**Presbyterian Times**

**July, 2018**

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

The Church Has Left the Building and Gone to GRACE!

The Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprises organization is an integral part of our church’s mission and ministry and an integral part of our community. Individuals volunteer their time and energy to provide help to those who are in need of housing, medications, food, utilities, etc. They work hard to connect people with other services in the area if GRACE cannot meet their needs. During the holidays our church works with GRACE to provide meals and gifts to people in our community and the surrounding area. GRACE has a program which helps children in our schools systems. When a teacher or counselor sees a child does not have basic supplies, a winter coat, adequate shoes, etc., GRACE will provide what the child needs while keeping the child anonymous.

An overarching goal and purpose for GRACE is to treat those who come looking for assistance with dignity and respect. This truly is an act of grace when people are experiencing difficulties and extremely stressful situations.

A number of people in our congregation volunteer and minister through GRACE. From sorting donations, to greeting clients, to unloading the food truck when it comes, our church members share Christ’s compassion with those who need it most.

If you would like more information on volunteering for GRACE – if you would like to LEAVE THE BUILDING and join in this ministry you can contact them directly at 368-5577 or find the poster in the church sanctuary to see who else volunteers.

Peace,

Lou Ellen

**Deacons**

Cheryl Koederitz

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church would like to remind members who we are and how we can help. Your Deacons are: Dixie Finley, Marian Pruitt, Jan Roberts, Deanne Jackson, Cheryl Koederitz (Chair), Carlene May, Carrie Aswegan, Carol Bennett, and Bill Neely. If we can be of help with a funeral dinner, visitation, meal delivery, prayer chain, or transportation, please contact us.

**Mission News**

Melba Read

Who doesn’t remember the smell of a new box of crayons to begin the school year? We are participating in the Back to School Program again this year and have agreed to furnish 400 boxes of crayons. We will need to have them by August 1st and a box will be across from the office to collect them. As we get closer to July when the school supplies arrive in the stores, you will find better prices for a box of 24. Thank you for your help with this project.

**Way Forward Committee**

Jonathan Kimball, Chair

The Way Forward Committee was commissioned by the session at the beginning of the year to investigate options for the future of our church building. As a reminder, the committee includes myself, Ken Kwantes, Eleanor Van Horn, Susan Murray, and Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley. We have extensively discussed our needs as an aging congregation in a 50-year-old building, and how we may adapt to the changes. To bring a fully informed suggestion We realized we need to know 1) what will it cost to simply maintain the building without any major renovations; 2) what renovations to our current building would address our needs; 3) what would a new structure on our site would address our needs. We finally decided that we were ready for some professional help.

After receiving permission from Session, we requested statements of qualifications from local architectural & engineering firms, and ultimately chose Archer-Elgin. Their proposal was approved by Session on June 25, so we will be proceeding forward to put more detail to the plans.

Broadly, our concerns include: accessibility, for people with mobility issues (including difficulty walking long distances); maintenance of our aging systems and structure; and being a truly welcoming building for visitors and new congregants. Our goal is to be truly accessible, not just letter-of-the-law compliant, and to provide adequate facilities close to the sanctuary for people of all ages, including babies and toddlers.

Our hope is to have something for Session to review in the fall. It’s a big job, but the Session feels confident that Archer-Elgin is the firm with the right attitude and experience to help us through this feasibility phase. Please pray for them, and for us, as we try to develop a plan for the long-term viability of the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla physical facility. Meanwhile, please also pray for Session and other leaders in the church as we chart our mission and ministry future together.

**Presbyterian Preschool**

**Donna Bradshaw, Director**

**Job Openings**

**Presbyterian Preschool in Rolla**

Morning Preschool Teachers

Afternoon Preschool Teachers

Afternoon Preschool Aide

If you enjoy working with children, please contact us for

more information or to fill out an application.



**Presbyterian Preschool 573.364.0992**

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**Rolla, MO 65401**

**From the Office**

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

*Birthday wishes for July go out to Ken Kwantes, Mary Kwantes, Clayton Read, Ed Schmidt, Ruby Malone, James Drewniak, Steve Day, Nancy Marlow, Morgan Long, Sophie Denbo, Janet Brown, Jessie Kimball, Christine Rueff, and Bob Yenzer.*

*Anniversary wishes for July go out to Dean and Jan Sletten, Linda Rose and Robert Rogers, Lee and Ruby Malone, Luke and Kris Gutches, and Steve and Susan Bowles.*

**Events for the Month**

July 1 – Ice cream social following worship service

July 4 – Office closed for Independence Day

July 6 – First Friday Night Out at Sidney’s, 707 N. Pine St. at 6 pm

July 30 – Deadline date for Newsletter articles to the office