



A Publication of
Homestead Presbytery

The Homesteader February 28, 2012 Issue

**Empowered
Ministries**

The Art of Revitalization

The following article appeared in the Lincoln First Presbyterian Church newsletter. Lincoln First is part of the Journey of the People of God Revitalization Process being sponsored by Homestead, Central & Missouri River Valley Presbyteries. This is one of two processes available to the churches of Homestead. If your congregation has questions about what a revitalization process could do for your congregation, please contact Kris Peterson—402.580.0947 or krisp@homesteadpres.org.

What is this GPS Journey we are being asked to go on?

Why go?

By Pam Carrier and the Lincoln First PC GPS Team

Many people will say, "We've done this before, why are we doing it again?" Individual spiritual journeys continue to take new directions every few years. A church needs to periodically consider the direction it is taking and re-align its direction depending on the current events in the world, the needs in our community, and the spiritual needs of its members. Homestead Presbytery and three other adjacent presbyteries combined to obtain leadership guidance from the Center for Parish Development with its program; "Journey of the People of God". They then offered it to interested churches. Our Session decided it was a good resource for our church and our Journey team was chosen and named the Journey, GPS. The GPS team is going to be the facilitator for this Journey, but

each member of the congregation will be asked to participate in determining what God is calling First Presbyterian Church Lincoln to be and do in this time and place and in the future.

The GPS Team has met and developed community in and among itself and has reviewed the materials and the Journey process. The GPS Team is excited about this process and has identified many benefits for our church by participating in this Journey. Some of those are 1) to obtain a renewed spiritual life by discovering and experiencing anew what it means to be the church; 2) to have people no longer be content to simply be consumers of a church's Sunday morning programs; 3) to develop a greater sense of trust and unity, pulling toward common goals; 4) to have broader participation in the

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decision-making and ministries of the church; and 5) to have an increased clarity of purpose as a congregation. As we proceed on the Journey you will see many activities which are similar to those we have done in the past, but time has passed and things have changed for the community, the church, and for its members and First Church needs to respond to these changes.

The GPS Journey includes three seasons: **Discovering, Discerning, and Embodying.**

The **Discovering** season will begin with a Conference on the Past in January, 2012 when we will look at past events in the world that have affected First Church, we will look at the church itself and its leadership and major events in its history, and we will look at ourselves and how our lives have been affected by the church at different times. We will be asking members to bring their memories and memorabilia to share. We will

then return to group Bible studies for the Lenten season and pick up the enthusiasm we had during our Better Together groups. We hope everyone will participate. The next season is **Discerning** with a Conference on the Present in May, 2012 when we will look at what's going on "out there" and "in here" in our church. What are the current factors and forces at play that are or will be impacting our

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church's future? Then during the summer of 2012 we will have a second series of Bible studies again mobilizing small groups to work together. The last season will be that of **Embodying** at which time we will shift the meaning of GPS from "God's Purpose Sought" to "God's Purpose Shared" with a Conference on the Future in January, 2013. At that time we will begin to shape the missional life and witness of First Church as God wants it to be in the future.

We hope all members of the congregation will choose to be involved as we determine who First Church is or should be and what we and the community would miss if First Church was no longer here. We can feel comfort in that we are not the first church to go on this journey, no one knows where this Journey will take us, but we can be assured that God will be with us throughout as our guiding compass, our GPS.

Your GPS Team

The Homesteader is a weekly publication.

Articles and photos from your congregation are always wanted & welcome!

Please send them to
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or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road,
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I look forward to hearing from you soon!