



# The Encounter

May 2013



As a congregation, we have been looking at the Spiritual Gifts God gives to each of us his people. We have done so in the context of discerning God's calling in our lives.

Together, as the local body of Christ known as APC, we are also on a journey of discovering our unique calling and

giftedness as a congregation. One of the phrases I have used not only applies to us as individuals, but can also be applied to us as a congregation. That phrase is from Frederick Buechner in his book *Wishful Thinking*; "the place God calls us to is the place where our souls deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

That is at the heart of our *Discerning God's Will Together*. We call this discernment process *Appreciative Inquiry*. It is *Appreciative* because it focuses on the positive things God has done and is doing in and through a congregation. The process is called *Inquiry* because it seeks greater clarity of where and how God is calling and leading a congregation to join him in his current and future activity around them.

In this process, we seek to answer four fundamental questions: Where has God been at work in our past, Who has God made us to be, Where is God calling us to join and follow Christ in his mission around us, and How will God lead and equip us to fully live into this future reality?

To this, I want to add the following: This corporate process of discernment is a worshipful act, just like our worship services where we come into the presence of God, anticipating and expecting God to reveal himself to us, to fill our hearts with love for him and our neighbors, and to equip us to follow him in mission however and wherever he leads.

God has given this local body named APC some tremendous gifts, strengths, and assets; and God has a special calling for this body in this community. And this process of discerning is - in and of itself, an act of worship. It involves praise and thanksgiving, confession and forgiveness, hearing and responding to God's Word and call, prayers of the people, offering and dedication, and benediction.

God, through the Holy Spirit is already at work ahead of us. Discernment is about gaining clarity of that activity, and uniting our hearts to join God in that activity, just as we do in our worship together. Discernment involves bringing our questions before God and moving them prayerfully through the steps of our worship together. And so, as we engage in this process, we are literally doing worshipful work: turning our work into worship and our worship into work.

As we move more fully into this process of discernment, I know our great God will lead you to the place where "your soul's deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet". This is the place where the gifts God has given to you will have the greatest impact in His kingdom.

In the end, as in worship, this discernment process isn't about you or me, it is about living into the purposes of our great and gracious God. Stated in another way "What is the chief end for humankind? To glorify God and to enjoy him forever." Westminster Catechism Question and Answer # 1.

The peace of Christ be with you!

Jim

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## **Ankeny Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

317 S.E. Trilein Drive  
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3232  
Phone: 515-964-0264  
FAX: 515-964-5453

E-Mail:  
office@ankenypresbyterian.org

Web Site:  
www.ankenypcusa.org

# Financial Update

Listed below is a summary of APC 2013 income and expenses as of March 31, 2013. Thank you for you for support of APC's ministries. Should you have questions about the statement below, contact Evan Stadlman.

		YTD March 31	2013 Budget
	Category	Total	Total
<b>INCOME</b>			
	Interest - Money Market	\$14.85	\$50.00
	Interest - Checking Account	\$34.55	\$100.00
	Carryover - Previous Year	\$42,000.00	\$42,000
	Per Capita Income	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
	Loose Offering	\$526.52	\$2,400.00
	Prior Year Nonpledged		\$0.00
	Current Year Nonpledged	\$7,083.00	\$18,000
	Nonpledged Other		\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Non-pledged - Other</b>	<b>\$49,758.92</b>	<b>\$63,550.00</b>
	Pledged		
	Current Year Pledged	\$60,623.00	\$252,008.00
	Prior Year - Youth Dir. Pledged	\$26,557.06	\$26,557.00
	Pledged - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>\$87,180.06</b>	<b>\$277,565.00</b>
<b>Other Revenue (i.e. 2011 EOY fund transfers, fees, contributions, fundraising, etc.)</b>			
	Total Mission Ministry	\$1,957.00	\$5,285.00
	Total Special Offerings	\$1,126.32	\$0.00
	Total Worship Ministry	\$0.00	\$100.00
	Total Discipleship	\$4,572.34	\$13,117.15
	Total Congregational Life	\$325.00	\$4,080.00
	Total Deacons/Congregational Care	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Facility Resources	\$1,265.30	\$3,900.00
	Total Human Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total General Office	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9,245.96</b>	<b>\$26,482.40</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$146,148.94</b>	<b>\$367,597.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Total	Mission	\$6,865.26	\$32,300.00
Total	Special Offerings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	Per Capita	\$2,108.01	\$8,704.00
Total	Worship Ministry	\$999.75	\$3,525.00
Total	Discipleship Ministry	\$1,420.44	\$15,725.00
Total	Congregational Life Ministry	\$322.00	\$3,248.00
Total	Deacons/Congregational Care	\$46.00	\$550.00
Total	Stewardship Ministry	\$0.00	\$520.00
Total	Session	\$0.00	\$350.00
Total	Facility Resources	\$8,558.41	\$38,700.00
Total	General Office	\$2,129.15	\$9,450.00
Total	Human Resources/Personnel	\$42,113.21	\$211,894.00
Total	Loan Payments & Interest	\$12,597.75	\$50,391.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$77,159.98</b>	<b>\$375,357.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$69,024.96</b>	<b>(\$15,432.00)</b>

## Rev. Sue Tomlinson joins APC Staff

The Session of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church has called the Rev Sue Tomlinson to serve as our Intentional Interim Associate Pastor. Rev. Sue's area of ministry will be congregational care and she will staff the Board of Deacons. Rev Sue started her duties of April 15<sup>th</sup> and she will work a 20% time schedule.



When the Rev James Koopman was called by the Session to serve as our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor he had other work obligations that would allow him only to give 85% of his time to APC. It was felt by the Session that during this time of transition and evaluation in our church that 85% time was not adequate to meet the church's needs and the interim associate pastor position was created. When the Pulpit Committee completes its work and recommends a new pastor the church's call to Rev Jim and Rev Sue will end and the church will again have one senior pastor.

## Worship

Lord God, through Christ you have given us peace that the world cannot give. Let your Spirit of truth abide with us so that we may live in hope, grow in faith, and keep your commandments of love; in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. John 14:8-17, 25-27.

May is a month of special celebrations at APC. We will be celebrating Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons, Volunteers, Graduates, Mother's Day, Pentecost and Memorial Day. We invite you to join us in worship for all these special days in life of our congregation.

May 5—Communion, Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons  
Annual Meeting following worship

May 12—Recognition of Volunteers in Ministry, Graduates and Mother's Day

May 19—Pentecost, Drama by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Please wear **red**

May 26—Memorial Day Sunday, Recognition of our Veterans

Worship Service Attendance			
<b>March 2012</b>	<b>475 (total)</b>	<b>April 2012</b>	<b>665 (total) includes Easter</b>
Weekly Average	119	Weekly Average	133
<b>March 2013</b>	<b>708(total) Includes Easter</b>	<b>April 2013</b>	<b>394 (total)</b> (does not include 4/28)
Weekly Average	141	Weekly Average	131

## Session Action Summary—April 8, 2013

Session Action Items from the April 8, 2013 Session Meeting:

1. To hire Rev. Sue Tomlinson as the Intentional Interim Associate Part Time Minister. Her duties officially begin on April 15, 2013.
2. Restore to active membership Tom and Jo Thorpe per their request.
3. Approve the child safety initial response team of Rev. Jim Koopman, John Middents, and Chris Albers. They are to be the initial contact in the case of a child safety incident.

The Session committee leadership will be organized as follows for 2013-14:

Congregational Life: Cory Dawkins and Heather Sanders

Discipleship: Rick Ruff

Facility Resources: Gary Owens

Financial Resources: Audrey Kobus

Human Resources: Charlie Hale and John Middents

Mission: Kent Berry and Arlene Edmondson

Worship & Music: Jill Vander Wilt and Sandy Wagener

Please direct any comments, concerns, or questions to one of your Session members.

## Facility Resource Committee News

Recently our church experienced a problem with our fire alarm system. We had Simplex Grinnell out two times in a 24 hour period to try and solve the problem without success. The Ankeny Fire Department also answered the alarms and finally suggested we have Simplex Grinnell disarm the quadrant that was causing the alarm to ring. We have 4 different quadrants in our church that each have a fire alarm. The oldest of these quadrants, the one that includes the kitchen and classrooms on the South of our church, is the only one giving us a problem. After discussing with a Simplex Grinnell technician it was decided to allow the other 3 quadrants to continue to monitor our church while we search for the problem with the 4<sup>th</sup>. Quadrant. The alarm system will depend on the smoke detectors in the above area until the problem is solved. They seem to think that it is a water problem as many buildings such as ours are experiencing the same or similar problems. They think the water may be causing the current to go back to the main panel and set the alarm off. We will monitor this closely.

The best we can hope for is that we can see where the water (if it is water) is coming from and then we can fix the problem. The worst case is that the quadrant or whole alarm system will need to be replaced. Your facility committee will keep you informed on this. In the meantime you are safe at APC. Use it as you have and enjoy it as God has intended us to enjoy it.

Your Facility Committee

Gary Owens, Elder

## Looking Ahead

Over the past year, did you graduate, get a certification, or achieve a professional accomplishment? Part of being in a church family is celebrating achievements together, and we want to celebrate!



Please let us know what you, your child, or your spouse has done so that we can let others know and give recognition in the worship service on **May 12**.

Provide the following information, as applicable: name, accomplishment, where graduating from, and future plans. Please Contact Martha Slocombe with the information no later than May 5: [martha@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:martha@ankenypresbyterian.org) or 515-964-0264.



**Sunday, May 12th**, don't miss the celebration. We will be thanking and recognizing our volunteers in worship along with high school and/or college graduates and mothers for Mother's Day. A cookie reception will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall so don't miss on the celebration.



20/30/40 Members

It's time for another 20/30/40 event!

**Sunday, June 2** after worship (around 11 a.m.) all members in their 20s, 30s, and 40s as well as their families are invited out to Eric and Rebecca Morris' home in Bondurant at 7783 NE 102nd Ave. Bring outdoor games to play if you have any and a side dish to share. Contact Martha Slocombe with any questions: [martha@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:martha@ankenypresbyterian.org) or 515-964-0264.



Calling all Discipleship volunteers! If you've helped out the Discipleship committee at any time in the past year, please mark your calendars for a celebration in your honor: **July 14 at noon** at the Little-Yeager home in Huxley. More information to come. Contact Martha Slocombe with any questions: [martha@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:martha@ankenypresbyterian.org) or 515-964-0264.

Planning your summer? Schedule in  
**VBS for July 8-12 from 9-Noon!**  
 Register your kids or register yourself as a volunteer at  
[2013.cokesburyvbs.com/ankenypc](http://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/ankenypc)

Contact Martha Slocombe with any questions at  
[martha@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:martha@ankenypresbyterian.org) or 515-964-



## Worship Volunteers

### May 5

Greeters: Evan & Becky Stadlman, Diana Haines  
 Ushers: Rick Ruff & Mary Kleis  
 Worship Leader: Marcia McAdoo  
 No Sunday School

### May 12


Greeters: Gary & Janie Owens, Jan Klinker  
 Ushers: Gary & Lois Anne Naylor  
 Worship Leader: Debi Garner  
 Nursery Volunteers during SS: Marcia McAdoo, Mark McAdoo

### May 19

Greeters: Sam & Heather Housker, Wilma Akins  
 Ushers: Al & Cathy Overbaugh  
 Worship Leader: Conner Hilsenbeck  
 Nursery Volunteers during SS: Anne Dirks, Linda Wehage

### May 26

Greeters: Seth & Florence Afawuzo, Phyllis Christensen  
 Ushers: Jim & Marge Hennings  
 Worship Leader: Lee White  
 No Sunday School




*Thank you* so much for your cards, notes and blessings during my surgery and health problems. You are in my prayers.  
 Jan Olofson  
 Matthew 5:14-15

### Food Pantry

**March's** total donations to the Food Pantry were 41 food items and 36 diapers for a year to date total of **262 food items and 513 diapers.**

**Reminder: Expired food is not accepted by the Food Pantry.** Please make sure and check the dates before you bring the items.



### MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON FOR MEN & WOMEN!

This group meets the first Wednesday of the month (**May 1st this month**) at IHOP at **12:00 noon**. Anyone who would like to fellowship is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.

### May Birthdays

2 Dale Smith Evan Stadlman Carla Yeager 4 Jan Smith 6 Nelda Lamp 8 Ruth Wagner 10 Corinne Goodman Keith Halverson	10 Edna Todd 15 Theo Housker 17 Brad Fillbach Aaron Selby 18 Verne Murray 19 Heather Sanders 21 Jane Wood	22 Abby Housker 25 Julie Cloud 27 Jane Middents Taylor Nelson Wyatt Nutt 28 Elizabeth Flaugh 30 Randy Korn 31 Jenna Kauble
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