



# FIRST FACTS



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To the Faithful Members of the Body of Christ at First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau,

“The Second to Last Word”

One of the tendencies that pastoral counselors try to determine with the clients (or parishioners) is “who usually gets the last word.”

There are always ‘little games’ in the discourse of every relationship. The types of relationships are not limited to just those found in a home but also include those found in our families of our childhood, work place, casual and professional ones, friendship-short and long term, and some say, even in very short, inconsequential relationships such as our relationships with a store or bank clerk or postal person. Determining ‘who gets the last word,’ is question of self-esteem, power, respect, authority and, I would say most importantly, it is a question of **FAITH**.

The Biblical scene of Jesus’ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane has always drawn me like a theological magnet to a place of significance in my spiritual journey (Matthew 26:36-46). It is read in worship during Passion Week, usually on Maundy Thursday. However, I find myself being drawn to it over and over again regardless of the liturgical time of year, for it’s not Jesus who has the final word but GOD, His **FATHER** and the first ‘article of the Trinity.’ It is Jesus the Messiah that boldly and sacrificially reminds us that GOD has the final word, not Jesus, not the disciples, not armies or political powers and, definitely, not us! The content of our prayers is the indicator of who is in charge. Are we seeking (discerning) God’s leading in our life’s decisions or are we trying to have the last word and tell God what direction we are going?

The **ACCEPTANCE** of our relationship with GOD determines our true identity. Our lifestyle echoes the presence of God in the little and big decisions of life. Are we thinking of others, do we have empathy and sympathy for others whose lives are tenuous at best? The Biblical narrative tells us that Jesus had compassion on ten lepers he had come across while traveling with his disciples. All ten lepers were seeking “mercy.” Mercy, for what purpose? Why not asked to be healed, to be restored? - to be restored to family, to give and receive love? To ACCEPT GOD, is to receive His/Her mercy in that our lives are transformed to glorify GOD and never ourselves. Once again, it is GOD who should have the last word. In the words of Christ, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

Who **INSPIRES** you? The Psalms found in the Hebrew Scriptures abounds with personal stories of being overwhelmed and without hope UNTIL the Psalmist reaffirms their relationship with GOD. (ie. Psalm 27:11-14) No matter how difficult or painful life might be, we are solely God’s, now and forever. Corrie Ten Boom, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, has written “Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.” Worry is the antithesis of faith. Corrie watched in horror and faith, the death of her sister. In the midst of that tragedy, her room was literally filled with the light of God which cast out all fear and INSPIRED her to live the rest of her life in faith and faith alone! The Biblical narratives are filled with those who are either INSPIRED in faith by GOD and live a life of purpose. Or who, by their own admission, separate themselves from God and live in their own dark and lonely godless world convincing themselves that they, and they alone, have the final word. Who **INSPIRES** you?

An attribute most people of faith hold in high esteem is **THEOLOGICAL** integrity. I will grant that this is not a phrase that is not heard in our casual conversation. But is surely present when we analyze others. Our culture is saturated with subtle, and not so subtle, messages of success, beauty, wealth, power, and values. These ingredients shape us individually and corporately. They also can shape the personality or entity of a Church. Living with **THEOLOGICAL** integrity demands a deep and committed study of God's Word and a life of prayer. If our study and prayer is practiced correctly, every aspect of life is affected by our minds AND hearts. Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" (Matthew 16:13-20) When Jesus changed the question slightly and asked his chosen 12, who do they think he was, there was a deafening silence broken after a few awkward moments by Peter's affirmation that He (Jesus) was the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah! This affirmation did not go unnoticed by Jesus and his expectations of the disciples. He wanted to witness the integration of their 'word' (proclamation or faith) in their daily lives. Yet, just a few short weeks later, it was Peter who denied three times even knowing Jesus in a period of just a few short hours. Do you live with **THEOLOGICAL** integrity? Is your faith evident in your daily life? Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of the famous Riverside Church in New York City, 1930-1946, reminded his parishioners and many others through the broadcast of his services, "You are the **ONLY** Bible most people will ever read!" How I wonder how many of us are more affected by cultural norms of the day rather than **GOD'S** word which challenges us to love your neighbor as yourself and pray for one's enemies.

This brings me to the final letter of the acronym, **F A I T H**.

Everyone wishes to be **HEALED**. Our Sunday morning intercessory prayers are often prayers for physical healing of a friend, loved-one or ourselves. Healing was a principle component of Christ's ministry. His documented physical healings included leprosy, blindness, deafness, paralysis and even life from death! **HEALING** was definitely a major part of Christ. Jesus' healing were limited to just the physical realm. His primary healing focused on relationships—one's relationship with **GOD** and our relationships with one another. Both were equally important and could not be without the other. If our love for God is not evident in expressed love for our fellow human being, then as Paul says, "We are a people most to be pitied!" (I Corinthians 13:3) And who among us can truly love another human being without acknowledging and believing in **GOD**, who designed humanity to show the compassion to our neighbor. So you ask, "Who is my neighbor?" Your heart and mind will grow when you hear Jesus' answer to this same question when he was asked by a lawyer of his day. (see Luke 10:25-37) My prayer is that all people are **HEALED** from whatever ails them.

**For God shall have the final word!** Hear the words of the Revelation of John 21:5-7 *"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."*

Sincerely in Christ,  
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” 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 “The 12 names of Jesus”. This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, 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 March 31, 2016

**General Fund**

Year to Date Income	\$49,465
Year to Date Expenses	61,852
Expenses Greater than Income	12,387

**Mother’s Day Dedication**

The special collection of paper products will be dedicated and blessed for the ministry to the residents of the AMEN Center. The AMEN Center serves the needs of homeless and often neglected men, women and children. Currently, over 70 individuals are under the care of Pastor Danny and his wife, Shirley in former elementary school of Delta, which for the past four years has served at the AMEN Center. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, May 8. The collected paper products will be delivered the following day to them.



**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.

**Worship Attendance**

<b>April 3</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>86</b>



**May Meal-a-Month**

Jar of Peanut Butter  
Jar of Jelly or Jam  
2 Can of Fruit of Choice

**Gather, Share, & Eat**--The Property and Fellowship Committee are putting together a fish fry for Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, after church. The menu will be fish, slaw, hushpuppies, onion rings, potato salad, baked beans, & dessert. **Let us know if you are planning on coming by signing the pew pad or call the church office 335-2579. Come & enjoy.**  
Hamburgers will be available for those that do not want fish.



### Daytime Circle

The Daytime Circle will have their final meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 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.

Since we have finished with our study book, "PSALMS" by Sue Edwards, no advance preparation will be needed for this meeting. A brief meditation will be offered in place of the usual discussion. If you would like to join us we would be happy to have you. 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.



**The Book Club** will meet on Thursday, May 12 at the home of Rebecca Nelson. The book is "A Man Called OVE" by Fredrik Backman. In June, we will talk about "Enemy Women" by Paulette Jiles at the home of Sandy Wilhelm.



13 scouts are looking forward to going to summer camp, 4 scouts are going to NYLT camp, and another scout will have a leadership position at Councils STEM camp.

Thanks to the church for their support in our BBQ fundraiser to help pay for some of these camp fees. It costs \$260 for one week of camp. Thanks to you we made \$ 1029.52. We still have plenty of BBQ left, frozen, which will be all profit, call Shirley 382-0495, if you would like to order some.

### Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

**Bill Stover**, from John & Bekki Cook

**Thomas Phillips**, from John & Bekki Cook

**Joe Hirsch**, from Martha Stickler, Evelyn Stover, James & Beverly Hirsch,

**Becky Parkinson**, from Ruth Needle, Madge Ridings, Evelyn Stover, James & Beverly Hirsch, Martha Stickler, John & Rebecca Cook, Bob & Ann Parkinson



Our family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who have shown such love and care as we suffer the loss of Becky. The constant support of Pastor Kim, every thoughtful card that was sent, every visit to the funeral home to talk with us or attend her service, spoken words of sympathy and contributions to church or charities in her memory have been greatly appreciated.

Though Becky had been fighting her cancer for so many years, she often spoke of all those she knew and remembered from her time at First Presbyterian Church.

Doug, Greg and Cara also appreciate your care and concern. We feel very blessed to be members of such a thoughtful, loving church "family".

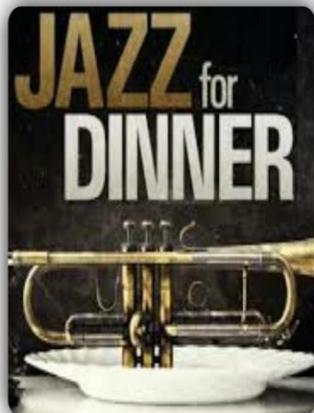
Sincerely,  
Bob and Ann Parkinson



23 of the 29 Cub Scouts recently earned their next rank. The Pack is working with Chief Ennis of the Cape Girardeau Fire Department on a service project at Fire Stations Number 1 and Fire Station Number 3. The Scouts will be cleaning & weeding around the flag poles and planting flowers very soon.

## Stated Meeting of the Session April 17, 2016

1. A contract for the sale of the Activities Building and property was presented. It was noted that a study/discussion session was held on April 16th and attended by Session members representing the Property Committee and the Finance Committee and others including Will Bahn, chairman of the Friends of Troop 4 Board of Directors, Barbara Calvin, Clerk of Session and Lauren Syler Weedon (Bill and Georganne Syler's daughter) who is a real estate attorney and who read, on behalf of the church, a contract submitted by the Friends of Troop 4. Mrs. Weedon presented a revised contract which was fully accepted by the discussion group. The revised contract was accepted and approved by the Session. Key stipulations in the contract are:
  - a. The sale price for the property, along with all items left in the building, is \$200,000.00 with a \$5,000.00 dollar down payment
  - b. The final date for the sale is June 30, 2016 with no extensions.
  - c. If the Friends of Troop 4 should sell the property within 5 years from the date of sale for a profit, they shall refund to the church 50% of any amount greater than the sale price.
2. Pastor Kim's request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with the church and to become Honorably Retired effective August 1, 2016 was accepted and approved.
3. Requests from Dr. Edwin Burford and Kate Broeckling to resign from the church Nominating Committee were accepted and approved.
4. It was reported that Rebecca Nelson's request to resign as Organist/Choir Director effective July 31, 2016 had been accepted by the Personnel Committee.
5. Church membership as of April 17th stands at 176.



SATURDAY  
•  
MAY 7, 2016  
•  
5PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
\$15.00  
•  
CUP 'N CORK  
573.651.5282  
•  
ST JAMES  
573.334.9119

CUP 'N CORK  
COFFEE HOUSE  
•  
11 S SPANISH STREET  
•  
BENEFITING  
ST JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH

### Official Call for Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 24, directly after worship in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is two-fold.

1. The congregation will be asked to receive a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to elect two people to the congregation's Nominating Committee. The nominees are Sandy Wilhelm for a one year term and Sharon McCune for a two year term.
2. The congregation shall be asked to approve the recommendation of the Session that the pastoral position be dissolved with the Rev. Dr. Kim L. Nelson effective July 31, 2016, in accordance with rules of Presbytery and accepted by the Session. This means Pastor Nelson's pastoral services shall be concluded on June 30, 2016, with the month of July granted for earned and accrued vacation.

This congregational meeting shall be moderated by the Rev. Terry Epling

## MAY 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> Virginia Goodwin (birthday)
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Madge Ridings (birthday)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> Togo
- 4<sup>TH</sup> Africa
- 5<sup>TH</sup> Ghana
- 6<sup>TH</sup> Will & Janna Bahn (anniversary)
- 7<sup>TH</sup> Joan Morgan (birthday), Pastor Kim Nelson (birthday)
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Nigeria
- 9<sup>TH</sup> Niger
- 10<sup>TH</sup> Cory Knapp (birthday), Paul & Ruby Rice (**70<sup>th</sup> anniversary**)
- 11<sup>TH</sup> Cameroon
- 12<sup>TH</sup> Equatorial Guinea
- 13<sup>TH</sup> Republic of South Sudan
- 14<sup>TH</sup> Republic of the Sudan
- 15<sup>TH</sup> Jean Kaiser (birthday)
- 16<sup>TH</sup> Ethiopia
- 17<sup>TH</sup> Democratic of the Congo
- 18<sup>TH</sup> Kenya
- 19<sup>TH</sup> Paul Farris (birthday)
- 20<sup>TH</sup> Dixie Hopkins (birthday)
- 21<sup>ST</sup> Sarah Ross (birthday)
- 22<sup>ND</sup> Zimbabwe
- 23<sup>RD</sup> Presbyterian Heritage
- 24<sup>TH</sup> Donna Pikey (birthday) Jack & Juanita Wyant (anniversary)
- 25<sup>TH</sup> Rwanda
- 26<sup>TH</sup> Cory & Rachel Knapp (anniversary)
- 27<sup>TH</sup> Zambia
- 28<sup>TH</sup> Don Gibson (birthday)
- 29<sup>TH</sup> Malawi
- 30<sup>TH</sup> Mozambique
- 31<sup>ST</sup> Presbytery of Yukon

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Grant, O Lord, that the refreshing life springs of your Spirit will flow through us to others. Open our eyes to see your love at work in all peoples and places. In your name, we pray. Amen.

# May 2016

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Coffee & fellowship 10:30 am Communion Worship Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Mission Meeting 7:00 pm Property Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 pm Jazz for Dinner																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> 10:00 am Coffee & fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11:00 am Daytime Circle	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Book Club	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight	<b>14</b>																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> 10:00 am Coffee & fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon, Gather, Share & Eat, Fish Fry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight	<b>21</b>																																																																																																		
<b>22</b> 10:00 am Coffee & fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Session Congregational Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight	<b>28</b>																																																																																																		
<b>29</b> 10:00 am Coffee & fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2016</th> <th colspan="7">Jun 2016</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Apr 2016							Jun 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2				1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30		
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