

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Church  
Happenings**

### **Church Services:**

**To be shared  
On our website or  
facebook page-**

**[www.fpcgburg.org](http://www.fpcgburg.org)**

**@FirstPresbyterian  
Gburg**

**Sunday  
Conversations  
Sundays at  
9:15 a.m.**



**Merry  
Christmas!**



# **The Call**

## **December Newsletter**



[www.fpcgburg.org](http://www.fpcgburg.org)

### **Wally Words**

#### **“Farewell and God Bless”**

Dear Friends,

It seems like yesterday when we first met. Our two years have flown by quickly. As I look back at our time together, I am filled with gratitude. There is a lot of vitality in this congregation. Thank you for receiving my ministry with willing hearts. Now it is time for the church - and for me - to move forward into new chapters. Thank you for the opportunity to minister with you.

I have been privileged to get to know many of you, and that makes leaving much more difficult. A good separation involves professional ethics. I must stay away for 2 years after leaving, unless specifically invited by the new pastor. This practice is necessary in order to allow the new pastor and congregation to form relationships unfettered by dredging up the previous pastor. I will continue specific friendships. However, if a member comes to me about a problem with the church or one of the pastors, I will listen, but will also inform the new pastor that you approached me with a problem so that he or she has the opportunity to address it.

Be a church that affirms and surrounds your new pastors as you have me. Sustain them with your kind words and actions. So love and serve the Lord together, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's Blessings,



**Stewardship  
Per Capita 2021  
\$41.39**



**In the Church Library—**

## **The History of Presbyterian Development in Southeastern Indiana**

By Joe Westhafer

This article is excerpted from a lecture by Joe Westhafer, on the History of Presbyterian Development in Southeastern Indiana, given at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis on November 23, 1975.

The Old School/New School Division of the National Church lasted from 1830 to 1870, and it was the result of distrust of the rigidly conservative Old School for the experimental, deviated Presbyterian New School. Old School pastors were trained at home or at the Indiana Theological Seminary at Hanover, while the New School pastors were trained at Yale, Andover, Union, or Auburn Seminaries. James Wheelock, the NS pastor at Greensburg was directly involved in the issue. He cried out for “anything except the ignorant, self-righteous Kentucky Presbyterianism” that he had to tolerate. Most of the local church buildings reminding him of “old houses whose owners could not decide whether to repair or simply pull down and build over again.”

Needless to say, this kind of candid talk did not endear him to his OS compatriots, and this majority attempted to carry out a sentence against Wheelock for heresy in Presbytery during an 1833 meeting in Greensburg. The moderator would not allow the action and walked out of the meeting along with a few other people. Presbytery carried out the action anyway and the minister was found guilty.

The people of Greensburg rallied behind the minister and as a result, along with the fact that the trial was a local sensation, added fifteen new members to his congregation. Wheelock left the community six months later and went to Terre Haute to await the result of an appeal to Synod. Synod did acquit him with the admonishment to be more careful in the future.

The Old School/New School split lasted until 1870. Whitewater and Indianapolis Presbyteries played a key part in the bringing together of the National Church when in 1865 a committee of OS proponents made advances towards reuniting by sending delegates to a meeting of Indianapolis NS in session at Connersville. The Whitewater Presbytery representative stated that “...the time had come for both branches of the Presbyterian Church to consider harmonious and honorable blending of the two branches that the work of the Lord might prosper.” This met with hearty response by the Indianapolis NS, and they appointed delegates to submit the same proposal at the Indianapolis OS which was meeting the following week in Indianapolis. From this beginning came resolution and the split was healed.



**A special Session meeting has been called for Wednesday, December 2, 2020 to determine whether the church will remain open for in person services in December given the rise of the Covid 19 cases and the fact that we are under code Red at this time. If you want your opinion known, contact one of our session members.**

**Look for an announcement to be made in this week's eCall.**

## **Meet Our New Pastors**



**We would like to welcome to our church family  
Reverends  
Garrett and  
Marena  
Schindler**



## **PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER**

*Somehow not only for Christmas  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you,  
And the more you spend in blessing.  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of our heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.*

*--John Greenleaf Whittier*



If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving -- large or small -- it will be used to measure what is given back to you.  
(Luke 6:38)

Kathy Denny, Care of Parish Team

**Members of Session 2020**

Polly Matlock  
 David Schlemmer  
 David Narwold  
 Mary Stradley  
 Judy Rust  
 Mike Gommel  
 Terri Pleak  
 Pastor– Rev. Wally Wilson  
 Clerk– Darleen Fox

**Session Committees**

Trustees, Finance, & Stewardship  
 Care of Parish & Christian Education  
 Worship & Music  
 Mission, Outreach, & Marketing  
 Personnel

**Session News**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, IN met in a virtual meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

- ⇒ Nominating Committee needs to begin considering that at least two elders are needed for Session 2021.

**CLERK**

- ⇒ The Smock Foundation sent the church a check for \$5000 to help our elderly members in need. Darleen has sent a note of thanks to them.

**TREASURER**

- ⇒ Budget requests need to be submitted to treasurer, Susan Wilson as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Committee Chairs need to be working on your Annual Reports for your committee.

**TRUSTEE**

- ⇒ Anthony has been very busy sanitizing and getting things ready to re-open the church.
- ⇒ Darleen has worked in the Sanctuary to make sure we will keep our distancing and stay safe during services.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

- ⇒ Pastor Wally made a personal commendation for the work that Jeff and Cathy Lincourt have done in making services possible during this pandemic, and we all wholeheartedly agree. A big thank you to Jeff and Cathy. We appreciate what you do for the church.





## Thelma Corya's Life Journey

Thelma Johnson Corya was born to Raymond and Ruth (Colvin) Johnson in Decatur County on January 17, 1922 (she'll celebrate her 99th birthday in 2021). She had one sister, Orianna, who lived for only three days.

As new parents, could Raymond and Ruth have imagined the remarkable life their daughter Thelma would have as she pursued many opportunities. She grew up on the family farm where she helped in many ways. She, like many children of farm families, learned to drive at a young age. One of her jobs was to drive the tractor out to deliver meals to the workers. When Thelma was about 14 or 15 years old, her mother was in the hospital in Greensburg. Her father, who was very tired after a day in the fields, asked Thelma to drive him to the hospital so he could visit his wife. Thelma didn't have a driver's license and, as luck would have it, was stopped by the police. They expected to be in trouble, but she and her dad were informed that the police were looking for John Dillinger, so they were able to continue on to the hospital.

Thelma attended Burney School through the 8th grade, then transferred to Greensburg High School because they offered more math and science classes that she was interested in studying. She graduated from Greensburg High School in 1940 and then attended Indiana University. Thelma planned to study accounting, but one day was brought into her advisor's office and told she would need to change her accounting major because a woman would not be hired. So, Thelma changed her major to statistics.

Thelma, who knew Stewart Corya from childhood, having attended Burney School together, were good friends for many years. In high school they dated occasional and their love slowly grew. By the end of high school, they were a couple.

While Thelma was a student at IU, World War II had started and many young men were drafted. This had an impact on the basketball and football teams. The college needed to be sure their players remained eligible to play so Thelma was hired by the university to tutor the athletes.

When Thelma graduated from IU in 1944, she took the train east to New York City in route

to Bridgeport, Connecticut where a job in quality control awaited her at Remington Arms. Thelma didn't know anyone in New York or Bridgeport but that didn't deter her. The young men at Remington Arms had also been drafted and the older men were not real sure about having a 22-year-old woman leading them in the manufacture of artillery.

After Stewart graduated from Purdue University, he began work as a Field Service Engineer. He and Thelma were married on November 7, 1944, and she left her job at Remington Arms. They moved to wherever Stewart's work took him.

After the war, they returned to Decatur County and the farm. Thelma and Stewart raised two children - Bruce (Kathi) of California and Greensburg, and Mary Ruth (John) Bushey of Eden Prairie, MN. They also have four grandchildren.

They were both very active in the community, and having attended church their whole lives, served the First Presbyterian Church in many capacities. In 1964, Thelma was among a group of eight women who visited a church in Muncie, IN to learn about the women's "Flower Mission Group." The group met to work on crafts and have lunch together. When they returned to Greensburg, they began to plan their own version of the group naming it "Friendship and Talent." The cost of lunch then was 50 cents. Some of the crafts made at Friendship & Talent were the Chrismon ornaments and the hooked rug in Reception Hall. They made baby blankets, stuffed animals and the long list goes on. Craft items were sold and funds used for support of the church as well as mission giving.

Thelma has a caregiver's heart. She was caregiver for her mother and later her aunt. Ever faithful, she visited with them and saw to their needs for many years.

Thelma and Stewart valued their education, and they each established a scholarship in the Decatur County Community Foundation - Thelma's is for the IU Kelley School of Business and Stewart's is for a Purdue University Engineering student.

When Thelma was asked about her favorite pastor, she said she didn't have a favorite, but a childhood pastor, Rev. Parrot sticks in her mind.



## First Presbyterian Church

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## Our Mission Statement

We are a welcoming family of faith,  
Celebrating Christ's presence  
Worshiping God with joy,  
Nurturing the life of each individual,  
Carrying Christ's message to all the world, and  
Seeking to live God's word by serving others.

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*2021 Per Capita  
\$41.42 per person*



Church services can be found on  
Sunday mornings on our **facebook**  
**page** and on our **website**.

FACEBOOK—  
**@FirstPresbyterianGburg**



**Sending  
Healing  
Prayers**



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**Merry  
Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
God Bless!**