



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KEOKUK  
The Church by the River

Volume 11 Issue 7

July 2014

## RIVERSIDE CURRENT

Friends,

Our General Assembly was convened in Detroit the third week of June, as it is every even numbered year. The assembly, made up of both teaching elders and ruling elders elected by each of the 173 presbyteries in our denomination, gathered to worship, to pray together, and to conduct the business of the larger church. This year, they dealt with 338 different items of business, covering such diverse matters as environmental stewardship, planting new worshipping communities, polity and discipline, peacemaking, and interfaith dialogue. Two of those many decisions made the national news – one involving divestment and one involving same-gender marriage – and I want to speak briefly to you about these decisions.

On the issue of marriage, the Assembly issued what is called an “Authoritative Interpretation”, and it takes effect immediately. In states where same-gender marriage is legal, teaching elders now have discretion to conduct marriage services as conscience and pastoral wisdom leads them. No teaching elder is compelled to officiate any wedding service, retaining the clergy’s long-standing obligation to refuse to marry persons when counseling and prayer shows it to be unwise. Ruling elders are also effected by this AI, in that sessions may now (but are not compelled to) permit the use of church facilities for same-gender weddings. Our polity continues to support the historic obligation of sessions to make decisions regarding the life of the local congregation.

On the issue of divestment, our historic policies of supporting a two-state solution, encouraging interfaith dialogue among all branches of the Abrahamic traditions, and urging governments to move toward peace were reiterated, without change. But after a decade of unsuccessful attempts to engage Caterpillar, Motorola, and Hewlett-Packard in discussion about their role in supporting Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, the Assembly determined to act in accord with our existing Socially Responsible Investment Policy. The Presbyterian Foundation (which manages mission money of the church) and the Board of Pensions (which manages retirement funds for church workers) were instructed to divest per existing policies. This is not a boycott of these companies. If a Presbyterian wants an HP printer in their office, or a Motorola phone, or a Caterpillar tractor, that is perfectly alright. And this is not a withdrawal of our support and friendship from our Jewish brothers and sisters – our church is committed to understanding and peace among all the children of God.

I would be happy to talk to any of you about these or other matters. If you have questions, please come to me and I will make sure you get an answer.

*Praising God always, in all ways!*

## Church Calendar July 2014

### Tue Jul 1, 2014

8am Independence Day Holiday  
OFFICE CLOSED

### Wed Jul 2, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Sat Jul 5, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

### Sun Jul 6, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### Tue Jul 8, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jul 9, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Thu Jul 10, 2014

2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support

### Fri Jul 11, 2014

5pm Wedding Rehearsal

### Sat Jul 12, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours  
5pm Turner-Carroll Wedding

### Sun Jul 13, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship w/ Communion

### Tue Jul 15, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jul 16, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Sat Jul 19, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours  
9:30am Deacon's Meeting

### Sun Jul 20, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### Tue Jul 22, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jul 23, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Thu Jul 24, 2014

2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support

### Sat Jul 26, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

### Sun Jul 27, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### Tue Jul 29, 2014

8am Pastor's Cont. Ed. 3  
Where: Synod School

### Wed Jul 30, 2014

8am Pastor's Cont. Ed. 4  
Where: Synod School

3:30pm Prayer group

### Thu Jul 31, 2014

8am Pastor's Cont. Ed. 5  
Where: Synod School

## July Birthdays

6	Andy Hall
9	Janet Swan
9	Joceylne Marshall
12	Cailin Scully
13	Hank Billings
14	Dorothea Kultala
15	Elizabeth Potratz
17	Arminda Bishop
21	Lani Foster
21	Rebecca Marshall
23	Barb Altgilbers
26	Dustin Briscoe
26	Esther Harding
30	Anthony Potratz
30	Rich McGhghy



### **1 June 2014**

- Cindy K. let us know about the St. Barnabas choir's concert tomorrow night at 9 and 11.
- Kim told us that the session voted to move worship downstairs for the summer and asked for volunteers to help design and set up the worship space in Fellowship Hall to be "worshipful"
- Randi offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the young adults graduating this year, and prayed for their continued energy and enthusiasm to make the world a better place.

### **8 June 2014**

- Ann let the congregation know that the deacons had decided to make a small change to free up resources for new ministry needs that have arisen. They will continue to send birthday cards to the children, and the rest of us can expect a hearty "Happy Birthday!" and a smile, but not a card.
- Joe asked us to pray for John Simpson's son. John is our piano tuner, and his son is undergoing surgery.
- Joann reminded folks of the upcoming rummage sale, and asked for volunteers.

### **15 June 2014**

- Rebecca offered a prayer of thanksgiving that Mike's sister, Becky, is home recovering.
- Barb A asked us to pray for Kim, as she faces new cancer treatments.
- Meg offered a prayer of thanksgiving for God working in the lives of our young adults. A. J. was able to save two boys from drowning a week ago, and it clarified for him how God works through us for good.
- Joann reminded everyone that we will be honoring graduates next Sunday, and there will be cake. (So be here!)
- Steve offered a prayer of thanksgiving for being 100% recovered and able to resume normal life.
- Joann reminded folks of the upcoming rummage sale, and asked for volunteers to help take down chairs and put up tables right after worship today.

### **22 June 2014**

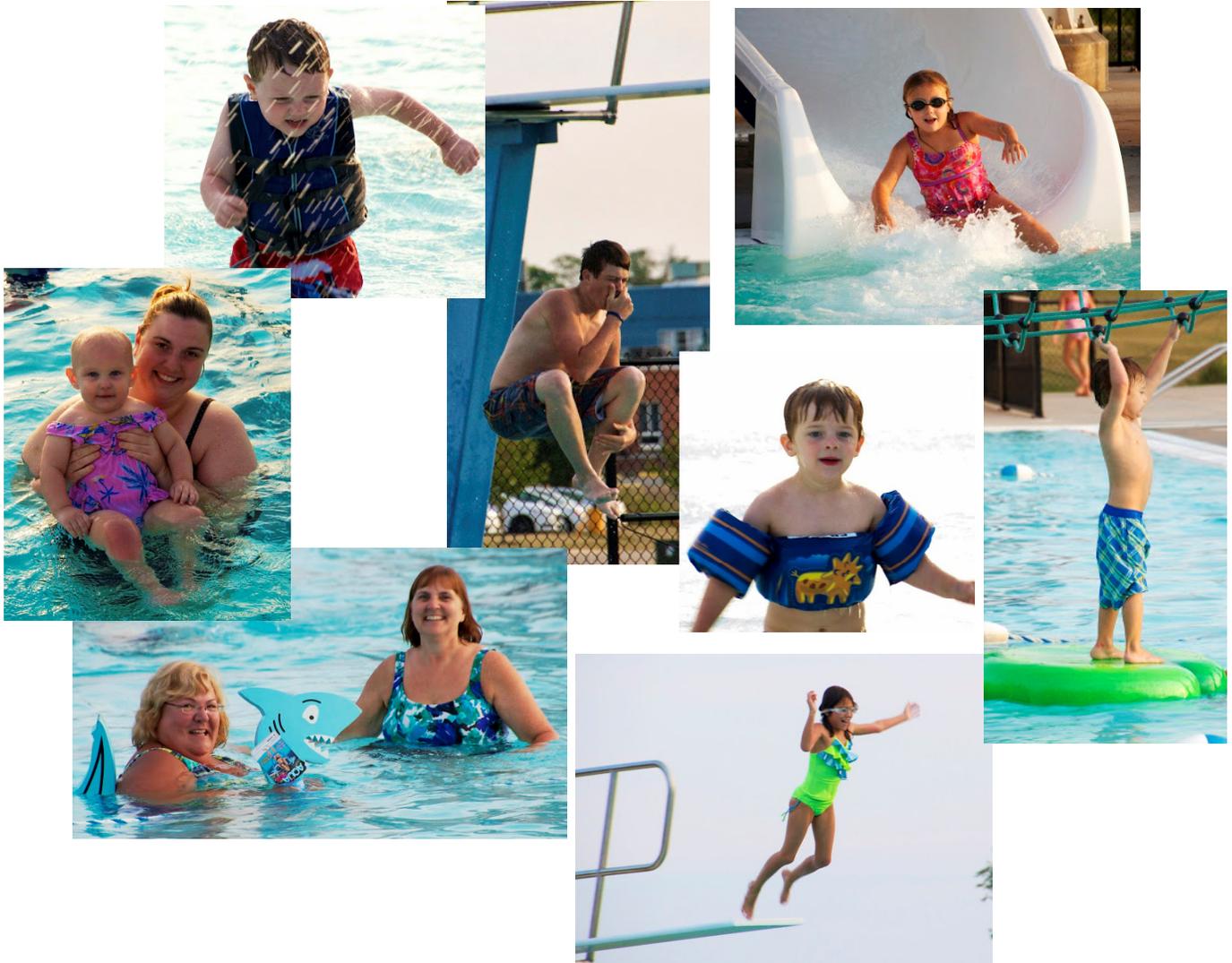
- Rev. Randi extended an invitation to the Sacred Harp singing in Bentonsport this evening. She also reminded Session of the stated meeting on Tuesday evening.
- Joann let us know that the rummage sale raised \$700 for the Tri-State Scholarship Fund, and thanked all those who helped make it a success.
- Dena reminded people of the Listening Event scheduled for next Saturday and invited us to come share dinner and conversation about the life of our church.
- Dena asked that we continue to pray for KJ's sister, Marie, who is being cared for in hospice.
- Barb let us know that Gary's Aunt Barb died Friday, and asked us to keep the family in our prayers.

### **29 June 2014**

- Dena asked that we continue to pray for the Cannon family and especially Marie, who is on hospice. But she offered a prayer of thanksgiving that Harry's recent biopsy came

back negative.

- The Over 40 Listening event was held last evening. The food and fellowship was good and the conversation excellent!
- The date for the annual swim party has been set for August 6th, so reserve that date on your calendar and plan to come out and have fun with the church family.



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