

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

April 2013

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**919 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Rolla, MO 65401**

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Rev. John Oerter, 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)  
Carol Bennett (2015)  
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 (2013)  
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 sign-up sheet on the hall table.

## **INTRODUCTION FOR John D. Oerter, M.Div./MFM**

John's mission in life is to help people experience and live out the transforming power of Jesus Christ in their life and community. He is a transitional ministry specialist and he helps churches prepare for their future.

John is married to Lucia Hutchison Oerter, who is also an ordained Presbyterian pastor. Lucia is serving as Interim Associate Pastor at First and Calvary Presbyterian in Springfield. They have six children between them and six grandchildren.

At the core of his soul lives a problem-solver: his work (vocation), hobbies (avocations) and past-times are all variants of problem solving. John works from Shalom and systemic perspectives, routinely. Helping communities and individuals discern their vision and implement their mission, brings him great satisfaction!

John is double credentialed as an ordained minister and a pastoral counselor (both degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA) and finds the interplay of those trainings and techniques useful to personal, individual and congregational life.

During seminary he served a small rural church as their intern pastor, then served two churches in Colorado as an installed pastor. John has taught transitional (interim) ministry as part of the PCUSA national faculty.

As John's blog ([johnoerter.com](http://johnoerter.com)) says:

"John is an ardent Christian and an avid fly angler."

His blog handle:

'soulandfishcatcher.'

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We want to honor our graduates. If you have someone graduating from either high school or college please let Betti Jo or Susan Murray know by April 15.

## FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) recently sent a letter to the Clerks of Session expressing deep gratitude for the generous gifts made to the "Christmas Is Joy" offering. This offering provides grants to Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor, other church workers, and their families. The letter reported that last year the offering funded more than 800 grants, which totaled over \$4.8 million. The letter also requested that an enclosed "Assistance Program Fact Sheet" be shared with the congregation. I have posted that fact sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Cynthia Hobart, Clerk

## FESTIVAL OF SHARING NEWS

Sondra Crow

Festival of Sharing is an annual event in Sedalia, Missouri on the second weekend in October. The purpose of Festival of Sharing is to assist those in poverty. The ministry is with the food pantries, feeding programs, homeless shelters and women's shelters in Missouri and the global agencies such as Church World Service, Heifer Project, Rainbow Network, Foods Resource Band and others. This past year generous Missouri citizens contributed \$805,213 in resources and cash. It was amazing to see the number of churches represented at the 2012 Festival. There must have been over 1,000 people attending and working. Many brought items or worked putting packs together. The quilt auction in the afternoon brought in \$28,289. This money will go toward buying blankets and tools that Church Work Services will distribute around the world. The Backpacks of Love for which women of Rolla Presbyterian Church made baby quilts, were estimated to be worth \$20,320. These are distributed to needy children throughout the state of Missouri. Many, many more items were donated as non-cash gifts.

**On Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall women of the church will be having a sewing day for making baby quilts to take to Festival of Sharing.** We need your help. Many hands make light work. You do not need to know how to sew. We have lots of fabric that needs to be sorted, ironed and cut into squares. Rotary cutters and cutting boards will be provided. Come at 9:00 am, bring a sack lunch, stay all day or for a short time. To quote from the Festival Brief (newsletter), "Ministry is more than what you or I give in material gifts

but also how we continue to hold others in our prayers, with our voice and actions.”

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Britt Whitaker**

CARDINAL GAME – 29 May 2013. A few tickets remain. Bus will leave the church parking lot at 4:15. Please pay Britt Whitaker or Betti Jo in the church office for your tickets. There will NOT be a tornado. Come for an evening of fun and a great game.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – 20 April 2013. Plans are being made for a progressive dinner for Saturday, April 20. The dinner will be adults only. Details to follow. Mark your calendars.

## **THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**Cynthia Hobart**

Over the past several years Memorial Bricks have been placed in the Memorial Garden in memory of William Andrews, Harriet Babbitt, Laura Bennett, Donald Paul Bennett, Eva M. Best, Phyllis Carson, Ralph Carson, Jeanne Christensen, Charles B. Finley, Martha Fox, Will R. Fox, Eva G. Gollahon, John P. Gollahon, Mary Geurin, John Geurin, June Harper, Don T. Harper, Mary E. Heagler, John Heagler, Juanita Heglin, Russell Geglin, Helen L. Porter, Rev. G. Scott Porter, Sally Porter Kaiser, Sharon Kohrmann, Donna Lindsay, Ray Lindsay, Margaret Ann Maddox, Bob L. Marlow, Helen C. May, Lawrence E. May, Patrick S. May, Patti McKay, Chris J. McKay, Dorothy M. Neely, Ora C. Ray, Agnes C. Remmington, Gertrude Roemer, Elmer Roemer, Bret A. Rogers, James W. Rose, Jeanne L. Senne, Jimmie June Timpe, Malcolm J. Timpe, John Dee Van Horn, Kathryn Vogt, Fred K. Vogt, Fred W. Vogt, Helen Wiese, and Ernest R. Weise.

Each Spring orders are taken for Memorial Bricks. The orders are then sent to the Acme Brick Company, which engraves the bricks and sends them to us during the summer. In the Fall the bricks are placed in the Garden, and the congregation is invited out for a prayer of dedication.

During the next month or two, if you wish, you may place an order for a Memorial Brick in memory of a church member, family member, or friend. The cost of each brick is \$100, part of which pays for the cost of maintenance of

the garden. You may contribute part or all of that amount. Others in the church may also want to contribute for the same Memorial Brick. I will keep the congregation posted on the contributions made toward Memorial Bricks.

Gail Andrews Hintz and Gerre McKay have already contributed the full amount for a brick in memory of Shirley Andrews. Others who have passed away over the past year, whom you may wish to remember with a Memorial Brick include John Cole, Harlan Creighton, Irena Kizer, Frances Wallen, Juanita Whitaker, Jane Legate, Gwen Sieck, and Muriel Hatfield. There may be others, as well.

If you wish to contribute toward a Memorial Brick, please contact Cynthia Hobart or Betti Jo in the church office.

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

**Frank Jessop**

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their gifts to "One Great Hour of Sharing". Our Goal was to raise \$2,000, but as of March 25 we have raised only \$927.00. Even though we have dedicated our gifts we will still be receiving them for the next two weeks. Remember your dollars go toward helping to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. The Mission Committee would like to thank the children for hanging the fish on the fish net, and also the Pre-School children for decorating the fish.

Our next special offering is the Pentecost Offering which will start the last of April and end on May 19. What is the Pentecost offering? Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering is kept by the congregation for use on behalf of children at risk; ten percent of the Offering supports General Assembly Child Advocacy Ministries; twenty-five percent of the Offering supports General Assembly Ministries with Youth; twenty-five percent supports Young Adults Volunteer Opportunities. You will be hearing more about the Pentecost Offering during the Minute for Mission from members of the Mission Committee.

**FROM THE Presbyterian Women**

**Cynthia Hobart**

Many thanks to all who contributed to the three Community Lenten Luncheons and Services. All who prepared food, set tables, served, collected

money, and helped with cleanup are greatly appreciated. The funds collected will all go to One Great Hour of Sharing.

At the last PW Coordinating Team meeting there was much discussion and concern regarding the future of the Rolla Presbyterian Women and the problem of the reluctance of women to serve as officers. Several options for reorganization were discussed, primarily having fewer meetings and a looser organizational structure. Fredi Zobrist, the current Moderator, will be meeting with each circle and will give a Minute for Mission on a Sunday about what can be done to continue the service of PW in the church.

When told of our concern, Debbie Esselman, the Moderator of PW of John Calvin Presbytery, was kind enough to send us information from the Presbyterian Women Manual on a more simplified PW for congregations. The suggestion was that the members of a Circle could function as the Coordinating Team. (Since we have three circles, perhaps all three meeting periodically could function as the Team.) The leadership could consist of a Moderator to provide leadership and ensure communication among members and with the congregation and Session, a Secretary/Historian to record the work, and a Treasurer to maintain the financial records. Also mentioned was that the election of leaders and approval of the annual PW budget could be carried in the context of a gathering of all PW – all the women of the congregation. This gathering could be the one annual meeting that is required.

Members of Circles III, IV, and V and all the other women of the church are invited to consider the above suggestions and share with the current PW Coordinating Team your thoughts about them and any other ideas you might have for a way that the Presbyterian Women of Rolla could continue to serve the church and the Rolla community.

The Coordinating Team: Fredi Zobrist, Sondra Crow, Sophia Leu, Cynthia Hobart, Carol Bennett, and Katherine Cook.

**With many thanks -**

A most sincere thank you to our church family for all the love and support shown us in so many ways during the past difficult weeks.

Your prayers, calls, cards, visits with Frances and offers of help have been a great source of strength and comfort. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

May God richly and truly bless you.

The Family of Frances Wallen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 27 - Rolla Police Department will be having their Prescription Drug Take Back from 10:00 - 2:00 in the Parking Lot.

April 28 - Rolla Choral Arts Society will have their Spring Concert at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

May 2 - The National Day of Prayer Committee is hosting the 2013 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at Missouri S&T's Havener Center.

We ask you to consider supporting this worthwhile community event. The cost to sponsor a table is \$125 which entitles you to a full breakfast for eight people of your choosing. Each sponsor's name will appear in the printed program and a tent card will be on your table the morning of the breakfast. If you desire to donate the \$125 without obtaining tickets, you can also do that.

The special speaker will be Stanley Bower, St. Louis Area Director of Christian Businessmen's Connection. Checks should be made payable to "National Day of Prayer" and sent to National Day of Prayer, c/o Emily Barnes (Treasurer), 605 Murry Lane, Rolla, MO 65401. Your tickets will then be mailed to you.

If you have any questions, call Emily at 364-3292 or email her at [emilyb@fidmail.com](mailto:emilyb@fidmail.com).

**PER CAPITA** for 2013 is \$25.00. Please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church. In the Memo section record, "Per Capita".