



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
January 2019

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
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WELCOME 2019

A WELCOMING CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church of Homewood has been chosen to receive the **2018 Best Community Church of Homewood Award**. As we welcome 2019, it is also a good time to review ways to welcome new people to our award-winning church. The following selected suggestions come from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. Are we doing well?

- ✚ Recognize hospitality as a ministry, a core of the Gospel.
- ✚ Convey a clear invitation and a statement of welcome in all communications directed at the external community.
- ✚ Know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor. Is the congregation friendly?
- ✚ Care for your building and grounds as a way of honoring your attendees and honoring God.
- ✚ Have clear exterior and interior signage that guides visitors everywhere they need to go.
- ✚ Make your nursery is clean, safe, sanitary, well-equipped, and visually appealing. Make sure your restrooms are neat and clean.
- ✚ Station greeters at all entrances, in classroom areas, and in the parking lot if appropriate.
- ✚ Identify your greeters and ushers with a special badge so visitors who need information can easily identify them.

- ✚ Escort newcomers to the nursery, classrooms, coffee hour, etc. Don't just point the way.
- ✚ Adopt the "rule of three," which says members will not talk to other members in the first 3 minutes following the service.
- ✚ Enact the "circle of ten" rule, that each member will greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of them.
- ✚ Say "I don't think we've met before" if you are not sure if the person next to you is a member or a visitor.
- ✚ Post someone at every exit to shake hands and thank people for coming.
- ✚ Accept and encourage casual attire.
- ✚ Do not ask visitors to stand and identify themselves.
- ✚ Provide nametags for the whole congregation and develop the habit of wearing them.
- ✚ Review your church bulletin and other printed material to make sure information is not "insider oriented."
- ✚ Make sure your order of worship is easy for a visitor to follow. Include written or verbal explanations of what is going on and why.
- ✚ Sing at least one hymn that is well known outside the church.
- ✚ Include a welcome to visitors in the opening words before the service. Because visitors are

sometimes late, don't front load all the information directed at them.

- ✚ Place information about your church's ministries where a visitor can easily find it.
- ✚ Prepare Visitors Packets to be handed out by greeters.
- ✚ Give visitors with small children a small activity packet (with crayons, stickers, etc.) as they enter worship.
- ✚ Avoid all talk about money with visitors.
- ✚ Keep the discussion of "family business" to a minimum in the service.
- ✚ Get the names and addresses of first-time visitors. Asking ALL worshippers to record attendance makes it more likely visitors will.
- ✚ Make a special effort to remember visitors' names and call them by name.
- ✚ Make at least one follow-up contact in friendliness with first-time visitors within 24 to 36 hours—letter, phone call, hand-written note, email, gift.
- ✚ Develop a system or data base for keeping track of visitors. A mailing list of persons who have visited in the past is one of your best marketing tools.
- ✚ Don't overlook visitors who come to the church for the first time for an event other than worship
- ✚ Once someone has attended three times, they should be invited to the church.
- ✚ Encourage visitors to get connected with activities and groups, even if they are not ready to join.
- ✚ Hold an Open House Sunday at least once a year
- ✚ Organize a "bring-a-friend" Sunday at least once a year.
- ✚ Extend extra hospitality during back-to-school, Christmas, and Easter, times for visitors.
- ✚ Provide training to members on how to invite others to church.
- ✚ Print special invitations to Christmas Eve services that people can deliver to friends.
- ✚ Plan concerts, lectures, etc. that appeal to those outside the church and that members can ask friends to attend.
- ✚ Gather feedback on how visitors respond to your church.
- ✚ Send your welcome team to visit other churches and report on their experience there.
- ✚ Provide training on welcoming at least once a year.
- ✚ Conduct a "welcome audit" annually.



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

January 6 10:30 a.m.
Epiphany



SESSION REPORT

Congregational Meeting, December 2, 2018

The Nominating Committee presented their nominations for the offices of Ruling Elder, Trustee, and Commissioned Deacon for the coming terms. The following officers were elected by the quorum of members who were present:

Ruling Elders, Class of 2021: Kathie Hazlett, Sylvia Tufts, and Jayson Webster.

Trustees, Class of 2021: Nancy Beaudoin, Vern Moore, Ronald Shropshire, and Eleanor Steiner.

Commissioned Deacons: Laura Dillman & Paul Gerrish

Thank you to the Nominating Committee and to each of the new officers who have willingly taken on the ministry of their respective offices and bear witness to their faith through their work for caring.

Regular Session Meeting, December 17, 2018

Session met after the Longest Night Service on Dec. 17. Our church has been approached about the possibility of coordinating with other churches to provide Lenten Luncheons in 2019. Rev. Dudley will investigate the current state of the Ministerial Association and bring back information about future cooperative prospects. *If you have an opinion about whether or not we should have these luncheons during Lent 2019, please let someone on Session know your feelings.*

Session has passed a final version of our policy regarding taking pictures of our children in worship or social settings at the church. Our concern is to protect our children, being aware that there are many disreputable people who have access to social media and other internet sites. We know that once pictures are in someone's camera, we have no control over what happens to them. Therefore, we have adopted this policy:

Minor children may not be photographed at church, whether in worship or education or social settings. Therefore, images of children may not be posted on social media or any public venue. Parents photographing their own children are exempted from this policy.

Though it is unfortunate that we have to refrain from posting pictures that show our youngest members at work and play, we feel it necessary to protect them now and in the future.

As we approach the end of this calendar year, Session has taken a look at our membership list and voted to remove from our Active Membership list the names of people who have had no participation of any kind in our congregation's life and ministry for the past two years.

Meetings with the new Session members to discuss the *Book of Confessions* and *Book of Order* are tentatively set, and we will complete their training as soon as possible and then set a date to ordain and install our newest Session members and Trustees.

Clerk of Session reported that we have received several notifications from the Chicago Presbytery regarding meetings, registrations, and the deaths of Presbytery personnel. Session officially recorded the death of long-time member Mary A. Cavallo on December 10, 2018.

Ministry Team Highlights:

From the **Congregational Life Ministry**, Jan Bunker and Shirley Armistead reported that the Soup Lunch on December 16 was well attended and a nice number of carolers gathered upstairs to sing to shut-ins. Numerous members were involved with set-up, soup-making, desserts and clean-up. It is difficult to name them all without missing someone, but Jan will attempt to write her thanks to as many as she can. The 2019 calendar for serving as hosts for Heavenly Perks will be hung in the kitchen.

Karen Maurer reported from the **Faith Formation Ministry** that our Adult Sunday School Class is continuing to watch through the video lecture series about the origins of the Bible. Several congregation members have filled the lead-teacher role for our Young Children's Sunday School group. Having our 2-yr-old at a small table with her own story is working well. Lydia and Rebecca Circles continue their Horizons studies.

From the **Monday Night Dinner Ministry**, Shirley Armistead let us know that attendance at Monday Night Dinners is holding steady at about 55 guests each week. Additional help for serving will be needed on New Year's Eve, so if you are available and willing to serve or help in the kitchen that evening, please let Jay Webster or Shirley know that.

Kathleen O'Hanlon reported from **Personnel & Administration** that our staff members have received Christmas gift certificates from the church using P&A funds. P&A has recommended 2% raises for all staff members in 2019.



The **Worship Ministry** has put sign-up sheets for January on the Welcome Center in the Narthex so that members may volunteer to serve as liturgists and Communion servers. They also added several Advent prayers of illumination to the collection in the lectern from which liturgists may choose a prayer. The new tree in the sanctuary was donated by Jay Webster.

This was our last Session meeting for 2018, and we thank you for supporting us with your help and prayers during the past year. We feel sure God is leading First Presbyterian Church into the new year and trust that we will have the courage to continue following God's leading.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Ulrich, Clerk of Session



ANNUAL REPORTS



Annual Reports are due **Monday, January 14!** If you are a Ministry chairperson, president/organizer, or other such leader of a group/board or other entity, you need to get your Annual Report for 2018 to the church office. E-mail in MS Word (preferred) to Debra at fpchw@sbcglobal.net or place it on her desk clearly labeled. Please be sure to **sign** your report so she knows whom to contact if there are questions. If you need a sample from last year, phone Debra, and she can make a copy for you.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

The 2019 Chart for Chancel Flowers is up in the Narthex for all to sign for a date. Dedicate the flowers or not. Garden flowers are welcome. A thank you to all who provided flowers in 2018. Contact Betty Owens.

FROM THE PASTOR

Coming to a congregation near us, so near, it is us! What's coming? The possibility of a congregation-wide Book Study looms. The Session, in preparation for a mini-retreat, read *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations* by Anthony B. Robinson. Lively discussion about how the book effects our thinking on and envisioning of our future as God's people consumed all the time for the retreat. The Mission Study Team, a step toward calling a pastor, has now taken up the challenge of reading the book.

Just as a rock dropped into a calm lake reaches out in increasing circles, this book can ripple out into our lives,

helping us move forward during our time of discernment. Clearly, we will be encouraged to read the book. How we will join together to discuss and share insights and thoughts remains a work in progress. Another way to



look at it might be that homework can be given by someone other than the pastor. *Dudley Elvery*

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association will have a quiet January. There are no meetings scheduled for either the Women's Association nor Lydia Circle. The Chicago Heights Women's Association will not have a meeting in January. We will work on gathering our information for the annual report. The Women's Association wishes everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year. Charlene Hansen

CIRCLE MEETINGS

LYDIA – No January meeting.

REBECCA – Wed., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Laura Dillman, 14750 Karlov Ave., Midlothien. Co-Hostess is ???? The study is Lesson 6 from *Cloud of Witnesses*.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHICAGO HEIGHTS

First Presbyterian Homewood men are invited to join the Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship Lunch on Friday, January 18, at 12:30 p.m. at Paulie's Pub, 2736 Chicago Rd., South Chicago Heights. Share a devotion, a few pops, and Christian fellowship. Hope to see you there.

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees have been taking care of several maintenance issues during November and December. One of the furnaces in the C.E. building was not working recently, and it was necessary to call our heating contractor for a relatively inexpensive repair. One of the kitchen sinks had been leaking; a new part was purchased to fix the problem. A new faucet, drain, and trap were installed in a sink in the women's restroom in Westminster Hall.

The church grounds have been cleaned up, on the October 20th Work Day as well as by our lawn care service. We've explored ways to replace the church office exterior door in an inexpensive way, but haven't settled on a



solution yet. It's a custom-made door, and years of wear have created a need to consider a new one.

The pipe organ has been giving Tim some minor trouble lately, and the organ maintenance firm we use has been out to look at the problem. Some work was done, but a glitch still exists. We'll get it solved some day, but the parts are not available. Rev. Elvery has been using a new microphone which, after some adjustments were made to the volume and tone, is working very well.

The storage of multiple years of recorded worship services has nearly filled up the hard drive on the computer used for that purpose. We are in the process of moving stored data to another drive for safe-keeping, to allow for continued recording as well as distribution of our services via the church website.

Our insurance company has been very proactive not only in making certain that we are adequately covered, but also in keeping us informed as to how to minimize and prevent risk. Keeping our buildings and facilities safe for all concerned is what keeps the Trustees busy. Let us know, with a word or a note, if anything needs our attention. Jay Ruklic

The Trustee officers for 2019 are as follows:

President – Jim Foster
Vice President – Paul Tufts
Secretary – Jay Ruklic

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Thank you for showing How Great Is Your Faithfulness!

-  Thank you for supporting our Missional Venture of Monday Night Community Dinners on all 52 Monday nights in 2018, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
-  Thank you for the direct donation of Required Minimum Distributions in support of our 2018 Church Budget.
-  Thank you for your faith formation activities at Panera Bread on Tuesday mornings and Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings.
-  Thank you for your 56 donations (to date) to the Memorial Fund in memory of our departed saints in 2018.
-  Thank you for your mission giving in support of local agencies and denominational programs, including your Per Capita offerings to support our higher levels of church organization.
-  Thank you for your presence at Farmers Market.
-  Thank you for the dedication of our members who serve on the weekly counting teams and for

the dedication of our Financial Recording Secretaries (we had two in 2018) in keeping track of everything.

- ✚ Thank you for your financial commitment as well as your greatly-appreciated commitment of time and effort in maintaining an award winning beautiful church property and building.
- ✚ Thank you for your support of our dedicated church staff—Interim Pastor, Dir. of Music/-Organist, Sexton, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- ✚ Thank you for your service as church Elders, Deacons, Trustees, worship design team planners, singers and ringers, ushers, greeters, Communion servers to shut-ins, and volunteers in times of need.
- ✚ Finally, prayerfully consider how you can assist the S&FMT. In this second year of transition, ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church.

Through our collective efforts, our congregation will show How Great Is Our Faithfulness! **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

The 2019 Per Capita Apportionment is **\$34.22** for each member of the congregation on the church's Active Member Roll on December 31, 2017. Based on 128 active members on this date, we will be asked to pay \$4,380.16 in 2019 to support the three higher levels of the Presbytreian Church—Presbytery of Chicago, Synod of Lincoln Trails, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Church Financial Recording Secretary Dan Hamilton turned over his financial records, following his transfer to Rev. Laurel B. Hamilton's new church in Hebron, IN, to our new Church Financial Recording Secretary Melodee Leimnetzer. She will prepare final 2018 Year-End Statements that will be distributed or mailed in January 2019. These statements will include all of your regular and special offerings, Per Capita payments, special gifts, required minimum distributions, and memorial gifts.

The boxes of 2019 offering envelopes are available in the cloister, arranged alphabetically. Please take only your own box of envelopes. Some members, those who had 101 through 120, have received new envelope numbers for 2019. Please do not use your old 2018 envelopes (to avoid confusion). To date, we have 48 boxes of envelopes remaining to be picked up.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending November 30, 2018, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through November</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$124,537	\$130,000
Loose Offering	2,020	1,500
Initial Offering	595	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	0	5,000
Community Dinners Donations	2,803	4,000
Other Income	5,855	8,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	10,306	10,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	34,000
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	8,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	1,320	0
Total General Fund Income	147,116	201,000
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$4,008	\$6,500
Faith Formation	1,263	1,800
Facilities	37,423	52,800
Staff	75,295	89,500
Transition	37,285	43,000
Administrative Support	4,730	7,400
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	0	0
Total General Fund Expenses	160,003	201,000
Designated Fund Income	\$34,455	
Designated Fund Expenses	68,912	
<i>Total Active Members—November 30, 2018</i>		
Average Sunday Attendance—August 2018		122
Average Sunday Attendance—September 2018		50
Average Sunday Attendance—October 2018		49
Average Sunday Attendance—November 2018		50
Summary through November 2018 (11/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2018 Budget		\$(36,814)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2018 Budget		(24,247)
2018 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		(12,567)

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) \$5,841
- Weekly average for February (4) \$4,554
- Weekly average for March (4) \$2,790
- Weekly average for April (5) \$3,247
- Weekly average for May (4) \$2,446
- Weekly average for June (4) \$2,437
- Weekly average for July (5) \$2,018
- Weekly average for August (4) \$2,301
- Weekly average for September (5) \$3,261
- Weekly average for October (4) \$3,382
- Weekly average for November (4) \$2,328
- **Weekly average for 2018 (47) \$3,109**

Members of the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team throughout 2018 have been Donna Moore (co-chair), Edward Wahl (co-chair), Ronald Shropshire (Trustee), Jack Day (at-large), and Sylvia Tufts (at-large). If you are interested in joining this Ministry Team for 2019, please speak to any of these current members. Thank you!

MISSION/OUTREACH MINISTRY

For Nov. 10 through Dec. 10 for the **Monday Night Community Dinners**, we had an average of 55 dinner guests (includes church members). *Remember that we are looking for help in the kitchen and as servers for New Year's Eve.* Volunteers should arrive about 4 p.m. We serve at 5:30 p.m. and clean-up is usually done by 7 p.m. If you can help, please contact Jay Webster, Char Hansen, or Shirley Armistead. Also, you are all invited for dinner.



A sincere thank you for your monetary donations, food donations, table setup work, helping in the kitchen, cooking, eating and visiting, and clean up. Also, thank you to those involved with the Sharing Table, the Children's Corner, and the Prayer Table. We couldn't do it without you. The Community Dinner staff would also like to thank Ron Shropshire for soliciting area merchants for donations for our dinners. He contacted personally about 14 merchants.

Shirley Armistead, Char Hansen, Jay Webster

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

If we call it faith "education," chances are we think of participants as receiving information / knowledge / skills from a source more informed, more knowledgeable, more skilled. If we use the broader term "formation," participants may be formed by interacting with others at different places on a faith journey as they serve on a committee, join a Crop Walk, help to lead worship as the liturgist, count the offering, read and discuss a book, sing an unfamiliar hymn, welcome a visitor at Heavenly Perks, help serve the Community Dinner on Monday nights...the opportunities continue.

One of the benefits of a participatory Bible Study is that, in the process of struggling to speak about the meaning of a passage and hearing others do the same, we clarify, we grow, become more articulate about our faith, more accepting of another's understandings: we are being formed. All are welcome to the currently scheduled opportunities: Adult Sunday School (9:30 – 10:20 a.m. in the Parlor); Presbyterian Women's Circles (Lydia is

daytime; Rebecca is evening); Bible Study at Panera in Cherry Creek on post-exile Old Testament books (10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays); and Young Children's Sunday School for ages 2 – 7 (10:45 – 11:30 a.m.) It's a new year!

Karen Maurer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is a course of study about the world's most famous, most read, most debated, and sometimes, most detested book. How, when, and why did it enter the world? What have been the stages of its growth? In how many forms has it appeared? How has it exercised its influence?

Because this is the story of a book, it must include consideration of the material elements that go into the production of all books, starting with the writing and collection of manuscripts and the invention of printing, which made it possible for the Bible to be in every hand in every land. And because this is a book that has spread throughout the world, the story is also about languages and the process of translation. What happens when the original Hebrew of Torah is translated into Greek or when the Greek of the New Testament is translated into Latin and then into all the languages of the ancient and modern world? What new meanings do translations allow and what older meanings do they obscure?

For 11 more weeks, we will study ***The Story of the Bible***. Following the 30-minute video lecture, which begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor, we will then have 20 minutes for discussion before adjourning to the worship service in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend as your weekly schedule permits. Join us to learn about this topic ***you*** have requested.



Ed Wahl

The lessons for January include:

- Jan. 6 **The Renaissance, Printing, and the Bible**
- Jan. 13 **The Protestant Reformation and the Bible**
- Jan. 20 **Translating the Bible into Modern Languages**
- Jan. 27 **The First Efforts at Englishing the Bible**

PRAYER CARDS



In Our Prayers

The following members and staff of First Presbyterian Church will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed each week.

Donna Moore

Week of January 6

Betty Bednarcik
Bruce & Shirley Boersma
Elizabeth Boersma
Barbara Bielawski
Doug Bonthron & Sally Wolford

Week of January 13

Ian Bonthron
Leslie Bonthron
Michael Bonthron
Natalie & James Calderone
Debra Campbell

Week of January 20

Mary Cantway
Jean & David Conover
Linda & Bob Cook
James Daanen
Linda Daanen

Week of January 27

Kathie Darman
Jack Day
Dee Delaney
Laura Dillman
Phil & Amy Dillman

 **HOSPITALIZED**

In the hospital during the past month was Evelyn Dederer.



 **NURSING HOMES**

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Donna Dekker, Manor care East Palos; Betty Bednarcik, Prairie Manor; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park.

 **BIRTHS**



Delia Jean Tufts was born December 17, 2018. The parents are Kelly and Brian Tufts. The grandparents are Sylvia and Paul Tufts.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God and so we are.

 **SYMPATHY**

Church sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Cavallo.



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.

 **CONGRATULATIONS**

It bears repeating: First Presbyterian Church of Homewood has been chosen as the 2018 **Best Community Church of Homewood.**

 **FEBRUARY CARILLON**

The deadline for having articles placed in the February *Carillon* is **Sunday, January 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing to the church office for *The Carillon* mailbox or e-mail the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. The Editor thanks all the January reporters for their assistance.

J C =W=

Birthday greetings to our church family:

January

- 1 Nancy Jo Dederer
- 11 Melodee Leimnetzer
- 20 Shirley Armistead
- 21 Danny Hamilton
- 23 Jack Day

January

- 24 Doug Bonthron
- 25 Karen Allison
- 27 Donna Anderson
- 31 Debbie Way

May God grant birthday blessings on you all this coming year.



JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 9:30 Women's Board 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:40 Chancel Choir	4	5
6 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Kids Sun Sc Communion – Epiphany Heavenly Perks	7 5:30 Community Dinner	8 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study Panera Bread 7:00 Trustees	9 7:30 Rebecca Circle	10 (No Lydia Circle) 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:40 Chancel Choir	11	12
13 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Kids Sun Sc Heavenly Perks	14 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 5:30 Community Dinner 7:00 Stewardship Team	15 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study Panera Bread	16	17 (No Women's Lunch) 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:40 Chancel Choir	18 12:30 Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship	19
20 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Kids Sun Sc Heavenly Perks Carillon Deadline	21 MLK DAY 5:30 Community Dinner 7:00 Session	22 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study Panera Bread	23	24 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:40 Chancel Choir	25	26
27 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Kids Sun Sc Heavenly Perks	28 5:30 Community	29 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study Panera Bread	30	31 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:40 Chancel Choir		