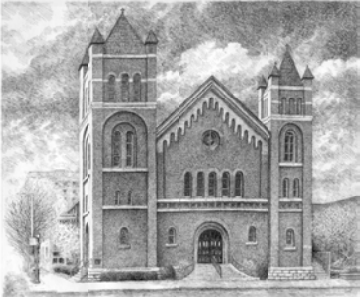


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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February 14, 2006



FIRST PRES

UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

February 2006

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 S. 7th Street
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www.first-pres-church.org

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Mike Self, Security

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WORSHIP/CLASSES

Sundays:
9:00 a.m. Youth and Adult Programs
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sanctuary
Wednesdays:
5:30 p.m. Vespers

Please submit all information for inclusion in the newsletter to the church office to Cindy or Mike Orr at the **e-mail addresses listed above**.

Editorial Coordinator-Mike Orr
Production-Cindy Cass

First Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting of Congregation March 5, 2006

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian church will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, March 5, 2006. Copies of the **annual report** will be available in advance and can be picked up in the narthex on Sunday, February 26 or in the office after that date. The agenda will include a review of committee reports and voting on the terms of call of the pastors.

The formal meeting will be followed by a **luncheon in Fellowship Hall**. After lunch, staff and committee chairs will share key successes from the past year and plans and hopes for the new year.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

PLEDGE DRIVE CONCLUDES

The 2006 Pledge Campaign is being concluded. If you haven't pledged, you may still want to do so. We are wrapping up the drive and giving you an update on the results.

Thru January 11, 2006 we have received pledges of \$293,060.00. The goal was \$309,900.00, so we have fallen short by \$7,840.00. This is \$1,896.00 ahead of 2005 pledges. While we have not reached our goal, we have exceeded last years pledges.

We want to thank all those who have pledged, whether it was for less, the same, or more. We hope with these pledges, and non pledged donations, to continue on towards our goal of a balanced budget.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elders, Deacons, Staff and all the people who worked on the Pledge Drive. With everyone's efforts we were all able to share the work load and make the drive as effortless as possible.

If anyone still has cards or materials, please turn them in to the office by February 6, 2006.

Stewardship Chairs: Clark and Kay McKee

Pastor's Column

I once asked my good friend Bob Engels, former parishioner from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron, Ohio: "Why can a man or a woman go to any AA meeting anywhere and be unconditionally accepted, while one cannot find the same acceptance in the church?" Bob's thoughtful response was, "Because church people are laboring under the misimpression that they are 'making it,' that they are basically good people – trying to be better. In AA we all know we are imperfect; we know we have failed. Trying to be perfect is a big mistake. It leads to judgment. I like the way AA member Ross V. puts it. 'Religion is for people who are afraid of going to hell and spirituality is for people that have been there.'"

Bill Wilson, the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous wanted to write a book on spirituality before he died – because he believed spirituality was so vitally necessary for recovery. He began by approaching Mary, whom he thought to be an especially spiritual person. Mary said, "No I am not really spiritual; I'm working on it. Ted is a very spiritual person. Go ask Ted." Ted said, "No I am not really spiritual; I'm working on it. Jill is a very spiritual person. Go ask Jill." And on it went. Bill concluded that the paradox of spirituality is that those who have it do not know they have it.

Ambiguity, paradox, uncertainty, and a failure to control are not generally thought of as qualities – they are, nonetheless, attributes that accompany a spiritual life. The side of us that desires and quests for certainty is the side of us that wants to be in control, and when one is in control, it is pretty difficult to let God be in control. Again, Bob Engels: "I used to be such a black and white thinker and considered most things in the world to be that way. There was only one right answer to everything and it was usually mine . . . (and now I know) I must be willing to listen to others thoughtfully and consider their views."

Uncertainty – we desire to be rid of uncertainty. Uncertainty is the enemy. And yet to be more spiritual one must be willing to live with uncertainty. To accept and to live with uncertainty does not make sense, but to live with uncertainty as our companion rather than as our enemy, this can bring us closer to other people, as well as closer to God.

When we live with uncertainty, our first prayer is always a prayer for help. "O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me." (Psalm 70) One of the great insights John Calvin had about the spiritual life is that our sins, our doubts, our desire to make it through the dark hours of the night with humble uncertainty – these bring us closer to God.

Uncertainty is imbedded into the spiritual life:

"A rabbi was asked to adjudicate a case. The first man presented his argument, and the rabbi, after hearing his evidence, said to him, 'You are right!' Then the second man presented his argument and the rabbi, after hearing his evidence, said, 'You are right!' At this point, the rabbi's wife turned to her husband and asked, 'How can both of these men be right?' The rabbi thought for a moment and then said, 'Darling, you are right.'" (The Spirituality of Imperfection by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham, p. 39)

Continued on page 5

MUSIC NEWS

Salvation Army Chicago Staff Band



The Salvation Army Chicago Staff Band will share in our worship service on Sunday, February 26. If you were here last year, you know this is a worship service you won't want to miss. Here's a little information about the organization.....

Who We Are.... The Chicago Staff Band is The Salvation Army's principal concert band of the Midwest. Its innovative music and quality performances are the result of dedication and effort of its band members who volunteer their many hours of service without remuneration. Of the band's members, approximately one-third are laymen of various occupations and students and two-thirds are Salvation Army officers (ordained

ministers) and employees, serving in various administrative and service-oriented positions within the Army's network of metropolitan Chicago facilities and programs. All of these individuals have at least three things in common: a love and desire to serve God, commitment to the membership and ministry of the Salvation Army, and musical talent that is willingly shared in groups such as the Chicago Staff Band.

What We Do.... Much of our music is based on traditional hymns of the church. That is because we believe our music, as well as everything we do through the ministry of The Salvation Army, should be used to honor God. Therefore, it is not unusual for the Chicago Staff Band to perform in a variety of situations such as colleges, prisons, churches and hospitals; in concert halls and on street corners; in tiny towns and major cities. Founded in 1907, the band has traveled extensively throughout the United States, as well as concert tours of England, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Panama and made a return visit to London where the band was privileged to play for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Why We Do This.... In spite of the many changes in personnel over the band's history, the CSB remains dedicated to Christian service and musical excellence. It is a band composed of capable musicians, but more importantly, it constantly strives to be what was described by a Chicago newspaperman many years ago as "the band with a sacred message."

Last year, when the Band played at our Palm Sunday service, they were taken by the organ, and their leader, Bill Hymes, proposed that we make a recording together, using the Brumbaugh organ. That recording will be done on the Saturday before the service. We will also use the organ together with the Band at that Sunday service.

2005-2006 Concert Series, Upcoming Events:

*Lenten Brown Bag Series, 12:15-12:45pm,
Wednesdays March 8-April 12

March 8: Diane Dietz, soprano
March 15: Springfield Prairie Harps
March 22: Isolde Davidson and
Letitia Spelbring, flutes

March 29: John Hume, trumpet,
with Rudolf Zuiderveld, organ

April 5: Early Music consort

April 12: First Presbyterian's Sanctuary Choir,
featuring William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*

*Brown Bag Recitals are free of charge, donations
are accepted

Friday, March 17, 2006 7:00pm -
Jay Peterson, organist

Friday, April 28, 2006 7:00pm -
Delbert Disselhorst, organist

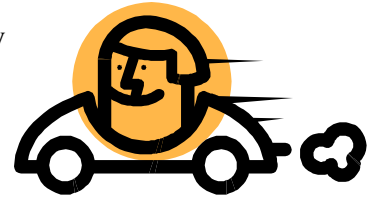
Admission: \$10 general
\$5 church members, seniors, and students

For more information on our concert series
Or for assistance with transportation,
Please contact Nichol DelGiorno
Phone: 528-4311
Email: nichol@first-pres-church.org

Happenings

Meals on Wheels:

It is that time of year again for First Pres. Church to have an opportunity to deliver meals for the Red Cross. Many of the people that we deliver to would not be able to stay in their own homes if it were not for people like you to take the meals to them. How long it takes depends on the route that you have. Usually it requires about 1 ½ hours to pick up the meals, deliver them, and get the ovens back to the Red Cross. Sometimes members wonder how they can provide some ministry to the Springfield Community – this is one way that you can do that. There is a signup sheet on the window of the old office by Fellowship Hall. Our week to deliver is February 21 through the 24th. If you have not done this before, it is suggested that you find someone to ride with you – one to drive and one to deliver the meals. If you would like, you may call the office at 528-4311, and Cindy will take your name. Any questions? You can also call Mary Patton at 546-4645.



Book Club News

As the December meeting was cancelled because of weather, eight members met at the home of Ruth Smith on January 5th to discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon. It was generally agreed that it was well worth reading, a very interesting take on the world as seen through the eyes of an autistic 15-year old boy. We also discussed several changes in the up-coming schedule. Barb VonBehren will not be available to review her selection, The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, as originally scheduled on February 2nd at the church. So the date of the meeting will be changed to **Thursday, February 16th**, at the church.

Another change, noted in last month's newsletter, is that the March selection has been changed. Ruth Smith will review The Kite Runner by Khalid Hoessini. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 2nd** at the home of Jennie Claflin. The location of the **April meeting** has also changed; it will be held **at the home of Barb Von Behren**. And the final meeting of the year will be held on **Thursday, May 11th**, not the 9th as printed in the schedule. Location is still at the home of Joan Rothfuss. If you have questions about any of these changes, please call Jennie Claflin at 789-7424. Please consider joining the group; it will encourage your reading habit.

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 2006

- 5th: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- 12th: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
- 19th: Isaiah 43:18-25; Psalm 41
2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12
- 26th: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9:2-9

LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 4 is the date for a Lenten Retreat at Jubilee Farm on Old Jacksonville Road. The leader will be Rev. Edwin Liddell, former Pastoral Associate at First Pres and Director of Pastoral Care at Memorial Hospital. Ed and Olyva were active in our church and moved to Rockford several years ago to be nearer their sons and grandson in their retirement.

The site is Benincasa, a retreat center owned by the Dominican sisters located on the land they call Jubilee Farm, 100 acres of rolling countryside on the west side of Springfield (just past Riddle Hill.) There are walking trails, an eleven-circuit labyrinth on the land and a very comfortable house for groups to use.

There will be group time and individual time during the retreat. The hours will be 9:00 to 3:30, and a free will offering of \$10 will be appreciated at the time of the retreat. This is the cost to us for the use of the facilities. Lunch items will be donated by participants.

Please call the church office Monday-Thursday by Thursday, February 23 so we will know how much soup and bread to make, and Ed will know how many handouts to print.

What is the purpose of retreat? Taking time to slow down and get away from ordinary routines and reflect on our faith is part of the prescription for spiritual health. The Lenten season invites us into such an opportunity.

Have questions? Need transportation? Call LuAnn Atkins, 498-7987.

To be more spiritual one does not need to be more clever. One does not even need to be an aesthetic who prays six hours a day on one's knees. One simply needs to be thirsty for God's nearer presence.

I invite you to join me in a nine session journey. Let's ask questions, admit struggles . . . let's travel together more deeply into the spiritual life.

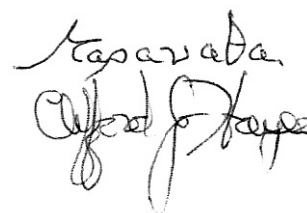
Space for God: The Study and Practice of Prayer and Spirituality
by Don Postema –
A nine session class facilitated by Clifford Hayes

We will be reading *Space for God: The Study and Practice of Prayer and Spirituality*. The identical class will be offered at three different times. The location of each of the classes will be different. Note below:

Time Choice #1 The first Sunday evening of the month, beginning February 5, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the home of Clifford and Pamela Hayes, 1608 S. Whittier Avenue.

Time Choice #2 An every other week format beginning Sunday morning February 5, meeting in the Board Room in the Christian Education Building at 9:00 a.m.

Time Choice #3 Beginning February from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, the hour prior to Session, in the Chapel. Session currently meets on the fourth Monday of the month, however, that date may change.



FOX 2 LANDS MULTI-EMMY AWARD WINNING MIZZOU GRAD

KTVI-TV, FOX 2 announced the hiring of Chris Hayes as an investigative reporter. Chris comes from KPHO-TV in Phoenix where he excelled as an investigative reporter. He won seven "Emmys" for investigative reporting and journalistic enterprise during his eight years at KPHO-TV. Previous to that, Chris was a reporter for WFTX-TV in Fort Myers, Florida.

"St Louis viewers are going to love Chris," says Brad Remington, FOX 2's Vice President/News Director. "Chris has strong ties to the area and knows what people here care about. He's a digger who knows how to tell a story. He will fit in real well with FOX 2's very local, aggressive reporting style."

Chris is a 1993 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Journalism. He lives in St. Louis with his wife Christy and their two children. Chris is, of course, the son of the Reverend Dr. Clifford J. Hayes and wife Pam.

February 2006 Birthdays

- 1 Eric Linderman
- 3 June Greer, Sonthana Thongsithvaong
- 5 Callie Akers, Dale Roberts, Dolores Slusser, Harvey M. Stephens, Wayne Temple, Roy Wehrle
- 7 Michael Steele
- 8 Shelby Beverly
- 10 Alice Carpenter
- 11 Lillie Anderson, Doug Slater, Duane Slater, Joan Struck
- 13 Lou VonBehren
- 14 Alexandra Davidson
- 15 Beth Cappellin
- 16 Jane Turner, Alice Millhon
- 17 Ginny Sanert, Harvey B. Stephens, Emma Stuebs
- 18 Gerry Graff, Jonathan Hayes
- 20 Clark McKee
- 21 Helen Shears
- 22 Bette Rogers, Lucian Taylor
- 23 Terry Haynor, Sandra Yedinak
- 24 Joyce Horney
- 27 Charles Chapin, Lynn Raynolds



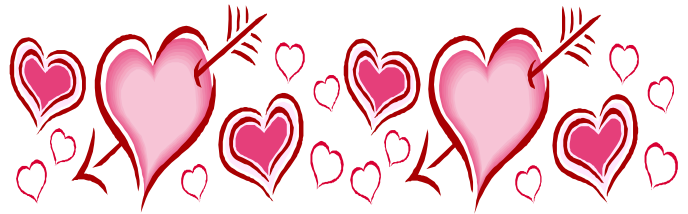
The Low Down on Children

Don't Miss Sunday School This February!

During February the children and youth will be learning about when Jesus called his disciples: first they were fishermen, then they were followers! We will be experiencing this exciting scripture in numerous fun and interactive ways. Last month we learned about baptism by experiencing a storyteller, creating baptism symbol mobiles and play acting "real" baptisms. The children not only enjoyed themselves but they learned a great deal about this sacrament and about the way God loves them through it. If your child is between the ages of kindergarten to 9th grade they are welcome to join us any Sunday morning at 9am on the second floor. If you have any questions please feel free to call Rev. Tasha Blackburn at 528-4311.

Confirmation Class Began January 22

Confirmation class began on January 22nd and meets every other Sunday until Pentecost (first Sunday in June). All 6th-9th graders are welcome to attend. Rev. Tasha Blackburn and Elder Don Ecklund are leading the group. If you or your child/grandchild would like to be a part of this important time you can still join. The next class will be on Sunday, February 5 beginning at 9am. If you have any questions or would like to sign up please call the church office at 528-4311.



This -n- That

February's Food Pantry Donation is Hash!

So dash to the store to get some hash.
But do be careful; please don't crash.
If we get enough, we'll have a big bash.



Please keep in mind
that if you don't have any hash,
you can always give cash.

Just mark it for the
Deacons' Food Pantry.

Thanks -- Board of Deacons

Seconded Saturday Supper Club February 11, 2006

We will meet at the **Magic Kitchen Thai Restaurant** owned by our very own **Malay Thongsithavong!** It is located at 115 North Lewis; close to Springfield High School. (Some may remember it as the Romanesque restaurant.) RSVP by noon on Thursday, February 9th either by calling the church office or adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the window going into Fellowship Hall. For your convenience, the sign-up sheet also has a copy of Magic Kitchen's menu.

Transportation Mission

The Deacons have a mission to provide transportation on Sundays for those who need assistance. But it is our entire church family that keeps this mission moving along.

If you need, or know of someone who needs, transportation assistance, please call Pat Vaughn (496-3136), Barb Olson (546-1252), or the church office (528-4311) now!

If you can help provide transportation, please let us know! Currently we need help for Gerry Graff and Nancy Thomas. Both live on the southwest side of Springfield.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance says "Thanks"

Here are two brief excerpts from a letter received from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Thank you for your gifts of \$100.00 for Afghanistan/Pakistan Relief and \$100.00 for U.S. Hurricane Response. Your support to the ministry of disaster assistance is deeply appreciated.

"Comfort me" cries the Psalmist. It is a cry that goes up around the world and is answered by the faithful prayers and contributions of Presbyterians like you.
Thank you.

~ Susan Ryan - Coordinator

Presbyterian Women News

Successful Fund Raising Yields Generous Giving

At the regular meeting of the Presbyterian Women's coordinating team, the PW decided to add to the \$873 collected at the Thank Offering from their treasury to make a total of \$2000 to be sent to the following:

Pastor's discretionary fund	\$400
Kumler Medical assistance	\$400
Deacon's Food Pantry	\$400
Washington Street Mission	\$400
Rutledge Youth Home	\$200
Presbyterian Women of Great Rivers	\$200

total \$2,000

Mission Items Needed

Rhonda Downing, mission chairman, is collecting items to be sent to the mission field. Still needed are:

1 boy's medium size sweater

1 afghan, for child or adult, can be knitted or crocheted

2 personal care kits for women (these contain comb, brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shaving needs, sanitary pads, tampons, lotion, manicure items)

1 school kit (containing pencils, ballpoints, measuring tapes, crayons, notebook, ruler, glue)

Any of the above items for kits can be donated and kits made up. Items are to be turned in by May 1 to the church office or to Rhonda Downing or to chairman Barbara VonBehren.

National Officer

Carolyn MacDonna, member of our church and treasurer of the Presbyterian Women here, had her picture and a short biography in the recent *Horizons Magazine*. She is now secretary at the national level of the church wide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. She will be involved in meetings around the country for a large part of this year. Congratulations to Carolyn!

Next PW Meeting

The next meeting of the PW of First Church will be February 9, 9:30 AM in Cook Lounge. One item of business will be to plan the meal for the annual meeting to be held in March.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD COMPARISON CHART FOR LAST THREE YEARS

CATEGORIES	Year 2005	Year 2004	Year 2003
Misc/Cookbooks	\$ 362.00	\$ 954.48	\$ 328.00 *
Misc/study books	\$ (16.20)	\$ (129.50)	\$ (73.50)
Misc/Other	\$ (70.96)	\$ 54.51	\$ 15.00
2nd mile giving	\$ 3,802.62	\$ 2,060.37	\$ 1,328.00
Meals/Dinners	\$ 310.15	\$ 211.20	\$ 627.34
Hospitality	\$ 61.19	\$ 61.19	\$ 63.09
Mission	\$ (43.72) **	\$ (35.85)	\$ -
Thank Offering	\$ 873.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,300.00
Least Coin	\$ 68.25	\$ 57.00	\$ 42.56
pd.out	\$ (68.25)	\$ (57.00)	\$ (42.56)
PWPGR	\$ (1,712.00)	\$ (1,489.00)	\$ (1,498.00)
Church Women U	\$ (50.00)	\$ (50.00)	\$ (75.00)
Birthday Offering		\$ 38.80	
		\$ (38.80)	
Bank Bal.12/30	\$ 3,516.08	\$ 1,328.57	\$ 1,569.31

* net after paying \$2,000 cost; still have 100 books

** mailing

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

February 2006

1*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- Friends of the Sangamon Valley

2*THURSDAY

12:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee
7:00 p.m. - Deacons
- Society for Creative Anachronism
- Parents Without Partners
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

5*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
- Children's Sunday School
- Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

6*MONDAY

6:00 p.m. - Sertoma Club
7:30 p.m. - Congregational Development Committee

7*TUESDAY

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

8*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

9*THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. - Pres Women Coordinating Team
4:45 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee
6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

11*SATURDAY

6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club
@ Magic Kitchen

12*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programs
- Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

13*MONDAY

Church and Office Closed for Lincoln's Birthday

14*TUESDAY

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

15*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

16*THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. - Society for Creative Anachronism
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous
- First Pres Book Club / Cook Lounge

17*FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle @ Presbyterian Home

18*SATURDAY

8:00 p.m. - Classical Guitar Society

19*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
- Children's Sunday School
- Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

21*TUESDAY

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

22*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

23*THURSDAY

5:15 p.m. - Central Illinois Organizing Project
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

26*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
- Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service/Salvation Army Band
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

27*MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Session (*Tentative*)

28*TUESDAY

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II