

# Princeville Presbyterian Church

## Newsletter

### February 2018

Community. Within the last 10 years there has been a great deal of writing and talk about community, especially “authentic” community. It appears in blog posts, journal articles, short books, magazine editorials and church newsletters. Almost all of it is seasoned with a kind of longing for the romance of living with others who like us and whom we like.

When I was a kid, I lived in a neighborhood where nearly all the families knew me. This was great for my parents and a bit intimidating for me because the neighbors would keep an eye on me, partly out of love and for my own protection (though I didn’t always see it that way), and partly to report back to my mom when my conduct was out of accord with the neighborhood standards (you know, back when *neighborhoods* had standards for their kids). That neighborhood was my community.

But what are we really talking about? What is community and how do we build community which is good for our souls?

The word, community, is derived from the Latin word *communitas* which itself is composed of two smaller words *cum* (meaning “with”) and *unitas* (meaning “oneness”). *Communitas* itself has several definitions of which two are most important. The first seems to refer to the state or the neighborhood or that collection of folks who live in the same geographic space under a common governance. It embodies the notion of “being alongside” those who might share the same tract of land. The second definition contains the sense of kindred connections or holding something in common. This is not necessarily limited to something like holding a piece of property in common but can include holding principles or ideals or perhaps a vision in common. It is in this that we can speak of a church as a community.

But what is it that actually forms community, that fellowship or kindred connection in the church setting? We can propose that it is meeting for worship and spending time together one morning out of each week but let me suggest that there is a great deal more. As a gathering of individuals we do more than merely meet for worship. We hear one another as we pray common prayers together; we have our own voice supported by others as we confirm our common faith aloud together using the catechism or confessions; we find our hearts joined and lifted together as we sing the great hymns of praise and thanksgiving to our God. During this time and in special ways we hold our faith *cum unitas*, with oneness. In this we become truest community and those who are among us week by week are formed to be members of the community. And sadly, those who never (or hardly) participate in it can’t ever have it. Authentic church community is holding with oneness our love for Jesus and the salvation he gives.

This distinction is important because we must always see that the church is *in a community*, that is, it is in a geographic place and has common interests with others who are in that same place. But more importantly we must also see the church as *a community* distinct in its purpose and vision and devotion. Thus the church is true community within a community.

Knowing this we can see that the community of the church has power to impact the geographic community in which the Lord has planted it, even though we at the same time acknowledge that the surrounding community, the geographic space, has influence upon the community of the church. May our truest community in Christ transform our geographic community.

Taking Every Thought Captive To Christ,



## January Session Highlights

The January Session meeting was opened with prayer and a devotion from Nehemiah where we will look into the characteristics of leadership over the next several months. In particular we examined the heart and prayerfulness of Nehemiah as he learned of the plight of Jerusalem and the need to rebuild her confidence through the rebuild of her defenses. The session then attended to the regular business of the church (minutes, treasurer's report, farm report and correspondence) before taking up new items. A report of the Deacon's meeting was presented by RE Underwood with special emphasis on the Backpack program and its effectiveness. A meeting was scheduled for January 25 to discuss church security and any steps we need to take to improve it. RE Litwiller noted that PPC is the host church for VBS this year. To that end, Pastor Baker will contact Grace Presbyterian in Peoria to learn if their "in-house" VBS materials are available for use. The work of the Interim Pastor was reviewed along with the submission of an Initial Ministry Plan which will be submitted to the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery as well as to IPM. An action was taken to move communion from Feb 4 to Feb 11 because Chris Baker will be on vacation. The session approved sending Amanda Keighin and Teresa Snodgrass to the PCA Women's Training Conference in Atlanta GA. A final action was taken to move Chad Freres to the inactive membership list. Commitments were made to do church staff reviews by January 15, and to work on the 2018 budget on January 15. The session will consider a bid to replace the signs on the corner of Main and Santa Fe with some that identify the church as EPC.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.

## Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jeffery Peterson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maggie Dwyer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nancy Potter
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Tater Harwood  
Val Wise
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Basehoar
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Clyde Carroll
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Victoria Powers
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Earline Medearis
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jim Kuntz
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Zachary Peterson

## Anniversaries



- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Chris & Marilyn Baker
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Clyde & Phyllis Carroll
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Homer & Sue Robbins

## Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Food Pantry
- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> – WOW Starts
- Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Deacon/Session Meeting
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – Food Pantry
- Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – WOW Brunch
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – Rockin' Seniors
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Food Pantry
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup> – Deacon/Session Meeting
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup> – Food Pantry
- Mar 17<sup>th</sup> – WOW Brunch
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – Rockin' Seniors



# Women Of the Word

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom  
and knowledge of God! How  
unsearchable are his judgments and  
how inscrutable his ways!*

*“For who has known the mind of the  
Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”  
“Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”*

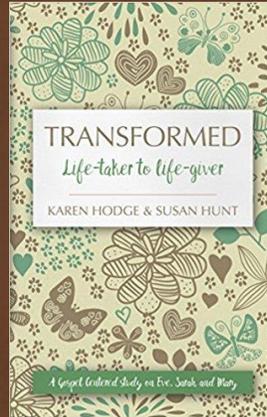
*For from him and through him and to  
him are all things. To him be glory  
forever. Amen.*

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by  
the mercies of God, to present your  
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and  
acceptable to God, which is your  
spiritual worship. Do not be conformed  
to this world, but be transformed by the  
renewal of your mind, that by testing  
you may discern what is the will of  
God, what is good and acceptable and  
perfect.*

*~ Romans 11:33-12:2*

Deep in our heart, we know our influence within each situation and relationship. Sometimes we are life-givers and sometimes life-takers. We also know that self-effort fails us in our desire to give life to those around us.

This Bible study takes us on a transformational journey. Key biblical passages, gospel-centered devotions, Scripture-based prayers, and heart-penetrating questions celebrate the power of the gospel to transform God's daughters into women who give life to their relationships.



We will begin our new study on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please contact Amanda, Teresa, or Michaele for more information about the ministry or for any questions you may have.

Amanda (309) 657-6359  
Teresa (309) 264-1994  
Michaele (309) 369-6206

*Our prayer for this study and our ministry is that we reflect a covenant community life, characterized by nurturing, gospel-centered relationships, providing a safe place for the Lord to transform us from life-takers to life-givers while being a good place to celebrate His transforming grace in each other.*

*And a second is like  
it: You shall love  
your neighbor as  
yourself.*

*~ Matthew 22:39*

# “A Love Story”

Charles Louis German (Chuck) was born in Peoria, Illinois on November 15, 1936 to Louis and Frances Regina German. We lived in Peoria as Lou worked for R. G. Letourneau Company until March 1940. Lou moved his family consisting of wife Regina, son Bill 11 and Chuck 4 to Princeville. Lou and his family opened a farm equipment dealership selling Allis-Chalmers tractors and related farm implements. Farmers were starting to trade in horses for tractors to farm their fields. His parents joined the First Presbyterian Church and had Chuck baptized in the church when he was five. Chuck grew up in Princeville, attending grade and high schools. He met Kathy in the seventh grade when she moved to Princeville. Her sister, Mary was in the 8th grade and Chuck had trouble deciding which one was cuter. He even dated her sister once when we were having a spat but that did not go over very well!

Chuck grew up in the equipment business doing about every job from weed cutting, tire changing, steam cleaning, machinery set up and assembly until finally getting to work in the parts department and finally selling equipment. He attended Sunday school and church at the Presbyterian church every Sunday because mom and dad always attended. Kathy was also there which was another definite reason for going. Chuck and Kathy both attended Westminster Fellowship at the church as well all through high school. After high school graduation Chuck started college at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. At the end of his second year his father called and stated that son Bill (Chuck's only brother) was leaving the family equipment business and that he could not continue the business by himself. He gave me the opportunity to join the business or he would be forced to sell the business. It only took a few moments to decide he wanted to join the family business. That ended his college years.

He was elected to the Presbyterian Church board of deacons and after serving a term then was elected elder of the church. Chuck has served several more terms on both the deacons and elder committees. Kathy and he have also served as Sunday school teachers over the years. He ran for the Village of Princeville city board and was elected for a four year term. He also served on the Illinois Retail Farm Equipment Dealers Association as both a state director as well as the state President of the association. Chuck also represented the National Equipment Dealers Association of North America as a director for several years, and was elected the president of the association in 1992 representing over 3500 equipment dealers located in the United States and Canada.

Kathy and I have four children. Gretchen is married to Daryl, an equipment dealer in eastern Indiana selling the same equipment as we do. Son Jeff and his wife Marilyn continue serving the church in Southeast Asia and have been for 27 years. Twin brother, David is married to Kathy and is a doctor serving as medical director in a hospital near Lexington, Kentucky. Our son, Greg, married to Toni, is president and operating manager of the family business, German Bliss in Princeville and another location in East Peoria. Kathy and I have 16 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. GOD has blessed us in many, many ways and we thank Him every day.

Kathryn Jane Springer German, born in Peoria, Illinois December 4, 1936. Parents: Mervin and Treva Springer. Kathy lived in Peoria with her parents and younger brother John and older sister, Mary, until 1948 when her family moved to Princeville. Her father, Mervin opened the Springer Variety store located on Main Street in Princeville. Kathy entered the Princeville grade school in the seventh grade. This is where she first met Chuck who was also in the seventh grade. They both attended Sunday school and church at the Presbyterian Church, along with their parents and were active in the church youth group known then as the Westminster Fellowship.

During her high school years in Princeville, Kathy and Chuck dated on and off but then started steady dating their junior year. Chuck always had a crush on her. Kathy worked for her father in the Springer Variety Store. Upon graduation she entered college at Illinois State University and graduated from there with her teaching degree and certificate. On June 16, 1957 she and Chuck were married at the Princeville Presbyterian Church. The then pastor, Reverend Ralph Walters, conducted the service. The wedding reception was held in the church basement, before the church was air conditioned, on a very hot, sultry day! Kathy started her teaching career at Edelstein grade school and taught there for two years before their first child, Gretchen was born. Later, twin boys, Jeff and David were born. For a while there were three in diapers. The kind you washed! Then 3 1/2 years later, son Greg was born.

Kathy had a kindergarten in her basement for her children and neighborhood children before the community school had a kindergarten. Kathy ran for the Princeville grade school board and served at the time the present grade school was being constructed. Kathy has also served as both deacon and elder of the Presbyterian Church at various times. She served at the time the Ruth Corney Fellowship hall was added to the church and the sanctuary underwent a complete renovation. Kathy was the building committee chairwoman. Kathy sang in the church choir for many years and has been a Sunday School teacher for various ages. She is still teaching in the Awana program.



## Update on the Interim Pastoral Process

It was just after Thanksgiving at a congregational meeting that I gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Interim *process* that is part of Princeville Presbyterian's transition to a new pastor. I emphasize the word "process" because it is a series of steps and activities designed by IPM to bring the greatest blessing to the church during my season here. The process I described was 5 steps beginning with "Connection" where I focused my efforts on getting to know the church as a community of people, how the members interact with one another and how she (the church, that is) does ministry. Given the hiccups of the holidays, (when lots of people were busy with Christmas activities or out of town – including me, of course) I'm most of the way through the first stage. This means that I can now begin to turn my attention to the second stage which is "Assessment" - evaluating the general health of the church. This stage requires more participation from congregational members because Princeville Presbyterian is not really *my* church; Princeville Presbyterian is *your* church.

Even as I was connecting, however, I learned of some things that require my attention as an interim pastor before we can effectively proceed with finding our next pastor. Because of this, ***I have asked the Pastoral Search Committee to put their work on "pause"*** until I've followed up on the "some things" that need attention. They have graciously agreed to do so. BUT please do not misunderstand. Your Search Committee has been very diligent in their work of considering and evaluating each of the potential candidates who have submitted their information, so during this time that they are on "pause" they will certainly not be dormant. They will still be looking at résumés and candidate information forms, and perhaps doing a first screening of those potential candidates, and they might even listen to candidate sermons by any very promising possibilities; they just won't be doing any interviews or continuing conversation with candidates until the "some things" are taken care of and we are in a position to move forward.

In the meantime, there are two things that we need going into the second stage. The First is a Transition Team that I'm assembling to help me do some IPM assessment exercises for the church. The Pastoral Search Committee has also agreed to help with this. But I am interested in having congregational members who are not part of the PSC help serve on the Transition Team. If this is something you would be interested participating in, please let me know and we can talk about it, and see where you would fit in.

The second thing we need is groups of Prayer Warriors. I am building teams of 3 people who will pray together weekly for the church and for the effectiveness of the interim work. If you sense a call to this part of the transition work, again, please let me know and I'll explain further how this will work.

It has been a rich blessing getting to know you these past 3 months, and I think of you more and more as members of my Christian family. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves with you and diving into the work with you that will prepare you for the blessing of your next pastor.

***Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.***

***~ James 3:1***

# February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Food Pantry @ 5-6pm	2 Courageous Conversations @6:30pm	3
4 Communicant's Class @ 9am	5 Prayer Group @9:30am W.O.W. @ 10:30am	6 W.O.W. @6pm	7 AWANA @ 6:15pm	8	9 Courageous Conversations @6:30pm	10
11 Communicant's Class @ 9am Communion	12 Prayer Group @9:30am	13 Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	14 AWANA @ 6:15pm	15 Food Pantry @ 5-6pm	16 Courageous Conversations @6:30pm	17 W.O.W. Brunch @ 10am
18 Communicant's Class @ 9am Annual Meeting	19 Prayer Group @9:30am W.O.W. @ 10:30am	20 W.O.W. @6pm	21 AWANA @ 6:15pm	22	23 Courageous Conversations @6:30pm	24
25 Palm Sunday Communicant's Class @ 9am Rockin' Seniors @Noon	26 Prayer Group @9:30am W.O.W. @ 10:30am	27 W.O.W. @6pm	28 AWANA @ 6:15pm			

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*