



Princeville Presbyterian Church

February 2019

The wind ripped in from the north whipping snow off the rooftops in great curls, driving it through the barren and leaning trees. Higher up, thick waves of flakes were driven nearly sideways in the darkness as the hour pressed toward midnight. I felt sorry for God's creatures - the birds and squirrels, foxes and rabbits, now hidden from view, that surely must be puffed up in a ball for their own warmth and protection. This was a night to be wrapped in a blanket, settled into a chair near the heat where I could stay warm to gaze out the window and watch.

For sixteen months I had looked out the windows of the manse kitchen seeing-but-not-seeing the church building and grounds. Only occasionally, when I wanted something to watercolor, did I see the church steeple and its possibilities. But this night especially, standing high above the town and storm, the steeple looked like a lighthouse marking out, declaring, the welcome of a quiet harbor from a roiling sea. In this moment, for the first time in a long time, I could see the symbol of shelter and protection, the standard raised up for the nations described in Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Here was the emblem of this deeply-rooted 185-year-old Presbyterian church's true value – not a mere steeple on a building - but the cross, the substitutionary death of our Lord Jesus lifted high in the testimony of its faithful people. That is and had been the light shining in the murky, stormy, swirl; the gospel of life and light in a dark, despairing world.

In Sunday School and AWANA and VBS we have the kids sing, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." In most cases we probably think it's a cute song for the young ones, but it is an exhortation to the rest of us as well. We are to be those who "know and understand the Lord" (Jer. 9:23-24), and those who "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8). And we must "noise abroad" the news of God's great love to us, to humankind, in His Beloved Son (Acts 8:4).

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5)

As Christ lives in us, we are lights in the world.

"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

Lately, as I drive up to Princeville on Jubilee road, I start looking for the steeple as soon as I come over the rise just north of Yess road. It's not because I'm lost and don't know the way to town, but because I know I'm close to "home" and I mark the shortening distance to the steeple until I've arrived. The home I speak of is the company of God's people who, like me, rest in the shelter offered in the storm. As long as you

hold onto and proclaim the whole counsel of God, and live it out, you are the real light of Princeville (and for that matter, the whole expanse of Illinois around to the north if we care to consider it). And it's been my privilege to be a part of it in the brief time I've been with you.

While my work here is nearly finished, there will be a few more times yet when I'll be coming back to be among you. You can be assured that as I come over the rise on Jubilee, I'll be looking for the steeple that holds the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ high over the town. May this always be the marker in every aspect of your ministry – that you know only Jesus Christ and him crucified. This is a lighthouse for the lost, for the growing disciple, and for the hopeful.

Taking Every Thought Captive To Christ,

Chris

Session Update //

Summary of Session work from January 2018

The Session meeting was opened with devotion and prayer.

The Deacons were present with the elders for the first part of the meeting. During this part of the meeting we received an update report from Owen Hill on his Eagle Scout Project which is focused on improvements in the room housing the Community Pantry. Construction materials are being collected, wiring has been inspected and modified to accommodate an additional upright freezer, and a food drive will be conducted in February to supplement pantry supplies. The Deacons announced the reschedule of the “De-Hanging” of the Greens from Christmas since the weather was so uncooperative on the Sunday originally scheduled. Thanks were offered to the Deacons for their work, and prayer was lifted up for them in their ministry and in their personal lives.

Routine matters such as approval of minutes, treasurer's report, correspondence and scheduling of session meetings were attended to. It was **approved** to move Session meetings to February 4, March 4 and April 8 to accommodate Chris Baker's brief pastoral visits to serve Communion and do transition work with Chris Carpenter. Reports on the various ministries of the church were reviewed. An additional study entitled “Silence, God Working” for W.O.W. was **approved**.

Following these routine matters, the Session reviewed two pages of a Missions Support Policy – **Approved**. In addition, we reviewed By-Law amendments for Officer Nomination, Training and Election, which will be distributed to the congregation for approval at the next Annual meeting set for February 3 (and later changed to March 3). We tracked the progress of renovations at the manse, and discussed and made plans for the arrival of Chris and Emily Carpenter and family.

A season of prayer was engaged in for the congregation before adjourning for the evening.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.



Women's Ministry

I always try to find the beauty of God's creation in every month and every season. However, by the time February rolls around, I find it harder to do. I am tired of the barren winter landscape and the frozen tundra of Illinois. I am ready to feel the warmth of the sun on my skin and maybe see some color. For example, I would love to see a green palm tree or a pink hibiscus right now.

This February things are little different for me though. I have something to look forward to. Last February, Amanda and I had the opportunity to attend the PCA Women's Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA. And this February we are going back!

Now, I would be remiss to say I was ecstatic when Pastor Chris Baker and Amanda approached me about going last year. As a matter of fact my answer was a defiant NO! But those two were relentless in their pursuit and they wore me down. I eventually but grudgingly said yes. And though I had said yes I still had moments in the days approaching the conference that I wondered why on earth I said yes. You see I did not want to go, I did not feel as though I was a good fit for a conference of this nature. But I knew how much Amanda was looking forward to it and I did not want to let her down. I would put on a happy face and make the best of it!

Our flight was seamless; we navigated through the Atlanta airport to the subway and finally to our hotel where the conference would take place. The lobby was full of ladies waiting to check in, which meant it would be a bit before our room was ready. I love to people watch and this gave me plenty of time to do just that. The main person I was watching was my dear friend Amanda. It was plain to see this girl was in her element, she was at home. She moved around that lobby with ease talking and conversing with the ladies. I, on the other hand, felt like a fish out of water. What was I doing here? So many of these ladies were a wife to a minister or elder. I was not. So many of these ladies have attended seminary. I have not. What was I doing here? I just kept thinking to myself, this was going to be a long three days.

There was a welcome lunch for those who have not attended the conference before. It was after the lunch that I was maybe starting to feel a little more at ease. A little more comfortable. I was starting to feel the warmth of the Son! I was no longer asking what I was doing here. I knew I was supposed to be here. The next three days went by in a wonderful blur of workshops and regional gatherings. My head was spinning from all the knowledge I had gained and the friendships I had made. I couldn't wait to get back to the ladies at Princeville Presbyterian and share the things we had learned!

So here we are a year later and its February. I'm not dreading February as much this year, I do have something bright and warm to look forward to. And by the time we get back, March will be right around the corner, which means it won't be long and we will be taking in the beauty and wonder of the season of spring!

*With Love in Christ,
Teresa Snodgrass*



MOVIE NIGHT

When: Sunday, February 17th

Time: 6:30pm

What to bring: Comfy clothes, a snack to share, and a friend!

What's Going on?: We will be showing a movie! Popcorn and beverages will be provided. This is for members, attenders, and friends of all ages. Let's get together and enjoy an evening of fellowship as we watch a Christian film.

Still Have Question?: Ask Michael Webber
(Coordinator of Fellowship)

February Events

- 2nd – Men of Iron
W.O.W. Brunch
- 3rd - Communion
- 4th - Deacons/Session
- 17th – Movie Night
- 24th – Rockin' Seniors

Anniversaries

- 3rd – Chris & Marilyn Baker
- 11th – Clyde & Phyllis Carroll
- 17th – Chris & Emily Carpenter

Birthdays

- 1st – Jeffrey Peterson
- 2nd – Maggie Dwyer
- 3rd – Nancy Potter
- 8th – Tater Harwood
- 9th – Joyce Basehoar
- 11th – Clyde Carroll
- 18th – Victoria Powers
- 21st – Earline Medearis

*Anxiety does not empty
tomorrow of its sorrows, but
only today of its strength."*

~~Charles Spurgeon



Interim Pastor Update

The interim work at Princeville Presbyterian Church is nearly concluded. After 16 months, I am passing the responsibility of teaching, guiding and shepherding the flock to Chris Carpenter, whom God has called and uniquely prepared for the next phase of the life of the church (and by God's grace and mercy, for a very long phase). The last two months has been a season of waiting for the Presbytery to go through its necessary procedures before we could "officially" bring Chris C aboard, but the wait has been worth it.

During this two-month wait, the interim work itself has not been dormant; a few items have been completed for the future health of the church. First, a procedure setting out a careful process of leadership change in the W.O.W ministry has been crafted and adopted. Second, some procedures for assessing the support for missionaries has been outlined and provisionally approved. A last section addressing missions support is in process at this moment. Third, a final report of all my interim work is being completed for handing off to the new pastor and the session.

While my work is concluded, there are some things that are not *completed* and are actually left for the leadership of the church. The final report includes recommendations for work that needs to be completed after I'm gone and items that should be considered for the near future.

For the next two weeks, I will transition with Chris Carpenter as your new pastor, giving him perspective, passing along some things I have learned, explaining things I have done and guiding some of his trajectory as the mantle passes to him. Then for several weeks afterward, I will coach him by Skype as he settles into the routine that makes up this fellowship of believers.

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Marilyn and I cannot thank you enough, Princeville Presbyterian Church, for receiving us so graciously and so well. From the first moment of my contacting the Pastoral Search Committee to this last week of my "full-time" presence among you, you have welcomed me, encouraged me, showed me hospitality, accepted my ministry among you, and lovingly overlooked my foibles. No man (or minister!) could ask for more. After these months among you we will always think of you and pray for you as part of our growing family of brothers and sisters in faith. We'll be back occasionally to enjoy brief snippets of fellowship but, surely, you must know by now that my exhortation will always be to "Take Every Thought Captive to Christ."

February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Men of Iron @7am Women's Brunch @ 10am @ Michael's
3 Communion	4 Prayer Group @ 9:30am Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	5 W.O.W. @ 6pm	6 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	7 Food Pantry @5pm	8	9
10 Chris Carpenter's First Sermon!	11 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	12 W.O.W. @ 6pm	13 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	14	15	16
17 Movie Night @6:30 pm	18 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	19 W.O.W. @ 6pm	20 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	21 Food Pantry @5pm	22	23
24 Rockin' Seniors	25 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	26 W.O.W. @ 6pm	27 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	28	Women's Leadership Training – Atlanta, GA	

Prayer Warriors

Yess Family, Harwood Family, Heck Family, Carpenter Family, Church Elders & Deacons, W.O.W Ministry, Men of Iron Ministry, AWANA Ministry, Fellowship Team

Our Missionaries:

Jeff & Marilyn German

