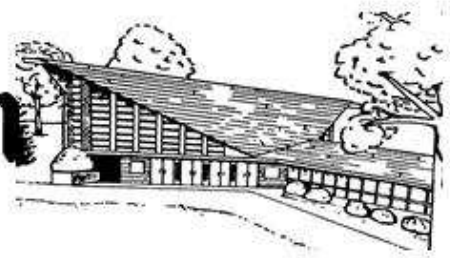


# The Presbyterian Times



## PASTORAL MEANDERINGS

### *A Letter From Your Church Home*

#### Thoughts on Pentecost

May 2012

"So I send you." (John 20:21)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

The apostle John tells us Jesus miraculously appeared to his disciples on the very day of his resurrection to assure them he had risen from the dead and to commission them to continue his work upon his ascension to heaven. "Peace be with you," he told them. "As God has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21). John also tells us Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). Luke's Gospel indicates that just before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Luke the evangelist tells of how God fulfilled these initial announcements of a new ministry for the disciples on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the church to empower the followers of Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we still celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible. I have seen the Spirit at work in our church recently: in the faithful giving of our congregation: In the committed work of volunteers, Deacons visiting and bringing meals to those who are under the weather, the joyful freedom and gifts of our children as an energizing ingredient of the entire church family. May we as God's offspring listen carefully to the transformative wisdom of the Holy Spirit within and without the events of our daily journeys.

"Spirit divine, attend our prayers, and make this house your home;  
Descend with all your gracious powers ; O come, Great Spirit, come!  
Come as the light; to us reveal our emptiness and woe;  
And lead us in those paths where all the righteous go.  
Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sacrificial flame;  
Let our whole soul an offering be to our redeemer's name.  
Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of peaceful love;  
And let the church on earth become blest as the church above;  
Spirit divine, attend our prayers;  
Make a lost world your home;  
Descend with all your gracious powers;  
O come, Great Spirit come!"

(Andrew Reed)

Yours in good faith,  
Pastor Lee

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWS**

At the Presbyterian Women's brunch and general meeting May 12th, our primary speaker, Sharon Meusch, Executive Director of Russell House, told us much about Russell House, often in answer to questions. She covered much of its history and its expansion and noted that the Presbyterian Church was very much involved in establishing it. Angela Drier, the new Volunteer Coordinator, described volunteer opportunities at Russell House.

Later, the PW Coordinating Team for 2012-2013, was installed by Illa Bell: Moderator: Fredi Zobrist, Secretary: Sondra Crow, Treasurer: Sophia Leu, Spiritual Life: Carol Jennings, Missions: Katherine Cook, Concern: Carol Bennett, and Publicity: Cynthia Hobart.

The Birthday Offering was dedicated and collected. The three projects chosen as the Birthday Offering Recipients for this year are described in detail on the PW Bulletin Board. They are Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc., Living Water for Girls, in Peachtree City, Georgia; New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC), Gymnasium and Activity Center, in Tulcea, Romania; and Synod of the Sun, Solar Under the Sun (SUTS), in Irving, Texas.

On May 5, three Rolla PW members attended the PWJCP Spring Gathering at The First Presbyterian Church in Mountain View, MO. The speaker, Rev. Susan Rosenbaum, the JCP Pastoral Presbyter, posed some thought-provoking questions for all of us to consider: How can we stay connected to God? How do you stay connected with the Body of Christ? What gifts do you bring to the Body of Christ to help it stay connected and functioning? How can PW keep the Presbytery more connected?

*Cynthia Hobart*

## **EARTH CARE CONGREGATION**

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla is working to become an Earth Care Congregation. In 1990, the 202nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice, which calls our denomination to engage in the tasks of restoring creation.

In light of this "Call to Restore the Creation", PC (USA) Environmental Ministries is inviting churches to become certified as Earth Care Congregations. In order meet the requirements of the program, churches must take the "Earth Care Pledge" which requires completing specific actions in four categories identified in the pledge: worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

We have already completed several of these actions which include our Earth Day Sunday service and our work with the memorial garden. Future actions that are being planned include and earth-themed Vacation Bible School session and reducing our church's ecological footprint.

In the coming months, the church newsletter and website will feature a section called "A Moment for Earth Care" which will provide practical information on what you and your family can do become more conservation-minded. This section will also share the wisdom and thoughts of those who have led the way in caring for the environment.

If you would like more information about Earth Care Congregations, the "Earth Care Pledge", or would like to be a member of First Presbyterian's Earth Care Team, please contact Susan Murray, at [murray@mst.edu](mailto:murray@mst.edu) or 426-4123.



## Membership

On Sunday, May 27th, the Membership committee is sponsoring a farewell reception for Joe Senne who will be moving on or about June 1. It is an 11:00 carry-in dinner with a special program to follow. We have invited good friends of Joe to speak and our own Lee Bennett will also take part. Please join us for some great fellowship good and interesting stories.

Be sure to check the Big Board for photos of visitors and members. Our newest members John Blake and Dana and Ephram Huscko are pictured there. Also the new directory pages are available on the table across from the office.

June will be a fun, busy month for presby families. VBS is June 3-7. The block party to which our VBS guests are invited is Sat the 9th 5:30-7pm We will have musical entertainment from our soon-to-be-departing Senior Sam Jennings and his band Sonic Underground. The committee will do hotdogs and the congregation can carry in any kinds of dishes. We will canvass north of the church on Sunday June 3 from 1-3. If you can join us to pass out invites to VBS and the Block Party let Mary know.

**Our church picnic** is on Sunday the 24th at 12 noon at Ber Juan Pavilion. The committee will arrange for table service, drinks, and chicken. Again dishes to share are appreciated. There will be a sign up for both of these events.

Mary (mlakwantes@hotmail.com) is seeking help with these events, set up, clean up, organizing games perhaps. Let us know.

The Whitakers are hosting supper and a play in July. Adults are invited to attend the OAT theater's presentation of *Noises Off* on July 21. We will begin ordering tickets so please contact Britt or Amy Whitaker to get in on that fun event. By the way, thanks to Britt and Shirley Andrews who organized the trip to see the Cardinals.

See the website which Jonathan Kimball and Steve Skelton have been working on. We hope our church can give info easily to more folk through this site:

[www.rollapresby.org](http://www.rollapresby.org)



WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE  
**CHURCH PICNIC!**

## FESTIVAL OF SHARING NEWS

Backpacks of Love are prepared for children going into foster care by various churches for the Festival of Sharing. These are given to children in Missouri and each child will receive a small quilt with their backpack. When children are taken from their homes many times they can take nothing with them so these backpacks and quilts are very precious to them. Last year we made eight quilts and hope to make more this year.

Women of our church are planning to meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, June 13th at 9:00 am to make the small quilts. All are invited to help. You need not know how to sew. We need people to sort, iron, and cut fabric as well as sew. Fabric will be provided, but if you have some child friendly fabric you would like to donate that will be welcomed. Irons and ironing boards are appreciated also. We will provide patterns, cutting mats and rotary cutters to cut the fabric with. Bring a sack lunch and we will work until 3:00 or so. Everyone's help will be much appreciated.

## Missions

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation, Presbyterian Women, and the Youth for their donation to "One Great Hour of Sharing." The total dollar amount that was raised was \$2,910.46. Our donation will go to help with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self Development of People. Again, thank to all who helped with meeting our goal, and thanks to the children of the church for putting up the fish each Sunday. To the children of Sunday School and the Pre-School, a big thanks for decorating the fish!

The Pentecost Offering is still going on during the month of May, and we will continue to collect for the Pentecost offering until the second week in June. Our congregation can keep 40% of the offering to go toward helping an organization that help fight child abuse in Rolla.

We have stopped collecting plastic bags for the "Backpack Program" until next fall when we start collecting them for the fall and winter season. Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who collected plastic bags, and to all who helped fill the bags for the "Backpack Program". Over 382 children were fed each week. That was 14,520 bags that were filled during the school year at a cost of \$80,000 for food.

Frank Jessop, Chair

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS:

**Mary Kwantes (2012)**  
**Dixie Finley (2012)**  
**Bob May (2012)**  
**Katherine Cook (2013)**  
**Ming Leu (2013)**  
**Jonathan Kimball (2013)**  
**Susan Murray (2014)**  
**Vashy Rahaman (2014)**  
**Britt Whitaker (2014)**

**Cynthia Hobart - Clerk of Session**

### DEACONS:

**Karen Hudson (2012)**  
**Pat Joslin (2012)**  
**Judy Fox (2012)**  
**Carol Jennings (2013)**  
**Jay Turner (2013)**  
**Carrie Aswegan (2014)**  
**Cheryl Koederitz (2014)**  
**Pat Look (2014)**  
**Wendy Wilbanks (2014)**

### TRUSTEES:

**Chuck Bennett (2012)**  
**Ward Merrell (2012)**  
**Frank Jessop (2014)**  
**Robert Anderson (2014)**  
**Rhonda Kimball (2014)**  
**Ken Kwantes (2014)**



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!!!

**WHEN:** June 3 - 7

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**AGES:** 3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

The First Presbyterian Church is excited about our Vacation Bible School this summer. This year's program is SonRise National Park, a week of fun in the Son!

Children will participate in fun-filled activities. We will have a great time with lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories, and tasty snacks – all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children. For more information, call 364-3852.

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

As caring for our home is an ongoing priority, so is caring for our church home which also needs essentials, such as heat, lights, water and cooling! What greater tribute can we make to our God, with grateful thanks, for all His blessings!

*Mary Williams*

## DEACONS NOTES

### PRAYER CHAIN

With the changing of times, new technology, the majority of our church prayer chain is notified via email. There are a few people that prefer a telephone call. If there are any more that would like to participate in being part of the prayer chain or know someone in need of prayer please call the church or Wendy Wilbanks at 573-201-8022 or email her at wilbanks.wendy@yahoo.com and they will pass on the information. A copy of the list is on the bulletin board.



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WORK · GIVE · PRAY · WORK · GIVE · PRAY · WORK · GIVE · PRAY ·  
**Steps of Christian Growth**  
 Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).  
 Rejoice in the Lord alway (Phil. 4:4).  
 Add to your faith virtue (2 Peter 1:5).  
 Ye have not, because ye ask not (James 4:2).

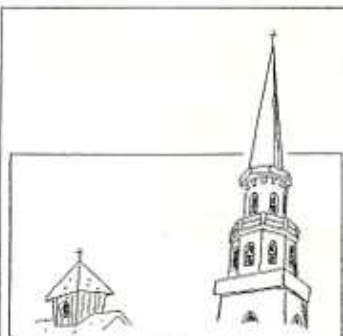
Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it (John 2:5).  
 Only fear the LORD, and serve him (1 Sam. 12:24).  
 Remember the words of the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:35).  
 Keep thyself pure (1 Tim. 5:22).

Go ye into all the world, and preach (Mark 16:15).  
 In all thy ways acknowledge him (Prov. 3:6).  
 Vow, and pay unto the LORD (Ps. 76:11).  
 Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ  
 (2 Tim. 2:3).

GIVE · PRAY · WORK · GIVE · PRAY · WORK · GIVE

## Keep On Going

One step won't take you very far;  
 You've got to keep on walking.  
 One word won't tell people who you are;  
 You've got to keep on talking.  
 One inch won't make you very tall;  
 You've got to keep on growing.  
 One little call won't do it all;  
 You've got to keep on going.



## Every Church a Great Church

Beautiful is the large church,  
 With stately arch and steeple;  
 Neighbory is the small church,  
 With groups of friendly people.  
 Reverent is the old church,  
 With centuries of grace;  
 And a wooden church or a stone church  
 Can hold an altar place.  
 And whether it be a rich church  
 Or a poor church anywhere,  
 Truly it is a great church  
 If God is worshiped there.  
 —Author unknown



## Beatitudes for Parents

Blessed are parents who make their peace with mud and spilled milk, for of such is the kingdom of childhood.  
 Blessed are parents who refuse to compare their children with others, for each is precious.  
 Blessed are fathers and mothers who have learned to laugh, for it is the music of the child's world.  
 Blessed are parents who can say no without anger, for comfort-

ing to the child is the security of a firm decision.

Blessed are parents who accept the awkwardness of their growing children, letting each grow at his own speed.  
 Blessed are parents who are teachable, because knowledge brings understanding and love.  
 Blessed are parents who love their children in the midst of a hostile world, for love is the greatest of all gifts.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

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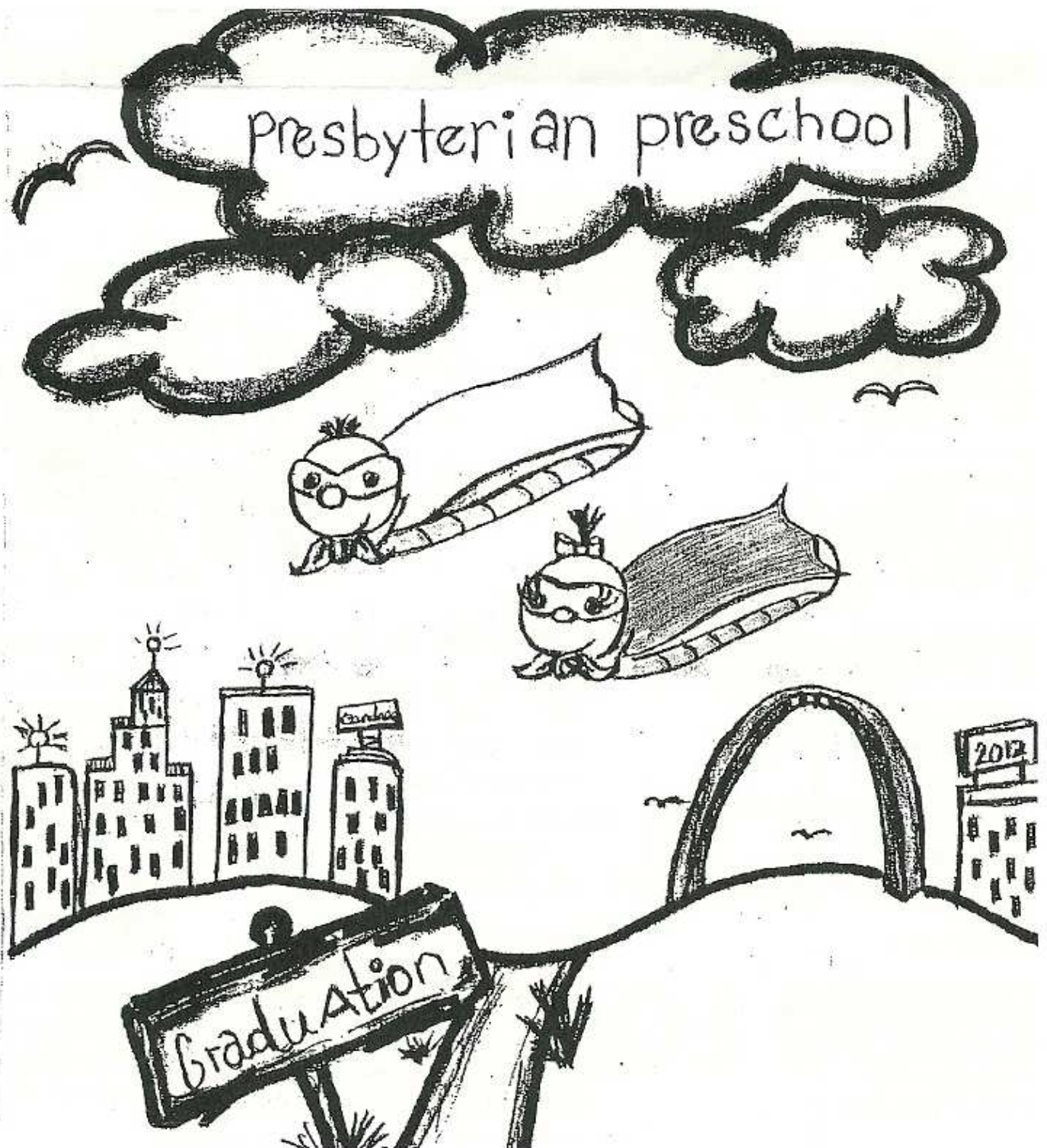
U.S. Postage Paid  
Rolla, Missouri 65401  
Permit Number 161  
Non-Profit Organization

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MAY/JUNE 2012

*R. Lee Jennings, Pastor  
Kathy Mazzeo, Organist/Pianist  
Marie Wilson, Office Administrator*

*Jeff Sandquist, Choir Director  
Candace Ludden, Preschool Director  
Robert Garcia, Church Sexton*



**Congratulations to all of our 2012 graduates!!**