

OCTOBER, 2019

# THE BELLTOWER

## 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KANKAKEE

IN CONCERT! ONU JAZZ COMBO Sun. Nov. 10th 3pm

The 8-person Jazz Combo, **TURNAROUND** under the leadership of Professor Freddie Franken will present an afternoon of jazz in our beautiful historic sanctuary. This is one of two combos Professor Franken leads as part of his job as the head of the Jazz Dept at ONU. Freddie is originally from the island of Aruba, and graduated from Berklee's College of Music. A personal friend of Paul Johnson, Freddie is an amazing guitarist who is able to inspire his students to be the best players they can be.

The objective for the students in the combo is to be able to be called for a professional "gig." Skills involved include the abilities to sight read lead sheets, come up with lyrical and melodic jazz improvisational solos, and learn the dynamics of working in a group and how to lead one. By the time of the concert they will have spent over two months working together, and I'm sure will put on a fine program for us.

There is no charge but a free—will offering will be collected.

Come support the students as they explore the world of jazz music.

### Staff

**Karen Williams, CP,**  
Interim Pastor &  
Moderator

**Paul Johnson,**  
Director of Music,  
Office and Building  
Manager

**Mark Wadley,**  
Maintenance



**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Sept 18th**



On Wednesday Sept 18th we opened our doors to the community for tours of our church and to celebrate the repair and restoration of our beautiful 18' x 10' depiction in stained glass of DaVinci's *The Last Supper*. Thanks to a great article in the Daily Journal approximately 110 people attended; many of them taking a tour of the church conducted by Bonnie Bergeron and Sue Barclay



Paul Johnson, Building, Office Manager and Music Director of First Presbyterian, Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong, Pastor Karen Williams from First Presbyterian, Dr. Latonya Wilks from the KDS#111 Student Support Services, and Pastor Aguilar Velasquez from Juan 3:16 . All three organizations were a part of the event.

*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony continued...*

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The first thing to happen that day were tours of the church. Paul Johnson, Bonnie Bergeron and Sue Barclay collaborated and came up with great script for a tour of the church of it's history and stained glass windows. Tours lasted half-an-hour, and were given at 10:30, 11:00 and 12:30. People that took the tour found it fascinating. The ladies love of history shone through as they spoke. We all owe Bonnie and Sue a debt of gratitude for undertaking such a big and important task.

Although we failed to get a picture of them on duty, David Feguson and Marlene Redenius greeted guests at the alley and Court St. doors with a warm welcome.

At 11:30 we began serving a combination of American and Guatemalan cuisine. Bernadette Lamore did a great job planning it along with Pastor Aguilar Valesquez of Juan 3:16. Bernadette hired Desiree Collins to handle the kitchen; preparing and serving food, and cleaning up the fellowship hall and kitchen. She did a great job, and more importantly that meant than no church member needed to bother with it. Instead they could focus on visiting guests and telling them about our church.



*Pastor Aguilar Velasquez from Juan 3:16 organized the ladies of her church with some authentic Guatemalan food. Between the two churches there was plenty of food to go around and everyone enjoyed their meal.*



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony continued...



Jodette Giankopolous, a teacher from the Transition Program set up a table to both sell items the students made; dog biscuits, note pads, spices, and body wash. Some of the higher functioning students helped her. It was a great experience for the students and they and Jodette were able to share with people information about their program.

*Jodette & the students sold a total of \$48 worth of products, and afterwards the students counted the money; another skill that is taught for these developmentally disabled students.*

Several months prior to the event a marketing committee was formed consisting of Judy Markham, Sophia Lamore, Paul Johnson and Karen Williams. One of the decisions of that committee was to have bags designed with our church name and logo imprinted on them. At the ribbon-cutting Gina Zunke handed out the bags to visitors with a bottle of water inside, along with information about our church. They are



small, but really sturdy and we hope we will see them being used out in the community. At the same time we asked people to sing our guest book. We collected information from 26 guests.

*If you did not get a bag they are in the narthex. Please take two—one to give to someone and one for yourself to use when you are out in the community. You never know when someone might stop you and ask about our church.*

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony continued...

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*Pictured L-R from First Presbyterian are: Marlene Redenius, Gina Zunke, Paul Johnson, Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong, Gwen Markham, Pastor Karen Williams, Scott Smith, President of First Trust Bank, Judy Markham, Dr. Latonya Wilks of KSD#111 Student Support Services, and Emily Poff, Executive Director of the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce.*

The picture above represents a great deal of work and effort. Our chief reason for joining the Chamber of Commerce initially was their offer to do a ribbon cutting for our window. After a few brief speeches at noon we officially cut the ribbon. Jacksonville Stained Glass gave our window a great 75th birthday present. It is truly stunning. JSG did an amazing job.



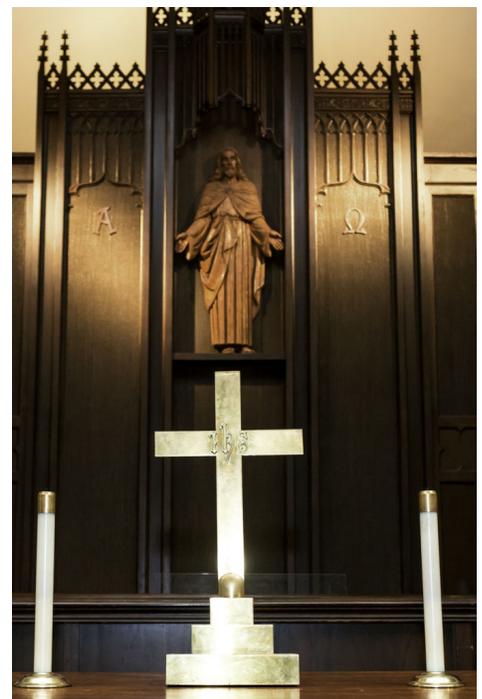
*Guests arrive at the church.. This is a great shot of our building.*

Besides our church "showing off" our new window, it was important to let the Mayor, Chamber of Commerce members, and everyone else who attended that this building houses three separate ministries. Before the event, the fact that the building is being used to the extent it is was known only to our ministry partners.

*By choosing to invest a portion of Richard Logan's endowment in the building, rather than go elsewhere, we committed to being a presence right here in downtown Kankakee.* I think we all

would agree that we are very happy to see the building used every single day of the week, and most evenings.

*Paul Johnson*



*Jesus, the Alpha and Omega*

*More Ribbon Cutting Pictures*



Pictured L-R: Mark Wadley, Judy Markham, Marlene Redenius, Elizabeth Bauer, Anne Miller, Paul Johnson, Mayor Wells'Armstrong, Karen Williams, Gwen Markham, Roland Bauer, Bonnie Bergeron, Gina Zuncke,, Sue Barclay



To the left, Bonnie and Sue go over their strategy, below right Mayor Wells'Armstrong with Pastores Aguilar Verasquez. Below left view of Good Shepherd Window with tudor ceiling



More Ribbon Cutting Pictures



Part of the life of Jesus in stained glass portion of the tour



Above—the chancel with it's rich wood is truly beautiful.

To the right— Paul demonstrates the organ as part of the tour

Below—Judy Markham makes a point. Next to her Anne Miller, Dr. Frank Garton, Pastor Karen and Elizabeth Bauer



## Karen's Korner

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Can you believe October is already here? I am ready for the cooler temperatures, but not quite ready for our days to start getting shorter.

Sunday October 6 is a big Sunday in the Presbyterian Church. We celebrate Worldwide Communion. We will celebrate the bread and cup throughout the nations. We will pray for all the churches worldwide.

We will also be celebrating Peace and Global Witness Offering. We will hear from Chris Young how our special offering will help not only worldwide but also close to home.

Let us pray for those who are less fortunate than us. Pray for mercy, strength and love for all. Let us give to God the love that he gives us each and every day.

I hope that you all will be able to attend and join me in celebrating the Lord's Supper.

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Karen Williams

## Long-awaited Building Updates



September saw a number of long-awaited projects completed!

### AIR CONDITIONING 2ND FLOOR OF CE WING

The 2nd floor of the CE Wing used by our tenant/ministry partner, Juan 3:16 finally got air conditioning installed in September. We contracted with Brandon Casey's Comfort Crew to install 4 "mini-split" air conditioners in the 4 upstairs rooms of the CE Wing occupied by Juan 3:16. Besides the four units installed in the walls, 2 condenser units were installed on the roof. They came in under budget and yet did an outstanding job. Great company to work with.

The new systems are EXTREMELY energy efficient and very high-tech. They are equipped with some advanced technology. They have heat sensors that will locate people in the room and direct cooling to those areas. They also are able to remove the humidity from the room without turning on the cool air, and in the winter able to supply heat in case our radiator heat system is not functioning properly.



## NEW SIGNAGE & LANDSCAPING

As you can see, new dual-church signage has been installed on the east and west sides of the sanctuary along Court St. We think this was a great low-cost alternative to purchasing a computer operated electronic sign, like the church across the street has that by the way, cost \$31,000; which at this time is not feasible.

This solution reminds the community that we are still here, and meets the needs of our tenant. They have been asking for better signage for over two years and nobody could ever seem to agree on a solution. Dave Comer from Fast Signs came up with this idea that cost us about 1K.

**As part of the ribbon cutting ceremony it was of critical that our grounds** were neat and tidy. Luna Landscaping came to our aid and did a fall cleanup. In addition the large bush that was along side of the west side of the building was going to block the new signage, so it was removed and replaced with these beautiful barberry bushes. In a few years they should fill in and reach the height of the bushes adjacent to

## SANCTUARY RE-LAMPED

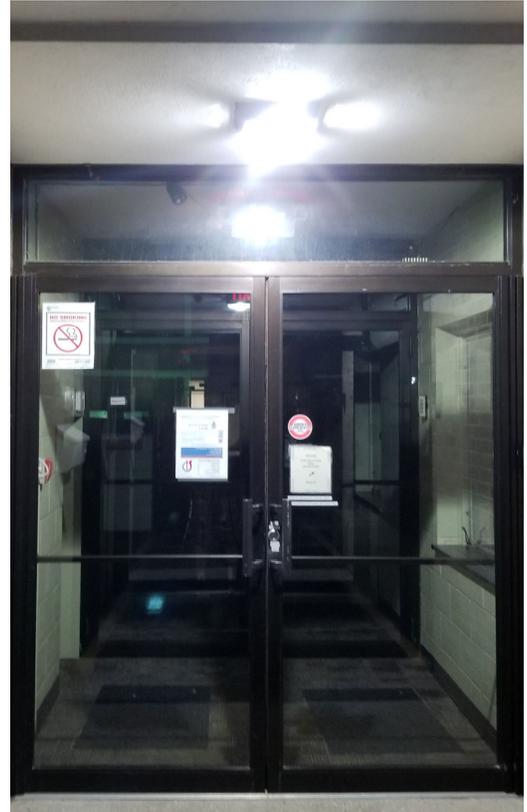
After many years of a darkish sanctuary all 14 fixtures were re-lamped to brighter energy efficient LED's. Several of the fixtures needed extensive electrical repairs, but Matt Schmidt of Schmidt Electric did an amazing job at an incredible price. He only billed for actual time spent on the job, and bid to encompass the worst case scenario. His actual costs were significantly less than he anticipated, and there was enough money left over to get new exterior lighting, replacing wasteful mercury vapor lights with energy efficient fixtures. All of the new fixtures will use the electricity of ONE mercury vapor light.

Matt also was brave enough to crawl around in the catwalk and replace all of the stage lighting—5 of the 10 bulbs were burned out. This is an every 3-4 year expense. Both the sanctuary and stage are now brightly lit!

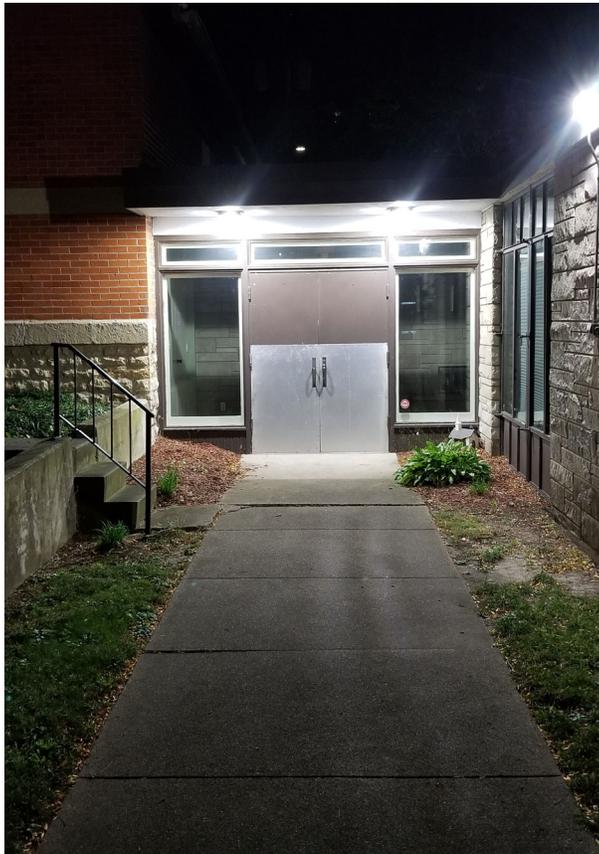


**NEW EXTERIOR LED LIGHTING!**

Due to the incredible honesty of Matt we are now in the process of replacing and adding LED exterior light fixtures. As you can see they really brighten up the building, and he is only partially done. The lighting accomplishes two tasks: first to increase security and secondly to have our building be visible at night. Prior to the work the building was literally in the dark, or at the very least, dimly lit. The new fixtures are also incredibly energy efficient and will not increase our electric bill.



*Above—Alley door*



*Indiana St Door*

***Our building is now more visible at night and the brighter lights increase the security for people and the building itself.***

*Below—Prayer Garden*



# THE BELLTOWER

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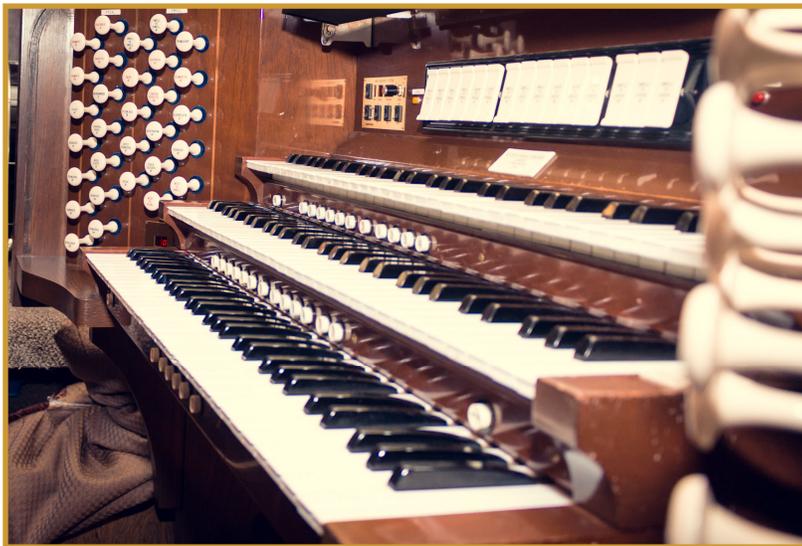


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***Our magnificent 34-rank  
Keates Pipe organ.***

## Cartoon of the month

