



# First Presbyterian Times

## June, 2013

First Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. John Oerter, Pastor (Interim)  
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager  
Candace Ludden, Preschool Director

Jeff Sandquist, Choir Director  
Lorie Francis, Pianist/Organist  
Robert Garcia, Church Sexton

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

Last month I wrote to you about the Five Tasks that are the congregation's work ... YOUR work! I can't do them *to* you, or for you, but I will help you work through them. If you all do these tasks well, from the heart, and seeking God's leading throughout them, you all will come to a current understanding of who you are as a church, and what you believe God is leading you to be and become! And, that's worth doing.

Such an understanding will help you choose your next, long-term, installed Pastor, and create with her or him a durable, felicitous and effective relationship in mission and ministry.

This month, I'll line out for you a possible sequence of work ... a line of 'mile-stones' that we will pass, as we do our transitional work together. [check 1 Corinthians 14: 40]

"Mile-Stones" ~ Sequencing

~ **Departure** of installed pastor and arrival of your interim pastor.

~ Session forms the **Interim Ministry Team** The IMT will serve to guide the interim pastor as I do my personal work, and initiate the congregation's work, crafting the specifics of working the 6 Tasks. Personnel Committee recommended, in conformance to our Contract, and Session authorized the IMT, and they commenced working with me on May 5.

If you have any questions or comments on our interim work, please talk with Janice Zanders, Robert Rogers or Melba Read ... or myself, of course! [or Personnel or Session]

~ **Getting to Know You** listening groups. The IMT helped me strategize the formation and organization of our Getting to Know You groups. They serve two primary functions. First, I get to know you better and more quickly than I would without them. Also, I hand out both the Tasks and the Mile-stones and we talk them over, arriving at a better, congregation-wide understanding of what lies ahead in the coming year.

The groups began to gather on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and will continue into June.

Please! All of you pick one, or let us know when you could meet. Then come, and Get to Know one another better!

~ **“Town Hall” Meetings** Sometimes there is value in calling the whole congregation together to talk over their recent history, vent feelings, and formally ‘move on’ from the immediate past to the immediate future. Your IMT and I are planning to convene at least one, possibly two, Town Hall Meetings, late in August and early in September.

These will lead into a very important time:

~ **“Harvesting” our History** This work is an extended, whole-congregational reflection on our history, ‘harvesting’ from our history the good fruit of generations ... and, learning some lessons along the lines of: “We’re not going to do that anymore!” This process may involve publicizing our history, constructing a physical Time Line and placing ourselves in it, gathering to hear stories of our past, and various other history-related kinds of work. I’m sure that some of this work will link to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which is coming next year.

The third, major, whole-congregational process is the most important:

~ **Identity and Mission Discernment** This is the crucial milestone! We will seek God’s leading about who we are, at this moment in our history, and what God is leading us to be and do for Jesus’ Church. We will discern a current identity and articulate that to ourselves. This is often an exciting and energetic time, as the congregation begins to see clearly their path to the future!

The next two are not so much ‘mile-stones’ as some periodic activities that we do as we work through the coming months, together:

~ **Leader [‘Officer’ or “Ordered Minister”] Training** Sometime early on in the beginning of our time together I created venues to set out the 6 Tasks and Sequencing, and also events to prepare the leadership, equipping them to help lead the congregation through the Tasks work.

~ **Preparing for new Pastoral leadership** In some ways, this task goes on throughout our work together. However, it ‘ripens to maturity’ in the final phase of our work. This involves all kinds of things, from my preparing the Study to be a clean, open, welcoming place for your installed pastor, to: organizing the communication, work and documentation of the church, to: setting norms about how we talk and work together ... and many other things!

Now, the penultimate mile-stone:

~Election of the **Pastor Nominating Committee** When the Current Identity and Purpose discernment is accomplished to everyone's satisfaction, we will be authorized to elect our Pastor Nominating Committee. This is a joyous and significant milestone in our work together, and indicates that we're coming down the backstretch of our time together.

~ The final 'Mile-Stone' of our work will be when the PNC presents their chosen **candidate for congregational election as your installed pastor**. My departure from among us will be, most normally, somewhere around this time.

So, I hope this will help order, in your mind and heart, the clear markers that we will create together as we worship, talk, serve and work together for the future of First Presbyterian Church.

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!

## **CARDINALS VS ROYALS**

**Britt Whitaker**

Forty nine folks rode the bus Wednesday night, May 29<sup>th</sup>, to St. Louis to see the Cardinals. The game was great with the Cardinals coming back and beating the Royals 5-3. The weather was great (proving that tornadoes do not always follow me around) and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Nancy Marlow and her helpers for our sack lunches and wonderful cookies. Thanks to all for participating and being part of our church fellowship.

## **News of the Presbyterian Women**

**Cynthia Hobart**

On May 11th Moderator Fredi Zobrist graciously hosted the Annual PW Spring Luncheon and Meeting. Fourteen were in attendance.

At the meeting the basic organization of PW in the coming year was outlined: The Board will consist of a Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer (the minimum number of officers required). During the summer the Board will decide on a budget. Early in the Fall the Board will need to meet with all the Circles to decide which one of the following events each Circle will coordinate: The Fall Rummage Sale, the Christmas

Bake Sale & Cookie Walk, or the Spring Lenten Luncheons. The Board will also need to work out with the Circles how each will contribute to The All-church Christmas Dinner. The Circles will continue to share in conducting vespers at The Presbyterian Manor the fourth Sunday of each month.

Since the program book will not be issued, the PW Bulletin Board, now displaying the Minutes from the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer's report for June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013, and information on the recipient of the 2013 Birthday Offering, will provide a means of communication (besides the church newsletters and bulletins).

**PW FINANCIAL STATEMENT (June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013)**

Submitted by Sophia Leu

PW Treasurer

2012-2013

Balance Forward (6/1/12):	\$1843.00
Income:	
Rummage Sale	716.83
Christmas Bazaar	1533.81
Lenten Luncheon	689.10
Consecration Dinner	466.03
PW Circle Offering	198.53
Birthday Offering	264.00
Thank Offering	203.20
Least Coin	29.91
Interest	<u>3.43</u>
Total	\$5947.84

Expenditures and Mission Giving:

PW(PCUSA) Missions	250.00
PC/SMA PW per capita	54.75
Staff Christmas Gifts	300.00

GRACE	200.00
Russell House	150.00
Regional Girls Shelter	150.00
RPS Backpack Program	200.00
Community Partnership	250.00
Presbyterian Manor	200.00
Birthday Offering	264.00
Thank Offering	203.20
Least Coin	29.91
One Great Hour of Sharing	689.10
Miscellaneous:	
Christmas Dinner	38.77
RCAS Christmas Party singing	75.00
Stamps,Cards,Pillow Case,Pin	<u>133.94</u>
Total	\$3188.67
Balance:	\$2759.17

**Kitchen Fund**

Two year CD starts 2/22/2012	1000.00
Interest on 2 year CD	10.01
Three year CD starts 2/22/2012	1000.00
Interest on 3 year CD	13.16
Three year CD starts 2/25/2013	1006.03
Interest on 3 year CD	1.96
Kitchen Fund cash	<u>139.57</u>
Kitchen Fund Total	3170.73

## **MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS**

**Cynthia Hobart**

Memorial Bricks have been purchased for Shirley Andrews, John Cole, Jane Legate, William Neely, Harlan S. Creighton, and Frances Wallen. If anyone wishes to purchase another engraved brick in memory of a loved one, please do so before June 15 by contacting Cynthia Hobart or Betti Jo in the church office. At the end of June an order for memorial bricks will be sent to the Acme Brick Company.

## **HANDBELL CHOIR FUND DRIVE**

**Jeff Sandquist, Music Director**

The 3 octave set of Schulmerich Handbells were purchased for First Presbyterian Church in 1969. In 1997 they were professionally cleaned, polished and received minor repairs. The handbells are well past due for refurbishment.

Refurbishment means that all parts of the bell (handles, clapper mechanisms, etc.) are replaced with new parts. The cast portion (the bell itself) is not replaced, but is professionally cleaned, buffed, and polished before reassembly. This work needs to be done this summer.

The cost for refurbishment through Schulmerich is \$3900 plus \$240 for shipping, or a total of \$4140.

The Session has approved fundraising for this project.

An anonymous donor has agreed to match funds raised by the congregation, up to \$2000. The challenge to the congregation is to raise the additional \$2,140 or approximately \$715 per octave, which comes to about \$60 per bell. These funds must be raised before June 15.

If you or your family would like to sponsor a bell, bells, or an entire octave, please talk to music director, Jeff Sandquist, or the church office.

Gifts for this project may be made to the church office. Please put HANDBELL in the memo line.

Thanks and Peace ....

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jonathan Kimball

Membership has had two fun fellowship events in May: our Pentecost picnic at Schumann Park on the 19th and the great baseball game in St Louis on the 29th.

Remember as school is out, and vacations occur, to greet visitors warmly, invite them to fellowship....AND sign up for SIMPLE snacks during Fellowship time. Don't feel intimidated—we have had many lovely brunches, but only a simple set up is really needed. Mostly we need coffee and cold drinks for children and non-coffee drinkers. If you know you will be in town, please sign up to host.

Our June Block Party is still tentatively set for June 29. We are actively seeking some entertainment for an hour (5-6pm). If you have ideas to help with this, contact either the church office or Mary Kwantes at **mlakwantes@hotmail.com**. The party may be moved to June 22 if we need to accommodate the entertainment. Also, we will be canvassing the neighborhood on the previous Sunday afternoon. In years past, we have canvassed to the north and to the south of the church, so this year we will probably go to the west. With four or five pairs, the process is quick and is a great way to see a different part of Rolla than your home neighborhood. Watch the bulletin for details, and let Mary know if you can help.

In July (11- 21) Neil Simon's *Fools* will play at Ozark Actors Theater. We hope to get a group of adults together for dinner and the play. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, and most exciting is our announcement that May 15, 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of our congregation. This summer during fellowship time we will be doing brainstorming about how to remember, celebrate, and consecrate this momentous event. Please get in touch with Jonathan Kimball or Mary Kwantes if you want to have a lead in the planning, or even just contribute an idea, a food donation or some time to do research.

Ephesians 3:16-19 reads, "I kneel in prayer... that out of the treasure of His glory, He may grant you strength and power in your inner being, and through faith, Christ may dwell in your hearts in love. With deep roots and firm foundations, may you be strong to grasp with all God's people, what is the breadth and length, and height, and depth of the love of Christ, and to know it, though it be beyond knowledge. so you may attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God Himself." ... to quote Pastor John, "go out and give them HEAVEN!"

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 16 – 20 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome to assist with teaching, singing, food, crafts and

recreation. Contact Jan Roberts for more information at 364-2841 or [robfam@fidnet.com](mailto:robfam@fidnet.com).

*FROM THE OFFICE*  
*Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager*

*June 16 is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day Gentlemen!*

## **SECURITY**

When you attend a meeting and are the last person to arrive for the evening, please lock the sanctuary doors.

## **NEWSLETTER MAILINGS**

The cost of mailing the newsletters has dropped to under \$20 per month. Thank you to all who have signed up to receive your copy electronically or are picking it up.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

New directories are available on the table outside the church office.

### **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 (2013)

#### **Trustees**

Larry Roberts (2015)  
Chuck Remington (2015)  
Frank Jessop (2013)  
Robert Anderson (2014)  
Rhonda Kimball (2013)  
Ken Kwantes (2014)



