



First Presbyterian Times

October, 2014

First Presbyterian Church

919 E. Tenth Street, Rolla, MO 65401

Phone: 573-364-3852 / Fax: 573-426-5320

Email: presby1@fidnet.com / Website: www.rollapresby.org

Out of My Mind ~ for October 2014

ponderings from Pastor John

“Surely the Lord your God has blessed you in all your undertakings. God knows you're going through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.”

Deuteronomy 2: 7

Sometime you might read the accounts of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, in Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua. I believe you will find them interesting, and perhaps you will find some parallels between the stories and our experience of the interim time, and some time preceding that.

Though not for forty years, church crisis and then intentional interim work does feel a bit like wandering, especially when the ‘promised land’ seems never to come nearer. Some of you have talked with me about such feelings, and I understand them. I’d also say that the Lord, our God, has been with you all, and that you lack for nothing.

This month, I want to start by saying a public “Thank you!” to our Interim Ministry Team. Early in my work with FPCR, your Session asked Janice Zanders, Melba Read and Robert Rogers to be the Interim Ministry Team, to help guide me and to listen to you all as our work proceeded. They have done excellently! So, “Thank you, Melba, Janice and Robert! I’ve really appreciated your help, direction and counsel.” You all, FPCR, might take a moment and communicate your appreciation also.

Next, I want to ask you to pray regularly for our Pastor Nominating Committee. They are: Pam Cottingham, Susan Murray, Jan Roberts, Lee Bennett, Rob Heberer, Ken Kwantes and Bob May. The PNC elected Ken as their Moderator. As you know, their discernment over the coming months will have a large impact on your coming years as a congregation ... critical years I believe, as I have preached and written.

So, please keep them in your prayers.

They have met often, worked well and diligently, worked at home some, and completed their first major task, writing the Ministry Information Form, the church’s ‘resume’ with which they will seek your next,

long-term pastor. As I write this, the Committee on Ministry of our John Calvin Presbytery is reviewing the MIF and our process, and will, most likely, authorize us to move ahead with our search.

So, early this month, the PNC should be receiving resumes from possible candidates.

One immediately useful outcome is the Motto they created, and which our Congregation nodded 'yes' to at our Congregational Meeting of September 14:

Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts

Please memorize this, and work it into your conversations!

Let me close this section with a word about boundaries. You all are free to make suggestions to the PNC, both of characteristics, skills, passions your ideal pastor might display, as well as specific pastors, whom you believe might serve FPCR well. You are not free to ask, and the PNC members are not free to say who they are considering, specifically. They will give you all regular updates as to their process.

SO, pray for them and their work; suggest pastoral skills and possible candidates; and, pray for them some more!

Finally, for this month: Betti Jo has returned to us, to serve so capably as our Office Manager. This, however, will require some adjustment on your part. Betti Jo is working Monday through Wednesday, 8-3.

So, if you want something in the announcements Sunday, that information needs to be on Betti Jo's desk early Monday. Printing happens early on Wednesday. Information for our website or Face Book can arrive anytime.

I enjoy this stage of interim work a lot. As 'the promised land' draws ever nearer, a congregation's energy and focus most often rise. Folks tend to report more 'God-sightings' and it is easier for visitors to 'stick' with us ...

I also want to say that you all have done well in all our various gatherings, groups, town hall meetings, conversations ... and the supportive prayer and work for all of that!

Well done!

your temporary shepherd, John

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

The First Friday Night Out will be October 3, 2014 at 5:00 pm at Los Cazadores Restaurant.

We had a great ice cream social and thanks to all who made it so much fun. On October 5th at 5:30 in fellowship hall we are sponsoring a pizza party for new members and visitors. I have

tried to invite all new members and frequent visitors. If you see visitors, especially students please invite them to this event. Our committee will cover all the expenses, but if you want to support this event see Mary Kwantes.

Throughout the year Membership has emphasized outreach to visitors through campus contacts, Minerama, and Campus Cultural Leadership event, Reader Board invitations and canvassing. Our Block Party, Fired Up!, Youth Fishing, Ice Cream Social, and on November 15, the Hunters' Brunch are all efforts to invite the community into our building. Please consider coming to these events and engage visitors in conversation. If you are not comfortable witnessing to them, consider just saying what you like about our church. Some past Sundays we have had as many as 8 visitors. These are the folks that will build our church. So take the opportunity to be part of the greatest Mission of the church, to reach out with the gospel.

For all these outreach events, please pray that God will bring fruition to our labor and that others may find Christ and our church answer to their needs.

October 11 is an all Church Fish Fry at the Rueff Property near Hermann. Information and signup sheets are posted outside the church office.

We have had a lot of visitors these past weeks. Remember Five-Finger Evangelism.

1. Get the visitor's name and give them yours.
2. and 3. Introduce them to two other people.
4. Invite them to Fellowship and/or Sunday school.
5. Membership will follow-up with a letter.

There are first time Visitor gift bags available for ushers to pass out.

And consider inviting a visitor to lunch after Fellowship.

*First Presbyterian Church of Rolla invites you to a
Fall gathering 'round the "Shady Rill!"*

¹shady rill

adjective \ 'shā-dē\

noun \ 'ril\

: a very small brook sheltered from the sun's light

²Shady Rill

adjective \ 'shā-dē\

noun \ 'ril\

: Vermont-based Americana music duo that has performed on



Eleanor Van Horn

First Presbyterian Church Rolla PW welcomed delegates from John Calvin Presbytery on September 20 for their Fall Gathering. Lunch was served to over thirty attendees.

The meeting was conducted by the John Calvin Presbytery PW Coordinating Committee.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

October 4 – Rummage Sale

December 6 – Cookie Walk and Bake Sale

December 14 – All Church Christmas Dinner

All women of the church are encouraged to take part in these events.

Stewardship & Finance

Rob Heberer

August results are in and I am a little less enthused from the last report in July. August Income was \$11,327.56 and Expenses were \$19,457.40, leaving a Net Deficit Spending Balance of \$8,129.84. Once again, this shows the blessing of good stewardship practices of those who have so generously contributed to the Reserve Fund. If it was not for this blessing, we would be in a lot more serious shape. However, we have good funding in place, resulting in a fairly stable financial condition for the time being.

While thinking about this, you may want to consider First Presbyterian Church in your Estate Planning. What better way is there to leave a faith legacy than by providing for your church, the church that has loved you and provided for your spiritual needs and has always been a home for you and your family? If interested, see Pastor John Oerter or Rob Heberer and they will be glad to have a discussion with you on this wonderful way to continue First Presbyterian's next 150 years!!

Going into fall, September and October have always offered their share of challenges, so it is important to be informed of what is happening. As reluctantly as we are, and as important as the church's mission of being the beacon of love in a changing world is, there is a business aspect that needs to be addressed that is also part of our work. We must be good stewards and part of that is managing financial blessings.

Treasurer Barbara Ford has made the 2nd request to transfer \$10,000.00 from the Reserve Fund to pay bills, bringing the total withdrawals to \$20,000.00 for the year. This leaves a balance of \$285,410.00. Please note that we have budgeted Net Deficit Spending in the amount of \$42,522.00, so we have not spent as much as we planned for (so far). However, as mentioned above, we have two critical months ahead. We know the solution...Pray, pray, pray, then do!

Some semi-good news is that we have paid 100% of our per capita expenses of \$2,600.00, which represents a membership total of 108 in 2011. As this number is based on a member total three years

ago, future per capita expenses could decrease, but that also reflects a dwindling number of giving units, too. Again, we know the solution...Pray, pray, pray, then do!

Other happenings concerning Stewardship and Finance are that we are working on the 2015 Narrative Budget and discussing the Fall Campaign. The Narrative Budget continues to be a work-in-progress, and with all the other concerns the committee is working on, not much recently has been accomplished on this front. The purpose of developing a Narrative Budget is to show how our stewardship funds the mission of the church. A pledge letter announcing the Fall Campaign to encourage the completion and return of member's pledge commitments is being reviewed. We are emphasizing giving from the heart and hope that this appeal gently, but effectively, prods the congregation to seriously considering how their financial gifts reflect how this church ministers to the community and beyond. It is our Christian duty to do this and it helps us determine and manage our budget, so your participation is strongly encouraged. Also, please note that pledge cards are strictly confidential. As chairperson of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, even I do not see (nor want to see) your pledge card. So, let us pray about how we can bless this wonderful church just as wonderfully as this church has blessed each of us. My hope is that we can be a church that is more interested in giving than being given to. May God continue to bless us all!! (Pray, pray, pray, then do!)

Mission Committee News

Frank Jessop

MISSIONS---Does that harbor up an idea of overseas, third world country help? Yes, First Presbyterian Church of Rolla is active in these missions but did you know how many local missions we are involved in?

Our most recent one was the collection of crayons for the Back to School Program. You, as a church, came through once again and collected either crayons or the funds to buy 454 boxes exceeding the goal of 450. **THANK YOU.** Read on to learn what else our church does in our mission work.

We open our doors for men and women's AA meetings, Cub and Boy Scouts, and various choir performances and piano recitals. The preschool is part of our mission and they hold an activity each year to raise funds for a designated charity. We support GRACE, Russell House, Backpack Program, Presbyterian Manor, Back to School Kits, preschool scholarship, CASA, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets and gifts, and stock and dispatch a linen closet. We fill disaster buckets, support the Springfield Girls Home, as well as our four missions a year (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Joy, and Peacemaking).

In the past we have had a jail ministry, campus ministry, participated in Habitat for Humanity, Triennium, work camps, Rolla Ministerial Alliance, Granny Program in Romania, after school tutoring, Camp David and the Children's Orthopedic Clinic which met at the church.

Pastor John says we are a generous church and your mission Committee thanks you for your past and future giving.

Worship & Music Happenings

Jonathan Kimball

We are now in the season of Pentecost, a time of growth in our faith and our relationship with God and with our church. Growth happens in many ways: through study, through mission service, through evangelism, and through worship. Remember that we have two worship services a week: our traditional service Sundays at 9:45 am, and FIRED UP! on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. If you haven't been to FIRED UP! yet, I suggest you try it some week. If nothing else, then you would know what to tell your friends and acquaintances about it!

Now that the school year has started, so have the choirs. The bell choir practices Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, followed by the chancel choir at 7:00 pm. The choir practices again Sunday mornings at 9:00. We are SO BLESSED to have the finest choir director in town. Please don't be intimidated, though. One of Jeff's special skills is getting the most out of whoever shows up. I look forward to rehearsals every week to nourish my soul. Music can touch you in a way that words alone can't, and making music in a group amplifies its impact.

As always, we continue to need people to assist with the various tasks that make worship happen (both Sunday and Thursday). If you have an interest in being worship leader or serving communion, talk to Dixie; sound system operator, talk to Jan; or anything else, talk to me. Thanks to everyone who makes worship meaningful!

Jonathan Kimball, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

Thank You

Darryl and Mary Alofs

We want to thank the congregation for the prayers that sustained our family during the time our grandson, Benjamin Frick Alofs, had Kawasaki Disease. He is doing very well enjoying the life of an 11 year old. Thanks again.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

I am happy to be back with you all again. I will continue therapy for a couple more weeks but my shoulder is doing great. I want to thank everyone for your prayers and support during my absence. I also am grateful to Nanette for filling in for me during my absence. Some things have changed so we will be making some adjustments.

My new schedule is Monday – Wednesday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

I still plan to publish a monthly Newsletter by the first Sunday of the month. Please submit your articles for publication by the following dates as follows:

October – September 26

November – October 24

December - November 21

Happy belated Birthdays for September to –

Tammy Bennett, 3rd; Dena Anderson and Cody Moon, 4th, Jean Moran-Day, 7th; David Drewniak, 8th; Pauline Taggart, 9th; Susan Parry, 10th; Delanie Winchester (Fox), 16th; Bill Cottingham, 17th; Candace Ludden, 21st; JoAnn Anderson and David Winch, 22nd; Josh Turner, 27th; Ashlyn Lewis and Leslie Skelton, 28th; and Matthew Skelton, Tyler Skelton and Lauren Postlewaite, 30th.

Happy Birthdays for October to –

Judy Fox, 6th; Jesse Moon, 9th; Christopher Bennett, 11th; Jennifer Denbo, 12th; Betty Lemp, 24th, David Wallen, 27th and Eugene Zanders, 31st.

Church Staff

John Oerter, Pastor (Interim)

Jeff Sandquist, Music Director

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Lorie Francis, Accompanist

Candace Ludden, Preschool Director

Robert Garcia, Church Sexton

Serena Franks, Nursery Attendant