

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

December, 2012



**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Rolla, MO 65401

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R. Lee Jennings, **Pastor**  
Kathy Mazzeo, **Organist/Pianist**  
Betti Jo Pyatt, **Office Manager**

Jeff Sandquist, **Choir Director**  
Candace Ludden, **Preschool Director**  
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 are trying to streamline our newsletter delivery! At present, we spend approximately **\$45 PER MONTH** on newsletter mailings. 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 on the hall table.

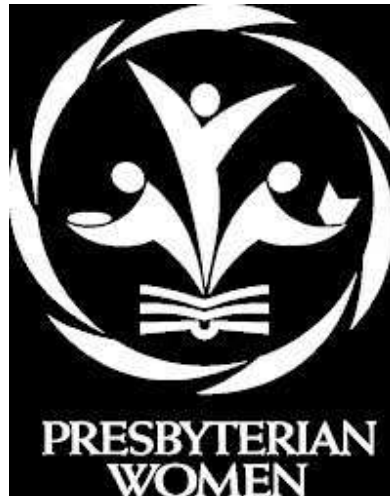
## Choir News

The Chancel Choir invites any interested singers to join the choir for the Christmas Cantata "On Christmas Night" by Bob Chilcott. Extended rehearsals will be held on the following Wednesdays beginning at 7:30 p.m. November 7, 14, 28, December 5, and at 7:00 p.m. on December 12. The cantata will be presented during the worship service on Sunday, December 16.



## Presbyterian Women

We hope many of you will participate in PW's annual Christmas Bake Sale and Bazaar on Saturday, December 1, 8 am - 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds are the primary source of funds for PW's yearly budget, most of which supports several missions. These include The Presbyterian Manor, Russell House, Rolla Friday Backpack program, The Community Partnership, The Presbyterian Regional Girls Shelter in Springfield, and the national Presbyterian Women's mission projects.



Lunch will be available at the bazaar at 11:30 am.

Sunday, December 16 at 5:30 pm PW will hold it's annual. All Church Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This year it will be a carry-in by all church members. PW will arrange for a Christmas program and provide table ware, Christmas decorations and drinks. We hope many of you will come and enjoy this special time of fellowship.

The payment PW received (through the Stewardship Committee) for providing the meal for the Consecration Dinner will be donated to a mission organization. In the next newsletter PW will inform the congregation which organizations will receive the

\$472 balance of funds (after expenses) received for the dinner.

*Circle V* will meet Tuesday, December 18 at noon at Penelope's Restaurant for Christmas gathering.

## **Stewardship and Finance**

As some of you already have heard, our church received a major gift this summer, a bequest from a non-member who felt called to give a portion of his estate (in the amount of \$294,334.73) to God's work in the world through our church. I see it not as something that our church has "earned" in any way, but rather God's grace working through human hands. The task before us now is to determine appropriate uses that will ensure a long and prosperous future for our church.

At this time, only two decisions have been made. First, the bequest was received at a time when the church's finances were tight. Although individual giving is healthy, total giving has been declining this year along with our membership. Therefore, the Session approved using \$20,000 for operating expenses. Second, the Session chose to model tithing and allocate 10% for missions, both through the Presbytery and through direct missions (specific uses to be determined). Several suggestions and proposals have been made for further uses of the funds, but no decisions or commitments have been made at this time.

I view this gift as an inspiration for what I should be doing in my own life, and what we should be doing as a church. I am continuing to seek ways to give more of myself—time, talent, and treasures—to God's work through our church. Also, we should all realize that God touches many lives through us and through our church family, and should seek ways to reach out to more people in our community and the world.

Jonathan Kimball  
Chair, Stewardship & Finance

## **Membership Committee**

As the holidays rush in on us and we become involved in family events, let us not forget that during the next month visitors will come to church. Our warmest welcome will encourage them to visit again and will give the Spirit ground to work the miracles of healing and outreach. Our Drama Force event has been postponed due to family issues within the cast. Our Committee did not choose to sponsor another event but wants to encourage everyone to invite neighbors and friends to church during a season when church may feel like a welcome retreat from commercialism.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we have planned Family Game Night and Pizza Supper for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm with pizza to be ordered shortly thereafter to eat at about 5:30. Bring your favorite game, a snack to share and be prepared to be a good loser. February 10<sup>th</sup> we hope to redo our wonderful kids' talent night and supper with thoughts toward a winter escape Luau theme.

Finally, thanks to the helpers, Lee and Becky Jennings, Rhonda Kimball, Barbara Ford, and Dixie Finley who helped make the Hunter's Breakfast a wonderful first attempt at outreach. We also

appreciate all the folks from church who stopped by to eat and talk. Many felt comfortable staying for long chats. God Bless us this month.

Mary Kwantes

### DEACONS' CARE PACKAGES

If you have a college student or any secondary education student, please give your student's name, address, phone number, and/or email address to Karen Hudson (email: [sprinter@fidnet.com](mailto:sprinter@fidnet.com)). The Deacons would love to send them a care package of goodies. We would also like to do this for anyone serving our country overseas. The deadline for this is no later than Monday, December 3.

## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support with food and money for the families that the church adopted for Thanksgiving. We would also like to thank all those who delivered food to the families.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> the Christmas tree will be up in the foyer with names of families. If you pick a tag with a child's name please take a stocking to be filled. The poster will also be available to sign up for food. If you sign up for food or gifts we need them back to the church by December 12. We will fill the boxes with food and gifts after church on December 16.

During the month of December you will be asked to support the Joy Offering. Fifty per cent of the

Offering goes to support Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Presbyterian Church USA has long promoted the education of racial ethnic men and women with support to the schools and colleges. Your support to the Joy Offering goes to help ethnic children receive much needed scholarship assistance. The other 50% goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pension. Through the Board of Pension, our Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their hour of greatest need by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances. During the month of December, you will be hearing from members of the Mission Committee about the Joy Offering.

## Pre-School News

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Presbyterian Pre-School. November has come and gone and now we look forward to the Christmas activities. The children are practicing for their Christmas program. It will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 13, at 6:30 pm. Drinks and snacks will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the program. Everyone is welcome.

On December 14, at 9:30 am, Santa will be making his appearance. He will be passing out gifts to all the children and asking them "What they want for Christmas". Ken Kwantes is our Santa in disguise. "HO, HO, HO".

December 21 is our last day of preschool this year. Classes will resume on January 2, 2013.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Vola Randrianampy is receiving her doctorate in Math/Statistics at MS&T. To celebrate her accomplishment, we are honoring her in fellowship on December 2. Please join us.**

**Dr. Leon Lee, a former member of the church, is being inducted as an Elder at the Clarksville, TN Presbyterian Church.**

**If you would like to be included in the Bulletin for birthday and anniversary prayer, please provide information to the church office. Betti Jo is trying to update the list and does not want to miss anyone that would like to be included.**

**Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!**