



First Presbyterian Times December, 2014

First Presbyterian Church
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Out of My Mind ~ for December 2014 ponderings from Pastor John

One of my favorite verses in the whole of Scripture is Jeremiah 29: 11:

*I know the plans I have in mind for you ...
Plans to give you a future filled with hope!"*

As we move into the Christmas Season, which will be filled with warmth, deep reflections on Scripture, lovely meaningful music, lights and lots of love ... I want you to think on, maybe even plan for, this "*future filled with hope.*"

As we think ahead, I believe it is almost certain that you all will install your next, long-term, Pastor sometime in 2015. I want you to think ahead to that time and experience.

Now, I know that, like the Israelites languishing in the wilderness for forty years, yearning for the Promised Land, where all will be well ... you all are looking forward to your Pastor, when all will be well, growth will come, we will live in harmony with one another, and God's Shalom will swell up like that Spring of Living Water that Jesus promised.

I do believe all of that is possible. There's a catch, however. I've come to believe that most of you believe that this desired future will just, somehow, happen ... when the installed Pastor arrives.

The good news is that she or he will help ... the bad news is that almost all of that growth and harmony will come from you ...

... but it's only 'bad news' if you all are passive ... kinda hoping ... that somehow ... things will be different ... that God will, sorta on his own ... maybe make something happen ...

I hope you are smiling a little bit; I am. My point is simple [though maybe difficult]:

You can plan, and take concrete actions, that will help bring forward your desired future.

I've scheduled, on Saturday, January 24th to hold a Leader Planning Experience: 3

‘P’s: Perspectives ~ Practices ~ Process ... Working to Achieve Our Desired Future. I’ve invited all our Trustees, Deacons and Ruling Elders ... I’m also inviting you all. I’d be pleased if this turned out to be a sort of Town Hall Meeting, focused on doing what we can to create a felicitous, effective future with your installed Pastor.

SO, here’s what you can work on, in the back of your minds, in the deep places in your hearts, as we move through Christmas into the New Year:

What ‘perspectives’ do you have of your Pastor, yourselves, and your Leadership? Perspectives that will help bring forward your desired future ...

What ‘practices’ might you cultivate that would help produce a successful calling, installing and integrating of the new Pastor [and, perhaps, family] into your on-going community life? So as to form a healthy, collegial team to create that desired future.

What ‘processes’ will you engage that will welcome and empower your Pastor [and, perhaps, family] to lead you all in God’s *‘plan for a future with hope’* ... ?

So, think on these things, and pray that God will show you, specifically ... yes, you ... what we can plan to do ... plans to bring forward this future with hope.

If this notion gets some traction with you, let’s start talking about it, and come join us on the 24th!

your temporary shepherd, John

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

Presbyterian Women

Eleanor Van Horn

Don’t forget! The annual Cookie Walk and Bake Sale is December 6. All are invited to participate. A light lunch will be offered as well.

Women are invited to sign up on the sheet in the hallway: on Friday – to put out Christmas items and accept baked goods, on Saturday – to be there, greet visitors, and help with lunch and/or clean up.

The all church Christmas dinner will be held after the Cantata on December 14. Look for a sign-up sheet coming soon.

Membership News

Mary Kwantes

Thanks to all who attended the Hunters’ Brunch, cooked, cleaned and made it a pleasant event. Again we fed about 40, 16 from the community. Because of other dinners planned we WILL NOT have First Friday out this month. Plan on January 2 for another outing with church friends. Bring

guests. All are welcome. Lee Bennett coordinates this and will publish where we will go in January.

Review of FIVE FINGER EVANGELISM

- 1) Get their names (on a written form with contact info if possible) 2) and 3) introduce them to 2 other people 4) invite them to fellowship 5) Membership follows through with letters, emails, and calls.

As you meet and greet visitors this month please invite them to stay December 14 after the Cantata for the all Church dinner, which should start shortly after church. There will be advent crafts for the children to fill the spare moments but no regular Sunday School.

We plan to go caroling with any available voices on December 21 at 5pm. Meet at church, dress warmly, and plan on just about an hour of old fashioned fun.

Our January Game date is January 18 at 5:30.. Bring a snack to share and your favorite table game.

We loved our Chili Cook-off so much, we will redo that fun event on February 8 at 5pm. Watch for sign-up sheets closer to the time.

As always, please consider inviting your non-church friends to church, our meal events and Fired Up!

Membership Committee would like another member or two, particularly a woman, to help with activities. Currently Rob Heberer, Jonathan Kimball, Bob May, Britt Whitaker, and Chair Mary Kwantes work to integrate our congregation and help make visitors and new members welcome.

Presbyterian Preschool News

Rachel Allison, Director



Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new director of the Presbyterian Preschool. First, I would like to say how grateful I am for this opportunity and I am honored to have been chosen by the Presbyterian Management Committee for this position!

My name is Rachel Allison. My family and I have lived in Rolla for the last 9 years. My husband works at Fort Leonard Wood and I have been blessed to be a stay at home mom for many years while raising our three children. We have a fourteen year old daughter, an eleven year old son and an eight year old daughter. I have a background in Elementary Education and have worked as a Parents as Teachers Educator, more recently, however, I have taught one of the three year old classes at the Preschool and I worked at the Rolla Public Library doing preschool and family story times and summer reading programming for preschool aged children.

I have always been active in my church and community. I have taught vacation bible school and Sunday school at Greentree Christian Church. I have been a Rolla Public School's BRAVO volunteer for 9 years. I am the Vice President of the Mark Twain PTO and an active member of the Rolla Middle School's Parent Advisory Committee.

I firmly believe that God has called me to work with children and He has given me the gift to do so and I am excited about the new challenges and

opportunities that lay ahead with this new position. Please keep me, the Preschool staff and students in your prayers!

Thank you!
Rachel Allison

Worship and Music News

Jonathan Kimball

As we enter Advent and approach the coming of our King, I reflect on the many blessings in my life. Near the top of the list is my church and the time I spend worshipping God. With our two different services, I can experience God in different ways. Music is a big part of my life, and so my participation in choir and the opportunity I have to experiment with different music styles at FIRED UP! are especially meaningful to me.

Speaking of music, there are a variety of special music events in December. Chief among them is our cantata on December 14. The program consists of arrangements of Advent and Christmas songs, many of which should be familiar to everyone. Also that same weekend, our church will host the RCAS Christmas concerts, December 13 at 7pm and December 14 at 3pm. The next Sunday, December 21, we will be caroling at 5pm.

We are making a change this year to the **Christmas Eve service**: It will start at **5 pm**. It will be the same type of service, just starting earlier. This should be easier for families with young children. Remember that FIRED UP! is cancelled for Christmas Day.

As usual, we are in need of people to serve in worship in various ways. The Advent and Christmas seasons provide additional opportunities to serve. Each Sunday, we will light an Advent candle, so we need people to do the readings. The Christmas Eve service has several readings in addition to the lighting of the Christ candle. We will also serve communion that night. If you would like to participate, please contact Dixie.

Jonathan Kimball, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

As the season of advent is approaching, allot of activities will be happening here at First Presbyterian. We will try to keep the membership abreast of all the activities. Watch for announcements in the bulletins, newsletters, web and online calendar.

- New church directories are available on the table outside the office.
- Per notification from John Calvin Presbytery, the 2015 Per Capita figure per member will be \$24.25.
- Effective January 01, 2015 the new address for the John Calvin Presbytery will be PO Box 787, Shell Knob, MO 65747

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are approaching may we always be mindful and in prayer for those less fortunate, away serving our country, dealing with health issues, and those unable to be with family and friends. Safe travels ...