



Presbyterian Times March, 2015

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 March 2015 exit notions from Pastor John

Farewell

As you know I believe a useful metaphor for The Church of Jesus, Messiah, is a Sail Boat ... not a row boat. My main point was that if we try to make our church 'go' with our own efforts [rowing] some travel happens, but slowly and with much effort, and perhaps not where God wants us to go.

If we 'go' with the other metaphor, then God's Spirit 'blows' us where He wills, and the trip is often exciting, as we 'fare' where the Holy Spirit empowers us to go.

With this notion in mind, I say "Fare-well" to you all!

Go where the Spirit of the risen Christ impels you; your sails are out and ready, let God's leading and power take you into the future, which God is already working among you; seek actively the 'wind' of the Holy Spirit as you move forward, working for your desired future!

I want to write a couple of things in this, my last, monthly article to you all:

First, in these 23 months, I have grown to know and love many of you deeply. I am grateful to God for the privilege of coming along side so many fine people and sharing your lives both in joy, and in times of distress. I thank each of you for opening your lives, hearts and homes to me over the past almost two years.

On March 1st I took my shepherd's staff and transitional symbols, and took leave of you all. This is a clear way of stating that I am no longer your pastor. I will have no further role in your growth, apart from the guidance and challenges you have internalized.

I will continue to pray for you as individuals, families, and for your church as a whole. The balance to the ending of our pastoral relationship, is that we are truly together in the Body of Christ, and that love will continue, though I will be no longer your pastor.

I won't stay in touch, but will read any e/mail I receive, and will likely pray about what is right for me to do. If it seems right to your Session and Personnel Committee, I would like to continue to receive your monthly newsletter.

So, with this, I say: "Fare ... well, with God's guidance!"

I have grown to love you, Sisters and Brother in Jesus, and I will remember you fondly, and pray for you as the Holy Spirit brings you to mind.

no longer your temporary Shepherd, John

PER CAPITA

Barbara Ford, Treasurer

Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, “Exactly what does per capita do?”

Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$24.25) that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

- Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- In many places in our world, it is difficult to “do mission” except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- Your per capita pays for producing these basic resources, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.

In addition, your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Thank you - to all of you who have already contributed to our church’s share of per capita. Your individual contribution to per capita frees up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. If you haven’t yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so.

In Christ’s service,
The Stewardship Committee

Presbyterian Women

Cheryl Koederitz

PALS will meet for lunch on Monday, March 3 at 11:45 at Bandanas.

First Friday Night Out

Lee Bennett

First Friday Night Out for March will be at Randy's Roadkill on March 6th at 5:30 pm.

Planning FOR OUR FUTURE

Cynthia Hobart, Clerk of Session

NOTES on Meeting: **PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE** Saturday, January 24, 2015, in Fellowship Hall

Our desires for the church in the next 10 years:

Develop a durable meaningful joyous relationship with the new pastor.

Increase membership and members continue to develop positive relationships.

Reach 3 measurable objectives: three or four Youth Sunday School classes, three adult Sunday School classes, and 20-25 attending Fired UP services.

Have better attendance in worship, more folks engaged in activities, more integration of groups, and more kindness.

Reach out to the community more and have more activities that draw in members of the community.

Hopefully no longer have the problems that festered when Lee Jennings was pastor, especially the tendency to triangulate (discuss a problem with a different person than the person with whom one has the problem). The Session's "Prayer for Our Listening and Speaking" addresses those problems and hopefully provides guidance.

Pay for Missions and Ministries out of active giving.

Live our Church Motto: "Open doors, Open minds, Open hearts".

(John thinks we are a most welcoming church, that we are a thoughtful, Biblically-based, process-oriented church.)

Perspectives and Practices:

[Perspectives are on the pastor, Session and church. Practices will help achieve goals.]

Perspectives:

Pastor: takes the lead in caring for members...is a teacher, preacher, administrator, coach, spiritual mentor...is spiritual in ways that will feed self and his flockwill "preach, pray, and play". Three most important skills: counselor, preacher, administrator.

Session: discerns God's direction for the church, facilitates relationships between the pastor and committees, facilitates communication between the pastor and the congregation, maintains a connection with the Presbytery.

Congregation: keeps the Sabbath; cultivates trust in the Session; extends personal invitations to attend church; is involved in the life of the church.

Practices:

Spiritual disciplines: pray, listen, serve, study

Hold periodic congregational meetings in which leaders report what happening and check whether we are headed in the right direction.

“Triangulation inoculation” – respond the right way when someone comes to you with a problem he or she has with another person: do not become involved in the problem, refer that person back to the other person, the source of the problem and/or to the relevant committee.

Cultivate “non-reactivity”

“Let go and let God”, especially if one doesn’t have power to change the situation.

How to help someone who is upset – LISTEN! It is OK to be honest.

Evangelism – pray about whom the LORD is directing you to invite to church.

Revive the Parishes – with an elder leading each.

Concrete activities to welcome, integrate and energize the new pastor:

1. Pot luck dinner to welcome
2. Different family invites pastor out for meal each week.
3. Welcome folder provided with information on town, etc.
4. A go-to person for answers (Personnel or special person)
5. A packet introducing pastor to congregation

Practical suggestions for ways to promote growth in the church:

1. Display brochures, information, etc., in a stand in Fellowship Hall near door.
2. Display sign with information about church on fence facing the Centre.
3. After a Session meeting an elder informs congregation about the meeting.
4. Surveys of the congregation – include positive options from which to choose in answering.

Larry Roberts, Chair of Trustees, spoke about the importance of the security of the building and that everyone is responsible for security, especially if you have a key. If you are the last to leave the building after a meeting, etc., check to be sure the lights are off and the doors are locked.

(Notes taken and written up by Cynthia Hobart with contributions from Jonathan Kimball, Marilyn Schmidt, and Mary Kwantes)

Worship & Music Happenings

Jonathan Kimball, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

We are now in the season of Lent, a time when we emulate Jesus’s 40 days in the wilderness as we try to grow closer to God. Many people fast or deny themselves in some other way in order to restore their focus on God and to remind themselves of their sinful nature, as they strive to repent of their sins as Jesus asks. I am taking John’s suggestion of adding a new spiritual discipline, adding a time of meditation

each evening, to help sort out God's will in my life and God's will for my family and church. There are many resources available for individual Lenten study, either online or through the PCUSA store (store.pcusa.org).

As you know, we are entering a time of transition. At our most recent committee meeting, we sorted out who will make sure that worship continues to be meaningful and organized. I will ensure that we have a preacher each Sunday. Jeff Sandquist will compose the liturgy and select music. Dixie Finley and Christine Rueff will recruit other people for worship (worship leaders and communion servers) and Christine will prepare the elements. Jan Roberts will continue serving in the sound booth and act as "hostess" for visiting preachers. At the moment, preachers have been recruited through mid-April, and will include Gary Stratman, Robert Rogers, and Bob Morrison.

FIRE UP! will continue as usual. (John has not been central to its organization, so that doesn't change.) The service will be every Thursday at 6:30 p.m., usually in the fellowship hall but sometimes in the chapel (when there is another organization in the fellowship hall, like Piece & Plenty Quilt Guild). The exception will be Maundy Thursday, April 2. We do not yet have a full plan for that evening, but are tentatively planning a longer, more formal service starting at 7:00 p.m.

My thanks to those who make my job easier, everyone on the committee plus all the others who make worship happen each Sunday and Thursday. May God's peace be with you as you turn your focus back to God during Lent in preparation for the joy of Easter!

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is beginning a new program called "30" Minute Friend to assist individuals with tasks that might be difficult to do. A team of two or three members will schedule a time to help individuals with things such as organizing, light maintenance, cleaning, yard work, etc.

The program will begin in April after Easter Sunday. If you have work requests or you would be willing to be a member of a team, please contact the church office at 573-364-3852.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th

Don't forget to turn your clocks up one hour as daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8th.

Pastor John's Farewell Lunch ...

Please join us on Sunday, March 1st at 11:00 am following Worship in the Fellowship Hall for a farewell and best wishes carry-in lunch for Pastor John. Please take the time to thank him for his service with us.

Preschool News

Rachel Allison, Director



Preschool teachers on our 100th day of school.

Back row (left to right)

Amber Paul, Donna Schmickle, Lisa Loos, Deeann Turbeville, Amanda Baker & Kathy Bennett

Front row (left to right)

Kassi Talak, Rachel Allison, Linda Gehrlein & Rana Ragan

Not pictured: Hatice Scott & Angela Isaac

Cardinal Ballgame

Britt Whitaker

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 2, 2015 to join friends and family to attend the Cardinals vs Brewers game in St. Louis. Bus will leave the parking lot at 4 p.m. for a 7:15 p.m. game. Cost

is \$40.00 which includes bus ride, bag meal and your ticket. Contact Britt Whitaker or Nancy Marlow for tickets. Please pay at the time you order your ticket.

Our March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: Jacob Drewniak, Lucy Greig, Deborah Hall, David Cottingham, Agnes Lee, Joe Brown, Ryne Fox, Steve Bowles, Gerre McKay, Lee Bennett and Bob Anderson.

Anniversaries: Eugene and Janice Zanders, Jonathan and Rhonda Kimball, and George and Fredi Zobrist.

“Happy Birthday and/or Anniversary to each of you.”

Our Church Officers

Elders: Jonathan Kimball, Rob Heberer, Mary Kwantes, Marilyn Schmidt, Ming Leu, Britt Whitaker, Susan Murray, Eleanor Van Horn, Christine Rueff and Cynthia Hobart, Clerk of Session.

Deacons: **Jay Turner**, Chairman; **Amy Whitaker**, Clerk; **Marian Pruitt**, Budget/Funeral Dinners; **Bob Yenzler**, Funeral Dinners/Flowers/Special Projects; **Lee Bennett**, Calling and Visitation/Transportation/Special Projects; **Carrie Aswegan**, Meal Delivery; **Sophia Leu**, Meal Delivery; **Kelly Dean**, Prayer Chain; and **Bill Neely, Jr**, Calling and Visitation/Transportation

Trustees: Ray Evans, Darryl Alofs, Bud Pumfrey, Larry Roberts (Chair), Kathi Turner (Secretary) and Ray Fox