

# THE VALLEY BRIDGE



August 18, 2015

AUGUST 23: 13TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

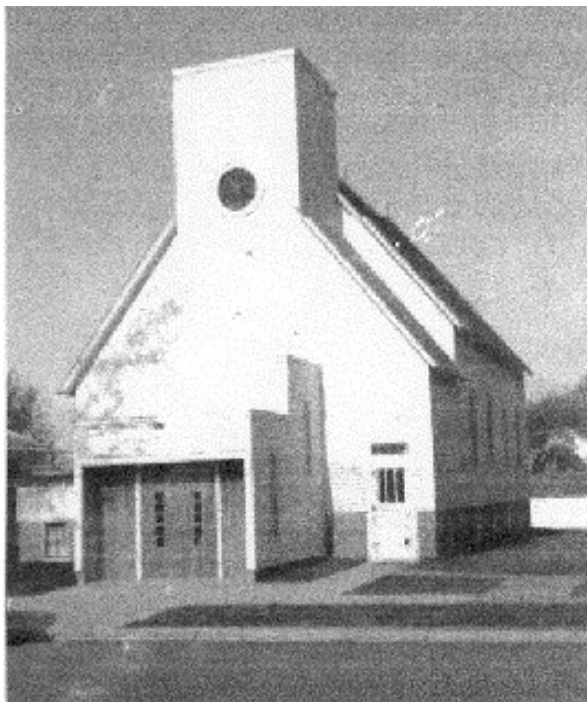
*Public Education*

**Fellowship of Prayer: United Presbyterian Church of  
Westbrook**

Commissioned Lay Pastor: Keith Carey

Clerk of Session: Lois Reynolds

Prayer concern: ability to continue as a small church



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*MN Valleys Presbytery  
4055 Abbott Drive  
Willmar MN 56201  
320-235-7910*

*minnesotavalleys.org*

*Monday-Friday:  
8:00-4:30*

*We're on Facebook,  
too!*

## THE WORD FROM RICK: “NEXT STEPS”



On August 4, the commissioners who were present at the presbytery meeting voted to take the first of three significant steps intended to move the presbytery into the future. On that day, the presbyters gave their approval to what is known as the Ministry Plan, which serves as the foundational piece to the work of the Next Pres Team.

The Ministry Plan, which was arrived at after months of study, conversation, reflection, and prayer, serves to express who we are as a presbytery, why we are a presbytery, and what it is that we intend to do as a presbytery. It may not appear to be the most glamorous piece of the team’s work, but it was the most necessary. In order for the Team to address the bigger and more substantive issues of how we will do our ministry, who will do the ministry, and from where to do this ministry, we first had to claim our identity and purpose. Having accomplished this first step, it is now time to proceed with the next steps in the journey.

This Wednesday, the Next Pres Team will resume a conversation that it started in late April. At the May presbytery meeting, along with the Ministry Plan, we put forth a rough Mission Design as a “trial balloon,” and nearly two-thirds of our sessions took time during the months of May and June to study and respond to both pieces. Using the insights offered by the sessions as well as input gained from our August table conversations, the Team will spend its next three meetings shaping an appropriate Mission Design for this presbytery. In preparation for the October meeting of the presbytery, the Team will seek to answer the question – “How will we live out our intentions or goals?” We will seek to bring forth a mission design (structure) that will enable us to make the most practical and effective use of the talents, resources, and energies of this presbytery as we seek to be about Christ’s mission to this region.

Once the presbytery receives and adopts the Mission Design, the Next Pres Team will be able to address the final step – the Staffing Design. Conversations about staffing will undoubtedly go hand in hand with the Mission Design, but the real work on Staffing will be the final step. Along with the conversations around staffing, there will also be conversations related to the presbytery’s finances. We are aware that our current per capita and mission support is not able to support our current Mission Design and Staffing Plan, so whatever is proposed to the presbytery will need to include a plan for its financial viability. It is hoped that this final part of the plan would be presented in February, so that by the end of 2016, we would have everything in place.

## THE WORD FROM RICK: “NEXT STEPS” CONTINUED

As I indicated at the August 4 meeting, there is still much work for the Next Pres Team to do, but encouraged by your approval of the Ministry Plan and supported by your insights and your prayers, the Team is moving confidently through its work. I continue to ask for your prayers and your patience as we continue to study, reflect, vision, and pray, moving toward the conclusion of the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted.

Grace and Peace,

*Rick*

## WHY CHRISTIAN? CONFERENCE—GRAB A COUPLE OF TICKETS!

There are two tickets available for the sold out Why Christian? Conference in Minneapolis September 18, 19 (20th is optional). Keynote speakers are Rachel Held Evans and Nadia Bolz-Weber. Cost is \$105.44 per ticket. Link to more info about the conference: <http://www.whychristian.net/home/>

Contact:

Rita Dincau	Becky Armstrong
320-222-0745	320-262-5480
320-979-2492	320-262-1592

## MISSION YEARBOOK TRANSITIONS TO NEW DIGITAL-ONLY FORMAT

Change makes Mission Yearbook available to everyone at no cost

AUGUST 6, 2015    LOUISVILLE

The 120-year old *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* will become an online-only free digital resource starting in 2016. This move broadens the reach of the book’s audience by sharing its inspiring content in a timelier manner and also demonstrates good stewardship of church resources.

The *Mission Yearbook* dates back to 1892 as a simple calendar of prayer to help women’s societies pray for missionaries on designated days. It has the longest history of any denominational mission and prayer book in the United States.

The publication’s esteemed history will be reflected in the online version of the *Mission Yearbook* by connecting Presbyterians to the greater church and energizing them for mission.

Over the past decade, as readership of the printed *Mission Yearbook* declined, the cost per book increased dramatically, making it less accessible to many.

Link to entire article: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/6/mission-yearbook-transitions-new-digital-only-form/>

## THE PRESBYTERIAN DISCIPLE

### New Home, Same Ministries

You may have seen a Presbyterian News Service release [recently](#) that the ministry areas of Theology, Worship, and Education, and Evangelism and Church Growth (within the Presbyterian Mission Agency) have been combined to form Theology, Formation, and Evangelism. I am excited to serve as the director of this new area, and look forward to seeing lots of different ways that the combined ministry can bring about new energies and synergies.

This newsletter will continue to highlight ministries from the “old” Evangelism & Church Growth while *Grace and Gratitude*, *Daily Lectionary*, *The Point Connection*, and *Recursos y relaciones / Resources and Relationships* newsletters will continue to highlight ministries in the “old” Theology, Worship and Education.

If you'd like to subscribe to those, please [click here](#).



“Raising the Roof.” Alumni volunteers from Camp Holmes gather for their [25th anniversary work project](#) to remember again “that in life and in death we belong to God.”



**Collegiate Ministries** receives \$15,000 F.I.S.H. Foundation grant. Gift will fund [PC\(USA\) campus ministers' pilgrimage to Taizé, France](#) in 2016.

**New Beginnings.** Engage curriculum helps church established in 1758, grow spiritually, increasing membership, giving and engagement in their community. Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57tR3wcq8MI&feature=youtu.be>

“**To the Hills**” – a gathering for Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) youth workers and youth ministry leaders. [Join us](#) October 12-16 in Lake Tahoe for a few days of education, refreshment, worship and spiritual practice.

For more news from the Presbyterian Mission Agency: <http://links.presbyterianchurch.mkt6217.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MjMxODQzNjES1&r=Nzg2MjM0MTU3MzIS1&j=NjIwMjQxMTY0S0&mt=1&rt=0>



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2015**

**WOW!** A wonderful, powerful word to describe the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, which many of us experienced July 18-21, in Minneapolis. Over 30 women from 15 countries and 1,500 women from the United States blended their voices to sing the theme song of the Gathering - "One Body, One Spirit." Throughout the entire Gathering, God's spirit wove us together as we prayed together, shared our stories, and came together as God's children. The many workshops that were presented certainly gave us many thoughts and resources that will enrich our experiences and the work of Presbyterian Women in coming years. I especially liked the words of Joan S. Gray in her workshop on "Accessing Spiritual Power to Change the World." Using the reference from; John 14:12, part of Jesus's last words to his disciples, says: "*the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do...*" As Presbyterian women we must intentionally be in partnership with the living God and allow God's power to transform the church, including us. We must pay attention to the gentle and powerful nudges of God speaking to us." Much more could be added but we are limited in space. If your PWC did not have anyone at the Gathering you might find it very interesting to ask someone who was to share their story of this event.

**RETREAT TIME!** On July 21 the PWPCT met at the Renville Church and completed the plans for the Fall Spiritual Retreat which will be September 28-29 at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer. **All** are invited to come, and feel free to invite a friend. (Ecumenical friends are welcome.) Earlier all PWCs received a copy of the Registration Form, and a form can be found in the Valley Bridge Newsletter. This retreat begins with registration at 12:30 p.m. on Monday and ends with the noon meal on Tuesday. The cost is \$75 for the entire retreat, (3 meals, lodging) or \$40 for one day. Registrations should be made by Sept. 7. The theme for the Retreat is "Come to the Waters!" Our theme will have a focus on the Psalms and we will be encouraged by God's love and faithfulness to each of us. The Retreat leader is the Rev. Elaine Boyd, a teaching elder serving the Amboy Presbyterian Church. **Please register soon.**

**MISSIONS!** The way we do mission has changed! Some of us are old enough to remember when we were given "assignments" at our Presbytery meetings. We had sewing to do, we had quotas to fill, our list could go on and on! No longer. **Today we are to seek our own projects or programs to participate in.** This sometimes makes us a bit uneasy. But remember this: Our resources today are much more accessible. Visit PW's main web page ([www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)) for essential information regarding the work we do in mission. Explore this site, and you will find links to many resources that tell of work PWs can do.

Another area in which we can do mission is the community in which we live. We are encouraged by our church leadership to do this. Once we begin to search out mission that needs to be done locally - we may be very surprised. Our world has changed and our communities have changed. There are needs everywhere to offer justice, peace, building community, dismantling racism. We can find mission if we look.

Once you have started to develop your strategies for doing mission, locally or on a worldwide basis, please share it with other groups in your church, in the Presbytery or at the National level. Here in MN Valleys Presbyterian Women, send your stories to our Mission and Issues Committee Chair, Linda Gulden, 1602 Buffalo Ridge Dr., Luverne, MN 56156

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER, CONTINUED

In our Quarterly News, (available to everyone on [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)) it was also suggested that there may be times when it is advisable and helpful to share a mission project with a neighboring Church group.

At the Gathering there were Mission Scrapbook Pages. Wouldn't it be interesting if we were to send pictures and text about our PW projects to our Mission Committee and have them provide a display at our next Spring Gathering?

**LAKES AND PRAIRIES PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GATHERING!** On June 15-18, 2016, this event will be held at the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD. The theme for this meeting is: "The Power of Presbyterian Women." Another great opportunity to join other women in a time of Fellowship, Bible Study, Worship, and Spiritual Enrichment. In this editor's view this Gathering is like a mini Churchwide Gathering. All events will take place at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. Watch for further information on the website and in future mailing. Make your plans to attend now!

**COMING EVENTS!** Please mark your 2015-2016 Calendar with these PW events.

September 7, 2015 - Registration for Fall Spiritual Retreat closes.

September 28-29 - Fall Spiritual Retreat at Spicer, MN

September-October - PW Mission Pledge Forms should be filled out and sent to the Treasurer.

April 5, 2016 - PW Coordinating Team, 10 a.m., at Redwood Falls Presbyterian Church

June 7, 2016 - Spring Gathering at Spicer Harrison Presbyterian Church

June 15-18, 2016 - Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Lakes and Prairies.

**REMINDER!** Our Search Committee is constantly looking forward and searching for names of individuals who might consider serving on the Coordinating Team of our Presbyterian Women. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Search Committee members; Lois Bruns, 507-425-3201; Lori Klooster, 507-483-2621, or Judy Rosenberg, 507-227-5496. These women would appreciate hearing from you.

### "ONE A DAY VITAMINS FOR LEADERS"

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" –Mother Theresa

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." –Winston Churchill

"Leaders aren't born, they are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal which is worthwhile." –Vince Lombardi

"We gain strength and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face. . .we must do that which we think we cannot." –Eleanor Roosevelt

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate." –Albert Schweitzer

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved." –Helen Keller

*(These quotes found in the July 2015 issue of The Sower.)*

*Come to the Waters!*

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

BIBLE STUDY, WORSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, FOOD, LAUGHTER, AND LOVE!

*Get away from the busy-ness of life as you relax with friends, share stories, and spend time with God.*

*Focusing on the Psalms, we will be encouraged by God's love and faithfulness.*

**When?** Monday and Tuesday, September 28-29

Registration-12:30-1:15 PM--Monday

Opening session—1:30 PM—Monday

Closing Worship—11 AM—Tuesday

*(Noon meal following worship)*

**Where?** Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN

Cost: Including Meals (3) and Lodging—\$75.00 or 1 day \$40.00

Program leader: Rev. Elaine Boyd

This retreat is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, but **every Presbyterian (or non-Presbyterian) woman is invited to this event.**

Please fill out and send the registration form below to Darlene before September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Feel free to copy this form as many times as necessary.

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Darlene O'Neil  
32505 300<sup>th</sup> St  
Worthington MN 56187

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

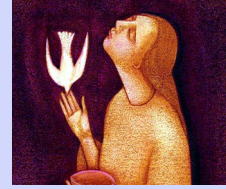
E-mail address if available \_\_\_\_\_

Fee enclosed: Full event \$ \_\_\_\_\_ One day \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_



## Pray for the Next Pres Team



### CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 19: Next Pres Team meets at the presbytery office from 9:00-3:00

Wednesday, August 19–Monday, August 24: Karen on vacation

Thursday, August 20: 9:00 a.m. Budget & Finance conference call

Sunday, August 23: Rick preaches at Faith Presbyterian Church of Silver Lake

Wednesday, August 26: Personnel Committee meets at the presbytery office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, August 28: Virginia out of the office

Sunday, August 30: Rick preaches at First Presbyterian Church of Rushmore

### JOHN 6:56-59

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

#### The Words of Eternal Life

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'