



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · May 2018

YOUR COMMITTEES AT WORK!

I am happy to report that several committees (both continuing and newly formed) are doing some good work for God's kingdom on earth! Here are some highlights:



The **Christian Education Committee** members and Sunday School teachers have familiarized themselves with the new Child Protection Policy; teachers and church staff members have had new background checks completed; and the church is signed up with SafeChurch.com, giving us access to training materials and many other resources. The committee is also planning ways to welcome children in worship and assist parents with resources to engage and teach their children about worship. Be on the lookout for new pew cards coming soon! This summer there will be NO Sunday School for First Grade and older; they will be encouraged to worship with us the full hour.

The **Endowment Committee** met recently for a review of our portfolio with our advisor from Wells Fargo.

The **Executive/Personnel Committee** keeps a close eye on income and spending, staff issues, and items needing to be addressed by the Session. Most recently, they have carefully reviewed and revised our building use policies and guidelines.

The **Member Care and Fellowship Committee** is putting together a prayer chain and has also identified individuals to help send cards to members for all occasions, to help with bereavement meals and congregational meals and events. This congregation is very good about caring and compassionate ministry with one another. **Please know that, for my part, I urge you to contact me when you or another church member is in the hospital or struggling with an illness or crisis. I would rather have five people contact me when a church member is in need than to not get the message at all.**

Stewardship, Mission, and Outreach (SMO) is collecting surveys from church members to learn **your** priorities for mission. A survey is included in this newsletter if you haven't already turned one in. The Committee met with Karen Green of the Southeast MO Food Bank to learn how we might add our support regarding a truck that was donated to the Food Bank by Will Bahn and Janna Tuck on our behalf. The truck will be made road worthy and have refrigeration added so that fresh produce can be delivered to rural areas and food deserts.

The **Property Committee** has a long list of projects they are tackling, and they are hard at work (often behind the scenes) improving and maintaining our beautiful building and grounds.

A **Worship and Arts Committee** will be in place very soon. VISUAL ARTS is an up and coming area of focus for us and will be a sub-committee of Worship and Arts.

If you have an area in which you'd like to serve, consider yourself invited to any of our committee meetings! **And, if you have limitations that prevent you from participating in person, remember that your PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL AND ALWAYS NEEDED!**

With appreciation and God's blessings,

Grace and peace,
Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session April 17, 2018

1. Received the Pastor's Report of Activities for March 20-April 17, 2018, and they included: 18 member visits/calls/notes; 15 church and community meetings/events; 1 funeral and communion to a homebound member.
2. Elected Nancy Bray as Commissioner to next Presbytery Meeting Saturday, May 5, in St. Louis.
3. Made additional revisions to the church's new Facility Usage Policy and the Request Form for building use and borrowing equipment; approved these changes for immediate implementation.
4. Received report on (1) progress with researching, identifying and pricing appropriate new playground equipment for the church and on (2) consultation session with Bloomfield Lawn and Landscape Co. about development of a " parkscape " with benches, plantings and art work for the church's east lawn.
5. Received a report on the 2017 Financial Review conducted by nonresident member Scott Harrison, qualified to conduct financial reviews in compliance with the PC (USA) Book of Order. Our books were found to be in order and our accounting practices to be appropriate.
6. Approved request from Hannah Noe and William Below (grandson of Bill and Joan Morgan) to be married in our church on Saturday, December 1, 2018, with Rev. Gurnon as the chief officiant.
7. Received report on a truck being donated to the SEMO Food Bank by truck owners Will Bahn and Janna Tuck in honor of our church. The truck will be converted to add refrigeration for the delivery of fresh produce throughout the Food Bank service area. The Bahns requested the truck be identified with our church's name along with the Food Bank's name and logo. Cost of that graphics package is projected to be about \$6,000. Upon a recommendation from the church's Stewardship, Mission and Outreach Committee, the Session approved donating that amount from Mission funds. The remaining modification/conversion costs of approximately \$17,837 will come from Food Bank funding sources.
8. Approved Rev. Gurnon's request to establish an Arts Advisory Committee made up of church members who are artists, have taught art or have ties to the local arts community. This Committee will work with Music Director Jonathan Patterson, also an artist, and Rev. Gurnon to explore ways our church can promote the arts and increase the church's visibility in the community while developing and making available new art opportunities.

IF YOU ARE ON FACEBOOK...

You can help spread the word about the good things happening at First Presbyterian Church!
First, LIKE our page. Next, whenever you see a post on our page, LIKE, SHARE, and COMMENT!
The more you interact with each post, the more people will see it.
It's EASY to help us reach to the ends of the earth!



The next meeting of the Book Club

will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 9th at the home of Sandy Wilhelm. The book is "Caroline" by Sarah Miller. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will

meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 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 no later than noon on Monday, May 7 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.



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Caroline Reitz, from Evelyn Stover

Martha Stickler, from Ruth Needle, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Ray & Ann Ritter, Evelyn Stover, Georganne & Bill Syler, Pat & Karen Hagan, Roxie Lindsay, Maxine Hale, Gale & Ann Schafer, The Ross Family, Shirley & Don Gibson, Sarah Barks, John & Jeanne Hirsch, Kurt & Erin May, Alice & Paul Kabo, Harvey & Ruth Nischwitz, Retired Teachers



"I am the resurrection and the life"

Martha Stickler

October 25,1924--April 6, 2018



CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT REPORT

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our project for the children at the Women's Safe House. With your help, we were able to deliver 32 individual pajama boxes each with a pair of girl's or boy's pair of pajamas, a stuffed animal, and a book, plus 5 boxes filled with infant to size 24-month sleepers, and 4 large boxes filled with different sized boy's and girl's socks and underwear. When we contacted The Safe House a few days later we were very pleased to hear that not only had the boxes been very helpful, but had also been a great hit with the children. They shared how special and important it was for each of the children to have a pair of clean, new pajamas to wear. The children also loved the "snuggle toys" and hugged them when they opened their boxes. How wonderful that we were able to do something to brighten the lives of these children! Thank you again to everyone who supported our project with their work, their prayers and their donations!



To Everyone who donated food for the evening of visitation. My family could not believe all the food that was provided by you. THANK YOU so much. I have a wonderful, loving church family-I felt it that night.

Love Melissa Harris



May Meal-a-Month

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



Gather, Share & Eat, May 20th,

The menu will be Fried Chicken and a Pot luck. Chicken will be provided. Please bring a vegetable, salad or desert that you have prepared or purchased from a local deli. Those that have last names beginning with the letter A thru M bring a salad or vegetable. Those with last names starting with N - Z to bring a desert.



INVITATION FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Our friends at First Baptist Church have invited us to attend a Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social, Sunday, May 20 at 4:00 pm. We will gather in the Sanctuary to sing some of our favorite hymns and then we will move into the Activities Center for some ice cream!



Troop 4 still has BBQ left. It is frozen in one pound packages. Call Shirley if you are interested. 450-1802.

Invitation

We have received an invitation from Church Women United to their Annual Dinner Meeting that will be on Friday, May 4, 2018, at St. James AME Church located at 516 North St. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00. No reservations are necessary. This year the event is in recognition of the 2018 May Friendship Day theme: Reaching for Wholeness in Gratitude for God's Presence.



STEWARDSHIP... beyond the offering plate.

Since we recently celebrated Earth Day, remember that God has entrusted us with the care of all creation, all living things. As in all other areas of good stewardship, our selfishness can get in the way of what God calls us to do. Good stewardship of the earth includes attention to REDUCING, REUSING, AND RECYCLING to cut down on the massive waste and dumping in our country. Plastic bags, bottles, and straws are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing fish and other wildlife. Do your part to care for God's good earth! Learn more at www.creationjustice.org. This is stewardship, beyond the offering plate.



May 13 -Choral Scholars Sunday!

Join us for worship and beautiful music from our choral scholars. This will be their last Sunday with us until next Fall. **Don't miss it!**

How do we Understand Per Capita



Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church.

Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is funds donated by all members of the PC (U.S.A.) and allocated to all councils above the local congregations.

- It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders, deacons and ministers.
- It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources. For example, the biannual meeting of the General Assembly that is being held in St. Louis 16-23 June this year is supported by per capita donations.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation".

All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church through per capita giving. The annual per capita rate is a per-member apportionment that is assessed by the General Assembly, the Synod and the Presbytery to support their individual budgets. All congregations — large and small — are encouraged to participate, either through an annual budget item or through a special

direct appeal to their congregants.

What Mission opportunity "speaks" to you?

Our Stewardship, Mission and Outreach Committee wants to hear from you!

Christ tells us in the Greatest Commandment to love our neighbor.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed to have resources to share with our neighbors. What are your priorities for us to use our time, talents and treasures?

Please number from 1 to 7 (1 being of first importance to you) the following groups you would prioritize for our church to support:

_____ Children

_____ Disabled

_____ Homeless

_____ Poverty Stricken

_____ Elderly

_____ Women and Children

_____ Families

Please list any other group or organization which you would like us to consider.

Thank you for your prayerful support to determine how to best use our gifts to support our neighbors.

Thank You from Hope for One More



April 2, 2018

To the loving members of First Presbyterian Church:

I wanted to thank you again for your generosity. In 2017, the members of your caring church blessed Hope For One More with a \$10,000 donation to be used to meet medical needs of children in foster care that would otherwise go without much needed services beneficial to their medical, dental, and psychological health due to lack of adequate health care coverage and the cost of the services.

Dedicated foster families often cover these costs out of their own pockets but they are often young families raising children of their own, in addition to accepting children who have entered foster care as part of their families. After providing for the children and their every day needs as well as loving and stable families, there often aren't funds available to provide for extraordinary health care costs. While they do receive a small stipend from the state, what MO pays families to pay for children in foster care is the second lowest in all 50 states, ranking 48th in the nation. While it does help with the basics for the children, it doesn't begin to cover the total cost of truly meeting these children's needs. When a child must be placed in a residential facility and does not live with a foster family, the need is even greater because these children do not even have a foster family willing to absorb the cost to provide these things.

Even though due to the circumstances being in foster care is always a traumatic experience, our goal is to help enrich their lives and provide them with some happy memories to carry with them.

To date we have used \$5350.17 of the fund set up by your church for the health care needs of children in foster care.

With Love,

Crissy Mayberry

Executive Director

Board of Directors

Crissy Mayberry, Stacey Wiley

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 Olmpia
- 16TH Ethiopia
- 17TH Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 18TH Kenya
- 19TH Paul Farris (birthday)
- 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 Zambia
- 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 2018

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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