

October 2019

Our JOYFUL Noise

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD
Pastor Donald Buck – 605.551.9001; Church 605.448.2460



The Bucks' Blog:

October... the first day of Fall has come and gone. The days are noticeably shorter

and shorter. We're down to less than 12 hrs of daylight as we move toward the Winter Solstice of less than 8 hrs daylight. It seems a cliché, and yet true, that all of nature is gradually moving to take a rest. The birds in our trees are busy building nests that will protect them from the fierce winter winds and snow. The rabbits in our backyard are, with increasing frequency, ducking under the floor of the backyard shed as they prepare their cozy winter nests lined with rabbit fur. And the squirrels... they scamper about as if summer will last forever. They seem to have no thought for the season. Some continue their kamikaze life in the middle of the street, pretending the

oncoming cars and trucks are no threat to their very lives. Silly squirrels.

The skies, continuing to be more cloudy and dark than sunny and bright, pouring rain that all too soon will turn to snow... drifting snow. And yet, life goes on. We all have our respective obligations that must be met, no matter the weather or difficulty. The harvest must be gathered, the cattle must be daily cared for, while buildings and equipment are prepared for the winter. The rain... O dear God in heaven, we cannot live without your rain; but so much of it seemingly always at the wrong time... please dear God, turn off the faucet for a while. And so it goes...

This month, Mindi and I will celebrate six months being Pastor at First Presbyterian Britton and being permanent South Dakota residents. Several times each day, we stop and thank God in Christ Jesus for the awesome, over-the-top, privilege to be in

ministry here. We often laugh together saying that God in Christ was really showing off when He brought us here. We prayed and prayed for just the right ministry place. It's as if God the Father in heaven looked at Jesus and said, "Watch this! I'm going to show those two what I can really do!" And here we are!! God is good, ALL the time, God is good. We truly believe we have the best congregation on the planet. Not perfect... but the best. We have been lovingly accepted and know we're part of "the family." We're not yet accustomed to the quizzical looks the locals give us when we brag about how happy we are to be here, rather than Florida, especially when we talk about our anticipation of the coming winter.

It makes me wonder. How about us? You and me? Jesus said that we are able to read the signs of coming weather in the skies but are poor at recognizing spiritual signs. Could it be that we're going so fast, doing what we always do, hoping for an extra hour here or there in order to accomplish more, that we miss the signs of what's really important? Our obligations to God, self, family, and community are ever with us, but do we somehow miss what is truly important? It seems life at times is like speeding down a highway so fast we miss all of the speed limit signs... until the Highway Patrol officer gives us an expensive reminder.

This Fall and Winter, allow the "slow down" and renewal of creation to include you...me...us. Allow this time, to be a time

of contemplation, of reflection, of meditation. It has been said that our lives will take on new meaning if we will take just 10 minutes of each day to pause and quietly do nothing... just nothing... in silence... as we listen to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit of God in Christ Jesus. The loving, caring, voice of the one who loves you more than you can imagine. Somehow we convince ourselves that we don't have 10 minutes to spare. That everything other is too important to stop and do nothing.

Trust me, it's the most important daily 10 minutes of "nothing" you can have...

no matter how "busy" you are. Try it! You'll like it!!

--Pastor Donald and Mindi

(See you Sunday!...10:00 a.m.)



Just in case you missed it, our winter hours will begin on **Sunday, October 6th, with Worship at 10:00 a.m.** Choir practice and youth Sunday School will begin at 9:15, and coffee fellowship and high school class will meet after worship at 11:00. Paul Symens will be leading the high school students in the choir loft immediately after worship. Thank you to those who gave given input for these hours. Hope to see you all at this new time!!!

Youth Gather at Fort Sisseton



The annual MCC Youth gathering was held on Wednesday evening, September 25th at 6:45 p.m. at Fort Sisseton state park. The above picture shows just some of the kids who participated in an evening of Christian education and fun. The Marshall County youth groups were from all the area churches. And, of course, living in South Dakota, the mosquitos weren't kind, but the kids and leaders managed to survive. Little 'Life Books' were handed out to the youth, and a second book was given for the youth to share with friends or family members. The books were ordered by Pastor Buck at no cost, and were given by our Presbyterian Church.

Rummage Sale Well Attended

The PWC Women's Fall Rummage Sale was held on Thursday and Friday, September 26th & 27th. There was a lot of

great treasure and the event was attended by many folks of the community. Thank you to all the helpers who came to set up and work the sale. It is greatly appreciated!



Session Notes:

Session met on Tuesday, September 17th, with the following items discussed:

- The wedding, funeral and receptions policies are being reviewed.
- Beginning in October, approved changing worship service time to 10:00 a.m., Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School at 11:00 a.m.
- Approved Congregational Meeting on December 8th, 2019 to present the 2020 budget and elect officers.
- Communion by intinction is October 6th, 2019.
- Pastor Donald, Mindi, and Brenda Johnson will attend Presbytery meeting in Brookings October 25th. Pastor Buck has been invited to bring the sermon for the worship service.
- Good progress is being made on the church website.
- Women's bible study begins September 23rd.

**Next meeting of the Session
will be Tuesday, October
15th, at 7:00 PM**



Group # 2 is the serving group this month. This group consists of:

Sharon Tisher leader (448.5700, cell: 237.2264); Faye Symens, Jill Beaner and Stephanie Symens.



Don't forget the kiddos will be out and about on Thursday, October 31st, so keep your eyes and ears peeled for a SAFE HALLOWEEN!!!!



PW Hope Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 2nd at 2:00 P.M. All women of the church are always invited to attend. This month the ladies will be studying 2 Corinthians, Chapter 7.



The Women's Community Bible Study continues to meet on Mondays at the usual times of 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. All women of the community are invited to attend. The study is "Finding God Faithful – a story of Jacob" by Kelly Minter.

Life Lessons from Gracie the Dog

See life through the eyes of love in this uplifting devotion from [Daily Guideposts](#).

by Edward

Grinnan From [DAILY GUIDEPOSTS](#)



Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. —1 John 4:7 (NLT)

Sometimes on my morning walk with my two-year-old golden retriever, Gracie, we encounter the unmistakable Billy. Billy has a disability. I've never asked him about it, but having grown up with a brother who had Down syndrome, I'm pretty sure that's what Billy has. But Gracie is especially eager and happy to greet Billy when she sees him coming down the street in his slightly awkward gait with arms outstretched and a smile almost as wide.

"Googoo!" At first Billy had trouble remembering Gracie's name, but once I told him we nicknamed her Googoo, he never forgot. Gracie pulls me off my feet if she sees Billy first. She dives on the ground and rolls on

her back, shamelessly exposing her belly, which Billy obligingly scratches. "Are you having a good walk? Today is going to be a good day because you are a good dog!"

While we're in the midst of the moment and the middle of the side-walk, a jet stream of pedestrians rushes past us. Most are very understanding. Some scowl, but many more smile. It is quite a sight, the two of them. Sometimes I wonder, *Did I fail to notice Billy all that time before we got Googoo? How often did I pass him walking to the subway in the morning? How many times did I fail just to give him a smile?* As I said, he is unmistakable. It seems like I couldn't have missed him. But my sensitive, loving dog didn't pass him by. She took to Billy right off, the first time she saw that smile and those open arms. Gracie looks up at me from Billy's feet, with that wonderful, sloppy smile she has and seems to say, "This is how you love."

Dear Lord, my eyes are often closed even when they are wide open. Help me see like Googoo does, with love and acceptance, especially for those most in need of it.



First Presbyterian Church

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