

SECONDPRES

THE CONNECT

KICK OFF FALL WITH SECOND PRES!

As programs return for the September-May year, we are excited to share with you updates from the summer, and plans for the fall!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU'LL FIND:

Summer Updates • Education Opportunities • Upcoming Events • Ways to Get Involved

► GROUP SALE RECAP

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

To everyone for their time, talents, and treasures. Once again we had a very successful sale.

It was a wonderful week of community, fellowship, reconnecting with old friends, and making new friends. We helped so many people in various ways.



\$1,625

Bake Sale

This is a record!



\$111

Quilt Raffle

Two beautiful quilts were raffled off



\$4,977.50

Treasures

\$32,073.89

Total proceeds of the sale



Thanking God for your partnership in this ministry.

► MARTIN HALL UPDATES

A SUMMER OF BUILDING RENOVATIONS, YEARS OF CLEAN WATER AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

John 14:4 reads “but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” In a place where many come that are thirsty for God, Second Pres did not have actual water to drink, at least not from a water fountain. For the first time in over thirty years, we can now offer drinking water to all who use Martin Hall.

During a summer-long project, all plumbing pipes in Martin Hall have been replaced to bring clean drinking water to that portion of our campus. New water fountains with bottle fillers were installed on each floor, along with new fixtures in all the restrooms. In addition, portions of the building received new drop ceiling tiles, LED lighting and fresh coat of paint.

This project was made possible because of generous donations and a lot of hard work. Special thanks to the Farnsworth Group, Pipeworks Plumbing, Stinde Electric, Wright-Way Interior Systems, Triple A Asbestos Services and Associated Constructors. Their knowledge and expertise made it happen.

What's next you ask? The Trustees are already working on plans to replace the Martin Hall roof next summer. If you have any questions about this project or how you can help support future projects, please contact David Kaeb, Trustee Elder, or Tammy Haggard, Director of Business & Operations.



► CHURCH GARDENS

FLOURISHING GARDENS, FROM SUMMER TO FALL

submitted by Janet Schroeder

This summer, we welcomed two new garden helpers, Angie Buckley and Robin Zink! Oh, did they make a difference in shaping up the Prayer garden! Thank you to all of our other garden helpers, Jaci Dixon, Jan Harrell, Molly Achord, Rich Schroeder, and Janet Schroeder.

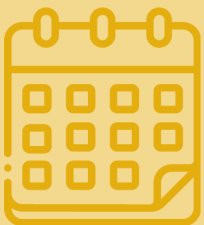
The church garden's are flourishing with the extra rain this summer! Some new bushes have been added to the Circle garden (outside of Martin Hall door) to replace some diseased roses. Soaker hoses have been running to keep those new plants alive.

From the Friends garden, Gerald has received some cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, parsley, chives and basil. About 20 – 30 lbs of potatoes were dug from the Prayer garden which Gerald uses to feed the Sunday morning brunch guests, Prayer lunch and Rotary. It was a good crop of potatoes since there was so much more rain this summer.

The Prayer garden apples will be ready to pick in September and the branches are so loaded they have been hanging on the ground. We will put some apples in the Food Pantry box and the church kitchen will use some. We encourage anyone coming to the Food Pantry to pick apples.

Donation needed – would someone have a nice long soaker hose they are no longer using? We could use an additional soaker hose for the Prayer garden. We did get a 'new' soaker hose from the Church sale, but we need an additional hose. This fall, we will be planting some new bushes on either side of the Food Pantry box and want to set up a soaker hose for that part of the garden. Just drop the hose off at the church office and designate it for the Church gardens.

If anyone wants a tour of our gardens or wants to help in the gardens, contact Janet Schroeder, jdsflower@gmail.com or 309-838-0398.



SEPT

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

- 3** **Theology On Tap**
5:30-7:00 p.m., Paxton Building
- 4** **100 Caring Adults**
7:15-7:45 a.m., Fox Creek Elementary
- 9** **Communion at Westminster Village**
10:30 a.m.
- 10** **Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering**
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- 13** **Fall Kick Off & Stewardship Sunday**
9:00 a.m.
- 13** **Family Ministry Brunch**
Following worship service
- 16** **Family Ministry Wednesdays Resume**
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 20** **Adult Christian Education**
History of the Presbyterian Church
Led by Jason Jennings
- 27** **10:15 a.m., F100A**



THEOLOGY ON TAP THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Have good food, drinks, and theological conversation with friends! Parking can be found outside the Paxton building on the street, PNC Bank lot, or at Second Pres. Dinner is \$5 and local beverages can be purchased with cash donation.



100 CARNIG PEOPLE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 7:15-7:45 A.M.

Help the Fox Creek Elementary students start the year right by cheering for their entry into school! This event is held outside the school building.



PW FALL GATHERING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 6:00 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

Missions Guest Speaker: Tofig Mammadov, International Students, Inc. Open to all 2PC women and their guests; Hosted by Lydia & Ruth Circles. For reservations contact Kim Pare at Kim.Pare@secondpres.com or church Office at 309- 828-6297. Cost is \$12, payable at the door.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 20 & 27 10:15 A.M., F100A

The Adult Christian Education (ACE) team invites you to join us September 20th and 27th for *The History of the Presbyterian Church in America*, led by Jason Jennings. We promise there will be a few things you didn't know about!



JOIN CHOIR! REHEARSAL BEGINS WED. SEP. 9 6:00 P.M.

If you are interested in joining the Choir that meets and sings throughout September-May, please contact Music Director Brian Tanaka at music.director@secondpres.com. The first rehearsal will be held Wednesday, September 9.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SPONSORED BY SECOND HALF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:30 A.M.

Join Second Half during this special Adult Christian Education that focuses on the topic of "Balancing Between Loss and Gain...Life's Ebbs & Flows and Sometimes We Get Stuck." This class will be presented by Rebecca Lynn, licensed clinical professional counselor at Blue Skies Counseling, specializing in grief, loss, and trauma. If you would like more information, please reach out to Gene Gant at thegants@frontiernet.net.

► GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER WITH FOX CREEK ELEMENTARY!

Become a Mentor! Become a mentor to an individual student at Fox Creek. As a mentor, you commit to meeting once a week for 20 to 30 minutes with the student at the school during regular school hours. You will be assigned a student and will see the same student each time. The purpose of the mentoring session is to just spend time with the student, playing games (checkers, card games), coloring together, reading books together, doing puzzles, or just talking. The intent is to communicate to the student that someone cares for them. It gives the student the understanding that they are seen, heard and valued. It often leads to the student feeling more confident and positive about themselves. This is not a program where you are trying to reteach content or skills to the child.

Host a lunch! The second opportunity is to help host a lunch for the staff at Fox Creek Elementary School on their Early Release Days. On Early Release Days, the students leave early and the staff at Fox Creek have meetings in the afternoon. We, Second Pres, provide a lunch for the staff to show our support. The staff look forward to and appreciate having a lunch that they do not have to pay for or plan. If your group or you are interested in helping host one of the lunches, please contact Michele Southerd. In your email, share which of the following dates you would like to host. The dates are: Tuesday, September 15, Wednesday, October 21, Friday, February 5, Tuesday, March 2, Thursday, April 15 and Thursday, April 29.



20-30 minutes a week could
impact a lifetime

Email ministryadmin@secondpres.com today.

► VISUAL PROJECT UPDATE

A MORE CLEAR PICTURE AND WORSHIP EXPERIENCE



Digital Screens

You'll notice as you walk into the sanctuary that our previous projectors have been replaced with two fully digital 16' x 9' LED screens. These will help those sitting in the sanctuary see our hymns, liturgy, announcements, and cameras more clearly.



Video Quality

Five new high-definition digital cameras have been installed across the sanctuary, that when paired with new video switchers and technology greatly improve clarity of worship service both in the church and online for viewers of the livestream.



Looking Ahead

As we get used to our new technology, we still look toward what is to come. A greater understanding of the new equipment and features, a non-stationary camera on the way, and plans to update visuals across campus are all on the horizon soon!

UPCOMING COMMUNION AT SECOND PRES

SEP
13

OCT
4

OCT
25

Westminster Village service held
Wednesday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m

The table is open to all!

*Please note: All bread used for
communion at Second Pres is gluten free.

FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES

Sep. 2026

submitted by the Heritage Committee

1855 AND D-DAY

1855 was the year our church was founded, but did you know that the YMCA movement was founded the same year? One of the latest Pantagraph news clippings that Carman Gresham supplied to Heritage had the headline, "1855 Society honors top YMCA donors." Our members were among the top contributors.

1855 Society honors top YMCA donors

OLIVIA JACOBS

ojacobs@pantagraph.com

BLOOMINGTON — The Bloomington-Normal YMCA Foundation recently celebrated its inaugural induction of the 1855 Society.

A Legacy Dinner on June 25 at Rob Rob's Restaurant and Bar brought together supporters, foundation leaders and community members.

The 1855 Society was established to recognize individuals and families whose extraordinary

generosity demonstrates a lasting commitment to the YMCA mission and is named in honor of the founding year of the YMCA movement, according to a news release.

"This evening marked an important milestone for our foundation," said B.J. Wilken, CEO of the Bloomington-Normal YMCA, in a news release. "The members of the 1855 Society are helping build something that extends far beyond today."

"Their generosity creates lasting impact and ensures

the YMCA can continue serving our community for generations to come."

The inaugural members are as follows:

— ■ John Robertson
— ■ Steve and Nancy Snyder
■ Jim Shirk
■ Ed and Sally Rust
■ Leo and Patty Hermes
■ Dennis and Cindy Mohrman
■ Robert and Julie Dobski
■ Greg and Carolyn Poling
■ John and Vickie Robertson

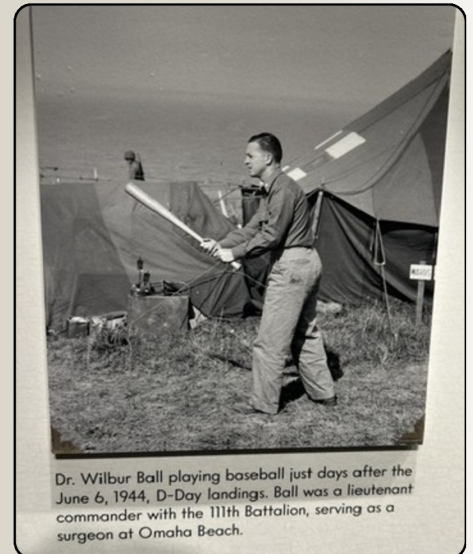
■ Pete and Jan Brandt
■ Robert Brucker
■ Kevin and Tricia Hannel
■ Jim and Debbie Ginzkey
■ Alan Bedell and Deanna Frautschi

■ Duncan Funk
■ Carl and Chantal Sneed
■ Jon and Meghan O'Neal-Rogozinski
■ Larry and Carroll Bross
Visit 1855society.org for more information.

Contact Olivia Jacobs at 309-820-3352. Follow Olivia on Twitter: @olivia_jacobs

How many of you remember Dr. Wilbur and Cliffine Ball? He treated children and she taught children. He, as a doctor for 39 years, and she, as a long, long-time Sunday School teacher and children's choir director. But did you know that Dr. Ball was a ball player, on D-Day on Omaha Beach? The photo to the right is featured in the new McLean County Museum of History exhibit, "More than a Game,"

highlighting the impact of softball and baseball in our community. It shows Dr. Ball playing baseball on Omaha Beach just days after June 6, 1944. He was a lieutenant commander with the 111th Battalion, serving as a surgeon at Omaha Beach.



Dr. Wilbur Ball playing baseball just days after the June 6, 1944, D-Day landings. Ball was a lieutenant commander with the 111th Battalion, serving as a surgeon at Omaha Beach.

For more Heritage Highlights or information on the history of Second Presbyterian Church, its buildings, or its members, please contact the Heritage committee by calling the church at 309-828-6297, or emailing Jeanie Wendt at wendtfarm@gmail.com.

ELDERS/STANDING COMMITTEES

- DEACONS** – Rich Schroeder, *Elder*
Members – Bryce Jones, Terri Peifer, John Robertson, Ellen Wylie, Luann Bateman, Linda Brucker, Judy Holder, Angie Buckley, Ken Davis, Anne Bliss, Jaci Dixon, Jason Jennings
- FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP** – Mark Wylie, *Elder*
Members – Steve White, Scott Dixon, Susan Rhodes, Kent Meister, Don Engelkes, Martha Everman, Allan Bates
- FOUNDATION** – Paul JeWerson, *Elder*
Members – David Strand, Steve Snyder, Janella Cooley, Sandy McGhee, Keith Palmgren, Cheryl Jackson, Jim Swanson
- HUMAN RESOURCES** – Sara Palmgren, *Elder*
Members – Ann Durand, Jay Chrisman, Tyler Buckley, Nancy Snyder, Jon Scholl, Scott Preston, Pam Fleming
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & NOMINATING** – Sandy Groves, *Elder*
Members – Becky Huizer, *Moderator*; Jim Ely, Brad Secord, Janet Frankeberger, Stevie Joslin, John Meek, Pete Brandt
- TRUSTEES** – David Kaeb, *Elder*
Members – Jan Harrell, David Marquardt, Janet Schroeder, Mark Sprague, Carol White, Barb Booth

ELDERS OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEES

- ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Laurie Sprague, *Elder*
FAMILY MINISTRY – Jill Miller, *Elder*
WORSHIP & MUSIC – Mike Ireland, *Elder*
HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP – Barb Meek, *Elder*
- LOCAL MISSIONS** – Jan Harrell, *Elder*
GLOBAL MISSIONS – Mark Ulbrich, *Elder*
SECOND HALF – Gene Gant, *Elder*

► **FINANCE UPDATE**

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$20,729. Other Receipts are favorable being \$15,111 more than the prorated budget. Additionally, during the first seven months of 2026, \$100,000 of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are favorable as they are \$18,367 less than the prorated budget. This provides a \$4,207 favorable variance for the first seven months of 2026. The 2026 annual budget includes a \$40,575 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday is Sunday, September 13th. More information to follow. Thank you for continuing your gifts and supporting our mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Wylie, the finance elder, or Joanne Randolph in the church’s finance office.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 31, 2026

Actuals compared to the Prorated Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$662,270	\$641,541	\$20,729
Other Receipts	\$145,326	\$130,215	\$15,111
Foundation Support	\$100,000	\$150,000	-\$50,000
Expenses	\$903,707	\$922,074	\$18,367
Net Total	\$3,889	-\$318	\$4,207



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1 Jamie Kaiser	16 Hannah Wills
2 Saher Singh	16 Donald Mason
4 Jay Wilson	17 Janet Schroeder
4 Susan Rhodes	18 Janie Bates
5 Bailey Howes	19 Ruthann Stevens
5 Ann Baughan	20 Janet Frankeberger
6 Kim North	20 Holly Tindall
7 Jim Stevens	20 Steve Mardis
7 William Brent	23 Bill Martin
7 Wihaan Cheepurupalli	24 Ishana Mallampalli
9 Linden Miller	25 Kellen Amble
9 Jenny Scott	25 Sithara Dheeravath
12 Conni Tipsord	26 Roseanne Secord
12 Martha Everman	27 Janella Cooley
12 Carter Tindall	27 Donnabelle Daley
12 Ellen Wylie	28 Trudy Strand
14 Bryce Nicolas-Penn	28 Dave Pendell
14 Doug Brucker	28 Ryder Marquardt
14 Tyler Buckley	29 Akshaya Galla
14 Mark Wylie	29 Stella Smith
15 Walt Bergen	29 Jim VanCauwenberge
16 Monish Pathipati	30 Robbi Muir

► UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

OCT
1

THEOLOGY ON TAP THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Have good food, drinks, and theological conversation with friends! Parking can be found outside the Paxton building on the street, PNC Bank lot, or at Second Pres. Dinner is \$5 and local beverages can be purchased with cash donation.

OCT
4

UNITY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

You're invited to join this special unity worship service with our friends from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church! You won't want to miss this collective worship experience. Brunch will follow.

OCT
14

PUMPKIN DECORATING WITH FAMILY MINISTRY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Paint or carve pumpkins with Family Ministry! Pumpkins and supplies are provided. There is a suggested donation of a canned good for the food pantry. Dinner is provided to all. Please register by October 7 at <https://bit.ly/4h73mPu>



TENNIS SHOE DRIVE - LASTING ALL MONTH!

"Kick off" the football season right by bringing in new or gently used tennis shoes through the month of September. All sizes are needed, but there is particular need for men's and boy's sizes. Donations may be left in the labeled box outside the sanctuary. For questions, contact jan Harrell at jeharre@hotmail.com