



Here
and
Now!

March 2023

Volume 70, Issue 3

PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE: “150 Years”

Believe it or not, this is not the oldest church I have ever served. During my younger years, I was an Associate at a church in Princeton, built on property deeded to them by William Penn. That was an old, old, building, with wide-planked wooden floors, and a sump pump in the basement which I always had to beat with a wrench to make it work during rainstorms. The graveyard for which we cared pre-dated the revolutionary war and the manse in which I lived had once been an inn, where revolutionaries came and conspired. Wow, those floors were crooked. Spill a glass of water there, and it would be on the other side of the room before you jumped up to get a towel.

There is something special about serving a church with a long rich history. One likes to imagine it in earlier days and picture the people who met God there. I am grateful that in our case, there are narrations, archives and newspaper references that can help the imagination piece together a picture of a preacher exiting a train in Bismarck, of a street lined with casinos, of buggies and horses secured along the street and a small wooden building where Presbyterians gathered to worship. 150 years is a long, long time.

Under such circumstances, the Apostle Paul described pastoring such a church in terms similar to “shift work” or seasonal work in agriculture. In 1 Corinthians 3:6-8, he says, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.” When I look at the portraits of the many men who have pastored here, complete with their Geneva collars and dark, dark, clothing, (they all look very holy) I realize that no matter how long I am here, this is only my season, my shift.

But it is only your shift too. We are stewards of this community, temporarily charged with the faithful work of God and community here in Bismarck. Our first obligation is to please God with how we tend to this ministry and remember that we do not own it – God owns us. →

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For 150 years, the faithfulness of God has walked this church through its high points and low points, and look – we are still going strong! As the Apostle pointed out, the one single constant of the church is God who oversees the sowing and reaping or (more literally) the worship and service of the church.

We have so much planned for our celebration: a High Tea, special Worship Events, a Fair, complete with the band Braveheart, games for kids, old-time photos, a concert, and lots of yummy food. We can celebrate our three buildings, our role in the history of Bismarck, and our contribution to the Kingdom of heaven – that’s all good. But the real thing we celebrate is the faithfulness of God who walked our forebearers to this day, and now walks us into our future with joy.

So come on! Join in rejoicing! 150 years with God!

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Leanne

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Welcome to March 2023! We have started our lent season and it has been a busy month in the church. I have been unable to participate in our Strength and Balance classes due to some neck issues but thankfully Alice Nix has been helping to keep this class going every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am. I hope to get back to normal with physical therapy in my future. I will know more in the upcoming weeks.



We are continuing to have senior nursing students shadow me and they have been a delight to work with. I feel this has been so beneficial in spreading the word of how parish nursing has made a difference in so many ways. My goal for these students is to share with their churches what parish nursing can do for their faith community.

The next **Blood Pressure Clinic is Sunday, March 12, 2023** from 9:00am-10:00am and 11am-noon in the conference room. Everyone is welcome.

Judith Daniels from Hospice of the Red River Valley will have a presentation called “Hospice 101” in the parlor, **Wednesday, March 15th at 2:00pm**. This presentation will help attendees understand hospice care and to identify the signs of when one should make a referral to hospice, bring your questions, everyone is welcome! We will be offering snacks, coffee, and water.

GIGGLES:

An 80 year old lady was marrying for the 4th time. A newspaper reporter asked her if she wouldn’t mind if he asked a few questions about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She smiles and says my first husband was a banker, then I married a circus ringmaster, next a preacher and now I intend to marry a funeral director.

When asked why the 4 men had such diverse careers she explained with a wink, well I married

1 for the money, 2 for the show, 3 to get ready and 4 to go.

“A Word with Wanona” - I would like to introduce you to Jim and Nanc Skaret.

Jim was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is sandwiched between 2 sisters with one 2 years older and one a year younger. The Skaret family moved from Lincoln in 1949 to Fargo, ND where Jim’s father (an architect) had been born and raised. Jim attended the Fargo public school system graduating from Fargo Central High School in 1962. Jim attended Macalester College (a Presbyterian supported private college) in St. Paul, MN his freshman year of college and transferred to the University of Minnesota in 1963. He graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1968.

Nanc was born in Mankato, MN and was raised on a family farm near Delevan, MN with 2 brothers and 4 sisters. She is 3rd in the pecking order of the 7 children in her family. Nanc attended the Delevan School all 12 grades and graduated in 1963. After graduation, Nanc then went to Chicago where she lived with her aunt and uncle and their 3 boys while she worked as a secretary for a company in Downers Grove, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. In 1965 Nanc moved to Minneapolis, MN where she attended PBI, a professional business college and trade school, and was in the initial graduating class of dental assistants from the school. She then went to work in a dental office in Minneapolis.

Jim and Nanc met shortly before Jim’s graduation from the U of MN in the spring of 1968. They met through a friend of Jim’s who lived in the same apartment building as Nanc’s sister. We literally bumped into each other on the steps of the apartment building and later that evening had a chance to exchange contact information which led to a first date. The rest is history...



Jim had obtained a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the US Army from ROTC at the U of MN and had orders to report for active duty in October, 1968. This led to a fairly rapid courtship and Jim and Nanc were married on Dec. 21, 1968, at Faith Lutheran Church in Delavan, while Jim was on a 14 day leave from the Army. During their courtship in Minneapolis, Jim fulfilled a dream of driving a Yellow Taxi Cab while he waited for the time he had to report for active duty at Ft. Belvoir, VA. On Dec. 23 the couple packed a U-Haul trailer and headed east to Ft. Belvoir, VA where the Army engineering schools were located. While at Ft. Belvoir, Jim received orders for a Post Engineer assignment in Germany and Nanc received her orders for concurrent travel with Jim to Germany, and her passport directly from the Pentagon, which was only a few miles up the road from where they were living. In Feb., 1969, Jim and Nanc flew out together from McGuire AFB in New Jersey for Germany where they lived and worked for the next 18 months; Jim as Post Engineer at Goeppingen, Germany and Nanc as a volunteer at the medical/dental clinic on the Army base (Cooke Barracks) in Goeppingen. Uncle Sam shipped Jim’s brand new 1968 Ford Mustang to Germany and for the next 1 ½ years Jim and Nanc found themselves touring the Southern European countryside whenever possible. It was a fabulous experience.

Jim received orders for Vietnam in October, 1970 and the couple returned stateside where they found an apartment in Minneapolis and Nanc found a job as a dental assistant in an orthodontic office. When Jim returned from a 12 month tour of duty in S. Vietnam he separated from the Army in 1971 and found a job working for an engineering consulting firm (TKDA & Associates) in St. Paul, MN. Nanc continued her work in the dental field and Jim and Nanc bought their first house in 1974 in SW Minneapolis. Their son Steve was born in 1975 and a newer and larger home was purchased in 1976. In October, 1978 Jim accepted an offer to be transferred to Bismarck, ND to be in charge of a new office for TKDA. Shortly before moving to Bismarck, younger son Matt, was born. →



While living in the Twin Cities Jim and Nanc joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis. Nanc had attended services at this church while Jim was in Vietnam and was converted from her Lutheran background to Presbyterianism without any prodding from Jim. We both loved the Westminster church and the many opportunities to become involved with activities in that church and the many wonderful friends that we were fortunate to make while there. Both Steve and Matt were baptized at Westminster. We moved into a house in Bismarck that had been shown to us by Lahr and Lahr realtor, Dan Halvorson. The same Dan Halvorson who has been a longtime member of the Bismarck Presbyterian Church. While he wasn't too pushy, his presence helped make the transition to members of the First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck a very natural and pleasant one in early 1979.

Jim worked for TKDA & Assoc. Inc. when they moved to Bismarck, and he remained with the firm until 1984 when he chose to leave TKDA and join North Central Consultants, Ltd. He established the office for NCC in Bismarck and later became principle owner of that firm in 1988 and relocated the headquarters of the firm from Jamestown to Bismarck. In 2005, he dissolved NCC and established a new corporate identity known as EngTech, Inc. The only noticeable change was the sign on the door of the office. In 1995, Jim and NCC changed career directions and became the ND Affiliate for the Investigative Engineers Association, a nationwide network of engineering firms specializing in investigative engineering and fire investigations services for the insurance industry. At approximately that same time, Nanc began a 25 year career path with Warford Orthodontics.

During that over 25 year period of time, both Jim and Nanc served multiple terms as Deacon and Elder in the church. Nanc also served as Clerk of Session after the retirement of Howard Snortland, and also became a Sunday School teacher in the elementary grades. Jim served as Jr. High (now Middle School grades) teacher in the Sunday School program after the retirement of Chet Perry. In the late 1980's, we accepted an offer to attend a seminar in San Francisco, CA with 2 other couples of the church, Fred and Karen Larson and Wayne and Judy Ruzicka. The seminar was on "Nurturing Christian Faith in Families". After returning, the Larsons, Ruzickas and Skarets became the coordinating couples of a Couples Fellowship Group that initiated several events that became popular adult and family events for many years including "The Valentine Dinner", "The Turkey Barbeque", and the "Hayride and Hot Dog Roast" at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. One of the funniest incidents of memory came when Dan Chapman was emceeding one of the first Valentine Dinners held in the parlor, with our youth group providing waiter and waitress services for the dinner. It apparently was considered unfashionable at the time for boys to wear socks and Dan, who would notice details like that, put out a plea from behind the podium to take up a collection to buy the Bigwood kid (Greg) some socks. Kay Perry then gave a toast to her husband Chet and her Lover, and added "may they never meet". It was a real Hoot!!!

Nanc retired from the orthodontic dental world in 2009, got both knees replaced during the same operation in 2009, and then started working as a volunteer at the Burleigh County Senior Center, an activity that continues today. Jim sold EngTech, Inc. in 2014, remained with EngTech as a consultant for about 3 years and then started driving a school bus for Harlow's in 2018, an activity that continues today.

Son Steve married in 2010, lives in Mandan with his wife Julie and daughter Taylor (11). Son Matt remains single and is the City Administrator in Jackson, MN. Steve and Julie are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bismarck and Matt retains an active membership in our church. He attends worship on Facebook most Sundays and in person when he is with us in Bismarck. Taylor is our only grandchild and, of course, gets plenty of attention from Grammy and Grampy.

Jim and Nanc are very thankful for their life in Bismarck and the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck and for the many lasting friendships that have developed from their involvement in the church. Wouldn't trade it!!!

Thank you Jim and Nanc for sharing your life journey!





The HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE purchased, prepared and served "The Banquet" on February 25. This would not be possible without our church family always being willing to volunteer and make financial donations with this community outreach.

THANK YOU!

Hospitality Committee- "IRISH SODA BREAD AND TEA SUNDAY"

This annual event is back Sunday, **March 19th**, we invite you to gather in the Parlor following the worship service to enjoy conversation, Irish Soda Bread with jams, coffee, and Irish tea.



Hospitality Committee Donation Opportunity

During March, the Hospitality Committee is supporting the Child Care Center with a paper products drive. This is an opportunity for the congregation to help defray Child Care Center costs by donating paper towels and tissues.



Please bring your donations to the Donations Box or the Donations Crib in the Narthex during March. Your gifts are much appreciated by the Child Care Center and by the little noses that benefit from the tissues!

Scholarship Committee-The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce



the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community on March 13th, 2023. To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or must have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. Students at any level of study beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship award. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years: the years do not need to be consecutive. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four-year maximum. Applications are available in the Narthex and for download from the front page of the church website at www.fcpbismarck.com. The **deadline to apply is May 12, 2023.**

RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We start to talk about it in January of each year and provide added information throughout the year in the form of periodic minutes for mission, special articles in the newsletter and church bulletins.

Per Capita is the amount that the church must pay to the larger church for each member of the church. This year that amount is \$50 per member. The per capita payment of each church in our denomination is divided between the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly and provides the most substantial source of funding that supports the larger church and enables it to provide the connectionism that makes the Presbyterian Church unique and enables it to function the way that it does. If you have not served in a leadership position in the church, you may not appreciate all that the larger church does in support of the individual churches and its members. Without the connectional relationships that exist in our denomination between the individual churches and the Presbyteries, Synods and the General Assembly many churches would find it very difficult to survive without the guidance and leadership offered by the larger church organization and staff personnel. One example of how the larger church benefitted our church in recent years is the Investment Loan Program (ILP) that financed the Phase I of our HVAC system upgrade with a 2% loan. Without this program our church would have found it much more difficult and expensive to obtain the necessary financing.

We mention the Per Capita Special Offering starting in January and request that each member consider giving a gift to the church of \$50 to cover their share of the church's financial obligation to the larger church. If you are a member that pledges income each year to the church, and would like to be able to help support other members who might find it financially unfeasible to pledge or to make the separate per capita donation, your separate gift of \$50 will help cover the cost of membership for that less fortunate member of the church. You can make your per capita gift to the church simply by making out a check and sending it to the church office with per capita written in the memo blank on the check. You may also place it in the collection baskets in the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Please consider making a separate per capita payment to the church this year and feel confident that you are doing your part to help support our Presbyterian Church and its membership in the largest Presbyterian Church organization in the world.

Thank you, Jim Skaret

Resource Management Committee

THE HIGH TEA - SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH - 2:00PM

JOIN US FOR HIGH TEA TO KICK-OFF OUR

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !

TICKET SALES AND MORE INFO TO COME...



CCC NEWS

The CCC needs list for March: paper towels.



Here's a small sample of the wonderful Valentine's artwork our Child Care Center kids are creating! →



University of Jamestown Concert Choir 2023 Spring Tour



Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
214 E Thayer Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501



CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! THE TOTAL COLLECTED: \$1,361.25, AND WILL BE GIVEN TO "THE DREAM CENTER" AND "HEAVEN HELPERS



SOUP CAFÉ."



Presby Friends -

One of the Deacon's committees is Presbyterian Friends. Once a month we go to Augusta Place and meet with several ladies (men are welcome, but so far none have joined us). Since September of 2022 attendance has been 6-10 ladies plus 3-5 members of the committee.

We serve a snack and coffee, have a short program including Bible verses, and readings following the theme of the month. During the hour we allow time for visiting. Pastor Leanne has attended and served communion, and Wanona Goetz, Parish Nurse attends when she can. These pictures were taken at the December gathering.



Current members are:
Letha Lewis - Moderator
Angie Hoerauf
Lori Lee
Neva Carlisle



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 28, 2023

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership is 312 with the deaths of Grae Gannon and Jan Schultz.

Session approved the request of Hannah Luciano to transfer her membership to Gainesville, FL First Presbyterian Church.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$61,529	Budget	\$32,360
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$46,596	Budget	\$52,906
NET Income	\$14,933	Budget	-\$20,546
Investment Income (January)	\$102,012		

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked Tony Bartole and all those who helped with the funerals. Progress has been made in gathering resources to use for publicity thanks to the work of Becky Mahlum and Rusty Bender. Please contact Rusty if you have posts for our Facebook page.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Karen MacDonald will be substituting for Parish Nurse Wanona Goetz after she has surgery (date not known). Money from the Kuiper Memorial Fund will be donated to Glencoe Church in lieu of payment to Karen.

Mark Jensen will become Co-Christian Education Director, sharing the position with Marete Farver, each working 10 hours weekly.

Hospitality—The committee will assist with the meal for the University of Jamestown choir on March 7 at 5:00pm. Desserts and helpers are needed.

Proclamation-Christian Education--\$1,361.25 was collected on Souper Bowl Sunday and divided equally between the Dream Center and Heaven's Helpers. Ben Hylden is scheduled to speak on March 22.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—FPC will host Jamestown Choir at 7:00pm on March 7. Communion trays will be used on Easter Sunday. 150th Anniversary concert will be held in the fall.

Property and Equipment—The part for the elevator may arrive in another month. Replacing the sanctuary lighting is a future goal.

Resource Management—Session approved using \$750 from Memorial Funds to help pay for a Clavinova at Glencoe Church. Session approved a special offering to be taken for 150th Anniversary expenses. Joe Bachmeier has joined the committee.

Board of Deacons—Committee appointments have been finalized: Communion, Visitation, Recording, Transportation and Presbyterian Friends which provide a monthly program at Augusta Place.

Child Care Center Board—Members are asked to contact state legislators to support Senate bill 2301 which provides financial stabilization program.

150th Anniversary—VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH EVENTS.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Finance Assistant

Carol Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Maureen Chrest

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Youth Ministry Assistant

Marete Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Tony Bartole

Audio/Visual Specialist

Josh Stokka

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Center Asst. Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

Christian Ed. Interns

Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

Eleanor Sand	2nd
Edith Weber	2nd
Olivia Bachmeier	3rd
Drew Henriksen	3rd
Becky Murphy	3rd
Ethan Lannoye	3rd
Dawn Henriksen	4th
Johan Mahlum	5th
Duane Ehrens	6th
Zach Strombeck	8th
Mary Hoberg	10th
Darlene Kelley	11th
John Bjornson	11th
Larry Larson	12th
Otto Reile	12th
Kathleen Gappert	12th
Mary Ingstad	13th
Juanita Hocking	15th
Jim Rambo	15th
Don Bigwood	16th
Judy Lentz	16th
Connor Svihovec	17th
Carol Zimmerman	17th
Alice Halling	19th
Larry Hoge	19th
Susan Schafer	21st

David Poffenberger	26th
Heather Davis	27th
Sandy Westerlind	30th
Alex Volk	30th
Karmen Svihovec	31st



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM

VIA - ZOOM

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

Keith & Mary Magnusson	10th
Steve & Laura Adair	20th
Dale & Lael Hoerauf	22nd



Please let us know if we've made a mistake, omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	2 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	3	4
5 10:00am Worship	6 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christ. Ed	7 11:00am Bal. & Strength 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment NO Lay Pastors 7:00pm Univ. of Jamestown Choir Concert	8 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	9 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	10	11
12 10am Worship DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC	13 5:30pm Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	14 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board 6:00pm Lay Pastors 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study	15 2:00pm "Hospice 101" NO PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	16 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	 	18
19 10:00am Worship "Irish Soda Bread & Tea" following worship!	20 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 4:30pm Admin. Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	21 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study	22 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	23 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	24	25 2:00pm Dan & Kelsey Kimball Wedding
26 10:00am Worship	27 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	28 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session 7:30pm Lent Bible Study	29 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	30 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	31	

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF:

GRAEL GANNON
MEMORIAL SERVICE IN JUNE

&

JANICE “TOOTIE” SCHULTZ

