

THE BLADE

August 2019

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 3:16 NIV



TWO OUTSTANDING SENIOR PRESBYTERIAN AWARDS

were presented during the worship service on June 9th.

Thank you, Nelda Holden and Delores Koepsell,
for your combined 122 years of devotion to our church and its mission.

(Turn to page 5 for their biographies)

Regular Sunday Schedule

September – May

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Lord’s Supper—

First Sunday of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship Hour

Nursery Care is available

on first floor during

Sunday Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 – 11:30 am

12:00 – 2:30 pm

August

THE BLADE

Published Monthly
(June/July & December/January
combined)

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
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www.brookingspresbyterian.org
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Session Members

Donna Flint (clerk), Dolores Canaday, Rick Salonen, Susan Smith, Terry Spitzenberger, Sue Young

Secretary

Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates
and photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation, and heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Families

Prayer is an important part of our life as a community of faith. We encourage you to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer.

August 4: Lynn & Diane Riedesel, Cliff Rindels

August 11: Amir Rottluff, Doha Rottluff, Yossry Rottluff,
Paul & Shirley Rudolph

August 18: Rick & Bonnie Salonen, Aaron & Christine Scheer

August 25: Arend & Susan Schuurman and family (Hannah, Matthew, Samuel, Rebekah, Noah, & Abigail), Stanley & Julie Scubelek and family (Stanley & Dylan)

Our thoughts and prayers go out to family and friends of Ramona Sebring who passed away July 25.



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, please contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, Lee Peterson at 692-7757, or the church office at 692-2416 who will contact the prayer chain volunteers: Linda Barnett, Dolores Canaday, Ann Douglas, Robby & Donna Flint, Bonnie Foster, Bob & Jan Jones, Andrew L'Amour, Ella Lane, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Judy Smith, Susan Smith, Nancy Thompson, and Richard Wilson. *(Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others)*

Worship on the Farm

WORSHIP ON THE FARM will be held on Joel and Bonnie Foster's farm (3911-18th St., Brookings) on **Sunday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m.** Come worship God in the glorious nature He has provided. The service will be followed by a potluck luncheon. Ushers will be available to help anyone who might have difficulty with the outdoors terrain.



Upcoming Events

PRAYER QUILT SEWING DAY will be held **Saturday, August 10th** from 9:30-11:30 AM, in the quilt room on the main floor of the church. Anyone interested in sewing or preparing quilts for tying is invited to come and help. Please contact Dolores Canaday, Nancy Thompson, Bonnie Foster or Lee Peterson if any questions.



*The family of Bob and Jan Jones would like to invite you to an Open House 50th Wedding Anniversary Reception on **August 11th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.*

CHANGE OF LOCATION

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the First Lutheran Mission Coffee House on August 30th at 11:30 AM.



TUESDAY COFFEE GROUP meets every Tuesday morning around 9:30 AM. at the Lutheran Mission Coffee House. Tuesday is caramel roll day! There is a free-will offering for coffee and there's always room for you!! If you need a ride, call any of these ladies.

WORSHIP TIME BALLOT

At the next session meeting (August 8), we will make the final decision for worship time. We ask for your prayers and your input.

For each of the following options, please choose your rating.

0= I dislike this option

1= I can live with this option, but it's not my preference

2= I like this option just fine

3= I strongly prefer this option

___ Option A: 10:30 for 9 months, 10:00 for 3 summer months

___ Option B: Same time all year (10:00)

___ Option C: Same time all year (10:30)

This sheet may be returned to the office or given to any elder. You may also respond on this website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPNHJF5>.



THANK YOU, ANNA!

Many of you are probably aware of this, but Anna DeGraff has accepted a full-time position at Gustavus Adolphus College. We are all very happy for both her and Gustavus- they will be a great match! Please include Anna in your prayers as she begins this transition- perhaps with both anticipation and trepidation!

Thank you, Anna, for a terrific year- with your leadership we had fun, we worshiped, we stretched outside our comfort zones, and we provided music to inspire the congregation.

The personnel committee is on the hunt once again- if you know of someone who might be interested in the choir director position, please let Donna Flint or any member of the Personnel committee know.



COMING THIS FALL!



Image by JenniferWebb from

First Presbyterian Church will be starting a youth and beginners handbell choir this fall. The choir is open to anyone from 4th grade through adult and will focus on the fundamentals of handbell ringing. The group will perform simple music but will focus on having fun and learning to play a fun and beautiful instrument. Meeting times have yet to be set. If you are interested, contact Elizabeth Fox at 605-691-5211 or Elizabeth.fox@sdstate.edu. Please feel free to invite any youth or adult who might be interested in playing and learning with us.

The PresbyRingers will continue to meet and perform as well. If you have experience ringing handbells and are interested in playing in this group, please let Elizabeth Fox know. Membership in this group requires a basic knowledge of reading music (rhythm is more important than fluency with notes in this group), and at least one year of experience ringing. You must be in high school or above. This group will perform in church services several times a year.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR PRESBYTERIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS



It was a privilege to sit down and learn about Nelda Holden's remarkable and inspiring life, although I'm sure that she would not describe her achievements in those terms. Just consider the obstacles faced by a young woman studying in a male-dominated university biology program in the late 1940s/early 1950s who then went on to receive a Master's degree – that is quite inspiring. Nelda has always had a keen scientific mind and curiosity for research. She attributes her lifelong passion for ornithology to her father who enjoyed bird watching with her and encouraged her to attend Heidelberg College in her hometown of Tiffin, Ohio. Since women were not allowed to do field work at that time, after completing her graduate degree, Nelda taught at the University of Illinois branch campus at the Navy Pier. It was in Chicago that Nelda met a Biology Ph.D. student named David who happened to be a Webster, SD native. Nelda and David married in 1956 and moved to Brookings where David was a professor in the Biology department until his death in 1988. Nelda herself was unable to work at SDSU because at that time the university frowned on a husband and wife both being on faculty.

David was raised as a Lutheran and Nelda was part of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Ohio so they had to decide which church would be right for them. When they made the move to Brookings, the young couple took a very scientific approach to their spiritual life and looked at every possible church option in town. The Presbyterian Church spoke to Nelda immediately and she knew that First Presbyterian was the right fit for her family. Their son Arthur was born in 1967 and baptized at FPC. Over the years, Nelda has served as a Sunday School teacher and Deacon. She has been on the Church Women United committee for 10 years and currently helps count the offering after church for six months of the year. She is also very active volunteering in the community. Her list of activities is impressive and includes delivering Meals on Wheels, playing cards at several assisted living centers during the week, and calling Bingo at the ULC. She also attends a workout class four times per week and practices Tai Chi three times per week!

No matter how busy she has been with raising her son and working in the community, her fascination with birds and conservation have been a constant in her life. For more than 60 years, Nelda has recorded and observed local birds. Nelda was awarded a bird banding permit in 1957 and started the Christmas bird count which is still going on today. Every year since the early 1980s she has worked on the June breeding bird survey. This means starting in the pre-dawn hours and driving 25 miles with stops every half mile for three minutes to record any birds seen or heard. With typical wry humor, Nelda said that "it's usually raining".

Nelda has a quiet and abiding faith that is shown in her deep love of her son Art and daughter-in-law Michelle, grandchildren Megan and Joshua, her friends, church family, and of course nature. Congratulations Nelda!

Delores Koepsell was born in a farmhouse near Canova, South Dakota, where she grew up and went to high school. A wooden model of the family farm is on display in her room.

Her early church home was the Congregational Church in Canova where she sang in the choir. Her husband, Paul, went to a Lutheran church outside of Canova. The two went to high school together but dated other people. They eventually married and moved to Seattle in 1952 after Delores graduated from the Sioux Valley School of Nursing and Paul graduated from South Dakota State University as a civil engineer. "He was a made to order husband," Delores said. "Every day was fun."

In 1957 a professor at SDSU called Paul and asked him to return to Brookings to teach. "That was a nice honor," Delores said. She continued working part-time as a surgical nurse. The two looked at various churches and decided on First Presbyterian. "It's a good place, I really like it here," Delores said.

As a member of First Presbyterian, Delores helped fix food for funerals for many years and decorated the tables for each funeral according to the person's profession and interests. She went on camping trips with the youth, helped with Vacation Bible School, attended Circle, Bible Study and served as both a deacon and an elder. That was enjoyable she said - being with people. She worked a considerable amount on the tapestry that hangs in the church basement lounge and made some of the church banners. "I think we have a nice church family," she said.

Delores says she enjoys doing crafts more than just about anything else and still knits. She's kept busy with activities at StoneyBrook Suites, where she now lives. Her three grown children Steven, Royal, and Pam were "made to order" just like her husband. She has three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Delores faithfully attends First Presbyterian, sitting in the same spot each week. "It's like it has my name on it," she said.



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

August 2019



Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

Quote: Do what you can to show you care about other people, and you will make our world a better place. - Rosalynn Carter

Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood met June for a meal and program. Dan Kemp presented the program on the history of mathematics. July meeting was rescheduled to July 25 with Colleen Thompson from the Domestic Abuse shelter. We had a great meal by Mike and others who helped: Mike, Richard, Roger and Gary – you guys rock!!

Prayer Concerns: Pray for those who are going through loss of a loved one.

Action: Smile and say hello today to someone you have never met before.

This is the first August Blade article that will appear under my name in 12 years. My best little pal Marvin, who has shared his insights on life from a feline view, passed away May 27. "Rest in peace on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge little pal."

We picked up Marvin at the Brookings Regional Humane Society on September 16, 2006. We had just lost our other cat three weeks before when she was hit by a car. That was a sad day. We were hoping for a little bit of furry joy to come back into our lives to push away the dark cloud that had descended on our family. Marvin was the purr-fect answer to our prayers!

While our other cat, her name was Puss, was a free-range cat, Marvin came outfitted with a harness and a leash. At the time it was what we wanted to see, although we had never heard of a cat on a leash before. The trauma of losing our other cat was too fresh so we were glad he came tethered – as much as a cat can be tethered.

Marvin had been rescued by Vicki Larson and turned over to the BRHS for their care. He was near death, a starving little guy hence the name Starvin' Marvin - Marvin for short. Joni Mueller was his foster mom. He was so friendly with everyone he met. What an example for us all. Cats raise their tails straight up with a little curl on top when they are happy and want to be friendly. That was Marvin. Always with tail raised high!

Being on a leash and loving to be outside presented some challenges to us all at times. He wanted to be out always until later in life. I found some stakes that his leash could be tied to so he could be out in the yard – front yard and back. Always maintaining that if needed, he could reach a tree for safety.

He loved going for walks, although they were short and never crossing the street. Mostly just around the quarter block where we live but sometimes around the whole block. Cats don't walk like dogs. They need to explore so it was a real experience. An extra-long leash was necessary for those times he would climb a tree, coming down on the wrong side of a branch!

No one knows what Marvin's early life was like. He was about 8 or 9 months when he came to live with us. He had been rescued about 2 months before that. It was not thought that he was feral, perhaps abandoned by someone. He seemed use to people and very friendly. Cats never forget they were rescued. He exuded appreciation.

Lessons I have learned from Marvin: Be friendly to everyone. Even those you have never met before. Life is shorter than you think so don't hold back on the love you give to others. Having some restrictions on what you can and can't do is not bad. Focus on what you can do. And do it! There are so many stories, memories and lessons we can draw from having a pet. He was a true rich blessing in our family's life. All praise to our Creator of Life!



The Boy Scouts Troop 14 will resume in the fall after school starts.

HY VEE

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$120,111.97

Needed to Date: \$29,888.03

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

FOOD PANTRY: FPC collects items for the Food Pantry the first Sunday of every month. The date for August will be **Sunday, August 4th**. The Food Pantry accepts all type of non-perishable food. I hope this note helps you (and me) to remember to bring some items for the Brookings Food Pantry. Thanks – Deacon Dan Kemp



Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 8. If you haven't tried participating in Sunday School in a while, try something new this year! Classes and workshops are available for all ages- even adults! If you'd like to help out with teaching or helping with a workshop, contact any member of the CE committee (Donna Flint, Bonnie Foster, Gary Foster, Kay Norton, Carrie Van Buren).



Last week's trip had some adventures. After the checking session, one of the truck's tires was flat. It was in the same position as the flat one 2 months ago (not the same tire). Two men changed it for me, just head of a deluge, with some hail.

Someone had notified a couple of the ladies that they needed to go pray for a sick person. I went along. Actually, I gave them all a ride through the pine forest on a narrow logging road. It was the blind man, who has diabetes. He had stopped eating. We sang a couple of songs in Mixtec, prayed in Mixtec, and I read a short portion of Scripture in Mixtec. He had been groaning, but he settled down and went to sleep. The mother tongue has a soothing effect.

We were notified on Sunday that he had passed away. So on Monday, Mirsa and I went out again. But first I had to get a new tire. That made us run late, but we got out there just as they were going to take the casket from the home to the cemetery. We were part of the procession of a dozen or so vehicles, winding through the forest.

There were many people, a lot of whom I do not know. At the graveside service, I offered to sing in Mixtec and read a Scripture portion. We had along I Thess 4:13ff in Mixtec. We also sang 'When the Roll is Called up Yonder' in Mixtec. It was the only participation in Mixtec, and there were many there who would not otherwise hear God's Word in Mixtec.

We hurried home right away, as there were ominous black clouds. We missed the rain, although it had rained in Oaxaca before we got home.

This morning, I replaced another tire, as it was so bald there was no tread left, and it looked like an accident waiting to happen. I also took the truck to the mechanic yesterday, as when they changed the tire on Monday, they said a part which is part of the ball joint was loose. That was also potentially dangerous. They put in a new battery, as it was over 7 1/2 years old. So now Columba, the white truck, should be all ready for more adventures in the Mixteca.

We appreciate your prayers over the years, as several potential safety hazards have been averted. Thank you, Lord!

Susan Huggins

Susan Huggins is serving in full-time ministry as a Bible translator among the Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. Susan's sending agency, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is a non-denominational organization; she raises her own funds to support this ministry



"In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul." Psalm 94:19

PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER July 2019

Life is full of uncertainties. We would like to be in control of the circumstances around us, but that is impossible, because only God is in control! There are actually only a few things that we can control. We would like to be in control of the weather, but that would only cause arguments. We would like to have our children and grandchildren make all the right decisions and choices in life. I know that they will make mistakes just as I have made many mistakes in my life. Thankfully God is patient with us! Sometimes the things that are happening in our lives make no sense to us. I believe that no matter what circumstances we face, God is always at work to show His power so that He will receive all the glory. Romans 8:37-39 makes it clear that He loves us and is working things out for the good of those who love Him!

One of the major things inmates struggle with when they are incarcerated is that their world is out of control. They have to learn to trust God with what is going on with their families back home. For many of them, their lives were already out of control before they were incarcerated, and so God will take them out of their mess.

During our Thursday evening church service this week, the church board members and the pastors who were present, prayed over two inmates who have received their parole. Both of them have been attending church for a while. One of them has been in prison for 17 years, and the other not as long. Only their faith and relying on the Lord can help them make this transition.

One man who I have visited before, has come in and out of prison several times. He told me through his tears, "I can't do this anymore! The drugs are destroying my life and my family relationships. I don't want anything to do with foolish talk here among the other inmates. Some of them want to talk about their partying. There is no enjoyment in that kind of living for me anymore. All I have been doing with most of my time here is reading the Bible." I went over the gospel by drawing out Romans 6:23 on paper. He thought it was all about him trying harder and he would be okay. As we talked, he started to realize he had to give up trying harder and start depending on the power of Jesus Christ by focusing on Jesus, not his problems.

Please remember to pray for the Death Row inmate who has been scheduled to die in November. He is talking with me more now than he has in the past. Please pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with him.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! Have a good and safe fourth of July!

Harlan Moss

When you write your checks, please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship {PLF} or South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220 Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org.



AUGUST 2019 VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Dean & Sharon Hofland,
Susan Smith, Ann Foster-
Douglas, Neal Douglas

SOUND: Ginny Conger

SCRIPTURE READERS

August 4	Robby Flint
August 11	Nancy Thompson
August 18	Dave Peterson
August 25	Dolores Canaday

LEADERS OF CHILDREN'S TIME

August 4	Donna Flint
August 11	Elizabeth Fox
August 18	Donna Flint
August 25	Joel Foster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 Bible Study	2	3 BIRTHDAY: Dorothy Williamson
4 <i>Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser</i> 10:00 Worship Service/Communion 11:00 Fellowship Coffee 11:00 Worship Committee Mtg	5 ANNIVERSARY: Chad & Diane Broksieck	6 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission & Finance Meeting	7	8 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 – Session Meeting ANNIVERSARY: David & Louise Crain	9	10 9:30 Prayer Quilt Sew Day
11 <i>Gary Larson</i> WORSHIP ON THE FARM 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Potluck <u>Open House 50th Wedding Anniversary Reception for Bob & Jan Jones, 2:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall</u>	12 7:00 Building & Grounds Meeting	13 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Dennis Hopfinger	14 ANNIVERSARY: Robby & Donna Flint Dan & Carolyn Moerke	15 Blade Articles Due 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood	16	17 ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Jan Jones Joel & Bonnie Foster
18 <i>Linda Barnett</i> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship Coffee BIRTHDAY: Scott Hinricher	19 ANNIVERSARY: Stanley & Julie Scubelek	20 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) ANNIVERSARY: Andrew & Beth L'Amour Martin & Sally Maca	21	22 9:30 Bible Study	23	24
25 <i>Jennifer Dreiske</i> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship Coffee	26 BIRTHDAY: Bob Bartling	27 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Gary Larson	28	29	30 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Paige Foster Dennis Langland	31

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested



**THE BLADE
IS AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of by post mail,
contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 692-2416.