Sue’s Musings: Getting Lost

Let me begin by saying that God did an awesome job in the North Dakota Badlands! Beautiful country, so beautiful you could get lost in it. Which I did. To make a long story short, Linda and I went off trail down a hoof track, had an awesome hike, stopped for lunch, and then couldn’t find our way back. What was such a clear path going in was not at all clear when we turned around to go out. We found several hoof paths we never noticed going in, tried out many, but none seemed right. We kept having to go back to our lunch spot to try another one. Finally, out of the process of elimination, we found our trail, and with huge sighs of relief, we set off for the car.

All went well, until we got back to the main trail. And again, we found ourselves at a loss – what seemed like one trail leading out turned into four possible trails leading back. We tried one after another, and none looked right. There was one we couldn’t try – three bison decided it was a great nap spot and there was no way around them, so we finally just picked a hoof path and took off, even though we knew we were not on the right trail. We just had to commit ourselves to a direction and go, risks and all, and hope it got us close to where we wanted to be.

It was a very humbling experience, but it was also very empowering. We knew that if we kept trying, we would eventually find our way out. We had to step out in faith, and take the risk that even if it weren’t on the best path, it would still get us where we wanted to go. Needless to say, we made it out, and we felt awesome!

There was much to learn from this experience. One primary lesson: there are many paths, we could take, and no guarantee which one would get us where we want to go. What worked for us was that we knew the general direction we needed to go, and even if we weren’t on the same path we came in on, if we kept as straight a path as we could, we knew we would eventually find our way out.

In life (or in the church!), we may not know exactly what path to choose to get us where we want to go. It does help to have a general idea of what direction to go. In life Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is a great guide. Jesus talks about seeking to make peace with others, walking humbly in this land, showing mercy to all, offering grace to all, working for justice, righting wrongs when you can, caring for others, keeping your word, loving your enemies, and giving generously. If we take that as a guide, I believe we will eventually find ourselves where God desires us to be, and to be the people we were created to be. But not only that, you’ll also be able to look back at where you’ve come from and see the beautiful footprints you have left behind in the lives of others.

Pastor Sue

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~
Jane Holtzclaw ~ Ordination

July 28th at 3 pm our very own Jane Holtzclaw is being ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament with a reception to follow.

Jane is working in Fargo ND this summer at First Presbyterian Church and will be coming home for her ordination ceremony. She will return in September to continue her Caring Ministry here at First Presbyterian Lincoln. We are looking forward to having her as a welcome and wonderful addition to our staff.

Please join us on July 28th at 3 pm!

Sermons Online!

Did you know we post the Sunday sermons on our website? If you miss Sunday, or really want to hear the sermon again, or, better yet, share it with a friend, you can find our sermons at FPCLincoln.org/worship/sermons.

Worship Times

- Every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend: TWO services at 8:30 am (Great Hall) and 10 am (Sanctuary)

- September 2 (Labor Day weekend) ONE service only at 10 am (Sanctuary)

- September 9 and Sundays following: TWO services at 8:30 am (Great Hall) and 11 am (Sanctuary)

In addition, our Sudanese service will be at its regular time Sundays at 12:30 pm in Great Hall, every Sunday except the first Sundays of the month.
FPChristian Education

During the summer, Sunday School classes and youth fellowship take a summer break as we start to get ready for the fall. But just because we are on a break, that doesn’t mean there aren’t ways to stay connected to your church and church family. Hopefully by now you’ve seen the Summer CE offerings being promoted to help keep our church family connected during the traveling months of summer. But if not be sure to read this so you don’t miss out!

**Summer Sunday Devotionals** – This summer you are invited to take FPC with you on your adventures. Each week in the FPC email, will be a devotional that you can use on Sunday morning (or anytime during the week, really). You can also pick up the upcoming weeks devotional in the Welcome Center.

**Adventures with Flat Jesus** - Are you headed somewhere fun this summer? Are you going to some interesting places for a week or just a day? Don’t forget to take Jesus with you! Let’s help stay connected with the church family through the summer with our “Flat Jesus Photo Contest”. Flat Jesus is a colorful cut out of Jesus that can easily be tucked away on your summer travels. When you get somewhere interesting or just want to share what you’re doing, take a picture of where ever you are with Flat Jesus in the foreground. This isn’t just for kids but for the young at heart, too! Here is how to join in the fun.

1. Pick up a laminated flat Jesus in the Welcome Center or Church office. You can also create your own Flat Jesus by downloading the image at [http://fpclincoln.org/adventures-with-flat-jesus/](http://fpclincoln.org/adventures-with-flat-jesus/)
2. Take your Flat Jesus everywhere you go and take lots of pictures
3. Place a reminder on the back about how to post the pictures www.facebook.com/fpclincoln or other social media with the hashtag #FPCflatJesus and post your pictures. You can also email them to Kris Brammer at dce@fpclincoln.org
4. Have fun and remember, Jesus is with you always!

Continued on next page……..
FPC at the Ballpark – Last summer we had a church family day at the ballpark to watch and cheer on our local baseball team, the Lincoln Salt dogs. We had such a good time together that we are doing it again! Join us on Friday, July 26th for FPC at the Ballpark. Tickets can be purchased through the church and sign-up for tickets are online through the church website http://fpclincoln.org/fpc-at-the-ballpark/ or through Kris Brammer (dce@fpclincoln.org) or 402-477-6037

Another 150th celebration was held June 9th at Antelope Park. We had around 180 in attendance from First Christian and First Presbyterian. Combined choirs sang and played bells and communion was served at the service. Then we all enjoyed a wonderful pot luck lunch. Thanks to everyone that helped make this a successful event.

Don’t Forget!
While your on vacation you can still make your contributions by text. It’s easy, text MissionPossible to 73256. This helps your church as well as you!

If you want to set up regular monthly auto payments, contact Carrie in the front office to get a Realm invite and she will e-mail that over to you and then walk you through the process.
COMMUNITY CROPS GARDEN LOOKING GREAT!!!!!

Thanks to many volunteers, the garden on 17th and F supported by First Presbyterian Church, Jacobs Well, and Community Crops is looking great. All of the garden boxes have been installed. Mulch has been installed between the boxes and along the fence line. The fence will be completed and painted in the near future. Artwork will be installed in the large placards along the fence. Many volunteers from First Presbyterian Church, Jacobs Well, and Community Crops have been participating, but the following need to be thanked for their work above and beyond: Lynn Bonge, Bill Janike, Gary Hughes, Ray Hill, Ron Bump, and Bill Thornton of Jacobs Well. Youth from Jacobs Well have been helping with the mulching. We will plan to have a joint neighborhood/church celebration early this fall.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PARKING LOT

The Building Permit Application and supporting documents has been submitted to the City for review and approval. Stephens and Smith is serving as the General Contractor and will be obtaining bids in the near future with construction to begin later this summer. Lynn Bonge has been instrumental in preparing the necessary documents and Brett Richert of Stephens and Smith is helping to shepherd the project. The Parking Lot Task Force thanks the congregation for their patience.
Sand Dollars at the Zoo!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LINCOLN CHILDREN’S ZOO! Sand Dollars is planning a First Presbyterian EVENING AT THE ZOO for our entire FPC Family & Friends, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17 during the zoo’s regular evening hours. We will gather at 6:00 P.M. Group rate admission will be $6 per person above the age of two. Basket supper options at $7.50 or $9.00 with a 16 oz drink and include: hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, grilled cheese, chicken strips, corn dogs, PBJ, all with fries. More details will be forthcoming but July 17 will come sooner than we think, so reservations are welcome at any time. The S. D. Steering Committee will determine payment plans so watch for more details later!

Sand Dollars Steering Committee

The Flyleaf Book Club …

The book for July is We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter. We meet on Friday, July 19

Travel Size Toiletries Needed

As you plan your summer travels, please remember to share any extra new, unused travel size toiletries with the church. We make Hygiene kits for those in need and share samples in our restroom. We give away 10-15 trial size items each week. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.
**Library Notes**

**One for the Road**
The FPC Library has fantastic books to take with you on your summer adventures, including…

*The Mermaid Chair*, by Sue Monk Kidd

*How We Survived Communism & Even Laughed*, by Slavenka Drakulic

*Pitching My Tent*, by Anita Diamant

**Books for Kids & Youth**
Keep those young minds growing! These are great books for kids and youth to read on their own, or to read to them. Guaranteed to be entertaining for the adults, too!

*Fly Girls: Daring Women Pilots of WWII*, by P. O’Connell Pearson

*So You Want to be a Wizard*, by Diane Dunne

*Long Way From Chicago*, by Richard Peck

*Emily’s Runaway Imagination*, by Beverly Cleary

*The Wanderer*, by Sharon Creech

*Halfway to the Sky*, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

**More of a Homebody? Travel the world through books…**

*Where God was Born*, by Bruce Feiler

*My 100 Adventures*, by Polly Horvath

*Small Island*, by Andrea Levy

*Gap Creek*, by Robert Morgan

*The Insufficiency of Maps*, by Nora Pierce

**Leaning into the Wind: Women From the Heart of the West**
Edited by Linda Hasselstrom, Gaydell Collier, and Nancy Curtis

“What kind of woman flourishes on the High Plains, that harsh but beautiful expanse of prairie stretching roughly from the Rockies to the Mississippi River? What some people may picture as a wasteland is, in fact, home to all the women in this book…The true stories, poems, & reflections these women tell of the rigors, glories, & ironies of Western life over the past century.”

“Keep reading. It’s one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have.”

Lloyd Alexander
First Presbyterian Church
Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.

For after hour calls to the church office, 402-477-6037, the staff voicemail extensions and e-mail addresses follow:

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Sue Coller
x 103 scoller@fpclincoln.org

Parish Associate for Sudanese Ministry:
Rev. Jock Tut Paleak
x 114 jtutpaleak@gmail.com

Parish Associate of Caring Ministries: Jane Holtzclaw
caring@fpclincoln.org

Music Director: Dr. Brian Pfoltner
x 121 musicdir@fpclincoln.org

Organist: Dr. Charles W. Ore
charles.w.ore@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education: Dr. Kris Brammer
x 106 dce@fpclincoln.org

Church Administrator: Carrie Cross
x 101 churchadmin@fpclincoln.org

Financial Coordinator: Cheryl Rennick
X 102 Finance@fpclincoln.org

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

Men’s AA - Mondays

Women’s AA - Tuesdays

Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays

El Centro Zumba Class - Tuesday and Friday

Lincoln Literacy - Tuesday and Wednesday

SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday

Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome all groups and organizations that provide needed services for members of our community.