

THE BLADE

February 2017

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

THANK YOU PASTOR KRISTIE



More pictures on page 4



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

March 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm

Join us for a quiet, prayerful service with communion and the imposition of ashes.

Remember to Bring in Your Hy-Vee Receipts

Grocery, gasoline, and prescription receipts count. Our church receives a \$1000 check from Hy-Vee for \$150,000 in receipts. Please make sure the receipts are from the Brookings Hy-Vee Store only

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000.00

Received: \$37,739.58

Need: \$112,260.42

Received to Date: \$52,969.31

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Fellowship Hour

Lord's Supper—First Sunday of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

9:30am Worship Service

Nursery care is available on first floor during Sunday School and Sunday Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

February

THE BLADE

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

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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 a Christian's life in the community of faith. As members of that community you are encouraged to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer. The families and individuals are selected at random.

February 5: Larry Anderson; Dave & Lucy Barkus

February 12: Linda Barnett; Travis Beller

February 19: Roger & Teri Bierstedt; Don & Jan Boe

February 26: Carey & Lisa Bretsch; Chad & Diane Broksieck & family; LaVonne Broksieck



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, bojjon@brookings.net, or any of the other prayer chain volunteers: Dolores Canaday, Arlyce Thorne, Lee Peterson, Karie Rottluff, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Ann Spitzenberger, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, and Melanie Shepherd.

Deacons' Note:

Celebrate Soup-er Bowl Sunday!

By Melanie Shepherd

The next food pantry collection will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th. We would like donation of soup for this day. As usual any non-perishable food item is welcome.





The Pastor Nominating Committee members are currently evaluating

Personal Information Forms received from Presbytery. We plan to begin ranking candidates and calling references by the end of January.

This is our first round of candidates. It may be that God has provided the right person for us in

the first round; it may be that we'll find them in later rounds. Please keep us and our work in your prayers.

A Note from Pastor Kristie:

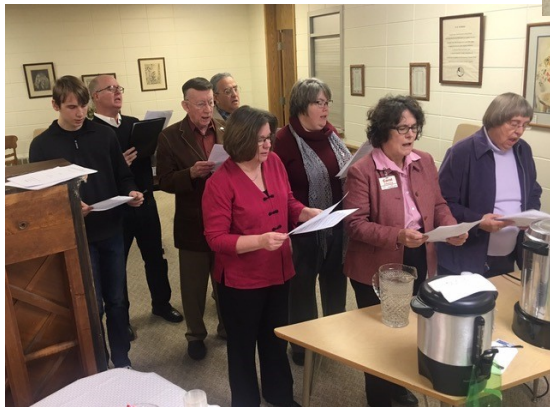
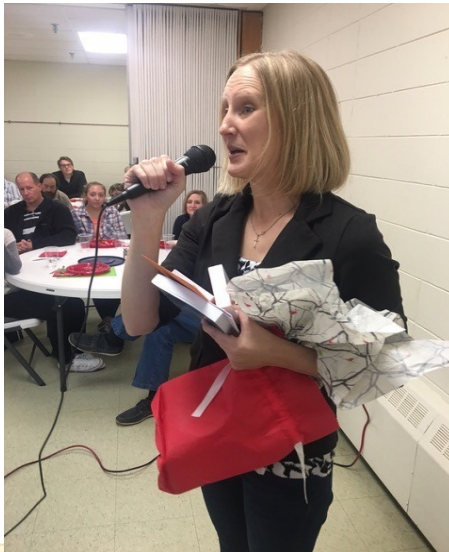
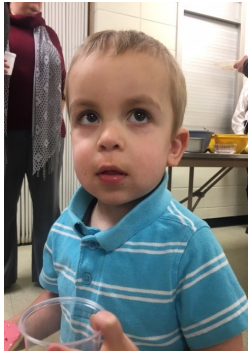
Friends,
I just want to express my deep gratitude to you all for the wonderful send-off--the party, the stories, the words of encouragement, all the cards and notes and incredibly generous gifts! You all are wonderful. I felt so **LOVED**. May God's love go with you as you learn to love one another more and more each day.

Richest Blessings,
Pastor Kristie

"If we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and His love becomes complete in us--perfect love!" 1 John 4:12



Good Luck Kristie



News from the Boy Scouts

By Adam Young



This is an update to keep everybody in the loop about the activities of Troop 14, the First Presbyterian Boy Scout troop. Over the past year, we have been very active, and currently there are 3 of us working on the final stages of our Eagle Scout rank. This brief column will discuss our accomplishments and activities from the past year, and some of our upcoming events.

Of course, a key component of Scouting is our camping, and we annually attend weekend campouts in the Spring and Fall, as well as a week-long summer camp. Our Spring and Fall campouts were held at Oakwood Lake State Park, where we worked on our Emergency Preparedness, American Cultures, and Citizenship in the Community badges. During the Spring campout, we helped clean up around Oakwood State Park by collecting garbage and helping organize the storage area behind the Ranger's center. During the fall campout, we were fortunate to have a "International" meal where each of the boys brought dishes representing a different culture, in order to fulfill part of the American Cultures badge. This was very successful, and we enjoyed a lunch comprising dishes from India, Africa, Europe, and the Americas as part of the camp. Our summer camp was at Camp Many Point in the Itasca region of Minnesota, where we were able to work towards merit badges including Cooking (Eagle Required), Water Sports, Rifle Shooting, and others. A highlight of the campout was participation in the Shotgun Shooting range, newly constructed and a first-rate course constructed by camp donors.

We also participated in several service activities, including placing flags to remember our veterans on Memorial Day, and collecting food to support the Domestic Abuse Shelter in the fall. Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Brookings-Boy-Scout-Troop-14-1031890053540726/?fref=ts>) details the activities of the troop, and we appreciate the parental support to keep this updated.

We are currently working towards our Citizenship in the Community badges in our weekly meetings, and beginning the planning for our winter fundraiser barbecue luncheon held at the Church. This year, the fundraiser will be held on February 12 after church. Tickets will be available from me after church on January 29 and February 5. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from the Men's Brotherhood, as well as the members of the First Presbyterian Church community. One last reminder is that our troop receives the income from the aluminum can drop located at Lowes, which provides significant funds that we can put towards our activities. I hope to continue this brief update of the activities of our Troop in future issues of the Blade. Thank you everyone at First Presbyterian Church for your continued support of Troop 14.

Susan's Saga



In Mexico, the traditional time for giving gifts is on Epiphany, January 6th, to commemorate when the Magi from the East presented gifts to the King of the Jews, the Baby Jesus born in Bethlehem. It has become a big commercial event, with huge sales of toys, as people rush to get stuff for the children. The TV is flooded with ads promoting things that appeal to kids. Stores stay open late the night before for last minute shoppers.

In large cities, kids can bring their requests to the Three Kings: Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, dressed up in appropriate garb. These figures are more common than visiting Santa Claus. To remember the underprivileged, some TV stations and others promote a toy drive, in which people can donate gifts for children whose families can't afford buying playthings.

However, all of this flurry of buying and spending undermines the original sentiment of the occasion. The gifts were to honor the Lord Jesus, not to satisfy the transitory whims of kids. There are further examples of giving in the New Testament, both taking place not at Christmas, but in Holy Week.

In Mark's and Luke's gospels, Jesus took special note of the widow who in her poverty put a couple of small copper coins into the coffers. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, a woman was especially commended for her unsolicited act of breaking an expensive alabaster jar of perfume to anoint Jesus.

Jesus commended her selfless gift, affirming that wherever the gospel is preached, her devotion would be remembered. In all three instances – the gift of the Magi, the widow's mite, and the alabaster flask – the recipient of the offering is God or God Incarnate, who is Jesus. In our acts of giving, may we turn our hearts to the One who has given us all: life and breath, sunlight and cold, the ability to feel and think and pray.

Our Creator has bestowed us with freewill and granted us the capacity to enjoy sights and smells. Throughout, God has manifested His goodness through grace and mercy. Above all, the Almighty has made provision for our salvation through the gift of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

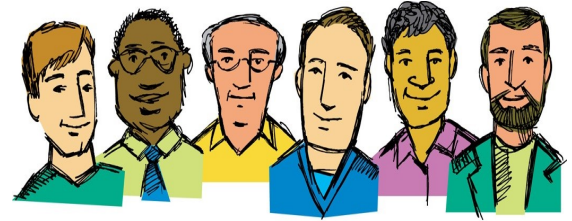
Susan Huggins

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.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."



Quote: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." —Anne Frank

Men's Brotherhood Notes: At our December 2016 regular meeting we enjoyed a sumptuous repast followed by carol singing accompanied by Marge Poppen. Our first meeting of 2017 is scheduled for January 19th..... **Coming up:** The MB will be holding a pancake brunch on January 29th. Our February meeting is the 18th.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for courage to change what we may need changing in our hearts.

Action: Reach out to others who think or who do things differently from us in order to achieve greater understanding, so we may learn to love one another more completely.

It is so easy for some of us to get into routines so ingrained in our daily lives that we can put our brain on pause while we go about whatever it is we are doing. Have you ever driven down the highway with thoughts racing across your mind and then realize you missed your turn or your exit because you were lost in thought? Scary when you realize you did it.

We seem to seek our comfort zones so we can put our lives on pause. No one wants to be in a rocking boat. We want stability so we settle into comfortable patterns of daily habits, rituals or customs. We can get too cozy though to the point we are fearful of anything new mainly because we no longer know how to deal with change or are simply afraid of it.

My dear sister Marcy always follows the news commentators who she doesn't agree with so she knows what "the enemy" is up to. I guess this helps her be prepared for when the opposition does things she doesn't agree with. She jokingly refers to them as "the enemy" but we need to be extremely cautious calling people we don't agree with "the enemy". After all we are all God's children. All of us and He loves us all so much He gave His only Son to die that we could be redeemed and reconciled to Him. This includes all of us. Those we might think of as "the enemy" as well. They are our brothers and sisters – our family! Obviously He does not approve of some of the things we do so things we ought not do had to be spelled out in the Ten Commandments. But He desires that we should all come to Him. To know Him and to love Him as He has loved us. And also that we love one another.

It is so easy in this modern day to gravitate to our comfort zones either with people of like minds – politically, spiritually or people who care for neither. We can find places to go, to hide and to get away from anything that might upset our routines. We Christians know that God certainly did not do that. Jesus certainly wasn't seeking any comfort zone when He came to die for us. Shepherds who watched over their flocks have to be fearless.

But as easy as it is to get away from, it is almost as easy to find places to go to get out of our zones of rest. Opportunities to serve are as far away as a phone call, a card or simply being certain to say hello to someone you don't know and may never see again while out shopping. I love doing that – meeting someone completely new. I confess I don't always do it but when I do, I get a really good feeling inside.

So let's get out of our comfort zones, get out of our routines and act on that love for one another that Jesus proclaimed we should have in our hearts. You will be so glad you did.



PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

January 2017

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:5b & 8

As we enter into this new year we have this promise from Hebrews, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." With all the new technology, everything in this world seems to be changing so fast. Add to that all the suffering from persecution of Christians and the wars that are taking place. Matthew 6 tells us there is no need for anxiety when we know that Jesus is in control and we seek His kingdom first. As someone once said, "The world is not falling apart, God's plan is falling into place as we get closer to His return."

I stopped a young inmate in the hallway and told him I missed him in the Thursday evening worship services. He has been in and out of church the last few years and in and out of segregation as well. A few days after I mentioned that to him, he told me, "I realize I need to come back to church and get right with the Lord! Thank you for reminding me of my need for the Lord and church!" Sometimes people just need a little nudge to prompt them to get back on the right path.

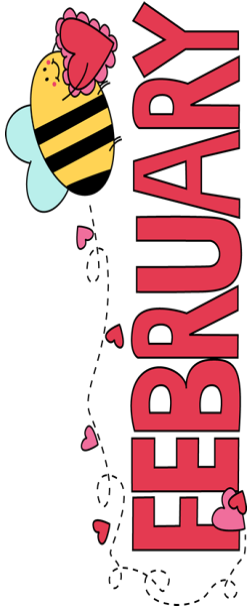
Forgiveness, as I have mentioned before, is essential for everyone who wants to live a Christian life. One young man who has been in and out of church, is now getting serious with the Lord. I meet with him weekly to help him grow in the Lord. In the past I had asked him if he had any anger in his heart against anyone. He told me he did not and that he had forgiven everyone who had hurt him. Then a few weeks ago he told me, "I do have people I have not forgiven and would like to go through the steps to forgiveness with you." He allowed the Lord to search his heart and find unforgiveness in it. He had around six people he needed to forgive. We prayed together for the Lord to forgive him for his unforgiveness and ask the Lord to bless these people. He told me after the prayer, "I felt like a hand was on my shoulder when I started to pray." He had a big smile on his face after we prayed and told me he just felt happy on the inside. God is the ultimate forgiver and will forgive any sin no matter what it is when a person sincerely repents!

Several weeks ago one of the nurses who works in the prison was murdered at her home. It was, and still is a difficult time for the nursing staff as they deal with her death. I had the opportunity to pray with one of the Correctional Officers who was a friend of this nurse, and listen to her tell me about their friendship. A few days later I also had the opportunity to talk with and pray with one of the head nurses! Continue to pray for open doors with staff, because I want to be available for them as well!

I look forward to doing ministry for the Lord in the prison in 2017! The Lord has led me to a verse in Col. 4, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.....Pray that God may open to us a door for the Word....Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." I thank God for you all because of your prayers and financial support!

In Christ,
Harlan Moss

Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. The checks can be made out to and sent to: South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), P.O. Box 90509, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0509. Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. My phone: 605-940-4220 email address: hpmoss1@yahoo.com



February Volunteers: Ushers: Dave Peterson; John Peterson Counters: John MaComb
 Sound: Janet TeBeest Nelda Holden
 Ginny Conger Henrietta Gohring Marvis Jenner

2017

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday			1	2	3	4	
	5 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Gary & Pam Larson (South & East)	6 7:00 Scouts	7 9:30 Coffee @Mission Coffee House 1:00 Outreach 6:30 Mission Finance	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Session	9 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Session	10 BIRTHDAY: Larry Anderson Carey Bretsch Louise Crain	11
	12 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Bruce & Lori Westergaard (East) Dick & Donna Wilson (South) 11:30 Boy Scouts & Men's Brotherhood Valentine Breakfast	13 7:00 Scouts	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9:30 Coffee @Mission Coffee House	15 BLADE ARTICLES DUE	16 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood	17 BIRTHDAY: Elizabeth Fox	18
	19 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson (East & South)	20 PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts	21 9:30 Coffee @Mission Coffee House 9:30 Presbyterian Circle	22 BIRTHDAY: Robert Fishback	23 9:30 Women's Bible Study	24 11:30 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant BIRTHDAY: Bob Jones	25
	26 Regular Sunday Schedule Greeters: Stanley & Julie Scubelek & family (East) Dick & Donna Wilson (South) BIRTHDAY: Terry Spitzberger	27 7:00 Scouts	28 9:30 Coffee @Mission Coffee House				

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.