



# FIRST FACTS



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



## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

A couple of weeks ago, the Session held a called meeting in conjunction with another in a series of Visioning Retreats involving a few church members and current Ruling Elders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and assess the church's present and future financial status, to explore possible new sources of revenue, and to discuss personnel changes for cost savings.

Treasurer, Charles Wiles, summarized our current financial situation. Basically, although we are fortunate to have just over one million dollars in investments and endowments, our current annual income is not sufficient to cover our annual expenses.

In terms of cost cutting measures, the first action we took is one that many of you are already aware of. Our Office Administrator, Shirley Sullivan, would like to retire by the end of this year. With this information, we made the decision to combine her position with that of the bookkeeper into one 20-hour per week position titled, Office Manager. Current bookkeeper, Jean Cairns was invited to apply for the new position but has declined. The job opening has been advertised, and we are receiving resumes.

The other potential savings in personnel costs could be made with changes in the pastor's position. I suggested that we approach Westminster Presbyterian in Cape about yoking, as they are in search of a part-time pastor. Since First Presbyterian is the larger congregation, the amount of time I would spend here would be greater; possibly 3/4 or 2/3 time. My salary and all benefits would be divided in the same proportion as my time. Sunday worship times would likely have to change for both congregations.

**The Westminster Session has indicated that they are interested in pursuing this arrangement, but the details still need to be worked out. We will keep you informed.**

In the area of increasing our revenue, we have at least one – possibly two – organizations that have expressed interest in renting some space in the Christian Education (East) side of our building. We have lots of empty space, and it would be wonderful to see it being used.

I want to commend the Visioning Team for all their hard work, for their prayerful and thoughtful consideration in making difficult choices, for their time and commitment, and for serving as they have promised: with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We believe these will be positive changes for our churches, our ministries, and our community.

Please keep the church in your prayers. Keep hope in your heart. And let us know of your questions or concerns.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

## **SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

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Stated Meeting of the Session September 23, 2019

1. Received Rev. Gurnon's Report of Activities from August 23 to September 19, 2019. Included were 5 visits/calls to members, 12 church/community/Presbytery meetings and activities including a Pastoral Leadership Revitalization Retreat in Kansas City and the funeral of member Shirley Gibson. Approved the Pastor's requests for vacation days October 3-8 and Nov. 3-4.
2. Approved the date of Sunday, October 20, 2019, for a Congregational Meeting to receive the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for the Class of 2022 Elders and for two At Large positions on the Nominating Committee and also to elect the nominees.
3. Approved the date of Sunday, November 17, 2019, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Rev. Gurnon's Ordination. The occasion will be recognized during the worship service and afterwards at Gather, Share and Eat.
4. Received a note from Westminster Presbyterian Church members expressing their gratitude for our church's luncheon in their honor, for our fellowship, kind thoughts and prayers.
5. Voted to change Communion from November 3 to November 10, 2019 since Rev. Gurnon will be away the first Sunday of that month.
6. Approved a request from the church's Boy Scout Troop to hold an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in our sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 17, 2019, with a reception to follow in the Parlor since the Fellowship Hall will not yet be cleaned up from Gather, Share and Eat.
7. Treasurer Wiles reported that as of August 31, 2019, the church's Assets totaled \$1,025,902.46. Income to Date was \$125,694.25 and Expenses were \$165,947.64 for a negative cash flow of \$40,253.39.
8. Executive/Personnel Committee reported on the Session's approval ( at a Called Session Meeting Sunday, September 22, 2019 ) of the following cost-savings decision: to combine the positions of our church's Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper into one 20 hour a week Office Manager position upon the retirement of Administrative Assistant Shirley Sullivan before the end of this year. The position is being advertised now.
9. Property Chair Dave Bengtson reported Foeste Masonry has completed its tuckpointing work at our church; a replacement ice machine was purchased for \$489.99 and has been installed in the Fellowship Hall storeroom; fire alarm batteries have been replaced and the elevator serviced. Wording of new signs attached to the new Handicap Parking signs on Lorimier St. beside the church need to be clarified for church members in an email so they know members may use those handicap spaces on Sunday.
10. Lunch bags with nonperishable food items in them continue to be packed by the Stewardship, Mission and Outreach Committee and delivered to three different locations while handbags filled with women's hygiene products have been stuffed and delivered to the Safe House for Women.



**Second Tuesday at the Chateau** will meet in the Chateau dining room at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 for lunch and fellowship. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening, October 6 so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. All are welcome.



**The next meeting of the book club** is October 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sandy Wilhelm. The book is "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate. In November, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni at the home of Jean Cairns. The club takes a break in December for the holidays. The January book is "Tangerine" by Christine Mangan and we will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



**October Meal-a-Month**

- 2 cans Kidney Beans
- 2 cans Tomatoes
- Chili seasoning packet
- Can of fruit

Please put in the box in the Narthex.



**Flowers for Worship**

Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.



**Gather Share & Eat** will be on October 20th. We will have fried chicken dinner with potluck.

Last names starting with A - H should bring a desert.

Last Names starting with I - Z should bring a vegetable or a salad.



**Dear Friends,**

Thank you so much for the wonderful luncheon that you hosted for us last Sunday. Of course, the food was delicious, but more so, the fellowship was fun! The kind thoughts and prayers mean a lot to us, and we cherish our relationship with you.

Westminster Church Family



*"I am the resurrection and the life"*

*Shirley Gibson*

*September 30, 1935-September 10, 2019*



### **Memorials**

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

**Shirley Gibson**, from Central HS Committee Class of 1953, Mary Strack & Family, Becky Russell, Ruth Knote, Denny & Lyn Hammerstone, Rose Kellogg, Christy & Larry Peugh, Jean Miller, Elaine, Ron & Don Roelker, David & Stephanie Bengtson, John & Jeanne Hirsch, Bob & Ann Parkinson, Harvey & Lea Hecht, Sharon Metcalfe, William & Charlotte Slinkard, Don & Betty Lou Vogel, Ruth Needle, Ann Ritter, David & Barbara Schaffner, Margaret Needels, Sam & Lisa Bishop, Virginia Goodwin, Shirley & Jay Glaab, Daryl Henry, Anna Mae & Norman Hale, Sarah Holt, Georganne & Bill Syler, Sarah Barks, Nancy Bray, Lewis Bock, Jean Cairns, Barbara Calvin, Lee Anna DePriest, Wilma Harris, Alice and Paul Kabo, Nelson Kasten, Carol & Mark Macken, Terry & Sherry Fitzgerald, Todd & Jamie Baker, Horton & Carol Miller, Bill & Joan Morgan, Bob & Donna Pikey, Joyce Rayfield, Madge Ridings, Evelyn Stover, Lisa & William Stover, Bill Port, Shirley Sullivan, James Schock, Lauri Gibson, Jerry Pind.

**Harold Buxton**, from Kirk & Mary Buxton.

### **NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Children's Sunday School class began on Sunday, September 8th for our children in first grade and older. This year the children will begin serving as acolytes for our worship services. Shelby Brantley will be in charge of training them and of assisting them as they serve. They are learning that they are an important part of our church by bringing the "Light of Jesus" into worship by lighting the candles before our service and by closing the worship service as they carry the "Light of Jesus" back down the aisle and out into the world ahead of us.

After they light the candles, the children will go upstairs to our classroom for our lessons. This year our study of The Life of Jesus will look at the Parables that Jesus taught. The class will return to the narthex just before the end of worship in order for the acolyte to close the worship service.

Our children and families enjoyed a "Family Activity" on Sunday, September 8th. They shared lunch at our "Gather, Share, and Eat Luncheon" and then went together to our church member, Ron Taylor's, "Main Street Station". Everyone enjoyed playing games, listening to music and finished up with all different flavors of ice cream. It was great fun and fellowship and we are already planning another activity together with Ron for this fall.

## 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, Betty Chasteen (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> Presbytery of Southern New England
- 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 (birthday)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Nancy Bray (birthday)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Bob Herbst (birthday)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jane Hirsch (birthday)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Barry Thornton (birthday)
- 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 2019

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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