**Presbyterian Times**

**August, 2017**

First Presbyterian Church

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**A Message from Our Pastor**

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

John Calvin Presbytery will be meeting on August 7 at the United Methodist/Presbyterian Church in Ash Grove. Britt Whitaker will be the Ruling Elder Commissioner, and I will be the Minister Commissioner. While the meetings are the time when we conduct presbytery business, the agenda includes much more. We worship together as the connectional body of Christ. For many pastors this is a rare time when we can worship as parishioners in a congregation. This is a wonderful gift and a time of renewal. We also fellowship, eat together, catch up on what is new, celebrate joys and lift up concerns. At each meeting we have a time of education and discussion coordinated by the Mission and Nurture Committee. This month we will be focusing on prayer. I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested to join us for the meeting in Ash Grove. You can come for the education, the renewal, or the curiosity. Please keep the presbytery in your prayers as we gather on August 7.

Peace,

Pastor Lou Ellen

**Annual PW Rummage Sale**

Melba Read

Even though it is still very warm, we are beginning to plan for one of the Presbyterian Women’s fund raising events. The annual fall Rummage Sale will be Saturday, October 7th. As you find unwanted treasures in your homes, we would appreciate you saving them for the sale.

***Write your problems down with a pencil and give the eraser to God.***

***-Guideposts***

**Presbyterians Cook**

Carol Jessop

I got this recipe from a cook book that I bought on a trip to Italy. We enjoy this on a hot summer day.

1 – 14 oz. can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

3 T sliced sun dried tomatoes

¼ c. pitted Kalamata olives, coarsely chopped

1 - 4 oz. can tuna in olive oil, drained and broken into chunks. (can substitute tuna in oil)

1 T chopped green onions

2 T white balsamic vinegar

2 T extra virgin olive oil

¼ c fresh basil (cut in fine strips)

Fresh chives (for optional garnish)

Ground pepper

In a large bowl, gently mix beans, tomatoes, olives and green onions. Stir together vinegar and oil; add to bowl and mix gently, but well. Add pepper to taste. Just before serving, stir in basil. Garnish with chives.

***You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.***

***Jane Goodall, primatologist and author***

**How Well Do You Know Your Congregation?**

Illa Bell

This months’ personality is Illa Bell. Illa was born on the family farm in the Elk Prairie neighborhood near Rolla. She was the oldest of three children and had one brother and one sister.

She attended Elk Prairie Grade School and at the 8th grade went to Rolla High School. Upon graduation she took a business course in St. Louis. Upon completion of her business course, she went to work at the First State Bank and then transferred to an office on campus.

After meeting and marrying George Bell she moved back to the farm. Illa has three children; a son, Michael, and two daughters, Marilyn and Marcia. After the girls entered high school, she returned to work at the First State Bank where she worked for twenty years.

Illa was a member of the Elk Prairie Presbyterian Church. When that church merged with the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla, the family transferred. Illa has served as a Deacon, Elder, and is a past president of the Presbyterian Women. She has received the PW Lifetime Membership Award.

Illa likes to sew, (She belonged to a sewing club at one time.), grow flowers, and read, especially biographies. Illa has traveled to Europe and always wanted to go to Hawaii, but never got there. She still remembers a church trip to New York where she, Jeanne Christenson, and June Harper went as representatives of our church.

**Mission**

Frank Jessop

Thanks to your generosity we exceeded our 400 box goal of Crayons by collecting 563.

**A Report on Big Tent 2017**

 Jonathan Kimball

The PC (USA) General Assembly meets every other year. In the off years, they hold an event called Big Tent. This year, Big Tent was in St. Louis at Washington University, July 6-8. The agenda included worship, plenary talks, and workshops. The theme was “Race, Reconciliation, and Reformation.” There were a number of news posts about it from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, which may be accessed at: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/archives/2017/7/> (pages 7-8 have the relevant posts). I want to share a couple of key takeaways.

An overarching lesson is that the world is hurting in many, many ways. The opening plenary addressed Ferguson and the larger Black Lives Matter movement. The issue of racism is not about the prejudice one person has for another; it’s about power structures that systematically exclude people of color, particularly African-Americans. One workshop I attended addressed global LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) challenges. In many countries, being gay is illegal, and in ten countries, it is a capital crime. The workshop leader pointed out that LGBT issues and feminist issues both revolve around a theme found throughout the Bible: patriarchy. When Christian missionaries spread throughout the world, they spread their understanding of the Bible’s lessons on social structures, which endures today in former colonies despite our newer understanding in America. Another workshop addressed Muslim-Christian relations, which in the US revolve around our “terrorist” prejudice and in other nations include persecution of Christians by Muslim authorities. There are so many challenges; it is hard to know where to start.

But the second lesson is, start somewhere, DO SOMETHING, anything. We were given seeds in the closing worship that are to be planted as symbols of our small start towards reconciliation. Yet we must remember that reconciliation only comes after oppression ends, and so we must work towards systems and structures that benefit ALL.

The two General Assembly Co-Moderators, Jan Edmiston and T. Denise Anderson, spoke on a related issue: poverty. They recommend two books. The first, [*Waking Up White* by Debby Irving](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/march-18-2017/), is about white privilege, which manifests in so many ways that it is invisible until you start to look for it. (In fact, a couple of speakers referred to it as white supremacy, given the fact that power in the US is concentrated in the hands of whites, particularly white men.) The second,  [*Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor*](http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/7502/always-with-us.aspx) by Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, is a pivot towards addressing poverty in systemic ways. As Dr. Theoharis said in her talk, in Matthew 26:11, Jesus was not “insinuating that poverty is inevitable, but was reminding us of our failure. Remember, how you treat the least of these is how you treat God.” I have read *Waking Up White*, but need to re-read it and work through the reflection questions given at the end of each chapter. I am about halfway through *Always With Us?* I certainly agree with the co-moderators’ recommendations.

I will admit that I am part of the cisgender, heterosexual, white patriarchy, indeed a highly privileged member. I am seeking ways to change myself to see the world through the eyes of the oppressed, and then to act on my new understandings. I would encourage everyone to prayerfully read one or both of the books recommended.

**Membership / Fellowship Committee**

Bob May, Chair

**Please take time to greet visitors** and invite them to Fellowship Time and Sunday School after Worship. We’re looking forward to new people and students new to the community in the coming weeks.

**Thanks to volunteers for Fellowship time**. If you would like to volunteer, see the Volunteer sign-up sheet outside the Church office. See Bob May if you have questions or need help.

**Several people enjoyed the Float-trip** Sunday, July 23rd. Thanks to Jonathan Kimball for the arrangements – plan on doing it again next year!

**Coming Events.**

 **1st. Friday Night Out** – August 4th, 6 p.m. – Benton Square. Contact Lee Bennett (lbenn@fidnet.com) if you can come.

**Ice Cream Social** – Sunday, August 27th, 3 p.m. – Church Fellowship Hall. Church will provide Ice Cream and Drinks. Watch for Sign-up Sheet – topping and cookies are welcome. We are looking forward to Pre-School families and MST students/faculty joining with us.

**Church Picnic** – Sunday September 17th, noon – Rolla Veterans Park. Church will provide Fried Chicken and Drinks – side dishes are welcome. Sign-up Sheet will be available in a couple weeks.

**Christian Education**

Marcia Brewer

The adult Bible study, “Heroes and Villains” continues. Pastor Lou Ellen recently presented her choice of characters, Abram/Abraham. Anyone with a favorite Bible character, who would like that character to be explored, may drop a suggestion in the church office, to Jan Roberts, or to Marcia Brewer (cell: 816-2095945).

To prepare for this fall’s observance of 500 years of the Reformation, the Worship Committee and the Christian Education request that anyone with a clan or tartan in the family heritage, should contact Jan or Marcia with information. Even if you don’t bear a Scottish, Irish, or English name, you may have such a name in your heritage. If you would like one of us to search for your family tartan, we would be happy to help. We have already begun to collect names and match them with tartans. This should be an exciting project, with a special service to be planned for some time in October, but your input is needed.

**From the Office**

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

***Happy Birthday wishes*** *for August go out to Larry Roberts, Kathleen Dean, Robert Rogers, Steve Skelton, Lucas Day, Darryl Alofs, Jonathan Kimball, Marian Pruitt, Susan Murray, Katie Sands, Frank Jessop, Ardel Rueff, Lenn Koederitz, Lee Malone, Rachel Allison, D.C. Look, and Nora Sandquist.*

***Happy Anniversary wishes*** *for August go out to Jan & Larry Roberts and Bob & Pat Mollenkamp.*

**Upcoming Events…**

August 4 – First Friday Night Out at 6 pm at Di Trapani’s located in Benton Square

August 6 – Congregational meeting following worship service

August 7 – Presbytery Meeting, Ash Grove; Pastor Lou Ellen and Britt will attend

August 16 – First day of School

August 28 – Newsletter articles for September due in office