



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · February 2017

Looking Back and Looking Forward

The new year is off to a running start! January flew by for me and February is a short month. In January the Session met for a Saturday retreat to reflect on our priorities for the year. I'm excited thinking about the year ahead.



In the life of the church the next major event is our annual congregational meeting on February 12th. We will review the previous year and look to the future. You accomplished a lot in 2016 that set the course for the way ahead. There are parts of 2016 that you'd probably rather not remember but rehearsing the past offers opportunities for celebration, reflection, repentance, and forgiveness. All of that is necessary as we set our eyes toward the future to which God is calling this faith community. Speaking of that, at the annual meeting we will elect the Pastor Nominating Committee to seek your next installed pastor!

In the meantime, the Session is working to structure our ministries to be more efficient and effective with more emphasis on ministry and less on meetings. We're also developing a budget that reflects our foundational commitments to mission, worship, and faith formation by shifting resources from administration and operations and lowering those expenses. This will be a transitional year in that process. You'll hear more about it at the annual meeting.

March 1st will be here before long. That is Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent. We are planning an evening series during Lent to kick off on Ash Wednesday with a light meal and a speaker in addition to worship. Look for more information about that soon.

Also during Lent we will be inviting potential new members to prepare to be received into active membership in the church. We have as many as six young people considering confirmation and a number of adults who will be invited to consider active membership. If you know of potential new members, please encourage them to talk to me and to participate in a new member class to learn more about us and determine if now is the time to commit to active membership. Something to look forward to, we expect to receive new members on Palm Sunday.

I hope you are excited about the church and what the future holds. First Presbyterian has a storied past but God is not done with this congregation. I'm convinced that your best days are still ahead. I give thanks to God for your faith demonstrated in regular acts of loving service and generous giving to Jesus Christ through the ministries of this church.

Faithfully,

Pastor Terry

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 Children and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) is studying a series of lessons about "The Life of Jesus". The lessons this semester will focus on the early year's of Jesus's life, his Baptism, his teaching, and choosing his disciples. The class meets in the classroom next to the nursery. The Junior High Class is using *The Good News Bible* for a study of the 66 books of the Bible. The class looks at each book of the Bible and what lessons and stories it teaches. They are keeping a journal of important Bible verses. This class meets in their classroom on the second floor. **ALL CHILDREN IN WORSHIP ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THESE CLASSES.**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the adult library. We have several chapters left to study from the book "Pray like Jesus" by John R. Brookfield. Each week we will read a chapter on our own time and return on the next Sunday to discuss it. There are books available in the office if you are interested. If you have any questions contact Jeanne Hirsch or Melissa Harris.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session January 22, 2017

1. Elected Elder Charles Wiles as Treasurer for a second year and elected Elder Nancy Bray, now a non-voting member of the Session, as Clerk.
2. Reinstated the Executive Committee of the Session to include the Pastor, Clerk, and Treasurer and 2 Elders elected by the Session. For 2017 the Elders are Mike Brown and Janna Tuck.
3. Voted to call a Special Session Meeting after church on Sunday, February 5, to continue working on a balanced budget and restructuring of Session committees.
4. Treasurer Wiles announced the Endowment Fund Committee will be able to transfer \$30,348 from investments to our 2017 operating budget.
5. Pastor Epling announced a Confirmation Class of about 6 youth is being organized, and in his absence on February 26, Pastor Sam Roethemeyer will preach.
6. With Presbytery's provisional approval of our Mission Study, plans were made to include election of a PNC in the Annual Congregational Meeting February 12, 2017 being called by the Session.

Annual Congregational Meeting February 12

The Session has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held following worship on Sunday, February 12, 2017. During the meeting, the 2017 Budget will be presented along with written reports from all the 2016 Session committees. Elders who just completed their term on the Session will be recognized as will some Property Committee members.

In addition, the Nominating Committee will nominate 5 members who are willing, if elected, to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). They include: Sharon McCune, Joanna Shaver, Evelyn Stover, Georganne Syler and Charles Wiles. Information about each of them follows.

SHARON MCCUNE: Sharon has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1988. She has served on the Evangelism and Property committees and is currently a member of the Fellowship, Christian Outreach and Nominating committees. For 17 years, she was employed as the church's Office Manager and involved in all aspects of the church's activities and operations. Sharon has been married to Sam McCune for 48 years, and they have two daughters, Kelli and Kristen. Kelli and her husband live in Poplar Bluff and have three children, and Kristen lives in Cape.

JOANNA SHAVER: Joanna has been a lifelong Presbyterian and a member of First Presbyterian since she transferred from her home church in Memphis, TN, nearly nine years ago. She has served as our church's Wedding Coordinator for several years and just completed a term on the Session. As an Elder, she chaired and co-chaired the Worship and Art Committee. Joanna is married to Phil Shaver, and they are parents to seven-year-old Mabry Caroline. An employee of Southeast Missouri State University for 16 years, Joanna is the Coordinator for Campus Programming. Functions she coordinates include the University Speakers Series, the Homecoming Parade, Community Service Program and other student events.

EVELYN STOVER: Evelyn and her husband Bill joined our church March 13, 1966, when Dr. C. E. Mount baptized them and their three sons during the worship service. She has served several times as both a Deacon and an Elder. Evelyn has also been a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, a Circle Leader and founding member of a Prayer Group for women. Before retiring in 2013, she worked 15 years as Manager of Design Associates and 19 years as Michael Rust's Assistant at Rust and Martin. After retiring, she became her husband's fulltime caregiver until Bill's passing in 2016. Her family with Bill includes three sons and daughters-in-law, two grandsons, a granddaughter-in-law and two great-granddaughters.

GEORGANNE PENZEL SYLER: Georganne is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church. She is a graduate of Cape Public Schools and Southeast Missouri State University. She is a Registered Dietitian who received her PhD from Southern Illinois University and is a retired Southeast Missouri State University Professor now actively involved in community service. She and Bill Syler have been married almost 46 years and have two daughters, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren who are two to seven years in age. She has served as a Deacon and Elder and on the Executive/Personnel, Christian Education and Fellowship committees. Presently she is on the Mission and Endowment Fund committees. She chaired the PNC which called Paul Kabo as our pastor. Georganne is proud to say her late Mother was the third woman in our church elected to be an Elder.

CHARLES WILES: Charles is serving as an Elder for the second time and as Treasurer for the second year. He served on the Executive/Personnel Committee two years during his first term on the Session and is on that committee again. He chaired the Communications Committee three years and presently serves on the Finance Committee and the Endowment Fund committees. Charles was on staff at Southeast Missouri State University and retired as a Professor and Administrator after 40 years. During 1993-94, he served as President of Optimist International. While a Board member, Vice President, President-elect and President, he traveled to all 50 states, 8 Canadian Provinces and 14 foreign countries. Charles, the father of two grown daughters and grandfather of five, is married to Judy Wiles, who chairs the University's Marketing and Management Department.

Remember to Turn In Pledge Cards/Per Capita Donations Welcomed

Please remember to turn in your pledge card within the next week if possible. You can drop it in the collection plate this Sunday; mail it in; or call the church office. The Session needs the pledge amount to finalize the 2017 budget for the Annual Meeting on Feb 12.

In addition to your pledge to the church, you are asked to consider donating your per capita assessment. Each year the higher councils of the church divide their administrative expenses among the members of congregations. This is called a *per capita* assessment. Each member chips in a small amount that adds up to enough to support the work of the larger church.

For 2017 our per capita is \$30.51 per member. Most of that stays locally to fund our Presbytery (\$20.50). A small portion goes to fund the Synod (\$2.72) and General Assembly (\$7.29).

Per Capita ensures that the administrative functions of the church continue. For example, this year we will draw heavily on the resources of Presbytery to assist us with the pastoral search. The Synod will continue to produce high quality video resources to assist us with confirmation and new member orientation. The General Assembly is preparing for its gathering in St. Louis in 2018 and will hold the Big Tent Conference in St. Louis this summer.

We encourage you to pay the per capita assessment for yourself and the members of your family. If you are able to contribute more than the \$30.51 per person please do so. It will assist those members who are unable to pay their portion. Mark your check "per capita" and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. There is an envelope for per capita in your box of church envelopes.



Prayer Emphasis in February

This month the Christian Outreach Team encourages us to be in prayer around these themes:

Week One for our Scouts in Troop 4 and Pack 15 – let's pray for families and ways the church can support the faith development of young people.

Week Two for our church as we elect a Pastor Nominating Committee – let's pray for spiritual discernment as we seek pastoral leadership to guide us to realize God's dream for our church and community.

Week Three for our nation as we observe President's Day – let's pray for leadership that overcomes partisan loyalties and works toward a unifying vision of liberty and justice for all.

Week Four for the promise of new life – let's pray, as the first signs of Spring emerge, with hope for all the places that need renewal, healing, and resurrection.



The next Gather, Share & Eat will be Sunday, February 12 following worship service. We will be doing something a little different with this meal. The meal will be a brunch with breakfast casserole, french toast casserole and fruit.

IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT!

Please call office and let them know that you will attend!

First Facts Newsletter

If you have something to be published in First Facts please have it to the office by the 25th of each month, preferably emailed.

**“I am the resurrection and the life”
Jack Earl Wyant
October 7, 1929-January 20, 2017**



Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

- Pat Tlapek**, from Mary P Harrison
- Betty Parker**, from Madge Ridings
- Jack Wyant**, from Paul & Alice Kabo, John & Jeannie Hirsch

In Honor of

Ruth Needle, from Kilja Israel



To the First Presbyterian Church,
Thanks to all of you for the phone calls, offers to help in any way, for the visits. Thanks for your love, caring, and kindness. You will never know just how much it comforted me. Thank you for the cards also.

In His love, Juanita Wyant



February Meal-a-Month

- 2 Cans of Chicken Noodle Soup
- 2 Cans of Apple Sauce
- Box of Crackers



The next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 pm at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. The book for discussion is “The Muralist” by E.A. Shapiro. The March meeting will be on Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 at the home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is “Woman of God” by James Patterson. The April date is Thursday, April 6 at the home of Jeanne Hirsch with the book being “The Road to Little Dribbling” by Bill Bryson.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship and celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



Troop 4 has two new Eagle Scouts.

Everyone is invited to the Eagle Court of Honor for Hunter Parrish and Philip Francis on Monday, February 13, 7:00 pm in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Reception will follow.



You are invited to a Trivia Night, sponsored by Friends of Troop 4, Friday, March 10, 7pm, 232 Broadway, (Activity Center). \$10 per person, Reserve a table for 8, by calling Sharon@ 573-625-1016 or email sharonwessel65@gmail.com Light refreshments will be sold or bring your own. Cash prizes award to the top three teams! Individuals wanting to play but do not have a team are welcome and will be placed on a team upon arrival.



**Farmington Presbyterian Children's Home
Christmas Project**

Our Christmas project for the Presbyterian Children's Home in Farmington was very successful again this year. Thanks to your generosity we were able to take 46 \$25.00 Walmart gift cards for a total gift of \$1150.00 to the Children's Home. Many of the children arrive without even a pair of shoes or a coat. The cards are especially helpful to allow the staff to meet the needs of the children as they come in and throughout the year. Again, thank you to everyone for sharing your Christian love with the children in Farmington!



Mission Plans

The Mission Committee wants to give you a heads-up on another event.

We are planning another Rummage Sale for September '17. Begin thinking along those lines. We will be available to pick up your gently-used furniture or household items beginning in January. No clothing please.

We are looking forward to another successful sale. If you have questions, call Georganne Syler at 450-0213 or Donna Pikey at 335-8908.



The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming!

The Super Bowl Game is February 5, 2017; this is the Sunday when millions of dollars will be spent on advertisements for food and beverages—last year's cost was \$4 million dollars for a 30 second ad. Your mission committee will be collecting dollars and canned goods for the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday on January 29th and February 5th, 2017. As we contemplate the enormous amount of money spent for entertainment and (mostly) junk food at that time, we are asking you to share with the hungry in our community on these Sundays. One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to the FISH Food pantry here in Cape. I urge you to skip the Doritos and beer and share with your neighbors!
Georganne Syler



Children and Families "Fun and Games Party

Sunday, January 29th, the Christian Education Committee hosted a "Fun and Games Party" from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the church. The children, parents, and friends got together to play games, work puzzles and play together. Pastor Terry brought a popcorn machine to add to the fun. Everyone enjoyed some indoor winter fun together!

FEBRUARY 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.

- 1ST Jacob Harrison (birthday)
- 2ND Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
- 3RD Hanmi Presbytery
- 4TH Brucee Woods (birthday)
- 5TH Presbytery of the Pacific
- 6TH Presbytery of Riverside
- 7TH David Brown, Paul Pautler (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of San Gabriel
- 9TH Presbytery of San Fernando
- 10TH Jeanne Hirsch (birthday)
- 11TH Presbytery of Santa Barbara
- 12TH Elsie Jane Harris (birthday)
- 13TH Latin America and the Caribbean
- 14TH Jim Hirsch (birthday)
Bob & Ann Parkinson, Ray & Sandy Wilhelm (anniversary)
- 15TH Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay
- 16TH Brasil
- 17TH Rob Williams
- 18TH Chile
- 19TH Benjamin Broeckling (birthday)
- 20TH Sam McCune (birthday)
- 21ST Peru
- 22ND Bolivia
- 23RD Colombia
- 24TH Venezuela
- 25TH Caribbean Islands
- 26TH Presbytery of San Diego
- 27TH Dominican Republic
- 28TH Haiti

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.

February 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
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