



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
September 2021

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
Vol. 56 No. 7
Web Site: www.fpchw.org

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Worship With Us



OUR CHANGES IN WORSHIP

On July 4, 2021, our sanctuary was reopened for in-person worship on Sundays, now at **11 a.m.** We started with about 25 people in attendance, with 17 still doing the virtual service online. Soon, it was decided to stop producing the labor-intensive virtual worship service on the website once we were able to provide a live streaming service (even with some technical glitches) on the website. Now that we have discovered that live streaming is doable, no one has come forward to take over the responsibility permanently or in partnership.

We invite you to attend worship in person at 11 a.m. each Sunday, but we realize that some of you may not feel comfortable resuming an in-person worship at this time. We want you to know that our online “Live Streaming” worship is also available on our website. To see our September 5 live-streaming worship with Communion, go to <https://fpchw.org/worship/worship-service/sermons> and click on the September 5 streaming live service (at 11 a.m.).

When you come to in-person worship on a Sunday, these are the mitigations in place:

-  Enter through the front or side doors into the Narthex; the Christian Ed building will be **locked**.

-  If you plan to use the elevator, it is limited to two (2) people at a time.
-  An usher in the Narthex will take your temperature and ask you to fill in a contact tracing sheet.
-  Please pick up a copy of the bulletin in the Narthex.
-  Social distancing needs to be maintained.
-  **Mask wearing is mandatory for everyone who enters the church building.**
-  Everyone is welcome to sing in worship.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the house of the Lord!

We do need help with “producing” the in-person service. **Ushers** are needed to serve on the teams. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Laura Dillman at 890-4423 or ld64pepsigirl@sbcglobal.net. **Liturgists** are needed for reading Bible passages and otherwise leading worship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Laurie Ulrich at 957-8043 or laurenulrich@sbcglobal.net. **Flowers for the sanctuary** are needed each Sunday. If you wish to donate flowers for this ministry, please contact Debra Campbell (church secretary) at 798-0490 or at fpchw@sbcglobal.net. Many thanks for your help.

Jan Rolls

We were asked to share our news
But we really haven't any.
The nasty COVID shut-in time
Is hardly worth a penny.

But there are some things that we do like
And really make it great.
We can watch the birds and frisky squirrels
From dawn until it's late.

God's creatures are so wonderful
And so are the trees, plants, and sky.
We have so much time to say our prayers
With gratefulness and a sigh.

The most wonderful news is going to church
And worshipping with our friends.
It's so good to be together again.
Our thankfulness never ends.

and continuing until a new permanent Director of Music is employed.

Notification was received of the death of Active Member Deacon Evelyn Dixon on Friday, May 28, 2021. She was cremated. Session approved a Memorial Service for her at the church on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

Notification was received of the death of former member Donald Seline on Monday, June 14, 2021. His funeral was in Dyer, IN, and he was interred at Mt. Vernon Memorial Estates, Lemont, IL.

Notification was received of the death of non-member William Heath Connors, a relation of Active Member Nancy Connors. No other information was provided.

Elder Hazlett described her plans to introduce live-streaming of our resuming sanctuary worship services in July 2021. This will result in our services being available on a wider range of media choices.

Special Session Meeting; July 8, 2021

Nine of nine Ruling Elders attended this called special meeting via Zoom. Session discussed at length and approved a statement regarding wearing masks during worship services:

1. People who are not or cannot be vaccinated must wear masks.
2. People who are vaccinated are not required to wear masks.

Regular Session Meeting; July 19, 2021

Session continues to meet via Zoom on the third Monday evening at 7 p.m. Eight of nine Ruling Elders attended this meeting. Rev. Elvery moderated.

Some Session meetings are devoted almost entirely to discussion of topics that require our attention. This was one of those meetings. The objective for the discussions is to keep up with a variety of on-going matters, some very complex, that do not yet require Session action or votes. Keeping up in the present helps reduce the amount of time reviewing the past before active vote decisions must be made.

Housekeeping is an essential prerequisite for possible future decisions. Discussions included:

- ✚ How to avoid scheduling conflicts when using the church's Zoom account.
- ✚ Status of the renewal of the Interim Pastoral Covenant from Presbytery.
- ✚ Completion of the on-line Church Membership Directory and its current availability.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

September 5 - 11 a.m. sanctuary/live streaming



SESSION REPORT

Regular Session Meeting; June 21, 2021

Session continues to meet via Zoom on the third Monday evening at 7 p.m. Eight of nine Ruling Elders attended this meeting. Rev. Elvery moderated.

Elder Doug Bonthron summarized the results and comments made during the survey telephone calls made to our members. [See the lead article in the June 2021 issue of *The Carillon* for details and questions asked.] Not all members could be reached even after repeated attempts. Session voted to reopen the sanctuary to in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, July 4, 2021.

Session voted to extend the Interim Pastoral Covenant with the Rev. Dudley J. Elvery II for six months beginning July 16, 2021, and ending January 15, 2022.

With the employment of Interim Musician Mary Ann Wenzelman, our former Director of Music/Organist Tim VanNasdale will only contribute recorded segments to our series of virtual Sunday worship services posted on the church's website.

Session voted to approve the employment of Mrs. Mary Ann Wenzelman as Interim Organist/Pianist beginning with the resuming of worship services in the sanctuary

- ✚ Upgrading the One-License coverage to include copyrighted music used in virtual and live-streamed worship services.
- ✚ The feasibility of reinstating Heavenly Perks in the same or new format on Sundays, with the parallel possibility of discontinuing the Zoom Heavenly Perks on the internet.
- ✚ The future of the Young Children's Sunday School given the declining numbers of small children available to participate in classes.
- ✚ Recruiting and training volunteer church members or outside technical support persons to provide and operate the equipment that will be needed to live-stream our future worship services. This is an every-week commitment when we begin live-streaming. Elder Hazlett, who produces our virtual worship services on our website, is preparing to leave Homewood and move to Ohio.
- ✚ With the resuming of in-church worship, the details of preparing for the Sacrament of Communion must be planned. Session agreed to a Communion Preparation Schedule for mid-2021 through mid-2022 with Ruling Elders taking specific months.

Rev. Elvery officiated the Memorial Service for Active Member Deacon Evelyn Dixon on Saturday, July 10, 2021, at the church.

Notification was received of the death of non-member Charles Schantz, brother of Ruling Elder Kathie Darman, on July 2, 2021. There were no other details.

Notification was received of the death of non-member Gavin Weir, uncle of Trustee Nancy Beaudoin, on July 17, 2021. There were no other details.

Session voted via email to change the status of Mrs. Mary Ann Wenzelman from independent contractor to church employee as Interim Musician, effective July 1, 2021.

The Pastoral Nominating Committee requested permission to host pastoral candidates in the church building when candidates are visiting. Approved!

Regular Session Meeting; August 16, 2021

Eight of nine Ruling Elders attended this meeting. Rev. Elvery moderated.

Session voted to continue meeting via Zoom on the third Monday evening at 7 p.m. of each month because three of the nine Ruling Elders have moved away from the Homewood area. If two of the remaining six could not

be physically present at the church for a Session meeting, there would be no quorum and no meeting.

The labor-intensive pre-recorded virtual worship services posted to the church website weekly from March 29, 2020, through August 1, 2021, have been discontinued in favor of live-streaming the services. Worship opportunities have returned to the sanctuary at 11 a.m. each Sunday, and the worship service will be live-streamed to the internet as often as possible by our weekly volunteers.

Technological issues for video and sound systems in the sanctuary need to be resolved. Some equipment, in place in our church for decades, no longer functions and is difficult if not impossible to repair. Few members even know how it still works.

The computers used in the various church offices need to be attached in a Local Area Network (LAN) to improve the use of church files and printers. Having common files on the LAN will avoid duplication and differences creeping into files because they are on separate computers.

Voting via email on August 6, 2021, Session voted to amend the previous Motion [see July 8, 2021] regarding mask wearing, which will now be mandatory in the church building until such time the CDC says it is safe for fully vaccinated people to remove masks indoors. The **ONLY** exception will be for the Pastor and Liturgist when leading worship from the front lecturns.

For those interested in church rolls and registers, all official permanent information is completely current and correct through July 31, 2021. Ask the Clerk of Session if you need an explanation how to find information in the rolls and registers.

Elder Kathy Hazlett is exploring the creation of audio-only copies of the worship services for the benefit of those who do not have video capabilities on their home computers.

Elders Karen Maurer, Shirley Armistead, Kathie Hazlett, and Jay Webster presented a list of brainstorming ideas for bringing back Heavenly Perks for Session discussion. Session decided the most immediately practical idea was to host a small gathering outside of the north door to the Narthex at 10:30 a.m. before the 11 a.m. worship service. [See the article elsewhere in this issue of *The Carillon* for details.]

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



🔔 FROM THE PASTOR

THEREFORE
go
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations.

MATTHEW 28:19



the present age.”

Often this passage served as the foundation for our missionary efforts as we sent missionaries to foreign lands to make them “Christian.” Too often we were making them into the mold of an European or North American version of Christianity. In the last 20 to 30 years, we have rethought our mission so we now support the local churches.

The drive to make all the world “Christian” came in part from a misreading of the Matthew passage and the Christian movement becoming the state church of the Roman Empire when Constantine converted to Christianity in 312 C.E. The church quickly became his handmaiden in seeking to conquer the world. The misreading of the passage comes from our treating it as if it said, “Therefore, go and make all nations disciples” instead of the way it does read, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.” The Greek word translated *of* also carries the meaning *from*. So instead of a conquering-all image, we have an image of inclusivity. To be faithful extends beyond national boundaries to welcome people from all nations and backgrounds.

I am becoming convinced that today’s church is changing to look more like the 1st and 2nd century church. We are becoming more of a minority as was the early church. We live in a world of great religious diversity. Governmental and civic support have slipped away as blue laws disappear and business and sports practices encroach on traditional church times and types of activities. While we may grieve some of these changes, the upside shows increased levels of participation in church activities by those who consider themselves a part of a congregation. This shift in participation has shown for decades now in one simple measure. The percentage of members attending worship is greater the smaller the congregation. Another way to say this is, the church is becoming leaner and, instead of meaner, more intentional, inclusive, and compassionate.

Many of us learned this passage as the great commission in Sunday School: Matthew 28:19-20 – “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of

🔔 SCHEDULING ZOOM MEETINGS



This is a list of currently **Scheduled Zoom Meetings**. Please avoid these timeframes when planning any additional Zoom meeting/s and notify

Laurie Ulrich (laurenulrich@sbcglobal.net) or Kathie Hazlett (Kathie.hazlett@gmail.com) of your meeting time so it can be set aside for you.

Scheduled Zoom Meetings:

- Sunday morning – Heavenly Perks, 12-2 p.m. weekly.
- Monday evening – Worship Team, 6-7 p.m. 3rd Monday of the month.
- Monday evening – *Stamped from the Beginning* book study 7-9 p.m., 1st Monday of the month.
- Monday evening – Stewardship & Finance Team, 7-9 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month.
- Monday evening – Session 7-9 p.m., 3rd Monday of the month.
- Tuesday morning – Bible Study, 10-11:45 a.m. every week.
- Tuesday evening – Apologetics Class, 7:30-9:30 p.m. every week.

We are trying to make everyone aware of the times that Zoom meetings are scheduled so that no one will try to open a new Zoom meeting while one of these is happening. Zoom will automatically close the first meeting and immediately boot off everyone who is at that meeting.

Lee Hilario

Reflection with a Prayer

The year 2020 was unforgettable.
The social isolation kept us apart,
Many disruptions in our lives
When this pandemic came to us.

The year 2021 is half gone.
A variant virus is upon us
That holds an edge to all.
Yet strong and bold we stand.

In 2020 the house of worship closed its doors.
Worship together denied
Created new innovations
To bring worship at home.

Now the choice is ours,
Worship at home or attend the church,
But these choices will not
Change our faith in God.

For the challenges upfront
 Strengthen our faith, Oh, Lord.
 Despite these changing times
 May unwavering trust prevail.

A prayer is raised for those who lost loved ones,
 A prayer for those who have lost hope,
 A prayer for a nation to stand together in unity,
 A prayer for strength that will hold us through,

A prayer for peace and harmony,
 A prayer of hope to rely on you, Oh, Lord,
 A prayer that strengthens families with love,
 A faith in you to keep us strong.

For this year and on,
 Reeling our way around,
 Give us strength and courage
 To face the obstacles head on.

So with our ardent prayer, Oh, Lord,
 May faith, hope, and love prevail
 Within our homes with outward thrust
 To let all know they are not alone.

CHICAGO HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship Lunches with our men invited will meet on Friday, September 17, at Paulie's ub in South Chicago Heights, 2736 Chicago Rd. Come at 12:30 p.m. for a devotion, lunch, and Christian fellowship.

TRUSTEE REPORT

[Correction: Nancy Beaudoin is vice president of the Trustees. The Trustee chart in the last issue was incorrect.]

The Trustees resumed in-person meetings in the parlor on June 8 and July 13. Highlights from those meetings include: the damaged fascia on the CE building has been repaired, but new damage has been discovered on the front of the building; weeding around the building is on-going; maintenance for the organ, piano, and sound system may occur soon; the Homewood Fire Dept. will do an inspection of our buildings; J&L Roofing has done some patching around the steeple, and it appears the leaking may have been reduced. Some tuck pointing still needs to be done. Repairs to the ceiling in the balcony will not be attempted until we are sure all leaks have been stopped. A new leak is dripping near the pastor's podium and also into the hallway outside the under neath restroom. J&L Roofing has been contacted to investigate.

Rod Dunlap

[Aug. 10 meeting info was not available in time.]

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

We give thanks to God for the generosity and support received from members and friends of the congregation through the summer weeks. Overall, we remain in a healthy financial condition as we approach the anticipated calling of our new pastor.

Electronic giving through the church's website is becoming increasingly popular. Regular giving is made easier when your account is set up for the frequency and amount of your offerings from your credit card or bank account. Several Required Minimum Distributions are also arriving from the retirement accounts of our members. Remember, RMD offerings to the church are not taxable as income to the retirement account owner.

The annual financial audit for 2020 receipts and expenditures was completed by a team of four persons, and no errors were detected. Giving statements for the 2nd Quarter 2021 were printed and mailed to all church members in July.

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

	<u>Through July</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$65,540	\$130,000
Loose Offering	20	0
Initial Offering	338	400
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	21,786	22,000
Community Dinners Donations	0	0
Other Income	16,678	20,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	1,024	10,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	11,300
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>1,456</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total General Fund Income	106,842	204,700
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$0	6,000
Faith Formation	6	9,500
Facilities	22,815	49,000
Staff	45,912	81,000
Transition	26,501	51,800
Administrative Support	3,130	7,400
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	98,364	204,700
Designated Fund Income	\$8,816	
Designated Fund Expenses	5,529	
<i>Total Active Members—July 2021</i>		<i>101</i>
Summary through April 2021 (7/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		(12,566)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		(21,044)
2021 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		8,478

On-line giving is easy and ready for your use. You may also use your numbered offering envelopes in the offering plate in our renewed worship services in the sanctuary. Regular mail is another option, and please use the following address for maximum safety:

First Presbyterian Church of Homewood
P.O. Box 1519
Homewood, IL 60430

Phil Dillman

The New Normal?

Last year, I wrote a small piece based on my observations as a “man on the street.” That was shortly after many folks were asked to remain in their homes and either work from home via the internet or hope that they still had a job waiting for them after the seemingly endless lockdown was over. For those that had to venture out to the store, they had to wear the mandatory masks and hope that their local store had at least a small supply of toilet paper and hand sanitizer among other basic necessities. Meanwhile, my job as a truck driver remained as busy as ever with import and export freight, although I had to beware of the self-proclaimed race car drivers on the lightly-traveled highways. Wearing a mask into places that required them wasn’t a big deal as I didn’t need to wear one in the truck. As the year progressed and various events and plans were being postponed or even cancelled, there was hope that the various vaccines would keep everyone healthy and that things would return to normal.

Fast forward to August 2021: While I had no desire to get vaccinated, a friend of the family died of Covid-19, which made me reconsider getting the shots, which I did. Even then, I am aware of people that have gotten the shots for Covid-19 but still got the variant virus. Many restrictions regarding people gathering in groups were recently being relaxed only to be tightened once again. The ability to leave the masks at home was reversed as many employers have told their employees to either get vaccinated or wear a mask.

I understand that the past year and a half has been frustrating, if not depressing, for many of us. However, there have certainly been some positive aspects to these challenges. Some of you had to learn to use a computer or to learn ways to use a computer for work or to communicate with family members. Some of you got to catch up on your genealogy or other online projects while some of you got to do those long-awaited landscaping projects. Personally, even though my truck-driving job is busier than ever and I still have to wear a mask into some locations, I have had the opportunities to learn things such as meeting with people via Zoom,

using various apps on the phone to avoid personal contact at railroad facilities, and live streaming the church service.

We have all had to adapt to these challenging times in different ways. Many folks have accepted these challenges as being the new normal. Perhaps, some aspects of the “old” normal will eventually return and we can get back to having Monday Night Dinners in the church or we can once again feel that it’s safe to hug our friends and family members and not have to sit in different pews. Whatever the future holds, God gives us the ability to adapt and learn and survive if we are willing to listen and try. I know that He continues to do so with me.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Session is seriously considering hiring an outside tech person to help us manage our media and tech needs. Please pray that we have people come forward willing to commit to producing live streaming worship services or that we are able to hire someone to help with this important outreach. We want to share our worship services online with or without COVID.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



On Labor Day, **September 6**, we will be posting a **Healing and Wholeness Service** online on our website under sermons. Access the service at 7 p.m. or at any time that day or in the following days. This service is a time of reflection, prayer, and meditation. This service can help us to experience anew God’s healing, peace-giving grace or refuel us for becoming agents of healing and reconciliation. Taking time for this mimics a pattern for Jesus and his disciples. They would be out in the thick of a clamoring multitude and then retreat to a quiet place to reconnect, recharge, and clarify their mission. Our quiet place awaits us in this service online. (Watch for an announcement for maybe *private prayer time* on Zoom after this service.)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

Do you miss Heavenly Perks? Do you remember how it got its name? That’s a story for another day. At their August meeting, the Session considered a list of ideas for implementing a gathering time to begin to take the place of Heavenly Perks. Here is the first trial balloon.

Time: 10:30 a.m. BEFORE worship

Location: just outside the north door to the Narthex

Refreshments: cold water with disposable cups set out on a card table

Starting Date: Sunday, August 29

We may soon add a basket of wrapped cookies (the kind with no crumbs). Thank you to Johnnie Dorsey for setup

This first trial is obviously weather dependent—rain or cold will cancel it (or maybe it could move indoors?).

The goal is to provide a venue that may encourage a short social time for connection-hungry members and visitors. Give it a try.

Karen Maurer,
Shirley Armistead, Kathie Hazlett, Jay Webster



FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

1ST MONDAY BOOK STUDY: Join a Zoom meeting from 7-9 p.m. to discuss *Stamped from the Beginning*. Contact Kathleen O’Hanlon or Joyce Anders for the link to the meeting.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join a Zoom meeting at 10:30 a.m. each week. The current study is Jeremiah. Contact Laurie Ulrich for the link to the meeting.

TUESDAY EVENING APOLOGETICS CLASS: Join a Zoom meeting led by Tim VanNasdale at 7:30 p.m. each week. Currently, the study is *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision* by William Lane Craig. Dr. Craig offers four arguments for God’s existence, defends the history of Jesus’ personal claims and resurrection, addresses the problem of suffering, and shows why religious relativism doesn’t work. These are lessons on how to defend one’s faith. The next chapter titles are: Can We Be Good without God?, What about Suffering?, Who Was Jesus?, Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?, and Is Jesus the Only Way to God? Contact Tim at tlvannasdale@gmail.com for the link to the meeting.



PERSONNEL & ADMIN MINISTRY

Welcome



Our new church employee, *interim organist/pianist*, is Mary Ann Wenzelman. She is an educated and experienced long-time church musician. She is thrilled to be playing our organ and our baby grand piano or, in her

words, these “great instruments.” As you all are aware (or maybe some of you do not know) we had to say goodbye to Tim VanNasdale when he moved to Pittsburgh to pursue another opportunity. He did assist with the prerecorded virtual church services as long as we had them, but when Session decided to go back to live worship in the sanctuary, we needed to find an interim

musician to play on Sunday mornings until we knew what our musical needs would be in the future. We contacted Mary Ann, and she readily agreed. If you get a chance after the worship service, stop by and say hello to Mary Ann and her husband Dave, who frequently comes with her to our service. Come in person to hear her prelude, special music (in the choir anthem slot), and postlude—a real treat!

Kathie Darman



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 September 5

Helen Rachford
Janice Rolls
Betty Ross
Emily Rozak
Jay & Debra Ruklic

Week of September 12

Ron/Beverly Shropshire
June Sluis
Shirley Smiddy
Pat Steiner
Eleanor Steiner

Week of September 19

Brian & Kelly Tufts
Paul & Sylvia Tufts
Laurie Ulrich
Sanday Van Horn
Dean/Linda VanNasdale

Week of September 26

Tim VanNasdale
Ed & Janet Wahl
Deb Way
Nolan Way
Jay & Nick Webster



HOSPITALIZED

In the hospital during the summer months were Betty Owens, Dean VanNasdale, and Rollie Sachs (brother of Joyce Anders).



NURSING HOMES / REHAB

Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park



SYMPATHY

Church sympathy is extended to the families of William Connors (relative of Nancy Connors), Don Seline (husband of Betty), Evelyn Dixon, Gavin Weir (uncle of Nancy Beaudoin), Charles Schantz (brother of Kathie Darman), Leo (brother-in-law of Lee Hilario), Betty Ross.



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: Raymond Baird, Donna Anderson, Evelyn Dixon,

CONGRATULATIONS

Beautification Committee



First Presbyterian Church of Homewood has been selected to receive a *Business Beautification Award*. The Village President, Board of Trustees, and Beautification Committee would like to present to us a certificate at a reception to be held at The Clubhouse at Dolphin Lake on October 21 at 7 p.

Laurie Ulrich

I read this today and know it's a thinking process of which we need to be aware, especially as we consider our future.

From Richard Rohr and the Center for Contemplation:

“Institutions and cultures are durable partly because they obey the law of inertia. Even if you think you've exerted a strong external push and knocked a moving object or an entire institution off its set course, wait. Just wait. With barely a nudge, the object will drift right back to its original path.

“Think of your own experience. When you see a crack, what's your first instinct? Push the pieces back together and patch it over. Eventually a contractor comes with the bad news: there is deep damage here, and if you don't address it, before long the whole structure will be fundamentally compromised. You sigh and negotiate. I don't know about you, but I have a surprising capacity to delude myself about how broken the structure is. With enough duct tape and rope, I will get back to normal. [*I call this 'rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic!'*]

“So it is for a nation and a church. In the midst of displacement, destabilization, and decentering, Americans and church folks have been tempted to replace, re-stabilize, and re-center. Let's return to the building. Let's encourage the protesters to come off the streets.... Let's move past division. Let's reestablish majority American Christianity in its former, privileged cultural post.

“Or we could acknowledge the unraveling, breaking, and cracking as a bearer of truth and even a gift. Per-

haps, as [Alan] Roxborough suggested, the Holy Spirit has been nudging and calling Christians ‘to embrace a new imagination, but the other one had to unravel for us to see it for what it was. In this sense the malaise of our churches has been the work of God.’ A church that has been humbled by disruption and decline may be a less arrogant and presumptuous church. It may have fewer illusions about its own power and centrality. It may become curious. It may be less willing to ally with the empires and powers that have long defined it. It may finally admit how much it needs the true power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. That's a church God can work with.”

OCTOBER CARILLON

The deadline for having articles placed in the October *Carillon* is **Monday, September 20**. Please send in all materials in writing to the Editor at ewahl@sbccglobal.net. The Editor thanks the September reporters for their assistance. *J C =W=*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

September

Susan Zorns
Craig Miller
Michael Bonthron
Melanie Hamilton
Bob James

September

Kristen Maxwell
Tom Hentschel
Marilyn Austin
Heather Miller
Mary Cantway



SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 LABOR DAY		1	2	3	4
5 10:30 Heavenly Perks (outside) 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live-streaming) Communion Heavenly Perks on website	6 LABOR DAY 7:00 Book Study on Zoom 7:00 Service of Healing Wholeness on the website	7 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:30 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 Heavenly Perks (outside) 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live-streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	13 Stewardship Team on Zoom	14 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Trustees 7:30 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	15	16	17 12:30 Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship	 Men's Fellowship
19 10:30 Heavenly Perks (outside) 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live-streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	20 Carillon Deadline 6:00 Worship Team on Zoom 7:00 Session on Zoom	21 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:30 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 Heavenly Perks (outside) 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live-streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	27	28 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:30 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	29	30		