



FIRST FACTS

A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · May 2019



My newsletter article from last December told you of work that was being done on the green space east of the church. Now, I'm thrilled to announce that the work is nearly complete on the First Presbyterian **PEACE PARK!**

Stone pathways wind their way through the park, around two meditation areas on each side of a large, lighted pergola in the center. **Sculptures for each meditation area will be unveiled in a ceremony, Friday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m.** These sculptures have been designed and created by SEMO art students, under the instruction of Chris Wubbena, Professor of Art and Sculpture. Refreshments will be provided, and Jonathan Patterson will provide music throughout the evening.

If you can't make it Friday, we are also planning an **official dedication of the PEACE PARK and the JOYFUL NOISE PLAYGROUND for Sunday, June 2, following worship.**

This church building – in all its forms – and this congregation have provided sacred space on the corner of Lorimier and Broadway going back further than anyone alive can remember. For over 180 years, YOU and your ancestors in the faith, have provided a place for worship, faith development, and service in Cape Girardeau.

Now, we can add that we are providing sacred space to welcome all people in our community, regardless of age, race, or religion. Our **PEACE PARK** is an expression of who we are at First Presbyterian and our desire to serve and love God by providing a place of rest, reflection, and renewal for our neighbors.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS... BLESSED ARE YOU! Your dedication to First Presbyterian Church has helped make our Peace Park a reality, and we are grateful!

The stones in the pathway represent each member or faithful friend of the church – past, present, and future. We walk this journey together in faith, as disciples of Jesus Christ, striving to emulate him by serving and loving all people as he did.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session April 22, 2019

1. Confirmed the April 15 email vote of the Session approving a quote of \$2,700 from Lundy Heating and Cooling to replace a valve in the boiler. However, by the time of this Session Meeting, Property Chair Elder Bengtson had learned the cost will be only \$ 1,200 - \$ 1,300 because the problem is not the valve but a faulty linkage.
2. Received Rev. Gurnon's monthly report of Activities, from March 23 to April 18, 2019. Included were 5 visits/calls to members and 31 church/community/Presbytery meetings and activities.
3. Elected Elder Hecht as our Commissioner to the May 4, 2019, Presbytery Meeting to be held at our church. Rev. Gurnon assigned specific Presbytery duties to each Elder.
4. Approved two requests for use of the Fellowship Hall. The first was from Girl Scouts of the MO Heartland (for local scouts) for Saturday, November 4, 2019, from noon to 4 p.m. for 12 to 24 Girl Scouts to work on a badge about handling service animals. Voted to allow use at no charge. Also approved request from Shirley Gibson for use of the Fellowship Hall September 25-26 in 2020 for the reunion of Central High School classes of 1952, 53 and 54 involving about 75 people having a catered meal (no alcohol).
5. Decided to continue using the new procedure for counting and recording the weekly offering until such time as Executive/Personnel Committee can propose a less time-consuming but still fiscally responsible process that also protects donor identity and donation amount.
6. Rev. Gurnon reviewed the main ideas resulting from the Session's March 31, 2019, Visioning Retreat Follow-up meeting. A number of ideas for building use (some revenue producing) and ministry projects are to be explored further by volunteers, both Elders and members, for a Ministry Team and a Revenue Team.
7. Treasurer Wiles noted as of March 31, 2019, our Current Assets were \$ 1,037,449.36, our Income Year To Date was \$ 61,071.66 and Expenses Year To Date were \$ 59,993.34 for a positive cash flow of \$ 1, 078.32.
8. Elder Wiles and Rev. Gurnon reported the following about the Peace Park: after Gather, Share and Eat April 28, the Congregation will have an opportunity to preview the Peace Park before the art work, benches and signs will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 3, 2019, in conjunction with Presbytery's Fellowship Gathering and the monthly downtown First Friday with the Arts (Music and refreshments will be in the pergola weather permitting.) On Sunday, June 2, 2019, a formal dedication of the Peace Park will take place with special guests from the Hirsch, Ritter, Gibson and Shivelbine families whose relatives are being recognized by Park signage in honor of their devoted service and support of our church.
9. First Presbyterian will be a sponsor of the Power of Praying Women Luncheon on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, thanks to the 16 women who will be attending from our church.
10. Approved a donation of \$250 toward expenses of the 2019 VBS being held at First Baptist Church June 10-13 and co-sponsored by our church, First Baptist, Christ Episcopal, and Abbey Road Christian Church.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will NOT meet in May. It will resume in June.



The next meeting of the book club will be on May 9th, in the of home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is “Keeper of Lost Things” by Ruth Hogan. We have selected books until August, but the locations have not been chosen. For June 13 “The Silver Star” by Jeannette Walls. The July 11th book is “The Transcription” by Kate Atkinson and for August 8 the book is “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



May Meal-a-Month

- Jar of Peanut Butter
- Jar of Jelly or Jam
- 2 Cans of fruit



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Marvin Woodfin, from Shirley & Don Gibson,
Nelson Kasten



WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

Many thanks go out to all those who have helped in so many ways to get our church ready for carpet cleaning and the Presbytery meeting. We accomplished a great deal on our April 27th work day, including some before and after that day. Then on Sunday, several folks helped move furniture out of (and back into) the sanctuary, narthex, atrium, and upper room so carpets could be cleaned. I would hate to leave someone out, so I won't list names except for one: Dave Bengtson, Property Committee Chair. He doesn't rest! Thanks to everyone; we are the church together!



The offering for One Great Hour of Sharing totaled \$1675.61 this year. That will go a long way to share bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. Thank you First Presbyterian Church!



We will not have Gather, Share & Eat until September!



Thank You Ben, Emma, Maybry, Emily, Elsie and Hannah!

For the first time in the 184 year history of this church our youth, all baptized members and two of them also confirmed members, were invited during this past Lenten season to help serve Communion with their parents, all ordained as Elders and/or Deacons. **We sincerely appreciate how responsibly and respectfully this was done by Ben and Emma Broeckling with their dad John, Maybry Shaver with her mother Joanna, Emily and Elsie Harris with their parents Melissa and Bryan Harris, and Hannah Taylor with her dad Ron. We are very proud of you!**

Not only are we grateful to our youth but also to their parents and Sunday School teachers who prepared them to do this by helping them understand the meaning and importance of the Sacrament of Communion. One parent told me how many times they practiced at home holding a basket of bread cubes and saying " the body of Christ. "

We also appreciate the Lenten season bulletin covers created by these same young people in addition to Emma Wolfe, granddaughter of Kathy and Mike Brown and daughter of their Laura.

Although, it was mentioned by Rev. Gurnon in her March First Facts column and by me in the March Session Highlights that the Session had approved involving the youth in our Lenten season Communion services, many members were still surprised to see them serving Communion. Rev. Gurnon, on behalf of the Christian Education Committee, had asked the Session to approve this special opportunity to involve our youth in worship services. By approving this request, the Session was actually embracing the current 2017-19 PCUSA Book of Order which states in **W-2.02: " Children and youth bring special gifts and grow in faith through their regular participation in worship. Those who plan and lead worship should provide for their full participation in the Service for the Lord's Day."**

Further Book of Order confirmation of that appears in section **W-3.0414 which states: " Ordinarily ruling elders, deacons and ministers of the Word and Sacrament serve the bread and cup; the Session may authorize other church members to do so."**

The Book of Order also explains in **G-1.0401 that " A baptized member, a person who has received the Sacrament of Baptism and who has been enrolled as a baptized member by the Session, is to receive the pastoral care and instruction of the church and may participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper."** In addition, in section **W-3.0409 the Book of Order states: "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup regardless of their age and understanding."**

As Clerk of Session, it is my responsibility to help the Session follow the Book of Order, so I consult the Book often which I did when Rev. Gurnon asked the Session to approve our young people helping serve Communion during Lent. Times change, and certainly the Book of Order changes as I have found out again and again! You see, when I was growing up in this church, even as a baptized member, I was not allowed to receive the Communion elements until I was confirmed as a member in 1954 at age 10. I cannot imagine how proud I would have been to stand beside my Dad and serve Communion with him too!

Though I am not presently a voting member of the Session, I am so grateful to the Session for encouraging the involvement of our youth in worship, and I am so very grateful for those young people and their parents!

Nancy Bray, Clerk of Session



**LILLIES HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY
IN MEMORY OF**



Our Parents, from Don & Shirley Gibson
Austin & Martha Cairns, her parents, from Jean Cairns
Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Rueseler, her parents, from Ruth Knot
Charles Knot, her husband, & **Barbara Knot Head**, from Ruth Knot
Bob & Rogene Stroup, her parents, from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
David & Esther Bengtson, his parents, from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
David S. Metcalfe, her husband, from Sharon Metcalfe & family
Bill Needle, from Ruth Needle & Family
Charles, Mark, & Sam Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
William Stover, from Evelyn and Family
Willie Phillips, from Evelyn Stover
Marvin Woodfin, from Evelyn Stover
Fred & Marcella Henry, his parents, and **Dwayne Henry**, his brother, from Daryl Henry
Our Parents, from Bob & Donna Pikey
Our Parents, Byrl & Clea Jarrett and Harry & Wanda Hecht, from Lea & Harvey Hecht
Betty Whitelaw Turner and Bruce Turner and her parents Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Whitelaw
Her parents: Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from Nancy Bray
Gene & Ginny Thornton, from Barry Thornton
Guy Pinckley, from Claudine Pinckley
Sina Kaiser, from Ed Kaiser
Fletcher Chasteen, from Betty Chasteen
Our Parents and Siblings, from Ed & Sue Burford
Paul Farris Sr. (his Dad) and Paul Farris (husband), from Donna Farris
Dr. Raymond Ritter, from Judith Farris

**LILLIES HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY
IN HONOR OF**

Our Families, from Paul & Ruth Pautler
Nancy Bray, (for her Mom & dad), from Barry Thornton
Col. Kenneth Crawford, from Claudine Pinckley
All Choir Members, from Joyce Rayfield
Sandy Wilhelm, from Jean Cairns
Sarah & Greg Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
Don & Shirley Gibson, from Shirley Sullivan

MAY 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 Virginia Goodwin (birthday)
- 2ND Madge Ridings (birthday)
- 3RD Togo
- 4TH Africa
- 5TH Ghana
- 6TH Will & Janna Bahn (anniversary)
- 7TH Joan Morgan (birthday)
- 8TH Nigeria
- 9TH Niger
- 10TH Cory Knapp (birthday)
- 11TH Cameroon
- 12TH Equatorial Guinea
- 13TH Republic of South Sudan
- 14TH Republic of the Sudan
- 15TH Presbytery of Olympia
- 16TH Ethiopia
- 17TH Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 18TH Kenya
- 19TH Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
- 20TH Dixie Hopkins (birthday)
- 21ST Sarah Ross (birthday)
- 22ND 1001 Worshiping Communities
- 23RD Presbyterian Heritage
- 24TH Donna Pikey (birthday)
- 25TH Rwanda
- 26TH Cory & Rachel Knapp (anniversary)
- 27TH Shelby Brantley (birthday)
- 28TH Don Gibson (birthday)
- 29TH Malawi
- 30TH Mozambique
- 31ST Zimbabwe

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Grant, O Lord, that the refreshing life springs of your Spirit will flow through us to others. Open our eyes to see your love at work in all peoples and places. In your name, we pray. Amen.

May 2019

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Apr 2019</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jun 2019</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">1</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">2</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">3</p> <p>office closed 5:30 pm Peace Park Sculpture Unveiling</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">4</p> <p>9:00am-4:00pm Presbytery Meeting</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">5</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service w/Communion</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">6</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">7</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">8</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">9</p> <p>7:00 pm Book Club</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">10</p> <p>office closed</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">11</p> <p>10:00 Worship & Arts Committee</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">12</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">13</p> <p>Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">14</p> <p>Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">15</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">16</p> <p>Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">17</p> <p>7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight Begins office closed Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">18</p> <p>Ellen on Study leave</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">19</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service Last day of Sunday School Jeff Long Preaching Ellen on Study leave</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">20</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">21</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">22</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">23</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">24</p> <p>7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight office closed</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">25</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">26</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">27</p> <p>Memorial Day office closed</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">28</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">29</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">30</p> | <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">31</p> <p>7:00 pm Tunes at Twilight office closed</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |