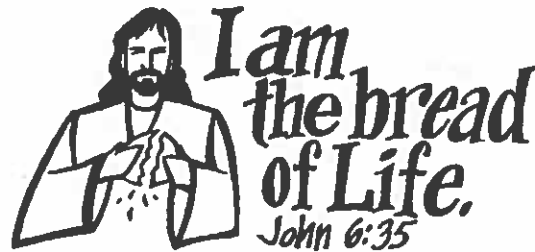


First Facts

A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** • Cape Girardeau, Missouri • September 2015



To All the followers of Jesus Christ,

In worship during the month of August, we have been studying the Gospel of John and his writings about Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life. Our lectionary Gospel lessons have focused on chapter six. Jesus used this phrase to different audiences—religious leaders of his day, his disciples, his larger following and to the general public. According to John, each group's reaction was different and yet the same - they could not comprehend. Toward the end of the chapter, Jesus asks, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answers him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Eternal life appears to be inexorably linked to understanding Christ as the 'Bread of Life.' Some of the listeners to Christ compared his moniker 'Bread of Life' to Moses' leading the people of Israel out of the 400 years of bondage in Egypt. Jesus reminded them that manna from heaven did not produce eternal life and those people died! Jesus was something different. To others, Jesus was just the little boy that grew up with them. They knew his father and mother. They could not comprehend Jesus when he said, "I have come down from heaven."

When Jesus extended his explanation to eating his flesh and drinking his blood, the religious leaders went ballistic; some of followers turned around and went home and others just said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" I believe this became the turning point in the Gospel of John—who was going to believe and follow and those who were going to turn and retreat. It was the ultimate decision time.

Reading and studying this passage 2000 years after it was written, some find themselves scratching their heads and asking, "Why did they not all believe the Words of the Messiah and follow him?" The confusion and disbelief of those who encountered Jesus in the first century, led to his crucifixion. Today, the distractions have multiplied and the reasons not to believe seem to make logical sense to many. But the reality is, real life can only be found in God. And we come to know God through His Son, Jesus Christ. So in as much as things have changed, in many ways, things have not changed. There will be those who reject Christ's message of love and compassion *and* some will truly understand the transformational message of Christ, the Bread of Life!

The Gospel message will always need to be shared. One great opportunity for you to participate in the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is coming during the month of September. Every Sunday during this month we will learning about our missionaries Jeb and Jenny Koball. They are faithfully serving Jesus Christ in Peru on behalf of the PCUSA.

cont.

Jed and Jenny's ministry has impact both in Peru and in the United States. Jed accompanies the Joining Hands network in Peru as they identify and interpret root causes of poverty in Peru, such as mining contamination, global warming, and unfair trade agreements. In this capacity, Jed facilitates the relationship between the Joining Hands network in Peru and PC(USA) congregations as they develop strategies together to address these daunting problems. Jenny coordinates the Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) program in Peru, organizing volunteer and cultural immersion experiences in Peru for US young adults and shepherding them and the receiving organizations in a year of service, mutual learning and the building of Christian community.

I encourage you to attend worship throughout September. On the final Sunday of September a special offering will be taken to support their endeavors. Also, a Mission Offering envelope is included in this newsletter to remind you of our special support. Please bring it with you to church or mail it in at your convenience.

Peace and Shalom,

Pastor Kim

Worship Attendance

August 2	60
August 9	74
August 16	71
August 23	75

Treasurer's Report

As of July 31, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$118,947
Year to Date Expenses	\$162,872
Expenses Greater than Income	\$43,925

Investments

Permanent Endowment	\$250,000
Restricted Investments	55,194
General Fund Savings	63,518
Presbyterian Investment	136,071

For a more complete financial picture, you can attend the Finance Committee Meeting, Session Meeting, or contact our Treasurer, Jean Cairns at 573-803-0085.



Flowers for Worship

The flowers in the Sanctuary were given on August 23, to the glory of God in honor of Pastor Kim and Rebecca Nelson's anniversary.

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.

September Meal-A-Month

- 2 Cans beef ravioli
- 2 Cans green beans
- Can of applesauce

(Please put in the box in the Narthex)

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: Pastor Kim continues to teach on Sunday mornings using Dr. Jack Rogers' book *Jesus, The Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*. The class takes place in the Library.

Schedule: September 6, 8:30-9:30 a.m. • September 13, 20, 27, 9-10 a.m.

This Sunday morning class will conclude on September 27. **Beginning Sunday morning, October 4,** Pastor Kim begins a new class, **Bible 101**-a survey course covering the entire Bible, its history, context, tools of interpretation-Answering the questions about the Bible but you were afraid to ask!

Book Club

Our September book selection will be *Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks and we will meet on Thursday, September 10 at the home of Jean Cairns. The October meeting will be on Thursday, October 8 at the home of Ruth Needle. The October book is *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume. The November book selection is *Girl on the Train* by Paula Walker and the meeting will be on November 12 at Sharon Metcalfe's home. Join us! The reading of the selected book is not required.

Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, September 13, the Worship Service will return to 10:30 a.m. The morning coffee will begin that day at 10 a.m.

Daytime Circle

The Daytime Circle will begin the fall season on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at the home of Sharon Metcalfe, 2916 Bella Vista, at 11 a.m. Please bring a sandwich - dessert and drinks will be provided. The discussion for that day will be Lesson 5 from our study book "PSALMS" by Sue Edwards.

Memorials

"Death is not extinguishing the light. It is turning out the lamp because the dawn has come."
Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali poet

Memorials have been received in memory of:

Aaron Steele (Madge Ridings' grandson), from Nancy Bray, Sarah Barks

Barbara Klassen (Kathy Brown's sister), from Nancy Bray

Sina Kaiser, from Nancy Bray

Thank You!

Dear Mrs. Syler and First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for keeping Jefferson Elementary in your thoughts and prayers! And a big thank you to your church family for the donation of Clorox wipes, Kleenex, back packs and undergarments for our students. Trust that these will be distributed wisely to our families in need. Again, Thank you! We appreciate you and First Presbyterian Church.
RaeAnne Alpers
Jefferson Elementary

Splash Out Hunger (replacing Party for the Good)

Announcing the 1st Annual Splash out Hunger event on September 4, 2015 to kick off Hunger Action Month! Southeast Missouri Food Bank will be hosting a community food drive from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with three drop off locations including, Cape Walmart Supercenter, Schnucks and the Osage Centre. Volunteers will be needed at each of these three locations throughout the day - 2 volunteers per hour at each location. To register to volunteer for this event, please contact RSVP/VIC at 573-335-7555 or email us at rsvpvic@sbcglobal.net. You can also contact Missy Rice at 573-471-1818. Food items collected will be distributed to local food pantries in Cape.



Love INC

Help Us Help Our Community

Love INC of Southeast Missouri is still in need of the following items for this year's Project Homeless Connect:

- 14 male deodorant/antiperspirant
- 35 conditioners
- 185 baby wipe packs 30 or less
(Walmart has for \$1 each)

All must be small or travel size as they must all fit in a gallon zip lock bag!

These items may be brought to the Love INC office, 1409 North Mount Auburn Suite B, Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thank you for your generous support.



FPC Annual Picnic Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015

You're all invited to our Annual Picnic on September 13, 2015 right after church service. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share with the group.

There will be someone downstairs waiting to receive your dishes before church begins. Morning coffee will start again that Sunday at 10 a.m. So come and join us!


Baby Shower

Following the church picnic on September 13, all are invited to a baby shower for Dusti and Tami Miller. It will be held in the church parlor from 2 - 4 p.m. RSVP to Melissa Harris at 579-4977.

Sunday Evening Class

Pastor Kim will offer a **Sunday evening class starting on October 4 using Dr. Jack Rogers' book, *Jesus, The Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church***. This evening class will be open to the public and it is an opportunity for members of other churches and others to attend. This study will carefully examine the Bible and our Book of Confessions as we consider our society's and Church's dramatic changes in our acceptance of gays and lesbians into the life and leadership of our communities and churches. Tentatively this class will meet in the Library at 6 p.m. from October 4-November 15. Please read the weekly bulletin or check out our website for updates.

Cans

The recycling  bin in the Narthex is not only for bulletins. We are still collecting cans for the Ronald McDonald House. Bring your bag of cans for recycling. Do something good for yourself, a charity and the planet.

Nancy Bray Awarded AAF District Silver Medal Award

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – The Tri-State Advertising & Marketing Professionals will present Nancy Bray with the American Advertising Federation's (AAF) District 9 Silver Medal Award at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, at 11:30 am at Dexter BBQ in Cape Girardeau.

Out of a field of seven district-wide candidates, Bray was the clear choice by the AAF District 9 Board of Directors for the award. The Silver Medal Award recognizes men and women who have made outstanding contributions to advertising and who have been active in furthering industry standards, creative excellence and responsibility in areas of social concern.

Bray began her career as a teacher, taught and inspired numerous undergrads at Southeast Missouri State University, and was instrumental in the creation of the university's multidisciplinary mass media department. In 1980, Bray became one of the first women in Southeast Missouri to work in healthcare marketing. During her 27-year career as director of marketing and communications at SoutheastHEALTH, Nancy developed the first full-service healthcare marketing department in the area, leading the hospital from traditional health related public relations into the current era of more aggressive healthcare marketing. Bray has also generously donated her time and talent over the years to organizations such as Meals on Wheels, the Community Counseling Center, the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Southeast Missouri, and the Friends of the Cape Girardeau Public Library Foundation.

Tri-State AMP President Andrew Chronister stated "The Silver Medal is seen as one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an advertising professional by his or her peers. We are proud to be honoring Nancy Bray for her dedication to the industry and to the Cape Girardeau area."

From the Session

At the stated August 19, 2015 meeting of the Session, the Elders did the following:

1. The Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session held on July 22, 2015 were approved.
2. Received the committee reports.
3. Accepted the request from Don Fadler to be removed from our roll.
4. Heard a report from the Endowment Task Force and agreed to have it reviewed by an attorney with the Presbytery.
5. Approved the recommendation of the Property Committee to have our parking lot (behind the Missourian) resurfaced.
6. Next meeting is Sunday, September 20, 2015 following worship.



SEPTEMBER 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 st	Taiwan	16 th	The Presbytery of Baltimore
2 nd	Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy	17 th	Presbytery of Charlotte
3 rd	Synod of Mid-America	18 th	Paul & Ruth Pautler (anniversary) Margaret "Honey" Baker, John Cook (birthday)
4 th	Vi Smith (birthday)	19 th	The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
5 th	Heartland Presbytery	20 th	Presbyterian Mission Agency
6 th	Don & Shirley Gibson (anniversary) Evelyn Stover (birthday)	21 st	Sharon Wickham, (birthday)
7 th	Tami Miller	22 nd	Emma Grace Smith (birthday)
8 th	John Calvin Presbytery	23 rd	Native American Day
9 th	Missouri Union Presbytery	24 th	Action against Gun Violence
10 th	Bryan & Melissa Harris (anniversary)	25 th	Lee Smith (birthday)
11 th	The Presbytery of Southern Kansas	26 th	Neva Kay Ross, Quentin DeCota (birthday)
12 th	Presbytery of Northern Kansas	27 th	New Castle Presbytery
13 th	Ryan Vangorkom, Jenna McAbee (birthday)	28 th	The Presbytery of New Hope
14 th	Rob & Donne Williams (anniversary)	29 th	The Presbytery of the Peaks
15 th	Atlantic Korean-American Presbytery	30 th	Shirley Gibson (birthday)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

When we think we have all the answers, God, help us to pause and consider other points of view and other ways of doing things. Show us how to be partners in mutual mission, able to receive as well as to give. Amen.

September 2015

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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6 10:00 am Communion Worship Service	7 Holiday-Labor Day Office closed	8 11:00 am Daytime Circle	9 6:00 pm Worship & Art Meeting	10 7:00 pm Book Club	11 6:30 pm Tunes at Twilights	12																																																																																																																
13 10:00 am Morning Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Annual Picnic 2:00 pm Dustl & Tami Baby Shower	14 7:00 pm Property Meeting	15 6:30 pm Christian Outreach	16 6:30 pm Session Meeting	17	18 6:30 pm Tunes at Twilights	19 3:00 pm Wedding																																																																																																																
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First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Dr. Kim L. Nelson, Pastor

Sunday Church School 9 a.m.

Sunday Service of Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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235 Broadway