



FIRST FACTS



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

First, THANK YOU for such wonderful attendance at worship and our annual meeting on Sunday, January 27!! (I'm thinking Daryl's chili was the real main attraction! Thank you, Daryl!!)

Second, in the interest of providing transparency and building trust, I want to share a more complete answer to the question that was raised regarding the student loan fund. Nancy Bray was hard-pressed to search her memory bank on the spot, but the information she shared was accurate. However, there is much more to be told.



She has since shared with me very thorough and complete documentation of her research which began in 2015-16 at the request of Horton Miller, chair of the Endowment Fund Committee. He wanted clarification of a bequest from former church member, Mrs. Walter Timm. All research results have come from years of Session Minutes and from a copy of Mrs. Timm's will on file in the Cape County Archives Center. I will try to summarize the main points here. (Let me know if you'd like to see the full report.)

- First Presbyterian Church (with 4 other churches) was named in the will of Mrs. Walter (Winifred) Timm, who died July 24, 1979. The will stated her express desire that each church, "invest the amount of the legacy received in a permanent fund and use the income therefrom for church purposes only."
- In May 1980, FPC received two checks from Mrs. Timm's estate totaling \$64,000. With this gift, the Session created the Walter and Winifred Timm Memorial Fund.
- In May 1981, an additional \$3,282.13 was received, closing out the Timm estate.
- The Walter and Winifred Memorial Fund, now totaling \$67,282.13, was subsequently renamed the Memorial Trust Fund by the Session to encourage more donations and keep the fund growing. A Special Funds Committee, formed by the Session, recommended the following:
 - The annual dividends from the Memorial Trust Fund are to provide college or seminary scholarships for church members showing financial need, for church camp/conference costs, and for short-term assistance to transients.
- The scholarships were actually loans, as recipients were to sign an agreement to repay when possible the amount received at a low or no interest rate. Awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$5,000.
- The Fund requirements were revised more than once over the years. Every revision stated that future Sessions would have the authority to modify the Fund if it determined the monies were not serving the needs of the church.
- In one revision, the decision was made that repayments would **not** go back to the principal, but to the interest balance, resulting in eventual depletion of the monies.
- Five recipients still carry a balance due, for a total of \$24,900 outstanding, despite attempts to collect, most recently in 2016. One recipient made a partial payment at that time.
- In September 2017, the Session voted to discontinue the Fund because its negative balance no longer served the needs of the church.

It is important to remember that information can easily get lost with the regular turnover of leadership, both paid and volunteer. Memories fade, files are misplaced, information is misunderstood, and new procedures are implemented without knowledge that others already existed.

We can all be grateful for the careful work done and countless hours spent by Nancy Bray, Clerk of Session, and Charles Wiles, Treasurer, toward complete, accurate, and up-to-date recordkeeping.

Finally, the entire Session is intent on promoting open and direct communication in our meetings and with the congregation. So please continue to ask questions and voice your concerns.

Grace and peace,
Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, January 14, 2019

1. The Session conducted annual elections of the Clerk, a Clerk in Training, the Treasurer, the two Session Members for the Endowment Fund Committee, and two members of the Session to serve on the Executive/Personnel Committee. The following were elected: Clerk Nancy Bray (now a non-voting member of the Session); Clerk in Training Sarah Holt; Treasurer Charles Wiles; Endowment Fund Committee members from the Session Mike Brown and Joyce Rayfield; and Executive/Personnel Committee members from the Session Mike Brown and Ann Ritter to serve with the Clerk, the Treasurer and Pastor.
2. Approved request from Melissa and Bryan Harris for use of the church Fellowship Hall for a family function on Saturday, February 9, 2019, from 10:00 am. to 6:00 p.m. The family will assume responsibility for setup and cleanup.
3. Received Rev. Gurnon's Written Report of Activities from December 18, 2018, -January 12, 2019. Included were 5 visits/calls to members and 6 church/community meetings and activities and the celebration of life service for Barb Taylor.
4. Rev. Gurnon announced the rescheduled date for the Session's visioning/strategic planning retreat is to be Saturday, February 16, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Presbytery Leader the Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard will be the Retreat facilitator.
5. Received from the Executive/Personnel Committee numerical and narrative results of Rev. Gurnon's first annual evaluation as our church's Pastor. She far exceeded all expectations particularly with her sermons and worship leadership, her pastoral care, Christian Education support, community outreach and mission efforts, communication skills, staff, office and business management.
6. Received report from Treasurer Charles Wiles and approved the 2019 Budget as presented by him for the Executive/Personnel Committee. He pointed out the 2019 Budget will not benefit from Endowment Fund earnings as in 2017 when there was \$30,000 in earnings and in 2018 when earnings were \$91,000. Final results of the Stewardship Campaign were 38 pledging units for a total of \$ 134,000. He noted we have passed the point of being able to sustain the church on the revenue presently being collected. The question becomes how much do we want to keep spending out of investments?
7. Session approved the dollar figure of \$ 1,650 that a 3% increase in the Pastor's Terms of Call represents between the 2018 and 2019 Budgets. The Congregation will be asked to vote on Rev. Gurnon's Terms of Call known as Total Effective Salary at the Annual Congregational Meeting after church on Sunday, January 27, 2019. We learned from Rev Gurnon that the 3% increase we are recommending will also result in an increase to what we pay to the Board of Pensions for her because those dues are 37% of her Total Effective Salary. So her 2019 Total Effective Salary will be, if approved, \$ 56,650 and the Board of Pensions contribution will be \$20,960.50, a total increase of \$2,260.50 from the 2018 to 2019 Budget. With that knowledge, the Session still chose to recommend the 3% increase to the Congregation.
8. Received update from Treasurer Wiles on progress with development of the Peace Park including the good news that unsolicited gifts totaling \$ 8,500 have been donated by several members toward the cost of art work and benches for the Park.
9. Approved proposal from Worship & Arts Committee to conduct Communion services during worship the first Sunday of each month in 2019. Other dates for Communion services will be presented as needed at monthly Session meetings.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 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 Sunday evening, February 10, 2019 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 next meeting of the book club will be on February 14, 2019. We will meet at Sharon Metcalfe's house to discuss "The Bookshop on the Corner" by Jenny Colgan. All are welcome and the reading of the books is optional.



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Paul Farris, from John & Jeanne Hirsch, Ruth Needle, Ann Ritter, Donna Pikey, Evelyn Stover

Sue McNeely, from John & Jeanne Hirsch, Ann Ritter, Sharon Metcalfe, Ruth Needle

Fern Harris, from Ann Ritter

Barb Taylor, from Ann Ritter, Donna Pikey, Blake & Karen Dale, Sharon Metcalfe, Ruth Needle, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Bill & Georganne Syler



February Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans chicken noodle soup
- 2 cans of apple sauce
- Box of crackers
- Can of fruit



FEBRUARY GATHER, SHARE AND EAT

We will have Gather, Share & Eat on February 17th. Fried Chicken Dinner will be served with potluck.

Last names starting with A-P to bring a salad or vegetable and last names starting with Q - Z will bring a dessert.



On Sunday, February 3, we are going to collect MONEY or CANS for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Every bit of the money or food collected will stay in Cape and be distributed through the FISH pantry.

Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, and all your soul, all your mind and all your strength.

The second greatest commandment is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus also told us that the second is like the first: if we love God we must love our neighbor.

We are asking you to love your neighbor by contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring during our church service. There is no other commandment greater than this.

FEBRUARY 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 Jacob Harrison (birthday)
- 2ND Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
- 3RD Hanmi Presbytery
- 4TH Brucee Woods (birthday)
- 5TH Presbytery of the Pacific
- 6TH Presbytery of Riverside
- 7TH David Brown, Paul Pautler (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of San Gabriel
- 9TH Presbytery of San Fernando
- 10TH Jeanne Hirsch (birthday)
- 11TH Presbytery of Santa Barbara
- 12TH Elsie Jane Harris (birthday)
- 13TH Latin America and the Caribbean
- 14TH Jim Hirsch (birthday)
Bob & Ann Parkinson, Ray & Sandy Wilhelm (anniversary)
- 15TH Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay
- 16TH Brasil
- 17TH Presbytery of Los Ranchos
- 18TH Chile
- 19TH Benjamin Broeckling (birthday)
- 20TH Sam McCune (birthday)
- 21ST Peru
- 22ND Bolivia
- 23RD Colombia
- 24TH Venezuela
- 25TH Caribbean Islands
- 26TH Presbytery of San Diego
- 27TH Dominican Republic
- 28TH Haiti
- 29th Presbytery of San Diego

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you! Help us to take care of your sheep. Help us to follow you to new places. Give us love for the lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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