



First Presbyterian Times

July, 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Out of My Mind ~ for July 2013
pastoral ponderings from Pastor John

*Everything I need to know about evangelism ...
I learned from fly fishing.*

“Follow Me and I will make of you soul-catchers!”

Matthew 4: 19, ORNSV*

In 1982, a Ruling Elder and fly-fishing buddy gave me a copy of *A River Runs Through It*, by Norman F. Maclean. Norman’s reflections on his faith, family, fly-fishing and loss of his brother, Paul, moved me deeply. I liked the book better than the movie, and the movie was wonderful! Let me quote Norman’s opening lines:

“In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others.

“He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman.”

Most of you know that Lucia and I love fly-fishing. I suppose it was inevitable that we would think of the deep congruence between our avocation and our vocation ... we have found helpful and delightful similarities between what we do in ministry and how we fly fish, especially the practice of respectful, effective evangelism.

This compelling Text, Matthew 4: 17-23, clearly defines what a growing Disciple/Steward for Jesus Christ is: we follow Him and 'catch' souls for God and the Shalom! Keep in mind that Jesus was talking to His first four disciples, all fishermen ...

Here are some of the similarities I'd like you to ponder:

First, we love gear! the stuff we use to get into the water and fish! Now, Lucia says that gear seems more important to me than to her, and I'd say she is right in that, probably a male-thing ... liking the gizmos for their own sake. However, she does use gear to fish.

SO, what 'equipment' do we need to be an effective soul-catcher for Christ?

We become 'equipped' as disciples by the Holy Spirit ... so I ask: what is your experience of discerning the leading of God's Spirit? Can you become more accessible to Him?

Part of our 'equipment' ... 'gear' ... is what the Holy Spirit uses in specific situations:

~ God's Word, the Bible is one of our most important tools for soul-fishing. Do you regularly read, study and discuss the Scriptures? Is God asking you to study-up on your call, or on practicing evangelism, specifically?

~ Community is another very important part of the 'gear' for soul-catching. It is both our support-base and the place we bring new 'catches' to ... !

~ Maybe the most important part of your gear is ... your story! Nothing will engage one of God's precious persons more effectively than genuine love on your part, along with authentic self-disclosure about your life of faith. So, gear up!

Second, being a good angler requires skill ... clumsy fishermen scare the fish!

Most of us are not smooth and easy in approaching folks, or in telling our faith-stories. We need to learn how to do this skillfully, clearly, lovingly ...

Of course, skill comes with practice ... how would you practice the skill of engaging others with your self-disclosure of your life of faith?

Finally, for this month [more to come next month, possibly,] is what anglers call "matching the hatch." At the right time, large numbers of insects move from the bottom of the stream or lake to the surface to emerge into the air and become the sexually mature adult, to carry on the species. That emergence is called a 'hatch' and often provokes enthusiastic feeding from the trout. No fish ever takes anyone's fly unless the fish wants to! [Note: snagging is illegal! God disapproves of snagging folks for Jesus!]

To engage the fish's desire to eat one's fly an angler must practice what I call 'authentic harmony.' That is, we must be in the fish's world in a way that does not

frighten the fish, and present our fly with enough skill so that it looks and acts like something good to eat!

In terms of evangelism, our 'fly' must make sense to the 'fish' ... and our soul must be in harmonious relationship to the other soul ... one cannot compel a fish to take; it's more like a dance; it's all about harmony and authenticity.

Genuine evangelism has no 'hook' nor 'fishing line' other than your genuineness and love and the Holy Spirit actively 'pulling' the person in new directions!

Lucia and I sometimes think on these similarities between being Jesus' disciple and effectively angling with a fly: we need to gear up, get skillful, and match the hatch!

Do these practices suggest some useful, perhaps pleasurable, things you might do to become a more effective steward/disciple for Jesus, Messiah?

Your temporary shepherd, John

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

*ORNSV is "Oerter's Revised Non-Standard Version"

BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, June 29, 2013

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Join us this Saturday on the church parking lot for fun, fellowship, food, games and a concert from the Heritage Boys. Bring your lawn chairs.

DINNER/THEATRE

Saturday, July 13, 2013

5:30 pm

Mark your calendars and join the Whitakers for dinner and to OAT Theatre for Neil Simon's play, "Fools". Event is available to the first 20 who sign up and pay Betti Jo or Britt. Cost is \$16.00 per person. Feel free to bring a side dish. Plan now to join in the fun and fellowship. There is a sign up board outside the office.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Jan Roberts will no longer be serving on the Mission Committee.

PW officers: Carol Bennett and Eleanor Van Horn are Co-Chairs; Mary Kwantes is Treasurer, and the Secretary position is currently vacant. Ladies, if one of you

would like to serve as secretary, please contact Carol Bennett or Eleanor Van Horn.

150th ANNIVERSARY ...

of our church will be May 15, 2014. If you have stories or ideas to share to help us celebrate this event, please contact Mary Kwantes. **We are looking for pictorial directories from the Wes Schlotzhaur and Larry Boutelle years.** We have copies for 1989 and 1975. Any earlier editions would be appreciated.

MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS

Cynthia Hobart

Since 2009 four orders for a total of 50 engraved memorial bricks have been sent, the bricks received, and placed in the Memorial Garden. The fifth order for six engraved bricks for Shirley Andrews, John W. Cole, Harlan S. Creighton, Edna Jane Legate, William Neely, Sr. and Frances M. Wallen was mailed this week to the Acme Brick Company. Delivery to the church should be in about six weeks, after which the bricks will be displayed before being placed in the ground. Finally, this fall after a worship service the bricks will be dedicated.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee again this year has seven Disaster Buckets to be filled by the first of August. These buckets are located in the hallway across from the office. If you take a bucket, make sure you take a lid also. Please sign your name and phone number on the sign-in sheet.

Inside every bucket is a list of the items that goes into the buckets. As Kathy Morriss, chair of the John Calvin Disaster Assistance Group, said 'bigger is not always better'. Buy the exact amount of items called for. They will go easily in the bucket and it will be easy to attach the lid. **PLEASE DO NOT DUCT TAPE BUCKETS.**

Last fall over 70 buckets were taken to the warehouse by the JC Disaster Assistance Group. They filled two pallets with buckets. Our church collected seven buckets last year, which was 10% of the total. From the Mission Committee, a big thank you.

The Rolla Back to School Fair will be held on Wednesday, August 7th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Lions Club Den. It is sponsored by the Mercy Clinic Rolla Pediatrics. Last year they assisted approximately 600 children with school supplies and services. This year they are hoping to assist 800 children from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each year our church has helped with school supplies for the children, anywhere from pencils to pens. This year we have selected small bottles of Elmer's school glue. Our goal is to collect 425 bottles of glue. These items will help children to obtain necessary items to begin the new school year with higher self-esteem. Look for a box that will be in the hallway to collect the bottles of glue. If you do not want to shop for glue, monetary donations to the Mission Committee will be appreciated and we will purchase the glue for you. Any questions about this mission project, feel free to ask any member of the Mission Committee.

We are partnering with Salem Avenue Baptist Church to collect new or gently used tennis or casual shoes for their distribution at their Shoe Closet, July 27th. A tub has been placed downstairs just inside the glass doors where you may put your donations. They will pick them up each Wednesday until July 27. Thank you for giving to this ministry. Sudie York reported that this is a great need in our community.

LETTER

from Michael Wilbanks

Hello Friends!

As some of you may already know, I'm interning with Cru in Southwest Missouri, the U.S. ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. This will be a one-year full-time internship reaching out to and investing in college students' lives for eternity. God is leading me to help win their hearts for Christ by sharing the gospel in a clear and caring way, building them up in their faith through discipleship and bible studies, and then sending them out following and pursuing Jesus globally and passionately for a lifetime.

Cru, like many mission organizations, is non-profit with no central funds. To fulfill this calling, I must find ministry partners that will pledge monthly support for me until next August. As I take a step of faith to serve the Lord in college ministry, will you prayerfully consider partnering with me by supporting me monthly for \$100 or some other amount? I will need 40

more monthly supporters at \$50 to reach my goal.

I would love to meet with you to answer any questions or tell you more about my ministry. I will be having group meetings every Sunday right after the regular service at 11-11:30am in the Sunday school room next to the fellowship area until July 28th. I can meet at other times through-out the week or call if more convenient.

I know this is a step of faith asking you to sacrifice and give to my ministry. Every amount makes a significant impact and goes straight to my personal goal to invest in the lives of college students. I greatly appreciate your consideration!

In Christ,
Michael Wilbanks
michael.wilbanks@cru.org
573-201-8021

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Jan Roberts

BE LIKE JESUS ... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ... was held during Sunday, June 16 to Thursday, June 20. We had about 20 children from ages 4 - up (about 5th grade) each evening from 6-8 p.m. They were divided into three groups: "red birds, yellow birds, and blue birds." During the evening, they had the opportunity to sing with Mary Kwantes and John Oerter, play games with Pam Cottingham (and helpers), make crafts with Dixie Finley and Judy Boyd, and hear stories about Jesus with Carol Bennett and Sarah Large. "Thank you".

"Thanks" also goes to Ashlyn Lewis and Jesse Moon ... two teenagers, who volunteered and assisted in many ways with VBS activities. They were great role models for the younger ones. Several children enjoyed being "leaders" of the three groups. Many adult volunteers brought in delicious snacks, and other adults helped with the activities and the registration process. Again, a big "thank you" to all who spent their time and energy sharing the love and Gospel of Jesus to these young people.

Parents were invited to attend Thursday night VBS activities and hear their children sing the VBS songs. They were also invited to our Sunday church service to sing these songs at Children's Time. The congregation was encouraged to participate in the singing, too. :)

May the Love of our Lord Jesus continue to grow and be shared by all of us.

NOTE: from Pastor John: Jan and Pam, a huge "Thank you!" to you both for your creative, Biblical and loving leadership that made this "Be Like Jesus" Bible camp possible!

THANK YOU LETTER

Vola Randrianampy

Dear Church Members of First Presbyterian Church in Rolla MO,

I want to thank each one of you for accepting me in this church from the first time I came to Rolla till the end. I do not forget your care and support when my dad passed away and also when I graduated. You all are my family and friends in Rolla. You supported me in many ways

and I will not forget that. Now, time is coming for me to leave and my heart is divided. It is a bitter sweet event as I am excited to move on for my career and at the same time I miss you all. Anyway, I pronounce the blessing upon each one of you and your respective family. Know that the church will be remembered and cherished by me. Thank you again.

For those of you who want to keep in touch in person, here is my email address volarand7@yahoo.com and my facebook account is "Aina Fiderana (Noro Vola)".

Love, Vola Randrianampy

PRESCHOOL

As everyone knows preschool is now out for the summer. Candace works in the office on Tuesday and Thursdays throughout the summer. You may contact her at 201-9619.

*From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager*

Summer is here, families are now traveling on vacation to see family, friends or just the sites. Others stay close to home enjoying BBQ's and relaxation. I pray everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

"Happy 4th of July"
The office will be closed on the 4th.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders

Bill Morgan
Marilyn Schmidt
Eleanor Van Horn
Carol Bennett
Ming Leu
Jonathan Kimball
Susan Murray
Britt Whitaker

Deacons

Marian Pruitt
Mary Kwantes
Jay Turner
Carrie Aswegan
Cheryl Koederitz
Pat Look
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Jan Roberts

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Larry Roberts
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Frank Jessop
Robert Anderson
Rhonda Kimball
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