



FIRST FACTS

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

Most of us have learned to dread a time of pastoral transition. It's like the long weeks of Advent waiting for Christmas, only longer, often lasting for years. As we count the days, time seems to slow down. We just want the child to be born so we can sing *Joy to the World!* A pastoral search can be like that. But it can also be a time of preparation for the future. I remember well waiting for the births of my own children. It seemed those months were filled with preparation. There were walls to paint, cribs to assemble, and supplies to acquire. All of it prepared us to make space in our lives for a new family member.



Over the past nearly year and a half, your session has been working to prepare the church for the call of its new pastor. They have paid particular attention to the church's financial health. The church's general fund supports the day to day operations of the congregation, including personnel and property expenses, plus programmatic support for Christian education and mission. The general fund income comes from your pledges and offerings. It also includes some income from the rental of our parking lot and from the endowment fund when and if we have positive earnings. For some prior years the session needed to utilize endowment resources greater than the earnings and the endowment fund balance declined.

This year the session has worked to align expenses with income from pledges, offerings and rental income, and to use only the endowment earnings while growing slightly the fund balance. That required significant reductions in spending, particularly in personnel. But it has made possible the use of endowment earnings for exciting mission projects without eroding the endowment balance. The church is in a strong financial position to welcome a new pastor and to fund its current and future ministries.

You can be proud of your leadership for their faithful stewardship of the church's resources. Our building is in great condition. Our staff is happy and productive. Our music program fully funds four choral scholars to enrich our worship services. Our mission engagement in the community is increasing, significantly. Your pledge of financial support ensures that this strength continues from year to year.

Today I'm asking you to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support of the congregation in 2018. We will collect pledge cards during the offering in worship on Sunday, November 19th. As you make your pledge of support I want you to know that every gift matters, regardless of size. If you are able I hope you will pledge to increase your giving in the year ahead. If you have not pledged in the past now is the time to make your commitment of support.

When we give we do so out of gratitude for all God has done for us and all God is about to do. Bring your completed pledge card to church with you on November 19th and plan to stay for *Gather, Eat, and Share* as we give thanks to God for our blessings.

I am grateful for the time I've had with you as your interim pastor. I look forward with great expectation to the call of your new pastor and the promise of continued fruitful ministry here. This is what we been waiting for.

Faithfully,
Pastor Terry

Congregational Meeting



The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 5, 2017, immediately following worship for the purpose of receiving a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee about the candidate they have selected to be the next Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church. After their report, we will vote to approve the call of their candidate, the Reverend Ellen Gurnon. She will preach and conduct our worship service that day. Please plan to stay after church and the meeting in order to welcome Reverend Gurnon and attend a reception in her honor in the Fellowship Hall.

First Presbyterian Church Statement of Financial Position September 30, 2017

Current Assets

Bank of MO Checking	\$54,801.65
US Bank Payroll Acct	485.00
Money Market-Reserve Fund	<u>53,917.07</u>
Total Checking/Savings	109,203.72

Other Assets

Cash Value Life Insurance	\$67,011.25
Reserve Fund-Investments	155,233.03
Endowment-Unrestricted Gen.	340,382.13
Endowment-Restricted Gen	285,481.93
Endowment-L. Sewell	<u>145,231.94</u>

Total Assets 1,102,544.00

YTD Income & Expenses

Income	169,307.77
Expenses	<u>159,639.81</u>
Net Income	<u>\$9,667.96</u>

For any questions about this report, please call Charles Wiles , 573-225-5277, Treasurer.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session October 17, 2017

1. Approved extending the contract of Interim Pastor Terry Epling from November 30 through December 31, 2017.
2. Received report from the PNC by Elder and PNC member Charles Wiles that their choice for a pastoral candidate was approved by Presbytery. Now they are awaiting Presbytery approval of the terms of call before a Congregational Meeting can be scheduled for the congregation to approve the candidate and terms of call.
3. Reverend Epling announced it is time for Personnel evaluations to be scheduled, and he asked that a member of the Executive/Personnel Committee be present with him for each evaluation. Results will be reported to the Session.
4. Executive/Personnel Committee is amending the Facility Usage Request form to be in compliance with our church's insurance policy before any further requests by an individual or organization for use of church space/property are approved by the Session.
5. Treasurer Wiles noted when reviewing the Statement of Financial Position that as of October 17, income is \$ 169,307.77 while expenses are \$ 159,639.81 resulting in a net income of \$9667.96. He announced the Stewardship Campaign will happen in November in preparation for the development of a 2018 Budget.
6. Approved request from Elder Melissa Harris for the church to pay, up to a total of \$100, the admission fees for youth and parents to visit the Bootheel Children's Museum in Malden, MO. Approved use of church van driven by Bryan Harris for this Christian Education activity.
7. Approved donation of \$7,500 from the church to the Salvation Army to help kick-off their holiday fundraising campaign.
8. Received a report that the next mobile food pantry we are sponsoring will be at Jefferson School Saturday morning, November 18. A schedule is being worked out with the Cape Public School System for the other 10 pantries we will sponsor.



Gather, Share & Eat will be

November 19. It will be a Chicken and Dumplings dinner with Thanksgiving sides and dessert. If you plan to attend, please make a reservation by signing the pew pad or calling the church office.



Friday, December 8, Harold Buxton will celebrate his 95th Birthday! If you would like to wish him a happy day, please feel free to send him a card! He resides at The Chateau. Contact the church office if you need his address.



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Mary P Harrison, from Jane Ella Potashnick,
Cinnie Parkins

Ralph Sitter, from Win Hirsch Ward

Donne Williams, from Win Hirsch Ward



November Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans tomato soup
- Can of evaporated milk
- Box of crackers
- Can of fruit of choice



Need a Handyman?

Gerald Ivy has done odd jobs for some members in the past. He asked that we let people know that he is looking for work, including leaf raking, window washing, and odd jobs around the house. He can be reached at 573-803-7461.

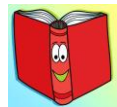


November 26th, come to the activity building across the street and watch the Parade of Lights, while enjoying a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Bathrooms and chairs will be available if you want to watch from inside away from the cold. This is sponsored by our cub scout pack. Parade starts at 5 pm. Even if you want to sit outside to watch the parade, you can come inside the activity building to warm up, use the bathrooms, or have hot refreshments. To park in the parking lot, we are asking for \$5 donation per car to help cover the cost of the hot drinks.



SECOND TUESDAY AT THE CHATEAU

Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, November 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.



The Book Club will meet in November on the 8th . We will read "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf, and the discussion will take place at the home of Ruth Needle. There will be NO meeting of the book club in December, but we have picked a book for the new year. The January book is "Paris Architect" by Charles Belfoure. We will meet at the home of Jeanne Hirsch on January 10, 2018. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



REMINDER

Sunday, November 5, daylight savings time ends! At 2:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to 1:00 am.



POINSETTIAS will once again fill the sanctuary beginning December 10th. If you wish to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one (or for any other reason of the season) please fill in the order blank below and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate during Sunday worship by December 6th. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$8.00 each.

I/We would like to place a poinsettia in the church sanctuary.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Qty	Amt

From _____

NOVEMBER 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 Beverly Hirsch (birthday)
- 2ND PC (USA) Agencies' Staff
- 3RD Europe
- 4TH Joyce Rayfield (birthday)
- 5TH Ireland/Northern Ireland
- 6TH United Kingdom
- 7TH Scotland
- 8TH Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel
- 9TH Portugal
- 10TH Italy
- 11TH Terry Epling (birthday)
- 12TH Germany
- 13TH Lithuania
- 14TH Czech Republic
- 15TH Sharon McCune (birthday)
- 16TH Sharon Metcalfe, (birthday)
- 17TH Russia
- 18TH Afghanistan
- 19TH Donna Farris
- 20TH Armenia
- 21ST Central Asia
- 22ND Sri Lanka
- 23RD Wilma Harris (birthday)
- 24TH Dr. Ed Burford (birthday)
- 25TH Middle East
- 26TH Jim Logan (birthday) Rob & Sarah Ross; Paul & Donna Farris (anniversary)
- 27TH Egypt
- 28TH Bill Syler (birthday)
- 29TH Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem
- 30TH Annabelle Spencer

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.

November 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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