

# **PULSE**

*The heartbeat of  
Flora Presbyterian Church*

**March 2015**

March 5<sup>th</sup> at the  
Flora Methodist  
Church

**Blood  
DRIVE**



**World Day  
of Prayer**

March 6<sup>th</sup>

Daylight Savings begins  
March 8<sup>th</sup>!  
Change your clocks!



Time to  
Spring Ahead



*St. Patrick's  
Day*

March 17<sup>th</sup>!



March 20<sup>th</sup>  
First day of  
Spring!



*Palm Sunday*

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Holy Week begins

## Pastor's Page



“The Times, They Are a Changing”

The title of this Bob Dylan song (a favorite when I was in high school) sums up the dilemma facing many of our Presbyterian churches. The times are changing and we don't know how to adapt. One of great strengths of Christian congregations is our ability to be a source of stability for people, but that

very strength can be a weakness when the world around us starts to change as rapidly as it has in the last few generations. God's gospel message is unchanging, but the ways in which we communicate it to others must adapt to a different social structure and the electronic communication revolution.

Your Session and I have been studying a very interesting and informative book published by the Alban Institute entitled “In Search of the Unchurched,” by Alan C. Klaas. This book is the result of a study commissioned by the Lutherans to “conduct a major project that would set in motion forces to reverse the trend of declining membership.” (introduction)

Klaas writes in the introduction, “The book has two primary messages. First, the most potent factor in declining membership is the change from a churching to an unchurched society. Second, the best hope for dealing with the changed society is the individual congregation.”

(p. viii)

He goes on to list seven transitions that have been happening that affect congregational ministry for Christ:

- \* We have shifted from a churching society to an unchurched society.
- \* People participate in congregations for different reasons. (many people who say they have faith do not participate in a congregation or go to worship)
- \* People have less loyalty to denominations.
- \* Congregations have different purposes. (ministry to current members, or reaching out?)
- \* The mission field has moved (from out there somewhere to our own communities)
- \* Different people do the mission work (move from professionals to members)

The main point that he makes in the book is that the solution to the problem of declining membership and commitment lies within the individual congregation and its perception of and attitude to ministry and the unchurched. Put simply, we might be contributing to the problem and we might have within us through the Holy Spirit the solution to the problem.

Klaas points out that our potential success as a congregation that communicates the good news to others hinges upon our attitude toward ministry, each other, and the many, many unchurched persons in our community. If we focus mostly on ourselves, the congregation has decided to die. If we put our focus on others outside of ourselves, we have decided to follow the Great Commission of Jesus to go out into the world with the message of salvation and reconciliation. As he writes, “When leaders and members pay substantial amounts of attention to reaching people who are not already members, the congregation moves beyond survival and begins to thrive.” (p. 19)

Great Commission churches engage in mission activities and ministries which directly engage the persons they are trying to reach . . . examples are Vacation Bible School, our Oasis program, Presbyterian Women's clothing store.

These congregations have activities for members and activities designed to reach non-members on their calendars, and “doors” into engagement with the church other than just Sunday morning worship.

Here is a list of characteristics of outreach-oriented congregations found in Klaus’ book:

- \* they are motivated to extend mission beyond current membership
- \* they seek local, contextual answers
- \* they meet people’s needs, not the needs of the organizational structure
- \* they organize around mission, not structure
- \* they use member’s gifts in new ministries
- \* they see clergy and laity as partners
- \* they value “mistakes”
- \* they care for people

Your Session has been studying this book carefully, and are currently reading and discussing about the nature of unchurched people and how we can reach out to them with the good news of Christ. The key to the success of their leadership is our congregation’s willingness to learn and follow their suggestions.

Knowing who we are and what Christ calls us to be and do is the first step in being prepared to call a new pastor. Our Pastoral Nominating Committee, when it is formed in the spring, will need to know what experience and training your new pastor needs in order to partner with you in reaching out to the unchurched persons in this community. God calls both congregation and pastor to do this important work for the Kingdom.

After Easter, we will have a Gathering on the Future which will give the Session an opportunity to present the results of their learning and discussions and hear the dreams of our congregation for future ministry. This will be the last step in our Mission Study process that provides the information needed for the Pastoral Nominating Committee to write the position description for the pastoral search.

Your leaders have been working hard on your behalf so that our congregation might move beyond just trying to survive to a thriving, growing congregation passionate about ministry for Christ. This is our hope and our prayer. We invite you to pray for us and walk along with us on this journey . . .

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ,




*Pastor Mary Ann Banning*

**Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced**

# Flora Presbyterian Church

**March 2015**

**B=Birthday N=Nursery SR=Scripture Readers U=Ushers**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>B=Samuel Parker</b> <b>N=Martha Clark</b> <b>SR=Ann Brown</b> <b>U=Joe &amp; Barb Mayfield</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Caregiver Support Group – Pastor Mary Ann’s home	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM Oasis-Library	<b>5</b> Flora United Methodist Church 11:30am – 5:30pm 	<b>6</b> <b>B=Howard McGill</b> 	<b>7</b>  Change your clocks tonight!
<b>8</b> Session Mtg, 6PM <b>B=Bob Peterson</b> <b>N=Martha Clark</b> <b>SR=Terry Langston</b> <b>U=Joe &amp; Barb Mayfield</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Oasis	<b>12</b> Men’s Lafayette Great Banquet thru March 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Communion <b>N=Martha Clark</b> <b>SR=Bill Kearns</b> <b>U=Ron &amp; Angie Austin</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM Oasis	<b>19</b> Women’s Lafayette Great Banquet thru March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>20</b> <b>B=Maggie Scholl</b>  1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Spring	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>N=Martha Clark</b> <b>SR=Tammy Moss</b> <b>U=Ron &amp; Angie Austin</b>	<b>23</b> <b>B=Dick T. Bishop</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> NO Oasis due to Spring Break	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>B=Seth Parker</b>	<b>28</b> <b>B=Rhoda Kratz</b>
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday <b>N=Martha Clark</b> <b>SR=Sally Schmidt</b> <b>SR=Susan Hollis</b> <b>U=Mark &amp; Denise Good</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Holy Week begins</i>	<b>31</b>				

## Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield

### **Sunday School**

The Adult Bible Study class will resume the John Bible study with chapter 6 on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will continue meeting after fellowship at 11:45AM in the Sunday School room off the fellowship area. Extra books will be available. The class is being taught by Pastor Mary Ann and member volunteers in her absence as needed.



### Oasis ~

### **Bowling Party**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 55 children, parents, and leaders went bowling at Myers Sport Bowl in Logansport. Thank you to all who donated snacks!

Oasis will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will take off March 25<sup>th</sup> for spring break. The final event of this school year will be the annual swim party on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

There are still several open slots for preparing meals before the end of this year. The children and leaders are so appreciative of the delicious meals every Wednesday night.

### **VBS Planning**

We will be hosting VBS this year and will begin planning with a meeting on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the church. If you are interested in helping plan, you are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for dates and ways you can participate.

### March Library Corner

by Laraine MacLauchlan



Read any good books lately? I haven't heard from anyone this past month. I just read "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. The story is about the summer of 1961 in

New Bremen, Minnesota. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But, for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum, it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms; accident, nature, suicide, and murder. Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. Come on! Now it's your turn! You can reach me at [Laraine1947@gmail.com](mailto:Laraine1947@gmail.com) if you would like to submit anything, or see me after church during fellowship.

~ Krueger, William Kent. *Ordinary Grace*. New York: Atria Books. 2013. Print

### Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

The Mary-Martha Circle will meet on March 17 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Room. Hostess, Sally Schmidt; Mission Yearbook, Jane Bishop; Horizons, Kathy King; Bible Study, Jane Bishop.

"Reconciling Paul", a contemporary study of 2 Corinthians, will be the Bible Study this year. Books will be available at the meeting.

### Thrift Shop Schedule for March

Sat. March 7.....? ? ? .....Sacker  
Thurs. March 19....Jane Bishop ..... Sort & Mark  
Thurs. March 26....Libby Sparks ..... Sort & Mark

This month we will also be responsible for keeping the shop clean and furnishing Christian Literature.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the Food Pantry in February.

## Worship Committee

by Terry Langston

Communion was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> by intinction. The next communion date is March 15<sup>th</sup>.



In the basement dining room is a piano and organ that have not been played in quite some time. If these were donated by your family and you would be interested in taking them, please contact me.

After Easter, if they have not found a new home, I will be contacting a business about donating them.

**Easter Flowers** -As some people are overwhelmed by the pollen and smell of the lilies and other traditional flowers, a change is taking place with the annual Easter Flower order and memorial list. You may give a donation to the, "Flower Fund" and have the name or names of your loved one listed in the bulletin insert as in years past. From that fund, flowers will be purchased and placed by the podium. Any money left will be used solely for flowers throughout the church or outside as needed. If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.



## Clerk of Session

by Laurie Brower

Next meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6PM.

## Congregational Life

by Kevin Clark



**Progressive  
Dinner**

Plans for a Progressive Dinner on March 14th are currently under way. We will have sign-up sheet for those interested in a wonderful night of food and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Kevin or Terry.

## Stewardship/Mission

by Joe Mayfield

"Let's have a show of hands of those who want Spring very badly! I want to thank everyone for their generous donation of items for the Food Pantry. With what we have collected, and a 300 dollar donation, the Food Pantry will be very grateful.



I wanted to take a moment to review our pledges and contributions for 2015, in case anyone missed hearing it or reading it in the Annual Report.

We currently have pledges and contributions totaling 70,000 dollars for calendar year 2015. Historically, we also get 100 to 110 percent of that total. In January, our income was 7,477 dollars, while expenses were 7,548 dollars. I would say we started off the year very nicely.

I wanted to mention, also that March is Red Cross Month, and so the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Flora on March 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Flora Methodist Church from 11:30AM to 5:30PM.

**Blood  
DRIVE**



As the Easter season approaches, it is time for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This year we will be collecting for it on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and then finishing on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your caring and generosity.

In closing, I would ask each of you to pray for our church and its future pastor. Come as much as you can, share your gifts and energy wherever you can, remember God is always faithful.

May the power and purpose of God carry us forward into our new chapter.

PS: I am at church nearly every Sunday, don't be afraid to ask me questions, or share your ideas and concerns.



# POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do — any time and anywhere.

**Directions:** Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

- |                                    |                              |                               |   |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1<br>apple<br>anxious<br>artichoke | 2<br>every<br>eagle<br>emu   | 3<br>purple<br>pink<br>prayer | 4<br>Paul<br>petition<br>Peter                    | 5<br>taste<br>touch<br>thanksgiving      |
| 6<br>rest<br>requests<br>relax     | 7<br>God<br>George<br>Greg   | 8<br>puddle<br>peace<br>pond  | 9<br>transcends<br>train<br>truck                 | 10<br>unusual<br>unique<br>understanding |
| 11<br>guard<br>giraffe<br>gorilla  | 12<br>hearts<br>hold<br>held | 13<br>many<br>minds<br>more   | 14<br>Philadelphia<br>Pennsylvania<br>Philippians |  |

“Do not be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> about anything, but in \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> situation, by \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> with \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>. And present your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> of God, which \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup>, will \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> and your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> 4:6-7, NIV in Christ Jesus.”

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving, 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard, 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippians

First Class Mail

Flora Presbyterian Church  
211 S Center Street  
Flora, IN 46929  
florapc@Embarqmail.com  
(574) 967-3907

