

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

March 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Rolla, MO 65401

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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)
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 (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.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

In this edition of your church newsletter, the emphasis is on Holy Week and Easter. It seems for me, that the time of our Lenten preparation for this high point of the Christian year has gone very quickly. On Palm Sunday we will celebrate with not only the traditional Palm branches, but with the ingathering of the "Fish" that represent our dedication of The One Great Hour of Sharing. I believe we can go over our goal of \$2000.00, especially as we think of the people it will benefit here and around the world, real people, real needs.

During Holy Week we will offer a Maundy Thursday service that will get all of us to participate in Jesus' path to the cross. The service will be that of Tenebrae which allows all worshippers to be a part of the mounting darkness that Jesus experienced as he carried out the obedience of the cross.

Easter Sunday will be the joyful celebration of the Lord's victory over sin and death. We will have an early service at 8:00 am followed by breakfast at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall. Following the breakfast will be the service at 9:45 am.

Easter will be our last Sunday with you. Deb and I want to thank you for your hospitality in our time here. We see very good things ahead for this congregation and will be praying for you in the interim, and the process of calling a new pastor.

Faithfully,
Gary Stratman

DEACON COMMITTEE

Thank you to Karen Hudson, Judy Fox, Pat Joslin, and Carol Jennings for their years of service as Deacons. Welcome to new Deacons Mary Kwantes and Marian Pruitt.

The following are currently serving as Deacons: Mary Kwantes - Funeral dinners; Marian Pruitt - Calling and Visitation; Pat Look - Meal delivery; Wendy

Wilbanks - Prayer chain/Concerns; Carrie Aswegan - Transportation and Special projects; Jay Turner - Clerk; Cheryl Koederitz - Chairman and Flowers.

Our mission is to care for members. Please contact the church office (364-3852) or any of us if you have needs.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to all who made our February 10th Luau a wonderful success. We had 39 people attend and had plenty of food for all. The winners in the oldy-wed game were Jay and Kathy Turner, although Bob and Carlene May and Lowell and Sondra Crow gave great competition and entertainment. Thanks to Rob Heberer who prepared questions that were fun for all.

Our next family event will be an early Easter service at 8 am, March 31, followed by breakfast at about 8:30 am, although folks can come and eat later also. There will be a sign-up sheet for helping with food. Please consider inviting guests to this event and our Easter service at 9:45 am to follow.

Christian Education is planning an Easter Egg hunt after that service during Fellowship time.

CARDINALS vs ROYALS GAME on May 29th is virtually filled. You may be placed on a WAITING LIST. The cost of the bus, tickets, and a sack lunch is an amazingly low \$30 a person. Please see Britt, Nancy Marlow, Betti Jo, or Mary Kwantes about reservations. Please pay for the tickets when you make your reservation. Bus will leave the church at 4:15 pm for the 7:15 pm game. Bring a friend and sign up early.

MISSION COMMITTEE

During the month of March, the Mission Committee will be talking about the One Great Hour of Sharing. Just where does your gift go to support "One Great Hour of Sharing"? Every gift made to the One Great Hour of Sharing supports ministries that are critical to the work of the church. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the PC(USA) and responds in times of disaster, but also partners in long-term recovery. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in communities in the United States and across the globe.

Self-development of People carries out the PC(USA) global commitment to support the self-development of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people and facilitate long-term change in their lives and communities.

During the next three weeks in March, you will hear more about each one of these from members of the Mission Committee.

On Palm Sunday we will dedicate our gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Our goal is to raise \$2,000. The children will again be putting fish in the fish net on Sunday morning. Each fish represents \$50.00 toward the One Great Hour of Sharing.

On March 6 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, our own Michael Wilbanks, will be talking about his mission trip to Thailand. A free will offering will be taken and the money will go to One Great Hour of Sharing. Be sure to come out and hear about his trip to Thailand and enjoy the meal with other friends from the church.

Frank Jessop, Chair

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On three successive Thursdays in March: the 7th, 14th, and 21st, the Presbyterian Women are again having Community Lenten Luncheons and Services in the Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is "Prayer", and the speakers will be: March 7 - Reverend Robert Morrison, retired minister First United Methodist Church; March 14 - Gary Stratman, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rolla; and March 21 - Doctor Mark Johnson, a former Pastor of Salem Avenue Baptist Church.

A soup and salad luncheon, costing \$4.00, will be served at 11:45 am, followed by the Lenten Service from 12:15 - 12:45 pm. Reservations may be made by calling the church office (573-364-3852) by the Wednesday each week.

All proceeds will benefit One Great Hour of Sharing.

Those of us currently serving on the PW Coordinating Team again invite you to prayerfully consider taking a turn serving. The Team has planning meetings about 8 times a year. On the Team you could serve as the Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer or Publicity person; or you could address special "Concerns" about

members in the congregation, primarily by sending them cards and messages; or you could enhance the "Spiritual Life" of PW by sharing spiritual readings at meetings and gatherings; or finally, you could direct your attention to "Mission Interpretation" by alerting the PW Team and others to missions conducted by the Presbyterian Church and other groups in the world. Many mission activities are included in the "Mission Yearbook", published by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

The Preschool is currently taking registrations open to the public for the 2013-2014 school years. If you know somebody looking for a preschool, please have them call us at 364-0992 or email us at prespre@fidmail.com.

We really brought the house down at the Presbyterian Manor by singing some lovely Valentine songs on February 13. The children passed out some homemade valentines to the residents.

Mary Kwantes is volunteering her musical services on March 11th and 12th at 10:00 am.

Our Easter Egg Hunt is on March 20th at 9:00 am.

Frank and Carol Jessop will be reading to the children March 20 at 2:30 pm.

The Presbyterian Preschool **will be closed for Spring Break March 23rd through March 31st**. Remember that "He is Alive".

STEWARDSHIP

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

PIECE & PLENTY QUILT GUILD

We are appreciative of First Presbyterian Church for permitting us to use the Fellowship Hall for our meetings on the first Thursday of each month. We have been asked by Session members if we do any charity work. Yes, we do! This past year members of the quilt guild made 76 baby quilts that were given to needy mothers through the hospital and four other organizations in Rolla. Members also made fun pillowcases for children who are staying at Russell

House – too many to count. We made 125 lap quilts for residents at the Veterans Home in St. James. Various sewing supplies were sent to Joplin quilt guilds after their tornado; so much, in fact, they asked us not to send any more as they did not have places to store them. We gave money to Community Partnership to help with disaster relief.

Our sewing is not done at First Presbyterian Church but each member works on her project at home or in “Sit and Sew” sessions held at First Baptist Church twice a month.

We are a busy, productive group. The guild is open for anyone to visit with us during our monthly meetings and we always welcome new members.

Sondra Crow

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

As many of you are aware, Rhonda is going through some medical issues right now. As of this writing, her condition is basically unchanged over the past six weeks or so, but we remain hopeful about the next step. I would like to thank all of you who have been so supportive. I won't list individuals because there have been so many that I know I would leave someone out. I have been amazed by the outpouring of love and support-emotional, spiritual, and physical. Our greatest need right now is for someone to be with Rhonda while I work and meet other obligations, which means that I'm asking people to give their most precious possession: their time. And yet, so many people have offered to help, and keep coming back to give more!

We are truly blessed to be members of this congregation. Although it's hard to be thankful in trying times, I am truly thankful for God's love shown to my family through the members of our church.

Jonathan Kimball

THANK YOU

I wish to thank the deacons, the Presbyterian Women, and the members of the church who visited, called, and sent cards. Your kind words, especially of Harlan, meant so much to me.

My thoughts are with you all as you prepare for a new beginning. I remember well, and think often of the time when Harland, our sons, and I were able to attend services.

My blessing to each of you,
Wilma Creighton

A special thanks to Clayton, Ardel, Darryl, Ken, Britt, D.C., Bill and Dean for helping us move to our new home on a wet, stormy day. Our new address is: 416 Nottingham Lane, Rolla, MO 65401. Our phone number remains 573-364-7507.

Sincerely,
Linda Rose and Robert Rogers

FACILITATORS NEEDED

Facilitators needed for Interfaith Dialogue: A CMA (Campus Ministry Association) event: Interfaith Dialogue will be held at Havener Center on April 26th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Estimated participants is around 200. Participants break to different tables. Each table (about 8-10 persons) will have people from different faith or atheists. Table facilitator will pass cards with questions. It is a non-threatening way for each person to express their belief and also a way to understand other faith.

About 30 facilitators are needed. Instructions for facilitators will be given out. If you can be a facilitator, please send your name & email address to commoncall@gmail.com before March 13, 2013.

Last year, Lee Jennings, Robert Rogers, John Carstens, Sophia Leu and Vola Randrianampy were facilitators.

FROM THE OFFICE

A long red coat was taken by mistake last Sunday. It may be returned to the office. Thank you.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 10. Please move your clocks forward one hour on Saturday evening.

Notice: As you all know the Pastor's Study and Church Offices are located on the second floor. If you are unable to come up the steps, please call the church office at 364-3852 and we will meet you downstairs.

Office hours are 8 am - 2:30 pm Monday - Friday.

Update Calendar: Please remember to put your events on the church office calendar if you want them included in the bulletin/web/newsletter.

Lenten Luncheons/Services are March 7, 14, and 21st. Please call the office to make your reservations. 364-3852.

Maundy Thursday service will be Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendars.

Betti Jo, Office Manager