



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
March 2021

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
Vol. 56 No. 3
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EDITOR'S REVIEW

March 2020: Did we really have a grip on what the United States' Covid 19 Coronavirus Pandemic would mean? The March *Carillon* was full of Lenten activities, but the March *Carillon* is always produced in February! The second week of March 2020 was the "official" establishment of the Pandemic with "ordered" closings. March 15th was the last worship in our sanctuary—with "social distancing." Then our buildings were shuttered.

We had just barely started our five Lenten Lunches after Ash Wednesday. They were almost collateral damage from the lack of a South Suburban Ministerial Council, but Pastor Dudley had pulled the churches together. He chose as the theme "Saying Yes to Life," the creation story of Genesis: Ash Wednesday was Day One—from dark to light; Day Two – Let the Waters Be Separated; Day Three—Let the Land Produce Vegetation; Day Four—Let There Be Lights in the Sky; Day Five—Let the Waters Teem with Living Creatures and Let Birds Fly; Day Six—Let the Land Produce Living Creatures and Let Us Make Humankind in Our Image. He had participation from St. Paul Community Church, Faith Lutheran Church, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, Flossmoor Community Church. Someday, we should return to those topics.

Although we had room for social distancing in our sanctuary, we stopped in-person worship because we did not have the personnel to clean all the pews, nor could we get cleaning supplies—(*do you remember the toilet paper shortage?*) Audio recordings of our worship services had been on our website for many months, but it wasn't until Sunday, March 29, that our media guru Kathie Hazlett took us to virtual worship through videos from Zoom, audio recordings, photos, and work with YouTube. The creativity there just grew and grew, even to special services besides Sunday worship, so that we never tried "live streaming" which would have had Covid 19 risks. A year later, we are still with virtual worship.

Holy Week with Easter made us really face the sadness of not being in the sanctuary. The palm branches had already been ordered for Palm Sunday. I decided to share the palm "trees" with the community by putting them on the front porch, but after getting the "trees" out of storage, the palm branches never arrived—nor did the promised financial reimbursement check! For Lent, Bob Douglass' huge cross was already up in the sanctuary with a purple drape and purple flowers. As Holy Week progressed, Maunday Thursday at First Presby Chicago Heights was canceled. Their choir did not get to

perform their cantata, but our virtual service has six sermonettes from members. Good Friday service had been scheduled for our sanctuary, but instead the virtual service had seven meditations by members on the last words of Christ. (I still went in and changed the cross drape from purple to black.) The Easter virtual service had the *Halleluia Chorus* by the Handbell Choir, a recording researched by historian Phil Dillman and digitized by him for the service. I changed the cross drape from black to white and rounded up all the artificial flowers in the church to decorate around the cross. Not wanting to climb a ladder, I put the Alleluia banners on the Communion table. All those decorations are still in the sanctuary—**left there until our return**—because whenever we return, it will be “The Resurrection”!

Our Chancel Choir had planned a cantata for April. *Sanctuary: A Cantata of Hope and Peace* by Joseph M. Martin never got performed. Martin writes, “*Sanctuary* is a service of song that conveys the many ways in which a seeker finds shelter and safety in the grace of Christ. As the cantata shares moments in the Savior’s life, we discover, by His example, the faithfulness of God’s promises to His people. ...The message of this cantata is about celebrating the security we have in our faith.” It opens with “Be Still My Soul” and ends with “It Is Well with My Soul.” Part of the final narration states: “Jesus is the Ark of Safety...Jesus is a Tower of Strength...Jesus is my Hiding Place...Jesus is my Keeper...and in His loving grace, I find my sanctuary.” (Hal Leonard-Milwin Music Corp., 2014) These messages are perfect for the Pandemic, messages heard not in song but in words on the page. Even with Covid 19 vaccinations, the mutations of Covid 19 will probably keep us out of our sanctuary for the 2021 Lenten season as well.

As we learned to “shelter in place,” we also learned to gather and keep connected. We imagined ourselves sitting next to each other in the pews as we accessed worship through the web page. Soon, we had Heavenly Perks again on Zoom after worship. The Prayer Chain became a daily source of information and scripture. *The Carillon* included personal experiences with the pandemic and moved on to issues in July and August, which had never happened before! With all church activities shut down, the calendar disappeared from the newsletter, but with Tuesday Bible Study, Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Session, Trustees, Advent Study, Congregational Meetings, Annual Meetings all using Zoom to meet, the calendar reappeared in November in order to keep track of everything.

March 2021: It’s been 12 months now. We are still a vital church though partially virtual, moving forward to seek a new pastor—even working on “yoking” with Calvary United Protestant Church of Park Forest for a shared pastor. Our first PPP government loan has been forgiven and our second PPP loan has been approved—money to keep on paying our staff. During this pandemic, “we walk by faith and not by sight.” As Ken Medema wrote:

We need no tower rising skyward,
No house of wood, or glass, or stone.
Come build a church...
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.
It shall be built by the hand of God.

Janet Wahl



Holy Communion



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

March 7

10:30 a.m virtual worship



SESSION REPORT

Regular Session Meeting, February 15, 2021

The Yoking Teams from Homewood and Calvary submitted their Final Yoking Agreement to our respective Sessions for approval. Our Session approved it unanimously. This is the first such document developed by two congregations in the Presbytery of Chicago, so there was no precedent to follow. Feedback from the Commission on Ministry is that our Yoking Agreement will serve as a template for future use by other churches. Our Yoking Team is to be congratulated.

Our 2019 Church Directory (green cover) is way out of date. Debra Campbell, our Secretary, needs correct information from everyone if a new **virtual directory** is to be produced. **Contact Debra at the church’s email address with any and all corrections.**

Elder Karen Maurer is one of two persons from our church to serve as a Ruling Elder/Commissioner to the four 2021 meetings of the Presbytery of Chicago Assembly. We are looking for one more ordained Ruling Elder, on Session or not, to serve as the second person. Please notify your interest to the Clerk of Session.

The Ash Wednesday virtual worship service will feature members from both Homewood and Calvary in recorded segments of the service. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday virtual worship services will also share joint participation. Rev. Elvery now serves both churches, so his segments will be recorded for the benefit of both congregations.

Notification was received of the death of Deacon/ Active Member Mae Evert on Friday, February 12, 2021. Rev. Elvery will officiate both the funeral home and gravesite services on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. She will be buried at Skyline Memorial Park, Monee.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation, February 21, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Congregation was called to order on Zoom with prayer by Rev. Elvery on Sunday, February 21, 2021. With 29 out of 104 active members in attendance, there was a quorum.

The booklet containing the written annual reports had been available to members of the congregation since the week prior to the annual meeting via email attachment. Copies were re-sent to attendees who did not receive them. Rev. Elvery gave time for members to look through the 2020 Annual Reports as presented in the handout and asked if there was information in any report that needed to be highlighted.

Reports included were:

- ✚ Pastor's Report to the Congregation
- ✚ Session Annual Report
- ✚ Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund Annual Report
- ✚ Faith Formation Report
- ✚ Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study Report
- ✚ Worship Ministry Report
- ✚ Ushers Report
- ✚ Music Ministry Report
- ✚ Congregational Life Ministry Report
- ✚ Community Dinners Report
- ✚ Personnel and Administration Ministry Report
- ✚ Stewardship and Finance Ministry Report
- ✚ Women's Association Report
- ✚ Women's Association Financial Report
- ✚ Gifts and Memorials Summary Report
- ✚ Church Historian's Report
- ✚ Deacons Report
- ✚ Church Librarian's Report
- ✚ Board of Trustees Annual Report

The congregation voted to elect Melodee Leimnetzer to fill a vacancy on the Pastoral Nominating Committee and to elect Phillip Dillman as an alternate member of the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

The congregation voted to permit electronic voting for congregational business as an approved procedure for use as long as in-person gatherings are prohibited. The congregation had no volunteers to serve as at-large members on the 2021 Nominating Committee. At-large

members of the 2020 Nominating Committee – Janet Wahl, Melodee Leimnetzer, and Charlene Hansen – were asked to continue looking for candidates to serve in 2021. Nominees could be voted by the congregation either electronically or on paper ballots.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



Snow on the Ground

Lee Hilario

Snow, snow on the ground
Came falling to cover the ground.
It glistens in a bright shining light,
Beautiful and pleasing to sight.

Snow, snow on the ground
Created by a masterful hand,
The landscape of art
Laid out the beauty of its mound.

Snow, snow on the ground—
Happily the children came out in stride
To toss a snowball up on high,
Only to break as it falls back to the pile.

The snow that covers the land
Reminds me of God's cleansing power.
He covered my sins as red flowed down,
But transformed it like the snow on the ground.



FROM THE PASTOR

I have two words that will have a paragraph dedicated to each: **THANKS** and **FORBEARANCE**.



I offer my deepest thanks to those who helped celebrate my 80th birthday last month. The cards and the various donations to charities brought a smile to my face and a glow to my heart. On my 70th birthday, we had a big party (which COVID made impossible this year). People were asked to bring non-perishable food. We filled up a van and took it to a local food pantry. This time, food pantries and many other charities in our area and other states where people live were helped. While I do miss a party and seeing family and friends face to face, I like the fact that help was given in different ways in several communities. I

believe that life is like a lake in that, when we drop a pebble in the water, the ripples touch many other boats. There were lots of ripples! Thank you.

I think the word *forbearance* applies now. Forbearance goes beyond tolerating and putting up with. *Forbearance* means “bearing for” or committing to staying the course. Each of the two congregations seeking a yoked pastor forbears with each other as we sort out how to work together and still keep our unique identities and practices. The PNC’s have to stay the course with each other as they figure out how to call a pastor that is good for each congregation. The congregations are almost as tired of waiting to have an installed permanent pastor and a sense of stability as they are of waiting for COVID restrictions and worries to be past. I ask you, who have waited so long, not only to forbear with the PNC’s but also to pray for them and pray that the Holy Spirit will move in the process so the pastor meant for these two congregations emerges.

Dudley Elvery

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees met via Zoom on February 9, 2021. As there has been little to no activity in the church buildings, and with the new 2021 committee structure, none of the committees had reports. There was discussion on several topics but no action taken. The Trustees are still working on some critical updating of the office computer. [A service call for the new copier was needed in order to turn on the “back cover only” function.]



Rod Dunlap

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Remember the drive-up/pick up event at the church on Sunday, January 24, 2021? It was very successful. Almost half of the 2020 giving statements and 2021 pledge forms (in a blue envelope) and the corresponding number of 2021 offering envelope boxes were picked up. The remaining blue envelopes were then mailed on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, and hopefully they arrived just before the leading edge of the first great snowstorm buried us in. The remaining envelope boxes have been prepared for either personal delivery if you live in close or by mail if you do not.

With one exception for 2021, the hats are being worn by the same people who served on the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team in 2020. Sylvia Tufts is chair; Jim Foster is at-large member; Ron Shropshire is Trustee representative, Edward Wahl is Session member; and Doug Bonthron is new to the Ministry Team, replacing

Capt. Jack Day who served so capably until passing away last May.

Of the 88 potential giving units who received a pledge form for 2021 in January, 33 have been returned. Whether or not the missing 55 pledging units give to the church, the effect of a no-pledge is counted as a \$0 level of support in the eyes of both Presbytery of Chicago and pastoral candidates. More than ever before, we need these 55 pledge envelopes returned this year with a number other than \$0.00, or our options will be very limited for the candidates who will take an interest in us.

We still have our normal operating costs, however, and your church needs your continuing support to keep going. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who have returned your 2021 pledge envelopes through February 23, 2021. We have tabulated 33 responses received so far from the 88 mailed in late January (just 3 out of 8). So far, the aggregate pledge total is \$116,097. Thank you to all who have paid the 2021 Per Capita amount of **\$36.00**. Please use the special Per Capita envelope in your offering envelope box if you are sending in your payment.

We do our best to keep our mailing list accurate. When we send mailings to young adult members who are confirmed active members who have been carried on our address list at the home address of their parents, we are aware that most of the adult children no longer live with their parents. We can only hope that the parents pass along the mail addressed to their adult children in a timely manner. **Parents: please contact Debra Campbell in the Church Office with correct addresses for all your active member adult children.** Members who move often forget to notify the church of their new address, and the mail is “returned to sender” by the USPS. Debra maintains the member Directory and tries to keep up with new addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

In January 2021, the church received its second round of Payroll Protection Program loans from the Small Business Administration. The same amount of \$14,855 was received. Our first round loan was forgiven; we are hoping for forgiveness for the second round as well.

We need an average income of **\$4,000** each week to fund our mission and operate our church. This is inclusive of pledges and identified giving as well as other income sources. So, how are we doing?

- Weekly average for January (5) \$4,934
- **Weekly average for 2021 (5) \$4,934**

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending January 31, 2021, is in the following chart:

 ALL IN ONE PLACE...

	<u>Through January</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$8,070	---
Loose Offering	0	---
Initial Offering	125	---
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	0	---
Community Dinners Donations	0	---
Other Income	16,477	---
Dividends & Capital Gains	0	---
Sale of Investment Shares	0	---
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	---
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>---</u>
Total General Fund Income	24,672	---
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$0	---
Faith Formation	15	---
Facilities	1,430	---
Staff	6,530	---
Transition	3,710	---
Administrative Support	346	---
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	---
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>---</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	12,031	---
Designated Fund Income	\$1,072	
Designated Fund Expenses	0	
 <i>Total Active Members—January 31, 2021</i>		 <i>105</i>
Summary through January 2021 (1/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		---
Expenses Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		---
2021 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		---

Session 2021 Ministry/Responsibility Assignments	
Clerk of Session	Ed Wahl
Faith Formation/Worship	Laurie Ulrich (CE) Kathie Darman (Wrshp)
Member Care	Shirley Armistead Karen Maurer Jay Webster Kathie Hazlett
Media/Outreach	Kathie Hazlett
Business Affairs	Sylvia Tufts (S&F) Ed Wahl (S&F) Doug Bonthron (SF/PA) Kathie Darman (P&A)
Presbytery Commissioners	Karen Maurer

Session Appointments 2021	
<u>Church Treasurer</u> Linda Daanen	<u>Financial Secretary</u> Melodee Leimnetzer
<u>Carillon Editor</u> Janet Wahl	<u>Church Historian</u> Phil Dillman
<u>Church Librarian</u> Paul Gerrish	<u>Memorials and Gifts</u> Ed Wahl
<u>Endowment Fund Managers</u> _____ (2023) _____ (2023) Jim Foster (2021) Kathie Darman (2022) Melodee Leimnetzer (2022)	<u>Rolls/Registers</u> Ed and Janet Wahl The seven-member <u>Nominating Committee</u> will be set at the Annual Meeting

 **VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES**
 **Online Worship** Sunday virtual worship services can be found on the church web site fpchw.org. Join at 10:30 a.m. to be “together” for a service. The last ten Sunday services are stored there, too.

 **MEMBER CARE MINISTRY**
PRAYER CHAIN: Ask for prayers; pray for others; we are praying for all. Come be a part of it! Email Shirley Armistead at sarmist1@aol.com if you would like to ask for prayers or to receive prayer requests via email. You will then also receive a daily scripture email selected by Pastor Dudley. If you do not have email but need prayers or want to pray for others, leave Shirley a voice mail at 708-798-4697 or at 630-712-4697. The information will find its way to the Prayer Chain. S. Armistead

Pastoral Nominating Committee	
Jan Bunker	Jay Ruklic
Melodee Leimnetzer	Laurie Ulrich
Bob James	Phil Dillman, alt.

Jan Rolls
 Recently, I sat looking at the deep snow outside my kitchen windows and thought, “We’ve become like some of the wild creatures and have gone into hibernation.” Then I looked that up in my little dictionary, and it said, “To pass the winter in an inactive, dormant, sleep-like state.” Well, that’s a mighty good description of our situation now!

I am so thankful for our church's online worship services and feel so blessed that we have them each Sunday. But when it was suggested that on January 24th we could drive up to the church door to get our donation envelopes and statement of giving, I kidded about wondering if I'd know how to get there after being away so long! But I found the church just fine, and it was so very nice to see Sylvia Tufts and Jan Wahl for a few minutes and to chat and laugh briefly with Jim Foster. It made me feel like I really was "back at church." I'm so thankful that we were scheduled to go that Sunday and not the following one when we had had a mountain of snow.

Sister Beth was with me on that day because after the church visit, we were planning to go to the pick-up window at Culvers for a late lunch. (As the TV ads say, "Welcome to Delicious!") But I had told Beth that she'd have to sit in the back seat because someone at church would be handing the things in through the car window and if she were sitting in the passenger seat, there wouldn't be social distancing. So it all worked out real well, but a little later I realized that I should have explained to Sylvia, Jan, and Jim the reason for Beth being in the back seat behind me. They may have wondered if I thought I was an Uber driver and taking her somewhere! After getting the things, I pulled into the back parking lot and waited for Beth to move to the front seat, and then we were off to a real tasty lunch.

 **PRAYER CARDS**

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed each week. Kathie Darman

Week of March 7
 Marilyn Jerner
 Candi Kleindorfer
 Melodee Leimnetzer
 Nancy Llewellyn
 Karen Maurer

Week of March 14
 Debbie & John Maxwell
 Kristen Maxwell
 Bruce & Heather Miller
 Ian Miller
 Shannon Miller

Week of March 21
 Craig Miller

Week of March 28
 Vern Moore
 Ray & Wanda Nielsen
 Kirk Nicherson & Priscilla Mereness
 Kathie & Jim Ogden
 Kathleen O'Hanlon



 **NURSING HOME / REHAB**

Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park.

 **SYMPATHY**

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Warren Wahl (brother of Ed), Al Corridino (father of Bob James' daughter-in-law), and Mae Evert.



I am the Resurrection and the Life saith the Lord: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

 **GIFTS AND MEMORIALS**

The following have been recorded in the Memorial Book in the Narthex: Warren Wahl and Mae Evert.

 **THANK YOU**

Women's Association:
 Thank you so much for your generous 2020 holiday contribution. We truly appreciate your support. In this year of uncertainty, Jones Center's board and staff members have stayed true to our mission of strengthening family ties and answering a community need by remaining open throughout this pandemic. We feel privileged to be able to serve our families in challenging times. We have been extremely encouraged by our supporters who have remained faithful to Jones Center. Thank you so much for *Providing a Doorway of Opportunity* for others.

Cheryl L. Roop, executive director

 **APRIL CARILLON**

The deadline for having articles placed in the April *Carillon* is **Saturday, March 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing and email the Editor at **ewahl@sbcglobal.net**. The Editor thanks all of the March reporters for their assistance. *J C =W=*

Birthday greetings to our church family:

March	March
Janet Wahl	Paul Tufts
Emily Hamilton	Nancy Llewellyn
David Armistead	Sally Wolford
Beverly Shropshire	Charlene Hansen
Jan Bunker	Evelyn Dixon
Joyce Anders	

May God grant birthday blessings to you all year!

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	3 (No Class Tonight)	4	5	6
7 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Communion Heavenly Perks on Website	8 Stewardship Team on Zoom	9 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Trustees on Zoom	10 7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	11	12	13 Change Clocks!  Time to Spring Ahead
14 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Heavenly Perks on Website DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME	15 7:00 Session on Zoom	16 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	18  St. Patrick's Day	19	20 Carillon DEADLINE
21 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Heavenly Perks on Website	22	23 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	24 7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	25	26	27
28 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Palm Sunday Heavenly Perks on Website	29	30 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	31 7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom		 Palm Sunday	