

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

September, 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Rolla Folks, we have an excellent team of Presbyters currently, who have helped us significantly [part of that has been financially] and are aware of our process and praying for us! What follows is the Rev. Susan Rosenbaum's monthly column, which you might find interesting.

I have had a wonderful summer as I have been in many churches around JCP in the last few months. It is exciting for me to be able to be among the churches and to greet the members of this presbytery in person. I enjoy preaching, participating and being in worship and know that I have been enriched by getting to know the people in the pews. One of the things I treasure about being in this position is the people I get to meet on a regular basis. I would have to say that the people in JCP are the best. You have shown me how a larger body of Christ relates to one another and to the communities where you live in strong and passionate ways. I can see your commitment to Christ in the ways you live out your faith and am delighted to hear the stories of faith that make the presence of Jesus real in JCP. I thank you for these opportunities because without you, this would not be possible. You are the reason JCP exists. As we head into the fall, I pray that our commitment to faith will be strong and that as a result of those commitments, our relationships will grow even stronger. May God bless you for your continued love and support.

Pastor Susan Rosenbaum



Out of My Mind ~ for September 2013
ponderings from Pastor John

Three passages form the basis for the first part of my Newsletter article for September: Exodus 20: 16 [the 9th Commandment], Matthew 18: 15-18 [direct speech] and various references to gossip, say: Proverbs 11: 11-13. Please find these and prayerfully think about them in the context of our common life here at Rolla FPC.

I'm going to use the word: "triangulation" because it makes vivid the social network that is established when brothers or sisters in Christ gossip about one another.

Triangulation occurs when one person talks to another person, about a third person, not present in the conversation ... hence establishing a 'triangle' with one person at each point.

Some instances of triangulation are relatively benign, while others are virulent.

Triangulation never makes it better ... producing only varying degrees of spiritual/relational/emotional sickness. I believe triangulation is sin. [Commandment and Proverbs]

As your Pastor, I am saying clearly: "Don't do it! ... Don't be party to it!"

I have to confess that I have committed, and probably will continue to commit, the sin of triangulation. I understand fully that in human social discourse, triangulation is as common and instantaneous as breathing ... and, triangulation *never* makes it better. As with many destructive things in our human living, triangulation may help us feel better in the moment, but produces nothing positive, and in some instances: brings harm. [cf James 3: 5-10]

My personal practice [and it does take practice] is twofold:

First, I try never to talk negatively *about* anyone, particularly *to* someone else. Instead, as Matthew 18 says, I will approach the person directly and do my best to reconcile and create a positive solution for the issue at hand.

Secondly, I try never to be on the receiving end of a bad report. As soon as I notice that someone is triangulating me into a difficulty they have with another person, I'll break into their declamation and ask, "What did 'Fred' say when you talked with him about that?" Most often, they will just start up with their complaint again, and I'll have to break in again and ask them to take the issue up with 'Fred' directly. Don't do it! ... Don't be party to it!

My challenge to you, to each of you, to adopt a similar practice [and then practice at it!], particularly here at FPCR. Don't do it! ... Don't be party to it!

Secondly, we have coming up on September 22nd the next step in our Interim Work. The Interim Ministry Team has strategized this with me, and Session has authorized calling a:

Town Hall Meeting for September 22nd following worship. We are calling it:
“Letting go ... Getting On”

We will begin with a simple luncheon to sustain us for our work together. I will then moderate a time for us to talk with one another about our recent experience together in this church. This will be a time to talk about yourself and your experience, and topics of concern that are presently troublesome to you. [At a later date we will have an extended time to ‘dream’ together, when we work on our Current Identity and Vision Process.]

If we reach some sort of ‘angle of repose’ we will then move to worship, focused on “Letting go ... getting on” ... if not ... then I will convene another Town Hall Meeting for the next Sunday following worship. This will depend on the Holy Spirit and the state of our souls together. I believe we need to take a kind of ‘holy leisure’ to consider together what you have been through as a church in the past couple of years. *And*, we need to turn purposefully toward the future, asking God to guide and bless our efforts to be part of Jesus’ Mission currently in and around Rolla.

Finally, I’m sure you’ve noticed that I seem to have a thing for evangelism. If you’ve noticed that, I’d have to say that you are right.

Eldon Trueblood wrote: “The Church of Jesus Christ exists as fire, by burning.” I’m sure he is referencing the fire of the Holy Spirit, but more strongly, Trueblood’s image captures the notion that the Body of Jesus Christ grows and reproduces itself, just as any normal, healthy organism grows and reproduces.

It’s been ... how many years ... since you have grown in a healthy way? One of your Ruling Elders said, “We don’t have a stewardship problem; we have a membership problem.” [Meaning, I think, that most of us serve and give generously. There just are not enough of us to do what we believe we are called to do.]

An immediate and achievable practice for healthy growth is for us to become skillful, Presbyterian-style witnesses! [that’s the dreaded “e-word” expanded into a phrase.]

So, I’m wondering if you are warming to the notion. Are we ready to meet together in small groups, specifically focused on prayer for opportunities to witness about our beloved Master, our delight in this wonderful church, and what our life-of-faith means to us ... ? Are we ready to get comfortable in telling our ‘elevator story’ when the opportunity opens? Are we ready to begin to create a culture of heart-felt testimony and loving, respectful invitation to those souls, whom God loves and brings across our daily paths ... ???

Love and prayers, ~~Pastor~~ John, Chief Steward

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

**Announcing our next step in our Interim Work:
Pastor John**

Town Hall Meeting: "Letting Go ... Getting On"

We will gather after worship on September 22nd in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon and Town Hall meeting.

Pastor John will give us some feedback from the Presbytery listening groups, and our Getting to Know You groups, and we will have some time for conversation about our recent past. We will conclude with worship, helping us focus toward our future.

So please put this important event on your calendars, and let us know if you need child care.

Please continue in prayer for our interim work and process together!

from Pastor John and our Interim Ministry Team [Melba Read, Robert Rogers and Janice Zanders]

**Presbyterian Women
Christine Rueff**

Circle IV will sponsor the annual Rummage Sale to be held October 5, 2013. Items may be dropped off at the church October 3 and 4; (no clothing please). For more information contact Christine Rueff at 364-7603 or any other Circle IV member.

Honoring 50 Year Members September 8, 2013

Our 50 year members, Chester Baker, Illa Bell, Joe and Janet Brown, Olive Cagg, Wilma Creighton, Adele Heller, Lee and Ruby Malone, Nancy Marlow, Helen Oakes, Susan Parry, Carl Pietsch, Chuck Remington, Marilyn Schmidt, Pam Skyles, Pauline Taggart, Joan Williams and Mary Williams will be honored in worship on Sunday, September 8th followed by a carry in dinner in the fellowship hall. Please join us in worship and fellowship.

To Honor our Veterans
Mary Kwantes

If you have a family member, not necessarily from this church, who is serving or has served in the Armed Forces, we would like to honor them in the worship guide, on our bulletin board, and in our flower arrangement for November 10, 2013. Please give the name to Betti Jo in the office along with designated branch. If the family member is deceased or died in combat, indicate that and death date. We will buy a carnation and attach your loved ones name and date. We will assign Army – red carnation, Navy and Marine – blue carnation, Air Force and Coast Guard – white carnation.

Feeling Artsy ???
Jan Roberts

Do you love music, painting, sewing, writing, etc. ??? The church's 150th Celebration will include a "Celebration of the Arts" during the month of March. This may seem a ways off, but it gives you time to think about sharing your talents. More details will be given in future newsletters.

Help Fill the Freezer
Pat Look

The deacons throughout the year deliver meals to our members who are in need of a healthy meal due to illness, loss of a loved one or just as a token of our love, care, and concern.

We are beginning to fill the freezer in anticipation of the fall and winter needs. We have suggested tried and true recipes that church members have prepared to accomplish this and will be glad to share these with you. However, we appreciate any and all donations. We ask that there be no peanuts, and little sodium in preparing these items. We like to have a few diabetic appropriate meals and heart healthy if possible.

If you are interested, please contact Pat Look 364-3446.

You do not have to prepare a whole meal. Donations can be a casserole, soups, bread, dessert and or salad. Cookies are always appreciated. The Deacons put meals together from the freezer with additions as needed.

Thank you in advance!

Continuing our Journey ... Mary Kwantes

Continuing the Journey... how apt is the theme selected by the 150th Anniversary committee! Through struggle, change, discord, and joy we have trusted in God. To honor those faithful members of 50 years join us on Sept. 8th for worship and lunch at noon after Sunday School. We have explored the Olive Street Church and are planning a public reception on Sept. 28 from 10:30 –Noon. There is easy access from the back parking lot, though it is limited.

October continues our journey into two musical events. The mass reunion choir will sing during the Oct. 20th service. This should be a great experience. Lunch will follow at noon and a sign-up sheet will be posted. On October 27 Bob Hachmeister is returning to Rolla from Rochester, MN to play for our service and play for the Heritage Hymn sing the same day at 2 pm in the sanctuary. We are inviting the public so tell your friends. We will be singing hymns written in the 19th century, particularly around 1850-1870.

Another huge undertaking is the Sesquicentennial edition of a church picture directory. The sittings for all portraits, including any of your friends and extended family, are Oct.23-26. You will receive a free 8x10 color portrait for every separate sitting group scheduled. We hope to make this an outreach project for anyone who would like a free portrait. All outreach pictures will be marked “ not for Album”. You will be able to schedule directly from our website or through the office, or with Mary Kwantes during Sunday School time as she is able. Please make this a high priority because we want as many pictures as possible in this historic document.

Thanks in advance for those who have already signed up for food, help with projects, and participation in these projects. “ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.” Enjoy the Journey and pray without ceasing for our church and its members.

Membership Jonathan Kimball

First, let me offer my apologies regarding the float trip. I was away (ironically, on a canoe trip in Canada) when the big rains came. When I got back, I called the outfitter and their voicemail said “closed due to flooding.” I thought the Current River might be OK, but actually went and looked at it and decided it was too high—not out of the banks, but close. I’ll keep an eye open for a good weekend this fall, or else plan for a little earlier in 2014.

There are a LOT of events in September related to the sesquicentennial celebration, as well as the interim process. So, our next membership event is a **bonfire at the Whitakers' house on October 5, 5-8 pm**. We will have hot dogs, smores, etc. Watch for more details closer to the time, but please mark your calendar now.

Next up will be the hunters' breakfast on opening day, **November 16**, roughly 8 am to noon. The menu will be pancakes and sausage. This is a great way to reach out to the community and invite our neighbors in, just to share in a simple meal. I know I'll be looking forward to it after a morning in the woods! If you would like to help out, please let me know, or talk to Mary Kwantes.

One final note: As we ramp up our activities for the sesquicentennial celebration, please be sure to invite our visitors and guests to participate. For example, if you meet visitors in worship on September 8, be sure to invite them to join us at the luncheon to celebrate our 50-year members.

Jonathan Kimball

Pre-School News

Carol Jessop

Grandparents Helping Preschoolers

It is hard to believe that school has started, but what fun to hear and see all that energy and enthusiasm in the building.

How would you like to spend a few hours a month helping the preschool? There are many ways that we grandparents can volunteer to help the children and teachers at our preschool. Some from the church are already donating their time doing music, story hour, and helping with the Halloween party. However, there are many other ways you may help. Yes, we do need more story readers and party helpers, but we could also use people to pass out programs at the Christmas program and graduation. (We had about 300 attend the Christmas program last year). We need cookie bakers and people to help in the kitchen after these programs. We need help with the parties and maintaining the playground. If you are not comfortable working with the children, we can always use people to put up art work, cut out letters for bulletin boards, etc. There are many ways you can make yourself useful. The Preschool belongs to the church and remember **YOU** are the church.

If you think you would like to do this ... be a Preschool Grandma or a Preschool Grandpa, call Candace at 364-0992 or Carol at 364-2433.

Don't forget to drive slowly in the parking lot – those little guys can move really fast.

Carol Jessop
Moderator of PMC

Mission Committee
Frank Jessop

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their support for the "Back to School Drive". Your support by monetary donation and donation of glue bottles was greatly appreciated. Our goal was to collect 420 glue bottles. We were very close to that amount.

The Committee would also like to thank all those that filled the seven disaster buckets that were delivered to the PDA. You did a terrific job. We are proud of our congregation and their generous response.

During the month of September you will be hearing about our next special offering Peacemaking which will end October 1st "World Communion Sunday".

The Committee is asking the congregation to prepare Health Kits for the Festival of Sharing in October. The kits can be placed in the box in the foyer between now and October 12th. Health kit items are:

1 Hand Towel	6 Standard Size Band Aids	1 Wash Cloth
1 Toothbrush	1 Wide-tooth comb	1 Bar of Soap
1 Nail clipper		

Place all items in a one gallon plastic bag with zipper closure. Do not include toothpaste, it will be added prior to shipment.

The Committee is still collecting plastic bags for the "Backpack Program". Make sure you roll the (10) bags per roll.

