



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

SPRING 2018

NEWSLETTER



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

By Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes

A New Church Strategy

The following is an interview with Pastor Ken Hughes concerning the Strategy Task Force, which was created recently to map out a plan for the future mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

Question: What is a strategy?

Answer: There are dozens of definitions of strategy, but the one I think applies best to First Church is this: A plan of action that covers all areas considered vital to the identity and purpose of an organization. A strategy spells out the actions and resources that are needed to achieve specific goals. It suggests a timetable and sequence in which goals will be pursued, but remains flexible in light of unforeseen changes in circumstances.

Q: Why does a church need one?

A: The church has a sacred mission and orientation, which sets it apart from most other organizations. Having said that, what a church has in common with other organizations is that it is made up of people and resources, and exists in a particular setting, or context.

How the church relates to people inside and outside

its community is the most important thing it does. But those relationships are shaped by the resources at hand, and by the needs and opportunities of a particular setting. A church strategy, then, helps define priorities relating to people even as it manages resources and tailors them to its unique environment.

Q: That all sounds pretty abstract.

A: Yes, it does, and one of the first jobs of the Strategy Task Force is to develop a framework that translates theory into First Church practice.

Q: How will the Task Force go about that?

A: By starting with one or more high-level concepts drawn from the literature on church best practices, and then creating a template that makes sense for First Church. It's a messy process at first, often compared to making sausage, and while strategy is being created, it can resemble the image on the next page.

Q: Can you give an example of some current best practices?

A: Sure. A lot of attention these days is being paid to the younger generations of the church, and

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unfortunately to their scarcity in our communities of faith. So, a recent study looked at what qualities and programs exist in churches that *do* attract younger people. That study summed up its findings in this chart:



Strategy Flow Chart



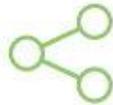
Community

Valuing and fostering deep relationships that center on service to others



Personal transformation

Making a conscious and dedicated effort to develop one's own body, mind, and spirit



Social transformation

Pursuing justice and beauty in the world through the creation of networks for good



Purpose finding

Clarifying, articulating, and acting on one's personal mission in life



Creativity

Allowing time and space to activate the imagination and engage in play



Accountability

Holding oneself and others responsible for working toward defined goals

So initially the Task Force will ask whether these elements ring true and make sense to First Church. Those that do we will likely retain, while removing those that don't, and maybe inserting elements of our own.

Q: Who is serving on the Task Force?

A: I wanted to have a small group – 5-7 members – who represented First Church in a variety of ways. I value long experience with the church, of course, but also fresh perspectives from those who have been associated with First Church for 10 years or less. Commitment and availability for meetings of the Task Force was crucial. With those criteria in mind, the Task Force currently includes: **Lauren Hill, Lucas Lloyd, Christina Banas, Jimmy Martinez, Don Houck, Mark Armesto, and myself.**

Q: How can other members of the Church participate?

A: I'll be happy at any time to meet with individuals or groups that would like to talk about First Church's plan for the future. In addition, the Task Force will ask for Session approvals of our work at crucial milestones – the Session always has the deciding vote on any significant proposed activity. The Task Force also will invite congregational reviews at regular intervals during the process. Creating a strategy is likely to take a number of months, but we will strive to keep a window open on our work as we move along. One thing is for sure – there will be more details to come!

Join us on your journey.

Additional parking
available at
Kleinhans Music
Hall Easter Sunday

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

MARCH 29

7:00 PM: SERVICE, WITH
COMMUNION

Good Friday

MARCH 30

12-3 PM: SANCTUARY OPEN FOR
SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

7:00 PM: SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 AM: Sunrise Service

A SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE COURTYARD
WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BY PHIL SIMS &
THERESA QUINN.

10:45 AM: Joyous Brass Prelude

11 AM: Sanctuary Service

OUR JOYFUL ACCLAMATION ON EASTER
SUNDAY. GALA RECEPTION TO FOLLOW,
WITH REFRESHMENTS.



ONE SYMPHONY CIRCLE, BUFFALO, NY 14201 • (716) 884-7250
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'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK • FIND US ON TWITTER @1STCHURCHBFL0

SIG ART

By Christina Banas

Sig Potembski was a long time member of First Church, and also quite a character. He was known to "illustrate" the pastor's sermons, and as a gifted artist with a witty sense of humor the drawings were usually something like this Acts 2 cartoon.

Beginning in mid-April, Sig's work will be on display in the narthex as part of a new series, "This Is Us," telling our story as a church and celebrating our rich past while looking forward with enthusiasm.

I chatted with Sig's wife, Dottie, to get some of Sig's story—how he became such a talented artist. She explained that Sig graduated from the Dayton Art Institute after serving in the Army during WWII. From there he worked at several ad agencies and Rich Products. Later in his career, Sig served as Art Director of WKBW, Channel 7.

Sig died in 2013 and is greatly missed. At his memorial service, Rev. Phil spoke during the homily about his first encounter with Sig:

"I remember the first time he came to me in the back of the church, not long after I started as the Interim Pastor in November of 2010 and handed me a cartoon based on the passage I had just preached and the sermon I had delivered from it. I looked at the cartoon for a moment and quickly burst out laughing. Sig did that to me many times in the next couple of years."

So many of us had similar experiences with Sig. We look forward to sharing his work and some smiles this spring.



THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY

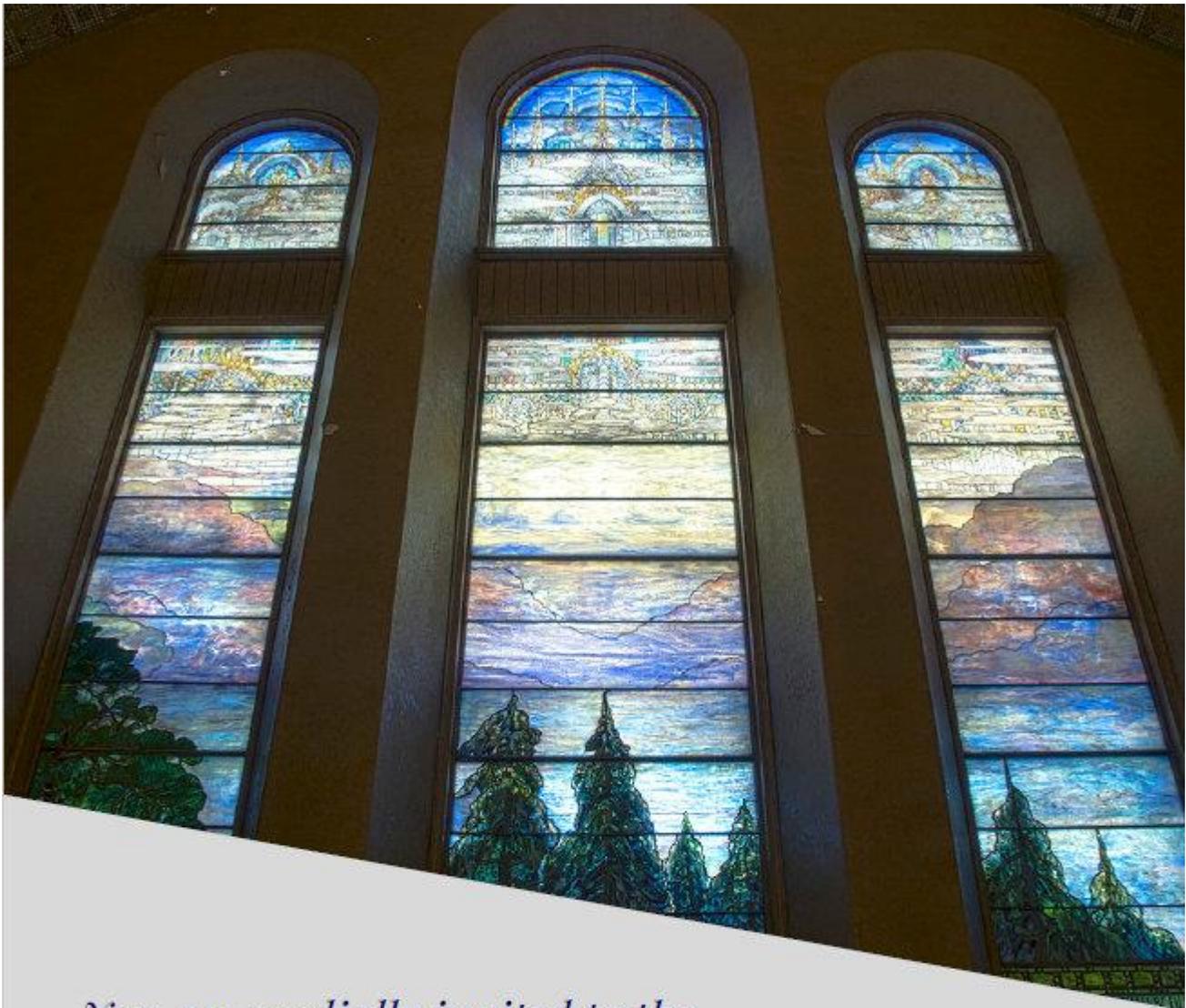
First Presbyterian Church and One Symphony Circle, Inc. are proud to participate in the

Sacred Sites Open House

Saturday, May 5

10AM to 2 PM

Volunteers are needed to help with tours and refreshments. Call or email the Church Office to sign up.



You are cordially invited to the

Installation of Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Hughes

as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018 | 3 PM

1 SYMPHONY CIRCLE | BUFFALO 14201

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

MOTHER'S DAY

By Liz Kamke

The Women's Association invites you to our annual Mother's Day reception following the worship service on May 13. We're partnering with the Deacons to celebrate with a delicious cassata cake from Panaro's, and we hope to have a good variety of items to add to the fun with our basket raffle.

Would you like to help by contributing something to the raffle? You can create a theme basket (Gardening? Mysteries? Baking?) or maybe you have something special that someone else might love. One year, my Mother-in-Law returned to me a beautiful vase that she just didn't have a spot for, and I put that in the raffle. That was a hit, as were the seashells that I had been collecting for years. Let's make this a fun event!

SACRED SUDS GROUNDBREAKING

We are invited to attend the exciting groundbreaking for the shower/laundry project at Pilgrim St. Luke's-El Nuevo Camino on **Sunday, April 8 at 12:30 PM**. This construction project is the result of the "Sacred Suds" campaign from last year endorsed by the CMO Committee and Session. First Church donated \$15,000 including \$5,000 from individual contributions and \$10,000 from the church. "Sacred Suds" will allow refugees seeking asylum at Pilgrim-St. Luke's to live more comfortably while awaiting immigration to Canada.

Prayer Shawl ministry group meets Mondays at 6:30 PM at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library (4622 Main St. in Snyder just past Harlem Rd.) Anyone is welcome, and yarn can be provided.

SUNDAY PARKING

Please remember that additional parking is available in the Gateway-Longview lot on Wadsworth Street Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. (If the automatic gate is closed when exiting, simply pull up and the arm will lift.)

If you are parked on the ramp at Kleinhans, you must move by 12:30 PM.

Village Church's lease allows them to park in the back third of the lot, leaving two-thirds of the spaces for First Church attendees. Rama Salim (Security Coordinator) patrols the lot and enforces this agreement when he is not needed inside.

As always, carpooling and street parking on Pennsylvania, Porter and St. John's free up spaces.

If you plan to attend worship and need to make special arrangements for parking, please contact Rama Salim at 884-7250, ext. 12 Tuesday through Friday to coordinate.

ADULT FORUMS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRESENTS:

Bees! Sunday, April 22

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"A Tale of 100 Kittens"

Sunday, May 20

Speaker: Christina Banas

The Book Group will gather on Thursday, April 12 at 6:00 PM at June McGrath's home. Book to read: [My Family and Other Animals](#) by Gerald Durrell. Please bring a dish for the potluck meal.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

On **Saturday, April 7th** we are planning a church outing to see Lucas Lloyd's current play [Jitters](#) for a night of dinner and theater. The play is a comedy that explores the world of theater. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and the play at 7:30. The location for the dinner theater is Bobby J's Italian American Grille, 204 Como Blvd., Cheektowaga. Prices range from \$46-\$56 for the evening. Please let the church office know if you are planning on attending by [Monday, April 2](#) so we can make a reservation. Questions? Speak to Tim Hess.

JOINT WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

**Sunday, April 15
10:30 AM**

We have been invited to worship with our neighbors at Westminster. Enjoy beautiful sacred organ and choir music directed by Dr. Bond and Garrett Martin. Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes will preach. Please note, there will be no worship service at First Church this day.

A reciprocal service to host Westminster's congregants at First Church is being planned for the fall.

Are you signed up for the church email list? Contact the Church Office to subscribe to our weekly news email "First Things First."
884-7250, x 10 or
email@firstchurchbuffalo.org.

NEWS IN THE FAMILY

A letter from

Rev. Jack Smiley, Pastor Emeritus:

To All Our Friends In First Church,
Buffalo,

Our big news for 2017 is that in spite of assorted aches and pains, we have survived in reasonably good health into 2018. Both of us have reached into our 90th year—the time when we no longer moan about age, but we boast about it.

We think about our wonderful years in First Church and continue to be thankful for them. Our New Year's prayer is the hope that 2018 will be rich in God's blessings for all of you.

—Jack and Maryellen Smiley

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News from the West Coast

"Peace be unto you and all members of First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo. Hope you're all doing well. Just reaching out to you to let you know that we are doing well here in San Diego, and we found a new church. They're very nice people just like you guys and we enjoy worshipping with them here, however we miss you. My regards to everyone.

—Jackie Addo Ntong

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In Memoriam

With sadness, we share the names of friends and family who recently passed away:

Rev. Don Garrett

Nan Hahn

Ruth Hunter

Rev. Dr. Eunice Poethig

Our deepest sympathies are with their loved ones.

Welcome!

First Church is the new home of *Karibu News*, a multilingual and multicultural refugee and immigrant focused newspaper. The news staff use a small space in the Houghton College basement area to produce a newspaper published approximately every two weeks (and soon to be weekly). Copies will be available on the information table in the Narthex. You can also visit their website at www.thekaribunews.com.

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First Church Named Explore Buffalo Partner of the Year

At their annual Spring Business Breakfast, Explore Buffalo named First Church the 2017 Partner of the Year. Rev. Ken was there to accept the award (pictured below).

This beautiful box contains a compass. It is currently on display in the Church Office. We are honored and privileged to have such a wonderful organization like Explore Buffalo reside in our building and participate in our mission.



IN THE COMMUNITY

- ✓ Friends of Night People volunteer dates:
May 30
August 29
October 31
- ✓ Family Promise dates:
May 27
August 12
November 25
- ✓ Save the Date! Garden Walk is July 28 & 29. Volunteers are always needed to give tours. Also, the One Symphony Circle Tower Garden Party will be held Saturday, July 28.
- ✓ In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.:
Readings from "I Am A Man"
by OyamO
Wed. April 4
6:30 PM
Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology
- ✓ "A Journey of Justice & Mercy"
with former U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Sun. April 15
3:00 PM
SS. Columba-Brigid Church

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, *Pastor*

RevKen@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 13

The Reverend John Long, D.D.

Parish Associate for Community Outreach

JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster,*

Bookkeeper

DBond@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 17

Christina Banas, *Business Manager*

CBanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 11

Rama Salim, *Security Coordinator*

RSalim@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 12

Church Office, extension 10

Sunday Schedule

11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 AM Children's Sunday School
12:00 PM Fellowship Time in the Chapel

**Communion is served the
first Sunday of the month**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201-1213

(Across from Kleinhans)

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Twitter: @1stChurchBflo

"Like" us on Facebook:

"First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2018

John Darby (T) (1)

Tim Hess (2)

Olga Rico Armesto (1)

Class of 2019

Andrew Gaerte (2)

Don Houck (T) (1)

Maria Oakley (2)

Class of 2020

Lucas Lloyd (T) (2)

Janet Hill (1)

Henry Porter (T) (2)

Sue Snyder (2)

*(T) indicates that the Elder has
also been nominated or elected
to serve as a Trustee while on
Session.*

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2018

Christina Banas (1)

Mary Field (1)

Liz Kamke (2)

Sheila Miller (1)

Tina Osei (2)

Class of 2019

Sam Gaerte (1)

Gifty Koramoah (2)

June McGrath (1)

Rich Oakley (1)

Denis Wettlaufer (1)

Class of 2020

India Asplundh (1)

Barry Farmer (1)

Madeline Mason (2)

Suzanne Pilon (1)

Lou Ann Luther Riegle (2)



The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth and serving the community.