

**First Presbyterian Times  
May, 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



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

**Identity and Purpose Discernment**

St. Paul writes to the church in Galatia:

*God sent me to reveal The Plan that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, Who created everything. God's purpose is to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of God's wisdom through The Church.*

Sisters and Brothers, we have a high calling! Not only are we to continue the Mission of Jesus, Messiah [proclaiming the Good News, helping with recovery of 'sight,' lifting of oppression, bringing liberty to the many ways mortals are held captive] ... but we are to actually show the malevolent rulers and powers in the heavenly realms God's varieties of wisdom ... in this church!

Wow ... hmm...

How might we do that? I know I don't feel particularly wise ... how about you?

One thing I do know: Jesus said that He would be with us as we continue to work on His Mission, and He would send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to support, lead and clarify us. That's helpful, in my way of thinking.

All of this leads me to the comment for this month, that we are in the middle of a discernment process ... seeking to become clear about God's desires for this, specific, church ... and discover the paths of wisdom [and actions] that we are to display in our community. Specifically, to focus the wisdom of God, in this church!

Toward that end, if you have not been part of our Identity & Purpose Discernment Groups [IPDs for short] ... please join in the remaining ones. They are scheduled on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Each week has a specific curriculum that builds to our next Town Hall meeting: "Who are we, anyway? #2" which we will hold on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> following worship. Please put this on your calendars and plan to bring your best to that meeting.

I'll close this month by urging you to focused prayer. Please pray for your Session, specifically. They are working to find the set of people who will form your Pastor Nominating Committee. Ask for God's leading and clarity.

I'm also asking that you begin praying for the PNC, even right now.

Please stay tuned for further developments ... stay focused on finding God's leading ... and pray strongly for God to show us the specifics God has in mind for us.

your temporary shepherd, John

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

### **Upcoming Event**

**Pat Look**

Sunday, June 8, 2014 – Celebrations of Weddings in our church and/or by previous Presbyterian Ministers of First Presbyterian Church of Rolla.

We often forget these joyful times we have had in our Church. So....if you or your children or grandchildren have had weddings in our Church, please bring to church on June 8<sup>th</sup> photographs and memories of those precious times.

We will hold this celebration at Fellowship time.

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

**Mary Kwantes**

All our hard work is coming to happy fruition as we approach our anniversary date on May 15. Our big public reception will be Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5:30. Several speakers are planned, including words from Miles White and Larry Boutelle. More publicity will follow. The picnic will follow worship on the 18<sup>th</sup> at noon with plenty of time to go home and change. Table service,

chicken and drinks will be provided. We have the Schumann Park Pavilion reserved. Please make plans to join us for this historic weekend.

The Cardinal game on May 22 will include a sack lunch. Order your 150<sup>th</sup> RED tee shirt to wear and advertise our church's celebration. The bus will leave the parking lot at 3:30. Deadline for tee shirt orders is May 5. Contact Mary at [mlakwantes@hotmail.com](mailto:mlakwantes@hotmail.com).

Please let the office know ASAP if you have children or grandchildren graduating from HS or college so the names can be in the May 25 worship guide. Fellowship that day will honor those students.

## **What Deacons Do**

### **Cheryl Koederitz**

The Book of Order states "it is the duty of the Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith".

The Board of Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla has been designated by Session to take care of the members of the congregation with the following responsibilities:

- a. Funeral Dinner/food
- b. Calling and Visitation
- c. Meal Delivery
- d. Flowers
- e. Prayer Chain
- f. Cards
- g. Transportation
- h. Communion to Manor and Homebound
- i. Special Projects such as flowers, gift baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Care packages are sent to active military, college students and others who are away from home for the holidays.

We enlist the help of all our members and friends to alert the Deacons when they know of someone who needs any of the above services.

Thank you from your Deacon Board,  
Cheryl Koederitz, Moderator; Jay Turner, Secretary; Lee Bennett, Judy Boyd, Amy Whitaker, Wendy Wilbanks, Marian Pruitt, Bob Yenser and Pat Look.

## **Mission Committee**

**Frank Jessop**

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their donation to "One Great Hour of Sharing". Our goal was \$1,000.00. As of Easter Sunday we have raised \$1,339.72. That does not count what PW raised from the Lenten Luncheons. God has truly touched our hearts with your donation that will go to the following: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of people. These funds will be used for disasters, hunger, and community development.

During the month of May, with the permission of Session, we will be taking up a special offering for Russell House on Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you write a check for Russell House please put in the "For" column at the bottom of your check, "Russell House". If you would like make your donation in memory of your mother or mothers. Place the check in an envelope and write on the envelope their names so we can pass them on to Russell House. You will be hearing more about this special offering in our Minute for Mission Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, PW WOMEN!**

**Cynthia Hobart**

Circle V thanks to all the women who helped with the Lenten Luncheons and performed the many tasks required: preparing soups, salads and desserts; making cornbread, purchasing crackers or breadsticks; putting flowers in vases for the tables; setting tables, making coffee and tea; serving soup, pouring water, serving coffee or tea; setting out salads and desserts; collecting money; playing piano; finally all those who helped clean-up: loading and unloading the dishwasher; drying the dishes when necessary; rinsing out coffee pots, water pitchers, etc.; storing leftovers; washing soup pots and more, wiping tables and counters, and washing tablecloths.

Also, A big thank you, to Betti Jo, who prepared the perfect program bulletins with the hymn chosen for each service inside.

## **PW Spring General Meeting**

**Eleanor Van Horn**

The PW will hold its Spring General Meeting at 11:00 am on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Wellington Clubhouse. There will be a business meeting followed by a salad luncheon hosted by the board. The annual birthday offering will be taken followed by a dedication ceremony. All women of the congregation are welcome.

## **Memorial Bricks Ordered**

### **Cynthia Hobart**

Orders for Memorial Bricks have been received for Eleanor Rickerson, Bernadine Cole and Scott T. Porter. The order for these bricks will be placed in June and the bricks will be delivered later in the summer. There is still time to purchase a brick. The cost is \$100, part of which pays for maintenance of the Garden. If you wish to order a brick in memory of a church member, family member or friend, please contact Cynthia Hobart.

## **Worship & Music Happenings**

### **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!**

#### **Jonathan Kimball**

Many thanks to everyone who made Lent and Holy Week worship services meaningful for everyone who participated. I think our experiment using the large wooden cross in new ways on Passion Sunday and Easter went well overall. If you have any comments regarding how we could improve the process next year, please let me know.

We are now in the season of Easter, which extends until June 8, Pentecost. The liturgical color is white until then to celebrate our risen Lord, and then switches to red for just one day to celebrate the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. Speaking of which...

FIRE UP! Our new alternative worship service has started. We meet Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for about 30 minutes. This is an opportunity to experience 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 or unavailable on Sunday mornings. This is experimental—we will keep things more-or-less the same through May to see how they work, and then might change things a bit. We normally meet in the fellowship hall, but on May 1 and May 15 will meet in the chapel due to scheduling conflicts. Speaking of which, people have asked about the day and time—why not a different day, why not earlier, why not later. The simple answer is, this is the best fit in the church's existing schedule. The fellowship hall is otherwise occupied on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and 6:30 pm is about the earliest that I think we could get set up and have a service when considering work schedules. We'll just see how it goes.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

**1864.....2014**

**Mary Kwantes**

Around the war was ravishing the land  
And bonds of blood were broken by the choice,  
But twelve would choose a bond of unity  
A charter resolved in Presbyterian voice.

They worshiped, communed, then signed the dozen names.  
What guided those determined souls that day?  
Eternal God! ... who sees all prayers and plans  
As one vast timeless tapestry array.

How have turned the page of history,  
For church, for love of Christ, for servant-hood?  
Have we embraced all humankind equally?  
Now women serve where only men once stood.

Dear God, with whom our history is made,  
You see the future. In You our hope is laid.

### **From the Office**

**Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager**

A lot of new and exciting things are still happening throughout the summer. Events for the 150<sup>th</sup> will be winding down and plans for fall events will occur. This is a farewell for now. As you all know I will be taking a leave of absence to return this fall. Please join me in welcoming Nanette Turner. She will be filling in during my absence as office manager. She is a very pleasant young lady who I feel is capable of taking on the task until my return. Her hours will be Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for the present time. Please join me in welcoming her.

Happy belated April birthday and anniversary wishes to Cynthia Hobart, Bruce Russell, Rob Heberer, Mariesa Drewniak, Marilyn Schmidt, Britt Whitaker, Rhonda Kimball, Amy Whitaker, Carrie Aswegan, and Carol and Frank Jessop.

Happy May birthday and anniversary wishes to Linda Rose, Ron Elliott, Mary Alofs, Sharlene Morgan, K.M. Isaac, Jan Sletten, Russell Fox, Caitlyn Sandquist, Dean Sletten, Rebecca Fox, Horace Jeffery, Pam Cottingham, Ken and Mary Kwantes, and Ardel and Christine Rueff.