

# PASTOR'S POTPOURRI

## Summer Schedule through September 3

Worship 8:30 am & 10 am

Fellowship Time 9:30 am

## Field Education Student

Amy Jensen will begin her field education year with us on September 10. She is entering her second year at Princeton Theological Seminary and is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. Amy hails from Minnesota.

## New Members

The next date for the Reception of Members is Sunday, November 12, our 80th Anniversary. Orientation Sessions will be held on the first four Sundays of October (1, 8, 15, and 22) during the Education Hour.

## Congratulations to...

John Murray and Tom van de Sande who completed the annual 500-mile bike ride to raise funds for Anchor House in Trenton. The ride was Tom's 9th and John's 25th. That's a lot of miles!

## 39 and Counting

On May 28, I observed my 39th Anniversary as pastor of St. Paul. This means I have been here for more than half of my life. Yikes! For the past several years, I have baptized babies of people I baptized when they were babies and officiated at weddings for adults I baptized when they were babies. Over the past 39 years, there have been joys and sorrows, blessings and challenges. Here are a few:

- Weddings and funerals
- Softball games and hospice visits
- Vacation Bible School and farewell receptions
- Two additions to the physical plant and two mortgages to pay down

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel, your faithfulness, and your support. May God continue to give us strength for the journey as we approach with joy and thanksgiving our 80th Anniversary.

## Mortgage Reduction Campaign

- As of July 18, we have received 98 commitments totaling \$517,518.
- Because of these commitments, as of July 7, our mortgage principal balance was reduced to \$649,336.
- On July 17, a \$44,677 payment was remitted, which will further reduce the principal on our loan. It will be close to \$600,000.
- Although our monthly payment remains fixed at \$5,954, because of our advance payments, interest is going down and principal is increasing.

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
July	\$3,041.08	\$2,912.92
August	\$3,248.43	\$2,705.57

- Year-to-Date: Principal Paid - \$97,948.51  
Interest Paid - \$21,201.49

Thanks to you, we are well on our way to defeating "Goliath" (a.k.a., our mortgage).

We are still in the in-gathering phase of *Forward in Faith*. Since receiving 79 pledges for \$493,244 on Commitment Sunday, May 21, we have received an additional 19 commitments to bring our total to \$517,518. Not everyone was able to make a financial commitment. We received 11 responses indicating that.

The MRC Committee, in an effort to conclude the campaign, will send a follow-up letter and commitment card to folks who have not responded. It may be that some mislaid the initial letter and card and others haven't gotten around to responding.

If you are unable to make a commitment at this time, the MRC Committee encourages you to indicate that on the card and return it to the church.

Thanks to everyone for helping us move...

*Forward in Faith!*

*James R. Egan*