Dear Friends,

This past Sunday, Libby Lashley shared an opportunity with the congregation. I would like to share it for you all to read again. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Pastor Polly

From Libby Lashley:

I’d like to share with you an opportunity to commit and support the children and youth of the congregation. We are so very fortunate to have amongst our membership an amazing group of children and youth who attend our Wednesday night program, supportive and active parents, and most especially, volunteers who unselfishly give of their time and talents to teach, guide and feed our children and youth each week.

Over the last few years, I’ve been involved in many discussions as a member of the Mission Study committee, the Pastor Nominating committee, Session, and as a member of the Christian Education committee. One of the recurring topics of conversation in all of these groups has centered on our children and youth and the desire vs. the need for a Christian Education Director.

Currently, we have a successful Wednesday night program, but could we take it one step further under the guidance of a director? We need someone who has the passion and desire to commit to not only maintaining our program but building and growing it.

Up to this point, we’ve not had the money in our budget to hire for this position. Recently, however, a member of the congregation came to the CE committee with a very generous offer to pay ½ the salary of a children and youth director if the church would commit to pay the other ½. The Session discussed the challenge and decided it was an exciting opportunity that should be presented to you as a congregation.

The committee has created a new job description and has determined an appropriate wage of $12,000, based on an estimated time commitment of about 20 hours per week. And so we come to you. We have $6,000 committed from a very generous individual. We are asking for you to consider a gift to raise the additional $6000. Our hope is to raise the money by the end of July in order to advertise and hire someone prior to the start of our new education year in September.

We have created a packet which includes the job description as well as a pledge card. If you feel called to commit an additional gift this year to support the hiring of a children and youth education director, please fill out the pledge card and return it to the office during the month of July.

At this time, we are committing to just one year of hire. At the end of the year we will assess the program in an effort to determine the success of the educational director.
This summer’s VBS is coming soon! Pre-K to 5th graders please join us for "Breathe it in: God gives life."

July 28th to August 1st

Dinner for VBS participants and volunteers at 5:30PM.
VBS activities begin at 6PM and end at 7:30PM.

Save-the-date cards and registration forms will be mailed separately, but will be coming soon! You may also pick up forms in the office.

There will be a registration fee of $10 per child. A great way to show off your VBS pride is to wear one of the cool t-shirts. Shirts will be available for $5!! VBS registration is open to members and non-members.

We would love volunteers in the following areas:

**Kitchen:** We plan on having the meals very light with SUPER easy clean up. 1-2 persons would be very helpful here.

**Teaching:** We will, likely, have 2 activity nights and 2 craft nights in addition to a Bible response section every night. 3-4 leaders and 3-4 assistants are needed.

For your convenience, the curriculum is already prepared!

**Some of you middle school and high school youth would make excellent assistants**

Your help would be much appreciated!

If you are available to help in any way, please contact VBS Co-Chairs:

Melinda Baker OR Diana Diffendaffer

or the Church office
Our Heritage . . . A Beginning

The Presbyterian Church first met June 15, 1873, - thus the celebration of **Heritage Sunday** in mid June. Rev. N. C. Robinson, leader of the organizational meeting, met with 10 charter members at the Baptist Church. Those in attendance were James and Carrie Belton, John Weir, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Street, Mary Minchall, J. D. and Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Snell. C. H. Street was elected the first elder and ordained to serve for one year.

Putting this in perspective: In 1866 Lincoln County was named (following the Civil War) in honor of President Lincoln and in 1867 North Platte was named the county seat, the same year NE became a state. The city’s population in 1880 was 363 following the inflate/deflate population of the 1870s. The ten who gathered was our beginning.

James Belton, a 40 year member of the church he helped charter, came to North Platte from New York and became a hardware proprietor. One of his daughters was the wife of W. H. McDonald, a prominent city forefather. His writings recall Indians swarming the area, buffalo running through town, and an arsenal of weapons in the home. Men using initials and women recorded only as Mrs. are difficult to research. Their story is suggested by their presence at this meeting.

The early days of North Platte have various descriptions: a town of 'suspect reputation' and from Nellie Snyder Yost a “bustling village of modest homes and dirt streets, with a few planks thrown across the muddiest intersections of Front Street in the spring.” Both issues suggested a need for Christian action. The Presbyterians were not alone in their effort. The Baptist had come in 1870 and the Episcopalians earlier in 1873.

The Holy Spirit was at work then, as it is now 140 years later, guiding God's children in their work and their worship.

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**Footsteps Grief Camp**

Footsteps Grief Camp, sponsored by GPRMC, will be held on July 20th, 2013 from 8:30am to 5:00pm at McDonald Elementary School in North Platte. Footsteps is for children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Programs are available for children (K-12) and adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend. There is no charge to attend the camp. Breakfast, lunch and t-shirts are provided. Register by calling 696-7434 by July 12th.

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**Rachel & Scott Allison**
**Shaina Bassett**
**Cheryl MacDonald**
**Susan Peters**

**Share your musical talents with us this summer** - -

Contact Connie McCreery if you have a musical gift you would like to share with us.

Summer bells meet on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.
Additional ringers are welcome any time.
Adventures of Bob and Kristi Rice
Democratic Republic of Congo / Kanaga, West Kasai
http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/

Bob and Kristi Rice are now in the US and are planning to visit North Platte in October. This would be a great opportunity to meet the couple we have read so much about.

More information to come.

Stamps for Mission

Whether you have old or new stamps, one or one hundred stamps, all have value to Stamps for Mission.

Contact Ruth Reynolds with any questions. There is a container in the Narthex that Ruth checks weekly.

Thank you all!

Opportunity to help Habitat for Humanity

The Mission Committee is asking members from the congregation to help out Habitat for Humanity as we are serving breakfast and lunch to the volunteers on Saturdays, July 13th and July 27th. The builds are located at 2510 & 2514 W 22nd Street. Suggestions are sandwiches, chips, salads, cookies, rolls, fruit, relish tray or monetary donations towards purchase of food.

If you would like to help in this community outreach, please contact Cyndee Orr or Joyce Kohler.

“Second Sunday = Second Purchase of an item for the Pantry”

The Second Sunday of the month is Pantry Sunday. The grocery cart will be in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for your help to feed the hungry in our community.

Grace Ministries Food Pantry Report

When I look at the monthly reports for Grace Ministries Food Pantry that Director Dean Kurth sends me, I am usually struck by the amount of red ink on them. When Dean uses red ink, it is to show that that figure is the highest ever. A record. And it seems like almost every month in the last twelve have been the highest ever for sacks of food given out and for people served. The all-volunteer staff could not be happier to see all that red, because that means our outreach is growing. And it means that less people are going to bed hungry because of the efforts of so many.

I was asked by Wayne Wickenkamp to speak at Sunrise Kiwanis in late May. Many in the group asked why there was so much more need in our area for food. I am afraid that I really didn't have one answer, because it can be so many things. It could be the obvious, that the economy is so poor, and that so many have lost jobs that families are unable to keep food on the table. It could also be that folks didn't know we existed, or that ANY food pantries existed, and that word is getting out. It could be that some folks were finally crushed by rising food prices and they simply could not survive any longer without help. Perhaps their pride kept them from coming in all these months, but the hunger finally won.

Out of curiosity, I added up the number of canned items alone that were given out at Grace Ministries in May and it totaled 2,662! Can you imagine? Think of the effort alone of moving these canned items in and out of the pantry! The canned goods alone for May easily weighed well over a TON! Add 145 jars of peanut butter, 332 pounds of frozen meat, 93 pounds of margarine, 145 pounds of pasta and rice, 434 loaves of bread, plus all of the fresh produce, cereal, milk, potatoes, and miscellaneous items, and you have close to TWO TONS of food dispersed in ONE MONTH!

We are so thankful for a loving and giving congregation. You give not only your time…First Presbyterians gave 202 1/2 HOURS of time to the Pantry in May….but your monetary and food gifts as well. In a word….WOW! Thank you for your continued support and kindness!

- - Leigh Henline
MAY 2013

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

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Next Coordinating Team Meeting
September 6 at 10:30am

JULY SERVICE COMMITTEE
Carol Beggs
Helen Bell
Lindsay Bell
Dorothy Conger
Kelly Ehlers
Darlene Finke
Rhonda Godbey
Kristi Leibhart
Joyce Kohler
Linda Nelson

BY — FOR — ABOUT
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

She Matters by Susanna Sonnenberg
This book reminds us how profoundly we’re affected by our friendships. In each chapter, she explores her bond with a different woman, from a former camp mate to an intimate ally who dumped her. You’ll want to share this with a friend..

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis
An African-American family saga that pulses with life and emotion, deals with heartbreak, hope, bigotry, and courage over the course of nearly six decades.

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
Corrie was a woman admired the world over for her courage, her forgiveness, and memorable faith. In World War II, she and her family risking their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis; and their reward was a trip to Hitler’s concentration camps, but was released due to a clerical error.
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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Sunday – Thursday 5:30pm-7:45pm (Dinner 5:30-6:00pm)