

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 721 CHURCH ST., JEFFERSON CITY, TN 37760
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REV. DAVE STRICKLER, PASTOR

Friends,

This past month’s meeting of session was designated for an intentional time of discernment, with the bulk of our reflection focused on Gradye Parsons’ *Our Connectional Church: The Hopeful Future of the PC(USA)*. I want to share with you a few of our reflections stemming from this time and help you see where some of this discernment will be hitting the ground.

One thing Parsons encouraged churches to do was to consider what our gifts are. In this spirit, our discussion came to dwell on an inventory of our strengths and gifts as a congregation. For example (and certainly our strengths are not limited to these!): people generally feel seen and welcomed when they visit our congregation, our community is committed to service and mission, worship is meaningful and thoughtful, we welcome questions and discussion, we bear a rich institutional history that gives people a deep space in which to be nurtured and grow. A community of faith that can be described this way is one to celebrate and be proud of.

That being said, every community has lifecycles of active participation, and we all know from life experience how our own seasons of engagement, health, and availability can wax and wane. Along these lines, a basic concern that was raised had to do with maintaining a critical mass of active participants in our ministries in order to sustain these vital characteristics of our community and prevent burnout. So, in the course of our discussion, two basic questions were raised by way of response to that basic concern about burnout: how can we attract and engage new visitors, and how can we reconnect with those who have been less involved in recent years?

Although it was not the intent of this discussion to take any specific action, there were a few themes and possibilities that came to the surface. The kinds of things discussed had to do with practices of hospitality to ensure that visitors are not only welcomed and embraced but also leave our doors with sufficient information in hand about our ministries; multigenerational activities that promote fellowship and truly getting to know one another; and enhancing our visibility in the community to get the word out about the gifts we have to offer. This last theme directly corresponds to the development of our new website (please see the “Did you know?” section for more on this!) as well as one-on-one personal outreach, but it also might lead to new forms of advertising and community connections. You might recognize that some of these observations reflect feedback we received through our congregational survey last Fall, which indicates to me a consistency and coherence to our sense of self-image and vision for who we want to be as a church. This kind of consistency is a good thing. It demonstrates clarity about who we are as we continue in ministry together and as we introduce ourselves to new members of our wider community.

We as a session are not done with our discernment, and we want to invite you to join in discernment with us. Part of what I would like you to consider, as we start moving out of summer mode and back into our regular fall routines, is

this: what is it about our ministry together that stirs your spirit, what is it about our congregation that you wish you could just shout from the rooftops and make known to the whole world? I think about how unique we are as a congregation that we can sustain tangible acts of congregational care like the Prayer Shawl ministry, while also promoting thoughtful discussion and dialogue through our range of Sunday school programs, while also representing fellowship and grace in our neighborhood through Church Street Café. That’s a dynamic picture of mission, nurture, and discipleship—that’s a rare find, and this barely scratches the surface of who we are! What are the things you love about our church and that give you life?

Here’s what I want to encourage you to do: I want to hear from you what these things are that stir your spirit (email me or call me and let’s set up a time to talk about them!), but I also want you to consider inviting someone else into these places that give you life. This might be someone from our congregation who hasn’t joined you in these places before, but it might also be a person who’s never been to our church before—someone you’ve known a long time and it feels right to finally invite, or someone you run into on the street corner. Let’s take a risk and celebrate our gifts.

I hope you are doing well, and I look forward to celebrating our gifts in ministry together in the coming month.

Grace and Peace,
Dave

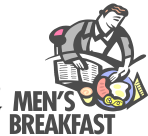


BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We want to send our children, teachers and all school personnel back to school with our prayers and blessings. Please bring your school backpacks, bags, or briefcases on Sunday, August 4th. Place the backpacks in front of the sanctuary for a special blessing during Time with Young Disciples.

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be on Tuesday, August 13th, at 8:00 a.m. at Lisa’s Country Kitchen (Jefferson City).



CHURCH STREET CAFÉ DELIVERY

We are in need of volunteers to help with our next delivery of food from Midwest FoodBank on Wednesday, August 14th, at 11:45 a.m.. We will need help unloading, sorting and stocking the goods. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Noonkesser (865 -216-0715).



SIT ‘N KNIT GROUP

On Friday, August 16th, at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the Sit ‘n Knit gathering at the home of Kathy Juroff (1250 Groseclose Rd, Jefferson City).

First Presbyterian Church
721 Church St.
Jefferson City, TN 37760

MISSION YARD SALE CORNER

It’s just two months until the October 5th, Mission Yard Sale and things are heating up! Speaking of heating up, we concluded our first mid-year plant sale on the 4th of July collecting \$295 dollars, which along with the proceeds from the October 5th Yard Sale, will be going to SafeSpace. Now, what will you see on Yard Sale day? On the West Lawn we will have the usual plant sale, but in addition, we are partnering with five nonprofit organizations to continue a traditional yard sale. Proceeds collected by these nonprofits will remain with them. They are: Habitat for Humanity, Joining Hands clinic, Boys and Girls Club of Dumplin Valley, SafeSpace, and 4th Judicial District Recovery Services. On the East Lawn we will have the usual Sweet Shoppe, Apple Chapel, and food service featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and more.

The Silent Auction will be back with, we hope, a few additional “finer things” type donations to make life interesting. If you have something you would like to donate for the Silent Auction, please bring it to the second room on the classroom level of the church or contact Susan Clouser (772-708-4593) or Catherine Bard (910-635-5734). You will find a form to fill out in the classroom for your donation. For the Silent Auction we need baskets, lots and lots of baskets. If you have a few just lying around collecting dust, please bring them to the classroom.

In addition to these booths, we will have a lemonade and drinks stand, live music, and free toys and face painting for the children. Finally, and hold onto your hats, we are going to have a “Kiss the Pig” contest! (Yes, you read right.) The kissing contestants will be Jefferson County’s Mayor Potts and Sherriff Coffee, Phil Williams, and Pastor Dave Strickler! You will hear more about this over the next two months, so start saving your dimes, nickels and dollars so you can vote for your favorite.

The sale will begin at 8:00 a.m. with set-up beginning at 7:00 a.m., and the sale will end at 2:00 p.m. There will be some set-up required on Friday the day before. Now you ask, “How can I help?” Although we expect we will not need as many volunteers as in the past, we will still need help! Over the next two months we will be contacting folks to ask for helpers. Please keep Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th free on your calendar and be ready to pitch in. If we haven’t contacted you by mid-September and you are interested in helping, please grab someone from the Mission Committee or the Mission Yard Sale task force on a Sunday and we’ll find a place for you. There is one specific item for which we are currently seeking a volunteer. The morning of the sale, we have traditionally supplied a small breakfast, coffee, hot cocoa, and sausage biscuits. The sausages can be prepared the day before, and the time to prepare the rest and sell the items in the morning would only take a couple of hours. So, if you have other obligations or don’t have a lot of time to invest, but would be willing to take this on, please let anyone from the Mission Committee or Yard Sale folks know.

Finally, remember KARM? We have created our own congregational pick-up and delivery service. So, if you have a donation that you want to go to KARM but have no way to manage it or get it there yourself, please call Eva Zirkle at (865-640-8745) or Shanna Carmack at (615-999-0701) and they will coordinate getting you help to deliver your donation.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:
Shannon, Jean-Ann, and Emma Washam
Judy Watkins
Bill and JoAnne Vest
Judy Finley
Sara Piper
John Rinehart
Kenneth Winslow
Arlene Peck
Buford Walker, friend of Wayne and Margy King
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas.

ILL AND RECOVERING:
Juanita Dykstra, who is undergoing cancer treatments
Adam, Shanna Carmack’s brother, who was involved in a motorcycle accident
Renee, friend of Roxanne Moser, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer
Phil Ledbetter, friend of Phil Williams
Shirley Herring, friend of Susan Nowell, who is undergoing treatment for lymphoma
Candelario Salazar, father of Katie Porter’s co-worker Esther Martinez
John Thomas, friend of Brian and Ashley Williams, who has been diagnosed with cancer
Heather Andrews, cousin of Andy Acuff, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:
JEFFERSON CITH HEALTH AND REHAB CENTER:
Lynn Watkins

CHANDLER HOUSE:
C.R. Vest, Frank Woodard

SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE of JEFF CITY:
Paulette Bozeman, Pat Patton (Rm 117)

LIFECARE MORRISTOWN:
Elsie Sorey (Rm 209)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—JULY 24, 2019

- ♦ July’s meeting of session was designated for an intentional time of discernment, using Gradye Parsons’ *Our Connectional Church: The Hopeful Future of the PC(USA)* as a conversation partner. Please see the cover article for more information about this time of discernment.
- ♦ The primary action item was session’s approval of the purchase of a new website. Please see this month’s issue of “Did you know?” for more information.
- ♦ An important calendar revision: Rev. Strickler will *not* be taking Continuing Education from September 16–22.

Did You Know? That we are getting a new website! Here’s the bottom line: we get to keep our domain name www.fpcjeffcity.org, and it will mean a significant update to our online presence. The product we’ve decided to go with is called Clover, which is not only designed specifically with small churches in view, but is also a relatively local company based in Lenoir City, TN. Our aim in selecting a new website was to give our online presence a crisp, engaging, and attractive look that’s both easy for visitors to navigate and easy for us to manage and edit. For the sake of transparency, you should know that we are taking advantage of a unique deal that enables us to waive a hefty one-time start-up fee (\$1,000), leaving us with only a \$29 per month subscription, for a grand total of \$348 per year. More information will be coming as we get closer to formally launching the site.

CHANGE

Change keeps occurring throughout all of life.
Sometimes it brings joy, and sometimes it brings strife.
Change what you should; but you still have a voice -
How you accept every change is your choice.
-Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

BUDGET REPORT

YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES

MONTHLY INCOME				
JULY 7	\$4,844.10		YTD ACTUAL	YTD PRORATED
JULY 14	\$1,366.00	INCOME	\$120,086.35	\$109,049.35**
JULY 21	\$744.30	EXPENSES	\$114,990.72	\$117,455.95
JULY 28	\$4,957.00			\$125,073.05
TOTAL	\$11,911.40		YTD ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES:	\$5,095.63

(\$17,761 is needed monthly to meet budget)

YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: -\$5,941.37

**** Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through January would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly. If you have questions, please see Heather.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August				1	2	3 Sue Swilley
4 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS J and Susan Moser	5	6 Ted Folsom Jonas Moser Judy Finley	7 MISSION COM. 4:00 P.M. WORSHIP COM. 6:30 P.M.	8 BUILDING & GROUNDS 6:30 P.M.	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. GIFTS OF MEN	12 Tom & Stacy Kirkpatrick	13 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:00 A.M. CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00 P.M. Jeff & Whitney Drees	14 CSC DELIVERY 11:45 A.M. SESSION 6:30 P.M.	15 SHRED EVENT 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.	16 SIT 'N KNIT 7:00 P.M. Sam O'Hare Doug Moses	17 Brian Williams
18 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Rod McCash	19	20 SCHAS 10:00 A.M. Anni Locher	21 Jim Deaton	22	23 Wayne & Margy King	24 Julie Moody
25 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting for Electing the ENC Lyle and Kathy Juroff	26 Lyle and Kathy Juroff	27 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00 P.M.	28 CHRISTIAN ED 6:30 P.M. John & Debby Rinehart	29	30	31

B&G CORNER

Did you know there is a group of folks getting together to discuss health and safety concerns for the church? In true Presbyterian fashion this new group positioned under Building and Grounds this year is the Health & Safety subcommittee. You may recall this group came into existence with the start of the Early Defibrillation Program that oversees the AED in the church, yet the subcommittee is charged with all things safety-related. Our mission statement covers health and safety of all those that worship or visit our church and grounds. Currently we are working on emergency planning for fire and weather-related events, as well as increasing the number of church attendees who are trained in life-saving skills such as CPR and AED use. If you have any thoughts or concerns about health and safety of our congregation, please let us know! Currently, the committee is chaired by Dr. John Zirkle, and members include Dr. Catherine Bard, Dr. Herb Ridyard, Angie France, and Troy Evans. The couple outside hand railings have been repaired and reinstalled and some additional mortar was placed around other railing legs. And finally, we have received comments about the Narthex newel posts being a little wiggly. We will look at these and hope to have them firmed up soon.