020</i>		<i>0</i>
<i>Average Sunday Attendance—June 2020</i>		<i>0</i>
Summary through June 2020 (6/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(\$10,867)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(19,134)
2020 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		8,267

Another reason to keep our finances current and strong is the effect our resources and giving history have on the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee in calling a new pastor. The work of the members of the PNC remains confidential, but there have been some questions directed to the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team pertaining to our finances and the support we are receiving from our members while the church is closed to worship. Your support counts!

We need an average income of **\$4,000** each week to fund our mission and operate our church. This is inclusive of pledges and identified giving as well as other income sources. So, how are we doing?

- Weekly average for January (4) \$3,526
- Weekly average for February (4) \$3,646
- Weekly average for March (5) \$2,161
- Weekly average for April (4) \$2,880
- Weekly average for May (5) \$3,265
- Weekly average for June (4) \$5,820
- **Weekly average for 2020 (26) \$3,494**

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES



Online
Worship

Kathie Hazlett will continue to edit and post online worship services during the month of August on the church website

fpchw.org under the heading of **Worship**. [The heading of Sermon is now gone, and the sermons and worship service will be a drop down from Worship!] Join the service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in order to worship “together” or at any other time. Right now we have virtual church, much like the words of a song by Ken Medema, who wrote “Come Build a Church.”

Come build a church with soul and spirit;
Come build a church of flesh and bone.

**We need no tower rising skyward;
No house of wood, or glass, or stone.**

Come build a church with human frailty;
Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.

It shall be built by the hand of God.

Here is another verse of Ken Medema’s song that is appropriate for all of us now.

Let us know the love unceasing,
Which alone can loose the bounds,
Reaching out across the chasms,
Bringing walls of hatred down.
Let us taste the sweet communion,
Where the circle never ends.
Hold us in the sweet connection,
Turning strangers into friends.

Jo Ann Jenkins – CEO of AARP

“Let us all unite to create a society that values
hope over hate,
faith over fear,
and compassion over confrontation.”

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



Six years ago, there were no young children, no families with children, in our congregation, and then within three months, three children were born. They were joined by siblings, then by a new family of five children. All were baptized by Pastor Nancy, Pastor Dudley, or by their church in Chicago, meaning that a congregation had promised to participate with the families in the Christian nurture of these children. We have done that and rejoiced in their presence among us.

As churches have learned to worship outside of buildings, FPC has gathered on our website each Sunday, as well as in spirit with our Monday Night guests several times for Healing and Wholeness, and Pastor Dudley has made a Moment for Children part of Sunday worship. Seeing our virtual worship continuing, both because of the pandemic and because it reaches beyond our known congregation, we ask the question about the future of Christian education, intentional faith formation for our children. Laurie Ulrich, Kathie Hazlett, Pastor Dudley, and Karen Maurer met on Zoom to explore this challenge. They will be reaching out to the families for guidance in moving forward.

PANERA BIBLE STUDY has been known by that name for so long that its origins in the FPC parlor have been lost in antiquity. It was in the moment of change when we began to think outside our walls that the group moved to the Cherry Creek Panera, which was hospitable to community needs; then, after a short stay at the Redbird Café on Ridge Road, on to the new Panera on 175th near Halsted. With more public visibility, the study group developed an ecumenical membership. On the morning of July 21, there were fifteen people on Zoom in a discussion of *Discernment* by Henri Nouwen. Leadership is shared and informal. *Discernment* is a ten chapter book, and we are on chapter 3. Want to come? It’s 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Contact Kathie Darman at kathiedarman@sbcglobal.net for the Zoom invitation to join in. Karen Maurer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM CLASS WITH TIM

July 22 was the last class in the “If God Made the Universe...” study. The class averaged almost 20 attendees each week over Zoom. While the course focused primarily on the features of our universe that may seem curious to skeptics when evaluating a theistic world view, these features, when set side by side, paint a picture of a loving, caring, thoughtful, benevolent, and powerful Creator. Our conversations after each video were the best part. People asked questions not only of science but of theology, philosophy, and from personal experience. Though we’re never sure where the conversation might go, much of the most rewarding parts of the class come from getting to share experiences, questions, and critiques with one another.

The next class should start on June 28, if the course arrives on time. Otherwise, it would be August 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m. [Tim always records the study and the discussion and emails that to all participants, so if you missed or will miss a session, catching up is a cinch! If you wish to join us for the first time, email Tim at tlvannasdale@gmail.com so that he can send you the Zoom link (usually the day of the class).]

So what is the next class? The next course, by popular vote, is **Cold Case Christianity** by J. Warner Wallace. I’m excited to look into “Cold Case” because while it has a couple of common themes to the courses we have done, it’ll also give us a nice change of pace in many ways.

A couple of weeks ago, I asked everyone in the class if they think Christianity is true, and if so, why. There are several good and viable answers to this question. Part of Dr. Ross’s answer has to do with the reliability of the Bible to describe reality. It’s earned his trust on that which he can confirm, and so he trusts it on the things that he can’t. J. Warner Wallace is not that different. By scrutinizing the Gospels, he came to believe they were actually true. Instead of combing through the Bible from a cosmologist’s perspective, Wallace is looking at it from a homicide detective’s perspective, and it’s an interesting one.

Do we know the Gospels are reliable and accurate? How do we know either way? What is the evidence that supports or refutes the claim that the Gospels are accurate? What tests can we apply to the Gospels to reveal their reliability? If these are questions that you’re interested in exploring answers to, this is going to be a great class for you. If you know anyone that might want to join us, please issue an invitation. After all, if Jesus is raised from the dead, everything else is just details.

There is a video of J. Warner Wallace doing a talk a couple of years ago that’ll help give you a taste of where he is coming from. It is called *Why We Know Christianity Is True*. [Contact Tim for a link.] A participant’s guide is available on Amazon for this next class for \$10.
Tim VanNasdale

The Nature of Hamilton Wood - Janet Wahl

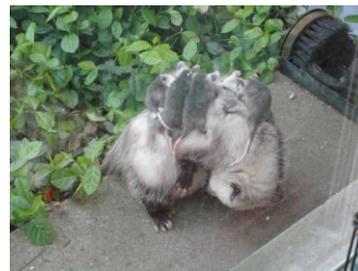
A tale of backyard photos: I finally got my “real” camera to talk to my computer!



On an early July day, Mr. Buck was emptying my bird feeder by sticking his long tongue into the holes. His partner buck, that had a badly healed broken front leg (lame), was lurching on my hostas and a choke-cherry tree.



I had two blue (indigo) bunting birds visit this year for two days—and then gone. I *once* saw an oriole, too.



Mama opossum was displaced by mowing somewhere nearby and came to my yard. There are 7 babies clinging to her fur. One kept falling off the top and hanging on her underneath side. Thankfully, she did not find a place to stay in my yard.

My bright red (across the top of the head and back) squirrel photo would not insert right side up, even after

rotating it and trying about fifty times. In March there were two of these squirrels—very small, run like the wind, hardly sat still. They are gone now. I did get photos on a cloudy day, so the red was not very prominent anyway.



This red fox is blind. He survived in Hamilton Wood for a whole year, but now I have not seen him for a year

Of course, there are 10 to 12 raccoons that roam the yard at night, but it is difficult to photo them through glass at night.

 **PRAYER CARD**

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed. Kathie Darman

Week of August 2
 Marilyn Austin
 RoseMary Baird
 Karen Barge Fillippo
 Nancy Beaudoin
 Bruce & Shirley Boersma

Week of August 9
 Elizabeth Boersma
 Barbara Bielawski
 Doug Bonthron/Sally Wolford
 Ian, Leslie, Michael Bonthron
 James/Natalie Calderone

Week of August 16
 Debra Campbell
 Mary Cantway
 Jean & Dave Conover
 Linda & Bob Cook
 James Daanen

Week of August 23
 Linda Daanen
 Kathie Darman
 Dee Delaney
 Debbie Dennis

Week of August 30
 Laura Dillman
 Phil & Amy Dillman
 Evelyn Dixon
 Marilyn Dolci
 Johnnie & NiNi Dorsey



 **HOSPITALIZED**

In the hospital during the past month were Susan Zorns and Jennifer Armistead.

 **NURSING HOMES / REHAB**

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park; Marilyn Perdue, Clarendale of Mokena.

[With failing eyesight, Donna Anderson has moved out of her house to Waterford Estates, 17400 S. Kedzie, #258, Hazel Crest, IL, 60429.]

 **SYMPATHY**

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Larry Leonard and James Hanley (grandfather of Richard and great-grandfather of Olivia and Grace).



I am the Resurrection and the Life saith the Lord: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

 **GIFTS AND MEMORIALS**

The following have been recorded in the Memorial Book in the Narthex: Capt. Jack Day and Larry Leonard.

Laura Dillman – Sharing Our Lives

I've been missing you all so much, but been keeping busy with calls to church family and family friends and so enjoying our Panera Bread Bible Study on Zoom and Tim's Wednesday Evening Dr. Hugh Ross Zoom Class series. Both are wonderful ways to connect with each other. I've been keeping up with weeding the flowers I planted, watering, and taking a whole lot of pictures and posting them on Facebook. It has been such a complete joy. I've been enjoying some times with Paul Gerrish as well, meals together and playing Yahtzee. I even was able to see my brother Phil and Amy at our Chicago Connection of the Pepsi Cola Collectors Club meeting and our other Pepsi family as well. We did social distancing! It really was a great time together.

I've been experiencing some serious health issues as well. Keep me in your prayers, if you don't mind. I will be going in for more complete blood workups before my next kidney specialist appointment in August and will be going back to my primary care as soon as it's safe to do so. I am thankful for my strong faith in God and Jesus. I really try to lean on the faith that God has given us all. Otherwise, I am looking forward to my 56th birthday on August 24th. Who knows what the next year has in store for me. May God bless all of you.

THANK YOU

I am enjoying our online worship services and thank all who are putting them together I hope we have a Zoom worship service soon. It would be so nice to see the faces of our members again. Laura Dillman

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

August	August
1 Tricia Hentscel	22 Ian Miller
5 Judith Blakesley	24 Laura Dilman
8 Earl Anker	29 Shannon Miller
Marge Errant	31 Natalie Hamilton
15 Marilyn Perdue	Olivia Hamilton
20 Ian Bonthron	Ramses Godoy

**May God grant birthday blessings to you
all this coming year.**



Flash news! We have won (again) the Homewood Beautification Award for 2020.

SEPTEMBER CARILLON

The deadline for having articles or information placed in the September *Carillon* will be **Thursday, August 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing and e-mail the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. Remember to keep on sharing joys and concerns about sheltering-in-place or about reopening or about virtual church or Tim's class. The key word is *share*. Hearing about each other is good for the soul. The Editor thanks all the August reporters for their assistance. JC=W=

[NOTE: The whole month calendar will return when the pandemic passes.]

Work in the Time of Corona – Kathleen O'Hanlon

"Nothing Is Ever So Bad That It Couldn't be Worse"

As a third-generation Irish American, I'm still close enough to the "auld sod" to have been raised with such old sayings. Every wave of immigrants knows in their bones that anyone not gritty enough to fight to survive won't have the luxury of passing on any old saying at all

As a judicial interpreter, I work among immigrants and first-generation Americans who struggle to survive and sometimes find themselves in the criminal justice system, accused of things of which they have yet to be proven guilty, trying to communicate with lawyers whose job it is to defend them. These people are sometimes housed at Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), and some of them say that what sustains them while they're locked up is Bible study and religious services "inside," and the love of family outside.

When the shelter-in-place order came down in mid-March, it meant my face-to-face work between these Spanish-speakers and their attorneys would come to an end, an inescapable reality of the pandemic. But then my thoughts went to how these defendants would have to ride it out *living* at the MCC. For so many reasons, they would be among the most vulnerable and hardest hit, physically and in every other way. More likely than not, they would be confined in cells not big enough to walk in much with cellmates who may or may not be shedding the novel coronavirus, and there was no guarantee that testing prisoners was going to be any kind of social priority. Because prisoners are sometimes required to buy their own soap and disinfectant and clean their own cells, and because some of them often have no money, conditions for the spread of Covid-19 would likely be propitious. Would prisoners be given masks free, or would they be expected to buy those, as well? No one knew. And would they receive effective medical care if they did catch the virus? In the last 25 years, I've lost count of the times I've interpreted at hearings in which defense attorneys plead with judges for timely medical care for their defendants locked up awaiting trial. More than one report has been published detailing the poor quality and scant quantity of the food given to people in U.S. prisons and jails, so that wouldn't exactly bolster them nutritionally against the virus, either. Finally, the usual response at the MCC when diseases like flu break out has been to lock people down in their cells, so that means they would feel no sunshine, breathe no fresh air, for days or weeks—not helpful for dealing with the stress and fear of possibly catching a deadly disease. Pondering these things, I tried to pray instead of imagining how bad their days and nights could really get.

Every month since then, every time I think of the people at the MC, I wonder at the other-worldly blessings of being able to shelter in my own apartment, to come and go with safety in mind, to get a free Covid-19 test with results within an hour, to afford soap and disinfectant and healthy food, and to walk in sunshine and soft breezes whenever I want. Stunned by the disparities, I have somehow ceased to be distressed by a temporary lack of work.