

First Presbyterian times
February, 2014

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Reverend Susan Rosenbaum

As we settle into winter, I have found it interesting that once the New Year arrives, people want it to be spring. To me, this has always seemed weird since technically winter doesn't even begin until the end of December, but I think it goes back to our longing for renewal. To some, winter with its bare trees, dormant plant life and short days, is a bit depressing while spring offers the beauty of early flowers and warmer temperatures. Spring is a time of renewal. Christians especially celebrate that renewal with the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. However, I believe we can experience spiritual renewal even in the midst of the cold, short days of winter. To me, winter can be a time of doing things for others when they cannot do for themselves. Like shoveling the sidewalks of our elderly neighbors so they can get to their doctors' appointments, or baking cookies or bread for the new members at our church who are trying to fit into the community. Or even visiting the new single mother down the block and offering to help her out in any way you can as she struggles with work and active children. Spiritual renewal can happen any time and we need to be prepared to jump right in and participate. My prayer is that we will all use the days we are given to renew our spirits by living out of faith. Have a great rest of the winter.

Pastor Susan.

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

“When are we going to get going?”

I hear that some of you are asking this heart-felt question.

I'll answer that, but first I have a question in return: What keeps you from asking our pastor this question? [I don't bite, and I seldom even growl ... or maybe, you



think it might hurt my feelings, if you asked me such a question ... let me reassure you that I've been doing this long enough that I have calluses on my soul in the needed places.]

Feel free to ask me what's on your heart.

So, "When are we going to get going?" ... my immediate answer is: 'We are going, have been going, and will continue to.'

What I think you all are asking is: "When will we elect the Pastor Nominating Committee?" [the pastor seeking committee.]

Here are the steps that prepare us to elect the PNC, and the approximate times in which we can accomplish them ... providing you all are usefully involved!

The next two whole-congregation activities are:

1) **History Reflection** We'll call this: "Lessons Learned" [Thank you, Larry.] I'm asking each of you to set aside Sunday, March 2nd, following worship, for this all-congregation gathering.

Our task will be to read the Summary History of FPCR, which will be distributed 2 weeks prior, and reflect on your own history with this church. We will gather, child-care will be provided, and we will talk about what we've learned over the years.

We will be asking God to lead us, through the Spirit, in our conversation, to understand what of our history we are to bring forward into the future, and what lessons we can learn from past difficulties.

I invite you to look over our banner Time Line in the fellowship hall, and ponder what God has done among us over our history. At the Lessons Learned, you will have the opportunity to put key parts of your history on a post-it and place it on our banner Time Line.

[NOTE: we can use some help in lettering the specific events and dates onto the banner! Let the Interim Ministry Team know if you are willing. They are: Janice Zanders, Melba Read and Robert Rogers.]

We will then write up a summary of our process and leading, and that will be used in the next all-congregation interim task ... which is:

2) the **Mission Study**, as it is commonly called. A more apt description is: **Discernment of current Identity and Purpose.**

At the completion of our Lessons Learned, I will call this congregation to a time of prayer, fasting and discernment. This will be at the beginning of Lent, and could be our FPCR Lenten Discipline!

We will be seeking God's leading, focusing around two questions:

- A) Who are we? [presently, currently]
- B) What is God leading us to BE and to DO?

We will pull together information from the Presbytery Listening Groups, our Getting to Know You conversations, the Scriptural passages illuminating the Church and its Mission, our Lessons Learned, and current demographics.

We will come together in an FPCR Town Hall meeting on April 6, following worship. Again, please put this date and time on your calendar! We will gather at 11 and work together for a couple of hours.

This is the most important event in our interim work!

If we do this well, discerning God's leading clearly, then you all will be able to seek an installed pastor who is called to the same mission and ministry. This will support you choosing wisely, your next pastor.

Following the Discernment process and gathering, we will write up the "Mission Study" more aptly a "Current Identity, Purpose and Strategy" statement.

THEN our Session will vet the statement, and then we will present it to you all, the congregation as a whole, for your final comments. If that all goes well enough ...

THEN we will send it to Presbytery. If they see that we have done a useful mission study process, THEN they will give us permission to:

Elect our PNC! This could happen around Easter ... excellent, yes?

[THEN the PNC will write our resume to search for your installed pastor, THEN they will search, THEN ... THEN ...]

So, "When are we going to get going?"

Right now: pray! ... daily.

On March 2nd, begin Lent with our Lessons Learned ... pray for discernment.

On April 6, gather for our discernment conversation ... then ... then ...

your temporary shepherd, John

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

**Stewardship
Barb Ford**

Remembering Per Capita and why we contribute

Per capita is a mission pledge to our John Calvin Presbytery based on a \$24 pledge per church member to support Presbyterian churches on a regional and worldwide basis. Our Presbytery responds to the needs of its member churches in the following ways:

- Maintains a Faith Resource Center of books, videos, and DVDs free for our use.
- Provides Committee Support in areas such as pastor transitions, church conflicts, etc.
- Camp and Conference Ministries such as the "Equipping the Saints" leadership conferences
- Youth Ministries, including scholarships for Triennium youth participation.
- College Ministries for young adults.
- Disaster Assistance Work Groups, and other disasters in our region.
- Presbyterian Support including the Regional Girls Shelter in Springfield.
- Worldwide Outreach Support including our missionaries in Lebanon.

And there's more, including the support and assistance being provided to our church during our search for a new pastor.

Based on our current membership of 108 members, our pledge of support to Presbytery for 2013 should be approximately \$2600. Please prayerfully consider this mission pledge.

**Membership
Mary Kwantes**

What a winter we have had already and more to come probably. WELL how about a nice bowl of chili served up with appetizing sides and some Western Style Fun? On February 16 at 5pm come to Fellowship hall with your cowboy hat, boots, bandanas etc. Our first ever Chili cook off will take place. We will have a "campfire", sing songs with ukes and guitars, learn a few square dance steps, and vote for our favorite chili. See the sign up board by the office to register your chili in the contest. Britt Whitaker will judge but we will also "vote" for the best chili with donated dollars toward our Block Party in June. Please invite friends and come with the WHOLE family.

Looking ahead to April, we are hoping to have a repeat performance of last year's wonderful Progressive Dinner. Possible Dates are April 12 and 19... possibly the 11th or 18th if need be. Please contact Mary if you want to host the appetizer portion of this meal.

Britt Whitaker has already booked May 22 for our Cardinal trip. We will use a bus and so need to fill the seats and reimburse Britt for the tickets. If this date works for you let Britt know ASAP.

Welcome to Judy Boyd who has joined our committee. We already know she can work. Any interested folks can meet with us February 18 at noon in the lounge.

150th News
Mary Kwantes

February is our designated Boy Scout Celebration Month. We will honor Leaders and Scouts, especially anyone who received their Eagle badge with Troop 83 on February 16 during worship and fellowship. Please send historical info and memorabilia to Jonathan Kimball or bring things in to office so our display can be expansive.

On March 16 150th committee is sponsoring a benefit concert to support music in this church. Former member Gail Andrews Hintz will be performing on piano. She will join with another former student of Mrs. Muriel Hatfield, Ann Rigler in several Organ and Piano Duets. Amy Mazzeo will be returning to favor us with several pieces including selections from the opera she will be the lead in at Millikin University in Decatur, IL. Mark this date on your calendar for a wonderful afternoon of music, starting at 2pm with a reception to follow.

Deacons
Cheryl Koederitz

Thank you to Jay Turner, Carrie Aswegan, Jan Roberts and Mary Kwantes for your faithful service as Deacons. Welcome to our new group of Deacons – Judy Boyd, Amy Whitaker, Lee Bennett, Bob Yenser, Marian Pruitt and Jay Turner.

Campus Ministry Association of Missouri S&T
Cynthia Hobart

The CMA of Missouri S&T is sponsoring an evening of interfaith dialogue among students, faculty and members of the Rolla Community on Friday, February 7, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Havener St. Pat's C.

Training of facilitators will be at 5:00 pm on February 7 – just prior to the event.

The purpose of this evening is to bring people of all faiths and no faith together for fellowship and appreciation of the diversity within and among us. Through a respectful and open atmosphere, created by trained facilitators, participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and listen to others in a safe, controlled environment. This free event includes refreshments. Please invite your friends and members of your organizations to join us because understanding one another brings greater peace and harmony.

If you would be willing and able to be a facilitator (which I will be doing again this year), please contact Douglas Ludlow dludlow@mst.edu or 573-341-6477.

Mission Committee
Frank Jessop

In the “Book of Order” it reads in F-1.101 God’s Mission, paragraph two:

“The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God’s mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God’s mission.”

After reading this paragraph, what does this mean to you? What is our church mission goal? Is it to follow Jesus’ teaching and to spread the word of God in our community and the world? Should we be looking at the social injustice that is in our community, nation and the world?

We, the Mission Committee, would like to hear from you. If you would like to address this please put your ideas and thoughts in the Mission folder. We will publish some of these ideas and thoughts in the next church newsletter.

150th News
Jan Roberts

As we Celebrate the 150th year of First Presbyterian Church, you are invited to exhibit your visual artistic talents during the month of March.

Bring 1-3 art pieces (any media) to the church office by Friday, February 28. Use standard framing/hanging (wire, rod, or hook) techniques, so the artworks can be hung on available wall space throughout the church. Also on the back of your artwork, please include your name, title, and medium.

We look forward to sharing the talents of our members. God blesses us in many ways. If you have any questions, contact Jan Roberts or Mary Kwantes.

Preschool News
Carol Jessop

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERS & REGULAR ANTENDEES

Registration for Preschool for 2014-2015 will begin for church members and those that attend the church regularly on Feb 15. Members and regular attendees do not have to pay a registration fee.

We also have some scholarships available for those that might have a need for some financial help. You may pick up applications for both registration and scholarships at the preschool office. If you have any questions, you may talk to Candace Ludden, Director, or one of the committee members. They are Carol Jessop, Mary Alofs, Jennifer Denbo and Eleanor Van Horn.

End of the Year 2013
Michael Wilbanks

It is great to reflect upon the past 9 months in ministry. In March I applied and was hired full-time on campus with Campus Crusade for Christ. In April we had a kickoff weekend getting us integrated and trained with campus ministry. We learned about developing a team of ministry partners that would help support us in prayers and financially support reaching out to college students. This seemed like a daunting task asking people for support. And it certainly would be if I tried to do it on my own. God continually brings people together in life to help, encourage, and support each other. When I listen closely to God and follow where he is calling, he will provide the means. The summer of discovering my ministry partners was incredible encouraging at times, very discouraging, and very beneficial through-out. Who knew that this would be a great for growth for me trusting God and also getting to process through life with others. I thought the “ministry” began when I got to campus. Little did I know that the ministry started with finding partners that God was going to introduce me to. At the end of the summer I had most of my support and was allowed to report to campus.

The plan was to work with off-campus students and athletes at Missouri State University in Springfield. I really had little idea what to expect but I was trusting God in big ways. I also was going to reach out to a distance campus in Joplin, Missouri Southern University. My first weeks consisted of off-campus bible study Mondays, Missouri Southern Tuesdays, Cru big weekly worship Thursdays, discipleship with college men through- out, and much evangelism.

Our vision for Cru in SW MO always the same: WIN students’ hearts for Christ, BUILD them up in their faith, and SEND them out living on mission.

We are reaching out to SW MO for Christ through our weekly worship meeting Thursdays at 9pm, more than 25 bible studies each week, 70+ discipleships, evangelism, and other community outreaches. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and savior is just the first step; we are called to go further and deeper than that.

We are called to share the this good news and grow in our faith daily 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.

~ This year-end report is from Michael Wilbanks, whom we support. Michael can be reached at: michael.wilbanks@cru.org or CRU, 946 Old Orchard, Springfield, MO 65802

FROM THE OFFICE
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Lost and Found

A black coat with camo lining was found Saturday, January 25th. If you are missing this coat, please see Betti Jo in the office.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers
February 09, 2014

The following list includes current officers with their term dates. A complete list of committees will be published and sent out soon.

DEACONS: Cheryl Koederitz (2014), Wendy Wilbanks (2014), Pat Look (2014)
Lee Bennett (2015), Bob Yenser (2015), Marian Pruitt (2015)
Jay Turner (2016), Judy Boyd (2016), Amy Whitaker (2016)

TRUSTEES: Robert Anderson (2014), Ken Kwantes (2014)
Bud Pumfrey (2015), Larry Roberts (2015)
Kathi Turner (2016), Jackie Morgan (2016)

SESSION ~ ELDERS: Eleanor Van Horn (2014), Susan Murray (2014), Britt Whitaker (2014)
Ming Leu (2015), Marilyn Schmidt (2015), Mary Kwantes (2015)
Rob Heberer (2016), Jonathan Kimball (2016)

Cookbooks Available

If you haven't gotten a copy of the Presbyterian Women's Cookbook for the 150th, please stop by the office. They are \$10 per copy.

Church Directories from Life Touch

The directories have arrived. Those who had their picture taken have a free copy for pickup in the office. There are additional copies available for a \$10 donation to help defray the costs of printing them.

Our February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Joan Williams, Fredi Zobrist, Kaylee Denbo, Teresa Fox, Andrew Isaac and Mary Wallen.

Happy Anniversary to David and Mary Wallen.

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary dates announced in the bulletin and newsletter, please let Betti Jo know in the office and I will update the list to include you.

Flower Chart

A new chart has been posted in the sanctuary to sign up to bring flowers to celebrate or honor friends and loved ones.