

Presbyterian Times
July, 2016



First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Reverend Lou Ellen Hartley

You are invited to join us.... in prayer. Recently, the session has been working through the book, Sailboat Church by Joan Gray. Reverend Gray is a minister of word and sacrament and a past moderator of the General Assembly. In her book she writes about the church's tendency to rely on human power to develop programs, maintain membership, and keep the lights on. She reminds us, however, the church does not move under human power but by the power of the Holy Spirit. She writes churches should be sailboats, powered by the wind of the Spirit moving us where God wills us to be.

At the conclusion of the book she includes "A Guide to 40 Days of Prayer." The guide includes a scripture passage, a brief reflection and an opportunity for participants to write their own prayers. The Session would like to invite the whole congregation to join us in praying through this guide. As we pray for God's constant guidance in our church, we ask each of you to pray with us, what does God want us to do? Where does God want us to go in ministry? Where do we rely on our own power rather than on the Holy Spirit?

These booklets will be available for everyone on Sunday July 10. Pick one up, pray with us, as we seek God's guidance for First Presbyterian Church.

From the Stewardship Committee
Barbara Ford, Treasurer

We are nearing the halfway point of our church year, and the Stewardship committee will soon be sending out mid-year contribution statements for your review. Please let us know if you find any discrepancies or concerns. For those who still need the information, per capita amount for 2016 is \$31.

Our trustees have been working hard since last fall to make necessary repairs to our aging building and we on the Stewardship committee are beginning the work of planning a capital campaign for this coming year to replenish the reserve for these costs. We still have some much needed repairs to do this summer to make the preschool wing ready for the fall, and those costs will be on our minds and in our prayers as we determine the extent of the upcoming capital campaign.

Financial status at the end of May is as follows:

General fund bank balance is \$13,383.92
Reserve fund balance is \$220,050.18
Renovation bank balance is \$9,429.02
May income was \$17,428.05
May expenses were \$20,778.97
Our expenses in May outpaced our income by \$3350.92

As you can see we are approaching summer in a similar manner as noted in previous years and by fall we can expect to need to use money from reserve to meet our expenses. We know that God will provide when we ask and believe. Keep our church in your prayers.

Presbyterian Women
Help needed for PW kitchen improvements:
Cynthia Hobart, Moderator

Discussion at the May General meeting resulted in a consensus that besides searching for a new dishwasher, PW needs to also work on finding a buyer for our current gas stove and the large ventilation hood over it. (Subsequently, an electric stove or stoves will be purchased to replace the gas stove.)

Pam Cottingham and Marilyn Schmidt are working on selling the dishwasher and purchasing a new one. Would you be willing to help Jan Roberts look for a buyer for the gas stove and vent and subsequently purchase replacement electric stove(s)? If so, please tell Jan and Cynthia Hobart. Thank you.

Membership/Fellowship
Bob May, Chairman

Sunday Fellowship. We appreciate those who have prepared refreshments for after worship each Sunday. If you'd like to help, (need not be elaborate) -- check the sign-up sheet just outside the office.

First Friday Night Out. We'll skip First Friday in July – lots of activity for the Holiday Weekend. If you have suggestions for locations on first Fridays, contact Lee Bennett. Come join in good times.

Block Party. Our June 4th Block Party was well attended – almost filled Fellowship Hall. Even though it began to rain on us, the Dixie Union Band moved inside and entertained us in fine fashion. Plan on being there next time for Fun-Food-Fellowship with our neighbors.

Oat Theater – Dinner Before. Saturday, July 9th. We'll have a carry-in dinner at Wellington Clubhouse at 5:30 p.m. and then move to Oat Theater and enjoy "39 Steps", an Alfred Hitchcock thriller. Carry-In food list is available in Hall just outside Office.

Contact Mary Kwantes – by this Friday, July 1st. if you haven't already arranged for tickets to the play. (Mary must return unused tickets by this Friday).

Ice cream Social – Sunday, August 21st. 4:00 p.m. Bring your favorite recipe / toppings to share with all including MS&T student quests.

Common Call. – MS&T Student Ministry will resume when classes resume. We will participate in an informational event at Minerama on August 26 mid-day. If you would like to participate, contact Jonathan Kimball.

Church Picnic. – Sunday September 18th- Gather at Noon at Veterans Park, Southview Drive. We'll supply Fried Chicken and Drinks. Signup sheet for dishes will be in Hall outside Office.

Outing / Bonfire - October - date to be determined.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Summer is here...activities have slowed down and it's time for vacations and outings to enjoy with family and friends.

Please keep members of our congregation, friends, and family in your prayers. We have had so many needs recently.



Wishes go out to the following with July birthdays:

Ken Kwantes, Mary Kwantes, Clayton Read, Ed Schmidt, Ruby Malone, James Drewniak, Steve Day, Nancy Marlow, Vashy Rahaman, Morgan Long, Sophie Denbo, Janet Brown, Jessica Kimball, Christine Rueff and Bob Yenzer



Anniversary wishes go out to Dean and Jan Sletten, Rev. Robert and Linda Rose Rogers, Lee and Ruby Malone and Steve and Susan Bowles.

Calendar of Events:

July 1 – First Friday Night Out is cancelled due to the 4th of July holiday

July 4 - The Office will be closed

July 9 – Dinner at Wellington at 5:30 pm followed by “39 Steps” performance at OAT Theater

July 11 – 13 Betti Jo will be out of the office.

July 23 – Luke and Kris’ wedding at 11:30 in the sanctuary with reception to follow in the fellowship hall.