

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

February 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Gary Stratman, Interim Pastor
Lorie Francis, **Pianist**
Betti Jo Pyatt, **Office Manager**

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

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Bill Morgan (2015)
Marilyn Schmidt (2015)
Eleanor Van Horn (2015)
Katherine Cook (2013)
Ming Leu (2013)
Jonathan Kimball (2013)
Susan Murray (2014)
Britt Whitaker (2014)

DEACONS

Marian Pruitt (2015)
Mary Kwantes (2015)
Jay Turner (2013)
Carrie Aswegan (2014)
Cheryl Koederitz (2014)
Pat Look (2014)
Wendy Wilbanks (2014)

TRUSTEES

Larry Roberts (2015)
Chuck Remington (2015)
Frank Jessop (2013)
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 or use the sign-up sheet on the hall table.

From the desk of Rob Heberer

“Therefore, as we have **opportunity**, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

- Galatians 6: 10

The challenge before us now should be seen exactly for what it is – as an **opportunity!** Therefore dear brothers and sisters, in Christ, allow me to share a few thoughts about this marvelous word “**opportunity**”.

First, kindly join me in the hope that this is an **opportunity** for Lee Jennings and his entire family. We pray that they experience all of God’s love and blessings as they travel in their own faith journeys wherever those paths may lead. GODSPEED Lee, Becky, Sam, Sarah and Carol!!

While uncertainty challenges us today, it is also an **opportunity** for us to be bold in our faith! God calls us to be the people of God and this time allows us to be just that – the people of God, demonstrating to ourselves, and to our community, just what faith is.

For members of First Presbyterian, this means becoming more involved in church and its activities. It is more than just attending – it is actively participating as God calls us to be witnesses of the Word to the world. How can we be that witness when we are not at church ministering to each other? If you really care about your spiritual home and family we will be at church together seeking God’s purpose for us. Thus, the challenges of seeking a new minister should also be seen as an **opportunity** for us to demonstrate our faith in action in our own lives and community!

There are various arguments as to whether a church should be pastor dependent or congregation responsible. Suggesting neither, what this church should be is Christ-centered! Extending the love of Christ as the prominent theme of First Presbyterian will transform this church into being the people of God we are to become. This will happen, as to paraphrase church-growth guru, Lyle Schaller, when our church becomes more interested in giving rather than being given to, to be more seeking rather than to be sought after, and to be more loving rather than to be loved.

Thus, as this time is wrought with challenges coming “through many dangers, toils and snares”, it is also the **opportunity** for us to be truly the people of God that we need to become. Please join me in embracing this **opportunity**, this special time for reflection and renewal – this exciting time for regeneration and reward!!

“Yours in Christ”,
Robert D. Heberer, II

A TIME OF TRANSITION

During this time of transition, the Reverend Gary Stratman will serve as a short-term pastor, beginning February 3. Gary will lead worship, make pastoral visits, and be available in the church office on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. A date change may be necessary due to need. The Session will serve as the Pastor Nominating Committee for an Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor will begin sometime in March, and will replace Gary Stratman. An Interim Pastor will serve for a year or more, and that will be a time for healing, growth, and focus. John Calvin Presbytery is committed to strengthening the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. If you have concerns or questions, please contact your Committee on Ministry liaison, Diane Cooke. (dcooke@missouristate.edu).

GREETINGS FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

My name is Gary Stratman. I am a native Missourian and have been a Presbyterian pastor for 35 years. Although we don't know each other, I would guess that we have some thoughts and experiences in common. This may include change, some of it anticipated and planned for, but much of it unexpected. Perhaps you had a clear blueprint for your education or career, then the lines got a little blurry. Maybe an illness, yours or that of someone close to you, caused a bumpy detour. Unexpected change can also happen in the church with initial responses of distrust or even anger. More often there are thoughts of a more vague anxiety about the future. It has been my experience that God has a way of leading us through change that opens us up to unexpected spiritual growth.

After over 15 years as pastor of First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield MO my wife and I believed that we would remain there until retirement. God had other plans. With some surprise and anxiety, Deb and I found ourselves going through Interim Ministry training. Then we were on the road with interim pastorates in Austin Texas, Hollywood California and Boulder Colorado. We would not trade the experience of the last eight years. Now we have moved back to Springfield. In retirement we look forward to part-time ministries as God leads us. I hope to serve your congregation for the next two months until a longer term Interim Pastor will be in place.

For now, I am thankful to the living Christ for bringing us together in worship and service.

Faithfully,
Gary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

A variety of Sunday School classes are available for all ages. We meet at 11:00, which leaves time for a quick snack after worship before the classes start.

The younger class (9 and under) will continue to meet with Pam Cottingham in the Nursery. They are learning a variety of Bible stories with arts, crafts and fun.

The older class (Age 10 and up) are meeting in the Sunday School classroom across from the Nursery at the end of the hall. Several teachers have volunteered for a month-long turn at teaching.

The adult class in the Sadler Lounge will study the book, "Christianity After Religion" by Diana Butler Bass. It is available as an ebook or in print for \$12.99 at thethoughtfulchristian.com. This book discusses the change in American religion and how to create a thriving church in the era of "spiritual but not religious". You are welcome to attend even if you don't read the book.

The adult class in the Journey classroom will be studying Genesis, drop-ins are always welcome to join us for this Bible study.

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

Each month the Session approves the Minutes of the last month's Stated (regular) Session meeting as well as any subsequent Called Session meetings or Congregational meetings. After those meetings are approved, a copy of each is posted on the bulletin board outside the office, so that they can be read by members of the Congregation. This is a time of great change in our church life. Reading those Minutes is a way you can stay informed of decisions made and events planned in the life of the church.

Cynthia Hobart, Clerk

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who came out for game night - it was great! Our next event is a luau on February 10 at 5 pm. We will provide ham, and there's a sign-up sheet for other dishes posted already. After dinner, Susan Murray has organized and Rob Heberer will be the MC for our "Not-So-Newlywed Game." Come join us for a night of food, fellowship, and fun!

More events are in the works. If you have any ideas, talk with me about it, or you are welcome at the next Committee meeting on February 7 at 7 pm.

Jonathan Kimball, Chair

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee is getting ready for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" which will end Easter Sunday. Fish Banks will be given out to the children during Sunday School and also will be available for families to take home with them. During March, the Mission Committee will talk about "One Great Hour of Sharing" during the Minute for Mission.

If you would like to volunteer helping fill the Backpack for Children, all you need to do is come to Fort Wyman School at 3:45 each Wednesday. It only takes about an hour to fill the bags; you are home by 4:30.

The John Calvin Presbytery Disaster Association is planning a mission trip March 17-23 to Joplin and staying at Shoal Kirk. If you are interested in going, let the office know or a member of the Mission Committee. It is limited to 12-15 people at Shoal Kirk. If you would only like to work one day, you can do that also.

Frank Jessop, Chair

I want to **THANK** everyone who supported me financially and with prayers for our mission trip to Bangkok, Thailand. It was amazing to see God work in so many ways throughout the trip. I saw many people's hearts turn to Jesus and want to know more and be filled with him. I cannot imagine all the ways God worked that I did not see and how he is still working there. I sincerely thank you for furthering God's kingdom and being a part of his greater plan bringing his people back into a relationship with him.

In Christ,
Michael Wilbanks

A FEW NOTES ABOUT BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS

February 8 is Scouting Anniversary Day. I thought this was an appropriate time to share a few notes about Scouting. Our church hosts Boy Scout Troop 83 and Cub Scout Pack 83, and has for decades. Through these organizations, we are able to positively influence many boys as they become young men. Cub Scouts starts in first grade and ends when boys complete their Arrow of Light rank, usually mid-way through fifth grade. Boy Scouts extends from that point until the age of 18.

On February 10, we will celebrate Scout Sunday during the service and during fellowship time. Please help us welcome the boys to our church – I know they appreciate the church's support, without which they could not thrive and succeed. Also, on February 9, 4-7 pm, the troop will host a Valentine's Day dinner for \$6/Adult, \$4 child under 12. The meal, consisting of salad, spaghetti, and spumoni, is a fundraiser to help boys attend camp this summer and other outings. In particular, many of the boys are planning a trip to Northern Tier, a canoe trip on the boundary waters of northern Minnesota/southern Ontario.

Jonathan Kimball, Chartered Organization Representative

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Again, during Lent the Presbyterian Women will be holding three Lenten Luncheons & Services for the community. Each luncheon consists of a hearty soup, a salad, bread or crackers, and a cookie dessert. The cost of each luncheon is very reasonable. We hope that during the special time of Lent the luncheon and the service will feed both the body and the spirit of those who attend. The dates for the luncheons are March 7, 14, and 21. Besides providing cookies and helping make soup and salad, workers to help serve and clean up afterward will be especially appreciated. In mid-February a sign-up sheet will be posted at church.

In May, the Spring General Meeting, a luncheon will be held. At this time new officers for the Presbyterian Women are installed. Several women have been serving as officers for several years. Those who have not recently served or ever served as a PW officer are invited to prayerfully consider if they might serve in the coming year as an officer. The different officers are Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity, Spiritual Life, Concerns, and Mission Interpretation.

Regarding Mission Interpretation: The PW Bulletin Board currently features "Women at Work Around the World". Katherine Cook highlights various kinds of work done by women around the world.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

On February 1 registration for the 2013-14 preschool year will be opened to church members and regular attendees of the church. Enrollment is opened to children ages 2 ½ -5. Children may attend 2, 3, or 5 half days or for those parents needing full time care, all day.

The registration fee is waived for church members and regular attendees of the church. Registration will be opened to the public on March 1. For more information, call Candace Ludden, Director, at 364-0992.

STEWARDSHIP

Remembering Per Capita and why we contribute

Per capita is a mission pledge to our John Calvin Presbytery based on a \$25 pledge per church member to support Presbyterian churches on a regional and worldwide basis. Our Presbytery responds to the needs of its member churches in the following ways:

- Maintains a Faith Resource Center of books, videos, and DVDs free for our use.
- Provides Committee Support in areas such as pastor transitions, church conflicts, etc.
- Camp and Conference Ministries such as the "Equipping the Saints" leadership conferences this past February.
- Youth Ministries, including scholarships for Triennium youth participation.
- College Ministries for young adults.
- Disaster Assistance Work Groups, most recently in response to the tornado in Joplin, as well as other disasters in our region.
- Presbyterian Support including the Regional Girls Shelter in Springfield.

Worldwide Outreach Support including our missionaries in Lebanon.

And there's more, including the support and assistance being provided our church during our search for a new pastor.

Based on our current membership of approximately 140 members, our pledge of support to Presbytery for 2013 should be approximately \$3500. Please prayerfully consider this mission pledge.

Barbara Ford, Treasurer

WOMEN'S RETREAT

CHRIST'S LOVE; THE WAY HE MOVES ME - WOMEN'S RETREAT

Discover with us how to ASK for Christ's help in our time of despair, LISTEN to what He has to offer, and MOVE forward as He calls us to action. Join us April 12-14, 2013, at Bear River Ranch to spend some quality time, both in personal reflection and with other sisters in Christ, as we strive to grow in His word. Retreat/registration information may be found at www.lovingchristministries.com or by calling Julie at 573-458-9424.

LINEN CLOSET NEEDS

The linen closet is in need of Queen sized bedding.

MARK YOU CALENDARS

13 February Reverend Stratman will be holding ASH WEDNESDAY service. Time TBA.

29 May - Cardinals vs Kansas City. Tickets will be \$30 total for your ticket, the bus and a bag lunch. Sign-up and sign-up early. At this price they should go early. See Britt, Mary Kwantes or Betti Jo about signing up.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Wilma Turner, Rhonda Kimball, Jennifer Denbo, Frances Wallen, and Dace Murray

God Gave Us New Life By Raising Jesus Christ from the Dead

Juanita Whitaker
January 14, 2013

Irena M. Kizer
January 22, 2013

Muriel Hatfield
January 29, 2013

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins on Sunday, March 3. Please set your clock FORWARD one hour on Saturday evening.

Office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013 in observance of President's Day.

During our time of transition Robert will be supervised by Ken Kwantes and Betti Jo will be supervised by Britt Whitaker.

I have updated the New Committee Members list. I understand there will be a few more changes within the coming weeks. Please update me as you learn of these so I can get a final copy of the officers.

BOOKS: I have a Bible (found on the front pew a few weeks ago) and a book for Dixie Finley in my office to be picked up at your convenience. My office hours are 8 - 2:30 daily.

I have placed a new alphabetical message center in the foyer for your convenience.