

Presbyterian Times
February, 2016

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Once again we are preparing to enter a special season in the church. The season of Lent is almost upon us as we prepare to celebrate Easter. For many of us, Lent may not be a part of our tradition, and we do not understand why the church goes through the time of sacrifice and contemplation before Easter. After all, Christ is risen from the dead. Why should we mourn and be gloomy for six weeks.

Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury addresses this misconception when he wrote, "The word 'Lent' itself comes from the old English word for Spring. It's not about feeling gloomy for forty days. It's not about making yourself miserable for forty days. It's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is spring time. It's about preparing for that great climax of Spring time, Easter: new life bursting through death... self-denial isn't an end in itself but to sweep and clean the room of our own minds and hearts so that the New Life might really have room to come in and take over and transform us at Easter."

Isaiah 6:1 describes the vision Isaiah had when God called him to be a prophet. It reads, "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple." That's a striking image of the size of God that just the hem of his robe could fill the whole temple. God is so great that nothing can contain God... Lent is the season in which we think about the room we give to God in our own lives. It calls us to a sort of spring cleaning as we take inventory of all the stuff we have cluttering up our hearts and minds. We do this through prayer, fasting, confession, repentance, and giving. During Lent we set aside the time, we are deliberate about engaging in these practices in order to prepare ourselves for Easter. We seek God's guidance and help to prepare ourselves for the miracle of Easter. We make ourselves ready, always, for Christ to come to us, offering grace and forgiveness.

In the journal Weavings volume 28 no. 2, poet Amy Houchen offers this Lenten prayer:

Crop Rotation

In the dormancy of Lent

we can take our cue

from fallow fields,

lying vacant

but abandoned

in order to become

more fruitful.

In these forty days,

we can ask

to be emptied

*of our attachments
to the past, which can make us brittle as Lot's wife
to our possessions, which can weigh us down like the
rich young ruler
to preference for head over heart, which can harden us
into Pharisees
so we have room
for the harvest
of Easter life.*

*May we all make room for Easter during this Lenten season.
Pastor Lou Ellen*

Adult Sunday School Class – Sealed in Christ
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Believe it or not, the Presbyterian Church (USA) official church seal contains within it 8 different symbols. The seal itself is a pictorial confession of sorts, depicting the foundational beliefs of the PC(USA). Beginning February 7, Pastor Lou Ellen will lead us as we study the seal and discuss the doctrines behind it. Join us for Sunday School at 11:15.

Need Medical Equipment
Carol Jessop

As many of us grow older we find ourselves with medical equipment that we are no longer using. After talking with some we thought that others might be able to use some of these aids ie, walkers, wheel chairs, canes, portable commodes, toilet seat extenders, walker trays, etc. These items could be loaned to others who need them on a temporary basis.

This program would be under the auspices of the Deacons. I have volunteered to oversee this program for the Deacons. If you have any of these articles and are willing to loan them to others, please call me. I will make a list of the items and the owners, and be the contact person if someone needs to borrow any of the equipment. Any questions? Call me, Carol Jessop, phone number 364-2433.

Fellowship Time
Jan Roberts



Our spirituality is inspired through the written and spoken Word, through beautiful music and song, and through a variety of visual artworks.

A simple iconic design of Christ will be placed in the Fellowship room for several Sundays leading up to Easter. When members and guests come downstairs for Fellowship, they can participate by “filling in” sections of this art project. Art materials will be provided. However, if you have any old magazines, you may bring them to church anytime or contact Jan Roberts. You don’t have to call yourself an artist to participate! Someone will be available to answer questions.

How exciting it will be to see an artwork that has a personal touch from you! 😊

PW Lenten Luncheons/Services
Cynthia Hobart

Everyone is invited again to attend this year's three PW Lenten Luncheons/Services, which will be held on the Thursdays: March 3rd, March 10th, and March 17th in the

Fellowship Hall at 11:45am. (The service begins at 12:15pm and ends about 12:45pm.)

Circle III is again in charge and would appreciate help from other women in the church. A sheet will soon be posted in the hall on which to sign up to do the following: make the soup, prepare the salad, contribute the bread/crackers, contribute the deserts/cookies, set the tables, serve the soup, serve coffee/tea, help clean up, be cashiers, and more.

Watch for news in the bulletins and on flyers about the theme and who the speakers will be.

As has been customary, the net proceeds from the luncheon will be contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

We all had a blast on January 24 at game night and hope more of you will join us next time. First Friday out is on February 5 at Benton Square at 5:30. Let Lee Bennett know if you will there. Our one and only fundraiser is coming up on February 21 with the "Heart-Burn" Chili Cook-off. Start time is 5 pm and we will have a sign-up list for 4-5 contestant cookers with others for side dishes and desserts. Come for fun and dress western to get in the mood. Bring a friend and vote for the best chili.

We will have an outdoor hike and lunch on March 6th. In April there will be an outdoor event at Bud Pumfrey's. Please consider having some great times with us if you like to be outside as the weather improves. Our Cardinal game date is set for May 19th. We are hoping to get early ticket sales.

Please continue to pray for our growth both spiritually and in numbers. Greet new people who may return if they find our worship enriching. Thanks for a great last year. Please check the fellowship list again and help out in that way.

Words from Stewardship

Barbara Ford

The year 2015 is complete. We thank God for all the blessings that came our way during the past year. Among those blessing is our interim pastor, Reverend Morrison, whose generosity made it possible to hear great sermons and enjoy gracious leadership this past summer at an amazingly low cost. Then we were blessed with our new installed pastor, Reverend Lou Ellen Hartley, with again amazing sermons and great leadership. We are still thankful for the Eck bequest that made possible the replacement of 50 year old registers, as well as many smaller repairs to our church

building. And last but certainly not least, is our generous community of worshipers whose generous pledges and unending hard work and service build a body of Christ that can only get better and better.

For those who would like to review the finance numbers at year end:

General fund bank balance of \$24,105.19
Reserve fund balance of \$216,414.92
Renovation fund bank balance of \$44,662.58
December income of \$26,552.45
December expenses of \$19,641.20

The year 2016 has just begun. We have goals expressed in the new budget which is now posted on the bulletin board outside the office, and plans just beginning to replenish the reserve fund for the renovation work being completed. There will be more to come on that soon as your stewardship committee develops a capital campaign which will include the opportunity for members to “sponsor a register”. Also a gentle reminder that per capita for 2016 is \$31. Lots to prayerfully consider.

Finally, a heartfelt “thank you” to all for your help and support this past year. May God bless you all.

The Stewardship Committee

Thank you
Sophie Leu

“I want to thank Lou Ellen and many others for the phone calls, cards and prayers and many comforting words on my father’s passing.”

Tribute to Grandpa
Paul Leu

Grandpa was a very kind, happy, and playful spirit. His life was full of fun, adventure, and excitement. He loved to be around children because in many ways, he was a child himself. At work, he was an elementary school principal and at home, he had many children. His fun multiplied over the years when his seven children had fifteen grandchildren.

When my brother John and I were still small, grandpa took us on a motorcycle ride around Taoyuan to see the roads and rice patties. John and I hung on for dear life as he effortlessly rode around, laughing at how scared we were.

My family lived in Taiwan for a year when I was in middle school and we spent many weekends visiting and hanging out with cousins and aunts and uncles at grandpa's house. I have many happy memories there—big meals with many people, going fishing, playing Monopoly, playing with fireworks, and singing songs in front of relatives.

After I finished my PhD in California, grandpa came with grandma, and little Auntie, all the way from Taiwan to visit me. We visited Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, and Red Rock canyon. I remember him walking around in his crocks, wanting to see everything. Even though he was pretty old, he still wanted to climb onto this big rock, so that he could get a cool picture with me.

I am very thankful for grandpa and glad I got to see him in December before he passed away. I am happy that he got to live a long and happy life and I will always remember how he valued family, laughter, joy, and adventure.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

We sure have been busy having lots of fun and learning at preschool this past month!

In January we had Music with Mary Kwantes, PE at The Centre, Chapel with Pastor Lou Ellen, we went on a bear hunt, had a royal tea party and celebrated the 100th day of school!

In February we will be just as busy. Besides Music and PE and afternoon story time with Frank and Carol Jessop, we will sing at the Presbyterian Manor, celebrate Valentine's Day, have a visit from the Smile mobile and Parent as Teachers will come screen our kiddos to see how much they are learning! 😊 We "hatched" a new plan. We will be studying egg-sighting embryology and hatching chicks at the school.

February is pre-enrollment for the preschools next year. Currently enrolled families and any **FAMILIES FROM THE CHURCH** get priority for pre-enrollment in February. In March we open enrollment to the public and we

will fill up fast! Please contact the preschool office if you are interested in enrollment for fall 2016.

Thanks to generous private donations to the preschool we were able to get some new equipment including a laptop, a new projector, a die cut machine and a faith based book for each student! We are so grateful for these blessings!

Please continue to keep the preschool in your prayers, church family and we will keep you in ours!




God Bless!

Rachel Allison, Director

Cardinals vs Colorado Rockies
Britt Whitaker

Thursday, May 19 join friends and family to attend the Cardinals vs the Colorado Rockies for a 6:15 pm game. The bus will leave the parking lot at 3 pm. Cost is \$40 which includes bus ride, bag meal and your ticket. Contact Britt, Nancy Marlow or Betti Jo for tickets. Please make your reservations early.

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

February has begun. I can't believe January went by so fast. Groundhog day  is the 2nd. Hope we can look forward to good weather! Valentine's Day is the 14th  and President's Day  is the 20th. The office will be closed on the 20th.

Church events for February include: Thai cooking classes with Jun each Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00; First Friday Night Out at Benton Square at 5:30 pm; Ash Wednesday service will begin at 5 with Soup and Bread followed by a short service at 5:30 pm; our annual Chili Cook-off will be at 5 pm on the 21st. Sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway outside the office.



wishes go out to the following for February.

Joan Williams, Fredi Zobrist, Kaylee Denbo, George Zobrist, Teressa Fox, Andrew Isaac and Mary Wallen.



wishes go out to David and Mary Wallen and Brett and Lou Ellen

Hartley.