



First Presbyterian Times

November, 2014

First Presbyterian Church
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Out of My Mind ~ for November 2014

ponderings from Pastor John

My musing for November will be brief. I simply want to say “thank you” for your prayers and care. One of the many things I love about this community of Steward-Disciples is how you care for one another, and that “I will/am pray/ing for you.” is much more than a well-meaning verbal reflex.

I find myself pondering the Prophet Samuel’s odd-sounding words in 1 Samuel 12:23: “as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.” The context is that The People have ‘dissed’ the Lord so vividly that Samuel would have been justified in turning his back on them. However, he understood how profoundly God values community ... the ‘one another’ of the New Testament ... that God would view it as outright sin if a member, particularly a leader, were to cease to pray for one another ... the community!

So, simply, I say “thank you” for your prayers. I find the thought that I’m not alone in this, most comforting. I’m not in any actual pain, and don’t feel sick, but I cough almost constantly and sleep only 3-4 hours a day. I have the “This will go on forever ... this is the new normal” kind of feeling, and remembering your prayers and re-living our conversations helps me discount this bleak feeling/thought.

So, keep up your actual praying for one another, and keep on caring for one another in the generous and sacrificial ways that you all do so well ... it’s made a difference for me; it’s made a difference for so many among us; it will make a difference to many more; and such concrete love, I believe, pleases God.

I’ll close with a Biblical theology comment. You may have noticed that I’ve written the phrase: “one another” several times in this month’s short column. For you all who engage such things, ‘one another’ is a common Biblical phrase. In the NRSV, our pew Bible, “one another” occurs 194 times! “One another” is routinely used with concrete, active verbs: “Encourage one another!” for instance.

I believe the Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit. I don’t mean ‘dictated’ or some such, but rather the Spirit mysteriously works deeply within an individual and a community as they struggle with the complex

ities and difficulties of life ... and brings forward notions dear to the heart of God.

And, so I say: “One another-ing” is of profound concern to God ... and may we keep on keeping

on, and even, grow to excel in this most lovely of spiritual disciplines.

your temporary shepherd, John

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

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

Membership is happy to report many visitors have been through our doors in the last month. We always try to get their names in print plus some contact info. We then follow-up with letters and visits. Our New Member/Visitor Pizza Party hosted 9 people with 8 members who helped engage these folks. Every single Sunday you see someone new it is God giving more opportunities to visit and reach out.

Huge thanks go to the Rueffs and the Gahrs for their fun fall getaways. The music at the Gahrs was delightful and the weather was gorgeous. We finished up our youth fishing outreach on Sunday the 26th. Activities like these both for outreach and fellowship are planned throughout the year. Please consider joining the committee and giving us some input, or just send new ideas along. Committee members are Rob Heberer, Jonathan Kimball, Bob May, Britt Whitaker, and Chair, Mary Kwantes (Judy Boyd has helped some in the past and we missed her this summer and fall).

First Friday out will be November 7 at Penelope's at 6. It is helpful if you let Lee Bennett know if you are attending. Please feel free to always bring guests and family (children too).

Our November event is another outreach effort and is on November 15. The Hunters' Brunch will be free and open to the public from 8-12. We are in need of kitchen help, particularly someone to flip pancakes, and also congregation members to visit with any of our guests. Consider this another great fellowship opportunity also. There will be a signup list for 2 hour shifts outside the office by next week.

Looking ahead to December, Membership is not planning any special activities but there will be a caroling evening, probably the 21st of December. Let Mary know if that is a good date for you to participate or if you have ideas for shut-ins who would like to hear the carols.

Memorial Garden

Cynthia Hobart

Bud Pumfrey recently placed the memorial bricks for Bernadine M. Cole, Scott T. Porter, and Eleanor G. Rickerson in the Memorial Garden.

After worship on Sunday, November 9th, the congregation is invited out to the Garden, where Rev. Oerter will offer a prayer of dedication for the bricks.

Presbyterian Women

Eleanor Van Horn

The popular “Cookie Walk” is coming soon so it is time to start baking those special cookies and baked goods to sell at the Christmas bake sale.

Marilyn Schmidt and Illa Bell, co-chairs, urge all women of the church to contribute to this annual fundraiser. Proceeds go to missions supported by the Presbyterian Women.

The Bake Sale is December 6, 2014 in the Fellowship Hall 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stewardship

Barbara Ford

The annual stewardship campaign often begins with a letter extoling the virtues of giving, with a line or two of scripture to illustrate the point. This year, let's think a little differently.

The First Presbyterian Church of Rolla exists because of the generosity of its contributing members. Without that generosity supporting our church, there are so many things that I would miss terribly. I would miss having that chunk of time on a Sunday when I can spend time thinking about the Holy, in a beautiful sanctuary where I feel accepted and loved. I would miss the community of friends and neighbors that I have developed through the church, some of whom I (regrettably) only see at worship or church sponsored events. I would miss our wonderful music. I would even miss the occasional battles we seem to have every so often – proof that we truly are a family and that we care deeply.

I can also tell you that FPCR, needs a large percentage of you to make an annual pledge in order to perpetuate its existence. Pledges allow the Session to make a budget and a plan for the coming year.

Many churches, including FPCR, are struggling because they have large facilities and fewer members. Ours is not so different. We are currently operating on a deficit budget. We have reserves that allow us to continue in our worship and mission and Christian education for the time being. We should celebrate that, but our pledges are truly what allows FPCR to exist.

In the current uncertainty of our financial times, you may have pause about declaring a pledge, but we would encourage you that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, this is my church and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges me to live beyond the voice of culture to a freer life of faith.

You are a congregation of generous people. May you give generously to the church's ministry and mission. May you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence our church is in the community and in the world.

Blessings and peace,
Your treasurer, Barbara Ford

Worship and Music Happenings

Jonathan Kimball

I'd like to start with an update on FIRED UP! Remember, we meet **Thursdays at 6:30pm**, normally in the fellowship hall. (There are space conflicts for October 30 and November 6, so we will be in the chapel instead.) Attendance is averaging about 10. Because it's a small group, the service is quite informal. Some people have the impression that it's all about music, but that's not quite right. There's about the same amount of congregational music in FIRED UP! as there is in our traditional worship on Sunday. The style is different, much more modern and usually on guitar, though. It is a complete service, in the sense that it mirrors the structure of our traditional worship service: we gather, then prepare to hear the Word, then read scripture and hear someone's reflection on it, then dismiss. It's just shorter, roughly 30 minutes, in large part because the reflection is much shorter than a sermon.

One new addition to FIRED UP! is communion. We take **communion by intinction** on the first Thursday of the month (e.g., November 6, December 4, January 1...). We feel that communion is an important part of worship, and the more intimate setting makes intinction more feasible.

Please note that FIRED UP! is **cancelled** for November 27 and December 25 due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will still hold a service on January 1. Because of the way timing works out, we will transition to Advent music on November 20.

Speaking of Advent, you will soon notice changes in worship. Christ the King Sunday is November 23, marking the end of the season of Pentecost. Advent begins then on November 30. Jean will give a minute for ministry to discuss the liturgical colors and changing seasons, but briefly, we will switch to purple for Advent to signify the coming King. We will be looking for people to light the Advent candles—often a family, but any grouping of two or three people will work. If you are interested, please contact Dixie.

Music is a big part of the Advent season. We will once again host the RCAS concerts on December 13 and 14, and will have our **Christmas cantata on December 14**. I know there are individuals who are unable to commit to the choir for the full year but enjoy participating in the cantata. If you are interested in joining us for just the cantata, please contact Jeff regarding rehearsals.

During both the traditional service and FIRED UP! there are various congregational responses. For example, we have been using a different Doxology for a while now, as well as a consistent dismissal song. If you have any particular opinions, or suggestions for changes, please contact someone on the worship & music committee.

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!

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Don't forget to turn you clocks back as Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 2, 2014.

Next Newsletter date deadline for articles for December is November 21.

“Thank you” to all of our service men and women. We appreciate your service to our country.

“Happy Thanksgiving”

I hope everyone has a blessed holiday with family and friends. The office will be closed on November 27th and 28th.

“Happy Birthday” wishes for November to –

William Hudson, Jennifer Bennett, Susan Bowles, Jeff Sandquist, Wendy Wilbanks, Bill Neely, Jr., Chuck Bennett, Janice Zanders, and Dana Blake.

“Happy Anniversary” wishes for November to –

Russell and Teresa Fox, JoAnn and Robert Anderson and Bob and Carlene May.

Church Staff

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

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

Church Officers

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

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

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