

# THE VALLEY BRIDGE



September 29, 2015

OCTOBER 4: 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; *Psalm* 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

*World Communion Sunday*

**Fellowship of Prayer: First Presbyterian Church of Amboy**

Staff List:

Teaching Elder: Elaine Boyd

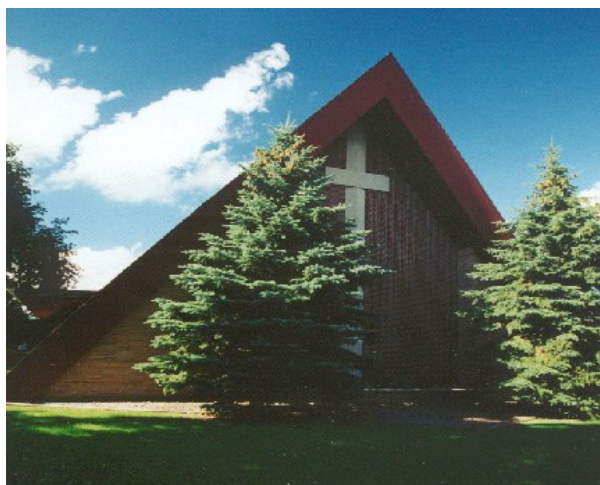
Secretary: Rhonda Martin

Clerk of Session: Leslie Bair

Treasurer: Shirley Rose

Prayer Requests:

- Strength and discernment for teachers and for good attendance during Sunday School classes for all ages.
- Health and wholeness for members struggling with health concerns.
- Safety during farm harvest.



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

[minnesotavalleys.org](http://minnesotavalleys.org)

Monday-Friday:  
8:00-4:30

We're on Facebook, too!

## THE WORD FROM RICK: “NOW THERE ARE THREE”



On September 1, by the actions of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA and the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, the Grace-First Parish of Russell, Minnesota, officially came into being. For nearly two decades, First Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran Church have lived together, sharing worship and ministry under a written but somewhat informal agreement. In the spring of 2014, as the congregations were preparing to enter into a pastoral search, it was recommended that the congregations create a more formal covenant and officially “merge” into one ecclesiastical and corporate identity that would have ties to both the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



After much work, a new and very extensive constitution was completed and approved by our presbytery in May and the ELCA synod in June. During the summer, the search committee completed its work, and a contract was approved to bring Jeff Greathouse to Russell to serve as Vicar and Pastoral Leader. Jeff is working toward ordination in the ELCA; and in addition to serving Russell part-time, he also serves the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Southwest Minnesota State University.



## THE WORD FROM RICK, CONTINUED

This past Sunday, we celebrated the creation of this Joint Congregational Witness, which is what we Presbyterians now call Federated or Union congregations. During the morning worship, a “Uniting Statement” was read, the Presbyterians who will be serving as Ruling Elders on the Parish Council were ordained and installed, and Jeff Greathouse was commissioned for his ministry. While worship was happening indoors, the church sign outdoors was being changed to reflect the new reality in Russell. Following worship, the congregation moved outdoors, where a litany of dedication was shared.

Grace-First Parish is now the third Joint Congregation Witness in our Presbytery, joining the Federated Church in Fergus Falls and the United Methodist-Presbyterian Church of Browns Valley. While the folks at Grace-First have been living and working together for some time, they will now be working to forge an identity that will be uniquely theirs while maintaining the best of their denominational heritage and tradition. Sunday was a true celebration! We wish our brothers and sisters the very best as they move forward in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ! May God bless them, and all of us!

Grace and Peace,

*Rick*



## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

As the Fall season begins and most of our congregations return to a full and busy schedule of activities, it never hurts to look ahead. Here are a few important dates for you to keep on your personal and congregational calendars.

October 31 (Saturday) – Fall Presbytery Meeting at Hope Church in Spicer

November 30 (Monday) – Advent Open House and Hanging of the Greens at the Presbytery Office

February 6 (Saturday) – Winter Presbytery Meeting

February 29-March 2 (Monday-Wednesday) – Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in San Antonio, Texas – Information on line at [www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

An experienced, intentional Interim Pastor is being sought for the First Presbyterian Church of Saint James. The position description has been created and a Ministry Information Form (MIF) – ID Number 03802.AC – is in the process of being posted to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Church Leadership Connection. If you, or someone you know would be a good fit for this opportunity, please check out the MIF on line, or contact Jan Zender at [jzender@cccinternet.net](mailto:jzender@cccinternet.net).

## DREAM GRANTS AVAILABLE

**NEW GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE** through the General Assembly to facilitate new ministries (not new worshipping communities – that is a separate program). Titled DREAM Grants (Developmental, Risky, Experimental, Adaptive Mission), these one-time grants of up to \$10,000 are available to provide assistance with start-up costs for new ministry initiatives. Applicants can be churches or mid-councils. For the second application window, **applications are due at the synod office by November 15, 2015.** Contact the presbytery office for an application.

## PLANNING CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE

The presbytery office still has a small number of 2015-2016 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for the low purchase price of \$8 each. Call or email Virginia with your order.



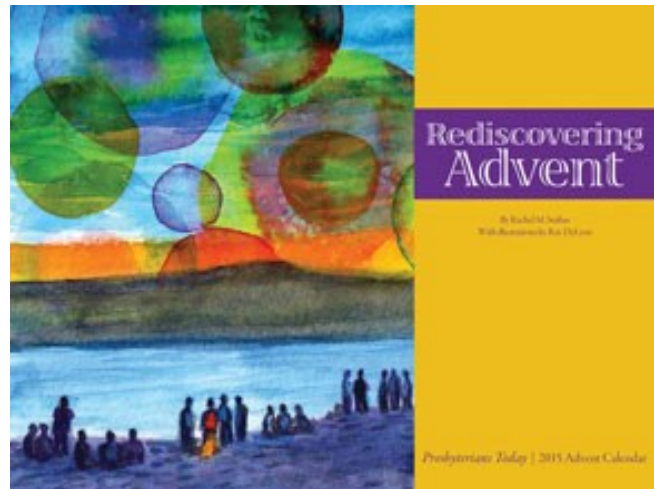
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/02/1999.....Mark Ford
- 10/05/1999.....Karen Anderson
- 10/05/1971.....Jim Krapf
- 10/09/2011.....Sara Drew
- 10/18/1981.....Dwight Johnson
- 10/19/2008.....Cory Germain
- 10/24/1984.....Mark Chamberlain
- 10/24/2013.....Andrew Turner
- 10/30/1994.....Amy Vaughn
- 10/31/2010.....Anne Veldhuisen

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR PRESBYTERIANS TODAY 2015 ADVENT CALENDAR

*Rediscovering Advent*

For some people, Advent is little more than a chocolaty countdown to Christmas. For others, the promises and stories of Advent have become so familiar that they've lost some of their mystery and power.



Rachel Srubas—pastor, spiritual director, and author—has put together a collection of daily poetic reflections and prayers to reawaken the beauty and spirituality of Advent.

Roy DeLeon's vivid watercolors add to the contemplative power of this year's Advent Calendar.

Perfect for congregations, families, and individuals, *Rediscovering Advent* provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent.

Your congregation is invited to order these Advent Calendars at \$1.50 per copy through the presbytery office. The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 3. Please call or email Karen at the presbytery office: 320-235-7910 or [karen@minnesotavalleys.org](mailto:karen@minnesotavalleys.org).



## Pray for the Next Pres Team



### CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 30–Friday, October 2: Virginia and Karen attend Synod Staff Retreat

Thursday, October 1: 9:00 Next Pres Team; 1:00 Council

Friday, October 2: Youth Triennium meeting

Sunday, October 4: Rick preaches at First Presbyterian Church of Saint James

### MARK 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’

### Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

