



Presbyterian Times
January, 2016

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

A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous and peaceful Christmas as we prepare to head into 2016. Our life at First Presbyterian Church will be full of new beginnings and moments of dedication and public commitment. On January 3, we will celebrate Epiphany and reflect on the Magis' journey to find and honor a young king. We will also say a prayer of dedication for the heating and cooling registers in the sanctuary. On January 17 we will ordain and install our new officers. The elders will be Bob May, Marilyn Schmidt, and Melba Read. The deacons are Dixie Finley, Marian Pruitt, and Jan Roberts. While our trustees are not ordained into their office, we will commission them as they too serve this congregation. The new trustees are Eugene Zanders and Clayton Read. During the ordination and installation service the officers vow to serve Christ and this congregation by offering themselves, their time, and talents. You, as the congregation, will vow to honor their work and support them as they lead us through all aspects of our life together. Service can be fulfilling as well as challenging. We all know each of these different offices hold their own challenges, and there are times when each group will face and make difficult decisions. They promise before God and us to do their best as elders, deacons, and trustees. The congregation, in turn, vows before God and one another to do their best as members in the congregation. This means we offer support rather than criticism, openly communicate with the proper board rather than harboring ill feelings or gossiping, rely on the Holy Spirit to work through those who have been called so we can move together, unified in our mission.

While the officers have been called to serve in this particular time, we must all remember, all of us have gifts to use for building up the church. Each person in a

congregation is vital to the mission and ministry of the church. No one individual is more important than another. No one gift is more valuable than another. Now is the time for all of us to think about how we can use our gifts to build up the church, to add to the character of the church, and share in our mission.

Please remember to pray for our Session, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees as they prepare to lead us into the new year. Pray especially for those new officers who will begin serving in January. Pray for one another as we use our gifts together to minister together.

Peace,

Lou Ellen

Fired Up!
Jonathan Kimball

Our informal worship service will resume January 7th. At that time, we will permanently move the service into the Sadler Chapel, located in the southeast corner of the building. Please join us Thursdays at 6:30 pm for a short, informal time to experience God.

Membership News
Mary Kwantes

Happy New Year. We have had so much happen in the last year: Lou Ellen Hartley becoming our inspired leader in both worship and committee having the most impact for many, many of us. She is encouraging name tags, so that as a growing church, our visitors do not struggle to remember names. Addressing folks by name and greeting them warmly is key to our growth.

Next, let us all pray that God guides new folks to us and that we are witnesses to the love of Jesus for all. As we welcome new folks, please remember the simple hospitality of coffee, crackers, and "a cup of cold water" (Matt 10:42) is needed after worship every week. The time we spend together, interacting with members and non-members is reinforced by the simple act of eating and drinking. Please consider signing up for simple refreshments one or two times this next year. If you eat or drink coffee, your help is needed whenever it is suitable for you. We only had a total of about a dozen names over the whole year.

Finally consider integrating with your fellow-believers in one or more fellowship activities. Our game night is January 24 at 5:30. We will gather to share pizza and snacks and play together. Preschool families will be invited so we may need your help with food then also. Our chili cook-off is February 21 so mark that fun activity on your calendar. Invite a friend to worship. Help us to grow in God and reach others who are in need of church family.

Worship and Music News

Jonathan Kimball

Merry Christmas! The season of Christmas extends from our celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 until Epiphany on January 6 (which we will celebrate on the preceding Sunday, January 3). Then begins our journey through Christ's life, leading up to Lent. Mark your calendars now for important dates in Lent: Ash Wednesday on February 10, Palm/Passion Sunday on March 20, Maundy Thursday on March 24, and Easter on March 27. There will be special services on each of those days—watch for details.

FIRE UP! is in a transition. We are modifying the format somewhat to mimic what we have done experimentally in Advent. We will still use modern music. Until recently, we have asked individuals to give a reflection on the text, in essence a mini sermon. Now instead, we will be engaging in *lectio divina*, a spiritual practice of communally reflecting on the text that evolved in monasteries in the middle ages. We have found it to be an effective way for us all to connect to the Word. In addition, we will be **permanently relocating to the Sadler Chapel**. The service will still be held on Thursdays at 6:30.

As mentioned in a previous article, we will have a contemporary-style service in place of our traditional service on any fifth Sunday. The next time that happens in January 31. For now, the plan is to continue to use the same projector as for Thursday worship. However, that projector is not really strong enough. We would like to get a better projector, similar to what was borrowed from the university for the RCAS concerts. If we have a better projector, we may use it for other things, such as videos about the special PCUSA offerings, announcements, and so forth. The estimated cost for a projector and ancillary equipment is \$1500. If you would like to support this special expense, please contact Jonathan Kimball, or work through Betti Jo. We have a long-term plan to replace the screens with something that looks better and is less obtrusive. If you are interested in discussing that plan, see Jonathan or Jeff Sandquist. We also recognize that the church has many needs right now that may preclude the purchase of a projector.

Merry Christmas

Our apologies for not getting a Christmas epistle off last year. We haven't forgotten you. Perhaps it's the over-stuffed schedules we still enjoy. Yes, enjoy. Than keeps us busy, of course. His photography interests continue to broaden and bless his life. He still spends the big holidays with us and enjoys traveling with us.

We do travel. We spent 3 weeks in Cancun last February, then went to Costa Rica in April for some fantastic birding, and Than and I did a mission trip to Nicaragua in June. A couple of trips to Colorado and Minnesota almost filled out that agenda. We are back to Minnesota for Zella's (Larry's Mom) 100th birthday at Christmas time this year.

Church still gets most of our time. Larry is on the Presbytery Mediation Team, Jan on Presbytery Nominating Committee; at First Presbyterian, Larry is on Stewardship, and deeply involved in Adult Christian Ed, Jan on Hospitality (New Members), Sewing, Women's Circle, and Adult Literacy (teaching reading skills to adults). The rest of our days we spend at the gym doing yoga, tennis, pilates, and we are in the learning stage of Pickle Ball. Life is good.

Another trip – we spent 3 days in Indianapolis with Than at the National Arc Convention. Arc is the organization that lobbies, advocates, creates support programs and training for persons with, or assisting the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (IDD). It was an eye-opening and encouraging event. We met many of the Indiana people who help Than and his local program with finances, housing issues, and care programs, plus work with legislative bodies to protect the interests of IDD persons. Than was an active participant, speaking and learning about the needs and programs of IDD persons.

And Christmas is upon us. Time to think about the many ways we are blessed. Busy lives, good friends, big plans and hopes, all driven by the way we have learned to live in the love of Jesus. We pray you have these blessings also.

Jan and Larry Boutelle
1672 Tanager Ln
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-372-0678

Than Boutelle
#4 Cambridge
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-503-4800-cell
than.boutelle@yahoo.com

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone has a blessed, healthy, and happy 2016.

I want to thank everyone for their kind words and gifts this past Christmas. I appreciated it all very much. I look forward to see what God has in store for us in the coming year.

Happy birthday wishes go out to the following folks for January:

Melba Read, Pat Look, Mary Williams, Katherine Cook-Russell, Dixie Finley, Jan Roberts, Angela Isaac, Tricia Lewis, Carlene May, Morgan Romine, Bob May, Carrol Bennett, and Eban Fox.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to the following folks for January:

Leslie and Steve Skelton, Bill and Sharlene Morgan, Kay and David Barr, and Cheryl and Lenn Koederitz.

I will begin updating the church directory again the week of December 28th. Please review your information in the current publication and let me know of any changes, additions or deletions you need to make. We have had a large number of changes in email addresses and telephone numbers.

Our Officers for 2016

Elders:

Jonathan Kimball, Rob Heberer, Bob May, Marilyn Schmidt, Melba Read, Britt Whitaker, Susan Murray, Eleanor Van Horn, Christine Rueff, and Cynthia Hobart, Clerk.

Deacons:

Carrie Aswegan, Kathleen Dean, Bill Neely, Jr., Jan Roberts, Dixie Finley, Marian Pruitt, Jay Turner, Sophia Leu, and Amy Whitaker.

Trustees:

Ray Evans, Darryl Alofs, Bill Cottingham, Eugene Zanders, Kathi Turner and Ray Fox

Welcome and thank them for their willingness to serve the church and congregation. A special "thank you" to those whose terms have expired for their dedication and service as well. 2015 was quite an eventful year with projects.

A few reminders:

Send all correspondence to me at office@rollapresby.org

The 2016 Per Capita figure per member is \$31.00.

Please remember to send your Committee meeting minutes after your meetings are held each month so that I may include them in the Session packets. Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18th.

Articles for the February Newsletter will be due in the office on Monday, January 25th.