

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

November, 2013

First Presbyterian Church
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Candace Ludden, Preschool Director

A Message from Reverend Susan Rosenbaum

This is the time of year we traditionally think about thankfulness. With the Thanksgiving Holiday at the end of the month, many churches begin to collect food and other items for those who are in need. I have always said that we need more than one month to be thankful and as I heard from churches last summer about their mission, I realized that thankfulness is alive and well all year long. Thank you for being faithful.

I do want to take this time to let all of you know how thankful I am for you. I am thankful for the people in in the pews who are so important in our work in JCP. Thank you to those who serve as Ruling Elders, Deacons, Trustees and committees in each church. I love to go to ordination and installation services and watch the laying on of hands because it helps me see how people are willing to serve in ways that make a huge difference in the church and in the world. I am thankful for the people who have served on committees and who are presently serving on committees in JCP. They have given and are giving of their time and talents in ways that glorify God. I am thankful for churches willing to host varieties of meetings when called on, even when it is at the last minute. I am thankful for volunteers at the office and in communities who give even when it seems impossible. I am thankful for those who work with me in JCP as we seek to strengthen our JCP connections. But mostly, I am thankful to our God who makes all of this possible. As we prepare for our official Thanksgiving, may we remember the blessings of the whole year and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Rev. Susan Rosenbaum



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

We are closing in on our next, whole-congregation interim task:
“harvesting” our history!

As most of you remember our **Six Interim Tasks** are:

- 1= Harvesting our History
- 2= Discerning current Identity and Vision
- 3= Nurturing our connection to the Larger Church [PCUSA]
- 4= Leadership Development: permission, training and nurture
- 5= Preparing for New [installed] Pastoral Leadership
- 6= Increasing the ‘spiritual temperature’ of our congregation

And, the **Mile Stones of our Interim Work** are:

- ~ departure of previous installed pastor & arrival of interim pastor
- ~ Session forms **Interim Ministry Team**. Ours is: Melba Read, Janice Zanders & Robert Rogers
- ~ **Getting to Know You Time**: typically the first 9 months or so; whatever time it takes for a congregation to accept me as their ‘real’ [though temporary] pastor. We’re well ahead on this milestone, I believe.
- ~ **Town Hall Meetings** focused on letting go of recent emotional and spiritual ‘artifacts’ that may impair our ability to look at our history and discern God’s current leading.
- ~ **Harvesting our History**: more on this in a moment! We’re HERE at this point in our process ... though Tasks 3-6 go on from the beginning through to the end of the congregation’s work, in varying ways.
- ~ Current **identity and vision discernment**: the other major, whole-congregation Interim Task!
- ~ **Leader Training and Development**: this is already operating in varying ways
- ~ Preparing for **new Pastoral Leadership**: This also goes on from the very beginning, but we will take concrete steps along the way, so that your installed pastor has the best possible chance of bonding well with you and creating a felicitous, durable and effective collaboration to achieve the ministry brought into clear focus during the identity and vision discernment work. This also includes electing the Pastor Nominating Committee [PNC], and writing the Ministry Information Form [the church’s ‘resume’ with which to seek your installed pastor.]
- ~ **Search period** ...

~ PNC presents their chosen candidate for your next, installed, long-term ... Pastor!

So, I believe we are coming along in our tasks well and effectively with one another.

As I said, we are beginning the next, whole-congregation task: **“Harvesting” our History.**

At the core, this is a time for us to reflect on the history of FPCR, asking God to speak to us about what we are to take into our future, and to show us the lessons we may learn from some of the tough times this church has been through.

I’m very glad for the varying events the 150th Anniversary Team has put together so far, and the displays of historical events and stories. This week I had a lovely conversation with the Rev. Dr. Wes Scholtzhauer, which I will relate to you all in due course. What I’m trying to say is that we’re already focused and working in useful ways to seek answer to the core question I posed above.

You all may have noticed the 20’ sheet on the tables against the south wall of our Fellowship Hall. That is our **Time Line**. You will see the detail grow as the Interim Ministry Team [IMT] puts more and more of our historical events on that line.

I invite any of you to let me or the members of the IMT know what events you find significant, and we’ll place them on the Time Line!

Also, soon, you will be asked to put your own, personal First-Presbyterian-Church-SIGNIFICANT-EVENTS on the Time Line! So, be prayerfully remembering what this church, its people and pastors have meant to you and this community.

We will call another Town Hall Meeting late this month, or early in December to reflect and celebrate together, seeking God’s leading concerning our history. In this manner I believe we will ‘harvest’ useful notions to guide us into our future!

I’ll close with a clarification. I’ve been asked which month I’m leaving to be with Lucia in Florida and which month she will be here. I guess I didn’t write that clearly. We’ve found that when we are serving churches far apart, that we do well enough when we find several days a month when we can visit each other. One month, say, I’ll go to Florida, and the next, Lucia will visit here. So, both churches have their pastors full-time [well, except for the vacation days we take to be with each other ... :-)

So, please keep us, your leaders and our churches in your prayers! [The church Lucia is serving is Brandon FPC.]

Love and prayers, ~~Pastor~~ John, Chief Steward

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

Per Capita

The General Councils recommendation for the 2014 per capita is to be set at \$24.00. This will not be official until presbytery meets on November 2.

Presbyterian Women Christine Rueff

A THANK YOU to everyone in the church for the contributions and help to make the Rummage Sale a great success.

Eleanor Van Horn

The PW Cookie Walk and Bake Sale will be held Saturday, December 7 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are encouraged to contribute cookies and/or baked items to the sale. Proceeds go to the mission giving of the church.

Please have your contributions priced and at the church before 8:00 a.m. Saturday. Circle III is in charge. Call Moderator Jean Moran-Day if you have questions. Thank you!!

The annual All Church Dinner will be held on December 15, following the performance of the Christmas Cantata. There will be no Sunday School or Fellowship. All are cordially invited.

On behalf of the Deacons Pat Look

Thanks to Mary Alofs, Carol Jessop, Marian Pruitt, Christine Rueff, Mary Kwantes, Ken Kwantes, D.C. Look and Fredi Zobrist for providing food for the freezer and or taking meals to members of our Congregation.

If you have put something in the freezer let me know. Hope I did not miss anyone in this; THANKS.

If you know of someone who would enjoy a meal, please let me know. We have lots of good soup in the freezer for this cool weather.

150th Committee Mary Kwantes

Our four day portrait sessions for the Sesquicentennial picture directory went very well. Some folks had to wait quite a while for their sittings and were very gracious. I do apologize for this unforeseen imposition. The happy news is, if we are able to set up the activity pages and submit pictures for those members who did not do sittings within the next three weeks, we will get a few more free directories for distribution later as others join the worshipping body. I will be approaching folks about taking a new picture if your one for the 2-ring picture directory was

landscape or outdated, hence not appropriate for submission. Our expected cost to produce directories for those who did not do sittings will run about \$15, \$5 for the directory and \$10 for the submitted picture. The committee will be discussing how to finance this gap in production costs. Please consider looking at our " How Can I Help? " poster and signing up to help in some way to defray the costs for the celebration activities. The directories will be ready close to New Years, about the time the Heritage cook books may be available for purchase (another fund raising project.)

On Saturday the 9th after "Spreading the Good Word" the red, white, and blue carnations will be tagged with names and dates as requested. There is a need for a few helpful hands for that task also. November 10, Veterans' Day Recognition will be the last event that 150th will sponsor this calendar year. Thanks again to all the helpers this fall, the many who have dedicated monetary gifts to defray costs, and especially, Betti Jo, Jeff Sandquist, John Oerter, the choir, and the committee: Pat Look (oral histories and Olive Street Reception) Cynthia Hobart, (Fellowship and Publicity), Eleanor Rickerson (Secretary), Jan Roberts (art, and photo), Barb Ford (150th Commemorative book), Mary Williams (flowers), Eleanor Van Horn (50 Year Member Lunch), and Fredi Zobrist (Heritage Cookbooks). Please take time to view the posted photos from October events.

Membership
Jonathan Kimball

We had a great time at the Whitakers' this month! First, we had our scheduled bonfire rained out, but spent the evening playing games and enjoying time together. Then the next Saturday we had a bonfire with an actual fire. Thanks so much to Britt and Amy for hosting!

On November 16, we will be having a hunters' breakfast in celebration of opening day of deer season, 8:00 a.m. to noon. I expect to arrive around 10 a.m. after spending the morning in the woods. We could use people to help cook, or to just come and join in the fellowship. The menu will be pancakes and sausage, and there will be no cost. I will be advertising it, but please also invite your friends, neighbors, and associates. Please come and join us in relaxing over a simple meal!

Memorial Garden
Cynthia Hobart

Engraved bricks in memory of **Shirley Andrews, John W. Cole, Harlan S. Creighton, Edna Jane Legate, William Neely, Sr., and Frances M. Wallen** have recently been placed in the Memorial Garden. November 3, after worship service, a prayer of dedication for the bricks offering will be given by Pastor Oerter.

Mission Committee
Frank Jessop

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for the Health Kits that they made for the Festival of Sharing and also to Circle Three for making Infant Layettes. The Committee greatly appreciates your support.

It is that time of the year when the church adopts families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The sign-up sheet for food for the Thanksgiving boxes is across from the office. If you do not want to sign up for food you can give a monetary donation to the Mission Committee and we will do the shopping for you. Also your monetary donation will go for the gift certificate for meat for the food boxes. If you have signed up for food please have it back to the church by November 19th. We will be delivering the food boxes to the eight families Sunday, November 24th after church. There are many needy families in the Rolla area that will go without food for Thanksgiving. This is a small way we can make sure that those in need will have a Thanksgiving dinner.

Right after Thanksgiving, the Mission Committee will be getting ready for adopted families for Christmas. Besides food we give gifts to the families we adopt. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help out for GRACE for Christmas, it will be starting the first week in December. You would be surprised at how many families we have in the Rolla area that sometimes go hungry. They are the working poor. We hear that children have only bread to eat because the family has run out of food. That is why the Backpack program fills 410 backpacks for the weekend so that the children have food over the weekend. Please remember it is your Christian duty to make sure that we take care of the poor and those in need.

**October 19, 2013, 900 E. Olive
Mary Kwantes**

We walked the wood and climbed the stairs,
And saw the shafts of morning light
Sift through the separated beams,
Communed with food and drink that day.
Who worshiped here? A few recall
Details of décor, weddings, deaths
And Sunday School so long ago;
A century and a half of God-
Moving through people, time and love.

New posted pictures mark those hours,
But what is left to mark early years?
A Minute Book with faded ink-
And crispy pages full of notes;
So many decades, so many names;
A Civil war, and so much loss,
Then two World Wars, Depression, growth;

From Old Courthouse to Olive Street
To Tenth Street fifty years ago.

So many faces, here, then gone;
So many lives of Faith God Blessed.

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Marilyn Schmidt
Eleanor Van Horn
Ming Leu
Jonathan Kimball
Susan Murray
Britt Whitaker

DEACONS

Marian Pruitt
Mary Kwantes
Jay Turner
Carrie Aswegan
Cheryl Koederitz
Pat Look
Wendy Wilbanks
Jan Roberts

Trustees

Larry Roberts
Chuck Remington
Frank Jessop
Robert Anderson
Rhonda Kimball
Ken Kwantes

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

I have enjoyed the pleasure of working with all of you for the past year, celebrating my year anniversary the end of October. You are a wonderful group of people. Now is a time of transition for the church. We are blessed having Pastor John to guide us through this process. I want to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and chocolate. 😊 I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come.

As Veteran's Day approaches, I want to thank all the service men and women who have and are currently serving our great nation. May God keep you and your families out of harms way.

I pray you and your families and friends have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. May we always remember the true meaning for the season.

God bless,
Betti Jo