

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES
DECEMBER, 2013

First Presbyterian Church
919 E. Tenth Street
Rolla, MO 65401

Phone: 573-364-3852
Fax: 573-426-5320
Email: presby1@fidnet.com
Website: www.rollapresby.org

John Oerter, Pastor (Interim)
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager
Robert Garcia, Church Sexton

Jeff Sandquist, Music Director
Lorie Francis, Accompanist
Candace Ludden, Preschool Director

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

You may have noticed the long plastic sheet along the east wall of the fellowship hall. That is our developing TimeLine. As I wrote last month, we will be calling a Town Hall meeting to “Harvest our History” with an eye toward what is God leading us to take forward into our future ... and what might we leave behind ... ???

Part of that process will be each of you putting yourself and your family, the significant events in your life that tie to FPCR, on the TimeLine. In the past, folks have put a summary on a small posit and placed it at approximately the right year on the time line.

Also at the Town Hall meeting we will review a brief history of FPCR and ask ourselves the above question.

I’m hoping to call the Town Hall meeting sometime in December, and if that does not work out, then in January. The time frame and process will be much like our last Town Hall meeting.

SO, stay tuned and please come and be involved in this important step in our Interim Work!

I’ll close this month’s article by sharing an important lesson I learned [I’m tempted to say ‘distilled’ since that is a quintessential Kentucky word] while serving Elizabethtown FPC.



I learned the origin of the phrase: ***“To get your goat.”***

One of our key Christian virtues is to be ‘non-reactive’ in the face of provocation. We find many examples of Jesus ‘holding His peace’ ... Mark 14: 61, for instance.

If you have your Bible open, please also look for James 1: 19-20 and Philippians 4: 8.

Do you know where the phrase ***“got your goat”*** came from?

The phrase has to do with racing horses. These carefully bred, intense animals are high-energy, high-strung and reactive. Years ago, trainers found that by keeping another animal in the stall, the horse would bond to that animal and be more peaceful and less reactive. They found that the best animals for stall-mates were goats.

So, all being fair in love and horse racing, certain unprincipled, intent-to-win-at-all-costs, trainers would steal the goat from their competitor, just prior to an important race. The bereft horse would be too distraught to run effectively.

When asked how come “Shining Glory” wouldn’t run, the trainer replied, “Oh, someone got his goat!” And, its usage grew from this.

So, when someone ***“gets your goat”*** they take something away from you that helps you stay calm and well-focused on important events in your life!

In light of our two passages above, let me suggest to you ...

A Measure of your Maturity is the size of what gets your goat!

How big a provocation does it take to have you move your mind off: ***“true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy”***... things ... ?

What gets your mind going on things that are: judgmental, harsh, untrue, distasteful, fearful, anxious and unloving ... ?

Often, for me, something that feels like a slight to my person can bump me right off my gratitude for God’s Love, and into some sort of seething soul-mess, that is angry, upset, or afraid. I imagine that some of you, too, get knocked out of God’s Grace and into something that is not graceful or kind.

How big an experience does it take to produce this fall from Grace ... for you ... ? ... or, for us as a community of faith?

So, what gets your goat?

The Measure of our Maturity is the size of what gets our goat!

your temporary shepherd, John

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

You are Invited ...

Country Christmas Open House at Camp David of the Ozarks will be Sunday, December 1, 2013 from 5 pm to 9 pm. Nativity is from 5 to 7 pm; Children's Choir and Candlelight service at 6:30 pm. Enjoy a live nativity, cookies and hot chocolate, children's choir and candlelight, singing Christmas Carols, model train display, and Christmas lights. For directions: campdavidozarks.org.

150th News Mary Kwantes

The fall was filled with several activities that engaged us with each other and former members. The 150th Heritage Directory will be available about the first week of January. If you came in for your portrait, your free directory will be in the office for you to pick-up. Thank you to those who came in and had a sitting.

We hope to have some of the Commemorative Cookbooks available at the PW Cookie Walk December 7. Please thank Fredi Zobrist, Carol Jessop, and Betti Jo Pyatt for their part in compiling and producing it.

There will be a sign up sheet taking orders if you would like to purchase one. They will be \$6.00 each. Please indicate if you would like them to be for Christmas gifts.

Our January theme is Dream Catching. We hope to have a site for you to write your dreams for our church as we 'Continue the Journey' with God as our Guide.

The Heritage Map will remain up through the Holidays so be sure you indicate your ancestry there.

Next meeting for this Committee is December 1 at 11:15 following fellowship. We could still use more members, more input, and more recorded memories for our historical programs and documents.

PW News
Cookie Walk/Christmas dinner
Mary Kwantes

The Presbyterian Women's Cookie Walk/Bake Sale is just around the corner on December 7 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. We are in need of lots of yummy baked goods, especially cookies. Please mark your baked goods indicating if they contain nuts. Please price all items other than cookies, which will be sold by the pound. Drop all donated items off on Friday, December 6 between 9 and 5. If you are able, sign up for a work slot. Choir members have their own work slots to run the lunch kitchen. Let's make this a great year for food, participation, and fellowship.

The all church Christmas dinner will follow worship on December 15 at about 11:15 or so. Circles have been assigned various dishes to bring, so many of you will become our guests. We hope to have a piñata for the kids, and who knows, maybe Santa may stop by. Put this on your calendar and come ready to feast and have fun.

Membership News
Jonathan Kimball, Membership Committee Chair

The breakfast on November 16 was a huge success! Although marketed as a hunters' breakfast, I think the hunters were in the distinct minority. However, a total of about 70 people came, maybe 20 from the congregation and 50 from the community. It was a great time to engage people from outside the congregation in Christian fellowship. Some came with real needs— either physical hunger, or spiritual hunger. There was at least one person with a serious illness who asked for prayers. Many thanks to everyone who made this event possible, especially Mary Kwantes, Jackie Morgan (who did so much in the kitchen), Judy Boyd and Bob May (who engaged so many people in conversation).

With the holidays coming up, there are no specific membership events scheduled, although of course, the Christmas dinner and bazaar are important opportunities for fellowship. We are considering a New Year's Eve event. If you are interested, please talk to someone on the Membership Committee. In January, we will be having a game night – watch for details.

Deacon's Care Packages

If you have a college student or any secondary education student, please give your student's name, address, phone number, and/or email address to Cheryl Koederitz (email: koe@mst.edu.) The deacons would love to send them a care package of goodies. We would also like to do this for anyone serving our country overseas. The deadline for this is no later than Monday, December 2.

Mission Committee
Frank Jessop

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for the food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets and for delivering them to the eight needy families in Rolla. It is time now for Christmas and the sign-up sheet for food is next to the office. The Christmas Tree is up next to the Sadler Chapel. If you take a name off the tree, please sign your name on the easel next to the person's name, and do not forget to take a Christmas stocking for a child if you take a child's name.

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shines a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides the timely opportunity for congregation to support causes specifically designed to shine the One True Light of Christ's love on the poor in circumstance or spirit.

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pension to provide assistance to Presbyterian Church workers and their families, and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges.

You can give to the Joy Offering during the month of December, and it will end December 29. Again the Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation during this Holiday Season for supporting those families in the city of Rolla so that they can know the true meaning of Christmas. It is better to give than to receive.

Life Touch pictures ...

for Adele Heller, and Ray Evans are available for pick-up in the office Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Michael's October Mission Newsletter
Michael Wilbanks

I Thank God For You!

I want to first start off by saying how incredibly thankful I am for you and your faithfulness. I am thankful for the support and encouragement you have been in my life and now in this ministry. I am thankful for how you are investing in the kingdom of God through me on campus. Paul thanked God before doing anything else. Being still can be great time for reflection and letting God work in our hearts. We live in a world of distractions, but when we are still we can listen much easier.

Cru in SW MO is to WIN students hearts for Christ, BUILD them up in their faith, and SEND them out living on mission. We are doing that together through our weekly worship meeting Thursdays at 9pm, more than 25 bible studies each week, 60+ discipleships, evangelism, and other community outreaches. Accepting Christ is just the first step; we are called to go further and deeper than that. We disciple about ten students equipping them with the tools and skills they need to grow in their faith following Jesus globally and passionately for a lifetime. We teach students about reading and studying the bible, praying, surrendering and trusting God, sharing their faith boldly unashamed with love and truth, and how to teach this all to others making more disciples of Jesus. Hardened hearts and lives are being transformed by the power of the gospel. Tim Keller puts it well this way: Tim Keller puts it well this way: "Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved to die because of sin, so that God could accept us." This month was full of many great events and activities. MSU students and some staff went to a weekend conference in KC talking about life on mission. The conference told what it would be like working with Cru and opportunities they had and encouraged students to live life on mission where ever God leads them. It was a great weekend for juniors and seniors to start praying and seeing where God will call them. Please be praying for our ministry here in SW MO, our staff team, student leaders, other students that attend, and the students we have not reached yet. Thank you again for your prayers and support. I look forward to sharing more stories soon!

God's Blessings,

Memorial Garden News
Cynthia Hobart

On November 10th the following letter was sent to Gail Andrews, daughter of Shirley Andrew, and to Wilma Creighton, wife of Harlan Creighton. (Memorial Bricks for Shirley and Harlan were among those placed and dedicated in the Memorial Garden this fall.)

As planned, a week ago after worship the recently placed Memorial bricks were dedicated with a prayer by Rev. Oerter.

In addition to a picture of (Shirley's or Harlan's) brick, I've enclosed pictures of Rev. Oerter and others at the dedication, the bagpiper who played "Amazing Grace" at the dedication, and three views of the central area of the Garden where the Memorial bricks are placed around an evergreen magnolia tree (purchased by Janet Brown).

You'll notice that there is not yet sand between the bricks. Bud Pumfrey will soon put some there. When all the bricks in a square are Memorial bricks he will put polymeric (permanent) sand between the bricks. One square is already completed in this way.

I hope that some time you can visit the church and see the Memorial Garden. Blessings and Best wishes, Cynthia

Note: Bud Pumfrey just recently put sand between the bricks.

Kokomo Joes/The Zone

Hello! The Zone would like to invite your church to our next Christian Music Night on Tuesday, December 3rd from 6-8 pm. Admission is \$3.50 including quads or \$4.50 with in-lines. We will host this special evening every month on the 1st Tuesday. Thank you for your time and please let us know if you have any questions or would like to bring a group. For information contact Eva Furse at 573-341-5700.

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

There is a lost and found box on the shelf outside the office. Items are mainly glasses. If you are missing a pair, please check out the box.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!