

# First Facts

A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** • Cape Girardeau, Missouri • August 2015

## Why are we here?

Recently I have been meditating to the following quote from St. Paul in I Corinthians 9,

*19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.*

I wonder how difficult it was for St. Paul to 'customize' his lifestyle in order to be a more effective 'Ambassador' for Christ. (see Ephesians 6:20) Paul was a Pharisee, born into the tribe of Levi. In other words, he KNEW the Torah. His early religious convictions led him to atrocities which in one case, culminated in the murder of an early Christian named Stephen. (Acts 7:54-8:3). Paul, who was originally named Saul, knew what was needed to be considered a 'righteous man.' But, he got it all wrong! And on the road to Damascus, Jesus Christ intervened and Saul began his new life in following the "King of Kings!"

Saul's life was totally transformed (see Acts 9 and following). With the same intensity, yet with grace beyond his own abilities, Saul, now Paul, began witnessing for Jesus Christ. His primary mission was to the 'gentiles,' non-Jews. But in order to be accepted and believed he 'surrendered' his life to God's purposes. And what great things followed! Arrested, Imprisonment, physical torture, shipwrecks, trial after trial and, in the end, capital punishment! He would surely not be considered to be the 'poster face' for recruitment to this new religion called Christianity.

Yet in spite of all the difficulties, God's Hand was upon him. By becoming all things to all people, Paul faithfully shared the Gospel and in doing so, the Holy Spirit led thousands to this new faith. His documented life now challenges us to ask, "So, why are we here?" "What can I do to be as faithful as Paul?" Granted not too many of us wish to be arrested, imprisoned, tortured, etc! But, I think, everyone desires to faithfully serve God and His Son, Jesus Christ. So, what does that look like?

One of our active members shared a story that happened to him very recently. He was out to dinner at one of his favorite eateries and he began a running conversation with a shy young man who was helping deliver the meals and clean the tables. So over 45 minutes or so, their conversation weaved in, out and over dinner plates moving one direction and then other. "And for some reason, my heart went out to this young man. I don't know why or how but I felt God was leading me. I usually do not have any significant conversations with total strangers. That's way out of my comfort zone. Does that make any sense, Pastor Kim?" It sure made sense to me. So he continued his story. Our member found out the young man's name and that he was going into the 8th grade at Cape Junior High and loved playing the trombone. In fact, the young man plays in the orchestra, band and jazz band. Each piece of the recital paid tribute to the myriad of famous organists including Louis Verne who was the organist of Notre Dame from 1900-1937. Dr. Welch's glorious adaptation of "How Great Thou Art," synthesized my entire trip.

cont.

My life upon this planet is so short compared to the living history of Christ that is still being written by the Church. My humble contribution through Word, music and faithfulness to Christ is insignificant in many ways. Next year he hopes to play in the Pep Band at the high school. But he did not own his own instrument. He rented it from "that famous music store on Broadway." Our faithful member said, "Well, let's see what we can do."

Phone numbers were exchanged but no promises were made. Our member met the young man's entire family, mom, dad, the son and FOUR sisters at that 'famous music store!' Our member with the help of Scott Shivelbine and a long time employee, Tim, a perfect slightly used trombone was found. The young man slipped into one of the practice rooms and started to slide up and down the scales. His joy of possibly having his own trombone was seen on his face and heard in his words, "I like this one." Over the tears of the shy young man and his mother who does not speak English and a grin from ear to ear on the father, our member said, "OK, I'll take care of it."

With a little creative financing and the fact that the family had faithfully paid their monthly rental fee for two years on the school trombone, the shy young man had his first very own trombone. Our member shared with the family that his church was just down the street at the corner of Lorimier and that we loved music that praises God. As it turns out, the shy young man and his family are very religious also. So maybe in the not too distant future, if you hear that wonderful baritone sound of a slide trombone from our balcony, it might be coming from a shy young man who life was blessed by the faithfulness of one of our own.

The gift of hope and faith in even a shy young man's life is why we are here! How is God going to work through you? Are you willing to leave your 'comfort zone' to be used by God? I would love to hear and share your story.

Faithfully yours in Christ, Pastor Kim

### Worship Attendance

July 5	73
July 12	75
July 19	86
July 26	58

### Treasurer's Report

As of June 30, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$105,512
Year to Date Expenses	\$143,349
Expenses Greater than Income	\$37,837

#### Investments

Permanent Endowment	\$250,000
Restricted Investments	55,194
General Fund Savings	63,518
Presbyterian Investment	136,071

For a more complete financial picture, you can attend the Finance Committee Meeting, Session Meeting, or contact our Treasurer, Jean Cairns at 573-803-0085.



### Flowers for Worship

The flowers in the Sanctuary on July 12th were given to the glory of God and are from Jean Cairns in memory of her mother's birthday, Martha Cairns.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on July 19<sup>th</sup> were given in honor of VBS staff and participants.

Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!." Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.

### August Meal-A-Month

- Velveeta-type cheese food
- Package of macaroni
- Can of fruit of choice

*(Please put in the box in the Narthex)*

## Adult and Youth Sunday School

**Nursery:** Our nursery is open from 9 a.m. on Sunday morning through our worship service, for children birth through kindergarten. Children will be escorted upstairs from the nursery to the worship service for the "Kids' Message" and then will return to the nursery. In the nursery they may participate in a brief Sunday School lesson and activity. Children are welcome to join their parents for the worship service at any time. **Parents come to the nursery after worship to pick up their children.**

**Children and Youth Sunday School:** The "Upper Grades Sunday School Class" will meet for Summer Sunday School in the Children's Library. They will be learning how to use the Bible. The younger class will continue with Kathy Woodfin in the nursery area.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sunday Service of Worship - 10:00 a.m.** \_\_\_\_\_

### Book Club

The next book club meeting will be on Thursday, August 13, at the home of Sandy Wilhelm. The discussion will be on *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah. Our September book selection will be *Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks and we will meet on Thursday, September 10 at the home of Jean Cairns. The October meeting will be on Thursday, October 8 at the home of Ruth Needle. The October book is *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume. Join us! The reading of the selected book is not required.

### Thank You

Dear Pastor Kim and Church Family,  
All of us at the Amen Center are so grateful for the check of \$2500.00 that you donated. All of you are so dear to us for all that you have done. We cannot thank you enough. Our prayers are that God blesses each and everyone of you for all you do. We will continue to pray for you, Pastor Kim, and your church family. We thank you and we love you.  
Pastor Danny and Shirley



### Mark your calendar!!

You are invited to a  
baby shower  
for Dusti and Tami Miller  
First Presbyterian Church Parlor  
Sunday, September 13, 2015  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dusti and Tami are expecting a boy. They are registered at Target and Babies R Us. Please contact Melissa Harris if you would like to help out. RSVP to Melissa at 579-4977.

### Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, September 13, the Worship Service will return to 10:30 a.m.

## Memorials

*"Death is not extinguishing the light. It is turning out the lamp because the dawn has come."  
Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali poet*

Memorials have been received in memory of:

**Barbara Port**, from Bill Port, Mark & Betsy Mueth, Bill & Linda Port.

## Another Reason Why We Are Here!

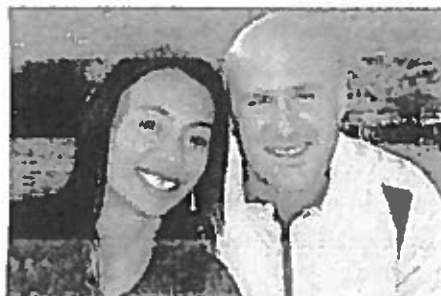
Mission support opportunities abound! Locally our support of the **AMEN Center for the Homeless** has been **OUTSTANDING!** Another carload of paper goods from our church members and friends and the participants in Vacation Bible School was delivered on Monday, July 20, by Ruling Elder Dale Watkins and Pastor Kim. Donna Pikey, Georganne Syler and Jean Cairns were on hand to help load over 50 items. Pastor Danny and his wife Shirley were overjoyed to receive our generous gifts. Additionally, the majority of our cash proceeds from the 'garage sale' earlier this year were sent to the AMEN Center to help support their own going ministry. Our most recent gift to them was \$2,500. Thank you for your support of our garage sale. It is by faith that our 'second hand' items realized such a large monetary gift.

### From the Session

At the stated July 22, 2015 meeting of the Session, the Elders did the following:

1. The Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session held on June 17, 2015 were approved.
2. Received the committee reports.
3. Approved a request from Marcie Ryan to use the Fellowship hall for a Wellness/Exercise Group meeting twice a week.
4. Next meeting is August 19, 2015.

### *Our Mission Committee Introduces Presbyterian Missionaries Jed and Jenny Koball who serve in Peru.*



#### **About Jed and Jenny Koball**

Although they come from diverse backgrounds, Jed and Jenny share a mutual calling to serve the people of Peru and a common faith imparted to them by their families.

**Jenny** grew up in a community in the high jungle town of Moyobamba, Peru. Early in her life she became the caretaker of her family while her mother worked extremely long and hard hours to put food on the table. Her father was paralyzed in an accident and was unable to work. Oppressive poverty and terrorism ravaged the Peruvian countryside during her childhood. One day, while she and her brothers were hiding from terrorists looking for children to force into combat, her father told her to never stop praying. "I learned from him that God is our refuge, and I felt safe," she says. Surrounded by hardship and violence, Jenny's call to mission service began to take shape.

Upon finishing high school at age 16, Jenny moved to Lima to study business administration seeking to secure a better future for herself and her family. In Lima, she encountered Presbyterian mission co-workers for the first time and discovered the ministry of *Joining Hands*. In the context of these new relationships, her faith in a just and loving God was further strengthened, as was her desire to serve God and neighbor. She began working as an office administrator for *Red Uniendo Manos Peru*, a position she held for nine years.

**Jed** was nurtured into faith during his formative years in Virginia and Arkansas. His role models included a mother who "had a Bible verse forever on her lips, a gospel hymn in tune for each occasion, and a prayer that never ceased." After college, he became a Young Adult Volunteer in the Philippines, an experience that influenced his spiritual life profoundly. While a YAV, he sought and found his place in the church's collective response to systemic oppression. Inspired by the faith and struggle of his Filipino friends, Jed first

sensed a call to long-term mission service with a focus on facilitating prayerful, meaningful, and impactful international church partnerships.

Not long after arriving to Peru in 2009 as a newly appointed mission co-worker, Jed met Jenny, who had moved to Lima eleven years earlier. They married in October 2010 in Moyobamba in the presence of their families and friends. Shortly thereafter, Jenny began supporting Jed's work and eventually took the lead role in coordinating the Young Adult Volunteer site in Peru. She was officially appointed as a mission co-worker in 2014.

In between his time as a YAV and his appointment to Peru, Jed served as associate pastor of Larchmont Avenue Church in Larchmont, New York, and later as project and volunteer coordinator for a community development NGO in Nicaragua.

Jed graduated from St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, North Carolina, and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He was ordained in 2000 as a teaching elder by Hudson River Presbytery.

Jenny earned a business administration degree from Alas Peruanas University in Lima. She is a member of Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio.

**About Jed and Jenny Koball's ministry:** *Joining Hands* is an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program that addresses the root causes of hunger through networks of churches and non-governmental organizations in developing countries. These networks lead the struggle against hunger and poverty at the local level and are joined by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbyteries and congregational partners that address the same concerns on the global level. Jed Koball assists the Peruvian network *Red Uniendo Manos Peru*. It tackles issues such as environmental contamination from the mining industry, a growing water crisis due to global warming, and trade policies that disadvantage many Peruvians. Jed acts as a link between PC(USA) congregations and *Red Uniendo Manos Peru* as it develops strategies to address these daunting problems. Jenny Koball is the Peru site coordinator for the Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, which sends people from ages 19 to 30 to serve in communities of need in the United States and abroad. In addition to service, the YAV experience emphasizes living in intentional Christian community, spiritual formation, and vocational discernment. Young Adult Volunteers in Peru serve with one of the non-governmental organizations (NGO's) or churches that form *Red Uniendo Manos Peru*.

#### **Their Mission Context**

Peru was home to several Andean civilizations, including the Inca Empire, which was conquered in 1533 by Spain. Due to the vast territory and gold and silver production, Peru was by far the most important colony held by Spain. Peru declared its independence in 1821 and, with the help of General San Martín of Argentina and Simón Bolívar of Venezuela; the Spanish were defeated in 1824. Most Peruvians have not benefited from the nation's abundant natural resources. The majority of the wealth is controlled by a small group of people of Spanish descent. Millions of people in the indigenous population live in poverty. Presbyterian missionaries from the United States and Scotland were first sent to Peru in the early 1900s. The PC(USA) works in partnership with two churches that resulted from those early missionary efforts, the Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru. The PC(USA)'s major involvement in Peru is through the Presbyterian Hunger Program's *Joining Hands* initiative.

#### **Our Mission Support Efforts**

Each Sunday during the month of September, our congregation will discover a little more about Jed and Jenny Koball and their important mission work on our behalf. The month will conclude with a special offering being taken in support of their mission. Be sure to look for a special offering envelope in your September newsletter as well as in our weekly bulletins.

For more information immediately, see the following internet link.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/koball-jed/>

### AUGUST PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this Prayer Calendar as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Presbytery of St. Andrew	16 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Parkinson (birthday) Dr. Raymond & Ann Ritter (anniversary)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley	17 <sup>th</sup>	Cherie Herbst, Melissa Harris, Dusti Miller (birthday)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Merry Gay Lorberg, Marcia Williamson (birthday)	18 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Bishop (birthday)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lea & Harvey Hecht (anniversary)	19 <sup>th</sup>	Indonesia
5 <sup>th</sup>	Asia & Pacific	20 <sup>th</sup>	Judith Wiles (birthday)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Nelson Kasten, Peter Durow (birthday)	21 <sup>st</sup>	Juanita Wyant (birthday)
7 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Harper (birthday) John & Bekki Cook (anniversary)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Stahly
8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvey Hecht	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Janna Tuck (birthday)
9 <sup>th</sup>	India	24 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Kim & Rebecca Nelson (anniversary)
10 <sup>th</sup>	LaVerne Slinkard (birthday)	25 <sup>th</sup>	Charles & Judy Wiles (anniversary)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Fern Harris (birthday)	26 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Jean Lange (birthday)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Sullivan, Missy Smith (birthday)	27 <sup>th</sup>	Japan
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sri Lanka	28 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Myra Peo (birthday)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Mueller, (birthday)	29 <sup>th</sup>	Philippines
15 <sup>th</sup>	Don & Sue McNeely (anniversary) Maybry Shaver (birthday)	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sue McNeely, Mary Harrison (birthday)
		31 <sup>st</sup>	Charles Hirsch, Lauren Bishop, Ruth Pautler (birthday)

### From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you! Help us to take care of your sheep. Help us to follow you to new places. Give us love for the lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# August 2015

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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## First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Dr. Kim L. Nelson, Pastor  
Sunday Service of Worship - 10:00 a.m.

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