

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

August/September 2012



First Presbyterian Church  
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R. Lee Jennings, **Pastor**  
Kathy Mazzeo, **Organist/Pianist**

Jeff Sandquist, **Choir Director**  
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

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Our new year of Sunday School Classes will starting Sunday September 9 at 11:00!

- **Children's Classes ages 3-9** – Will have a traditional class with plenty of arts & crafts and story time. Children will meet in a classroom upstairs (just follow the other kids after snack time).  
*Leader – Pam Cottingham*
- **Ages 10-15** – Will be a special confirmation class. Students will learn about the Presbyterian Church and our beliefs. At the end of the course, there will be an opportunity for children to join the church. This class will meet in the youth lounge upstairs.  
*Leader – Rev. Lee Jennings*
- **Parenting Class** – This adult class is perfect for parents of children in the Sunday School program but is open to any interested folks (non-parents welcome!). We will discuss the book *Real World Parents: Christian Parenting for Families Living in the Real World*. We promise the course will be heavy on discuss and no homework assignments! This class will meet in the Saddler Lounge.  
*Co-Leaders – Susan Murray & Becky Jennings*
- **The Life and Writing of C.S. Lewis** – This adult class will explore the writings of this Christian author (did you know he wrote more than the *Chronicles of Narnia*?). The class will be a combination of listening to an audio series and discussion. This class will meet in the Journey Classroom off Fellowship Hall.  
*Co-Leaders – Mary Kwantes and Peggy Hill*

For those of you considering the C. S. Lewis class on September 9 through the first semester, there is a wonderful synopsis of his life, perspectives, and writings on Wikipedia. Also, consider finding one Lewis book to enjoy sometime this term. Good beginning choices would be *Mere Christianity*, (Case for Christianity), *Surprised by Joy* (autobiography), *The Great Divorce* (Heaven and Hell), *The Screwtape Letters* (sin and temptation), *A Grief Observed* (autobiographic discussion following his wife's death) and of course *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (children's story with Christian symbolism). If you have already read these, other choices might be *The Problem of Pain*, *Weight of Glory*, and the very fascinating *Space Trilogy*. I have most of these books if you would like to borrow them. Another interesting book, which deals with love, conversion, and death, is *Severe Mercy* by Sheldon Van Auken who includes letters from Lewis in this autobiography. Let me know how I can help you and come prepared to listen and discuss on September 9. No previous reading of Lewis is required to attend class.

# A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE



As summer turns to fall, my kids go back to school, and my new year at the university begins, I often become reflective. Did I do everything I intended to do last academic year? Did I accomplish all of my professional and personal goals this summer? What changes do I need to make this year to be more successful and better balanced? Similarly, this is the time of year when activities in our church start ramping up, with a new Christian Ed year and Advent just around the corner. This is a good time to ask, Have I lived up to my promises to the church? Have I given of my time, talents, and treasure as I have been gifted? What do I need to improve to be a better Christian and a better member of our church family?

Shortly, to help each person answer these questions for him or herself, we will be starting our annual stewardship program, culminating in Consecration Sunday on November 4. There will be some changes this year as we grow. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

*Jonathan Kimball, Chair, Stewardship & Finance*

## FROM THE TRUSTEES



Among several smaller projects that are constantly taking place to the church and the grounds, we have the upcoming replacement of the nine glass packs by doors and lower entry. This will complete all church windows being undated to energy efficient glass. We also have the upcoming repair to an 8' x 8' section of concrete at the entrance of the church sanctuary and a 4' x 6' section of the sidewalk just south of the church building.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am, the Trustees will be holding a cleanup for the bushes in front of the church. We are asking volunteers to bring clippers, saws, and pickup trucks. Donuts and coffee will be provided.



## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women of John Calvin Presbytery are holding their Fall Workshop on Saturday, September 15, beginning at 9 AM, at The Community Presbyterian Church, 271 Main Street, Forsyth, Missouri. At least three on the Coordinating Team are planning to attend. If you are interested in going, please tell Sondra Crow before Tuesday, September 11, when reservations are requested.

Come to church Sunday, September 9, to hear the PW Minute for Mission by Moderator Fredi Zobrist, and to receive a 2012-2013 PW Program Booklet, prepared by Sondra Crow.

September 10<sup>th</sup>, PW board meeting in the Sadler Lounge at 1pm. YOU are invited to join us!

September 13<sup>th</sup>, General Fall Brunch in the fellowship hall. Time is 11 AM. Lunch will follow at 11:30, prepared by the PW Coordinating Team. Please come for lunch and stay to hear Jean Moran-Day speak about Head Start. Please call any board member for reservations so we will know how many casseroles to make!



October 13<sup>th</sup> will be our **RUMMAGE SALE** at 7:30 am to----?????

We need your help and contributions on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please start putting aside any items (except clothing) that you no longer need in preparation.

# MISSION COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone for your support, which helped me reach out to people in Africa and share Jesus' love. The mission trip helped me grow emotionally as well as spiritually. The meal you prepared and shared during the night of my presentation was wonderful. Thanks for the guidance and love you have shown me over the years as I grew up in the church.

God Bless You,  
*Michael Wilbanks*

We have seven buckets to be filled for the John Calvin Disaster Assistance Committee to be taken to the Presbytery Meeting in November 2012. This is a great project for families or groups such as choir, PW Circles, men's, and women's groups. In each bucket, you will find a list of items that go in the bucket. If you take a bucket, please sign your name so that we know who has buckets. Remember, these buckets go to families that suffer from some sort of natural disaster to help them clean up their homes!



The Mission Committee has been busy this summer supporting location missions in our community. In June, the congregation collected household supplies for GRACE, and in July collected 212 packages of pencils for the Back to School Fair. In August, our own Michael Wilbanks talked about his mission trip to the Ivory Coast in Africa along with other young people from Missouri State and other colleges around the country. They were at the Ivory Coast for four weeks reaching out to both young and old about Jesus Christ.

With the start of school, we are collecting plastic bags for the Backpack Program. If you would like to volunteer to fill the bags, they meet at Fort Wyman School at 4:00 PM every Wednesday. It only takes about half an hour to fill the bags for the Backpack Program.



Our next special offering is the Peacemaking Offering, which will be taken up the 1<sup>st</sup> of October during World Communion. There will be Minutes for Mission by the members of the Mission Committee about Peacemaking and where we will use our share of the peacemaking offering.

# MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS



Five engraved Memorial bricks in memory of Donald Paul Bennett, June Harper, Mary E. Heagler, Sharon Kohrmann, and Louise R. Lyon are on display on the table in front of the church office. These bricks plus another brick in memory of John Dee Van Horn will be placed in the Memorial Garden by Bud Pumfrey in a month or two.

Soon after that, on a Sunday after worship, the congregation will be invited out to the Garden where Pastor Jennings will say a prayer of dedication for the bricks.

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We had a wonderful float trip on August 19 down the Current River. We had 19 members and non-members, ranging from Eleanor Van Horn to Dace Murray, in two rafts, four canoes, and three kayaks. Although we worried about the weather and the water level, it turned out to be a perfect day with no portages. Thanks to everyone who came along! Looking forward to doing it again sometime!



As MST gets underway and students may visit our church, always remember to greet them warmly. Any ideas you may have for including students in our church life will be appreciated. I have a list of student emails, (those with Presbyterian preference) but at this point have received no responses to my invitation. One-on-one contact remains the best anyway. Membership will monitor a table area at our Back to Church Sunday Mission Fair during Fellowship time September 16. Please stop by and ask us questions, offer suggestions, and maybe volunteer for coming projects.



On September 30, 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. We will be looking for volunteers to help with food, fishing, and other activities. Preschool, block party, and VBS families will be invited. Contact Jean Moran-Day or Mary Kwantes to help.

# BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY™



# PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE

Preschool has begun another year! We are happy to report that our enrollment is full for this year. We have 70+ students with a staff of well-qualified teachers. With this many students we could use some more volunteers in addition to the ones we currently have.

Volunteers may help for any length of time that is convenient for them. The preschool can use help with art projects, parties, story hour, and prep time for teachers. If you think you would like to help in one of these areas, please give Candace Ludden a call, or speak with one of the Preschool Management Committee members. The telephone number is 573-364-0992.



# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

## *In the Know*

Feeling in the dark? Not sure what's happening when? Then you might want to check out some of the new ways we're communicating to the world.

Your first stop should be our web site... <http://www.rollapresby.org/>. In addition to the standard content you find on web sites, make sure and check out our "News" web page. We're using this page to post articles about upcoming worship services, upcoming activities, sermon podcasts, etc. In addition to our **online calendar**, our "News" web page is the best way to keep up with Church activities. Guess what? You don't have to just visit our web site to read the news articles. From our web site, you'll see the following four other ways to get the same information.

1. **Email** - at the bottom of our web site home page, enter your email address to subscribe and receive our news posts via email
2. **Facebook** - our news posts are also posted to Facebook, so like our Facebook page
3. **Twitter** - our news posts are also tweeted, so follow us on Twitter
4. **RSS feed** - use any available feed reader to read our news posts

This is a QR Code. If you snap a picture of it with a Smartphone, it will take you directly to our website!



Now that you know what we have to offer, what are you waiting for? Run to your nearest computer or pick up your Smartphone, and pick one of the ways listed above to help keep you... in the know.

We are trying to streamline our newsletter delivery! If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletters via email rather than have them mailed or left to pick up in the hallway of the church, please email your family's name and email address to: [presby1@fidnet.com](mailto:presby1@fidnet.com) or use the signup sheet that is next to the newsletters.

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

This month as we experience cooler climates, we look forward to renewed church life. In September, we have a slate of Sunday school classes for every age. This is very simply an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and with your fellow humans. Our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir have begun practices and will be back in full swing. There will also be two opportunities to help us grow in outreach.

The first is the celebration of Back to Church Sunday. This special Sunday will take place on September 16, during morning worship. It is a national event for many different churches. Statistics show us that 80% of unchurched people say they would answer in the positive to an invitation to attend church by someone they know. What this amounts to is the simple offer of a friendly invitation; of sharing with another person what you as a Christian value most. People are looking for a place where people declare it their purpose to share the gift of belonging and gracious compassion.

As a part of an assignment for a doctoral thesis, a college student spent a year with a group of Navajo Indians on a reservation in the Southwest. As he did his research, he lived with one family, sleeping in their hut, eating their food, working with them, and generally living the life of a twentieth-century Indian. The old grandmother of the family spoke no English at all, yet a very close friendship formed between the two. They spent a great deal of time sharing a friendship that was meaningful to each, yet unexplainable to anyone else. In spite of the language difference, they shared the common language of love and understood each other. Over the months he learned a few phrases of Navajo, and she picked up a little of the English language.

When it was time for him to return to the campus and write his thesis, the tribe held a going-away celebration. It was marked by sadness since the young man had become close to the whole village and all would miss him.

As he prepared to get up into the pickup truck and leave, the old grandmother came to tell him good-bye. With tears streaming from her eyes, she placed her hands on either side of his face, looked directly into his eyes, and said, "I like me best when I'm with you." Isn't that the way we feel in the presence of Jesus? He brings out the best in us. We learn to see ourselves as worthy and valuable when we are in His presence. The hurts, the cares, the disappointments of our lives are behind us when we look in His eyes and realize the depth of His love. Our self-esteem no longer depends on what we have done or failed to do; it depends only on the value that the Lord places on us. To be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ is to generate in other people the Indian grandmother's simple statement: "I like me best when I'm with you." I hope you will join us in saying to someone you care about, "Would you like to attend church with me this Sunday?"