



# FIRST FACTS

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



A pastor tells the story of a visit of a member who was celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He remarked, "You must have seen many things change during your lifetime." The man replied, "Yes, I have, and I voted against every one of them!" Change doesn't come easily to us but it is inevitable. Things change, the community changes, our church changes over time. In each turning there is an opportunity to reimagine God's call and respond with faith and hope in the future.

As I write this, we are in the middle of a sermon series on the *Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. The five practices are not new or unfamiliar to you. You know well about hospitality, worship, faith development, mission, and generosity. This series, based on Robert Schnase's book, challenges us to grow our commitment in these areas using specific descriptors: radical, passionate, intentional, risk-taking, and extravagant.

To live out that calling requires an extraordinary commitment to change and a willingness to be transformed. Of course, that raises some questions for us like, Will it hurt? Will all the effort make a difference? What are we being transformed into? Will we be self-focused or focused on the needs of others? What does God want First Presbyterian to become?

For a church to remain vital and relevant for 182 years, as you have, requires resilience and an ability to change. It requires self-examination and commitment to head off in a new direction seeking God's mission. I'm reminded that twice in your history you've been willing to tear down buildings and rebuild in sanctuaries that better fit your renewed sense of call. That courage and vision is in your DNA as a congregation and is helping you adapt now to a renewed sense of call in this community.

As you prepare to welcome a new pastor and reflect on the future, I hope you find new ways to apply Radical Hospitality in welcoming others and anticipating their needs; Passionate Worship that believes something important is at stake when the church gathers; Intentional Faith Development that deepens and broadens your spiritual lives; Risk-Taking Mission and Service that reaches those most desperate with no guaranteed return for us; and, Extravagant Generosity that reflects our gratitude for God's mercy and grace toward us.

During this series we are learning a new hymn, *Together We Serve*. The lyrics to the first two verses are:

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.  
We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

Blessings,

Pastor Terry



October Gather, Share, & Eat will be a fried chicken dinner with side dishes. Please make a reservation, if you plan to attend, by signing the pew pad or calling the church office.

**If anyone has borrowed items from our church kitchen, please return them. We are missing some of our supplies.**



**Garage Sale Success!**

The Mission Committee is so appreciative of the help we received before and during the Garage Sale. We are proud we are able to present the Women's Safe House a check for \$3,000. Sincere thanks go to Mike & Kathy Brown, Paul & Donna Farris, Jeanne Hirsch, Karen McDougall, Ruth Pautler, Bob & Donna Pikey, Sarah Ross, Marcy & Elizabeth Ryan, Bill & Georganne Syler and Ray & Sandy Wilhelm. Thanks to friends of the church: Carolyn Bock, Steve & Carol Nesler and Brenda Nicolai. Special thanks to Will & Janna for allowing us to use the Scout Building. A member was recently heard telling someone "We're a small group but we're powerful!" How true! Thank you.



**Memorials**

- A Memorial has been received in memory of:  
**Marlena Pind**, from Charles & Judy Wiles, Barbara Calvin
- Mary P Harrison**, from Lois & Carol Brinkopf, Linda Singerman
- Ralph Sitter**, from Bill Port, Barbara Calvin
- Donne Williams**, from Ann Brinkopf, Barbara Calvin
- Jack Lamkin**, from Barbara Calvin



**October Meal-a-Month**

- 2 cans Kidney beans
- 2 cans tomatoes
- Chili seasoning packet
- Can of fruit of choice



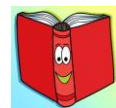
**Invitation to a Fall Festival**

Our church family has been invited by First Baptist Church to join their members for a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 22, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. Their church is located at the corner of Cape Rock Drive and Lexington. If you plan to participate, all you have to take is a lawn chair. There will be fire pits, games, a Pie Bowl (contest) and refreshments that include hot dogs, s'mores, hot chocolate and pie! They have also invited the other Cape churches who participated with us in Vacation Bible School this past summer. Let the church office know if you want to attend so we can help First Baptist with a head count.



**SECOND TUESDAY AT THE CHATEAU**

Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, October 10, 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 has changed nights to**

**Wednesday.** The October Book Club Meeting will be on October 11 at the home of Jean Cairns. The book is "The Award" by Danielle Steele. In November on the 8<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 10, 2018. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.

## **Church Structure**

During my tenure as Transitional Pastor I've worked to adapt the church structure to be leaner and more efficient. We simply had too many committees with standing monthly meetings. Our time and energy were going into meetings with little left over for ministry. This is a common ailment in churches. It limits our effectiveness and our ability to engage volunteers who simply don't want another meeting to attend but are happy to help out when needed.

So we simplified. The session now has three committees. The Executive Committee acts as the personnel committee and plans the session meetings. The Administrative Ministry Center pays attention to property and finance issues. The Faith Formation Center manages Christian education, worship, mission, member care, outreach and communication.

As needed these groups form teams or work groups to execute specific tasks. These groups don't need a regular meeting but communicate and coordinate as needed to fulfill their task. This is a more hands-on approach that engages more people in specific, time-limited tasks.

The challenge of course is to prioritize, organize, and communicate the needs and recruit people to help. That's why we asked you to complete a time and talents survey this year to indicate your interests in serving in specific areas.

Recently we adopted the Mobile Food Truck as a mission project requiring 10 to 15 volunteers each month. Donna Pikey accepted the responsibility to recruit volunteers to help with the first event in September. She had more members sign up than we needed. That's great!

In my experience, all of you are willing to help as your time and abilities allow. That's what it takes.

Rev. Terry L. Epling

## **SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Stated Meeting of the Session September 19, 2017

1. Received and accepted for the church an invitation from First Baptist Church to participate in their Fall Festival at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, 2017.
2. Approved a request from UKirk-St. Louis for a \$500 donation to support this Presbytery-sponsored program for students attending Saint Louis University and Washington University. Campus minister for UKirk is Rev. Miriam Foltz who has preached for us twice when Rev. Epling was away.
3. Approved a \$100 sponsorship of the Cape County Project Homeless Connect that will be held in Cape October 6, 2017, to provide information and support to those struggling with homelessness and related issues.
4. Received a report from Treasurer Wiles that for the first month of this year expenses have exceeded income by \$3,000, but not any one budget item is responsible. However, the checking account has over \$51,000 in it.
5. Rev. Epling announced that Rev. Paul Bembower, recently retired pastor from the Farmington Presbyterian Church, will preach for us and conduct the Communion service on Sunday, October 1, 2017.
6. Received a report from Elder Harris for the Nominating Committee that the slate of three Elders, two At Large Nominating Committee members and one At Large Endowment Committee member is ready to be nominated and voted upon during a Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 15, 2017.
7. Received a report from Elder Wiles for the PNC that they are very close to issuing a call to a pastor and negotiating terms of the call once the Presbytery's background check has been completed and the Presbytery's Pastoral Transition Commission has met and interviewed the candidate while the candidate is visiting in Cape.

## **Congregational Meeting To Nominate and Elect**

The Session is calling a special meeting of the congregation to be held at the end of the worship service on Sunday, October 15, 2017. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate and elect three Elders to serve in the Class of 2020 on the Session, two At Large members of the Nominating Committee to serve two year terms and one At Large member of the Endowment Committee to serve a three year term.

## **Nominees for Elders in the Class of 2020**

**David Bengtson** grew up in Idaho Springs, CO, and attended college in Greeley, CO, where he earned a degree in Finance. While in college, he began working with a dry edible bean company which led to his career in Agriculture Business. He and his wife Stephanie joined our church April 9, 2017, upon a transfer of their membership from Hodge Presbyterian Church in Trenton, MO. They were members there over 30 years before he retired and they moved to Cape two years ago. They both sing in our choir. David has been both an Elder and a Deacon and looks forward to this opportunity to serve at our church. The Bengtsons have three children, Dustin in Oregon, Mandy in California and Nathan here in Cape. They also have six grandchildren.

**Sarah Holt** is now a full time faculty member at Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO, in the new bachelor's and master's health management programs in the Harrison College of Business. She has worked in healthcare as a practice executive since 1988. She is the proud mother of two daughters, Takara and Rachel. Sarah has had a consistent faith walk since her confession of faith at age 9. She relies on God in her daily life and gives him honor for all she has done throughout life. As a member of the First Presbyterian Church, since April 30, 2006, she is honored to be asked to be a member of the Session and prays that she can make a positive contribution to the life of the church.

**Sarah Ross** has been a member of this church since April 4, 1982. She is married to Rob Ross, and they have one daughter Mary Beth. Sarah grew up in Cape and has had a 35-year career as an LPN having worked at Southeast Hospital, Fountainbleu Lodge and Monticello House. She has been an At Large member of the Nominating Committee and is now the church's Nursery Attendant on Sunday mornings. In the community, she volunteers with the Read to Succeed program and the FISH food pantry. She is also active in the Kage Extension Club and Eastern Star.

### **Nominees for At Large Members of the Nominating Committee**

**Ann Ritter** has been a member of our church since November 1, 1970, when she and her husband Dr. Ray Ritter returned to their hometown of Cape Girardeau and transferred their membership from a Presbyterian church in St. Louis. Ann was raised a Methodist and had been baptized by her maternal grandfather in the Methodist church where he was a pastor. Ann and Ray are the parents of three sons, August, John and Brian. While serving on the Session in 2000, son John was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died in 2005. Ann has served our church as a circle leader, President of the Women of the Church, a Deacon and Elder several times and Property Committee chair several years. She is grateful for the love, support and prayers of our members the past few years as she has cared for aging family members and now for her husband who has Parkinson's Disease. She considers it "a pleasure to serve my Lord, my God, and my church as He allows me to do so."

**Sandy Wilhelm** and her husband Ray have been members of our church since December 9, 2001. She says, "the Presbyterian church has been a major part of my life since becoming a member as a child in Salina, KS." The Wilhelms are parents of three children and four grandchildren, but none of them live in Cape. Sandy was an elementary education teacher and has always loved working with children. At church she has been actively involved with the MOPS program, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She is also a Read to Succeed volunteer. As a Deacon, Sandy served on the Fellowship Committee and enjoyed working in the kitchen. She is always willing to help with bereavement meals and meals for members recovering from illness or surgery. She frequently ushers and prepares the Communion elements. She has just completed one year on the Nominating Committee to fill an unexpired term. Sandy also is known for her quilting ability, and several newborns of church members have received her quilts.

### **Nominee for At Large Member of the Endowment Committee**

**Horton Miller** and his wife Carol have been active members of our church since they moved to Cape from Kennett and joined First Presbyterian Church June 26, 1988, upon a transfer of membership. However, this is the church where Horton had grown up. The Millers are the parents of two sons and grandparents of three granddaughters and a grandson. Horton has served several times as a Deacon and Elder and has served on and chaired several committees, including Property, Finance, Budget, Stewardship, Renovation and Building campaigns and the Endowment Committee which he presently chairs.

## OCTOBER 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> Presbytery of Shenandoah
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Harrison (birthday) Pete & Peg Hirschburg (anniversary)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Parkinson, Ray Wilhelm (birthday)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Erica McBride (birthday)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Albany Presbytery
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dr. Dan Neely, John Folwell (birthday)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Peg Hirschburg, (birthday)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Eastern Korean Presbytery
- 9<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Elizabeth
- 10<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Genesee Valley
- 11<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery Geneva
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jean Miller (birthday)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Oliver Manuel (birthday)
- 14<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Long Island
- 15<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Monmouth
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jean Cairns (birthday)
- 17<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of New Brunswick
- 18<sup>th</sup> New York City Presbytery
- 19<sup>th</sup> Floyd Fellows (birthday)
- 20<sup>th</sup> The Presbytery of Newark
- 21<sup>st</sup> The Presbytery of Newton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> The Presbytery of Northern New England
- 23<sup>rd</sup> The Presbytery of Northern New York
- 24<sup>th</sup> Charles Wiles, Sara Barns (birthday)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Martha Stickler, Nancy Bray (birthday)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Bob Herbst (birthday)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jane Hirsch (birthday)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Utica
- 29<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of West Jersey
- 30<sup>th</sup> Presbytery of Western New York
- 31<sup>st</sup> J. Fred Waltz (birthday)

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.

# October 2017

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Communion Worship Service	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>9</b> Executive Meeting Office Closed	<b>10</b> 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at Chateau	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Book Club	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service Congregational Meeting noon Gather Share & Eat	<b>16</b> Office Closed	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Session Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>																																																																																																		
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<b>29</b> 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 2017</th> <th colspan="7">Nov 2017</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>				Sep 2017							Nov 2017							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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