



# FIRST FACTS



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



## A New Season of Growth

Throughout its history First Presbyterian Church has experienced times of growth and energy and times of decline and rest. This is a natural cycle. New life emerged when the congregation caught a vision of God's call for a new era in the life of the church. That quest for vision comes through prayer and discernment and through action and experimentation. The time between installed pastors is the perfect time to listen for God's call to the church and renew its mission.

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Rally Day, the launch of our program year. The choir will return to worship (we've certainly missed them this summer). The children will begin Sunday School classes. We'll collect food for the pantry. And we'll learn about a great new mission opportunity the session has embraced. I hope you'll make a point to be here to begin the season well.

Then beginning on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> I'll lead an adult education class and sermon series on the practices of "fruitful congregations." Over the course of five Sundays we'll discuss the various aspects of our congregation's life and the markers of health in each. The five practices are: radical hospitality; passionate worship; intentional faith development; risk-taking mission and service; and extravagant generosity.

The adult education class will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. We'll discuss a chapter of a book together on each topic. As we study I'll encourage you to think about the ways the congregation has exhibited these five practices in the past, how it is living them out now, and where the opportunities are for new life and growth. Each week's sermon will lift up these practices in light of scripture and God's call to us to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. **To get a book and join the conversation**, indicate your interest on the pew pad or call the office, 335-2579.

I'm excited about this series and hope it gets your creative juices flowing as you prepare to welcome a new pastor. God has used this congregation as an instrument of life, hope, joy, and comfort for this community for 182 years. That's amazing! But God isn't finished yet. Our creative God is forever pulling us toward new life and fruitfulness. Let's embrace that call and look forward to the next great adventure for this church.

Blessings,

Pastor Terry



### Garage Sale—Sept 8 & 9

Final preparations for our church’s garage sale are under way. It will be at the Boy Scout Troop 4 Activity Building Friday, Sept 8, from 6-8 pm and Saturday, Sept 9, from 7am-12 noon. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Safe House for Women. If you still have items to donate, call Georganne Syler or Donna Pikey. If you can transport your own items call us to help you unload. Remember—no clothes!

**Thanks to all who are helping on this Mission Project. You are so appreciated!!**

**The Nominating Committee of our Congregation** has begun meeting to prepare a slate of 3 nominees for the office of Elder for a three year term (the class of 2020). If you would like to be considered as a nominee for Elder or want to suggest a church member as a possible nominee, please speak with one of the following members of the Nominating Committee: Co-chairs Melissa Harris and Jeanne Hirsch and members Ed Burford, Sharon McCune, Donna Pikey and Sandy Wilhelm.



**On Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cape will host the Blackwood Brothers in concert.** They are celebrating their 80th anniversary sharing God's gospel through music. All are invited. There will be a freewill offering to pay for the group's appearance. Please share this information with your congregations.

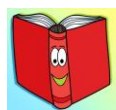


### SECOND TUESDAY AT THE CHATEAU

Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, September 12, 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.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The second Sunday of every month, we will be having a Kids Message. We would like the kids to bring in some food for the meal of the month. Check the Meal-a-Month for the current list of food. Children’s Sunday school will start September 10, right after the Kids Message. Hope to see you there!



The next meeting of the book club will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. The book under discussion is “All Together in One Place” by Jane Kirkpatrick. The October meeting will be on October 12 at the home of Jean Cairns. The book is “The Award” by Danielle Steele. In November on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 11, 2018. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



### September Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans beef ravioli
- 2 cans green beans
- Can of Applesauce



### Exciting New Mission for Our Church

On Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 am. to 12 noon, our new mission project will begin when a Southeast Missouri Food Bank truck sets up a mobile food pantry behind our church in Courthouse Park. Rain or shine, the Food Bank mobile pantry will be in operation!

As noted in # 5 of the Session Meeting Highlights, \$9,000 of our church funds designated for Missions this year has been approved to support the Food Bank. Our donation will fund the ABC (A Better Childhood) mobile food program 12 times. Each time enough food products will be handed out to feed 250 families.

Our church's involvement is not only through financial support but through our volunteer support. Each time, 10-15 volunteers will be needed from 9:30 am. to 12:30 p.m. to help hand out the food products and assist with other tasks. No heavy lifting is involved. Church members, young and old, along with your relatives and friends, SEMO students and Scouts are welcome and needed. Please consider volunteering Sept. 30 to help kick off this new mission project. To sign up, contact our church's Volunteer Coordinator Donna Pikey at 335-8908.

If you have any questions about this project or about the Food Bank, contact Charles Wiles at 225-5277. He is temporary Chair for the Session but would welcome a co-Chair to help plan and coordinate the other mobile food pantry operations.



### SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session August 22, 2017

1. Remembered with gratitude Ralph Sitter, who died August 6, 2017, and Donne Williams, who died August 9, 2017. The Clerk reported our Active Membership Roll is now 145.
2. Announced since the last Session meeting there was an email vote of approval by the Session for the church's sponsorship of a print ad in the SEMO Worship Directory that will appear in the campus newsletter for 29 weeks of the 2017-18 academic year.
3. Rev. Epling reported he will be out of town with his family Sunday, Sept. 3, but he has arranged for Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, an ordained pastor in our Presbytery and theology professor at St. Louis University, to preach for us and conduct the monthly Communion service.
4. The Treasurer reported both pledged and nonpledged income are still exceeding budget projections, and our income is more than meeting expenses unlike a year ago when we were a negative \$30,000 and using investments to meet our budget.
5. Approved unanimously proposals from the Session-appointed task force to evaluate Mission opportunities for our church, and these proposals included using previously-designated Mission dollars as follows: support the Southeast Missouri Food Bank with a \$9,000 donation for a 12 month sponsorship of the ABC (A Better Childhood) mobile food truck that will feed 250 families a month and support the Hope Children's Home as the administrator of our donation of \$10,000 designated for medical/health care and urgent/emergent otherwise unfunded needs of foster children in our area.
6. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Oct. 15 to elect Elders for the Class of 2020 and new At Large members of the Nominating Committee and the Endowment Committee. Ordination and installation of Elders to be Nov. 12.
7. Received from the Pastor Nominating Committee a report that they are scheduled to interview via electronic transmission two prospective pastor candidates the evening of Aug. 23.
8. Rev. Epling announced Sunday School Rally Day for our youth will be Sept.10, and a monthly children's sermon during worship also will begin that day. On Sept. 17, he will begin an Adult Class at 9:30 a.m. related to his five-week sermon series based on the book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." Enrollment for that class is to begin now so enough books can be ordered for participants.

“I am the resurrection and the life”

Ralph Sitter Jr.

April 28, 1925- August 6, 2017

“I am the resurrection and the life”

Donne Williams

December 17, 1936-August 9, 2017

### Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

**Rick Renfrow**, from Daryl Henry

**Dick Thomas**, from Evelyn Stover, Shirley & Don Gibson, Daryl Henry

**Jack Lamkin**, from Mary Wood, Daryl Henry

**Marlena Pind**, from Don & Shirley Gibson, Judy Brown, Kevin, Christina Brown & Family, Ronnie & Debbie Farrow & family, William & Mary Alice Masters Carrell, Joan & Bill Morgan, James & Beverly Hirsch, William & Cathy Bishop, Mickey & Susan Roper, James & Lois Weakley, Willie Phillips, Roger & Martha Brooks, Sharon Metcalfe, Donna & Bob Pikey, BJ & Kirk Bowman, Margaret Gunthrie, Barbara Amlingmeyer, Sam & Lisa Bishop, Judy Rueseler, Daryl Henry, Patsy Robert, Jim & Benita Limbaugh, Michael & Kathleen Shivelbine, ARE-Disbursement Acct, Freck Shivelbine, Anne Tlapek, Ruth Knotte, Bob & Cherie Herbst, Kathy & Mike Brown, M. Kay Sides

**Mary P Harrison**, from Dan Davidson, Bekki & John Cook, James & Sarah Ponder & Family, Stephen & Marsha Limbaugh, Kenneth & Ruth Mayher, Willie Phillips, Clotilda Brinkopf, Mac Con Company, Rose Ellen Mallon, Terry & Margaret Farrow, David & Ellen Choden, Joe & Mary Regenhardt, CL McCarty, Daryl Henry, Anne Tlapek, Ruth Knotte, Bob & Diane Murphy, Glen & Lonni Bomberger, Gary & Virginia Manner, Jim & Benita Limbaugh, GIA M Warren, Lois Woodford, Sam & Janie Potashnick, Bob & Cherie Herbst, Louis & Carol Brinkopf, Tom & Sharon, Kenny & Rebecca Volkerding

**Ralph Sitter**, from Shirley & Don Gibson, Susan & Lee Hackney, Roy & Sande Meyer, Harvey & Lea Hecht, Nancy & Jerry Stone, Janet & David Rigdon, Lewis & Carolyn Bock, Patricia Strom, Sharon Metcalfe, Tom & Anne Moreland, Ed & Sue Burford, Bill & Georganne Syler, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Ruth Needle, Daryl Henry, Rev. Paul & Alice Kabo, Madge Ridings, Bekki & John Cook, Ann & Ray Ritter, Jim & Benita Limbaugh, Lois Woodford, Bob & Cherie Herbst, Kathy & Mike Brown

**Donne Williams**, from Ed & Sue Burford, Sharon Metcalfe, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Bill & Georganne Syler, Ruth Needle, Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Noffel, Daryl Henry, James & Beverly Hirsch, Sarah Barks, Madge Ridings, Kris Sneed, Anne Tlapek, Ann & Ray Ritter, Michael & Gwenda Bennett, Robin L Davis, Jim & Benita Limbaugh, Stephen & Marsha Limbaugh, Paul & Alice Kabo, Bekki & John Cook, Wayne & Connie Nessler, Shawne & Chris Moore

**Rob Williams**, from Daryl Henry

## 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<sup>st</sup> Taiwan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Synod of Mid-America
- 4<sup>th</sup> Vi Smith (birthday)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Heartland Presbytery
- 6<sup>th</sup> Don & Shirley Gibson (anniversary); Evelyn Stover (birthday)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tami Miller
- 8<sup>th</sup> John Calvin Presbytery
- 9<sup>th</sup> Missouri Union Presbytery
- 10<sup>th</sup> Bryan & Melissa Harris (anniversary)
- 11<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Southern Kansas
- 12<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Northern Kansas
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jenna McAbee, (birthday)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Abingdon Presbytery
- 15<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Korean-American Presbytery
- 16<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Baltimore
- 17<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Charlotte
- 18<sup>th</sup> Paul & Ruth Pautler (anniversary) John Cook (birthday)
- 19<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
- 20<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Mission Agency
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sharon Wickham, (birthday)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Emma Grace Smith (birthday)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Native American Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Action against Gun Violence
- 25<sup>th</sup> Lea Hecht (birthday)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Neva Kay Ross, Quentin DeCota (birthday)
- 27<sup>th</sup> New Castle Presbytery
- 28<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of New Hope
- 29<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of the Peaks
- 30<sup>th</sup> 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 2017

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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