



# The Happenings

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD BY SERVING WITHIN OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND BEYOND;  
AND TO DEVELOP AND EMPOWER PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 7

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## Building For The Future Mission Statement

*"Now He is using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day --- a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home."*

*Ephesians 2:20-22*

## Building For The Future with Prayer

As our church *builds for the future* in prayer, we want to *build our prayer life* as faithful disciples of Christ. — Your Prayer Emphasis Team

*"For surely, I know the plans I have for, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."*  
Jeremiah 29:11-12

## Rebekah's Remarks

Dear Fine People,

On March 21<sup>st</sup> we will be coming to church like we normally do, except that the time of worship will be different (10:00 a.m.); and there will only be one worship service (10:00 a.m.); and it's going to be a Praise service; but it's also going to be a Traditional service of worship; the Praise Band is playing; but so is the organ and piano; and the Praise Ensemble will be singing; but so will the Chancel Choir; and so will the children's choir; and there's going to be the regular Offering with Doxology; but there's also going to be a *special* Offering for the dedication of our **Building For The Future** pledge cards and gifts; and I will be preaching, but Tim will also be preaching (*at the same time in the same sanctuary – which should be interesting*); AND...there will be a banquet celebration (*every major church event needs to have a meal where we can break bread together*) right after the worship service in Mauldin Hall, where we will spill out into the Prayer Garden if needed.

Somebody asked me the other day what I would consider to be a *successful* outcome for the campaign. Well... it will be successful if we receive the whole \$2.5 million. But, honestly, I believe this campaign is already a success. Five hundred or so brothers and sisters in Christ at First Presbyterian have prayerfully considered our move into the future, gathered together in homes and in classrooms, and shared our hopes and dreams with one another. I consider this campaign a success because I have had committed Christians come to me saying that they are not in a position to contribute financially at this time, but, in faith, are making a three year pledge, believing that their financial circumstances will improve. I consider this campaign to already be a success because one of our

eight year old boys came up to me saying, “*Miss Rebekah, I am so excited that when I get to be a youth, we will have a cool place to hangout, and I can say that I helped to build it.*” One of the Vision Team members said that they have been blessed by the sacrifice Christ made for us, so that we can live abundantly through discipleship.

Another *friend* of the church told me that he was nervous about the total cost of the facility, but he was more nervous by how much God was challenging him to give toward the building. Then he added: “*I didn't know that being*

*“I didn't know that being nervous could be such a joyful feeling.”*

People are excited about being more generous than they have ever been before, with the possibility of moving forward into the future better equipped to do ministry, and discipleship development, and mission more efficiently and more expansively.

*nervous could be such a joyful feeling.”* People are excited about being more generous than they have ever been before, with the possibility of moving forward into the future better equipped to do ministry, and discipleship development, and mission more efficiently and more expansively. I could go on and on. Let's just say that success is in watching our church family get excited about living our calling to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who defines our Life Together. We are successful in Jesus.

As for the Dedication on March 21<sup>st</sup>... pledge to be faithful as we move into the future. I'll see you there.

Much love, *Rebekah*

*Thank you...*



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... for your financial support to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) first response efforts to those working in Haiti and helping with the recovery from the violent earthquake. PDA has transferred \$310,500 to ecumenical partners in support of immediate emergency relief efforts in Haiti. The organization has also approved a \$200,000 grant to Hôpital Sainte Croix and an affiliated nursing school in Léogâne, Haiti. Altogether, PDA has committed **more than half a million dollars** to immediate relief and recovery efforts in Haiti. These donations have helped the organization's ecumenical partners to establish 15 food and water distribution stations, distribute 20,000 tents, and provide other needed services and supplies. In addition to supporting the immediate relief efforts, PDA is continuing to assess the long-range recovery needs and develop a comprehensive plan to help the Haitian people rebuild their lives over the next several years. More than \$2.8 million has been donated to the organization's Haiti account. FPC of Brandon has donated approximately \$3,000, thus far!

## TOM'S TANGENTS

Dear Friends,

I have to say that I've never seriously thought about writing a book. Many people, either through their profession or personal interest, do. But I've never thought about tackling such a project. Maybe it's that I haven't accumulated enough life "wisdom" to feel worthy of putting my thoughts into book form. Yet, many who are much younger than myself have published and several have written quite a bit. It may also have to do with the fact that I'm not a big reader—not compared to some people. I love books. I love the way they communicate, and as a former teacher of English I have a great love of the written word. But when I see how many books are out there and that I tend to get much of my information online in these times, writing a book just isn't something that has caught my attention. So now that I've made this clear. . .

. . . it might be nice to write a book someday. And what I've thought might be an interesting idea to research/dissect is the idea of 'spirit'. I'm not necessarily talking about the Holy Spirit, but this could be considered part of the concept and much of what I'd be getting at—that the spirit 'beneath' is something to consider in all that we do. I think this is an idea that Jesus would have written about if he had the means because his ministry seems to often focus people on the spirit of what they were doing, thinking, believing and saying. His attitude toward Jewish Law was to try and discover the spirit behind it. Why was it important to fast, to sacrifice, to be 'clean' all the time? What was the spirit of the Law and for what purpose?

When we do ministry we are challenged to think about the spirit beneath. What is it that motivates us? In my seminary studies and especially the preparation work that we did with our Book of Confessions in the PC(USA), the Holy spirit is often described.

as a motivator. It is this Spirit that makes us want to worship God, to carry out Christ's mission, to do the work. It is the Spirit, Paul says, that gives us the words to say when we have no idea what we should say (Rom. 8:26-30). There's much more to this, I think.

When we consider our relationships and our motivations within them, we are usually too quick to ignore the spirit beneath our actions. Some folks are unaware that they are doing or saying things out of fear. Others may be naïve about their reason for serving others—possibly out of some selfish interest. But when we truly try to serve God and focus on the motivation that comes from the Holy Spirit, we are free from any self-interest (which is usually presenting some impure motive).

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle liked to think about the spirit of a person, how it is connected to the body and what happens to it when one dies. These are not simple things to think about, and when I was studying Greek thought in seminary, these were ideas that kind of put me to sleep. But the more I've done work with families and loved ones around the memorial of one who has passed, the more I've thought about the importance of the human spirit as well. And that human spirit is something that is so wonderfully captured in the best movie, the dramatic stage play, the story of our universal truths that tap into the essence of what it means to live as created beings in God's image. I hope you'll pray about the spirit beneath the work that we're doing here, and the challenges that lie ahead as we all consider how we are called to participate in God's work through First Presbyterian Church of Brandon.

*Peace, Love, Hope and Joy, Tim*



### Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 3rd

10:30 a.m.

Join our church family for an Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. There will be lots of eggs, crafts, and fun. After the hunt we will enjoy lunch together. Each family is asked to bring two lunch dishes to share. No desserts are needed. They will be provided.

### EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, symbols of renewal, new life, and the hope which is ours through Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord. To place your order, call the church office, fill in the tear-off in the weekly bulletin, or sign up on the website. The cost is \$7.00 each. **Deadline** to order is March 28th.

Flowers can be given in honor, in memory or in celebration of family, friends or an event.





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## Volunteers Needed For Special Rebuilding In Iowa

Nearly two years after flooding devastated much of eastern Iowa, rebuilding continues in cities and towns around the area. Your help is needed. This spring, PDA will participate with Church World Service (CWS) in hosting a six-week ecumenical work project in Cedar Rapids, working with local organizations to help at least 10 families return home. Project dates are weekly from April 11 - May 22. Let's show the world how people of faith, working side-by-side, can make great things happen for our neighbors in need. Join the effort! For questions, call Sarah Dyck at (319) 321-4165. To register your volunteer team, contact the PDA call center at (866) 732-

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## GOOD NEWS...

Our weekly scripture reading and sermons are now available at [www.fpcbrandonsermons.mypodcast.com](http://www.fpcbrandonsermons.mypodcast.com). Go to our website and they are listed under "Podcasts," and in the iTunes store. When using any of these formats you have the option to download them to your music library, your MP3 player, and to subscribe to receive a notice when new podcasts are available.

## ... AND MORE GOOD NEWS!

The weekly email prayer chain is up and going again. Each Tues, the office will send you a list of prayer requests, and praise reports. If you would like to receive these emails, send your information to [tisa@fpcbrandon.org](mailto:tisa@fpcbrandon.org). If you have anyone you would like to add to this prayer chain, please contact the office by phone (689-4597), email (see above), or on the website ([www.fpcbrandon.org](http://www.fpcbrandon.org)).

**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

## Friends of the Congregation

Tom & Chris LeFevre (Tom LeFevre's parents)  
 Michael Beddow (Gregos' grandson)  
 Dick & Jane Wood (Jane Owens' friends)  
 Jeff & Donna Dixon (Mary Ellen Dixon)  
 Jeff Crompton (Winnie Wilk's son)  
 Gladys Spakes (Janice Poindexter's sister)  
 Charlene Canady (Suzanne Odomisi's friend)  
 Anitra Ruth (Suzanne Odomisi's friend)  
 Spring Smiley (Merle Wooten's daughter)  
 Rosa Boeres (Merle Wooten's sister-in-law)  
 Billy Vinson (Darrell Vinson's father)  
 Bonnie Moore (Randy Poindexter's sister)  
 Wesley Henry (Crenshaw's grandson)  
 Sharalyn Hogan (Laura Hogg's sister)  
 Kelly Izzard (Sondra Cone's niece)  
 Amanda Hawkes (Garrison's granddaughter)  
 Brenda Chapman (Friend of the Congregation)  
 Shane Long (Shelley Grable's cousin)  
 Sherry Daugherty (Lisa Paterson's mother)  
 Dianne, Doug & Sara Seelbach (Sofarelli's relatives)  
 Lucy Sahr (Sondra Cone's sister)  
 Jason Conley (Sherry Skovgaard's nephew)  
 Tim Slinkosky (Jean Emery's friend)  
 Edna Davies (Henrietta Zahrobsky's sister)  
 Janice Bishop (David Bishop's stepmother)  
 Gregory Johnston (Darwin & Pat Johnston's son)  
 Kathy Welch (Sherry Skovgaard's cousin)  
 Carol Jaegar (Suzanne Odomisi's daughter)  
 Jesse Scott (Jane Scott's grandson)  
 Paul Doucette (Trojak's friend)  
 Michelle Marion (Elena LaRussa's niece)  
 Marie Platts (Stowers' friend)  
 Bob & Deb Hanson (Christine Orlosky's friend)  
 Michael Chenoweth (Don Zegel's brother-in-law)  
 Judy Brown (Ogden's friend)  
 Gene Waters (Fran Gregos' father)  
 Smith Family (McClellan's friends)  
 Jill Jordan Ernst (Gil & Marianne Evans' niece)  
 Virginia Whitlatch (Friend of the congregation)  
 Robin (Heather McClellan's sister)  
 Bob Hutton (Laura Hogg's father)  
 Dennis Streng (Bj Herig's nephew)  
 Aime Dryer (Alicia Braddock's relative)  
 Betty Cromwick (Dan & Ruth Craft's friend)  
 Karyn Miles (Mike & Linda Miles' daughter)  
 Marci Smith (Earl & Judy Smith's daughter-in-law)  
 Mary Anne Hill (Amanda Trauger's cousin)  
 John & Peggy Nugent's grandsons in Iraq  
 Tyler Kemp (Coldwell's grandson)  
 Jesse Heath (Dave & Sondra Cone's grandson)  
 Keven Hamlet (Jackie William's friend)  
 Peter & Colleen Giamanco (DeiVecchio's family)  
 Sarah Hart (Amanda Trauger's grandmother)  
 Keith Browning (Marcia Wiles' friend)  
 Marguerite Barnes (Marge Hubbard's friend)  
 Cali Moody (Priscilla Babas' friend)  
 Corey Robinson (Jackie Williams' grandson)  
 Taylor Stokes (Trojak's friend)  
 June McClelland (Marcia Wiles' friend)  
 Sharon Walker (Jean Hayhurst's friend)  
 Cathy LaRussa (Elena LaRussa's sister)  
 Dan Steigerwald (Don Steigerwald's brother)

Please remove this page and incorporate it with your daily prayers. If you have a special request for family and friends to be added to this prayer list, contact the church office. We also look forward to hearing from you regarding your joys from answered prayer. The Covenant of Prayer list for church members can be found in the weekly bulletin.

**Looking Ahead**

- Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service: April 1 at 6:30pm
- Good Friday Service: April 2 at 7pm
- Easter Egg Hunt: April 3 at 10:30am
- Sunrise Service: April 4 at 6:30am
- Easter Breakfast: April 4 at 7:15am
- Preschool Spring Pagaent: April 27 at 6:30pm



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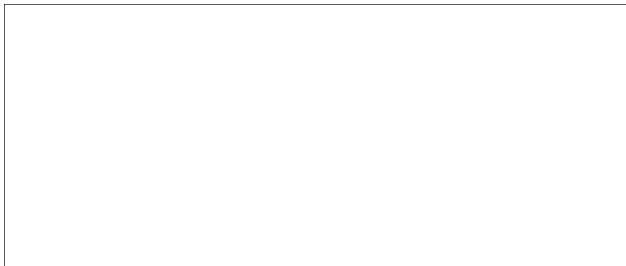
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**WORSHIP:**

9:45am - Sunday School for all ages  
8:30 & 11:00am - Worship Services

**Church Office Hours:**

Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm



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## THANK YOU

❖...

❖...

❖... to those who helped with the last edition of *The Happenings*:  
Jane Scott & Rose Stolarcek.

### Elders

*Margaret Barlow*  
*Mary Lou Cannone*  
*David Childs*  
*David Dale*  
*Nancy Donovan*  
*Gil Evans*  
*Michele Gates*  
*Stormy Ongold*  
*Christine Karow*  
*Elena LaRussa*  
*Lloyd Lasher*  
*Lori Lynen - Clerk*  
*Mike McClelland*  
*Lee McInnis*  
*Peggy Nugent*  
*Bill Ogden*  
*Katy Reinke*  
*David Rogers*  
*Jim Yockey*  
*Lynn Young*

### Pastor

Rebekah A. Maul  
**Associate Pastor**  
Timothy J. Black  
**Director of Music and Organist**  
Mark A. Prater  
**Director of Youth Ministries**  
Lynn Pabst  
**Director of the Preschool**  
Kathy Kranendonk  
**Financial Manager**  
Andy Fonfara  
**Administrative Assistant**  
Joyce Allen  
**Church Secretary**  
Kathy Kranendonk  
**Receptionist**  
Tisa McRoberts  
**Bookkeeper**  
Sue Scott  
**Custodian/Kitchen Coordinator**  
Debbie Billmaier  
**Nursery Coordinator**  
Brandi Hooper