

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

August 2012



First Presbyterian Church
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R. Lee Jennings, **Pastor**

Jeff Sandquist, **Choir Director**

Kathy Mazzeo, **Organist/Pianist**

Candace Ludden,
Preschool Director

Kim Pyatt-Bostock, **Office Manager**

Robert Garcia, **Church Sexton**

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)

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)

Cynthia Hobart – Clerk of Session

We have a new office manager!

My name is Kim Pyatt-Bostock and I am the new Office Manager. I am originally from Salem, MO. I have my Master's Degree in Management and my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology, as well as a degree as a Medical Assistant. My husband Josh and I have two children, Connor who is 9, and Emily who is 4. In my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities with my family, including camping and floating. My husband is the Cub Master of the Cub Scout pack in the church (Pack 83) and during the school year, we stay very active with them. I also enjoy refinishing and repurposing old, outdated furniture into new, unique pieces whenever time allows. I look forward to meeting everyone in the church and working with you in the future!

Membership Committee

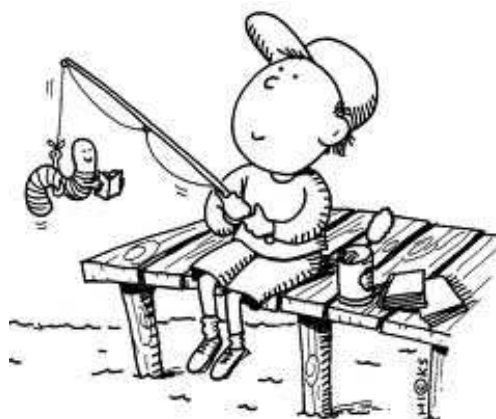
The Membership Committee is planning a float trip for August 18, 2012. We will probably float the Big Piney, which should have enough water. The outlet has both canoes and rafts. If you are interested, please contact Jonathan Kimball for more details.



On Sunday August 26 at 3:00 PM, we will have an ice cream social and water games family event. Have the young at heart bring water guns, balloons, and wear appropriate clothing. If you would like to contribute ice cream, call Mary Kwantes at 341-3450 (mlakwantes@hotmail.com). Homemade is nice but not required! Toppings of choice would be great for another contribution. We will furnish lemonade and cold tea.

In September, we will be celebrating Take-A-Child-Outdoors, which will include activities like fishing, cooking hot dogs outside, kites, and whatever the weather will allow.

Jean Day will be coordinating that event.



Mission Committee

We would like to thank the congregation for the household cleaning supplies for GRACE, and for all the pencils that were collected for the Back to School Fair. They were all greatly appreciated by both organizations. You always come through to help people in our community that are in need.



Mark your calendar for August 12, 2012 because Michael Wilbanks will be here to talk about his mission trip to Africa. We will have a carry-in dinner at 5:30 and Michael will be the guest speaker. He will also show pictures from his trip.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Fall PW General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, at 11:30 am. Lunch will be provided by the PW Coordinating Team. The speaker, Jean Day, will speak about the Head Start Program in Rolla. All are invited.

PW Coordinating Team meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 1 pm. All women of the church are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on August 13th.

In September, Moderator Fredi Zobrist, will give a Minute for Mission on the Presbyterian Women. The PW Program Booklets for 2012-2013 will also be available.



Pastoral Reflections

August 2012

“Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.” (Psalm 118:19)

When the darkness of life tempts us to hopelessness and cynicism there is an ancient Biblical remedy for hurting souls. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever!” In the final human analysis, not all the “whys” of human suffering are answered on this side of God’s kingdom. However, if we are willing to take the holistic spiritual recipe for healing that winds its way throughout Scripture, we can offer our sincere thanks for God’s goodness. Since all good gifts come from one source of compassion and truth and beauty, giving thanks, acknowledging that God is good in the face of life’s traumas can change everything. It may even help return us to the joy of living.

In his book *Living Life on Purpose*; Greg Anderson shares the story of one man’s journey to joy: ... his wife had left him and he was completely depressed. He had lost faith in himself, in other people, in God--he found no joy in living.

One rainy morning this man went to a small neighborhood restaurant for breakfast. Although several people were at the diner, no one was speaking to anyone else. Our miserable friend hunched over the counter, stirring his coffee with a spoon.

In one of the small booths along the window was a young mother with a little girl. They had just been served their food when the little girl broke the sad silence by almost shouting, “Momma, why don’t we say our prayers here?”

The waitress who had just served their breakfast turned around and said, “Sure, honey, we pray here. Will you say the prayer for us?” And she turned and looked at the rest of the people in the restaurant and said, “Bow your heads.”

Surprisingly, one by one, the heads went down. The little girl then bowed her head, folded her hands, and said, “God is great, God is good, and we thank him for our food. Amen.”

That prayer changed the entire atmosphere. People began to talk with one another. The waitress said, “We should do that every morning.”

“All of a sudden,” said our friend, “my whole frame of mind started to improve. From that little girl’s example, I started to thank God for all that I did have and stop majoring in all that I didn’t have. I started to choose happiness.”

Yours in good faith,
Jennings

Pastor Lee