

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

January, 2014

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A Message from Reverend Susan Rosenbaum

January is here. The Christmas rush is over and we are settling in for the winter. This is the time when churches have their annual meetings to look at the past year and to anticipate what is ahead. It is a time to think about what we are going to do in our future and how we are going to live out our faith. I think that the New Year seems to bring a kind of excitement to the church. We see what has gone before and, hopefully, we strive to continue to grow in our service as we look ahead. In John Calvin Presbytery, we are looking forward to starting a new church in 2014. We have been meeting for ten months and are in the process of calling a pastor who will hit the ground running. It is a very exciting time in JCP. I would ask that you keep the New Worshiping Community Team (Alex Knott, Dave Burgess, Jared Witt and I) in your prayers as we go forward. We are reading Personal Information Forms and are trying to discern the person God has called to serve in this position. I would also like to ask for your prayers for the person that God has in mind for this position. As we work together, knowing that people are praying encourages us and helps us discern where God is leading. Thanks for helping us stay connected through prayer as we serve.

Have a great New Year and may God's blessings continue to surprise you.

Pastor Susan



Out of My Mind ~ for January 2014
ponderings from Pastor John

I am fascinated by the various permutations of time travel.

I used to read a lot of Science Fiction and enjoy how authors play out their premises around time-travel and the kinds of actions one can and cannot take, in the 'worlds' they create.

Do you know that the Gospel makes a difference in how people understand time, and how we Christ-ones live in time?

Most cultures, where the Gospel of Jesus Christ has not taken hold, have a circular understanding of time. That is, life and events repeat themselves. SO, it really doesn't matter much what one does. [Greek, Roman, Hindu, animist cultures ...]

However, in every culture where the Gospel of Jesus Christ has taken root, time becomes linear! That is: what happens in time is moving to a goal and fulfillment: God's purposes! Hence what we do, if we are part of that, makes a difference.

One of the ways that I organize my thinking about people has to do with time travel: I believe there are two kinds of people:

One kind, and I believe that this group is most of us ... one type of person comes from the past.

The other, a much smaller group of people, come from the future!

By this, I mean that most human beings "live in" the past, and are most strongly affected, in their decisions and investments, by past events. This kind of person often has difficulty with change, and especially in doing something new. As I said, this group seems to be most of humanity.

The second, smaller, group "comes from the future." By this I mean that it is as though there were something in the future that 'reaches back' and grabs these people, dragging them into the future! They "live in" the future, and what they 'see' and experience there is so powerful that they organize what they do, and how they think and feel, by what they know is in the future.

Perhaps you can understand what I mean by "they come from the future ... "

Of course, the folks from the future are very comfortable with change; in fact, they seem driven by it! Most of our significant innovations are accomplished by such people: for instance, Martin Luther, "lived in" a future where everyone read the Scriptures in their

own languages, sang hymns to their God in the tunes of their hearts, and everyone used their gifts to the glory of God! So, he and other like-minded futurists changed the, then, *status quo* toward a better future.

[... notice the brackets ... I hesitate even to write the following ... another man who “came from the future,” in my opinion, is Steve Jobs, the founder and visionary of Apple Computer. The end of this month, January 24th to be exact, is the 30th anniversary of the launch of the Mac personal computer. Jobs “lived in” a future where there was a high-quality, easily used computer that was the center of the family life, for individuals and their community, a community that stretched across the world. Kinda spooky, huh? I’m sure this bit of current-culture history fascinates you!!]

Back to serious thoughts ...

Jesus, of course, came from the future ~ God's future ~ far down the millennia from His Bethlehem days. Far from where we still live in God's 'past' ... !!!

So, as we settle into 2014, doing small and larger things to build our futures, I invite you join those who [even just a little bit] “come from the future” and focus on building God’s new things here in Rolla, Missouri.

Let us pray for God to give us a glimpse of the glory and grandeur of what God has in store, and let *that* pull us forward into God’s possibilities for 2014!

your temporary shepherd, John

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

Mission Committee
Frank Jessop

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who signed up for Christmas food and gifts for the eight families in Rolla. You made Christmas very special for the adults and children. We would also like to thank Circle IV for the Christmas stockings they decorated, and the PALS (Presbyterian Active Ladies) who adopted a family. A special thanks to all the drivers who took time out of their busy day to deliver the food and gifts. We truly have a caring congregation in our church.

During the month of January the Mission Committee will be collecting paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins, and Kleenex for the Russell House. The month of January the church color is white for Epiphany. That is why we are collecting white items for the Russell House. There will be a box in the foyer for these items. The Russell House goes through lots of paper towels.

Thank you for your support of the Joy Offering. You will still be able to give gifts to the Joy Offering for the next two weeks. Your gifts to the Joy Offering supports the Assistance Programs of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

150th News
Mary Kwantes

Looking back over the last 5 months, I am astounded at what has happened. God has used me, and the willing members of the 150th committee to help us engage, celebrate, and recommit to this congregation. Fredi Zobrist and Carol Jessop (along with amazing help from Betti Jo) have created a 150th Historic Cookbook. They are available for \$10, which will provide about \$7 profit to the other projects still coming. The new Church Directories were proofed and will be shipped the middle of January. If you came in for a sitting or paid me for a copy, please check with the office.

Jan Roberts has helped me design a wonderful Celebration Banner which was intended as a fabric quilt. We have no one to piece it at this point, so the plan is for Jan to paint it. I am still hoping to eventually have a fabric version. If you have an interest in piecing this design please email me at mlakwantes@hotmail.com about how you can help. Our lovely outdoor banner suffered some serious grommet damage in the high wind storm in November. We are looking at some serious repair or perhaps ordering another.

Please look at the large display board outside the office to create a historic Dream for Our Future. Our theme "Continuing the Journey" implies the story goes on after the receptions, the lunches, the Reunion Choir, the Heritage Hymn Sing, the cookbooks, the photo albums, and the scrapbooks. I had a vision for the 150th, and to every extent God and you have fulfilled or gone beyond what I had hoped to accomplish. This Celebration is more than lunches and events. It is a chance to find the good in our past, build on patterns of productivity, and let go of feelings of blame, regret, or disappointment. However, it is often through disappointment that God reaches

us. It is our disappointment that helps us relate to other hurting individuals. Perhaps your dream can include a new blessed relationship with others in this church, and in our community, or in your own personal life.

During February we will focus on the history of Boy Scouting in this church. Since 1924, this congregation has helped support the Boy Scout program. Please contact Jonathan or Rhonda Kimball if you have interesting memorabilia or facts that might help create a display. Looking ahead to March, we will be honoring present and past musicians. As our May 15 anniversary date approaches, plans for another community wide reception will be underway. Please feel free to give the committee any ideas and suggestions for including more folks in the next five months of activity.

Thank you for all the wonderful financial support many of you have given to this celebration. If there is enough money to cover the expense of additional directories, printing of the Commemorative books, and the creation of the banner, we may consider a special dedicated project. All your input is appreciated.

In God's work, Mary Kwantes

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

Membership and session are happy to have received several new members this year, including most recently Pam Gahr. Anyone interested in formally joining should contact the office, the pastor or any member of the Membership committee. We are also needing members or non-members for committee work. Membership works all year long to greet visitors, integrate frequent visitors, and create opportunities for all worshipers to meet for fellowship, both after worship and about once a month in social settings. Our final goal is to reach out to our community and meet folks who might not normally visit with us. This would include canvassing for the block party, attending the block party, attending the Hunters' Brunch and conversing with our guests. We are hoping to reach out to the University students also.

Membership needs folks willing to either help with food events, make home calls, send cards and notes, and brainstorm about how we can increase our membership, but also make fellowship more meaningful and include more people. We need a young woman who might help us reach young families, either through preschool events or other community programming, which could include weekend child care on occasion and help planning our church activities.

Our January event is Game night on January 12, with January 26 as the snow out alternative. We will gather at 4:30, count noses, order pizza, and plan to eat by 5:45 or earlier. Please consider bringing a snack to share and your favorite game. We will provide the drinks and service ware. This is a great event to come to if you do not care to eat the meal, since coming at 6 still provides plenty of time for fun and fellowship.

Our February 16th event is Chili Cook-off with Western theme at 5 pm. We are planning to invite preschool families as this will be a new outreach and integration event. I will provide a sign-up list so we can know who is planning on cooking chili and who wants to do other sides. Please dress in your western gear and be ready for campfire songs, square dancing, and sideline cheering. Yipee . See you there Pardner.
ps. bring guitars and ukes.

Worship and Music Committee

Jonathan Kimball

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Thank you from the Browns

To the Presbyterian Deacons and Christmas Carolers,

We are sending a sincere thank you for making this Christmas a special one for us. During a rough week, we needed help with meals, and Pat Look arranged for delicious, healthy food. We appreciated every single dish so very much! We also received a package filled with all sorts of Christmas goodies and surprises! Thank you, Deacons, for all you planned for us, it made all the difference in the world to be helped in such a timely manner.

Our heartfelt thank you to the Christmas Carolers who arrived the Sunday evening before Christmas to share the joy of singing many old and favorite Christmas carols with us. It was a lovely part of our Christmas week! The true meaning of Christmas flowed through with the beautiful music.

May the New Year bring blessings to all our fellow Presbyterians!

Joe and Janet Brown

From the office

Betti Jo Pyatt

Thank you to everyone for the well wishes, cards and gifts at Christmas and my birthday. A special thank you also for your prayers for my sister, LuAnn. She is doing well after her surgery and hopefully will get to be home by New Years.

A new Flower Chart has been posted for 2014. Also check out the Fellowship sign-up sheet, Sound system volunteers, and Opportunities to Serve, on the bulletin board outside the office.

I will be making a new list of church officers after it is finalized and distribute it asap.

Stop by the office to pick up a copy of the Heritage Cookbook. They are \$10.00 each.

The new directories should be received by the middle of January. We will get the word out when received.

I pray blessings on each and every one and continual growth of the church in the coming year. Have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.