First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's Church

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

May/June 2015

Farewell, Ernest and Sarah Krug

by Diane Bert

Twenty-two years ago when Dr. Ernest Krug came to the area to direct the Center for Human Development at Beaumont Hospital, he looked for a church home in which he could use his skills as an ordained pastor. First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham welcomed him and his wife, Sarah, and many fine years of pastoral activities have followed.

Dr. Krug has been a highly valued nonstipendiary member of the staff and has conducted Wednesday evening worship services, participated in Sunday services, taught classes, visited hospitalized persons, conducted weddings and funerals, and helped develop programs for people with disabilities which is the focus of our All Abilities Inclusion Ministry.

"It has been a great satisfaction to me to see the enthusiasm grow for working with children, youth, and adults of all abilities," says Dr. Krug. "Cindy Merten, Rev. Joanne Blair, and Dr. John Judson share my vision."

Members of the congregation who are hospitalized have benefitted from Dr. Krug's visits which bring the church's presence to them as he is able to cross over medical and faith traditions. His kind manner and ability to help people navigate the system have brought comfort and reassurance. The classes Dr. Krug has taught have brought greater understanding and awareness on many issues. His generous spirit prevails.

Through the years Sarah Krug has been an important member of the congregation



as she has been active in the leadership of the shawl ministry, served as a Deacon, participated in several medical and sewing mission trips, served on search committees, and sang in the Chancel Choir. She also helped with the children's choirs for many years. When the beautiful rooms were being created for CrossWalks, Sarah was one of the main helpers who painted many details in the murals which adorn the walls. She did this with her usual pleasant enthusiasm and competence. "The church has always been my community; my real happiness comes through the church," says Sarah. What a pleasure it is to know her and Ernest.

Asked about his hopes for the congregation, Ernest said, "I hope they continue to move in the direction of helping all people find a family of faith in this place. We are now doing great things in mission and outreach. I hope more people will embrace our vision statement and hear God's call to participate." It is with grateful hearts that we say farewell and wish them well in Rochester, NY.

First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
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www.everybodyschurch.org
email:
contact@everybodyschurch.org

Weekly Worship

Sundays:

8:30am Communion in the Chapel

10am Worship in the Sanctuary with Sunday School

5pm Worship Rejoicing Spirits (casual dress) 2nd and 4th Sundays There is a simple meal following every service

Wednesdays - Lent Program

Program Staff

John Judson Pastor

Amy Morgan Associate Pastor

Joanne Blair Assistant Pastor for Inclusion and Pastoral Care

Cindy Merten
Director of Christian Education
& All Abilities Inclusion Ministries

Andrew Herbruck
Director of Music Ministries

Bethany Peerbolte Director of Youth Ministries

> Hank Borchardt, Ernest Krug, Julie Madden, Kate Thoresen Parish Associates

How We Are Different

by Dr. John Judson

It has begun. The season of negativity, anger and lies has begun. In other words, the race for the White House is on. In some ways it makes me hesitant to turn on the television because soon the airwayes will be full of advertisements that seek, not to articulate programs and plans that will make America a better place, but to demean and denigrate "the opponent." There is nothing new in this. All we have to do is look at the horrible things that were said about people from Thomas Jefferson to Abraham Lincoln to, well anyone who has ever run for office.

We do this because anger and hatred work. It has been shown that the surest way to get voters to the polls is to make them angry. As long as you can insure that people are angry with the conservatives or the liberals; the rich or the poor; the Muslims or the Jews; Washington insiders or those who are in Washington and claim not to be insiders (I'm not actually sure how that works) then you can get people to vote for you by voting against "them."

Unfortunately this is also true within churches. If we can point to those outside of our community as being "wrong" or "evil" and make sure that those of us inside the community know that we are the "right" and the "blessed" then it becomes easy to create a cohesive

c o m m u n i t y; because it is based on the mistrust of "the opponent."

All of that having been said, I will tell you one of the main reasons I love being the pastor at First Presbyterian



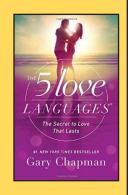
Church of Birmingham - that we are a church that is focused on what we are for and not whom we are against. We make it clear that as Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community. This means that even though we do not all agree on the same political course, or vote for the same people, or hold a common vision on economic policies, or agree on which is the best college in the Big Ten, we are united by our shared vision of who we are to be as a church.

As we enter this political season, I encourage everyone to listen carefully, ask good questions and pray a lot as we seek to discern who deserves our vote. Then come to church with arms and hearts wide open, ready to welcome all who come through our doors.

The Five Love Languages

A study with Dr. John Judson Sundays, through May 24 at 11:15am

Whether your relationship is flourishing or failing, this approach to showing and receiving love will help you experience deeper and richer levels of intimacy with your partner. Free childcare is provided for this series.



Mission

Mexico Medical Mission Trip Provides "Vitaminas"

by Anne Hughes



There are many types of people that we encounter each year on the Yucatan Peninsula Mission trip to Leona Vicario, Quintana Roo, Mexico. There are the pregnant women hoping for an ultrasound to see their 8 month fetus for the first time. There are the old and crippled villagers who spent their days in the fields with machetes or at home with a sewing needle, asking for something to ease the pain of their arthritis, an ailment which they have not heard of before. There are the children whose mothers bring them in for vaccinations. There are those who heard that there is a Gringo giving out eyeglasses, and you'd better show up before he runs out. And finally, there are those who come because they can get some free "vitaminas."

Vitaminas, as you may have already deduced, are the vitamins that we beg and plead for each year, to take as a donation to our medical clinic. They come in several forms: chewables, tablets, gel capsules, gummies, dino eggs, and disolvables. They are marketed to all kinds of people: women over 50, men over 50, children under 10, children and young adults over the age of 10, women who are pregnant, women who are menopausal, and all of those in-between.

The Merriam-Webster definition



of the word vitamin is as such: "a natural substance that is usually found in foods and that helps your body to be healthy". For some of the patients that we encounter, we prescribe many medications. Medications for diabetes, and for high cholesterol, for pain and for headaches, some medications for infections or rash, and always, we prescribe vitamins. These magical little tablets seem to be the wonder-drug for many of our patients, some of whom only visit the doctor when our own troop is visiting. Many of the people of Leona Vicario that I visited with this past year would say things like, "Yo siempre tengo doler in las rodillas, y me mareo cuando viajo por mucho tiempo, pero creo que nada más necesito unas vitaminas, no?" (I always have pain in my knees, and I get nauseated when I travel for a long time, but I think that I just need vitamins, yeah?) Perhaps the vitaminas are the answer.

However, in our travels to this village, I have found a new definition for the word vitamin. I would like to amend Merriam-Webster's meaning of the word to be this: "a natural substance that helps your body to be healthy." We, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Birmingham, along with our cohorts from San Antonio, Texas, are certainly natural substances. We visit

with patients, do tests, listen to hearts and breathing, check noses and ears, and really any other body part that we can get to without surgical procedures. We prescribe medications. And we help your body to be healthy. However, what I often fail to realize about this trip, is that while I have been doling out vitaminas in a little plastic baggy, instructing how many capsules to take and how often, I have also been receiving my dose of vitaminas from this population of people who have nothing. These neighbors of ours for five days or so who live in huts made out of sticks, and sometimes cement, are also natural substances who help my body to be healthy. Not in the medical realm, per say, as every year so far I have come back with a fierce sinus infection, but in a spiritual sense.

I take my vitaminas from the people that we see each day, and grow stronger in my faith. I am reminded that God is everywhere, and with every person, regardless of their clothing, their income, their car (or lack thereof). I become healthier in my relationship with my church family, and my brothers and sisters in Christ of all parts. In the many types of people that we encounter and serve, I am ever more aware that I need to continually seek and take my vitaminas.



Mission and Inclusion

Diversity Champion



Dr. Ernest Krug was recognized as one of the Diversity Champions by the Race Relations and Diversity Task Force of Birmingham Community House. He has spent his professional and personal life caring and advocating for people with disabilities. As

specializing pediatrician in developmental pediatrics and as an ordained Presbyterian minister, his achievements are too numerous to list here. At First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, where he serves as a Parish Associate, he has been active in initiating, guiding and supporting the All Abilities Inclusion Ministries for 15 years. He also assisted in starting up and continues to support the Rejoicing Spirits Community at First Presbyterian, an innovative ministry that works to enrich the faith lives of people with intellectual developmental disabilities, and their families and friends and other supportive community members.

FAR Friday Nights May 15 FPC and FAR Talent Show



June 19 Prom Night



All events are from 6:30-9:00pm in Calvin Hall for ages 13 years and older. RSVP to Sara Renke at srenke@fartherapy.org or call 248.646.3347. \$10/participant or \$5/caregiver

May is National Foster Care Month

Did you know that there are 13,000 children in Michigan currently in foster care? There are 788 in Oakland County and around 4000 in our Tri-County area. That makes about 30% of all Michigan children in foster care living right near us.

As Mother Teresa has claimed, "Very few people can do great things, but each of us can do something with great love." During the month of May we anticipate the great good that will come from members and friends finding that one something to share with great love. Together, with other congregations, this will make a significant impact



to alleviate the suffering of our most invisible, voiceless and vulnerable children.

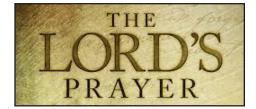
What can YOU do? Put a face on foster care and pray for a child

who is looking for a forever family. Prayer cards that include the pictures of our kids in care along with a brief description on back will be available in the church office and on the information table during May. Please take one, post it on your refrigerator and say a special prayer for them. If you don't have a chance to get a prayer card, below are four youth that are featured through the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (www.mare.org) Interested in finding other specific ways you can help? Contact Parish Associate, Rev. Kate Thoresen at 248.835.8151 or katethoresen@fpcbirmingham.org



Mission and Community

"Pray the Jesus Way" Lenten Dinner Program



This Wednesday evening program focused on The Lord's Prayer, exploring each phrase of the prayer over the course of five weeks. Weekly take-home practices helped us experience prayer in new ways throughout the week. During the program, liturgy, music, and teaching focused on a particular phrase of the prayer while several activity stations - including listening to different musical recordings of the Lord's Prayer, building the Lord's Prayer with LEGOs, and depicting the Lord's Prayer in art - allowed participants to find deeper meaning or just have fun with this familiar prayer.









Cards for Confirmands



Please support our Confirmands by taking the time to write each of them a brief note of encouragement for their continuing faith journey. You might share a favorite scripture or piece of advice. Or, if you are familiar with a student, you could share particular gifts you see in them. A basket to collect the cards will be located in the main hallway. Please return your cards by May 10.

Confirmation Students:
Benjamin Alexander
Isabella Cueny
Cameron Howell
Eddie Jevahirian
Mary Sumner Kauffman
Bobby Kunz
Shannon Lambrecht
Hadley Moak
John Nagley
Allison Percy
Aly Simonelli
Matthew Swarthout

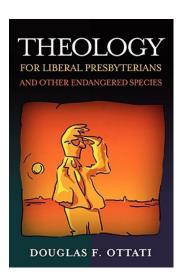
MOM Workgroups

Mission Outreach Ministries (MOM) has re-organized into workgroups to make their work more efficient, organized, and energized. MOM is now comprised of three workgroups: Fulfillment Projects, Mission Activities, and Funding. The Fulfillment Projects workgroup will handle collections and donations such as backpacks in the fall, Every Family Feed a Family, and the Angel Tree. The Mission Activities workgroup will continue to recruit and organize volunteers for South Oakland Shelter and will expand the mission work we do outside the church. The Funding workgroup will review grants for First Foundation and work on developing a strategy for the mission funds from the Vision campaign. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these new workgroups, please contact Mark Grobbel, chair of MOM.

Dr. Doug Ottati, On the Teachings of Jesus



March 28-29, our Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. Doug Ottati, shared his wisdom and theological understanding with our congregation and visitors from around the Presbytery. In three lectures, Dr. Ottati covered the topics of "What Kind of a Teacher Was Jesus?" "Jesus, the Kingdom, and the Poor," and "Love Your Enemies: The Teaching of Jesus and the Crusading Dynamic of Reactionary Violence." Response from the congregation to Dr. Ottati was exuberant as many people enjoyed both his lectures and preaching in worship. Many thanks to the members of the Adult Faith Formation ministry for their work on this event and to John and Cindy Judson for inviting and hosting Dr. Ottati and his wife, Pam, over the weekend.



Good Friday Men's Breakfast



Presbyterian Women prepared breakfast for 80. Jason Morgan told some wonderful life challenging stories of guests who visited the Welcome Inn. Dr. Judson videotaped several of the guests who shared their experiences this past winter and how the Welcome Inn helped them. The Welcome Inn



provides basic life services that we take for granted. Donations at the breakfast totaled \$454 to help the Welcome Inn guests. Thank you, Jason Morgan, for sharing your experiences this past winter as Executive Director of the Welcome Inn.

Weekend of C.S. Lewis



On Sunday, April 19, FPC was once again graced with the theatrical talents of Mark McPhearson as he presented "Love From Narnia: The Life and Spiritual Times of C.S. Lewis." This one-man show presenting the biography and theology of perhaps the most famous Christian of the 20th century was enjoyed by many fans of C.S. Lewis and Mr. McPhearson. The audience learned about Lewis's childhood and his conversion from atheism to Christianity. The character



of C.S. Lewis entered the pulpit to share his understanding of the Christian faith. A free-will offering was taken to support emergency needs of children in foster care, an appropriate cause as Lewis himself fostered children during WWII. The performance was followed by a proper English tea, where the audience had a chance to meet Mr. McPhearson and discuss the performance. The previous day, Saturday, all were invited to watch the movie, *Narnia*.

Family News

Births:

Eleanor Beatrice Bastianelli, daughter of Laura Bassett and Joe Bastianelli, February 26

Baptisms:

- Grace Kathryn Winiarski and Brady James Winiarski, April 12, children of James and Alison Winiarski
- Gracelyn Swiss Riga, Scarlett Cholley Riga and Joshua James Riga, April 26, children of Joshua and Shea Riga

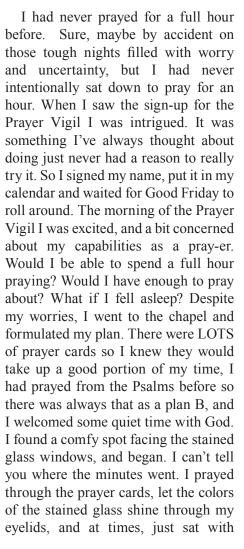
In Sympathy:

- Elizabeth (Betty) Blenman, February 26
- Edward Kwiecinski, father of Nancy Klein (John), March 5
- ♣ Marian Cox, wife of Donald Cox, March 7
- Herbert V. Peterson, father of Linda Kughn (Richard),
 March 7
- ♣ Charles A. Amann, father of Barbara Fulton (Peter), March 10
- Marjorie De Long, mother of Michael DeLong (Betty), Kenric DeLong, Donald DeLong (Maria) and Dee Anne Hudak (James), March 21
- → Barbara Jean Martz, mother of Janice DeMino, Debbie Walter, Philip Martz Jr., March 24
- Patricia Reinke, mother of Jon Reinke and Jenifer Williams, April 18

Community

Prayer Vigil

by Bethany Peerbolte





God. After some time I heard the door of the chapel open and close and to my amazement it was the next person scheduled to pray. I asked the attendant what time it was, "1:03" she said. I had done it! A whole hour! My first thought was I could have easily done two.

I am still processing the experience but I wanted to encourage everyone to give this practice a try. If you have ever wondered about the practice of praying for a specific length of time, do it. I promise God will not disappoint you. I highly encourage anyone who walked past the prayer vigil posters and wondered if they could pull off praying for a whole hour to sign-up next year, or try it tomorrow night. It is an experience worth having.



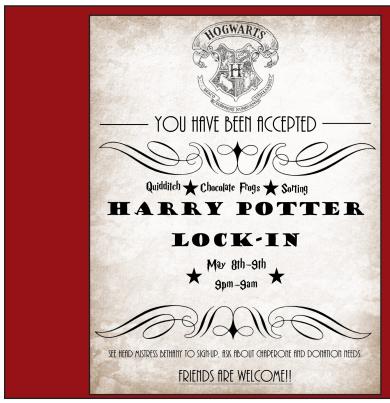
Youth Sunday, March 15

Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun on Youth Sunday. The youth had a wonderful time sharing their favorite worship experiences with the whole congregation. As you all saw we have an amazing group of teenagers, and having the opportunity for them to share their talents is extraordinary. It is so valuable to be a community that allows their youth to express their faith in a way that is meaningful. We are excited to continue learning new ways to express our love of God and look forward to sharing what we've learned with you next year!









Insurgent Movie Outing

Spoiler Alert!! This article will ruin the ending if you haven't seen the Insurgent movie yet. The Divergent series released the second installment and of course the youth had to see it. We had time to discuss the movie afterwards over some flaming cheese at Leo's. In the movie the people who are labeled divergent are considered a threat to society. They do not think or act the way society wants them to. However, in this movie a message from the founding members of the society reveal that divergence is the reason the society was established in the first place. We related this to our role as Christians in the world today. We are called by God to be different, to think differently and act differently than the rest of society thinks we should. Christians are divergent! We discussed what that meant as far as what we should be fighting for and what we should stand up against. At the end of this movie we see everyone walking out of their community into the unknown world. We can't wait to see what will happen next.



Alma Youth Mix



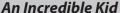
The Alma Youth Mix is organized by the Michigan Presbyteries to allow the youth to meet up and make friends with other local Presbyterian teenagers. Our high school students had to opportunity to attend this year and we had a blast! The weekend was themed around telling our stories. We all have them, success stories, sad stories, funny stories, faith stories, and some stories that are hard to tell. We looked at the purpose of our stories

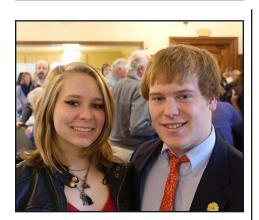
and how telling them can help us and the people we meet. Between lessons we had time to tour Alma's campus, learn about volunteer opportunities, and hang out in the recreation hall with games and a climbing wall. Of course, Everybody's Church brought the party. We had an impromptu dance party Saturday night, and our very own Sam Beale brought down the house at the talent show! Great times were had by all



Service Award







Laura Nagley and Sam McGlynn were nominated by FPC and awarded the Birmingham Youth Assistance Youth In Service Award for exceptional service to their community. The awards were given at a breakfast at the Community House on April 22.



Lilly Schlafhauser was honored as an "incredible kid" at an special event at the Troy Community Center on Feb. 26 sponsored by The Troy Community Coalition for the prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. This is an excerpt from her nomination:

Lilly Schlafhauser is an incredible fourth grader at Hamilton Elementary School in Troy. The words "leader, organizer and motivator" only begin to describe her. Lilly has had four corneal transplants herself and regularly serves as an ambassador for the Michigan Eye Bank. She participates in campaigns to raise awareness of the need for organ donors. She gives speeches, works at tables to encourage people to be organ donors and was featured on WDIV in an awareness campaign with the Michigan Eye Bank and the University of Michigan as one who had benefited from a cornea donation. She hosted an organ Sabbath at her church, First Presbyterian of Birmingham where she also serves as a junior usher on a regular basis.

Lunch and Learn

Thursdays, May 14 and June 11 11:30am in Calvin Hall

On May 14, Joe Manatrey will share his comedic thoughts on life, Christianity and old age among other topics. He promises we will leave laughing. Joe spent his career in broadcasting, both radio and television.

On June 11, Andrew Herbruck,

Director of Music Ministries, will teach us about our organ, including its installation, followed by a short recital in the Sanctuary.

For all Lunch & Learn presentations, bring your lunch and we'll provide dessert and beverages. Men and women are equally welcome. Bring a friend. Call Sharon and Stan Evans with any questions at 248.433.0852.

Community

Senior Singles Visit Historic White Horse Inn



The Senior Singles had a lot of fun touring and having a wonderful lunch at the beautiful historic White Horse Inn in Metamora, MI. The group took the FPC bus on Wednesday, March 4th and enjoyed the newly restored woodwork and murals at the Inn. A special thank you to Al Huberty for driving the FPC bus! Want to participate in Senior Singles? Call Marge Hendrick at 248.293.0011.

FPC Visits the DIA



Members visited the special exhibit about Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo and enjoyed the docent tour about their work. The DIA provided a bus to transport the 40 seniors as a thank you for the millage support.

New Members Joined March 22

Katie Bologna is an attorney at the Oakland County Circuit Court. She is married to Anthony and together they have three children, Aidan (5), Blake (3) and Chase (8 months). Katie enjoys travelling, reading and going up north.

Deanna Kaibel is a former teacher of home economics. She is currently a homemaker. At FPC, she participates in rummage sales, Covenant, dinner for eight and more. Her interests include being thrifty, music, cherries, estate sales and collecting churches. Deanna is married

adult daughter in Portland, OR. **Dale Larson** has recently moved from Ohio to Michigan to be closer to his family: daughter Charlotte

to Ken Kaibel, who is an interim pastor

in the Detroit Presbytery. They have an

Fischer, granddaughter, Elise Wallace and great-grandchildren Sean and Elaina Wallace. Dale has held many leadership positions within the Presbyterian Church.

Keith and Paulette Termaat are long term residents of the Birmingham area. They both retired from Ford Motor Company. Keith is currently president of a non-profit community group, near their summer home in northern

Michigan, which focuses on the environment and public finance. Keith and Paulette have seven grandchildren that are the joy of their lives! Fitness is Paulette's daily routine. They both have family in Europe and enjoy leisure travel to France, the Netherlands and England. Keith was born near Amsterdam and Paulette's mother is in Normandy. Their shared legacy

is to resist coercion and teach self-help.

Alison and James Winiarski Alison is a teacher at Warren Consolidated. James is an Operations Manager at AGS (Staffing). They are new parents to twins Brady James and Grace Kathryn born on September 15, 2014. Alison enjoys reading and cooking while James enjoys college football and barbequing.



Good Friday Service - Durufle's Requiem



Good Friday 2015 will be remembered by many as one of the most memorable worship services held at FPC. This year, the chancel choir led the congregation in a service of worship featuring Maurice Duruflé's Requiem. The work was interspersed with the passion readings as read by the Reverends Amy Morgan and Joanne Blair. The chancel choir was directed by Andrew Herbruck and accompanied by Dr. James Kibbie, Professor of Organ and University Organist at the University of Michigan. Lara Alami, Allison Vernon, and Alex Walker sang solo passages. Following the stripping of the communion table and the singing of "Where You There?" the service closed with the striking of a

hammer and nail 33 times, each strike representing one year of Christ's life on earth. Especially moving was the complete silence as the congregation left the church - a silence that extended into the parking lot. Kim McGlynn stated, "The Good Friday Requiem Service was a tremendous religious experience for me. The worship service took me directly to Christ's cross. It was amazing."

Easter at FPC



Spring Activities at Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

We have had a wonderful spring so far with lots of fun activities and learning. March was exciting with events such as our Spirit week. The Hand-in-Hand children and teachers dressed up for each of five themed days. Our four year old preschool invited their working fathers and mothers to spend a special Saturday morning at school with them. First Presbyterian member, Diane Bert, entertained our preschool and young fives with her own special rendition of the Gingerbread Boy. The four year olds were wonderful actors and actresses as they presented five different fairy tales to their parents, friends and family members. Our Easter egg hunts are always popular with each class and the children enjoyed their spring break.

Our classrooms for 2015-16 are filling up quickly, in fact many are full, but we have some openings in certain age groups so please contact us for more information at 248.644.2040 ext.124.







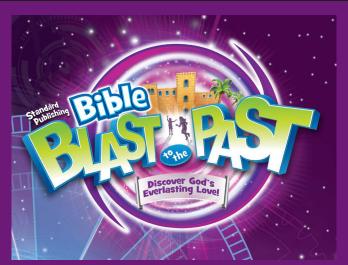
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First News
May/June 2015

Vacation Bible School



Join in on the First Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School experience. Don't miss this exciting week that will include activities, crafts and lessons based on the theme:

Bible Blast to the Past Discover God's Everlasting Love

Monday – Thursday, June 15 – 18, 9am–Noon, completed one year of Preschool – 5th Grade Monday & Wednesday, June 15 & 17 2 1/2 – 3 year olds

You're Never Too Old for VBS: We need 70 adults and youth who want to share the gifts of time and energy with our children to make VBS successful. Contact Cindy Merten to learn how you can help.