

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

May 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. John Oerter, **Pastor (Interim)**
Lorie Francis, **Pianist/Organist**
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)
Jan Roberts - Elect (2013)

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 or use the sign-up sheet on the hall table.



Out of My Mind ~ for May 2013
pastoral ponderings from Pastor John

Please take a look at Deuteronomy 5: 33. Let me ‘translate’ it a bit for our situation: *“You will do well to follow the path the Lord, your God, has opened for you ... so that you may thrive, and that your transitional time may go well with you, and that you may live long in the ministry to which God is calling you.”*
[ORNSV]

I have come to believe that God has rather specific plans for individual churches, and opens a *path* for that church to follow for specific times.

Clearly, if God is opening a path for us during the transitional time, we will do well to follow it as best we can. I will do my best to help us do that, and am asking you to do so also.

Over the past 20+ years, pastors and some analytic-type leaders have been examining what happens with congregations during and after times of pastoral transition. They found that especially after one, or a combination, of three sets of circumstances the following pastoral relationship tended to be conflicted and short. These three are:

- 1) ending of a long [defined as 7 years or longer] pastoral relationship
- 2) conflict between pastor and congregation members
- 3) pastoral malfeasance [monetary, sexual or behavioral]

Those looking at pastoral relationships in transition have found that if an ‘at risk’ church takes a ‘time out’ to do the following Five Tasks in a seeking, thoughtful, conversational, and discerning way, the next tenure of the installed [understand ‘regular’] pastor tends to be longer, felicitous and effective ... something we all desire in our doing Jesus’ work together.

So, in a general way, let me lay out the work in which I will be leading your leaders, and yourselves, over the next year or so.

You, the congregation, have Five Tasks that, which when completed well enough, helps produce a durable, felicitous and effective pastor-congregation relationship. I add a Sixth Task, which operates through all Five.

The First Task, and one we will tackle in an organized, visible way, asking as much of the congregation to be involved as possible, is:

“Coming to terms with history.” In this piece of work, we will look at your history, perhaps lay out a physical Time Line and place ourselves within that. We will tell stories of your history, and try to discern the solid foundation upon which you enjoy your present, vigorous life of community, ministry and mission. I understand that your 150th Anniversary is coming up next year ... interesting timing.

We will take lessons from your history, seeking God’s leading about what can be learned in the area of “let’s not do that again ... or, anymore” ...

The Second Task, which is also an organized, visible kind of work is typically called a “Mission Study.” This Task is the ‘gold mine’ which can finance your future. I will ask us to come together in a prayerful, conversational, discerning process, which asks: “God, please show us Your desires for this church, here and now.” Again, broad and deep congregational involvement is most beneficial.

The Third and Fourth Tasks are less visible, but have been found to be helpful in achieving the effective outcome we desire. They are:

Third Task: nurturing and deepening connections to our larger church; that is, the Presbytery, sister churches and national-level resources. You all are already well connected to your Presbytery and I will make sure that we continue and possibly deepen those connections.

The Fourth Task concerns Leaders and Leadership. Very commonly leaders in a transitional time step back for a bit, and others step forward. I will be most gracious to those of you being led to step back for a bit, and I will be most attentive and supportive of those of you being led to step forward during our important time of transition! We will have many opportunities for training ... training ... [did I mention training?]

The Fifth Task is “Preparing for new Pastoral Leadership.” This is a joyous, anticipatory and visibly specific time where we take the results of the Mission Study, elect our Pastor Nominating Committee [PNC acronym] and support them as they seek your next, installed Pastor. The Congregation, in a general way, prepares themselves to engage the new relationship rightly.

Again, when these are completed adequately the next pastoral tenure goes better than it often does, without this careful process.

The Sixth Task, which I have added personally, is “to increase the Spiritual-Temperature of the congregation.” Recognizing the notion in Psalm 127: 1, I have found that the work congregations do is much more flexible, joyful [enjoyable] and effective when we do them in ways that deepen our faith and extend our maturity as Jesus’ disciple-stewards. A first step might be to join the Prayer Band; just let me know if you want to!

I’ll close this month’s missive with a word about myself and my dear wife, Lucia. We are both Presbyterian Pastors. Lucia is serving as the Interim Associate Pastor for First & Calvary Presbyterian in Springfield, MO. Her areas of responsibility are contemporary worship, women and families.

Our marriage is the second one for each of us, and we have 6 children between us, and 6 living grandchildren. We love engaging conversations, helping communities grow in their faith, and pursuing anything with fins ...

My ‘door’ is always open [except, of course, when it is closed ... and Betti Jo will let you know when I’m available again ...] and I will carry both my mobile, and my number is published each week in the worship guide. I invite you to call, as you need. If your concern is routine church business, I ask that you make calls during church business hours. In an emergency, call at any time! I believe pastors do well to keep a balance between easy accessibility to the ‘flock’ for which they care, and their own self-responsibility.

As our rhythms settle in together, I anticipate being in the study by 8, often having a lunch appointment, sometimes being out and about your community in the afternoons. Of course, I will be available for appointments at our mutual pleasure. Typically, I will be in Rolla from Saturday evening thru choir practice on Wednesday evening, working from home-Springfield on Thursdays. I plan, at this point, to take Fridays off, though this may change as I get into the church’s routine.

Again, I have a clear experience of God leading me to serve among you, and I anticipate that we will create an effective, loving and exciting ministry together, seeking God’s future for First Presbyterian Church of Rolla!

your temporary shepherd, John

As I used to sign off on my weekly radio spot:

Work for our common good; love openly; and, get to know God better this month!

Toward Spiritual and Sartorial Elegance:

The third of our major, yearly, Faith-Celebrations is: PENTECOST

Pentecost is considered the Birthday of the Church. The Liturgical color is red, reminding us of the fire of the Holy Spirit. SO, for our worship on May 19th, feel free to wear RED ... anything red ... as a way to ‘pray’ with your body and garb, as a way to remind us to allow the Holy Spirit to ‘set us on fire’ for our Master, Jesus, and His mission to transform the world.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Cynthia Hobart

In about a month an order will be sent to ACME Brick Company for additional Memorial Bricks to be placed in the Memorial Garden. At this time this order will include Memorial Bricks (already purchased) for Shirley Andrews, John Cole, and Frances Wallen. \$60 has been donated toward a brick for Jane Legate. If you would like to contribute to Jane’s brick or would like to purchase another Memorial Brick, please contact Cynthia Hobart or Betti Jo in the church office. The cost of a Memorial Brick is \$100, part of which pays for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

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 \$2000.00. We received a total of \$1,863 that will be sent to Presbytery from our church. This money will go toward helping with natural disasters, hunger programs, and self-development by the world church.

Our next special offering is the Pentecost Offering which will end on May 19, Pentecost Sunday. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering is kept by the congregation for use on behalf of children at risk in our community. Twenty-five percent supports General Assembly ministries with youth, such as training of staff for Youth Triennium. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteer opportunities, so that young people 19- 30 years old can participate in a year of mission service and learning. Ten percent of the offering supports General Assembly child advocacy ministries, such as facilitating the work against Human Trafficking and child sex and labor trafficking in the United States and globally.

You will be hearing from the Mission Committee during the month of May more about the Pentecost Offering during the Minutes for Mission. All of us can make a difference in our community and around the world. Please support the Pentecost Offering with your gifts.

Mercy Clinic is hosting the “Back to School Fair” August 7. Our church again will be helping with donations of school supplies. Last year they assisted approximately 600 children with school supplies. This year they are looking at assisting around 800 children from kindergarten through 12th grade.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Cynthia Hobart

The Annual PW Spring Luncheon and Meeting will be held at 11:30 am on Saturday, May 11, at the home of Moderator Fredi Zobrist, 12030 Country Club Drive, Rolla. We hope that many of the women of the church will attend. If it is convenient and you would like to contribute, you are welcome to bring a salad. However, if

you cannot, that is fine. The meeting following lunch will be very important, as it will determine the future of the Presbyterian Women in our church.

If anyone would like a ride to the meeting, please contact Cynthia Hobart, 368-3567.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER PARTY

Sharlene Morgan

Thirty five enthusiastic diners descended upon the Morgan home about 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening April 20, 2013. They were greeted warmly with an attractive array of appetizers and beverages to nourish the body and a game of “Buffet Bingo” to nourish the friendships and knowledge of one another. Within minutes, peals of laughter and happy chatter rang throughout the house...and continued throughout the entire evening.

At the appointed hour, the group carpooled en mass to the Wellington Club House to be greeted by the smiling face of Eleanor Van Horn, their hostess for this leg of the event. Each guest provided a side dish to accompany the succulent pork tenderloin that was prepared for the group by Sondra and Lowell. The buffet was a pleasure to the eyes and the taste buds. The jovial mood continued as the diners filled their plates and followed instructions to find their “surprise” dinner companion. Clean-up was fast and painless and a shining example of how effective we can be when we all work together for a common good.

The final journey of the progressive dinner took us back to the Church where an amazing array of beautifully presented delicious desserts awaited. Our own Wendy Wilbanks outdid herself this time!! All were happily expecting a piece of one of her delicious cakes and coffee but instead, were thrilled to discover the surprise of her creations. She had not only decorated the fellowship hall with a beautifully creative “beach” motif but also prepared and presented multiple elegant desserts. Our eyes and palates feasted upon cupcakes, individual cups of mousse, triangles of lemon bars and individually decorated carrot cakes, just to name a few. What a fantastic finale she created to an already spectacular event.

The mood was still jubilant and contagious as we all gathered for Church on Sunday morning! Perhaps the success of the event will also serve to remind us how effective we can be as Christians when together we pool our talents, enthusiasm and acceptance of one another in Christian fellowship.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Kwantes

Our Committee has planned some great spring events. The progressive dinner on April 20 was well attended and just fabulous. Special thanks go to the Morgans for wonderful appetizers and hospitality, to Dixie Finley, Eleanor Van Horn and Sondra Crow for our great dinner arrangements, and to Wendy Wilbanks for desserts and decoration delights.

The church picnic is planned for May 19, Pentecost Sunday, at upper Schumann Park following the service with chicken to arrive at noon. Please sign up outside the office for headcount and side dishes. Table service and drinks will be provided.

The Cardinal game is May 29 with departure in the bus from the church at 4:15 p.m. Please arrive by 4:00 p.m.

The block party will conclude our VBS week and will be Saturday evening following VBS 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Please consider helping with our canvassing efforts by contacting either Jonathan Kimball, Mary Kwantes, or Pastor John Oerter.

Please remember as summer approaches to continue to reach out to visitors and to sign up for fellowship time, if you are able. Summer months find us minus many folks who might normally pitch in for fellowship; so it is even more important to plan ahead.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Carol Jessop

The congregation is cordially invited to attend the Preschool Graduation on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Barbara Ford

In the past our church has made available a copy of the magazine, *Presbyterians Today*, and the *2013 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study*. Copies are available on the table in the hallway outside the church office, in the church office, on the front desk and on the table in the Sadler Lounge. If you would like to have a personal copy of either of these resources, you can order by calling Presbyterian Church (USA).

For *Presbyterians Today* magazine, call (800) 558-1669 and ask for code H1113. For the *2013 Presbyterian Yearbook for Prayer and Study*, call (800) 524-2612 and ask for ISBN 978-0-98589-640-9.

Thanks again for all church members who have provided their per capita. For those who may have forgotten, please keep our church in your prayers.

FROM THE OFFICE

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

“Happy Mother’s Day to all our mothers”.

“Best wishes to all our graduates as they look forward to furthering their education or embarking on their new careers in life.”

Church Directory: We are in the process of revising the Church Directory. If you DO NOT want your information printed and made available to folks, please let Betti Jo in the office know by Monday, June 03, 2013.

Feel free to stop by the office and preview the draft to verify your information for currency, inclusion or deletion. Thank you.

First Presbyterian Church is Facebook friendly. Preview and ‘Like’ our page.

Sunday brunch: If you eat Sunday Brunch at Benton Square from 10:30 – 2:30 and turn the receipt in to the office they will give 10% back to the church once a month. This is not an advertisement for Benton Square but just wanted to let the folks know that eat there; this is an option.

