

The Beacon
June 21, 2017

**First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Anna, Illinois**



Replacing the Tower of Babel

It was only right that the Fischlers' first Sunday at 1st EPC was Pentecost Sunday (June 4), and it was totally fitting that Pastor David's sermon text was from Acts 2. Pentecost marked the beginning of the church, and David's sermon was the kickoff of a new phase of ministry at FEPC Anna.

His observation that Pentecost replaced the ignominious failure of Babel is worth chewing on. The people of Babel digressed from one language and one mind (Gen 11:1) to people whose languages were so diverse that confusion reigned, causing them to scatter across the land (Gen 11:9).

What caused the demise of Babel? The people said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves..." It was all about them and their accomplishments. They thought they could reach heaven on their own merits.

But the Lord disagreed. When He saw what had been done, He confused their languages, destroying their plan...and their civilization.

Pentecost, on the other hand, united peoples from throughout the world. When filled with the Holy Spirit, God's people spoke in such a way that travelers from a myriad of lands and languages were all able to hear and understand in their own tongue. And what did they hear? Spirit filled believers proclaiming the mighty works of God (Acts 2:11).

Babel teaches that working our way toward God will divide us.

Pentecost teaches that God will unite us when we put him in charge.

What, I wonder, will mark this new chapter in the life of our church? Will we try to impress God with our plans, programs, and cleverness? Or will we seek *His* plans and programs and wisdom?

Will we strive to "make a name for ourselves" or will we, like the Spirit filled believers on Pentecost, proclaim the "mighty works of God?"

I'm sure that you, like me, are excited about the future of 1st EPC. May God's Holy Spirit empower us, unite us, and use us for His purposes.

Joe Plemon



Sunday's Worship Service

Note: This is the second of a multi-part series through the Epistle to the Ephesians that will extend into the fall. The focus of the series will be the work of God in and through the church.

Ephesians 1:11-14 "Our Inheritance"

by Rev. David Fischler

Counters: Dick Nance and Gary Meyer
Greeters – Linda Warren's Ladies' S.S. Class

Prayers and Praise this week:

Sondra Gould's mother, George & Max Warren's brother - Harry, Jim and Sandy Davis, Jon Pengress, Eidson grandbaby, Jada, Group going to the Edge Saturday, and **FEPC VBS in July**

Each week we remember to pray especially for some of our church family listed alphabetically:

ABERNATHY, Bill & Amy (Logan, Blake)
ABERNATHY, Sue
ANDERSON, Barbara
ANDERSON, Stuart & Pat

Sunday's Report

S.S. – 68 Morning Worship - 98
General Fund \$2632.00 Building Fund \$50.00

This Week at FEPC

Wednesdays- 6:30 VBS Planning mtg. in the Library
(Choir is on break, but will be in the choir loft the first 3 Sundays in July)
Thursdays – 6:00pm The Street Ministry at Main St. Center
Sat. the 24th – Group leaves for The Edge
Sunday – 8:45 Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 4pm Men's Prayer Group
- 6pm D-Group

"Stories by the Sea" VBS at FEPC!

VBS for Kindergarten through 5th grade, will be Monday, July 17th -Thursday, the 20th, 9am-12pm. There will be a pool party Thursday evening at the Anna Pool. We are excited to offer this VBS for our church family and the community. Please be thinking how you'd like to be involved and students you can invite! If you're interested in helping, please come to a planning meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 in the church library. For more information please contact Sondra Gould. 614-2883.

Happy Birthday!



25th – Heidi Rajan, Julie Lewis
27th – Ryan Vicenzi
29th – George Chenoweth
30th – Isaac Hileman, Pat Bridwell
1st – Carol Shepard & Nancy Gunn

Happy Anniversary!

25th – Doc & Pat Meller
27th – Mark & AiRan
29th – Bonnie & Donald Vines
30th – George & Linda Warren

Kent Aspen- Always Looking for Junk Metal (Has collected \$673 worth so far!)

Call Kent to pick up large items 559-3243. Small items may be left in the carport of the house next door. Even nails, screws, bolts, and hinges add up! Proceeds will go to the Reynosa Church so they may buy the vacant lot by their building.



NOTE: He is not able to take televisions or computer monitors.

Pastor David doesn't have a cell phone yet, but their home phone is 614-7214. Email: David@firstepc.org or dfischler@verizon.net .



A talent we didn't know about – autoharp player!

Thank You

We would like to thank our church family for all the concern shown over the death of our brother. We felt your prayers and hugs and appreciated all the expressions of sympathy shown us. We are so thankful for our loving church family and cannot imagine getting through a situation like this without you and our marvelous hope of eternity. Sincerely, Jim and Shirley

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Our junior high youth will be attending The Edge (June 24th – 28th) at Covenant College. Sean Haase will be leading, Kenzie Boget, Madi Bigler, and Justyn Harvel will be helping lead. Seven (7) youth are scheduled to attend, five (5) girls (Katie Kirk, Sarah Kirk, Ana Markovic, Allie Bigler, and her friend Sami Stokes) and two (2) boys (Nate Baggott and Nate Belcher). Addy Aspen and Zach Griffen are already there, serving as counselors for two weeks.

New College and Career Class

"Next Step", a Sunday School class for college age young adults, will kick off on July 2. If that's you, invite a friend and give it a try. We will meet in the former High School classroom downstairs, and Joe Plemon will be your teacher. Questions? Feel free to call or text Joe at 618-521-7514. See you on July 2.

FEED THE KIDS THIS SUMMER

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY
FILL OUR CHURCH BASKETS
in the Hallways

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

June Requests: Spaghetti Sauce, Bag/box of Pasta,
Canned Vegetables, Bag/box of Cereal



Dear Prayer Supporters,

We're back in Taiwan--thanks for your generous prayer and financial support that makes this next 3-year term possible! We praise God that we've had a smooth journey back with relatively few hic-cups. Though the kids have completely forgotten their Chinese, they've been in good spirits and love being back.

As for the ministry, our team told us they missed the evangelistic gifts God gave us and would like for us to focus on outreach and bringing new people into our church so that it will continue to grow. Here's how you can pray in the weeks ahead.

1) We're hoping to do more hosting in our home this term (especially with non-Christians). We're off to a good start (picture above) with Mr. Su's family last night. Pray that Mr. Su will make church a priority and worship with us each week. Though we baptized him last year, he is not attending church regularly.

2) Jennifer's hopes to start a free aerobics class at the Gospel Center to attract completely new and unreached people. Pray that the right people will come.

3) Thomas is hoping to do a simple evangelistic English class for adults in the book of Jonah, if 10 students register. Pray for us to find the right people and that the class could begin by June 30.

4) Pray for many evangelistic opportunities in our community. Praise God that Thomas has already had an opportunity to share about God in Mandarin with a man he met in the park, and will also be sharing Bible stories with a man who sells propane gas starting next week. Jennifer has been focusing on the local outdoor market to build relationships and share the Good News. We are both feeling some pressure to bring new people in, as it has not been happening as much as we had hoped.

5) Two new Christians on the fringes of the church have told Jennifer that they are seeking divorces from their husbands. Please pray for wisdom in handling this.

In Christ, Thomas and Jennifer McIntyre