



FIRST FACTS

Happy
New
Year

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · January 2015

To the many blessed Saints of First Presbyterian Church of Cape,

Your generosity this past year has been amazing! This was quite evident in your visible support of the children who reside at the AMEN Center and Presbyterian Home for Youth located in Farmington. Our church was able to contribute \$2,000 in the form of \$25.00 Target Gift Cards to the Presbyterian Youth Home. These gift cards will be distributed by the highly specialized counseling staff at the Home. Oftentimes youth arrive at the home with literally only the clothes on their back! Partners in ministry, like ourselves, are able to immediately step in so that the care and love of the wider church can be experienced by these youth who sometimes have never been loved and cared for as we hope every child would be. Clothing, personal and other items are able to be purchased because of your generosity. Thank you for being faithful followers of Christ!

The AMEN Center is physically much closer to us. On Monday, December 22, several members of our Church and our youth delivered Christmas gifts to children in the care of the AMEN Center. *(Also a special thanks to Dale Watkins who was our bus driver that cold and wet morning.)* Pastor Danny and his wife Shirley, the co-directors of the AMEN Center, were awestruck at the size and number of gifts that were delivered. This was going to be a very bleak Christmas for children and babies in their care. But their sadness turned to sounds of glee when they realized they had not been forgotten. They realized that a group of believers in Christ had graciously extended themselves to help make this Christmas special. On behalf of the families at the AMEN Center **THANK YOU!**

Another local opportunity of extending the Love of Christ to our 'neighbors' is on Super or 'Souper' Bowl Sunday, February 1. Our Church supports and contributes to the FISH Food Pantry. Some of our members volunteer their personal time there as well. Sarah Ross, Erica McBride, Nancy Bray, Dan Neely, Jean Cairns and possibly others have expressed their love of God by helping distribute food to the needy at FISH. We want to make sure that the shelves are well stocked during these cold winter months. We are collecting canned and non-perishable food during the entire month of January. *The site of this special collection will be at the foot of our Communion Table in the Sanctuary!* Each Sunday, or as many Sundays in January that you can, bring one or more cans of food to be donated to the FISH Food Pantry. It is hoped that by the first of February, the area around the Communion Table will be overflowing with our donations. I personally hope that we will have so many donations that the entire Chancel will be filled with can food and I will not be able to get to the pulpit! *(Now before you have any ideas what that might mean about my sermon, let me assure you that on Super-Souper Bowl Sunday I am preparing a very special sermon that I can preach from the aisle as well as from the pulpit!)*

If you would like to know more about FISH, please check the following page on our website

<http://www.firstpccape.org/id22.html> You also are encouraged to talk to one of our members who volunteers at FISH. God maybe calling you to serve the hungry of our community.

It has been said that the real story of Christmas begins December 26. After Christmas, after receiving God's Son, Jesus Christ, how does your life change? Our transformation or God's Invitation to become better than what we are, is at the root of the real Christmas story. The entire purpose of God's Incarnation, God becoming human, is to inspire and encourage people to live the way God intended. It is God's Hope that we each have a compassionate, generous, and grace-filled life. These are the qualities which are nurtured and exposed when people support programs like the Presbyterian Home for Children, the AMEN Center and FISH.

My prayer for you is that our new year is filled with tangible evidence of God's compassion in our community and world. I am excited to discover with you the multitude of other ways we can exhibit God's love.

In His Grace,
Pastor Kim

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" 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 "Early Grades Sunday School" Class, for children kindergarten through second grade, will study lessons based on stories from The Old Testament. The "Upper Grades Sunday School Class", for children third grade and above, will continue their study of Jesus and His Ministry. Both classes will meet in their classrooms upstairs following the "Kids' Message" in worship. The teachers of these classes will bring the children to the Narthex after the worship service is concluded.

ADULT CLASS: Pastor Kim will be leading an adult study beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 14, in the Church library. This one hour class will focus on the important theological elements of an adult faith experience. One of the topics for this year will be the study of Belhar Confession, the newest of the Confessions adopted by our national denomination and approved by this year's General Assembly in Detroit. It is a powerful confession addressing the issue of racism and reconciliation. It was written by our brothers and sisters in South Africa as they dealt with apartheid.

Sunday School-9 a.m.

Sunday Service of Worship- 10:30a.m.

Treasurer's Report As of December 31, 2014 Preliminary

General Fund

Year to Date Income	\$236,139
Year to Date Expenses	284,552
Expenses Greater than Income	48,413

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 @ 573-803-0085



FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

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.

Daytime Circle

The Daytime Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Chateau at 11:00 A.M. with Betty Bell serving as hostess. Please call Betty at 651-8420 or 450-0049 to let her know you can come so she can have an accurate lunch count.. We will begin a new study book this year on the Psalms but first Sina Kaiser will give an overview about the Psalms before we get into the book in February. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you. Books are available from Sharon Metcalfe @ \$13.00 each. Remember, too, that we are collecting personal care items for the challenged teenagers at Central High School and you may bring your contribution at that time.

Worship Attendance

December 7	96
December 14	101
December 21	74
December 28	79

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at the home of Sharon Metcalfe, 2916 Bella Vista at 7:00 P.M. The discussion will be on the book, "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please call Sharon at 651-5274 to let her know you can attend. The February book selection will be "All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr and will meet at the home of Ruth Needle.



Gather, Share and Eat

The first Gather, Share & Eat for 2015 will be on Sunday February 8th following Worship Service.

January Meal-a-Month

Two boxes of macaroni and cheese mix
Can of evaporated milk
Can of green beans
Can of peaches

Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

Charles Hopkins, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Wilma Dugger, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Alice Graefe, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Louis Sewell, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Barbara Port, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Martha Cairns, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Forest Slinkard, from Bob & Cherie Herbst
Jesse Jo Bryan, from Sina & Ed Kaiser
Bill Morgan Sr., from Daryl Henry, Judy Rueseler
Warren Rowland, from Don & Shirley Gibson
Jerry McNeely, from Robert Hirsch
Jane Antone, from Rev. & Rebecca Nelson

In Honor of Sandy Wilhelm, from Jean Cairns

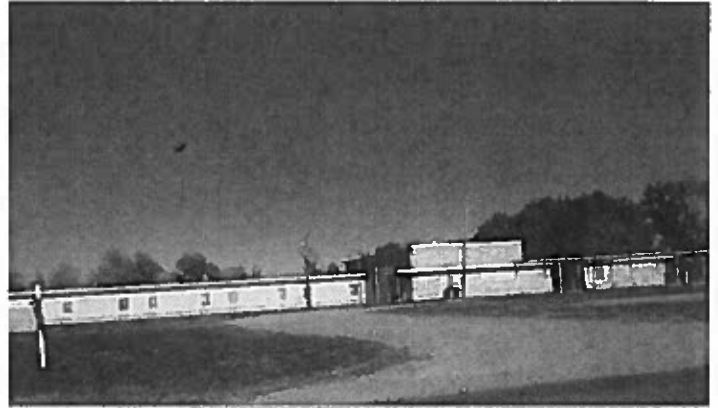


The Nativity Makes Appearance at Our Church

Thanks to the combined efforts of **John Folwell, Don Gibson, Horton Miller and Gina Thomas**, the new Nativity Scene made its debut this Advent Season. The handmade wooden structure was added to the previously made stable. Evening traffic on Broadway was slowed and most times was brought to a halt to allow people to pause for a few seconds and think about 'The Reason for the Season.' Gina Thomas added her professional electrical expertise to keep the Star and flood lights operating through the evening hours.

Carols filled the night air on Christmas Eve after our service when most of the congregation gathered near the Nativity scene to sing favorite Christmas melodies. Our prayer is as people traveled up and down Broadway this Advent that the seed of Faith was planted in their hearts and will come to fruition during this coming New Year.

AMEN CENTER



Thank You for the Big Time Hug you give to our homeless Children.

Little boys and girls arrive here afraid, lonely, and cold. With your support we reassure each child they will be OK.

We convey your love so they know they are not forgotten.

Thank you. You provide them with a safe place to live... a chance for a brighter future.

We want you to understand how thankful they are.

Since September, 2011 you have made a difference in the lives of over 1250 homeless people.

These children and families need your help. Please continue your sacrificial help. So we can continue to say, "The Lord Provides".

Think how you will feel, knowing you helped these children and families in their hour of need.



Did You Notice the new additions?
During the Advent Season our new Maintenance Superintendent, Gina Thomas (Wonder Woman in her previous life) installed antique cross hangers on each of our wooden doors. These were used to hang our Christmas wreaths and most people did not have the opportunity to notice their presence. Previously, rusted nails protruded from each door to hang seasonal decorations. Gina found 3 of these door hangers, purchased them on her own and installed them during Advent. *Gina, thank you for generously making such a great improvement to all three of our beautiful wooden doors.*



Annual Meeting of our Congregation

The Session of our Church has set **Sunday, February 8**, after worship in the Fellowship Hall as the official Annual Meeting of our Congregation. A luncheon will proceed the meeting and the luncheon is being planned by the Fellowship Committee which is co-chaired by Caroline Manuel and Joyce Rayfield.

Our published 2014 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 25, provided that all reports are submitted on time. As a reminder, if you are the moderator or chairperson of a committee or activity of the Church, *your 2014 Annual Report is due to the Church Office by Monday, January 5.* Please send your electronic version of your report in Microsoft Word format to the church office at fpresbyt@sbcglobal.net or bring it to the office on a thumb-drive so that we can transfer your report to our church's computer.



Christmas Caroling

On December 14th, 2-5pm, a dozen and half or so members from First Presbyterian Church caroled at home bound members. This picture shows some of the people that went. This annual event lifts spirit. Hope more members can join in next year.

Our Stewardship Minute for January 2015



What is that First Envelope in My Offering Booklet For?—An Explanation of our denominational Per Capita Apportionment

You may have noticed an envelope at the front of your “My Offering” packet labeled “Per Capita.” Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, “Exactly what does per capita do?” Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$30.29) that our congregation pays to our denomination, the 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:

- *Does our congregation want to benefit from relationships and cooperation with other Presbyterian churches across the country?* Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterian Teaching (ministers) and Ruling Elders gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- *Does our congregation want to be involved in mission work throughout the world, sharing the gospel in all parts of the earth?* 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 gatherings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those critical and important relationships for effect mission.
- *Do we want to benefit from helpful Presbyterian resources such as the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions?* Your per capita pays for producing these basic resources, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- *Do we want future generations to learn about our congregation’s present work (e.g., anniversary celebrations, membership rolls, session actions)?* Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- *Do we want pastors who are well prepared to lead our congregations?* Your per capita funds the preparations, administering and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- *Do we want well-trained leaders for our presbyteries, synods and General Assembly and more?* Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.

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 paid your share of \$30.29 for each confirmed member of your household. By contributing your portion of Per Capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the ministry/work of our congregation in this community. There are members of our congregation that are unable to pay their per capita. We are committed to remit our full share to our denomination. ***You may wish to consider paying your own per capita and an additional one.*** If each member able to pay were to do that, our entire per capita apportionment contribution would be covered. We hope we can count on you!



POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY
IN MEMORY OF

Mr & Mrs A.P. Rueseler, from Ruth Knot

Charlie Knot & Barbara Knot Head, from Ruth Knot

Charles, Sam & Mark, from Dixie Hopkins

Fred Goodwin, from Virginia Goodwin

Vince Rueseler, from his wife, Kitty

Our Parents, from Horton & Carol Miller

Austin & Martha Cairns, her parents from Jean Cairns

Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from their daughter, Nancy Bray

Our Parents, from Don & Shirley Gibson

Janet, his wife, from Freck Shivelbine

Bob and Naomi Earley, from Joan & Bill Morgan

*Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. John L & Jessie Wescoat & Raymond & Helen Ritter and Son, John L Ritter, M.D,
from Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Ritter*

George & Dorothy Penzel, from Bill & Georganne Syler

Warren Rowland, brother-in-law, from Peter & Peg Hirschburg

Louis Sewell, from Betty Sewell

Mark R., Sam S. (Brothers) & Charles Hopkins (Dad), from Sarah Hopkins

Both our Parents, from Harvey & Lea Hecht

John & Geneva George, from Joyce Rayfield

Our Parents, from Marlana & Jerry Pind

Madge Sample, from Gina Thomas

Fred Henry (Father) & Dwayne Henry (Brother), from Daryl Henry

John B Spencer, from Annabelle Spencer

POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY
IN HONOR OF

Our families, from Paul & Ruth Pautler

Sarah & Gregg Hopkins from Dixie Hopkins

Our children & grandchildren, from Horton & Carol Miller

Our Family, from Marlana & Jerry Pind

January 2015

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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