

FIRST PRESS LITE

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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

Sept 3 — "What Is Prayer?"
Psalm 86:1-7

Sept 10 — "To Whom Do We Pray?"
Psalm 86:8-17

Sept 17 — "Persistent Prayer"
Luke 18:1-8

Sept 24 — *Stewardship Sunday*
"Prayer in the Name of Jesus"
Hebrews 10:19-23

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Sept 10 Marilyn Copeland
Sept 17 Marilyn Copeland
Sept 24 Janice Chezem

MEAL DELIVERY

Sept 1 Linda Frey & Sally Rogers
Sept 8 Linda Frey & Sally Rogers
Sept 15 Karen & Dick Sutton
Sept 22 Karen & Dick Sutton
Sept 29 Doyal Rogers

A Report from Stephen Ministry at FEPC



On a recent weekend, FEPC's Stephen Leaders and eight of our ten Stephen Ministers (SMs) held a retreat locally at Ellie's Retreat on North Columbia Street. The theme was *Providing Spiritual Care*, the topic of the 25th and final teaching module in the Stephen Series. This means the SMs no longer have to bring their heavy manuals to each meeting! More importantly, it means we explored the idea that *Spiritual Care is helping people hear and believe that God loves them*. Because we need to continually hear and believe that ourselves before helping others, we used several self-assessment tools to aid us in discerning where God's love flows freely into our lives and where we tend to block the flow of that grace. Further, we received the challenge to examine and adopt a new spiritual discipline to help us receive God's grace more fully so that we can convey that grace to others. This could be a meaningful exercise for spiritual growth for anyone, so if you or your group would like to explore these tools or ideas, contact me or Karen Sutton. And, as always, to refer yourself or someone for the caring listening ministry of a Stephen Minister, contact me or pastor Kelly.

- Marty Rodkey



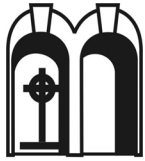
Life in the Body of Christ

THANK YOU:

- Many thanks to the Handy Men who worked at my house last month. I now have doors that close, a new railing at my front door, and gutters that are all ready for what is to come. Thanks so very much. *Nancy Boultsbee*

Condolences to:

- The family of Ron Bean, who went to be with the Lord on August 14, 2017.
- The family of Barb Kelly, who went to be with the Lord on August 23, 2017.



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

September 2017

Promotion Sunday
September 10

DiscipleTown

Wednesday, September 6 @ 6 p.m.

Bloodmobile

Thursday, September 7, 2017
Fellowship Hall

Gem City Job

September 9 @ 8 a.m.

Mega Sports Camp

Saturday, September 23
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

B2B Community Dinner

Wednesday, September 27 @ 5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Family Retreat
When: October 13 – 15, 2017
Where: Camp Camby Conference & Retreat Center

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.

Pastor Copeland's Parting Covenant with Session

I covenant with the Session not to interfere or intrude myself in any way into the life of the congregation after the effective date of my resignation. To the extent that I continue to interact with members of the congregation, it shall be as a friend and brother in Christ. I will not offer advice or opinion, solicited or unsolicited, on any matters pertaining to the future direction of the congregation or questions of faith and practice that may arise in the life of the congregation. I will not seek the support of members of the congregation for any ministry or kingdom endeavor that I may undertake in the future.

P. Copeland, August 1, 2017

"Finishing the Sermon"

There are rare occasions when I consider it important to finish a sermon. Usually I just disguise the conclusion of one as part of another, but with my final sermon that is not possible. So, I wish to add one further point on the significance of our warfare against the principalities and powers. In short, *the resistance of the Christian to the principalities and powers "unmasks" them as defeated by Christ and brings glory to Christ in the heavenly realms.* In my sermon, for example, I asked what kind of threat someone like Andrew Brunson poses to the Turkish government? Though he is charged with supporting a terrorist group, these trumped up charges hardly hide the fact that he is held for no other reason than he is the pastor of a small Christian congregation. From the standpoint of "flesh and blood," he and his little church pose no threat to the Turkish state. But the principalities and powers know that the Christian gospel is the power of God and that Andrew's faithful testimony exposes their defeat for all the host of heaven to see.

Which brings us to the distinction between spiritual warfare waged in the open in the case of phenomena like demon possession and the warfare waged with the unseen principalities and powers that hijack the structures that order and shape society. The first point to be noted is that a confrontation with demon possession rarely leads Christians to turn from the path of faithfulness. If anything, such encounters drive Christians closer to Christ. The matter is much different with the principalities and powers. Think only, for example, about the rise of Nazi Germany. How can one account for seemingly decent, ordinary Lutheran and Catholic Christians in Germany being caught up in National Socialism and its murderous anti-Semitism? Only through the recognition that evil powers can hijack culture and government and distort good things to the destruction of all that is good. In Germany, wounded national pride was twisted into an arrogant racism. A little farther down the path, the threat of loss of standing and freedom silenced opposition. These were just two tools of the principalities and powers to turn many Christians from obedience to Christ to participation or acquiescence in terrible evil. They abandoned gospel truth. They did not stand and fight in the evil day. They did not even recognize that the evil day had arrived until it was too late.

An Ethiopian friend once told me about his mother being set free from demon possession and coming to Christ. But then he added, "In the West, you don't 'believe in the devil' and so your whole society is at far greater risk. He is most dangerous when he works behind the scenes." That's why we need to "be strong" and "put our armor on."

Grace and peace, Paul Copeland