



THE TOWER

NOVEMBER 2015

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Day in the Life of . . . Filippa Duke

If you're anything like me, you're curious as to what actually goes on in the lives of others, including the youngest members of our church. This November, I invite you to tag along as a "virtual" participant in our program.

The after-school program, now called "Transformation Tuesdays," is off to a wonderful success this fall! We have an amazing turn-out of 17 registered children between the grades of Kindergarten and fifth grade. We start at Main Street Elementary, where Mrs. Jessica and I meet the children at the front entrance. We gather the children and their belongings and head to the church. We all have *lots* of excitement about the day ahead!

But first, we must start off with a bit of fuel for our activities together, which takes the form of cookies made by Lynn Stover. We enjoy a sweet treat and water, and make nametags so we can welcome each other and our volunteers. Some of our youngest are very creative, and love to decorate their nametags and assume fun alter egos. I can assure you; it keeps me on my toes to remember their new identities each week!

After we are refreshed, we go over the daily schedule- the children are excellent at keeping track of our routines each week. We begin our journey upstairs to the Prayer Room. (Have you been to the Prayer Room? No?! Well, please feel free to take an actual visit on the end of the second floor hall, after our literary visit is over!) It's important for everyone to understand that what happens inside this room is *special*, so this starts with the way in which we approach the room. We make sure that we are all paying attention and remove our shoes, which helps us to center our thoughts. The darkened room is lit with candles and inspires a sense of awe. We know that this is a place where something *holy* is happening—this is a place where we can meet God. Once we take a seat on our prayer mats, Eryn leads us in prayer. One of the ways we pray is to write our prayers on leaves which she puts above us on the prayer tree. Another way we pray is through movement and yoga. We are led in simple poses that help strengthen our body and our mind. We finish by a bit of short meditation. Sometimes it is hard to quiet our minds, but each week, it gets easier for us (myself included!).

In This Issue

- A Day in the Life of . . .
Filippa Duke
- Session News
- Committee Meetings
- Monthly Ushers
- Christian Education
- Senior Adult Ministry
(S.A.M.)
- Birthdays
- Monthly Calendar

After our time of prayer, we put our shoes back on and go to the next location: the Music Room. First, we start our time learning about one aspect of music-reading in a gathering activity. We each have our own binder for all of the things that we have learned in class. While we are working on these activities, we also sign-in. (Have you seen the charts in the Music Room? There are many students who have been to every after-school program thus far. Wow!) We then begin our time of group music learning. We have learned three positions:

1. Seated in any fashion- just barely alive!
2. Seated, with our back away from the chair and ready to sing!
3. Standing with strong backs and alert eyes for watching our director!

We also have learned about five vowels and how to follow our director's hand in singing pitches that go up and down. Each week we also experience a new rhythm. To date, each child has learned the note value, the note's name, and can clap the rhythm of five different notes. Double Wow!

We also work on our aural skills- we practice hearing and repeating rhythms that I play on a drum. We are getting so comfortable with this that students can lead us in creating new rhythms. We also have learned the solfège system, which is a way to learn the notes of the musical scale and help everyone learn to sight-sing. (Don't think you know what solfège is? Have you seen *The Sound of Music*? Imagine Julie Andrews singing "Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do!") We also have learned the hand signals to go with each syllable. Finally, we do several vocal warm-ups, which are our equivalent of athletic stretching before we work on our hymn in focus, *Seek Ye First*.

After music is over, we head downstairs or outside for a game. Sometimes it's related to music—Rhythm Tic Tac Toe, Musical Memory, or Space and Line Jumping are favorites. But sometimes, we dive into a game like ZooKeeper that's just a good way to get to use the energy in our bodies that God gave us! (Trust me, you haven't lived until you see Miss Mary chomping as an alligator or Miss Carol waddle like a penguin!)

We then have a time of Christian education. Recently, we have been focusing upon the Parables of Jesus. We've learned that they are stories that help to teach a lesson, because, as one child wisely said, "We only listen to about 50% of what people—or our parents—tell us to do!" These parables stick with us and illuminate God's kingdom in really clear ways. We have learned about the parable of the lost sheep, the Good Samaritan, the Sower, and the talents. We work on a craft that helps us to remember the story of the day. If we get finished early, we have a coloring page to help focus our energies until our parents arrive.

I hope you had a great time "following" and spending the afternoon with us. As you can see, this is a vibrant group of very sharp young people we have at First Presbyterian. And, if you're ever free on an "actual" Tuesday, you are always welcome to be a part of the action!

Filippa Duke

Session News

Session met Thursday, October 29, 2016. After worshipping, elders took the following actions.

Session approved the Self Study enabling the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to begin its work. Its next step will be completion of the Mission Information Form (MIF). Once Session approves the MIF, it will go to national headquarters in Louisville where it will be added to the Opportunities List that is available to all pastors.

Session accepted Presbytery's invitation to host the February 20, 2016, Presbytery Assembly. Assemblies are a forum for fellowship and for conducting the business of Presbytery. Participants will be 50% ruling elders and 50% teaching elders (clergy).

Other actions included

- Inviting the Committee on Ministry to appoint a liaison to Session for a two-year period in order to build a closer relationship and provide support for a new pastor;
- Approving a Senior Committee with Sharon Evans serving as chair; and,
- Approving Christmas Eve worship for 7 p.m.

Session is prepared to hold a special meeting to approve the MIF when it is completed.

Session Approves Sexual Misconduct Policy

Session approved a Sexual Misconduct Policy at its October 29, 2015, meeting. This policy is intended for the safety of guests, members, and staff.

"It is the policy of the First Presbyterian Church (hereinafter referred to as FPC) that all church members, church officers, non-member employees, and volunteers of congregations, organizations, and entities of the church are to maintain the integrity of the ministerial, employment, and professional relationship at all times.

"Persons who engage in sexual misconduct are in violation of the principles set forth in Scripture, and also of the ministerial, pastoral, employment, and professional relationship. It is never permissible or acceptable for a church member, officer, employee, or volunteer to engage in sexual misconduct.

"Copies of this policy and its procedures shall be made available to all Elders, Deacons, organizations and entities of FPC. It is intended as guidance for FPC, and if properly implemented can be used by church members, church officers, employees, and volunteers. This is a policy of Session which governs and protects all who come to or participate in programs of FPC. This policy and its procedures will be made available to persons who accuse others of misconduct, including those who are or claim to be victims of sexual misconduct and their families.

Standards of Conduct

“... As [God] who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ... tend the flock of God that is in your charge ... not under compulsion but willingly ... not for sordid gain but eagerly ... not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.

“... You know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

1 Pet. 1:15; 5:2–3; Jas. 3:1, NRSV

“The ethical conduct of all who minister in the name of Jesus Christ is of vital importance to the church because through these representatives an understanding of God and the gospel’s good news is conveyed. ‘Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world’ (Book of Order, G-2.0104a).”

This policy seeks to protect guests, members, and staff. It has sections on principles, definitions, response to allegations, and reporting as well as other topics. You can obtain a copy in the church office and each elder, deacon, and committee chair will have a copy. It also brings us up to date with guidance from the PC (USA) and Lake Erie Presbytery.

Adopting this policy does not mean we have had an incident of sexual misconduct or that we anticipate such an event will occur. It is adopted with the hope that it will provide a level of safety and, should we ever need a policy like this one, we will already have a mechanism in place rather than trying to come up with one in the middle of a crisis.

PNC Committee Update

With the recent approval of the Mission and Vision Statement by the Lake Erie Presbytery Committees on Congregational Life and Ministry and by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Titusville, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) will move forward with the search for a new installed and called pastor.

Upcoming Meetings

Deacons – Monday, November 2, 7 p.m.

Christian Education - Thursday, November 5, 6 p.m.

Finance - Tuesday, November 17, 5:15 p.m.

Session - Monday, November 23, 7 p.m.

This Month’s Ushers

Kirk Decker, Ron Heistermann, Jim McFarland, Jim McGuire

Christian Education

After-school Programs to Combine

The after-school program is off to a wonderful success this fall! We have an amazing turn-out of 17 registered children between the grades of Kindergarten and fifth grade. The program will be transitioning to meeting on one day, Tuesday, from 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. beginning Tuesday, November 3, 2015, and will be called Transformation Tuesdays. All children in grades Kindergarten-5th grade are invited. Volunteers from the program will continue to escort children from Main Street Elementary to the church on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Follow the action on Facebook: Transformation Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, Titusville, PA.

Note: After-school Programs follow the School Calendar. No School – No After-School Program

Women's Bible Study

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7)

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study will begin their next study, a reading through the Book of Proverbs. The series begins October 27, 2015 and runs until February 9, 2016. Readings through the month of November are scheduled as follows:

Date	Personal Reading	Group Study Passage
10/27/15	Prov. 1:1 – 2:22	Prov. 1:1-7.....Purpose and Theme
11/3/15	Prov. 3:1 – 4:27	Prov. 4:1-27.....Wisdom is Supreme
11/10/15	Prov. 5:1 – 7:27	Prov. 6:1-19.....Warnings Against Folly
11/17/15	Prov. 8:1 – 9:18	Prov. 8:1-36.....Wisdom Personified

**** NOTE:** Bible Study will not meet Tues., Nov. 24, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Bible Study is led by Mrs. Tanya Zahn and Mrs. Eryn Lavery, and meets in the conference room each Tuesday from 11:00 – 12:30, with free childcare provided by Mrs. Pandi Ford in the nursery for infants through preschool-age children. **Women of all ages are welcome and encouraged to come, discuss, laugh, share, and pray in fellowship with one other.**

Memorial Handbell Choir

The Memorial Handbell Choir practices every Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. New ringers are always welcomed. If you have questions, contact Filippa Duke fduke.presby@gmail.com or call the church office.

Chancel Choir News

The chancel choir will return to its regular meeting time of 7 p.m. on Wednesdays now that Family Night has concluded. All are welcome to sing!

Men of First Breakfast Bible Study

On Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. in Scheide Hall, men of the church come to a Bible Study that offers a delicious breakfast, good fellowship, and conversation on a passage of the Bible. The hand of fellowship is open to any gentleman who would like to join us.

Middle School Youth Fellowship

M.S.Y.F. meets each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., upstairs in the Prayer Room. If you have any question speak to, email, or call Eryn Lavery at eryn@erynlavery.com or 657-4817.

Here are the topics the group will be exploring this month:

November 4: Food Bank Scavenger Hunt (special time: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

November 11: No Fellowship – Veteran’s Day

November 18: “Do Something! A Look at Mission Work”

Proverbs 14:31, 21:13, Isaiah 3: 13-15

November 25: No Fellowship – Thanksgiving break

Senior High Youth Fellowship

S.H.Y.F. begins at 6 p.m., each Sunday, upstairs in the Prayer Room. If you have any question speak to/email/or call Eryn Lavery at eryn@erynlavery.com or 657-4817.

Here are the “Hot Topics” the group will be exploring:

November 1: “Staying Clean Under Pressure” Daniel 1: 1-21, Galatians 5: 16-26

November 8: Food Bank Scavenger Hunt (special time: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

November 15: “Take A Stand” Daniel 6: 1-24, Luke 9: 18-27

November 22: “Do Something! A Look at Mission Work”

Proverbs 14:31, 21:13, Isaiah 3: 13-15

November 29: No Fellowship – Thanksgiving break

Birthdays

Steve Harrison	1	Joy Wallace	9	Diana Hughes	21
Gail Billig	1	Debra Spence	11	Sandy Swanson	23
Frances Reese	3	Sandy Hasbrouck	12	Shanley Seybert	24
Gary Finlan	4	Amy Jo Alcorn	13	Susie McCall	25
Becky Schmidt	5	Mike Seefried	14	David Newcombe	26
Eryn Lavery	6	Tyler Harrison	14	Matt Keebler	26
Marlee Schneider	7	Carl Graff	14	Tom Chatham	29
Jackie Samonsky	7	Stephanie Hoback	15	Dick Zimmerman	29
Julie Titus	7	Lexi Hauptman	16	Betty Prody	30
Jodi Greer	8	Dale Goodman	18		
Lauren Long	8	Bailey Seib	20		

Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.)

It's hard to believe that we first introduced the idea of the Senior Adult Ministry in 2008 with a picnic gathering. We also conducted a survey and one of the ideas that was brought fourth was a movie every other Friday and since we began this event with a "Ma and Pa Kettle" series we decided that a soup lunch would be appropriate. Thus the idea of Soup and a Movie was born. And to this day it continues every other Friday.

Currently we are looking to see if there is an interest in a Monday, 12:00 noon, senior exercise program, so it can begin in December or January. This class would be run by Heidi Wonderling PTA, as Ellen Stover is now working exclusively in the Oil City/Franklin Area.

The Needle Craft group will continue to meet every Wednesday at 1 p.m. So bring your needle art and the coffee is on. The sharing and fellowship is positive. You can be a novice or a pro just come.

If you have other ideas for the Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.'s Club) or would like to be on a planning committee contact me at 827-3665.

I am grateful to all those who have made the S.A.M.'s Club Ministry a joyful reality and it is my hope and prayer that it continues to serve the needs of those who participate from our church and community.

Tom Newcombe

Community

Boy Scout Troop to Meet on Mondays

All boys in grades 1st - 5th interested in joining the cub scouts are invited to come each Monday night at 6 p.m. in the Scheide Hall. For more information contact Chad Rugh (814) 673-6364 or Steve Coleman (814) 827-3686.

Girl Scout Troop to Meet Here

Did you know? Any girl in 2nd and 3rd grade is welcome to become part of a Girl Scout Troop. On Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., this group will meet upstairs in the Jonathan/David Room. Leaders are Rhonda Clark, Jessica Decker, Jacqui Sampson, and Gina Watkins. If you would like to know more contact Jessica Decker (814) 827-90778.

Contact us:

First Presbyterian Church

216 North Franklin Street

Titusville, PA 16354

(814) 827-3665

firstpresby216@verizon.net

Visit us on the web at

www.titusvillepresbyterian.org

Staff:

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Theresa Davitt, Administrative Assistant

Email: tdavitt.presby@gmail.com

Filippa Duke, Director of Music

Email: fduke.presby@gmail.com

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Eryn Lavery, Coordinator of Youth Ministry Intern

Email: eryn@erynlavery.com

Tom Newcombe, Fellowship Asst.

Email: tnewcombe.presby@gmail.com

Terry Purvis-Smith, Interim Pastor

Email: tpurvissmith.presby@gmail.com

Steve Winslow, Organist