

FIRST PRESS LITE

is published monthly by First Evangelical
Presbyterian Church, Frankfort, IN 46041
(765) 654-5558
www.fepcfrankfort.org

Editor: Miriam Curts

Staff Phone Extensions & E-Mail Addresses

Paul Copeland (12) paul@fepcfrankfort.org
Kelly Kurth(13) kelly@fepcfrankfort.org
Ashley Haynes (14) ashley@fepcfrankfort.org
Kalen Jackson (10) kalen@fepcfrankfort.org
Marty Rodkey (11) marty@fepcfrankfort.org
Carol Downs (19) carol@fepcfrankfort.org
Terri Calvin terri@fepcfrankfort.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. (coffee and donuts)
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School (all ages): 10:15 a.m.
*Staffed Nursery all morning

For week day staff office hours, please visit
www.fepcfrankfort.org, or phone the church.

First Press Lite will be published on
the 1st of each month. Deadlines for
submitting articles or information
for the monthly calendar will be the
last Tuesday of each month.

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
352 West Clinton Street
Frankfort, IN 46041

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Focus on God — Equip God's People — Proclaim Christ — Change the World!

If you received this issue by U.S. mail but would like to receive First Press electronically, please email kalen@fepcfrankfort.org.

SERMON INFORMATION

July 2— "ROME: Paul and the
Underground Church"
VBS Review

July 9— "No Saint Left Behind"
Ephesians 4:1-16

July 16— Ephesians 4:17-24

July 23— Ephesians 4:25-32

July 30— "What Pleases God"
Ephesians 5:1-20

MEAL DELIVERY

July 7 Amy & Katie Crawford

July 14 Amy & Katie Crawford

July 21 Jacque Snyder & Andy Shriver

July 28 Jacque Snyder & Andy Shriver

Stephen Ministers at FEPC



This month, I'd like to bring up something about Stephen Ministry that you may not have thought about. Did you know that Stephen Ministers are not just for our FEPC members? While a person must be an FEPC member to take the Stephen Ministry training (because the ministry belongs to you, the congregation), Stephen Ministers can become caring listeners to those beyond the congregation as well. What this means is that as you are out and about in our community, if you become aware of crisis or ongoing situations where someone might be helped by having a caring person alongside them for a time, you may certainly bring up Stephen Ministers and their role in helping people during difficulty or stress. In fact, of the 23 people helped by a Stephen Minister in the past five years, five of them have been from the community. So, you can feel confident suggesting Stephen Ministry to a friend, giving a Stephen Ministry brochure to a hurting person (check the brochure racks around the church), or speaking confidentially to me or Pastor Paul about a possible referral. Let's not keep the good news of Stephen Ministry at FEPC to ourselves!

- Marty Rodkey

marty@fepcfrankfort.org or 765-654-5558, ext. 11

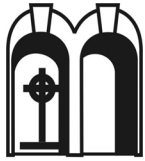


Life in the Body of Christ

Thank You!

The family of Maxine Maish send their thanks for all the many kindnesses shown honoring Mother at the time of her death.

Marshall and Phoebe Smith



First Press Lite

FIRST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Focus on God, Equip God's People, Proclaim Christ, Change the World

A monthly summary of activities at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

July 2017

Prayer with the Pastor

Will not meet during the summer.

Sunday Afternoon Worship

Continues each Sunday

In Fellowship Hall @ 4:00 pm

NOTE: No Afternoon Worship July 2

Sunday School will not meet in July.

Guatemala Team Presentation and

Deacon Breakfast

Sunday, July 9 @ 10:15 a.m.

Bloodmobile

Thursday, July 13, 2017

A.L.I.V.E.

Campout July 7-8

Canoe Trip July 29

B2B Community Dinner

No dinner in July

Borrowing Policy

If you need to borrow tables, chairs or other equipment from the church, please be sure to check with Donnie Albitz to be sure it won't be needed or that it hasn't been reserved by someone else. The policy states that we will not lend out kitchen equipment.

2017 General Assembly Reflections

This year's GA will prove to be important as much for the debates that were started as for the decisions that were settled. The EPC has grown dramatically in less than 10 years from 180 congregations to over 600, with the lion's share of this growth by transfer from the PCUSA. This dramatic growth has several consequences which will become increasingly manifest at the GA level in years ahead. The most obvious is the tendency of many commissioners to see issues through the lens of their experience with the PCUSA. One clear example this year was the way the phrase "top-down church" kept popping up in debates on the floor. "Top-down" is code for "like the PCUSA." As the EPC has grown, there has been a real need to strengthen the role of the denomination's Committee on Administration. However, the majority of those driving the growth are suspicious of authority invested in denominational agencies. So, it will be interesting to see if the EPC can find a new, positive identity that goes beyond "not being like the PCUSA." The floor debates this year made it clear that the key issue for the EPC going forward will be whether this growing church will trust its national leaders.

Fortunately, GA is a wonderful venue to build trust. It has the feel of a family reunion. You can take your box lunch and sit down with national leaders and get acquainted. Every meal I made it a point to sit with people I didn't know and within a few minutes realized each time that I was with "family." Highlights of this year's GA for me were getting acquainted with two different ministry couples. The first was the pastor and his wife of the EPC's only Portuguese-speaking congregation, Closer to God EPC in Newark, NJ. As the pastor preaches in this newly-planted church, his message is translated into both English and Spanish so all the worshippers can understand. The second was an EPC World Outreach couple who, with their young children, lead a disciple-making ministry in one of the most dangerous corners of the Muslim world. Their stories fill me with faith and hope that King Jesus is on the move. And, I now have two more reasons to look forward to next year's EPC family reunion.

Pastor Copeland

Mid-week Young Adult Study – Continues through July

FEPC's Young Adult Thursday Evening Summer Study will be going through the book of Ephesians. The Study is from 6-7:15 pm at the Kurth house.

Also, if you're looking for a chance just to hang out (or experience my crazy grill skills... emphasis on crazy), we'll be having dinners on Thursdays from 5-6 pm (prior to the study) and some hang out time after the study. Just text me if you'll be there for dinner so I can make sure we have enough liver and onions... (just kidding about the liver and onions).

Summer Youth Adventures

★ For Middle School and High School aged youth (A.L.I.V.E.): **Camping Trip**—Friday and Saturday, July 7 and 8. Details to come. **Canoe Trip**—July 29

Guatemala Reflections

As the Guatemala Mission Team was returning home, we asked them to share something about what the Mission Trip meant to each of them, so we could publish it here. Here are their thoughts:

Emma Price— When Grandma asked me to go on this mission trip, I just said ‘sure’ because I thought it would be a good opportunity to get out of the country, and I thought it would be cool to tell all my friends that I was going on a mission trip. After boarding the airplane in D.C., it became a reality to me what I was actually doing and that I had no idea what a mission trip was really about. When we were finally in Antigua about to go to sleep I thought in my head, “Here we go. There’s no turning back now.”

After the first day of going to church and praying aloud several times, I thought, “This is not going to be fun at all. It’s just going to be praying and Bible study.” The next day after going to the hospital and seeing all the people there, I felt something in me that was telling me, “You’re going to be all right, Emma. This week is going to be good for you.”

As the week went on, I felt like that voice was right. After all, I got to meet a random guy named Chris, see the lone ranger, and learn what a Brillo Pad is. I guess you could say a time when I saw God’s hand working was when we went to the school where the interns Val and Isa worked and got to see them teaching Bible stories in a school classroom. It just blew my mind that they could do that and not get in trouble. All in all, I’m glad I was able to go on this mission trip, and I hope I can go on many more in the future.

Suzie Ransom— The trip to Guatemala was such a blessing from start to finish. God blessed us with a little bit of paradise on the Potter’s Field campus. The beautiful trees, flowers, and a sense of peace and calm welcomed us every time we came through the gates from the busy streets of Antigua. The students and interns at PFM were all so welcoming and kind. Their walk with the Lord was so evident in their every day lives.

Our opportunity to visit the hospital for handicapped children, teens and adults helped us learn to love these people with the heart of Christ. What a blessing to sing and laugh with them.

Our visit to the public hospital of Antigua Emergency Room gave us empathy for those waiting on loved ones who were delivering babies or facing surgery. As we passed out bean sandwiches, water and scripture, we prayed with them for their family member. One lady had just lost her son and was so distraught. We had the opportunity to pray with her and express our sorrow.

The Potter’s Field Kids who came to have dinner, play games, and hear the story of planting the seed of Christ in their heart were a joy to work with and get to know. We found the children of Antigua so respectful and kind.

I feel much love for the Guatemalan people who welcomed us and shared their kindness with us. I thank God for calling me to come on this trip.

Sally Myers— What a blessing this trip to Guatemala was! I had a wonderful team of people to work with this week. God seemed to have chosen each of us carefully for the work to be done at PFM.

How did I see His hand in the trip? Let me count a few ways: 1) Needed help on directions at the Market; saw a blonde lady who spoke English and she gave us the directions we needed. 2) The smiles and laughter of the small children at the long-term care facility for mentally/physically disabled children as we pushed them outside in their wheel chairs. 3) Beauty of the mountains surrounding Lake Atitlan — breath taking. 4) Emma interacting with children and adults on each of our outings. 5) Caleb, from the first day we entered the PFM grounds, he just seemed to belong there. As we were getting ready to leave Saturday night for the airport, he told us he was going to the PFM Ignite program in January! Keep Caleb in your prayers as he makes this life changing decision.

I’ve been on mission trips before, and I will continue to go as long as I am able. Serving and working with the McClains and their staff of young people was truly a gift from God for me.

Guatemala Reflections

Susan Calloway— My reflections ...

- sitting in the courtyard; in stillness and listening to unique bird calls while doing personal devotions.
- hearing team members reflect on various scripture passages and their meaningfulness during group devotions.
- pushing wheelchair-bound children at the hospital.
- “Wendy”
- observing a servant’s heart in my team members and The Potter’s Field staff.
- team members sincerely seeking the will of God and how to serve Him.
- time for prayer and personal reflection.
- chaos in school and wondering how learning is possible.
- painting with a purpose.
- experiencing a week where I bonded with 8 others sharing “our journey” and establishing relationships at a deeper level.

Matt Crawford— Being the Leader of such a large trip brings sharply into focus what the purpose and mission of the trip is. Our purpose here is to support our missionaries in the field. The purpose of this Guatemala team is to not only celebrate, but also to validate Matt, Brooke, Ethan, Audry and Isabelle McClain’s 10-year ministry in Central America. They have dedicated their very lives to God’s purpose. If we fail to dedicate every aspect of this trip’s work to the advancement and enhancement of their work, then we have failed not only them and Christ, but our sending congregation as well. Such failures lead to the deterioration of mission outreach, foreign missions in general, the great commission and Christianity as a whole. When we are with our missionaries we have to remember where and why we are there. Such failures cannot be allowed.

The McClains are members of our church and our church is all the stronger because of it. Their ministry is alive and well and thriving. We can report that the abundance of their efforts, and ours, are winning battles for Christ all over the place. This ministry in Guatemala is strong and our support of it is strong, firm and unwavering. All of it is extremely impressive. This trip was a success.

Kim Calloway— Favorite thing — playing Frisbee with the kids on Wednesday. Then the water color painting Alice and Kathy did with the kids and grownups.

I liked the scenery with the volcanos and the plant life. I learned so much, that it is hard for me to put into words. If I put everything down I would have a book. I will say that kids are kids in every country and it is a shame, us big people aren’t like the kids.

Kathy Glover— The Guatemala trip was a week of worship, service, and God’s love demonstrated in many ways. I saw God’s hand at work when we visited two hospitals. At the first one, we took children and adults for walks in wheelchairs. The second one we visit an ER room and passed out bean sandwiches and bags of water and prayed with them. I was able to get a glimpse into the life and ministry of Brooke and Matt with Potter’s Field as I worked alongside their interns in preparing food in the kitchen, and when they helped Alice and me with interpretation in our watercolor painting classes.

Guatemala Reflections

Caleb Calloway— The Guatemala Mission Trip was another step in growing my Christian faith. When we first arrived, it was 2 A.M., dark and rainy. One could not see much. The following morning the sun warmed the air and Potter's Field revealed itself. It was calm; it was colorful; it was God's Kingdom. While I was walking the grounds, I experienced four moments of *déjà vu*. I wasn't sure what to make of this, because I have these moments at home in my work and personal life. As the week continued, I had the pleasure of using my green thumb working with the acidic in the flowerbeds. This was due from the sulfur coming from the volcano ash. Removing the top soil and replacing it with fresh compost from the Potters Field compost site.

I was working with Nick, one of the interns going through Ignite. Nick was a gentleman my age and he told me what brought him to Potters Field, and about his faith journey. He shared some personal things only a true friend could share. As our conversation continued, he asked who I was. I said, "well, I am a born again, baptized Christian working for the Lord as best as I can." I told him how humbling it was being part of this mission trip and being close with family and friends. Nick smiled and said, "Amen." I then asked Nick what his thoughts on *déjà vu* were. He looked at me and said, "that's a God moment. God knows our ways, he has seen our ways, he is letting us know the road we are traveling is good." My mouth was ajar as I listened to this. I had never thought of this, and it made perfect sense. This was one of my God moments on the trip.

I am a photographer. I had the pleasure of capturing our moments of service for our team, our community, our family. Photography is one of many gifts God has granted me. On this trip to Guatemala I captured the love, the happiness of the culture, the joy that these people of God share. As I made an imprint in the different areas we visited, every image captured was an imprint of God himself.

My week ended with interviews with the staff and interns. On my last interview I asked this: "What makes the difference being a disciple here vs back in the states?" This was the response: "Man the people here want to hear the word of God. They yearn to know more; to be part of God's story." Too many people in the states are caught up with a good job, making more and more money, technology, self pleasure, and material items. They don't want to invest the little time they have left for themselves to talk, and read the Bible, and truly understand our Lord. The fast pace is a problem in America; God does not like lukewarm people. John 8:47 says whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you don't hear them is that you are not of God. I ended this interview with Amen.

This was the end of this week, Love set forth by God himself, the Potters Field family, the Interns, the Staff, the ground crew, the cooks, the teachers, the pastors, the Mission Team from Frankfort, Indiana.

Alice Cleveland— A visit to a facility housed in three new buildings which served as a residence and hospital for disabled people of all ages allowed me to see how God's people can truly be his hands making a difference. We interacted with people in several wards. In the children's ward for those who were wheelchair bound with cerebral palsy and paralysis, we were able to push the chairs around and give them some personal attention. I chose to talk to a pretty girl of 10 years or so. She was well groomed and dressed in clothing that was spotless. She sat with her face turned away from me and a blank look in her eyes. When I spoke gently to her she didn't move. I continued talking, telling her she was beautiful and that she was God's precious child. Still no response. I gently stroked her arm with my finger and continued talking, but still no reaction. Then I noticed the lettering on the arm of her wheelchair and read it aloud, 'Arabia'. I used the Spanish pronunciation Ar-ah-BEE-ah. Instantly she turned to look at me with a surprised look on her face, and as I said her name over and over she began to laugh. Then I began to laugh with her. I pushed her fast and slow, weaving and spinning as we both kept laughing and giggling. Our group were allowed to take the children outside where we could walk around a plaza and down some paths. Then we formed a circle and "danced" and sang. I doubt Arabia had laughed so long and hard for a long time. I hope others will come and tell Arabia that she is beautiful and God loves her, so they, too, can share in the joy of her smiling eyes and laughter.