



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · January 2016

Dear Compassionate Followers of Jesus Christ,

In the glowing aftermath of this past Advent and Christmas season, my heart is full when I think of the many people that the love and compassion of this congregation has touched. It took a caravan of vehicles and people to deliver the multitude of gifts and Christmas greetings emanating from our congregation.

Many of your ovens at home this past month were busy making Christmas cookies for delivery to the members of the congregation who are unable to regularly attend worship or living with long-term illnesses. Kudos to the Congregational Care Committee for the gracious efforts to visit each one's home, delivery homemade cookies and share to Good News of Christmas with a long time member.

The following Sunday many of those visited earlier in the week received our Church Carolers who sang Christmas songs. Our Church Bus provided transportation with the capable driving skills of Bryan Harris. Smiles of Christmas joy were evident of those that we visited. Many close-by neighbors came out of their apartments and homes to hear our Carolers. So the Good News of Christ was shared with many beyond our church roles.

Christmas stars decorated our narthex Christmas Tree. Each star represented a significant gift to the children and their parents at the AMEN Center as residences of the Farmington Children's Home. Stuffed vehicles departed from our church under the carefully driving skills of Mike and Kathy Brown. I can only imagine the surprise and joy of those children and their parents gazed upon the abundance of gifts on Christmas morn.

Thank you to each of you who contributed to spreading Christmas Joy through our church. Each of acts of kindness remind me of a quote about 'Emmanuel.'

And the step from "God with them" to Emmanuel, "God with us," may not be as great as it seems. What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us and our own snowbound, snow blind longing for him.

- Originally published in *A Room Called Remember* by Frederick Buechner

'God is with us' whenever our acts of grace overflow and touch the lives of others. Maybe, just maybe, that is what Church is all about. May your acts of compassion continue to reveal 'God with us.'

Graciously in His Name,
Pastor Kim L. Nelson

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: Both Children’s Sunday School Classes will begin their new studies on Sunday, September 13th. They will continue to meet after the Kid’s Message in worship. The Lower Grade’s Class will meet in their classroom next to the Nursery, Kathy Woodfin and Cherie Herbst will be teaching this class. The curriculum will focus on “The Stories of the Old Testament” based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Upper Grade’s Class will meet in their classroom on the second floor. Their curriculum will focus on studying “The Parables of Jesus”. This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, Kate Broeckling and Julie Harrison.

ADULT CLASS: Bible 101-a survey course, taught by Pastor Kim, covering the entire Bible, its history, context, tools of interpretation. Answering the questions about the Bible but you were afraid to ask!

**Sunday School-9:30a.m.
Sunday Service of Worship- 10:30a.m.**

Treasurer’s Report As of November 30, 2015 Preliminary

General Fund

Year to Date Income	\$177,300
Year to Date Expenses	254,662
Expenses Greater than Income	77,362

Investments

Permanent Endowment	\$251,864
Restricted Investments	23,092
General Fund Savings	291,953
Presbyterian Investment	133,718

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.

Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

Don McNeely, from Ann Bartlett, Sarah Barks, Patricia Strom, Dorothy Grimm, Leland Shivelbine, Sharon Metcalfe, David & Susan Harrison, Wyn Hirsch-Ward, Evelyn & Bill Stover, Alice & Paul Kabo.



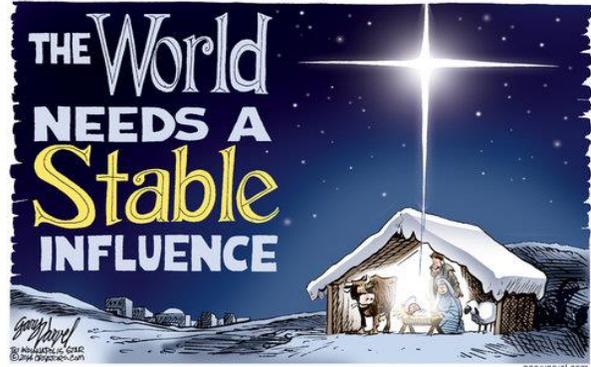
Daytime Circle

The Daytime Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in the Chateau dining room at 11:00 A.M. We will order off the menu and each person will be responsible for their own lunch.

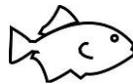
January's discussion will be Lesson 7 from our study book "PSALMS" by Sue Edwards. And yes, it is the same one listed as our program for November, but we did not do it at that time. This chapter will cover Psalm 103, so if you would like to join us, but do not have a study book, by reading this Psalm you will be ready to participate in the discussion. If you plan to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651-5274 or Ruth Needle at 334-4515 and let one of them know you are coming so that arrangements may be made for a table big enough to accommodate all of us.

Worship Attendance

December 6	101
December 13	99
December 20	93
December 27	52



The Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the home of Sandy Wilhelm. The book discussion will be on Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman". The February meeting will be on Thursday, February 11 on the book "The Confessor" by Dan Silva. For the month of March, the book "All Fall Down" by Jennifer Weiner will be discussed on Thursday, March 10. The meeting places for February and March have not been finalized.

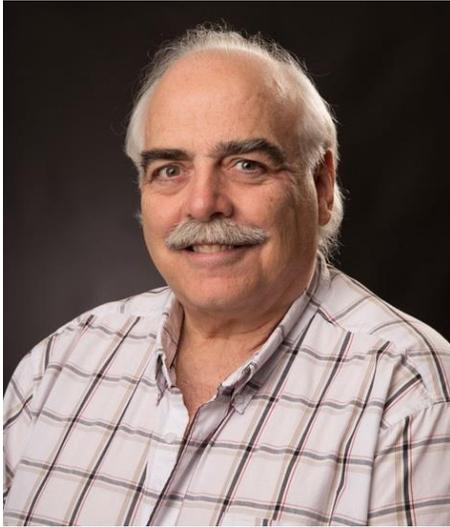


January Meal-a-Month

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



Kids Christmas Party



Charlie Hirsch

The Employee of the Year Award was presented to Charlie Hirsch, manager of University Receiving. Hirsch was honored for making the impossible, possible. The Employee of the Year Award recognizes an individual that has done the extraordinary for the benefit of the University community and the academic family. "Perhaps you have a story about some office supply that you just had to have, and somehow Charlie not only found it for you, but he found it at a more economical price than what you've been paying," said Dr. Carlos Vargas, president of Southeast Missouri State University. In reading from a nomination from fellow staff members Lisa Smith, Heather Lesch, Carol Kitchen and Janice Bittle, Vargas lauded Hirsch for going the extra mile "to deliver a package that you just had to have or stayed late to accept a package that just has to get out." Vargas commended Hirsch for his outstanding relationship with vendors, his quick wit and friendliness. "Charlie has always been and continues to be one of the greatest cheerleaders for our institution," he said. "He has hired, trained, and mentored hundreds of student workers, who, to this day, keep in touch with him. And I guarantee, his former students know the meaning of the word 'timeliness.'" One of Hirsch's nominator's wrote that from time to time, people have bad days, "except Charlie Hirsch – he is never too busy or grumpy or short when he answers the phone".



Donna Pikey

Thank-you

It is with deep appreciation that we recognize Donna Pikey for her 12 years of continuous service as editor of our First Facts newsletter. She has faithfully completed each month's newsletter no matter what was going on in her personal life. We will miss Donna's capable, careful and creative execution of her editorial duties.

The December issue of First Facts was her last one to design and edit. When you have the opportunity, please tell Donna "thank you" for a job well done since 2003!

Annual Meeting of our Congregation

The Session of our Church has set **Sunday, February 7**, 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 chaired by Caroline Manuel.

Our published 2015 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 31, 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 2015 Annual Report is due to the Church Office by Monday, January 4.* 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.



**POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN PLACED
IN THE SANCTUARY**

IN MEMORY OF

Mr & Mrs A.P. Rueseler, from Ruth Knot
Charles Knot & Barbara Knot Head, from Ruth Knot
Charles, Sam & Mark Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
Our Parents, from Horton & Carol Miller
Austin & Martha Cairns, her parents from Jean Cairns
Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from their daughter, Nancy Bray
Margaret Cruse, from Annabelle Spencer
Father & Mother, from Freck Shivelbine
Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. John L & Jessie Wescoat, Raymond & Helen Ritter and Son, John L Ritter, M.D., from Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Ritter.
Louis Sewell, from Betty Sewell
Our Parents, Harry & Wanda Hecht, Byrland & Clea Jarrett from Harvey & Lea Hecht
Fred Henry (Father) & Dwayne Henry (Brother), from Daryl Henry
Betty Sitter, from Ralph Sitter
Donald T. McNeely, from Nancy Bray
Lorna E Mueller, from her Grandchildren
Bill Stickler & Mother Velma, from Martha, wife, & son Wayne Stickler
Jack & Dixie Himmelberger, her parents, from Bob & Donna Pikey
Lynn Gerard, from his family
Our parents, from Don & Shirley Gibson
Vince Rueseler, from Kitty Rueseler

**POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE
SANCTUARY**

IN HONOR OF

Our families, from Paul & Ruth Pautler
Our children & grandchildren, from Horton & Carol Miller
Donna Pikey for her 12 years as First Facts Editor, from Nancy Bray
Judy Rueseler, from Nancy Bray
Kitty Rueseler, for her 90th Birthday, from Nancy Bray
First Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau, for Sponsorship of scouts for over 90 years, from Sarah Russell
Our Children and Grandchildren, from Pete & Peg Hirschburg
Shirley Sullivan, Church Secretary Extraordinaire, from Jean Cairns
My parents, Geno/Debbie Broeckling, from John, Kate, Ben, Emma Broeckling
Sarah and Gregg Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins



The Cub Scouts have been very busy throughout the month of December spreading cheer and love to others. The Scouts made Christmas Cards for the Veteran's at the Veteran's Home and delivered them during their evening meal on December 15th. Scouts and Parents donated items for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The Scouts packed 15 shoe boxes for boys ages 10-14 that contained toys, school supplies, socks, hats, and hygiene supplies. The Cub Scouts also participated in the Feed My Starving Children Mobile food packing event. The boys did an amazing job. We packed 19 boxes of manna packs during the two hour shift. Each box contained 36 manna packs. During the entire weekend enough meals were packed to feed 2590 children one meal a day for an entire year! Amazing. Scouts collected over 40 new toys and donated them to the Marine Corp League Toys for Tots program.



Troop 4 spent much of December getting back to basics before things start to pick up after the 1st of the year. Meetings were devoted toward the best way to pack a hiking pack, what is needed for cold weather camping and competitions over 8 basic scout knots. The December campout included a hike down the Cape Trail with a fully loaded hiking backpacks, cooking with a backpacking stove, practicing hatchet usage and fire building.

Our Stewardship Minute for January 2016



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, \$30.34) 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 \$30.34 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!

JANUARY 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 Synod of Rocky Mountain
- 2ND Presbytery of Denver
- 3RD Presbytery of Glacier
- 4TH Yellowstone Presbytery
- 5TH Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
- 6TH Presbytery of Pueblo
- 7TH Bill Port (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of Western Colorado
- 9TH Georganne Syler (birthday) Oliver & Caroline Manuel (anniversary)
- 10TH The Presbytery of Utah
- 11TH Cherokee Presbytery
- 12TH Synod of South Atlantic
- 13TH Central Florida Presbytery
- 14TH Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
- 15TH Ruth Needle, Lisa Bishop (birthday)
- 16TH Flint River Presbytery
- 17TH Presbytery of Florida
- 18TH Lizbe Knote (birthday)
- 19TH Christian Unity
- 20TH Joan Slaughter (birthday)
- 21ST Horton Miller, Jodi Durow (birthday)
- 22ND Presbytery of New Harmony
- 23RD Marlena Pind (birthday)
- 24TH Peace River Presbytery
- 25TH John & Jeanne Hirsch (anniversary)
- 26TH Kate Broeckling (birthday)
- 27TH Savannah Presbytery
- 28TH Presbytery of St. Augustine
- 29TH Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- 30TH Trinity Presbytery
- 31ST The Presbytery of Tropical Florida

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Lord, we are willing to face the challenge of mission, even when this means the sacrifice of our resources, possessions, and structure. May the Spirit who came upon you come upon us as we minister to your people, especially those who are overlooked and forgotten. For your mission is our mission. Amen.

January 2016

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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