

January 7 & 14, 2018

MARK'S MESSAGE

A Living Parable of God's Kingdom

After Christmas last year while in Omaha, I arranged to meet a good friend of mine, a pastor, for lunch. We decided to try a restaurant well known for its savory Italian dishes.

We walked through the front door at noon. Interestingly, there was no one to greet us. Far across the dining room we could see a few tables of customers being tended to by a single server. Looking toward the kitchen, we could see three cooks. They were standing motionless, looking at us.



After a few minutes the manager appeared. He was deeply sorry, but he couldn't seat us. Only one server had come to work that day, and she had her hands full with those who had already arrived. My friend and I looked at each other. We were both hungry. So we walked across the street and ate at another restaurant.

It occurred to us that we had just experienced a living parable of God's kingdom. The world is full of hungry people. Cooks are waiting to feed them. But there aren't enough servers. Until the servers show up, not many people are going to be seated. Or cared for. Or fed. Or inspired to become servants themselves who will feed still others.

Do you want to do something spectacular in this new year? Something that will deepen and extend God's reign on earth? Then show up and serve, and invite your unchurched family members and friends to attend First Presbyterian Church with you.

New in the New Year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

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CALENDAR

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, January 15**, for the issue covering January 21-February 3.

Chancel Flower Calendar

January 28, February 4, 18, 25 and March 18 are open on the Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Janice in the church office: janice@fpchutch.org or 665-5549, ext. 106 (afternoons), by the preceding Monday.

We Need You!

Would you have approximately one to two hours once or twice a month to donate to your church? We have a wonderful group of volunteers who restocks pew supplies, picks up left-over bulletins, etc., in the chapel and sanctuary. We could use one more person to put in the rotation. If you're interested, please contact Rita in the church office: rita@fpchutch.org or 665-5549, ext. 101.

FPC BELLS

FPC Bells Ring Again



The handbells have been silent for over two years, and that's about to change. Our first rehearsal of the New Year is Wednesday, January 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the choir room. Rehearsals will be 45 minutes long. If you have had experience ringing bells, or have wondered if this would be an enjoyable ministry, this would be a great time for you to join us. We have several new ringers joining us, so you won't be alone. Please contact David Anderson with any questions – david@fpchutch.org. See you there!

ENDOWMENT

Sharing Our Blessings

The Endowment Committee needs your ideas. We will soon be looking at proposals for ways to use the income from the Undesignated Endowment Fund in 2018. Please give us some suggestions for ways that we may share our blessings with others. We need to hear from you **before January 15, 2018**.

You may call or write members of the committee: Jim Gilliland, Butch Dillon, Marj Johnson, Sam Ontjes, or Mert Sellers.



Fear is not a component of progression in life. When we become intimidated by the things that are ahead of us, we put the seed of doubt in our minds. We then start to question our decisions, actions, and plans. You see when that fear comes into the equation, time becomes even more prolonged, resulting in years of delaying or postponing. It took me a long while to walk this Christian lifestyle because I was fearful. I was intimidated by the thought of letting God down by some of my own selfish actions that were not pleasing to Him. Now I know that we are to fear God alone, but this was the type of fear that made me feel as if I was unworthy to be called a Christian or follow God. I was actually hurting myself more than helping.

I always thought that no one would want to hear what I had to say about anything in life when it comes to God because I truly felt unworthy. Fear, my friends, prevents some of the best things from hitting the surface of life. We read in Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Also in Numbers 23:19 we read, "God is not a man, so He does not lie. He is not human, so He does not change His mind. Has He ever spoken and failed to act? Has He ever promised and not carried it through?"

So if God is not like man, and He cannot lie, then who are we to doubt Him by having fear control our lives? In all given situations, fear can prevent progression. So what if we replace fear with faith? Standing against our adversities with faith leaves an open window for victory. Thinking positive in all situations removes that glimpse of fear in our efforts. Fear has no victory in the life of Christ. If God is for you then He is more than a whole world against you. At some places in life we are meant to feel the pains of failures but if we continue to keep that same pain in every task that we attempt to accomplish, it could ruin the joy in living.

Hurts and pains are only temporary. James 1:2-4 tells us, "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." Fear will always have a place in life but don't let it control you. Simply place your fear under your feet and trample it in to the ground! Try to start 2018 knowing that God is in control of your life, He has a plan for you and you have nothing to fear when you step out in faith and follow God's plan for your life.



Our aim is to reach and equip students, and our priorities I hope reflect this.

We want to create and foster a love for God and desire to be in His Word. There is perhaps nothing of more lasting significance than giving our youth a big vision of God and a deep love for His Word. This should be the driving desire with everything we do. It goes beyond programming, however, we are seeking to put our students in a position for them to experience God in His Word for themselves. There is no secret to growth in the Christian life. The most basic starting point is spending time with God in His Word. If we give students nothing else, my prayer is that it be a love for God and His Word.

I really want to continue to cultivate meaningful community and discipleship that happens in the context of relationships. We want students to build relationships with one another and with our leaders. The avenue through which this happens in is Youth Group. Within youth group, students who are at different places spiritually and some may not yet know Christ can explore faith together and learn from each other.

It has always been my desire to develop students to be disciple-makers. I believe that now is the time for students to lead and now is the time for them to begin making disciples. Rather than waiting for students to get to college before giving them meaningful ministry opportunities, we make it our aim to develop them to make disciples while they are in middle and high school.

Statistics repeatedly show the significance of the teenage years in a person coming to faith in Christ. However, statistics also show that more teenagers than ever are disconnected from the church and unaffiliated with any religious background. What if you don't accept that as the norm and begin to pray and equip your students to leverage every position they have for the sake of the gospel, whether it be on a team, at school or down the street.

We continue to find ways to reach and equip the next generation so that we can help them make disciples of all nations. We believe this is what God wants to see more than ever in 2018.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities — 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Come and join us for "*The Wired Word*" in the Cornerstone Room

"*The Psalms — Glorifying the Lord*", Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Room

"The Parables of Jesus"

The next meeting of our small group will be Tuesday, January 23, 1:30 p.m. at Dick & Carol Brown's house. We will continue our study of the Parables of Jesus with "Shrewd Manager," "Rich Man and Lazarus" and "Master and His Servant." All are welcome.

Are you interested in a nighttime Bible study? If so, please contact David Weidensaul, (620)960-1259.

SESSION & DEACONS

Our Session and Deacons have been busy with many projects and activities within and outside of FPC. Please pray for them as they continue to carry out God's mission for us to **Love God, Love People**.

2018 Session

Jayne Briscoe, Susan Buttram, Jeff Eriksen, Dan Fee, Dan Forker, Don Graves, Chance Gregory, Kirk Johnson, Julie Kimmel, Elizabeth Lane, Kevin Long, Mike McQueen, Scott Meggers, Mimi Meredith, Cindy Proett, David Weidensaul

2018 Deacons

Melody Cole, Dianne Coons, Margie Miller Dick, Mel Dower, Kriss Fee, Denise Hallman, Jane Harrison, Laura Harrison, Amanda Jackson, Lydia Johnson, Martin Miller, Laura Ontjes, Heidi Schultz, Ann Sellers, Anne Sellers, Carol Weidensaul

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

- Pat Hopengardner
- Joyce Sunner

For all FPC shut-ins

For First Presbyterian Church, Freeport (1/07/18)

For Pratt Presbyterian Church, Pratt (1/14/18)

BIRTHDAYS

7	Kyle Keast	12	Carolie Ediger
8	Roberta Price	13	Ross Lovett
8	Terry Sunner	14	Ellen Gorsky
9	Reita Krebaum	15	Taryn Horbotowicz
10	Stan Barker	15	Keith Neill
11	Jerry Gumm	17	Rod Goltry
11	Andy Oswald	20	Claire Barnes

FOOD BANK/NEW BEGINNINGS

Reno County
Food Bank



It's time again for our monthly donation to the Reno County Food Bank. They are requesting **canned chicken or tuna, juice, pancake mix and syrup**. You may leave those items at any of the entrances to First Presbyterian. We will pick them up on January 7. Monetary donations to the food

bank are welcome and needed, as well. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **laundry soap, dish soap, tall kitchen trash bags, 33-39 gallon trash bags and magic erasers.**

Thanks, The Deacons

1 John 3:17-18 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is looking for ideas on how to spend some of the monies in the undesignated funds in the G&M account. If you have suggestions on items that might be needed for certain areas or programs in the church, please contact Marj Johnson. Also we have several designated funds in the names of deceased FPC members and we would appreciate hearing from their families if they have ideas on how these people might be memorialized through specific purchases. Thank you!

PARISH PERSONALS

- Our sincere sympathy is extended to Gary & Jill Brown and family. Gary's mother, Betty Brown, died December 16 in Hutchinson.
- Your on-going support means the world to us. You make our work possible and make Hutchinson safer and healthier. Thank you! Sincerely, Donna Davis, Executive Director, Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center, Inc.
- We would like to thank everyone for their gifts and cards this Christmas. We greatly appreciate your kindness. May you all have a very Happy and blessed New Year. — Keith & Jennifer



CALENDAR — JANUARY 7 - 21

Sunday, January 7, 2018

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Anne Sellers, 663-4998

*Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Matthew 2:1-12**Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Hebrews 12:1-2*

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReFresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

Monday, January 8

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:30 am	Book study	Large Conference Room
4:00 pm	Music staff	Conference Room
5:15 pm	Mission Committee	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Deacons' meeting	Lg Conference Rm

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Large Conference Rm
1:30 pm	Bible study	Lackey's house
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
5:30 pm	FPC Bells	Choir Room
6:15 pm	Confirmation class	Large Conf Room
7:00 pm	Youth Group	The Basement

Thursday, January 11

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
10:00 am	Finance Committee	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Friday, January 12

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
6:00 pm	Staff Epiphany party	Robbie's house

**Sunday, January 14**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Mel Dower, 663-4639

*Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Exodus 36:3-7**Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Matthew 16:21-28*

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReFresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

Monday, January 15

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
6:30 pm	Session meeting	Large Conference Rm

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Large Conference Rm
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Wednesday, January 17

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
5:30 pm	FPC Bells	Choir Room
6:15 pm	Confirmation class	Large Conf Room
7:00 pm	Youth Group	The Basement

Thursday, January 18

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
2:00 pm	Prepare and serve meal	Soup Kitchen
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Friday, January 19

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
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Sunday, January 21

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Heidi Schultz, 669-7956

Preacher Keith Neill (8:15, 9:00 & 10:30): Matthew 5:13-16

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReFresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor



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