



Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church October, 2012

From under.....

The Redbud Tree

Inside this Issue

A Note from Pastor	2
October Lay Readers	
Communion Servers	
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Serving in worship for October	
Church Mice	
Ozark Center of Hope	
Hear Ye....Hear Ye	4
Special Person for October	5
Church Chuckles	
A Big Thank you	
Save the Dates	6
Church Chuckles	
Reminder	
Monthly Financial	7
Last Page	8
Calendar	9
Cell Phone Workshop	

A Note From Pastor.....

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I was talking to a young woman the other day who seemed to be in the midst of deepest despair. She is in her late twenties --- with her whole life ahead of her but it is as if life as she knows it has come to a grinding halt. You would think she would be on top of the world. She graduated from a prestigious private college and is in a career perfectly suited for her gifts, talents and values. But something is missing; the joy you would expect from her youth is just not there.

Yes, of course since I am a Pastor, I am supposed to say that if God is not in your life, then life is never going to have joy or meaning. But that short answer has become convenient and cliché. Some folks who call themselves Christians banter around spouting God-platitudes that seem more like sound-bites on a political ad on television. To someone who is deep into despair, it must sound hollow and hopeless when it is just words and not substance.

I know I am probably being too harsh, but as I tried to see and hear through the lenses of this young lady, I began to understand that well-meaning slogans are not going to get it for her. Thinking of an old-ish woman in our congregation, I recall that woman's stories of living through war, peace, death, divorce, painful illness and life's most distinct disappointments. It seems to me that she would say to the young woman that she *does* have her whole life in front of her -- that in many ways she is just a baby and that no matter how difficult and disappointing life may seem right now, there is always tomorrow.

Continued on page 2.....

There will be a brighter day. She can say that because her long life is an example of that truth.

The funny thing is, both of these women have so much to give each other. Yes, of course, we need God; but we need one another. I wish the senior sister could go to the younger woman and share the hopes, dreams and desires of her youth – and the wisdom and growth she has gained by moving through the difficulties of life. I wish that the younger woman could share her fear, disappointments and despair with the elder one; and that they could both gain from the youth, energy, experience and maturity that between them they possess.

Not many problems would be *solved*; but their mutual strengths could be appreciated and enjoyed. The women would see how much we really are connected; that we are all needed, admired and loved.

We can stand in the pulpit, in the line at the grocery or on the street corner and preach the Good News. Some people may hear us; but lots won't. Telling our stories to one another, sharing our lives, offering hope – those are the mustard seeds that can grow joy, happiness and love of life.

Jesus said, "Love God, but love your neighbor. Tell stories and follow me."

I'm for that.

Have a great day in God's hands!
Your Pastor,
Nancy Taylor

Memorial Funds

It is a custom in our church to honor and remember those who have returned to the Church Triumphant with memorial gifts to the church. This is a very effective way to say how much the person has meant to us and acknowledge the spiritual support they were given by the church while they were alive. Our church values these gifts and the intentions with which they were given to the church.

This is why we have always set them aside in a special memorial fund. This fund is not used for general expenses of the church, such as utility bills, payroll or upkeep of the church. Instead, the fund is reserved for purchases that are significant and further enrich the work of the church. The Session feels that this is an appropriate way in which the church can honor those who are remembered and those who have given the gift.

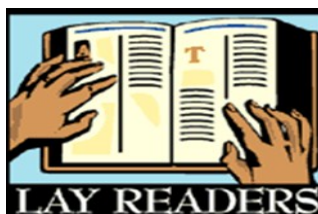
A good example of the way these gifts are

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used is the recent purchase of the round, lightweight tables in the fellowship hall. As our congregation has aged, few people are left who are able to lift and move the heavy brown tables we used to have. The new ones are easy to move and in addition, they are more inviting and create more possibilities for conversation. Already, the tables have been used for some receptions after funerals. This makes the tables an even more appropriate purchase from funds given as memorial gifts.

While it is confusing to see purchases being made when we are still trying to balance our budget, it should be remembered that memorial gifts are separate from the general fund and are used for a very different purpose.

The Worship Committee manages the fund, but generally the purchases from the fund are approved by the Session. If you have suggestions for appropriate purchases that might be made with this fund, please let Pastor Nancy or any member of our Session know and we will thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the suggestion.



FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

**October 7
October 14
October 21
October 28**

**Laurie Foos
Ralph Gillespie
Wayne Faust
JoAnn James**

October Communion Servers:

**Don Crapnell, Sherman Fine, Patty
Gamelin, JoAnn James, Ellen Jordan,
Phil Jordan, Ken Kunkel and Fred Reed**

October Birthdays

2 Sissy Wells
2 Brandy Jordan
5 Verneda Hinzman
7 JoAnn James
12 Bill Hoversten
14 Phil Jordan
15 Opal Buck
17 Milton Gamelin
18 Anna Williams
21 Doris Reeves
24 Bud Hough
24 Nancy Pool
24 *Bertha Reynolds - see address
26 Harold Williams below
27 Marge Gunter
29 Dr. Peter Dykstra

*Bertha Reynolds
411 Chopin Court
Wheaton, IL 60189-2050

GREETERS

October 7 & 14 - Suzanne Smyth
October 21 & 28 - Phyllis Gladson

USHERS

October 7 & 14 - Fred & Norma Iffland
Lorraine Jones &
David Petersen

October 21 & 28 - Chuck & Cheryl Munson-
Beall
Carolyn Saul & Sherman Fine

October Anniversaries

2 Thomas & Florence
Griffin



ANOTHER CHURCH MOUSE HAS BEEN SPOTTED! Each Sunday a pretty little mouse stands quietly beside the door seeking out visitors and welcoming members and friends. This mouse also takes the attendance books and records the information so that if you are absent a few Sundays someone will call and check on you. She graciously sends notes to our visitors each week so they will know that we were glad they came to worship with us. Can you name this wonderful church mouse??

Assistance

The Ozark Center of Hope is in need of plastic sacks, (Wal-Mart, Harps, etc.) please bring to the center. Also, a black 4 drawer file cabinet. Please contact Sandra at 870-321-5101 if you have one you are not using.

Ozark Center of Hope will be accepting both new and gently used blankets during the months of Sept. and Oct. The blankets will be distributed to our clients and may be dropped off at the Center, or we will be happy to pick them up at our local churches.



**BLANKET DRIVE
OZARK CENTER OF
HOPE**

Accepting donations through October 15



WHAT'S HAPPENING

HEAR YE....HEAR YE..... **Session Happenings!**

**We are pleased to welcome three new members to our
Congregation on September 23, 2012. They are:**

Nan Jordan

Clint and Linda Minch

**Give these new members a warm
First Presbyterian welcome!!**

Special Person of the Month

HAROLD WILLIAMS

In telling you about this special person of the month of October it is important that you know he is a member of the **"Greatest Generation"**. Broadcast journalist Tom Brokaw wrote in his 1998 book *The Greatest Generation*, "it is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced." He argued that these men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. "When they came back from the war they rebuilt America into a superpower."

Harold was born in Garnett, Kansas. I asked him to tell me something interesting about himself that most people would not know. He replied, "There's nothing special....I'm just a country boy from Kansas". Well, I think you will disagree when you know the rest of the story.

After high school he went to college in Tarkio, Missouri but after two weeks he decided to join the Air Force as he was about to be drafted into the Army. He trained on bases in Dalhart, Texas and Salina, Kansas. He became an aircraft mechanic and later a top turret gunner on B-29s. Harold traveled to Siberia, India, Burma and China. He flew 27 missions over Japan in the war. Once his plane came back with 800 holes in it but, luckily none of the crew members were hit.

After World War II Harold went to DeFry Electronics School in Chicago. After graduating he was employed with Sun Electronics for a year and a half and then landed a civil service job with the Defense Contract Administration Region near O'Hare Airport. There they made parts for airplanes and rockets. Harold received a coin made from an aluminum rod that was in a space ship that went clear around the moon. He retired in 1980. He and his wife, Anna, moved to Mountain Home in 1984.

Anna and Harold have 3 sons and 1 daughter, 11 grand children and 20 great grand children!

Harold loves reading and has a collection of over 800 books. He also enjoys a good steak, now and then. His favorite TV

shows are the game shows. He follows most any sport that involves a ball....football, baseball, basketball, etc. Asked about music, he stated he likes the "Oldies but Goodies" and classical. He has done some traveling in his time and says the favorite place he has traveled to is France. He and Anna traveled through Western Europe in 1978.

So, Harold you are certainly the Special Person of the Month. We salute you for your service to our country!

Harold would enjoy visits, cards and phone calls from his many friends.

A BIG THANKYOU: From the E&O Committee to everyone who participated in our annual church picnic on September 9th. As evidenced by the crowd, it was a big success! The great food and fellowship would not have been possible without all the volunteers who helped with set up, serving and cleanup. Your dedication to help was very appreciated. And, a special thank you to our outstanding cooks, Dave Petersen and Fred Iffland for manning the grill and turning out all those hamburgers and hotdogs.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..."Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Session News

SAVE THE DATES!!

October 20, 2012 - cell phone workshop with lunch to be provided*

November 12, 2012 - Veterans Day Dinner* hosted by E&O Committee

December 1, 2012 - "Hanging of the Greens" festivities hosted by the Worship Committee*

December 13, 2012 - Christmas Dinner/Party 5:00 p.m.* hosted by E&O Committee

***More information will be coming soon!**

CHURCH CHUCKLES.....

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

College Correspondence

Dear Dad,

\$chool i\$ really great. I'm making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tuding very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need. \$o if you'd like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I'd love to hear from you. Love, Your \$on

Reply:

I kNOW that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOWledge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh. Dad

Reminder:

November 8th Worship Committee meeting to be held at the new time of 11:00 a.m.

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

Eight Months Ending August 31, 2012

REVENUE

	<u>ACTUAL MONTHLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL YR. TO DATE</u>
Pledges	\$9,752.00	\$89,605.00
Initial Offering	0.00	835.00
Interest	21.62	9795.16
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Loose Offerings	421.00	3,872.86
Sunday School	0.00	172.00
Fellowship Hall	0.00	0.00

Total Revenue	\$10,194.62	\$104,280.02
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EXPENSES

Worship & Planning	\$271.04	\$1,292.62
Personnel	9,513.35	78,493.03
Evangelism & Outreach	3.99	1,003.99
Church Growth	319.38	2,688.01
Administration	1,160.03	8,453.47
Building & Grounds	1,910.27	17,420.99
Christian Education	960.15	1521.89
Strategic Planning	0.00	361.50

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,138.21	\$111,235.50
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NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$3,943.59)	(\$6,955.48)
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CAPITAL MAINTENANCE CAMPAIGN INCOME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2010/2011	\$30,344.00
2012 to Date	7,880.00
Total To Date	\$38,224.00



October, 2012

Pastor
Reverend Nancy L. Taylor

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Church Mailing Address
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653
870-425-3799

fpcmh@centurytel.net
Website: www.fpcmh.net

Secretaries:
Connie McLaurin,
Helen Harding,
Carolyn Saul

First Presbyterian Church
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

