



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
January 2022

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
Vol. 56 No. 1
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THE CARILLON

The dictionary defines *carillon* as: “a set of fixed bells sounded by hammers controlled by a keyboard” or “an electronic instrument imitating a carillon.” The carillon is usually used to broadcast the striking of the hour or to send music out across the community. First Presbyterian Church of Homewood has two carillons—the newsletter and a Schulmerich bell carillon donated by Tonetta Wehmhoefer.

The idea of “broadcasting” is the reason that the newsletter was named *The Carillon*. That carillon is still working. Unless you live in the vicinity of the church building, you probably do not know that the bells have not been sounding the hour nor playing music at 12:30 p.m. since about the beginning of the pandemic. That problem seems to be wiring or the speakers in the steeple.

Trustee Paul Gerrish has been seeking ways to repair our bell carillon, but although it has been only 30 years, our model is obsolete. Of course, the tracked-down company wants to sell us a new one that is very tech savvy.

Here is the written reply that contains all the valuable information for making decisions:

Dear Paul,

It was a pleasure speaking with you about the carillon installed at First Presbyterian Church in Homewood, IL. In checking our records, I can confirm this carillon was ordered May 31, 1991. As Erika told you, when the Verdin Company acquired Schulmerich carillons in 2014, the company had gone through several previous management/ownership changes and parts were no longer available for the older products.

Today we build the Schulmerich carillons in one of our Cincinnati factories, and all instruments are covered by a five-year warranty on parts and labor. For your information, Verdin is the oldest privately held company in the state of Ohio. Next year we will be 180 years old. Consequently, you know we will be here to support any investment you make in our products.

...Our three basic models are Classic, Classic Plus, and Celebration. Classic is the normal carillon that plays the hour strikes and desired music outside, while Classic Plus interfaces to one keyboard of an organ, and Celebration interfaces to multiple keyboards of an organ. All of our carillons now feature digital sampling technology where we have recorded the sound of every note of every bell voice. Thus, when the bells or music are

played, every note has its own musical characteristics of sound, start, and decay as in a true cast bell carillon. Today we include our entire music library of over 7800 selections. These are easily programmed through the large 15" full color touch screen where all operating instructions are included in every screen.

Here is some ballpark pricing that includes the carillon, appropriate amplifier, four outdoor speakers and drivers, internal speaker with Classic Plus and Celebration, freight, and factory installation.

Classic - \$13,500-\$15,000

Classic Plus - \$18,800-\$21,800

Celebration - \$25,500-\$30,500

The variances I am showing are due to choice of several key options, such as choice of remote control. The most popular one today is the VNC app for I-Pad, I-Phone, Android, or computer giving you remote control from any location provided you have Wi-Fi and the carillon is plugged into a LAN connection.

I am very pleased to advise Mr. Pat Dochenetz serves as our representative for your area. ...He will contact you to see what questions you may have about the information.... Pat travels with a demonstration unit and would be pleased to meet with you and other interested persons so together you can see and hear the dramatic difference in a Schulmerich compared to all other instruments available today.

Hopefully we can keep the sound of Schulmerich ringing forth from First Presbyterian Church in Homewood.

Dewey Kuhn, product manager, keyboards/carillons

The Board of Trustees is still discussing options. Maybe there will be another angel like Tonetta.



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

January 2 11 a.m. sanctuary
/ live streaming
Epiphany Sunday



SESSION REPORT

Special Congregational Meeting, December 12, 2021

The purposes of the meeting were to hear reports from the Nominating Committee and to elect new church officers to the Session and Board of Trustees. There were 24 active members in the sanctuary and five active members attending from home via Zoom.

For the Session Class of 2023, Ruling Elder Sylvia Tufts was elected to fill a vacancy. For the Session Class of 2024, Ruling Elder Kathleen O'Hanlon and Active Member Kimberly Hamilton were elected, leaving one Session seat to be filled.

For the Board of Trustees Class of 2024, Ruling Elder Charlene Hansen, Trustee Janet Wahl, and Trustee James Foster were elected, leaving one Board of Trustees seat to be filled.

Regular Session Meeting, December 13, 2021

There is a formal process that must be followed when a pastor ends his/her relationship with a congregation. The Presbytery of Chicago Commission on Ministry sends a representative to conduct the procedure of reading and signing of a document known as the Covenant of Closure. The process will take place in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Signatures from Rev. Dudley J. Elvery II and the Clerk of Session Edward C. Wahl will be added. The effective date will be Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Session accepted with regret and a feeling of loss the resignation of Ruling Elder Karen Maurer from the Session Class of 2023. Karen was ordained in January 1980, and in the following 41 years has served many terms on Session totaling 21 years! Thank you, Karen. Also, in preparing to find a new church home that is closer to her new home, Karen requested that she be dismissed from active membership in First Presbyterian Church of Homewood. Session approved her request.

A service of Ordination/Installation of new church officers will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022, in worship. Newly elected Ruling Elder Kimberly Hamilton will be ordained with the traditional laying on of hands. All other previously ordained new officers will be installed.

No date was set for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Annual Meeting of the Corporation in 2022. The availability of a Teaching Elder to serve as the Moderator must be arranged before a meeting can be scheduled.

Trustee James Foster was re-elected to a three-year term as a Manager of the Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund Class of 2024.

Appointments for 2022:

- ✚ Janet Wahl—Editor of *The Carillon*
- ✚ Linda Daanen—Church Treasurer
- ✚ Melodee Leimnetzer—Financial Recording Secretary

- ✚ Philip Dillman—Church Historian
- ✚ Paul Gerrish—Church Librarian
- ✚ Edward & Janet Wahl—Recorders of Rolls and Registers
- ✚ Edward Wahl—Chair of Gifts and Memorials

Session voted to increase the salaries of our four employees—Secretary, Treasurer, Organist/Pianist, and Sexton—by 2% for 2022.

Notification was received of the death of Active Member Deacon Violet Patricia (Pat) Steiner on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Rev. Elvery will lead her memorial service, live-streaming, from the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 8, 2022.

Rev. Elvery had to endure ten days of mandatory quarantine from December 1-10, 2021, following a positive Covid-19 test. Clerk Edward Wahl acted as pulpit supply and worship leader on Sunday, December 5, 2021.

Session voted via email to revise the worship service schedule for the week of December 20-26, 2021, as follows:

- ✚ The Longest Night worship service will be held at Calvary United Protestant Church of Park Forest at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, and will be available on Zoom. Rev. Elvery will lead.
- ✚ The Christmas Eve worship service will be held at Calvary United Protestant Church of Park Forest at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 24, 2021, and will be available on live-streaming. Rev. Elvery will lead. Communion will be celebrated.
- ✚ The in-person Sunday worship service for December 26, 2021, was cancelled for lack of pulpit supply. Session approved creation of a Worship Design Team to develop a pre-recorded virtual worship service to be hosted on the church website at 11 a.m. (similar to the virtual worship services that were posted weekly in 2020-21). The general theme of the service will be “Christmas Greetings to Us from Us.”

SCAM ALERT: Some church members received a “request” to assist the “pastor” in purchasing \$500 worth of gift cards to distribute to persons unknown. The “pastor” used a bogus email address as follows (**ignore this if you see it**): pastor.fpchw@gmail.com Our pastor does not use this email address...ever!

Session approved investigating the hiring of a tech person to assist with upgrading our electronic abilities in

servicing our congregation and in communicating with new viewers on-line. A new camera phone will be purchased by the church for recording the worship services so that the present privately owned unit can be removed.

Session voted to send a donation of \$1,000 from Undesignated Memorials to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund to help persons who have lost their homes and belongings in the recent deadly tornadoes.

Ruling Elder Shirley Armistead confirmed that there are now 70 persons on the Prayer Chain email list.

Thanks and appreciation were extended to Ruling Elders Kathie Hazlett, Karen Maurer (2023), Sylvia Tufts, and Jayson Webster for completing their elected terms of service in God’s Name in the Session Year of 2021.

Thanks and appreciation were extended for the interim ministry of the Rev. Dudley J. Elvery II for his four years of pastoral leadership in God’s Name to our congregation, and for guiding Session through turbulent times and uncharted waters as Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



COVENANT OF CLOSURE LETTER

Dear Congregation,

I will be reading my formal Covenant of Closure during worship in January. I want to explain why I embrace this. The image of a surgeon using a scalpel to achieve a clean cut because it heals best helps me. The same holds for a pastor severing his relationship. The cut or break needs to be clean so healing can begin. My years on the Commission on Ministry have let me see the consequences of a messy, incomplete break. I’ve seen pastors who stay involved all the way from making hospital visits as if they were still the pastor to consulting about church matters. This neither helps the congregation embrace or continue to seek a new pastor nor the retiring pastor to move on to the next step of the journey.



I’ve always liked the image of roots and wings. While most often we think of it as a parent/child relationship. I think it apt for pastors and congregations. One of the roles of a pastor is to nurture the congregation, to give it roots. In leaving, the pastor has to trust the roots and let go so the congregation can fly. Ironically, in letting go, the pastor flies, too. So maybe we all should be singing that old gospel song, “I’ll Fly Away.” *Dudley Elvery*

FROM THE PASTOR

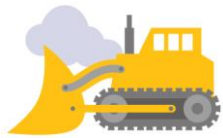
I think we, as individuals, households, and even congregations, go through life as one of three large machines. We are either a tow truck, a bulldozer, or a John Deere plow—or mostly one of these. While none of them appear in the Bible, I think the role they play does. A tow truck drags stuff behind. If it doesn't unhook stuff, it keeps adding to its load until it can no longer move. I think Jesus referenced this approach to life as we read in Luke 9:59-62:

59 Then Jesus said to someone else, "Follow me." He replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and spread the news of God's kingdom."

61 Someone else said to Jesus, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those in my house."

62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God's kingdom."



Bulldozers push things ahead, usually by saying, "later." Jesus seems to speak about pushing things into the future as we read in

Matthew 6:33-34:

33 Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all things will be given to you as well.

34 Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

I think pushing stuff into the future gets spoken about in the man who pushed his wealth into the future as God speaks in Luke 11:20: "Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?"

The plow digs into the rich prairie soil and turns it over dragging nothing behind and pushing nothing ahead. It takes things as they come and deals with them. I think this underlies Jesus' instruction to travel light in Mark 6:7-9:

7 He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits.

8 He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick—no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts.

9 He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts.

In other words, He didn't want them weighted down dragging stuff along. The story about the maidens waiting for the groom in Matthew 25 seems to allude to

being ready now instead of waiting for "later." Five were prepared or, as I read it, had not pushed things off into the future. Those five were ready and able to be a part of the kingdom.

Obviously there's a bias in all this. Being a plow seems most productive. My wish for us all this new year is to be plows. Honestly, some tow truck or bulldozer sneaks in as we have a hard time letting go or want to push something off into "later" land. My prayer is that we become more and more plows, tilling the fertile soil of our communities and seeing what God grows there.

Dudley Elvery

CHICAGO HEIGHTS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Chicago Heights First Presbyterian Men's Fellowship and our men will gather for lunch on Friday, January 21, at 12:30 p.m. at Paulie's Pub, 2736 Chicago Road, South Chicago Heights. All are welcome.









TRUSTEE REPORT

The Board of Trustees met on December 14 in the Parlor. The only new item of business involved the carillon bell machine. The new owner of the manufacturer has no parts, nor do they service the old machines. There may be other options, but we don't have any at the moment.

Jay Ruklic

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Thank you for showing How Great Is Your Faithfulness!

-  Thank you for the direct donation of Required Minimum Distributions in support of our 2021 Church Budget.
-  Thank you for your faith formation activities at Panera Bread on Tuesday mornings.
-  Thank you for your participation in the virtual Christian Education on Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings, and to their leaders who give the programs such wonderful meaning.
-  Thank you for your donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of our departed saints in 2021.
-  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 the weekly dedication of Church Treasurer Linda Daanen, and for the dedication of our Financial Recording Secretary Melodee Leimnetzer 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, Director of Music/Organist, Sexton, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- ✚ Thank you for your service as church Elders, Trustees, worship planners, liturgists, singers, ushers, greeters, Communion servers to shut-ins, caring card ministry, prayer chain ministry, and volunteers in times of need.
- ✚ Thank you to all who are serving on the Pastoral Nominating Committee and on the Joint Yoking Team in these extraordinary times.
- ✚ Finally, prayerfully consider how you can assist the S&FMT. In this fifth 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 2022 Per Capita Apportionment is **\$36.00** for each member of the congregation on the church's Active Member Roll on December 31, 2020. Based on 106 active members on this date, we will be asked to pay \$3,816.00 in 2022 to support the three higher levels of the Presbyreian Church—Presbytery of Chicago, Synod of Lincoln Trails, and Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Session gives thanks to God for your gifts and continuing commitment to support the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through First Presbyterian Church of Homewood. To close out 2021 and bring in 2022, there are three sets of materials coming to you in January 2022.

- ✚ Church Financial Recording Secretary Melodee Leimnetzer will prepare final 2021 Year-End Statements that will be distributed on Sunday, January 9, 2022, or mailed on or after January 10, 2022. 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 2022 offering envelopes will be distributed on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Your box number will not change for 2022. Please do not use your old 2021 envelopes.
- ✚ Your 2022 Church Pledge Envelopes will also be handed out on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Return your pledge by mail.



There are three ways the above materials may be delivered to you, as follows:

- ✚ Attend in-person worship on Sunday, January 9, 2022, and pick up your set from the alphabetic arrangement on the table.
- ✚ Drive to the church between 2:00- 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 9, 2022, and have your set of materials hand-delivered to your car window. It will not be necessary to leave your car.
- ✚ All sets of materials not picked up on Sunday, January 9, 2022, may be hand delivered to your door or mailed to you later in January.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending November 30, 2021, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through November</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$107,806	\$130,000
Loose Offering	83	0
Initial Offering	338	400
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	29,595	22,000
Community Dinners Donations	0	0
Other Income	16,902	20,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	1,536	10,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	11,300
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	1,456	2,000
Total General Fund Income	157,716	204,700
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$0	6,000
Faith Formation	64	9,500
Facilities	38,830	49,000
Staff	68,531	81,000
Transition	39,822	51,800
Administrative Support	3,712	7,400
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	0	0
Total General Fund Expenses	150,959	204,700
Designated Fund Income	\$10,363	
Designated Fund Expenses	12,257	
Total Active Members—November 2021		98
Summary through November 2021 (11/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		(29,925)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		(36,682)
2021 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		6,757

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 2021 (48)** **\$3,286**

Pray for the financial health of our church in 2022!

 **PRAYER CARDS**

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 each week. Kathie Darman

Week of January 2

John & Debbie Maxwell
Kristen Maxwell
Bruce & Heather Miller
Ian Miller
Shannon Miller

Week of January 9

Craig Miller
Stephanie Miller
Cameron Miller
Nolan Miller
Samantha Miller

Week of January 16

Vern Moore
Ray & Wanda Nielsen
Kirk Nickerson/Priscilla Mereness
Kathie & Jim Ogden
Kathleen O’Hanlon

Week of January 23

Betty Owens
Elizabeth & Paul Palumbo
Marilyn Perdue
Judy Petrovic
Richard & Barb Pizza

Week of January 30

Norinne Pulec
Helen Rachford
Janice Rolls
Emily Rozak
Jay & Debra Ruklic



 **HOSPITALIZED**



In the hospital during the last month was Ella Mae Allen (mother of Debra Campbell).

 **NURSING HOME / REHAB**

Mary Cantway, ProMedica (Manor Care), Homewood.

 **BIRTHS**

Amos Smith was born December 8, 2021, The great-aunt is Kathleen O’Hanlon.

 **SYMPATHY**

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Violet Patricia Steiner and Dr. Linda Bunker (sister-in-law of Jan Bunker).



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: Our Loved Ones and Pat Steiner.

 **FAREWELL NOTE**

*We’ve spent this time together – we knew it had to end;
We’ve seen all sorts of weather – and found another friend.
We’ve laughed a lot together, and now it’s time to cry –
So go, and God be with you... Goodbye.*
by Avery and Marsh

A talented team of Presbyterians (a minister and a musician) were writing songs for the church at the time I was working for FPC as a Christian educator, and some of their songs were keepers. Another Avery and Marsh fits this season: *Once upon a cold December, many years ago / Three important kings took time to travel a year or so.*

I’d like to say a couple of things as I leave. First, continue to think how to include James, Chloe, Jaxon, and Brodie who were baptized at FPC and Jessie, Gavin, Shane, and Lina (who were baptized in their church in Chicago) in the life and faith of your congregation. Grace and Olivia are now being nurtured in their Indiana church. Most of them have outgrown the classroom that worked so well when they were younger before the pandemic. I find I cannot say the Lord’s Prayer without visualizing the group in the hallway outside the classroom learning the words so the children could say it with the congregation. And I cannot take Communion without seeing the children, parents, and grandparents coming forward together, learning by doing, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. You don’t have to understand it all before participating. Do you?

Second, I am amused and pleased that my Carol Stream congregation is in the early stages of the New Beginnings process. I have high regard for the design of NB and am still in awe of the Monday Night Dinners and the periodic “Healing and Wholeness” services that were a direct outcome of the closing challenge of New Beginnings: you can choose to merge; to close; or to embrace a new mission/ministry. We chose to meet our neighbors at summer BBQs in our parking lot, thinking that meant they were residents on Gottschalk. What we learned was that our neighbors were those needing a meal, a welcome, companionship. Thank you, God, for the richness of those years. What a thrill it was last Sunday to welcome Monday Nighters, Matt and Mike, to worship!

I believe that it's time to revisit the closing challenges of New Beginnings. This is a different time—and a hard one in many ways—but we arrived at Monday Night Dinners by asking what we were good at and how that fit with the needs of the community. So, what is FPC good at? And what are the needs of the community? I'll keep you posted on what Heritage Church in Carol Stream is doing with New Beginnings if you'll do the same for me.

Love, Karen Maurer

FEBRUARY CARILLON

The deadline for having articles placed in the February *Carillon* is **Thursday, January 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing to the church office or email the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. The Editor thanks all of the January reporters for their assistance. *J C =W=*

Birthday Greetings to our church family:

January

Nancy Jo Dederer
Melodee Leimnetzer
Shirley Armistead
Danny Hamilton

January

Doug Bonthron
Karen Allison
Debbie Way

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



HOW RESOLUTIONS HAVE CHANGED

(The Old Farmer's 2022 Almanac, Robert B. Thomas)











In the United States, New Year's resolutions are still a tradition, but the type of resolutions have changed.

As a legacy of our Protestant history, resolutions in the early 1900s were more religious or spiritual in nature, reflecting a desire to develop stronger moral character, a stronger work ethic, and more restraint in the face of earthly pleasures.











Over the years, however, resolutions seem to have migrated from denying physical indulgences to general self-improvement, like losing weight. While it may

seem superficial, medical sociologist Natalie Boero of San Jose State University suggested that today's resolutions are also a reflection of status, financial wealth, responsibility, and self-discipline—which isn't that different from how the New Year's resolution tradition began. See the difference:

Resolutions from 1947 – Gallup Poll

-  Improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper
-  Improve my character, live a better life
-  Stop smoking, smoke less
-  Save more money
-  Stop drinking, drink less
-  Be more religious, go to church more often
-  Be more efficient, do a better job
-  Take better care of my health
-  Take greater part in home life
-  Lose (or gain) weight

Today's Resolutions

-  Lose weight
-  Get organized
-  Spend less, save more
-  Enjoy life to the fullest
-  Stay fit and healthy
-  Learn something exciting
-  Quit smoking
-  Help others fulfill their dreams
-  Fall in love
-  Spend more time with family

Whether we resolve to return borrowed farm equipment (as the Babylonians did) or drop a few pounds, we're tapping into an ancient and powerful longing for a fresh start by setting resolutions!



JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Communion-Epiphany Heavenly Perks on website	3	4 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	5	6 Epiphany 	7	8 1:00 Memorial Service for Pat Steiner In-person/live streaming
9 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Installation of Officers 12:15 Fare Thee Well to Pastor Dudley Offering boxes avail 11 - 2	10 Stewardship on Zoom	11 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom 7:00 Trustees in Parlor	12	13	14	15 End of Pastor Elvery's Contract
16 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Guest Preacher Heavenly Perks on website	17 MLK DAY 7:00 Session on Zoom	18 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	19	20 CARILLON DEADLINE	21 12:30 Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship	22
23 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Guest Preacher Heavenly Perks on website	24	25 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	26	27	28	29
30 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Guest Preacher Heavenly Perks on website	31					