

**SecondFirst Church**

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)  
 318 N. Church Street, Rockford IL 61101  
 (815)963-8431  
 www.secondfirst.org  
 www.facebook.com/secondfirstchurch/

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 Permit No. 3734  
 Rockford, Illinois

# THE TOWER

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL UCC/FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

*Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace*



**A WORD FROM PASTOR REBECCA**

Church!

We have yet another exciting possibility in front of us. You know that big blank canvas, I mean, wall of our gym that faces to the all-to-forgotten West side. (Think of what you see of the church when we look from the 320 Store). Well, it is screaming for some community art.

The Arts Council by way of the Baha'i community and poet Christopher Sims (in only the way God can do) put us in contact with Tia Richardson, a community mural artist from Milwaukee. Not only is she a very talented artist as you can see here, she is a community healer. Tia was able to bring together a Milwaukee neighborhood whose citizen had been shot and killed by a police officer with itself AND the chief of police AND mayor of Milwaukee through a neighborhood mural. Wow!

Her process involves bringing together a cross section of the community to name reality and dream about a different future. Those gathered offer images and Tia creates the art. The community then returns do the actual painting in a "paint by numbers" process.

Tia has come to Rockford several times learning about who we are and what is important to us. I got to see her healing in action at the Beattie Is... Back! Arts Festival where she engaged festival goers around the problems and solutions of our dear city.

This could be a an important healing moment for the West Side of Rockford. With Jeremiah Development, we are applying for grants and laying out a community fundraising strategy, so please pray for God to open doors. Thanks be to God for the art of healing and the healing of the arts.

Peace,  
 Rebecca

**SAVE THE DATES**

- Nov. 3 - Soup Kitchen 10:00 am
- Nov. 3 - UCC Association Meeting-Marseilles
- Nov. 9 - Peanut Brittle Party 12:00 pm
- Nov. 4 - Remembering Loved Ones
- Nov. 18 - Stewardship Celebration
- Nov. 18 - Pilgrim Potluck after Church



Milwaukee Mural Artist Tia Richardson gathers community input and support for a potential mural on our gym.

**GROWING UP TODAY:  
 A SERIES ON ADOLESCENCE**

Adolescence is simply defined as the transition from childhood to adulthood. With an increasing concern on perpetual adolescence (see Ben Sasse piece from the Wall Street Journal), this series looks to understand the growth and change occurring during this developmental phase, prepare adults to better interact with and support adolescents, and hear from vital local organizations working to equip children, adolescents, and young adults for engaging, productive, and fulfilling lives.

**SERIES SCHEDULE:**

- Oct. 17: Introduction to adolescence, focusing on cognitive, emotional development, and social development led by Carol Fisher
- Oct. 24: Joint session with KFACT and Rockford Promise
- Nov. 7: Joint session with Alignment Rockford and YMCA
- Nov. 14: Panel discussion moderated by Norm Shirk

All sessions will be held in the dining room at 6:30 pm.



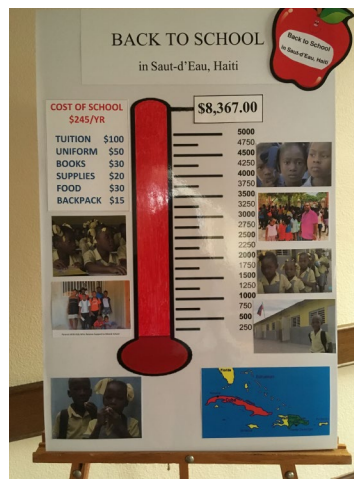
Muralist Tia Richardson gathers important input from young member Carla Campa at Beattie Is...Back!



Mural Artist Tia Richardson leans over to meet new youth director Aubrey Barrett and her 8 month old twin girls at the Beattie Is... Back! Arts Festival September 9th.



Tia Richardson's mural in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee.



## REPORT FROM THE HAITI INTEREST GROUP: RESULTS OF THE EDUCATION FUNDRAISER FOR SAUT-D'EAU, HAITI

We were amazed, shocked and thrilled at the results of the SecondFirst August 2018 Fundraiser to

assist children of Saut-d'Eau, Haiti to attend school. We know that 50% of Haitian children cannot afford to attend school. The \$100 tuition and \$150 for uniforms, books, supplies and food are out of reach for many Haitian families. Our total funds received are \$8,367. That includes \$1000 from our Mission Ministry Team. Many donors supported this fund drive. An anonymous Church Member donor matched the donations received on August 19th. James Casimir and the Pouky Board will transfer this money to Haiti to pay for over 30 students to attend school. What joy and celebration we feel with these families as their children gain the opportunities received with an education. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to assist in caring for our own community and the town of Saut-d'Eau, Haiti. James Casimir, Roger Greenlaw rgreen97@aol.com, Odette Massenat, Carolyn Greenlaw csgreen52@aol.com.



## SERIOUS SOUP - A GOOD MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP EVERY MONDAY FROM 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Beginning Monday, October 8 join us for a meal and fellowship in our dining room. The meal is open to church members and guests from our neighborhood. There are many ways you can support this new outreach program. You can bake desserts, you can help out in the kitchen or you can sit with our guests and get to know those in our neighborhood. We will serve lunch in October and November. We will take off December and start again in February. If you would like to volunteer for Serious Soup contact Katy Paterson, Arlene Noel or Becky Erbe Becky.erbe@secondfirst.org.

## STRONGHOLD CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM

Lend a hand with church volunteers as we assist the Stronghold staff to enhance the campus. We will carpool from the church parking lot. Please Contact: David Noel at 815-398-6518 for additional information.

## OCTOBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7**  
Kathy Lawes

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**  
Pastor Rebecca

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
Pastor Rebecca

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28**  
Pastor Rebecca

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT

The community worship service on August 26 was an eye-opening experience for me of just how much the three churches are committed to Jeremiah Development. As I looked at the congregation, I was able to see the people behind the words "Jeremiah Development is a collaborative effort of three downtown churches." Thanks to your generosity, over \$1,000 was donated during that service. I am humbled by the kindness that was extended to my husband and myself during the coffee hour after the service. Thank you all for your time and talents. They are greatly appreciated as we gear up for Love Rockford this coming May 11, 2019, prepare to put the garden to bed for the winter and continue to work with the JD neighborhood to determine what is needed and wanted in the community. Sue Kanthak, Executive Director Jeremiah Development



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW AND EXCITING WAY TO PRAISE GOD?

Handbell Ministries is looking for ringers for the 2018-19 Season. Join in the fun and fellowship as we make music for the glory of God, while raising critical funds for local organizations seeking to help Rockford's most needy residents. No previous musical experience is required. You don't even have to know how to read music!

Contact: julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org or 815-543-9739 for more information.

## WALKING IN THE GYM IS BACK! TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS OCTOBER 2 - APRIL 30 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

When a church is open to the community around it, the community around it comes to church. For another cold weather season, we will welcome walkers in our gym. So bring your friends, tell your co-workers and get your move on. To volunteer, call the office or email debbie.wise@secondfirst.org.

## SPECIAL UCC AND PCUSA OFFERING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Opportunity for Giving: Neighbors in Need/Peace and Global Witness Offering. This month we receive a denominational support offering for both the UCC and the PCUSA. Neighbors in Need (NIN) supports UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout our country: the Council for American Indian Ministry, and Justice and Witness Ministries. NIN funds projects that address systemic injustice. Peace and Global Witness (PGW) supports PCUSA programs in justice and reconciliation in cultures of violence, both locally and world-wide. Your support for this vital work is greatly appreciated.



## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER'S PRESENTS LINDA ZUBA: ASYLUM SEEKERS SEEKING SAFETY, FACING DETENTION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6:00 P.M. SECONDFIRST CHURCH

Local attorney Linda Zuba recently volunteered at the Dilly Detention Center in Texas. Come hear her first hand account of what is happening and what we can do about it.

## BIBLE SUNDAY OCTOBER 28

We have a wonderful tradition here at SecondFirst Church and we'd like to take this time to invite students 3rd Grade and older (if they have not received a Bible yet) and their parents to be part of it. It's our Bible Presentation Sunday to be celebrated on October 28, 2018. Each eligible student will receive a New Revised Standard Version Presentation Bible with his/her name engraved on the cover. A Bible is a gift of a lifetime, to be used not only at church, but as a comfort and source of strength in one's life. If you are interested in your child receiving a Bible but did not receive the mailing, please Contact Dyan Lofgren or Becky Erbe no later than Monday, October 8.

## WOW - CROP HUNGER WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

This year's CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 21. Our Ministry Teams are engaged in a competition to see who one can raise the most in the relentless fight against poverty in Rockford and around the world. One fourth of funds raised will be divided among the pantries of the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition. The rest will be used by Church World Service as it seeks to transform communities around the globe. (See its website at cwsglobal.org)

The 2018 t-shirt will be given to all walkers regardless of the amount they raise. You may walk in person or in spirit. Whichever way you walk, sign up with David Jones to be a walker from Second First Church and join with thousands of others around America by seeking sponsors. You may use a CROP Hunger Walk envelope or Walk On the Web (WOW) as Ministry Teams are doing. See David Jones or Pastor Becky Erbe for full information.



## TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (OR EARLIER IF THE CANDY RUNS OUT)

We are looking for help with trunk or treat on Sunday, October 28th from 4:00-5:30pm. We need decorated cars to help pass out goodies to our trick or treaters. Cars should plan on arriving around 3:15pm to set up. Trunk or Treat will start at 4:00pm. Please let Debbie know if you will be participating.

If you are not able to participate but want to be involved; we are also in need of candy to pass out. If you have any questions, Contact: dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINNING SOON!

The class will be offered to 6th and 7th graders and for those High schoolers who may not have had the opportunity to participate in confirmation. Classes will be starting soon. Our new Youth Director Aubrey Barnett and Rev. Rebecca will be leading this class. Look for more info to come.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NUMBERS (as of September 19, 2018)

26 Showers	1 ride help
2 diapers	1 funeral cost help
5 food help	

## “WHAT SHALL WE BRING?”

### STEWARDSHIP 2018

There is a significant difference between concern and commitment. Concern expresses the anxiety we feel about an issue. Commitment declares the action we bring to address that issue. I might claim I am concerned about children at risk in Rockford. But, unless I am committed to addressing the issues that put them at risk, it is just a concern. When I actively support efforts to help those at risk, even when it is at personal cost, it becomes a commitment.

Commitment to faith in Christ leads to certain patterns of behavior. The author of 1 John reminds us that saying we love God, while living in ambivalence toward our neighbor, is to have “outed ourselves as liars.” The commitment we bring to care for one another is evidenced in selfless acts displaying God’s love for us.

So, what might commitment to SecondFirst Church look like? What would it mean to give of ourselves so completely and confidently that our generosity would reflect our love of God and one another in the same way that God has loved us? We will explore this Stewardship question beginning Sunday, October 21. You will be asked to turn your concern into commitment on Dedication Sunday, November 18. The annual Pilgrim Luncheon that day will nourish our renewed commitment to the ministry of SecondFirst Church.



### MUSIC MINISTRY

My, how time flies when you’re making music in worship! Our services in the month of September were decorated by a potpourri of musical styles. After closing August with our annual four-church service, we ‘made a joyful noise’ in September with bells (the Carillons, under the wonderful director of Joyce Zartman), soloists, a jazz combo, a duet, and two incomparable organists (Bob Bates and Valerie Blair).

Our newly refurbished bells and all the fine groups that use them will finally be heard, under the fine leadership of director Julie Cook Ramirez, in our Sanctuary on October 21st. The Sanctuary Choir will be presenting music from many traditions: music from the St. Olaf College book, an Anglican anthem, a spiritual and a wonderful gospel song, a classic work by Eric Thiman, and even a new version of ‘Amazing Grace’ that combines the two most familiar settings of these words with a still newer descant. What will we celebrate in song? World Communion Sunday, the topic of “covenant” (October 7th, with Kathy Lawes), and, of course, Reformation Sunday (at the close of the month).

We are very fortunate to have been blessed with so many gifts, to be able to offer these in praise to the living God. Please consider joining our wonderful ensembles--we would be very thankful for even more new members!

Paul Laprade

## DVT SPOTLIGHT

The Discernment and Vision Ministry Team (a/k/a “DVT”) is your mid and long-term planning team. We get to brainstorm and think of things possible. We get to listen to you, take your ideas and use those ideas to create goals or plans that fit your needs and the needs of the church. DVT’s mission has not changed, but it is getting more exciting every year as the church grows and adapts to the needs of our members and our neighborhood. For instance, after the church agreed on the mission statement: “Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God’s grace”, we turned to assisting the other ministry teams in establishing goals to help identify where we want to be and how to get there. They established long term goals and strategies -- many have already accomplished some of their goals and the rest are well on their way. We hope to have an updated report to the Governing Council by this November.

DVT is also studying the ministry team structure to see if it needs adjusting. We are looking at the size of the teams and the reporting structure of the subcommittees. To our pleasant amazement, there is a whole lot of stuff going on. We are a busy Church. If you have any suggestions or concerns about the current structure, or if you believe it is working just fine, please let us know. Finally, DVT has the fun job of listening to and working with any church members who may have an idea. Together, we may be able to turn your idea into reality. So, if you have a suggestion or idea, please let us know. We would love to hear them. The best way is to submit them, or comments on any of the issues before us, through the Church Office, or you can email me, Bob Canfield (DVT Chair), at [Canfilaw@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Canfilaw@SBCGlobal.net). Or you can just call me at (815) 968-7200.



### SECOND CON FOUNDATION PURCHASES ST. LUKE’S MIRACLE TEMPLE

The St. Luke’s Miracle Temple, once a vibrant worship space for Central Christian Church through the mid-80’s and then the St. Luke’s congregation, has sat empty and continued to deteriorate for over ten years. Thanks to much hard work by foundation president Bill Hoff and board member and attorney Phil Frankfort (and his associate), the dangerous eye-sore will soon come down. Unfortunately the once beautiful building has had a hole in the roof since 2008 and the back of the building has been condemned since the late 90’s. It also sustained a major fire this summer. Many thanks to the City of Rockford for their work on this as well and for making it all possible. We do not have immediate plans for the lot. In the meantime, it will be green space.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR “A FURRY FAMILY CHRISTMAS”: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

BY JULIE COOK RAMIREZ, DIRECTOR OF HANDBELL MINISTRIES

In Handbell Ministries, we employ the power of music to move the soul, energize the spirit, and bring people closer to God. We also dedicate our two annual concerts to raising awareness of – and critical funds for – local non-profits committed to helping Rockford’s underserved communities. This year’s Christmas concert will benefit Care for Pets, a wonderful organization that has been doing amazing things in our community.

From their website:

“Providing services and resources to underserved areas and individuals in our community affects each and every one of us. From a single mother scraping by to care for her children and their companion, to the senior citizen surviving on a fixed income trying to care for their only friend, Care for Pets is using a model similar to the HSUS Pets for Life Program to develop programs that focus on the needs of those pets in our community. Not only does this increase the health, safety and retention of pets but these outreach efforts lessen the burden on our county shelter, Winnebago County Animal Services, in turn lowering costs. Our goal is to provide compassionate and respectful programs increasing awareness and access to pet-related services - food, spay/neuter assistance, vaccinations, microchipping, medical care assistance and more - to the pets of people who care as much about the well-being of their animals as anyone. Care for Pets’ end goal is to keep more pets healthy and at home where they belong and out of the shelter. We will accomplish this with the community’s support through generous donations, sponsorships, grants and by working together, hand in hand, with our local animal welfare organizations.”

Some of their most innovative programs include securing foster care for people who need someone to look after their pet while they are hospitalized or in a rehabilitation facility, helping raise “bail money” when someone can’t afford to get their furry family member out of “jail,” and One Lost Soul at a Time, an exciting new program centered on helping the pets of Rockford’s homeless community.

Learn more at [www.wecareforpets.org](http://www.wecareforpets.org) and mark your calendars for “A Furry Family Christmas” on Saturday, December 8th at 3 pm. We promise an enjoyable program full of festive music and special guests, including Care for Pets Executive Director Stephanie Hicks. Afterwards, we’ll enjoy an assortment of delicious goodies and more opportunities to learn about this amazing organization. Please join us!



Bill Hoff and the stone mason who fixed the sagging North side of the church. It was finished off with Indiana limestone from the same quarry as the original stone and cut by Mr. Benson himself.



The Sanctuary has new a HVAC! We are already feeling the consistent effects.



Too much fun was had at the Handbell Kick-off Pizza Party!



The Second Con Foundation purchased the charred St. Luke’s Miracle Temple at Jefferson and Church Streets. It’s neglected state and utter disrepair necessitates it being torn down, but before it goes, artist Jeremy Klonicki of Mainfrain will salvage materials to recreate the peace and joy once sung by the faithful in that space.



The Natural Land Institute with church and Jeremiah Development volunteers planted a rain garden September 9th that will clean the water run-off from our gym before it gets to the sewer and our waterways. NLI will use it as a teaching site to show people how to do this at home.

# OCTOBER CALENDAR

**Monday, October 1**  
5:00 Love Rockford Meeting

**Tuesday, October 2**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
9:00 AM – Thrift Shop  
9:30 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
12:00 PM – New Narrative Bible Study

**Wednesday, October 3**  
9:00 AM - Deaconesses  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Adult Ed Ministry Team  
6:30 PM – Martin Ringers

**Thursday, October 4**  
9:30 AM - Carillons  
9:30 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Teen Drop In  
5:30 PM – JD Board Meeting  
6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
7:00 PM – Choir

**Friday, October 5**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, October 6**  
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, October 7 Kathy Lawes**  
8:30 AM – Koffee Klass  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour  
11:15 AM – Peanut Rehearsal  
11:15 AM – Tower Ringers  
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Drop In

**Monday, October 8**  
10:00 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Open Lunch  
5:00 PM – Deacons

**Tuesday, October 9**  
8:00 AM – Men’s Fellowship  
9:00 AM – Thrift Shop  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
12:00 PM – New Narrative Bible Study  
6:00 PM – DVT

**Wednesday, October 10**  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Adult Christian Ed Ministry Team  
5:00 PM - Trustees  
6:00 PM – Membership Ministry Team  
6:00 PM – League of Women Voters  
6:30 PM – Martin Ringers

**Thursday, October 11**  
9:30 AM - Carillons  
9:30 AM - Free showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking

4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Drop In  
6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
7:00 PM - Choir

**Friday, October 12**  
1:00 PM – Horizons Bible Study

**Saturday, October 13**  
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, October 14**  
8:30 AM – Koffee Klass  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour  
11:15 AM – Peanut Rehearsal  
11:15 AM – Tower Ringers  
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Drop In

**Monday, October 15**  
10:00 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, October 16**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
9:00 AM – Thrift Shop  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
5:30 PM - Missions Ministry Team  
7:00 PM – Executive Committee

**Wednesday, October 17**  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM – Membership Ministry Team  
5:30 PM – Family CE Ministry Team  
6:30 PM – Martin Ringers

**Thursday, October 18**  
9:30 AM - Carillons  
9:30 AM - Free showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
12:00 PM – Peanut Brittle Party  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Teen Drop In  
6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
7:00 PM – Choir

**Friday, October 19**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, October 20**  
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic  
8:15 AM - Stronghold Cleanup

**Sunday, October 21**  
Stewardship Kickoff  
8:30 AM – Koffee Klass  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour  
11:15 AM – Music Ministry Team  
11:15 AM – Fellowship Ministry Team  
11:15 AM – Tower Ringers  
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop  
1:00 PM – CROP Walk  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Drop In

**Monday, October 22**  
10:00 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, October 23**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
9:00 AM – Thrift Shop  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
7:00 PM – Creative Justice

**Wednesday, October 24**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
6:30 PM – Martin Ringers  
Thursday, October 25, 2018  
9:30 AM - Carillons  
9:30 AM – Free showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Teen Drop In  
5:30 PM – Governing Council  
6:00 PM – ARC Rec Night  
6:00 PM – Bellcantos  
7:00 PM – Transform Rockford Update  
7:00 PM - Choir

**Thursday, October 25**  
9:30 AM - Carillons  
9:30 AM - Free showers  
11:00 AM – Gym Walking  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Teen Drop In  
5:30 PM – Governing Council  
6:00 PM – ARC Rec Night  
6:00 PM – Bellcantos  
7:00 PM – Creation Justice Coalition  
7:00 PM – Transform Rockford Update  
7:00 PM - Choir

**Friday, October 26**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, October 27**  
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, October 28 Bible Sunday**  
8:30 AM – Koffee Klass  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour  
11:15 AM – Tower Ringers  
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop  
4:00 PM – Trunk or Treat  
4:30 PM – Just Breathe 815 Drop In

**Monday, October 29**  
10:00 AM – Free Showers  
11:00 AM – Seious Soup

**Tuesday, October 30**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
9:00 AM – Thrift Shop

**Wednesday, October 31**  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting

## KOFFEE KLASS

### **OCTOBER 7 & 14:** Prophets & Profits

This short two part series will examine the character, role, and impact of biblical prophets paying close attention to their role as social critics, advocates for justice and righteousness, and all around troublemakers.

### **OCTOBER 21:** Theology 101

The second installment of our new series examining formative theologians, doctrines, and history.

### **OCTOBER 28:** Dialog Conversation on current events Mary Waters and Christine Krause will be leading our discussion.

### **ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE HERITAGE ROOM** 8:30 am - Gathering and coffee 8:45 am - Sessions begin

## GOVERNING COUNCIL NOTES

Just look around the block and see what is happening. Starting just west of the Gym, there is a new wetland garden that has been installed as a teaching garden for the community to see how this works. This was installed by the Land Institute with no cost to the church. This allows us to help educate the community. Moving around to the north side of the building, a kitchen window had some water issues. The surrounding stone work was in need of repair and we are in the process of having it repaired. This is being funded by the Foundation. More on this next month when the project has been moved along -- hopefully completed. Lastly, our bell tower is missing some stone work. A drone was sent to the top of the tower to investigate. Great pictures show where stone work is missing, etc. We are working on this problem, but in the meantime, please do NOT use the east narthex entrances as we do not want anyone to be injured. -Steve Showers

## NOTE FROM MODERATOR: STEVE SHOWERS

We have entered the new church year -- first Sunday in September. Your Ministry Teams are busy implementing their plans for this church year. The plan is a fluid list of hopes and dreams for the year. We expect all of the plans to be perfect -- but knowing that things change -- it is good to be fluid.

Watch as We the Church reaches out to our members and the community and beyond to lead with the messages that we feel will energize us, our near community, and beyond. I am encouraged by reading the minutes of the teams as the planning phase has progressed. Also, I am looking forward to sharing with all of you the good work that will come from the labors of the teams. Watch, participate as you are moved, and encourage all to fulfill our dreams for SecondFirst. Sundaes Sunday was successful -- so I hear as I was out of town. Anytime we get to have ice cream after church we are having a good day. Watch as some events and programs yet to be finalized will be announced in the near future.

## BUILDING USE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Town Halls or spoke to any of us one-on-one! We took many things into consideration from all segments of the congregation and feel we have come to a recommendation that honors the mission of the church and our responsibility to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

With the goal of maximizing usage of the space and any money spent on improvements, and additionally to provide an opportunity to support our neighbors, we have recommended converting Emerson Hall for community group use. Gordon Chapel remains a chapel and increased usage ideas for that space are in the works. The Second Cong Bells and the First Pres Bells will move to the fourth floor Reed Chapel, Bridge Clinic has moved out of one of their two rooms to allow for an office and storage area for the bell directors. The third floor will become a more self-contained “Kid Zone.” Family Christian Ed and the Youth Staff will work out the specifics of this area which will contain the Nursery, Sunday School space, Craft room, Peanut Bell area, offices for the Children’s Ministry Coordinator, and storage.

The 2nd floor area that is currently the nursery will be converted into a multipurpose room. It can be divided into multiple meeting rooms if needed. We anticipate Adult Ed using this space as well as visiting choirs and weddings. The church has been getting increased requests for meetings of community members and this space provides the versatility and accessibility to serve many constituents. Its central location adjacent to the office provides for a more hospitable welcome to visitors. Other rooms in the building have been identified that will satisfy the need for storage for enhancements, historic documents and records.

On behalf of the Building Use Committee (and big thanks to Jessica, Holly, Marge, and Alice for serving!), we appreciate everyone’s ideas and support. We know that change is hard and certainly no plan can make everyone 100% happy but we appreciate the opportunity to discern a way to use our building in new and exciting service!

Sincerely, co-chairs Karen Olson (kareno128@comcast.net; 815-978-3480) and Jennifer Archer ( jennifer814@hotmail.com; 608-239-2493)