



FIRST FACTS



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

Lent: Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City

It is no accident that our church is located on the corner of Broadway and Lorimier. We've been here a long time. At crucial moments we've considered relocating and decided to stay. We now worship in the third sanctuary built on this site. The prior two buildings were torn down and replaced.



In real estate the standard is "location, location, location." Clearly this church has decided that this is the right location. This is where God wants First Presbyterian Church to be. From this corner the congregation has been a leader in the growth, development, and welfare of the city. Just some highlights:

the first public library was housed in our church beginning in 1908;

the first public schools began here in 1912;

Cape's first Boy Scout Troop (1924) and Girl Scout Troop (1928) were chartered here;

and, Chateau Girardeau Retirement Community was developed by this church in 1979.

In each new era Presbyterians have seen a need in our city and set to work to address it as an extension of our civic-minded faith. This commitment is in our DNA going back to John Calvin who was both pastor of the church in Geneva and mayor of the city. Our faith compels us to serve the community. Of course, our community and its needs have changed over time. It is important for us to remain engaged and to listen for the call of God for this generation. Our Lenten series, *Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City* will help us begin that discernment.

On three evenings in Lent we'll gather for a time of community building with a simple supper provided by our Fellowship Team and brief worship in the sanctuary. Then, we've invited three community leaders to address us about the pressing issues facing our city and region. I hope you'll come and together discern how our church's story is woven into the fabric of the region's future as tightly as it has been in the past.

Many things have changed over the years since our founding in 1835 but one thing has remained the same. Since 1855 our church bell has sounded its bright call from this corner. Every Sunday the bell announces that we are here in the heart of the city. That bell is our call to worship, but its clear tones reverberate like waves over the city. Our worship should also propel us out in service and mission to our city, our region, and the world.



May these 40 days of Lent bring us vision and courage to answer God's call, wherever the Spirit leads us next.

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 years 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.**

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session February 21, 2017

1. Received information from Pastor Epling and the Executive Committee about 2017 Lenten Series " Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of this City" and the speakers for March 1,15 and April 13. A class for prospective new youth and adult members will be held during Lent, and the new members will be introduced during worship on Palm Sunday, April 9.
2. Approved request from Centenary Methodist Church for a certificate of transfer of Ed Kaiser's membership from our church to Centenary, at his request
3. Voted to support Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery with a donation of \$2.00 per member (144 members at this time) in 2017 and 2018 to assist with PC(USA) General Assembly to be held in St. Louis in 2018.
4. Accepted with regret and gratitude for her faithful service the resignation of Barbara Calvin from the Session Class of 2018 and referred the vacancy to the Nominating Committee.
5. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, March 19, 2017, to receive the Nominating Committee's report and elect an Elder to fill the unexpired term in the Session Class of 2018.
6. Pastor Epling will schedule the first meeting of our church's new Pastor Nominating Committee as early in March as possible to orient them to their duties and begin developing our Ministry Information Form.



LENT:

Seeking the Heart of God In the Heart of the City

First Presbyterian Church

235 Broadway

Wednesday, March 1st

Wednesday, March 15th

Thursday, April 13th

6:00 p.m. Supper, Worship & Guest Speaker

RSVP to 335-2579 or sign up at church



Per Capita Donations Welcome Now! Just a reminder that your per capita donation would be appreciated at this time. 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. 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.

Available in the Narthex or the Office

2016 Annual Report

2017 First Presbyterian Church Directory



Please Remember

As the Spring Cleaning bug hits you and you're in the mood to do some cleaning out, don't forget our Rummage Sale this fall.

The Mission Committee will be happy to pick up items you don't need or use anymore. No clothing. Just call Georganne Syler (450-0213) or Donna Pikey (335-8908) for more information.



New Member Lunch-- If you're considering becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church and want to know more, plan to have lunch with Pastor Terry after church on Sunday, March 5th. It will involve an informal conversation about the church. You'll be joined by five young people who are also becoming members. We plan to welcome new members in worship on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Let Shirley in the church office know you plan to attend by calling 335-2579 or emailing fpresbyt@sbcglobal.net.



Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

Jack Wyant, Shirley & Don Gibson, Raymond & Ann Ritter, Joan Slaughter, Jerry & Marlana Pind, John & Bekki Cook,

Hermena Mattox, from Madge Ridings, Jerry & Marlana Pind,

Walker Irvin, from Madge Ridings, Don & Shirley Gibson, Jerry & Marlana Pind, Nelson Kasten,

Betty Dunklin, from John & Bekki Cook



March Meal-a-Month

2 Cans of Tuna

Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup

Canned Fruit of Choice

Dear First Presbyterian Church:

Thank you very much for the recent contribution (from Souper Bowl Sunday) that you made to the FISH Volunteers of Cape Girardeau for the FISH Food Pantry in the amount of \$1,405.50. The Mission of the FISH Food Pantry is to help hungry people in Cape Girardeau. By assisting families with food, we hope to help them expand their spending dollars for other needs.

Thank you again for your contribution which will certainly be used in the fulfillment of our mission.

Sincerely,
Bob Sheets, Treasurer



The next meeting for the Book Club will be 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 on Tuesday, March 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.



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 awarded 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.



EASTER LILIES:

Easter Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16th . They may be purchased for (\$8.00 each) in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. The deadline for ordering is Friday, April 7th .

Please complete this form and return it to the church along with your check or cash.

I/We wish to purchase an Easter lily.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

From _____

Enclosed \$ _____ For _____ Lilies

MARCH 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.



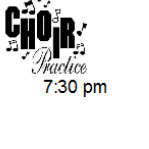






- 1ST Gina Thomas
- 2ND Cuba
- 3RD Nicaragua
- 4TH Costa Rica
- 5TH Honduras
- 6TH El Salvador
- 7TH Guatemala
- 8TH Betty Sewell (birthday)
- 9TH Judy Rueseler, Jo Renfrow (birthday)
- 10TH Bryan Harris, Rachel Knapp (birthday)
- 11TH Judy Brown (birthday)
- 12TH Presbytery de Cristo
- 13TH The Presbytery of Grand Canyon
- 14TH Presbytery of Sierra Blanca
- 15TH Presbytery of Sante Fe
- 16TH Judith Farris (birthday)
- 17TH Synod of the Sun
- 18TH Dusti & Tami Miller (anniversary)
- 19TH Cimarron Presbytery
- 20TH Phillip & Joanna Shaver (anniversary)
- 21ST Grace Presbytery
- 22ND Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
- 23RD Sheri Mitchell (birthday)
Bob & Donna Pikey (anniversary)
- 24TH Ann Bartlett (birthday)
- 25TH Ruby Rice, Ricky Ruditys (birthday)
- 26TH Palo Duro Presbytery
- 27TH Presbytery of the Pines
- 28TH The Presbytery of South Louisiana
- 29TH The Presbytery of Tres Rios
- 30TH Synod of the Trinity
- 31ST Byron & Wyn Ward (anniversary)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

March 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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