



FIRST FACTS

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

One of the things I have enjoyed learning about Cape Girardeau is the existence of a thriving art community in the downtown area. From the River Campus offering many fine arts programs and opportunities, to the river wall murals, the historical architecture, the Arts Council, and the numerous galleries and other venues that showcase local artists – all of this makes the area a place of nurture and growth for creative hearts, minds, and spirits.



I have also been discovering that there is a history and an on-going presence of artistic talent within our own congregation. This wealth of knowledge and talent, along with our prime location downtown, and our beautiful facility with much unused space opens great opportunities for us to become a part of First Friday with the Arts and other creative ventures.

I believe it is important to make ourselves known in our neighborhood and to become an active participant in the community – especially when things are happening right outside our door. Taking a step in this direction, we have established an Arts Advisory sub-committee under the Worship and Arts umbrella. Currently serving on this committee are: Jonathan Patterson, Music Director (a talented visual artist as well as musician); Harvey Hecht, Chair of Worship and Arts Committee; Sam Bishop, Barbara Calvin, Emily Harris, Ruth Needle, Donna Pikey, and Ann Ritter.

We plan to begin opening our doors each First Friday for musical offerings, tours of the building, shows featuring artists of our congregation, and eventually providing gallery space for local artists and perhaps even a juried art show.

We welcome your ideas and your help and support in making this happen!

Shall we “hide [our light] under a bushel”? NO! Let’s come together to be a shining light for our Creator in downtown Cape. To the glory of God!

Grace and peace,
Ellen

Rev. Ellen Gurnon will be on vacation June 14-23 and will be gone June 24-July 1 for Continuing Education. If you have an emergency, call Clerk of Session, Nancy Bray, 450-5894 or the church office, 335-2579.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session May 15, 2018

1. Rev. Gurnon and Elder Bray reported on the Presbytery Meeting and Workshop they attended Saturday, May 5, in St. Louis. The Presbytery Meeting included: an update on plans for the General Assembly Meeting that will be in St. Louis in June; a report from the Vision Team that the Presbytery's focus in 2019 will be on hunger; and a presentation summarizing Presbytery membership data for 2017. The 3 hour Workshop about " Understanding Systemic Racism " was presented by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training.
2. Session approved Presbytery's request for our church to host the Presbytery Meeting and lunch in 2019 on May 4.
3. Received the Pastor's Report of Activities for April 18-May 14, 2018, and they included 9 member visits/calls and 20 church and community meetings/events.
4. Rev. Gurnon announced she is planning for the Session a study of the book " Waking Up White" but wants to have it some evening other than at the Session meeting, perhaps at a restaurant, and also invite interested church members and the community too.
5. Rev. Gurnon reported she will be taking some vacation days in June for a family event and then will be attending, with Music Director Jonathan Patterson, the Annual Worship & Music Conference at Montreat. The Sundays she will be away are June 17, 24 and July 1. As a result, Session approved her request to reschedule the June Session Meeting to Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 6:30 pm.
6. Treasurer Wiles reviewed the Church's Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, and the Statement of Revenue and Expenses Actual vs. Budget noting that monthly income continues to exceed monthly expenses. (see financial report on page 3)
7. Following a presentation to the Session by Mark Lundy from Lundy Heating and Cooling and upon a motion from the Property Committee, the purchase of a replacement air conditioning unit for the office area at a cost of \$ 12,196 was approved.
Also received these Property updates: a replacement awning for the church office entrance is being considered to improve the lighting and security of that entrance at night; new playground equipment is still being researched; Bloomfield Lawn and Landscaping Co. has just contacted Elder Wiles with a proposal we requested for development of a "parkscape" on our east lawn.
8. Received from Member Care and Fellowship Committee Guidelines for a First Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain and learned from Christian Education that a letter went out to parents about VBS and no Sunday School this summer and that a laminated blue card has been placed in pew racks to help parents keep their children occupied while attending church.



ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!

Support our church at NO COST to you but a few minutes of your time.

- 1) Find our page: First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau
- 2) LIKE the page (right under the picture of the church)
- 3) Invite your friends to LIKE our page (right hand column, scroll down to box titled "community")
- 4) Like, comment, and share our posts to spread our message far and wide!

Thanks. FRIENDS!



Bob and I are very grateful for all of the family and friends who have been so very supportive of us during the past few weeks. We want to thank everyone for the chauffeur service, the e-mails, the cards, phone calls, prayers and our very watchful Lord. We are very appreciative and feel very blessed. Bob is progressing very well after his surgery, and though we are both rather tired, we know we would not have gotten through this time without the help of everyone. May God bless you all!
Bob and Ann Parkinson



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, June 12, 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, June 11, 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



Books have been selected for summer reading for the Presbyterian book club. In June, the book is "Ordinary Grace" by Allison Pittman. We will meet at the home of Ruth Needle on June 13. The book selected for July is "I, Eliza Hamilton" by Susan Holloway Scott and the meeting on July 11 will be at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. For the August 8 meeting at the home of Jean Cairns, we will discuss "In the Midst of Winter" by Isabel Alende. Rounding off the summer on September 12 at the home of Sandy Wilhelm, we will read "Loving Luther" by Alison Pittman. All are welcome and reading of the books is optional.

**First Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Position
April 30, 2017**

Current Assets

Bank of MO Checking	\$44,491.83
US Bank Payroll Acct	485.00
Money Market-Reserve Fund	<u>138,309.43</u>
Total Checking/Savings	183,286.26

Other Assets

Cash Value Life Insurance	\$68,849.54
Reserve Fund-Investments	160,138.35
Endowment-Unrestricted Gen.	316,066.87
Endowment-Restricted Gen	260,665.23
Endowment-L. Sewell	<u>134,646.96</u>

Total Assets 1,123,653.21

YTD Income & Expenses

Income	64,158.21
Expenses	<u>84,232.64</u>
Net Income	\$ (20,074.43)

For any questions about this report, please call Charles Wiles, 573-225-5277, Treasurer.



June Meal-a-Month

- Package of pancake Mix (add water only)
- Bottle of pancake syrup
- 2 Cans of fruit of choice



The Stewardship, Mission and Outreach (SMO) Committee

thanks you for participating in their Survey in April. Seven areas were noted for the congregation to prioritize: Children, Homeless, Elderly, Families, Disabled, Poverty Stricken, and Women and Children. The results indicate that FPC sees ALL areas as very important for mission and outreach. We will strive to use our time, talents and treasures to serve our neighbors faithfully. Thank you again for your participation. Please contact the office, Rev Ellen, or Sarah Holt, chair, if you are aware of a particular group which we might serve.



Security Improvement

The past few months the Session, with assistance from the Property Committee, has been addressing some security issues and making changes in the best interests of our members, visitors and staff. These changes have included replacing the locks to all of the church's exterior doors and issuing new keys to a limited number of staff, Elders and Property Committee members whose duties necessitate them having keys.

Through the years too many keys had been issued to too many people in the church and the community without good record keeping about who had the keys and whether or not they were ever returned. Along with the lock changes, a new record-keeping system for checking out keys has been set up and is being strictly followed.

Another security measure now in effect is that all outside entrances, including the three glass doors into the Narthex, are being locked when worship begins at 10:30. The only unlocked door is the beautifully refinished wooden Narthex door which now has glass windows in it so the ushers can see who might be approaching to enter the church. Of course, all doors can be opened from the inside.

In addition, security cameras have been installed in key locations, and in an effort to improve the lighting and security at the church office entrance, a new awning is being acquired to replace the one which has been blocking the light fixtures at night. If that change still does not light the entrance adequately, other changes will be considered.

If you have any kind of security concerns or suggestions about security improvements, please contact one of the following: Elders Mike Brown, Dave Bengtson, or Nancy Bray or Pastor Gurnon.



The flowers in the sanctuary on May 27, were in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R.E.L. Lamkin Jr. from their children and grandchildren.



"I am the resurrection and the life"
Dr. Raymond Ritter Jr
July 28, 1937-May 16, 2018



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Martha Stickler, from Fern & Wilma Harris, Daryl Henry, Cindy McCutcheon, Ed & Sue Burford.

Ray Ritter, from Ed & Sue Burford, Sally Adams, Nancy Bray, Charles & Carol Cozean, Marjorie Deimund, Charles & Verena Felter, Joan Gohn, Virginia Goodwin, John & Gerre Hall, Allison Bryson, Anne Lamkin Kinder, Ortho Nurses "Boney Buddies," Terry & Trudy Lee, Stephen Limbaugh, Sharon Metcalfe, Ruth Needle, Charlotte Nenner, Bob & Donna Pikey, Bill Port, Joyce Rayfield, Bill & Georganne Syler, C.R. & Bettie Talbert, Sarah Barks, Carolyn Ford Bock, Lewis Bock, Ann & Paul Brinkopf, John & Jeanne Hirsch, Brian & Nichole Jackson, Paul & Alice Kabo, Nelson Kasten, Stephen & Anne Limbaugh, Karen McDougall, Martina & Margaret Needels, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Madge Ridings, Charlotte Sargent, Betty Sewell, Karen & Dave Vishnaw, Edwin & Beverly Noffel, Rice, Spaeth, Summers & Heisserer, Michael & Mary Trueblood, Shirley & Don Gibson, Mark & Susan Sells, Ruth Knote, James & Lois Weakley, Jeffrey & Julie Koch, James & Benita Limbaugh, James & Beverly Hirsch.



JUNE 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 Mozambique
- 2nd Kathy Hargrove (birthday)
- 3rd Jerry Pind (birthday)
- 4th James Crain
- 5th Synod of the Covenant
- 6th Presbytery of Cincinnati
- 7th Madagascar
- 8th Presbytery of Detroit
- 9th Eastminster Presbytery
- 10th Dr. Ed & Sue Burford (anniversary):
Sandy Wilhelm (birthday)
- 11th Lesotho
- 12th Presbytery of Mackinac
- 13th Maumee Valley Presbytery
- 14th Presbytery of Lake Michigan
- 15th Presbytery of the Miami Valley
- 16th Jim & Beverly Hirsch (anniversary)
- 17th Presbytery of Scioto Valley
- 18th Mary Beth Ross (birthday)
- 19th Presbytery of Lake Huron
- 20th Synod of Lakes and Prairies
- 21st Charles & Jane Hirsch (anniversary)
- 22nd Horton & Carol Miler, (anniversary)
- 23rd Presbytery of Central Nebraska
- 24th Presbytery of Des Moines
- 25th Presbytery of East Iowa
- 26th Bill & Georganne Syler (anniversary)
- 27th John Knox Presbytery
- 28th Presbytery of Milwaukee
- 29th Pete Hirschburg (birthday)
- 30th Sam & Lisa Bishop (anniversary)

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.

June 2018

Monthly Planner

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