

Presbyterian Times

August, 2015

First Presbyterian Church
919 E. Tenth, Rolla, MO 65401
Telephone: 573-364-3852 / Fax: 573-426-5320

A Message from...

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Greetings, from northern Minnesota. As I write this, I am in my office surrounded by boxes to be packed and boxes that have been packed. Shelves are half empty, and I feel as if I have one foot in Bemidji and one in Rolla. I must admit, I am looking forward to having both feet firmly planted in Missouri .

Although I have bounced around the country and lived in several different states, I have a great love for central Missouri. My parents moved to Jeff City after I graduated from high school. Until my parents moved to Fort Worth, Texas a few years ago, Missouri was the place to which I came home.

I graduated from high school in Littleton, Colorado; from college in Shawnee, Oklahoma; and seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. I have served churches in Illinois, Georgia, and Minnesota. In 1996 I met and married my first husband, Kirk Burdick, and we eventually moved to Savannah, Georgia. At that time, I served as associate pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick, Georgia and as associate presbyter for Christian education for Savannah Presbytery. Sadly, my husband, Kirk, died in 2008 from colon cancer. My family, my church and my presbytery took great care of me and helped me through the worst part of the grief.

Happily, I married again, to Brett Hartley, and moved from coastal Georgia to Bemidji, Minnesota. We wanted an adventure and certainly got one. The climate is extreme, the wildlife is beautiful, and northern Minnesota is unlike anywhere else I have ever been.

Now, I look forward to the next adventure to which God is calling us. I have heard about you as a congregation, and now I look forward to getting to know you, to serving and ministering with you. I keep you in my prayers and hope you do the same for us. I am thankful I will again get to come home to Missouri.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Lou Ellen

Worship and Music

Jonathan Kimball

These are exciting times! We are coming to the conclusion of our interim process and pastoral call process, at the same time as the new school year is starting. So, there are a few things I'd like people to know as we shift gears.

August 16 will be Rev. Bob Morrison's last Sunday preaching for us. Let me take this opportunity to thank him for his service, his ministry to us, and the important messages he has shared. Also on August 16, we will be having a contemporary service. That is, the service will still be on Sunday at 9:45 am, but it will have the flavor of a FIRED UP! service. Come with an open mind and heart. If you like it, that is, if it enables you to worship God more effectively, maybe you'll join us on a Thursday. If you don't like it, at least you'll know enough to share with people you meet. I conceived of FIRED UP! as a more open service for new people to attend, an easier entry point.

If all goes well, August 23 will be Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley's first service with us. Dixie and I had a productive conversation with her when she was in Rolla. I feel confident that she will lead meaningful worship services. I expect that there will be some adjustments to our order of worship eventually, just as John changed things a bit. But the essence remains the same: a focus on God's message, supported by beautiful music and liturgy.

There are a few slots open for special music in August. Then, the chancel and bell choirs will begin rehearsal on August 26, first participating in the service on September 13. If you are interested in joining us, we would love to have more voices or more ringers. One of Jeff's special talents is bringing out the best that each person has to give, so no need to hesitate if you don't think you're good enough. Just come and see how it goes.

Bible School News

Amy Whitaker

Bible school was held from June 21 to June 25 and fun and fellowship was had by all. We had wonderful crafts and great music for 10 appreciative children. We learned about God's word, how it is true, comforting, surprising, and it is for everyone. The 2 youth helpers, Connor Bostock and Jessie Kimball were greatly appreciated. Jessie was everywhere, including at the preparation meeting. She ran the music video and helped with crafts including running the glue gun. Connor helped corral the youngest children. I couldn't believe the talent in our adult teachers. Jan Roberts has been running Bible school for many years so she was instrumental in this one too, doing much of the prep work for the crafts, including cutting and painting wood, name tags and also doing the decorating and many other chores, too numerous to mention. Dixie Finley and Cynthia Hobart put in many hours of preparation for the crafts and did a great job with them.

Pam Cottingham led the kids on outdoor activities like a scavenger hunt and if it was too hot, had to do games indoors. Jean Day is incredibly talented in her storytelling and has many Bible era costumes in her bag of tricks. She pulled a realistic snake out of the bag too! Mary Kwantes led the music and her many years of experience are obvious when she is with the kids teaching them the words and motions. Leslie Skelton took some wonderful photographs for our crafts project. Fabulous snacks were provided by Illa Bell and Marilyn Schmidt (little boats with sails and a mix of goodies in them), Barb Ford and Kelly Dean sent multicolored goldfish and chocolate milk, Eleanor Van Horn and Mary Alofs brought some jello that looked like the ocean with whipped cream waves and gummy snakes that were rather addicting. Melba Read brought yellow banana dolphins with a grape in their mouth, they looked so real. Pat Look brought us popsicles the last night and we had more goldfish. The children, adult leaders and parents wanted to do an offering. They wanted it to go to Brandon Sands who is Katie, our custodian's son, who recently had a bad accident with multiple injuries and has had to be off work. We collected \$112.00 and gave him that and a Bible so he can hopefully find that God's word is comforting. Thanks to everyone who helped with Bible school. Thanks to Betti Jo who helped get the word out. We didn't have a lot of kids but the ones we had were great and I hope they made some good memories and found that First Presbyterian is a joyful place to be. Let's go!

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

Membership celebrates our new pastor arriving and hopes, as folks come to visit and hear her, our congregation will offer the usual warm welcome. Introduce yourself to both Lou Ellen and her husband, Brett, and any new visitors. It looks like our OAT theater trip to Lucky Stiff and dinner at the Whitakers on August 7 is pretty full at 20. Check with Britt to see if there is still space. Supper is at 5:30 pm and the play is at 7:30 pm.

Our farewell carry-in for Bob Morrison will be August 16th following worship at about 11:15. I will have a sign-up list for that outside the office.

We are asking the congregation to please wear name tags on August 23, 30 and September 6 and 13 to help Reverend Hartley put names with faces as she gets acquainted with everyone.

Our church picnic will be August 30. Chicken will be delivered at noon. More details to follow.

Sunday School will resume September 13th.

Stewardship News

Barbara Ford

Mid-Year State of the Church

The financial state of the church for the first half of 2015 has improved considerably, thanks in part to the generosity of Reverend Morrison and the help of Jeff Sandquist in preparing and delivering our Sunday worship service with minimal compensation. Our

thanks go out to both for their service. We still face challenges going forward, including full compensation for our new installed pastor and needed repairs to the church building. However, we have yet to withdraw money from our reserve fund (balance at June 30, 2015 of \$291,570.49) as predicted in the 2015 budget; and our current bank balance in the general fund is growing. The chart below provides a few details for those folks interested:

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	General Fund <u>Bank Balance</u>
January	\$22,694.91	\$16,133.98	\$14,098.86
February	\$14,787.83	\$17,699.50	\$ 6,140.23
March	\$15,557.20	\$18,462.94	\$ 8,144.55
April	\$16,627.75	\$12,198.22	\$11,245.08
May	\$15,523.64	\$11,404.03	\$15,214.67
June	\$14,461.84	\$12,371.87	\$17,299.62

Any questions or concerns are welcome. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the stewardship committee and we will address them. Also please keep the ongoing needs of the church in your prayers. From your Treasurer, Barbara Ford

Presbyterian Women
Cheryl Koederitz

A new Presbyterian Women yearbook is being compiled. Please contact the office if there are corrections or updates to your email address or phone number since the 2014-2015 PW yearbook.

News from Clerk of Session
Cynthia Hobart

Memorial Garden

The three engraved memorial bricks ordered earlier this Spring are now displayed on the table opposite the office in the hallway. Later this Fall, after they have been placed in the Memorial Garden, a dedication of the three bricks will take place after a Sunday Worship Service.

A Presbytery Day to be held at our church on August 27th.

John Calvin Presbytery's Pastoral Presbyter, Susan Rosenbaum, and Stated Clerk, Melana Scruggs, will be at our church from 10am - 4pm on Thursday, August 27th. The Session is making plans for the day, which will include a meeting time for those interested in hearing about what is going on in the presbytery and in the denomination, a time for fellowship and sharing, a time for lunch for those who sign up. It is hoped that Rev. Hartley will be able to be present some of the time. Also, we plan to extend invitations to other churches and service organizations supported by our church, as well as to the general public. We will inform you as plans for the day are finalized. If you would like to be involved in planning or have suggestions, please contact any Session member or Cynthia Hobart, Clerk of Session.

A Message from ... Rachel Allison, Preschool Director

I recently had the opportunity to do something amazing! I didn't want recognition. I only told a few people. I wanted to do this good deed without shouting from the rooftops "Look what I did!"

Ever since I was first contacted about this opportunity and I'd say something about it, people would say, "I've heard that's so painful" or "Doesn't that hurt? "I could never do that". I've decided to share my experience in hopes that more people will seriously consider that they can do it too!

I donated bone marrow.

In October of 2014 my church hosted a bone marrow registry drive with "Be the Match" the National Bone Marrow Registry. I had considered signing up in the past but never taken the time to do it so for me it was a no brainer. I filled out the card, swabbed my cheek and that was that. Two months later I got an e-mail from Be the Match that said "You are a potential match. Please contact us." I called that day and consented to have a blood sample drawn and answer some basic health questions.

This is the point where I feel like you might need a little background. I am needle phobic!! I pass out almost every time I have to have blood drawn! When my oldest daughter was in fourth grade her school had a blood drive. If a parent signed up the kid got a free t-shirt so she begged me to participate. I ended up passing out, ripping the needle from my arm while unconscious and kicking my shoes across the gym! All witnessed by the traumatized fourth graders! Another time I made it through the donation only to pass out and fall down the stairs when I got home and ended up with a concussion! After that my doctor firmly suggested I stop donating blood! (But, hey, she didn't say anything about bone marrow! 😊) I'm telling you about these experiences

because I firmly believe that this entire experience was ordained by God! He gave me the strength and peace I needed to make it through the entire process! It was only with His help that I was able to do this at all!

After the successful blood sample I didn't hear anything at all for three months. Then I got an e-mail that said it was unlikely that they would need me to donate.

As nervous as I was about it all I was oddly disappointed! God's timing was at work here though. This was a busy time for me personally with a new job and lots of commitments. It would have been tricky to get away during this period.

At the end of June, out of the blue, I got a call that they needed my bone marrow and would I still consider donating and how soon was I available?

Several things were happening here. First of all my family had been planning a vacation to Washington DC for a year and I assumed this would be affected. Imagine my surprise when my Be the Match Representative told me there are only two places in the U.S. to have my procedure, Denver and DC!!

The second hurdle God paved the way for was the actual means of donation. The two options for donation are PBSC donation (Peripheral Blood Stem Cells) and an actual bone marrow donation. I was so worried that my recipient would need the PBSC method which is a 4-6 hour procedure where (in non-medical terms) they hook you up, draw the blood out one arm and pass it through a machine, filter the stem cells out and then return your blood to the other arm. We've established my less than stellar track record donating blood. I was terrified of being unable to complete the process without passing out and messing it all up! Again, imagine my surprise when they needed the less commonly used surgical procedure. I think my Be the Match rep was a little stunned when I yelled "hallelujah" into the phone when she told me!

I was given several details about my recipient, which I cannot make public, but again there were things that I cannot believe were anything but God's hand and even as I'm writing this make me tear up.

I can say my recipient is a child and lives outside of the US.

I had a comprehensive physical exam and you guessed it, more blood drawn and everything came back good. I tried to joke with the doctor as he asked his 100th question that he should just put "healthy as a horse" and send me on my way! (I could insert even more details here about God's intervention but this is getting lengthy! Trust me He was there every step of the way!) This exam was the last step until I was cleared to donate. At this point I was asked to be sure I would go through with it. My recipient would begin a severe round of chemo to wipe out all of their bone marrow and

it would be my right to back out at any point but if I did the patient would most likely not survive without my marrow. No doubt, I was IN!

July 11th my family and I left for an amazing DC vacation and then they returned home without me on the 18th. On July 19th my sister and personal nurse practitioner flew in to be with me for the procedure. (I am so grateful to my sister for her willingness to take off work, fly to DC and be with me! I cannot thank her enough for the peace, strength and care she gave to me! I love you, sis!!)

July 20th- DONATION DAY!! We took a taxi to Georgetown University Hospital at 8:00 am. I admit, I was nervous! My sister prayed for me and then they came to get us. In the pre-prep area as I changed in to a gown and got ready...more blood...I marveled at the fact that I had not passed out ONCE in any of the steps up to this point. I mean, seriously, this was a miracle! I was given something in my IV to knock me out and from there I don't remember anything until I woke up. I can, however, tell you what happened during my procedure. I was intubated and under general anesthesia while two doctors simultaneously made small incisions to my left and right hips (these didn't even need a single stitch and will most likely not leave a scar but even if they do I will wear them with pride!) and inserted needles in to the thickest part of my pelvic bone to withdraw marrow. A normal procedure can take up to two hours. My sister says she was very surprised to be called into recovery less than an hour after they started! My blood pressure and heart rate were pretty low coming out and I did have a weird reaction where my leg muscles were clenched and shaking but they gave me something and it subsided. The maximum amount of bone marrow they could safely take for my height and weight was 1500 ccs. The patient's doctor requested 1200 ccs but the doctors only had to take 900 ccs because my stem cell count was so high which was why my procedure was so short! They kept me over night for monitoring but I was up and walking after a few hours. I was discharged on the 21st and my sister and I flew home on the 22nd.

I want to stress this next point! **I never experienced any real pain.** I have been sore. It's hard to describe but it feels something like I fell down the stairs or had a really hard work out so my muscle feel sore but not painful! I have been more tired than usual and the iron supplement they told me to take makes me queasy, a reaction I also had during pregnancy but I have been amazed at my recovery! I had a minor sore throat from the intubation but nothing a couple of lozenges didn't help. I went to work for a few hours on Thursday and Friday and rested a lot Saturday. It has been less than a week since my donation and apart from a little soreness I feel great! This experience was nothing like I expected! I have had three babies and my wisdom teeth removed prior to this experience. I think "medical weenie" is an appropriate title for me so if I can do it YOU can do it! For my recipient, although they have a very long road to recovery, my bone marrow could be a complete cure! I feel like an amazing gift has been given to both of

us! I am so honored to have a part in this whole process. Others played important parts as well, my family, for their love and support I am so grateful, my church, their faithful prayers for me and the recipient, the staff at Be the Match who work tirelessly, (I was in contact with my representative on weekends and evenings and they answered all of my questions and put me at ease) and the staff at Georgetown University Hospital for all they do!!

To wrap up I would ask you for your continued prayers for the recipient and I would ask that you consider having the swab that could end up saving a life!

I am not sharing my story for personal attention or recognition. I actually wrestled with keeping it private or sharing it but God has been with me every step of the way and I feel His leading in this and I hope my experience will encourage others.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:17



My sister & I right before the procedure



Ready to donate!!



Less than 6 hours after leaving the hospital

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Due to many issues we have experienced with Fidelity's migration of email services we are changing the church email address to office@rollapresby.org. It is effective immediately.

I would like to remind everyone of the Benefit for Brandon Sands on Saturday, August 1st at Lion's Club Park beginning at 3 pm with a BBQ. An auction and gun raffle will follow. Please come out and support this worthwhile cause. Brandon was injured in an automobile accident and requires allot of medical care at this time and will be off work for an undetermined amount of time. Your support is appreciated by the family.

Best Wishes to the following folks who have Birthdays and Anniversaries in August:

Birthdays: Larry Roberts, Kathleen Dean, Robert Rogers, Steve Skelton, Lucas Day, Darryl Alofs, Jonathan Kimball, Marian Pruitt, Susan Murray, Frank Jessop, Ardel Rueff, Lenn Koederitz, Lee Malone, D.C. Look, and Nora Sandquist.

Anniversaries: Bob and Pat Mollenkamp; Jan and Larry Roberts; Judy Boyd and Jackie Morgan; and Bill and Karen Hudson.