

## First Presbyterian Times March, 2014

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

Phone: 573-364-3852  
Fax: 573-426-5320  
Email: [presby1@fidnet.com](mailto:presby1@fidnet.com)  
Website: [www.rollapresby.org](http://www.rollapresby.org)

John Oerter, Pastor (Interim)  
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager  
Candace Ludden, Preschool Director

Jeff Sandquist, Music Director  
Lorie Francis, Accompanist  
Robert Garcia, Church Sexton

### **A Message from Reverend Susan Rosenbaum**

March is upon us and I have to say, March reminds me of living in Kansas. When I lived in Moran, KS, it was one of the windiest places I have ever lived. The land was flat and there were not very many trees. However, while I was there, I learned to appreciate the wind and actually missed it when it wasn't blowing. I think this applies to life, as well. Wherever you happen to be in life, there is something that is good. Good may be hard to pinpoint at times, and in other times, you may want to shout about it from the roof tops. I think the same is true about our perception of God. Sometimes we are not exactly sure where God is, and sometimes we are so excited about God's presence we want to shout about it from the roof tops. I believe that in all those times one of the best things we have going for us is that we are a part of the body of Christ. The relationships we have with each other in JCP help make the difficult times better and give us cause to really celebrate the joy and all the times in between. I have to say, I enjoy being in churches and talking to each of you and building relationships. It has made me realize how fortunate I am to be a part of this body of Christ.

Thank you for all your work in service to our Lord and to JCP. We are definitely in a place where we can say that God is good, all the time.

Have a great month,

Pastor Susan Rosenbaum

*Out of My Mind* ~ for March 2014  
ponderings from Pastor John

**“What’s happening for the rest of the Interim?”**

... or ...



## “When do we get our real pastor?”

Short answer:

‘When we finish our work.’

... Or ...

‘When we know what we are looking for.’

By the time you read this, we will have completed another of the crucial, whole-congregation events in our Interim Work: reflecting on our History: Lessons & Blessings. We gathered for a Town Hall meeting on March 2nd, and spent some time talking, praying, thinking about what FPCR has been, and what God may be leading us to bring forward with us into God’s future with us.

Since I arrived among you all in April of 2013, we have been working continuously in several specific ways and at various levels. All this, and the History Reflection will be used in the most important piece of our Interim Work:

the **Discernment Season: “Who are we, anyway? #1”**

We will gather for another Town Hall meeting on Sunday, April 6th, following worship to kick off this Season of Discernment.

Here is a *tentative* sketch of the sequence and dates for the work we will complete, so as to prepare to seek our long-term, installed pastor:

~ **Discernment Season Kickoff: “Who are we, anyway? #1**                      April 6

This will be a whole-congregation Town Hall Meeting, where we will begin to consider all the pieces we have worked on, draw them together, and reflect on what that means for our common life and future. I will set the agenda for the next step: Small Group Discussion/Discernment times. These will run through and after Easter.

~ **Small Group Discussion/Discernment meetings**                      April 7—May  
17

These small group gatherings will be a very important part of our discernment and planning. We will talk and pray together about what we’ve learned so far, study a series of Biblical Texts regarding the nature of the Church of Jesus, Messiah, dream together about what God may be doing with and for us, study some current demographics of our surrounding area and see what yearnings they provoke in us, and start discussing what we might choose for a “Motto” for FPCR.

~ **Who are we, anyway? #2**                      May 18

We will gather in another Town Hall meeting to hear and talk about what came forward in our Small Group Discernment gatherings. We may work on a “Pastor’s

Character and Skills Shopping List” and continue seeking a Motto and Mission Statement.

The outcomes of these three pieces of work will be written up and Session will finalize our “Discernment Document” ... we will have a bit of time to check that out as a congregation, and then Session will send that document on to the Committee on Ministry. It is very likely, if we do good work, that they will give us permission to elect our Pastor Nominating Committee, the team of folks who will seek our next, long-term, installed pastor!

Be thinking and praying about a Team of 6-9 persons who exhibit good spiritual discernment, possess a clear vision for this church, and whose judgment and skills you respect.

**~ Congregational Meeting to elect our PNC**

June 8

[The PNC’s first task will be to write the Mission Information Form, our church’s ‘resume’ with which they will seek our next pastor!

The PNC begins The Search!

**~ Installed Pastor** chosen and candidates with us  
2015?

?late 2014, early

Easter?

Christmas or

A wise person said to me once, as I was yearning for a wife: “You can’t know who you travel with, until you know where you are going.”

I know not all marriages work like that, but churches do!

Until you all know ‘where you are going’ I do not believe you can choose wisely about who will lead you there.

SO, I want every one of you to be fully, prayerfully, eagerly involved in these last, most important, pieces of our Interim Work.

your temporary shepherd, John

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

## **Presbyterian Women to Hold Lenten Luncheon Services**

### **Cynthia Hobart**

This year's Community Lenten Luncheon Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the Thursdays: March 27, April 03, and April 10. The speakers this year are: March 27 – Reverend Michael Summers, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Rolla; April 03 – Reverend Lindy Hardwick, Hospice Chaplain; and on April 10 – Reverend John Oerter, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rolla.

Luncheon will be served from 11:45 am to 12:15 pm, and the services will be held from 12:15 pm until 12:45 pm. The cost of the luncheon will be \$3.00, and the proceeds will be given to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Circle V is doing the basic organizing. Other women of the PW will be helping by distributing flyers (Circle III), preparing soup, salad, cookies (Circle IV), as well as setting tables, serving food and drink, and finally cleaning up. A sign- up sheet will be posted at church on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, on which women can indicate in what way they could help.

## **150<sup>th</sup> News**

### **Mary Kwantes**

March is the month we are celebrating our musicians and artists, especially at they contribute to worship. Jeff Sandquist has served our congregation since 1989 and he will be honored at the Sunday, March 16 concert at 3:00 pm. We will also have a fabulous opportunity to look to our past and listen to two former students of Muriel Hatfield at the concert. Gail Andrew Hintz, from St. Louis (piano) and Ann Marie Rigler, from Kansas City (organ) will be returning to Rolla and performing solos and three piano/organ duets. Plus Amy Mazzeo, currently a vocal major at Milliken University, will favor us with several vocal selections. She just completed the lead in the university opera *Sour Angelica* and will sing one selection from the opera.

Our church made a decision after the fire to invest significantly in a pipe organ instead of an electronic one. I feel every chance to hear a recital on it and on our magnificent piano should be a special occasion. Please come to the concert. Invite your friends and join the artists and Mr. Sandquist after the concert for a short reception.

Please thank Jan Roberts for the many hours of work put into the production of the sesquicentennial banner now hanging in the lower foyer. She has lent the church much of her religious work. Currently on display in the sanctuary are her Beatitudes. Our themed board outside the office now displays her painting of the Muses (of the Arts).

Our formal public reception is being planned for Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the guest speakers. More on that later. Plan to drop by the fellowship hall from 3-5:30 pm. Pastor Larry Boutelle, Jan, and Than will be returning to Rolla to join us for that weekend.

**From the Preschool ...**  
**Candace Ludden, Director**

Preschool will be closed March 24 – 28 for Spring Break.

Preschool enrollment continues for 2014-2015. 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.

**Go Cards!**  
**Britt Whitaker**

Britt Whitaker has purchased 40 tickets to the Cards/Diamondbacks game on Thursday, May 22. Cost will be \$35.00 for ticket, bus travel, and light supper aboard the bus. Please see Britt, Nancy Marlow, or Betti Jo in the office to reserve your seat by April 1. Bus will leave at 3:30 pm. Invite your friends and wear your Cardinal gear. Go Cards!

**Mission Committee**  
**Frank Jessop**

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for all the paper products that were donated to Russell House. The Russell House gratefully appreciated the paper products, especially the paper towels and toilet tissue. They said that they go through a lot of these items. Again, thanks to you for your donations.

One of the churches special offerings is “One Great Hour of Sharing”. The theme this year is “Faith Endures-hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts”. We will start the offering March 9<sup>th</sup> and end Easter Sunday, April 20. Our goal this year is \$1,000.00. We will be putting fish on the net again, and each fish represents \$25.00. The children of the church and preschool will be decorating the fish.

Where does your money go for “One Great Hour of Sharing”? The money is divided equally between the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance money helps to send people to natural disasters such as we had in Joplin. Presbyterian Hunger Program helps eliminate

hunger in our world. The Book of Confession 9.46 says “A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God”. Self-Development of People money has gone to the following groups; Partnership in the Dominican Republic, City of Barrow Alaska, Community Gardens, and Criminal Justice in Stony Point, New Jersey.

Please give generously to “One Great Hour of Sharing”.

### **Mission Trip Michael Wilbanks**

I will be traveling with seven others to Cote d’Ivoire February 28<sup>th</sup> and returning on March 10. We will be sharing the gospel of Jesus to people that have never heard it including Ivorians at the universities and also other people from surrounding countries visiting that will be able to take it where we cannot go. “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?” Romans 10: 14-15

We will be encouraging people that have heard the gospel of Jesus to pursue it personally for themselves in an intentional way. We will also encourage the Christians and ministry there to keep living lives worthy of the gospel, dying to their own desires daily pursuing the Lord. We want to bring back a vision to “Reach Cote d’Ivoire for Christ” to our students in SW MO. We want to send students here this summer with Cru just like I went two years ago.

My desire is that we change people’s eternities in Cote d’Ivoire and SW MO making disciples to live for God in a personal way proclaiming Jesus. I want students to have the same opportunity for a life changing experience that I did. We will need lots of prayer for the people God will introduce us to and for us to be bold and courageous. I also have about \$500 left to raise for the trip if you would like to contribute financially. You can contact me at [michael.wilbanks@cru.org](mailto:michael.wilbanks@cru.org) or 573-201-8021 or give at <https://give.cru.org/0725543>. Thank you for your heart for kingdom expansion!

Michael Wilbanks

### **Our Church Officers**

**Elders:** Jonathan Kimball, Rob Heberer, Mary Kwantes, Marilyn Schmidt, Ming Leu, Britt Whitaker, Susan Murray and Eleanor Van Horn.

**Deacons:** Cheryl Koederitz, Wendy Wilbanks, Pat Look, Lee Bennett, Bob Yenser, Marian Pruitt, Jay Turner, Judy Boyd, and Amy Whitaker.

**Trustees:** Robert Anderson, Ken Kwantes, Bud Pumfrey, Larry Roberts, Kathi Turner, and Jackie Morgan.

**From the Office**  
**Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager**

- Remember to turn your clocks up one hour. **Daylight savings time** begins on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Looking forward to March 20<sup>th</sup>, first day of Spring. ☺ It's been a long winter!
- If you have church keys you are no longer in need of, please return to Betti Jo in the office. Thanks,
- **Newsletter deadline date** for April is Wednesday, March 26, 2014.
- Pastor John will be out of the office March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Our March birthdays:** Jacob Drewniak, David Cottingham, Joe Brown, Ryne Fox, Steve Bowles, Gerre McKay, Lee Bennett, Doris Kranich, and Bob Anderson.
- **Our March anniversaries:** Eugene and Janice Zanders, Juanita and Horace Jeffery, Jonathan and Rhonda Kimball and George and Fredi Zobrist.

**Happy Birthday and Anniversary to each of you.**