

First Presbyterian Times
April, 2014

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The following article from Susan Rosenbaum provides a concise explanation of Per Capita:

From Your Pastoral Presbyter....

Shared Mission is one of those things that seems to be a bit misunderstood in JCP. I suppose that is because we have not always divided our income into two different streams. So today, I will refresh your memories about Shared Mission and Per Capita. Melana puts it this way, "Per Capita pays for what we are required to do, Shared Mission pays for what we are called to do." I think that puts it well. There are certain things that GA requires of Presbyteries and these things are funded by your Per Capita dollars. These are things like having a Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Committee for Nominations, Committee for Representation, Stated Clerk, and Presbytery meetings. Shared Mission, on the other hand, funds the Creative Ministry Grants, Small Church Resource Grants, Scholarships for Continuing Education, Pastoral Presbyter position, and the Mission and Nurture Committee (Including Equipping the Saints). Both streams of income benefit the churches which are a part of JCP. I want to thank each church and individual who made a pledge to JCP for Shared Mission and I also want to thank those who have paid their Per Capita. You are the ones that make all we do possible.

May God bless you as you seek to serve.

Susan

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

Season of Discernment

I'm calling us to a Season of prayer, conversation and study, to discern what God is leading us to affirm as our current **identity** and **purpose** as First Presbyterian Church of Rolla, Missouri.

I know that some of you just want to get your installed pastor right now, well,

actually some time ago ... and ...

I hope most of you understand that **if** we build on the grounds we have gained, and can figure out how God is leading us to understand ourselves at this time in our history, and specifically what God is leading us to do for The Shalom ... **then** ... we will be in a much clearer and stronger place to invite a long-term pastor to lead us in that call, mission and ministries.

Here's a partial recap of what we have accomplished so far:

- Presbytery Listening Groups [December 2012—January 2013]
- recruit Interim Ministry Team [May 2013—present] = Janice, Melba & Robert
- Getting to Know You Group gleanings [May—June]
- Sharing our Faith Stories [June—present]
- Our Prayer for Listening & Speaking ... living document? [September 16, 2013: Session]
- Letting Go, Getting On ... downstream effects [September 22]
- Leadership Training and Budgeting observations [December—January]
- Lessons & Blessings discernment [March 2]
- many conversations in many settings [since April 2013]
- effective Personnel and Organizational work [since April 2013]
- 150th Celebration [September—present]

With the work above, and other 'increasing the spiritual temperature of the congregation' work achieved, I believe we are ready to engage in our Season of Discernment so we can get clear about God's current leading, defining our Identity and Purpose.

To accomplish this we will *all* meet together in 2 Town Hall Meetings, and meet in *small groups* for 4 weeks in between.

The First Town Hall Meeting will be April 6, following worship. I've titled this:

"Who are we, anyway? #1" This gathering will pick up where we left off in our last Town Hall meeting, **Lessons & Blessings**, and will introduce the specifics of our Season of Discernment.

We will, then, work on this together for **four weeks of Identity & Purpose Discernment Groups**. These will be similar to the **Getting to Know You Groups** which we held in May-June last year.

Each week will have a specific curriculum, which will build from week to week, culminating in the last **Town Hall Meeting: "Who are we, anyway? #2"** This all-congregation gathering will be held on May 11th, following worship, again much like our last Lessons & Blessing meeting.

Here are the dates for the IPD Groups [that's: Identity & Purpose Discernment Groups]

NOTE: We will hold one Group on Sunday @ 11, one on Tuesday evening @ 6:30, one on Thursday evening @ 6:30 and one on Saturday morning @ 11.

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Week One: | April 8 | April 10 | April 12 | April 13 |
| Week Two: | April 20 | April 22 | April 24 | April 26 |

Week Three: April 27 April 29 May 1 May 3
Week Four: May 4 May 6 May 8 May 10
Final Town Hall Meeting: Who are we, anyway? #2 **May 11**

Please understand, each 'week' has a set content/curriculum, which will build from week to week, coming to whole-congregation focus on the May 11 Town Hall Meeting!

Everyone needs to get to one of the four meetings held in each 'week' ... ! If the Sunday morning, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings don't work for you, please let me or the Interim Ministry Team know and we'll get another time slot working!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, this coming Season ... this coming 6 weeks of work ... is THE event we have been working towards for nearly a year! Please do everything in your power to be deeply involved in these gatherings!

I want you to pray, attend worship [which will be sculpted around the Scriptural notions defining The Church of Jesus Christ, and our mission], study the Texts, demographics, summaries of previous work ... especially come with your dreams for this church and your best hopes for being us being useful and vital for our Lord Jesus in the coming years!

Also, I've asked our Session to begin praying and thinking over who might serve us well on our Pastor Nominating Committee. If you have in your heart and mind a person who is healthy spiritually, knows and loves this congregation, is able to operate in a discernment-mode [as opposed to simply working only with their own 'common sense' ... without losing their good 'common sense' ... !], and can make time for the work of seeking our installed pastor, please give their name to any of our Session members, or our Stated Clerk, Cynthia. Your Session will put together a slate of nominees for the PNC for your action early in June, most probably the 8th. So be praying and thinking on this, also.

Fasten your seatbelt ... exciting times coming!

your temporary shepherd, John

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

Membership

Mary Kwantes

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for fellowship. Instead of Early worship on Easter Sunday, we will have a celebratory fellowship time after worship with an Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 10 years old. Deb Hall will be organizing it. Please let her know if you want to purchase "wrapped Easter candy". The younger ones through 5 or 6 years will be in the enclosed play area with older ones outside. Junior helpers are needed for hiding and assisting younger ones. Please let Deb or Mary Kwantes know if your grandchildren will be joining us so we have plenty for all.

The progressive dinner on April 25 will start at Kensington clubhouse at 5:30: then to Wellington for main course at 6:30. Dessert will follow at church at about 8. Please bring your own plate. If you come as a couple bring matched plates and prepare to be seated wherever your plate leads you. We will carpool from the church at 5:20.

Our picnic follows the Celebratory Sunday on May 18 at Schumann Park. Bring a dish to share. Chicken and table service will be provided at 12 pm. The Cardinal game tickets have all been sold but there is a waiting list in case someone backs out. The bus will leave at 3:30. Please consider ordering a 150th Red T-shirt for \$10 to be worn to this event and our June 21 Block Party. Order your tee at mlakwantes@hotmail.com and state the size. (50% cotton blend) Pay Mary ASAP.

Our new youth outreach will start May 25 at 1pm. John Oerter, Ken Kwantes, Bob May, Jackie Morgan and others will be on board to assist youth from 8-15 years old. This will be advertised to the community. So join us for a couple hours of fishing at Ber Juan Lake. Snacks will be provided.

150th News

Mary Kwantes

I would like to thank Jan Roberts who worked on the art fair and has given much of her time and art to enhance our worship and our halls. The 150th Banner represents many hours of her dedication. Thank you to everyone who came to the Celebration concert on March 16. A Special HUGE thank you to Jeff for his 25 years of exceptional service and for the wonderful song to start our program. Special thanks to trustees for helping with salt; especially Ken and Jackie who kept shoveling so all the walkways were safe. We were all touched by the music and the comments of the performers. We have only one weekend of events left. Our big public reception is Friday, May 17 from 3-5:30. Our Celebration Sunday on the 18th will include participation by former pastor Larry Boutelle, wife Jan and son Than. June will be displays devoted to those married in the Presbyterian Church. We hope to have a commemorative publication ready for the May reception. Oral histories are being gathered from some long-time members. Please consider sending some of your fond or early memories to presby1@fidnet.com so Barb Ford can include all of them in a remembrance book.

150th has designated April 27 as “Dress in your favorite Decade to Church”. Also, if you are not up to a full costume it will officially be “Hat Day”. Both men and women are encouraged to wear hats, not caps, but men will be expected to remove their hats for the service. Mary has access to many women’s hats, some from the 40’s, if that interests anyone. So ask her or they will be at the back of church to select from and then return.

Memorial Bricks for the Memorial Garden **Cynthia Hobart**

Over the past several years engraved Memorial Bricks have been placed in the Memorial Garden in memory of Shirley Andrews, William Andrews, Harriet Babbitt, Laura Bennett, Donald Paul Bennett, Eva M. Best, Phyllis Carson, Ralph Carson, Jeanne Christensen, John Cole, Harlan Creighton, Charlie B. Finley, Martha Fox, Will R. Fox, Eva G. Gollahon, John P. Gollahon, Mary Geurin, John Geurin, June Harper, Don T. Harper, Mary E. Heagler, John Heagler, Juanita Heglin, Russell Heglin, Edna Jane Legate, Helen L. Porter, Rev. G. Scott Porter, Sally Porter Kaiser, Sharon Kohrmann, Donna Lindsay, Ray Lindsay, Margaret Ann Maddox, Bob L. Marlow, Helen C. May, Lawrence E. May, Patrick S. May, Patti McKay, Chris J. McKay, Dorothy M. Neely, William Neely Sr, Ora C. Ray, Agnes Remington, Gertrude Roemer, Elmer Roemer, Bret A. Rogers, James W. Rose, Jeanne L Senne, Jimmie June Timpe, Malcolm J. Timpe, John Dee Van Horn, Kathryn Vogt, Fred K. Vogt, Fred W. Vogt, Frances Wallen, Helen Wiese, and Ernest R. Wiese.

In the Garden there are also bricks (without dates on them) in honor of Gerre McKay, Joe Senne, and Lou Vogt (who passed away after her brick was placed there).

Each Spring orders are taken for Memorial Bricks. The orders are sent to the Acme Brick Company, which engraves the bricks and sends them back to us 6-8 weeks later. In the fall the bricks are placed in the Memorial Garden, and the congregation is invited out for a prayer of dedication after a Sunday worship service.

During the next month or two, if you wish, you may place an order for a Memorial Brick in memory of a church member, family member, or friend. The cost of each brick is \$100, part of which pays for the maintenance of the Garden. Each month I will keep you posted on any orders for Memorial Bricks. A Memorial Brick has already been purchased in memory of Eleanor Rickerson.

Please contact Cynthia Hobart or Betti Jo in the church office if you wish to purchase a brick.

Worship and Music Happenings **Jonathan Kimball**

We are entering an exciting time in the life of the church! The Presbyterian Women are continuing their tradition of Lenten Luncheons up until Holy Week. On April 13, we will celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. We will open the service in celebration, including a piece that showcases our newly refurbished bells. We will close the service in recognition of the Passion of Christ with a special time when we may turn anything over to God—any burden that we

cannot carry. The large wooden cross will be taken down and secured, and everyone in the congregation will be invited to write a note and nail it to the cross. Pastor John will later on retrieve the notes and destroy them in fire (without reading them) to close each person's prayer. When we asked the people who built the cross (Mike Reno and Bill Neely, Jr.), they agreed that this would be a powerful service that would, if anything, enhance the image of the cross as a place where we can leave our burdens and our sins.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, we will have a Tenebrae service in the Sadler Chapel. Upon entering, we will have a hand-washing service to remind us of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. The chapel will provide an intimate setting for a reflective worship experience.

Of course, Holy Week culminates in Easter on April 20. On Easter morning, we are planning somewhat of a departure from past years. We will not have the early breakfast service; instead, we will have a brunch during the fellowship time. Watch for details. Also, instead of asking people to bring in lilies (full, potted flowers), we are asking people to bring in cut flowers. The large wooden cross will be erected and wire mesh will be added so that people can decorate it in whatever way they feel moved.

After Easter, we are going to try a new worship experience on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. It will be a short service, approximately 30 minutes, composed of singing, a few prayers, a scripture reading (the same one that will be used on the upcoming Sunday), and a reflection on the scripture from someone in the congregation. Most weeks, the service will be held in the fellowship hall; on the first Thursday of the month, when Piece & Plenty Quilt Guild meets, the service will be moved to the chapel. This is an opportunity to experiment with new music and new worship styles, to witness about your faith and your own interpretation of the scripture, and to be open to people who may be put off by a traditional service in the sanctuary. This is somewhat experimental; if you would like to contribute to the planning, please contact me.

Thanks to everyone who makes worship meaningful. May the peace of Christ be with you!
Jonathan Kimball, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

Frank Jessop

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) this year began on Sunday, March 9th and will continue to be received each Sunday through Easter Sunday, April 30th. Our goal this year is to reach \$1000.00. In the past our church has exceeded this goal. OGHS funds will be divided equally between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and the Self-Development of people. More explanation of these programs will occur during Minute for Mission announcements. We will be putting fish on the net again. Each fish represents \$25.00 given. The children of the church and preschool will be decorating the fish.

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

A London Fog navy and tan coat has been turned into the office. If you are missing one, please come by and pick it up.

If you have possession of a church key and have not completed a Key Log, please come by the office asap and fill one out so we may have an accurate record of who has keys. Also, if you have a key you no longer need, please turn it back into the office. Thank you.