



FIRST FACTS



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



The beginning of a new year always prompts me to review the year past and make plans for the year ahead. I've never been big on New Year's resolutions. They too frequently involve dieting! But I love to plan. I think it's helpful to pay attention to the year behind to inform the future. As we consider what went well and what didn't work for us, we have an opportunity to prioritize our goals going forward.

The past year at First Presbyterian was momentous. Pastoral transition is always a prime opportunity for evaluation and planning. Of course it can evoke some worry. That is to be expected. It is also a blessing that focuses a congregation on naming its core mission and values. You've embraced this time for conversation about what the church means to you and your hopes for its continuing service to the community. I've listened carefully to your dreams and your concerns. I encourage you to continue to share them as the path ahead unfolds.

The Session is focused on its stewardship of the congregation as your elected leaders. In January we will gather for a day-long retreat to consider how best to organize the church's structure, staffing, and budget in 2017 and beyond. We are committed to discerning the core values that mark First Presbyterian Church's identity and to supporting those values with the financial and personnel resources we have available. This will be a crucial year that sets the stage for the next phase of ministry here under the leadership of your next called pastor. We want to do this well.

The Session asks for your prayers that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to make bold decisions. It seems that what is needed most now is strategic pruning to strengthen the essential ministries of the church while simplifying the structure, trimming the budget, and deploying staff in more innovative roles. This will take some time to plan and fully implement. You'll hear more about our direction at the annual meeting of the congregation in February.

In the meantime, please consider prayerfully your own participation in the life of the church in this new year. I hope you'll pray regularly for the church and commit to worship attendance as often as possible. If worship is a blessing to you, consider inviting a friend and sharing the blessing with someone you care about. In order for the Session to prepare an accurate budget we also need to know of your plans for giving in 2017. Please fill out and return your pledge card. Make your pledge an affirmation of your hopes and dreams for a blessed year ahead. We'll dedicate pledges in worship on January 15th.

I am grateful to be on this journey with you and confident that God has many blessings in store for us this year.

Rev. Terry Epling
Transitional Pastor

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's and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) will meet in the classroom next to the Nursery. Cherie Herbst will be teaching this class. The curriculum will continue to focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Middle School/Junior High Class will meet in their classroom upstairs on the second floor. Their lessons are focusing on a study of the 66 books of the Bible and on how to use the Bible as a part of their everyday lives. This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, and Laura Brown.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the adult library. We have several chapters left to study from the book "Pray like Jesus" by John R. Brookfield. Each week we will read a chapter on our own time and return on the next Sunday to discuss it. There are books available in the office if you are interested. If you have any questions contact Jeanne Hirsch or Melissa Harris.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Special Called Meeting of Session December 4, 2016

Approved with only six wording changes the Mission Study Report prepared so capably by Mission Study Committee members Harvey Hecht, Judy Rueseler and Georganne Syler. It will be forwarded electronically to the Presbytery's Pastoral Transition Team, in care of our liaison Deb Tracy, with our request it be approved and we be given permission to elect a PNC to begin a pastor search.

Stated Meeting of the Session December 18, 2016

1. Approved request of member Margery Wickham Waller and her husband John Paul Waller for baptism of their daughter Aria Claire during worship January 8, 2017.
2. Approved installation of newly elected Elders (all previously ordained) Michael Brown, Joyce Rayfield and Charles Wiles during worship service January 8, 2017, and dedication of 2017 pledges during worship on Stewardship Sunday, January 15.
3. Received report of recommendations from Transitional Pastor Terry Epling that included possibly reinstating the Session Executive Committee and restructuring the Session committees for greater efficiency of operation. To be discussed along with goal-setting, finances, budgeting and staffing at a Session Retreat scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, in the third floor Upper Room.
4. Approved hiring of a local day care employee Elaine Bird to staff our Nursery during the Christmas Eve Service at our church.



January Meal-a-Month

- 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese mix
- Can of evaporated milk
- Can of green beans
- Can of peaches

Worship Attendance

Dec 4	67
Dec 11	85
Dec 18	56
Dec 25	0



On Dec 11, the flowers in the sanctuary were from Kathryn Knaup-Landewee in memory Kitty Rueseler.

The rose on the baptismal font on Dec 18, was in honor of the birth of Aria Claire Waller, daughter of Margery Ann Wickham Waller and John Paul Waller.



The Book Club, January gathering will be on January 12, 2017 at the home of Ruth Needle. The book for discussion is *“The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”* by Rachel Joyce.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet in the Chateau Dining Room at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 for lunch and fellowship. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. Please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 if you would like to attend so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. All are welcome.



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.



You are all invited to the January Gather, Share, and Eat on January 8, 2017 after church services. The menu will be chili, soup, sandwiches, veggie/relish trays and dessert.

Please call Shirley and let her know that you will attend! Just bring your appetites! See you there! *Donations are always welcome to help pay for the food!!!*



Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

- Jean Kaiser**, from Daryl Henry
- Paul Rice**, from Daryl Henry
- Paula Elfink**, from Daryl Henry

First Facts Newsletter

If you have something to be published in First Facts please have it to the office by the 25th of each month, preferably emailed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VACATION DAYS

Our Sunday School classes will be taking a break on Jan. 1st. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8th.



You are invited to a baby shower for Margery (Wickham) Waller. (Margery is the daughter of Sharon and Bill Wickham) Her daughter Aria Claire was born November 26. The shower will be Sunday, January 8 from 1:00 p.m. in the parlor. We hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Church Office.



Mission Plans

The Mission Committee wants to give you a heads-up on another event.

We are planning another Rummage Sale for September '17. Begin thinking along those lines. We will be available to pick up your gently-used furniture or household items beginning in January. No clothing please.

We are looking forward to another successful sale. If you have questions, call Georganne Syler at 450-0213 or Donna Pikey at 335-8908.



The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming!

The Super Bowl Game is February 5, 2017; this is the Sunday when millions of dollars will be spent on advertisements for food and beverages—last year's cost was \$4 million dollars for a 30 second ad. Your mission committee will be collecting dollars and canned goods for the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday on January 29th and February 5th, 2017. As we contemplate the enormous amount of money spent for entertainment and (mostly) junk food at that time, we are asking you to share with the hungry in our community on these Sundays. One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to the FISH Food pantry here in Cape. I urge you to skip the Doritos and beer and share with your neighbors! Georganne Syler



While I was at the Chateau rehab section for about 8 weeks and over Christmas, and without note paper, pen or a good shoulder, it was not possible for me to write to thank you for your visits, notes, flowers and treats of all kinds. Your thoughtfulness and kindness meant so very much to me, and I will always remember.

Please forgive me for taking this newsletter to truly express my very deep appreciation for your remembering me in so many ways!!

Barbara

**POINSETTIAS WERE PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY
IN MEMORY OF**

Mr & Mrs A.P. Rueseler, from Ruth Knote

Charles Knote & Barbara Knote Head, from Ruth Knote

Charles, Sam & Mark Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins

Our Parents, from Horton & Carol Miller

Austin & Martha Cairns, her parents from Jean Cairns

Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from their daughter, Nancy Bray

Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. John L & Jessie Wescoat & Raymond & Helen Ritter and Son, John L Ritter, M.D. , from Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Ritter

Our Parents, Harry & Wanda Hecht, Byrl & Cleda Jarrett from Harvey & Lea Hecht

Our parents, from Don & Shirley Gibson

Tom Phillips & our Parents, from Willie Phillips

Jeanne Beaty, her mother, Dorothy Scott, his mother, from Sam, Lisa & Lauren Bishop

William Stover, from Evelyn & Family

Fred Goodwin, from Virginia Goodwin

My Parents, from Joyce Rayfield

Bev & Jim Hargrove, her parents, from Kathy Hargrove

Wesley & Leona Manuel, & Jack & Ida Perry, from Oliver & Caroline Manuel

David O. & Esther Benstson & Robert & Rogene Stroup, from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson

Betty Whitelaw Turner & Bruce Turner and parents Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Whitelaw

Lou Sewell, from Betty Sewell

IN HONOR OF

Sarah and Gregg Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins

Our families, from Paul & Ruth Pautler

Our children & grandchildren, from Horton & Carol Miller

Our Children and Grandchildren, from Pete & Peg Hirschburg

My parents, Geno/Debbie Broeckling, from John, Kate, Ben, Emma Broeckling

Tolerance, from Pete & Peg Hirschburg

Barbara Calvin, from Charles & Judy Wiles

Shirley Sullivan, from Brucee Woods

JANUARY 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 Synod of Rocky Mountain
- 2ND Presbytery of Denver
- 3RD Presbytery of Glacier
- 4TH Yellowstone Presbytery
- 5TH Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
- 6TH Presbytery of Pueblo
- 7TH Bill Port (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of Western Colorado
- 9TH Georganne Syler (birthday) Oliver & Caroline Manuel (anniversary)
- 10TH The Presbytery of Utah
- 11TH Cherokee Presbytery
- 12TH Synod of South Atlantic
- 13TH Central Florida Presbytery
- 14TH Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
- 15TH Ruth Needle, Lisa Bishop (birthday)
- 16TH Flint River Presbytery
- 17TH Presbytery of Florida
- 18TH Lizbe Knot (birthday)
- 19TH Christian Unity
- 20TH Foothills Presbytery
- 21ST Horton Miller (birthday)
- 22ND Presbytery of New Harmony
- 23RD Marlana Pind (birthday)
- 24TH Peace River Presbytery
- 25TH John & Jeanne Hirsch (anniversary)
- 26TH Kate Broeckling (birthday)
- 27TH Savannah Presbytery
- 28TH Presbytery of St. Augustine
- 29TH Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- 30TH Trinity Presbytery
- 31ST The Presbytery of Tropical Florida

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

God of all creation, teach us to protect and preserve; teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves; teach us humility before all you have created. Teach us to treat our food and the land from which it comes with reverence. In the name of Jesus, who is the true bread of life. Amen.

January 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 10:30 am Communion Worship Service	2 7:00 pm Property Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 am Retreat																																																																																																		
8 10:30 am Worship Service 1:00 pm Baby Shower for Margery Waller (Wickham) Noon Gather, Share, & Eat	9	10 6:30 pm Christian Outreach Meeting	11	12	13	14																																																																																																		
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