

Pastors

Richard Ramsey
Katherine Jackson

Director of Christian Education

Ann Bouchard

Director of Youth Ministries

Nathan See

Executive Staff Assistant

Chrissy Jones

Financial Secretary

Brenda Kinkade

Sexton

Richard Senior

Assistant Sexton

Stacy Senior

Organist

Michael Bancroft

Adult Choir Director

Harry Morrison

Adult Handbell Choir Director

Jane Piester

Director of Campus Ministries

Preston Turley

Clerk of Session

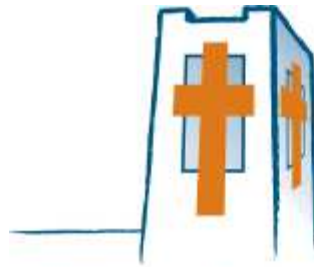
Carol Rhoades

Chair, Board of Trustees

Laura Erdel

Chair, Board of Deacons

Dawn Andres



JULY 1, 2010

THE EPISTLE

First Presbyterian Church

What's Happening at FPC

Greetings from our Pastor	page 2
Christian Education News	page 3
Capital Campaign Update	page 4
Session Report	page 5
You Should Know	page 6
Birthday List	page 7



Now is the time for First Presbyterian Church members to be signing up for their pictures in the upcoming directory! You may make an appointment with Tim Brown Photography by visiting the church website at www.fpccolumbia.org or calling 442-1392. *In making your reservation on-line or by phone, be sure to say it is for the First Presbyterian Church directory.*

Tim Brown's studio is on East Broadway, at 2511 Broadway Bluffs, Ste. 203. It is across the street from Culver's, next to the Kobe steakhouse. If you cannot visit the studio for your picture, Tim will make arrangements to meet with you. No one who wants to be in the directory will be left out!

Questions? Your committee members are Kathleen Brown, Ginger Gilmore, Chris Marks, and Terry Weston. Let Chrissy Jones in the church office (442-1164) know if you need assistance.

The Saturday Café opens this Saturday

The **Saturday Café** will open its doors again at FPC starting July 3, serving a free breakfast to those whose home is the streets of Columbia every Saturday morning for the next three months. Church volunteers staff the café, serving coffee, juice, milk and donated fresh breads, cereal and fruit. In addition, local businesses donate baked goods. Please contact Kay Metcalf at 239-1870 or pick up a brochure/registration from the Welcome Center kiosk.

From our Pastor, **Richard Ramsey**

Dear Friends,

The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meets July 3-10 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I will be attending most of the Assembly as a visitor, able to pick and choose which committee meetings I attend. And, here is the really good part, able to leave a meeting whenever I wish. It is my plan, however, to listen carefully to the discussions/debates that are part and parcel of every assembly and every committee meeting.

Representing the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. will be 712 elder and minister commissioners from every presbytery in our denomination. And presbyteries have submitted over 100 overtures for assembly consideration. An overture is a proposed statement, action or policy a presbytery wants GA to consider for action. As you may guess, and probably know, rarely is an overture met with unanimous approval. And indeed, some overtures stir strong feelings among our membership.

I have found that my biggest problem with GA is that others actually see some things differently than I. ☺ Can you imagine that?

The June/July issue of *Presbyterians Today* magazine summarized some of the “important topics the commissioners will consider.” *Presbyterians Today* grouped these “important issues” into nine general headings. Some of the headings are these:

1. Peacemaking/interfaith issues

There will be a report from a study committee about Israeli/Palestinian issues. A report will recognize Israel’s right to exist and the legitimacy of Israel as a state while condemning occupancy of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. The Assembly will also hear reports on Christian-Jewish relations and Christian-Muslim relations. Yes, some will like and some will not like either side of these studies.

2. Ordination/marriage

In 2008 the majority of our presbyteries rejected an effort to remove from our Book of Order that ordained officers in the church live in “fidelity in marriage, chastity in singleness.” One third of all overtures to this GA address ordination standards. Some seek to remove or change ordination language, others seek to strengthen the status quo, and still others seek to place a moratorium on addressing constitutional issues that have been defeated three times in the last 13 years.

There will also be a report on the growing issue of civil unions and what that means to the church and an understanding of Christian marriage. *Presbyterians Today* writes: “A Committee report on civil unions and Christian marriage is not calling for a change of the church’s definition of Christian marriage, but suggests further discussion and the development of resources that will help presbyteries and congregations know what the church allows on the subject.” Yes, some will like and some will not like either side of these studies.

3. Leadership

There will be the election of a new Moderator. I think six persons are endorsed by their respective presbyteries. The term of the new moderator will run through the 2012 Assembly. The Assembly will also vote on Linda Valentine’s second term as General Assembly Mission Council executive.

4. World Mission

Presbyterians Today writes: “Commissioners will hear about a new strategic direction for World Mission over the next three to five years that seeks to knit together the many ways Presbyterians are engaged in mission around the world.”

5. Church Growth

The Assembly will be asked to extend for two more years a church wide commitment to growing the church “deep and wide”. Resources for growing the church in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, servanthood, and diversity will be continued.

I learned a long time ago that each piece of business at GA doesn’t always excite me. Some do. Some stances I do not agree with. Some I get very excited about. I almost always come home from GA enthused about how God’s Spirit is working. And I almost always come home wondering how some actions work for the building of the kingdom.

Pray for our GA meetings. Pray that God will use our denomination in a way that honors God and brings to this world the peace, power, and hope of Jesus Christ.

I truly believe that God has great things in store for the PCUSA. And as we are faithful, trusting each other, praying for each other, raising up Christ’s love for each other, our Lord will get done what He wants done, and in God’s own time.

See you in church.

Dick



Summer Vacation Bible School
July 25—4:00–7:00 p.m. (Family Event)
July 26–29—9:00 a.m.–Noon
For all children ages 3 years old–
fifth grade
Bring a friend or two!

To register children for Baobab Blast, or to volunteer to help with Baobab Blast, go to the church website: www.fpccolumbia.org. Click on the Baobab Blast link. Registration is requested by July 19



Baobab Blast
Workday
Saturday, July 10
9:00 a.m. in the
Lighthouse

Please contact Ann Bouchard at the church office if you have any questions. Come help us make our VBS decorations. Please call Ann to offer your assistance.

Other Ways to Help with This Year’s VBS

1. Help set up activity rooms on Friday morning, July 23.
2. Help set up Social Hall, July 25, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
3. Assist with the family event on Sunday from 4:00–7:00. We need welcome table helpers and help with food preparation (simple and easy), setting tables, serving, and clean up.
4. Iron VBS theme decals on kids’ t-shirts (can be done at home..)
5. Help clean up at noon on Thursday, June 29 (lunch provided for helpers)



Join us on July 21
Summer Supper
& Program
6:00-7:30 p.m.
in the Social Hall

“General Assembly Report”
Presented by Dick Ramsey &
Kathie Jackson

The General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets in Minneapolis July 3-July 10. Seven hundred twelve (712) commissioners and 221 advisory delegates representing 173 presbyteries will gather for business meetings, committee meetings, and daily worship.

Hundreds of other participants—members of General Assembly boards and committees, national and regional staff, seminary representatives, and observers — will join the delegates in Minneapolis for this biennial gathering.

Like every assembly that preceded it, issues before the 219th General Assembly reflect the amazing breadth of the work and witness of the PC (U.S.A.), both internally and in matter than span the globe.

As with the past several assemblies, the 219th GA will consider issues that have become standard fare for assemblies.

- Ordination Standards (over 25% of the overtures submitted)
- Peacemaking and International Issues
- PC (U.S.A.) Polity
- The General Assembly Itself
- Marriage

Also, this GA may be the first assembly to consider two changes to *The Book of Confessions*, the second part of the constitution of the PC (U.S.A.)

Please plan on joining us on Wednesday evening July 21 for an informative presentation of Dick and Kathie’s observations about this year’s GA meeting and the actions of the Assembly.

Reservations are requested for the meal (\$4.00 per person payable at the door). Childcare will be available. Please call or email the church office by July 19.

Capital Campaign Update

Once again "THANK YOU" to everyone who worked on the capital campaign and made a commitment to the campaign. Given the current economic situation, we know that every contribution is a sacrifice and is greatly appreciated.

What are the results to-date of our current campaign?

To date we have collected 176 commitments totaling \$1,530,000. This amounts to about 91% of the amount pledged in the 1st campaign, an excellent result.

How much have we received in contributions for the second campaign?

As of June 8, we have received \$771,789 in payments. And gifts continue to come in every week. In May, we received over \$39,500.

What were the results of the previous campaign?

We received 223 commitments (pledges) totaling \$1,688,500. We received a total, through June 8, \$1,769,571 in payments for the first campaign. This exceeds the pledged amount by \$81,000. The members and friends of this church are indeed generous.

Why did the first campaign have more commitments than the second campaign?

We believe we will still receive several commitments in the coming weeks. Factors that may be affecting this campaign are that it is a second campaign, it is a campaign to retire debt rather than to build. And, of course, the economic situation hasn't helped.

How much do we have left to pay the contractor and architect?

We have paid the final invoices to the general contractor, Crawford Construction. So we owe nothing to anyone except Boone County National Bank, our lender. We have made significant payments to principal on our loan. The current loan balance is \$2,563,420. Every dollar we have received in the current capital campaign has gone to pay down principal on the loan or pay directly to the contractor. Plus we have used over \$60,000 from the 1st campaign to pay on principal of the loan plus pay directly to the contractor.

What are the terms of our loan?

The current interest rate on our loan is 5.89% fixed until mid-2012. Many among us and some experts, expect loan interest rates to increase in the future. So about mid-May we sent letters of inquiry to five lenders requesting proposals for favorable permanent financing rates and conditions on 20 to 25 year loans. To date we have received proposals from three of those lenders. (See updated information on page 5.)

We are encouraging everyone to pay as much of their commitment in the first year so we can save interest on our loan. How much of the debt have we paid off so far this year?

As of June 8, we have paid down our debt or paid directly to the contractor, over \$800,000. This is a very good amount so far, and we look forward to paying down as much of the loan as possible in 2010. **Our calculations tell us that for every \$10,000 we get in campaign gifts, and pay down principal on the loan, we will save about \$22,000 in interest at current rates over the life of a 20 year loan.**

How much do we have in savings?

We currently have about \$208,000 in a special savings account. The purpose of this account is to pay interest on our loan. When we began paying interest each month, the monthly amount was close to \$17,000. Now, because we have aggressively paid down principal on our loan, our latest monthly interest payment dropped to \$12,774. We anticipate that our money in that account will last another 16 to 17 months and probably longer as principal is paid down. **As a result, we plan that every dollar paid to the campaign in 2010 will go directly to debt reduction and not to interest on the loan.**

Session Notes— June 17, 2010

Treasurer's Report

	Month	YTD	% of Budget
Income	\$66,743.85	\$366,083.67	46.59%
Expenses	\$61,355.58	\$319,441.15	40.70%
Excess	\$5,388.27	\$46,642.52	

Trustees' Report

Travis Tucker brought the following recommendation from the Trustees: That \$475 from Gifts and Memorials be used in the repair of the Organ. It was moved, seconded and approved to use \$475 from Gifts and Memorials in the repair of the Organ. Travis Tucker brought the information concerning the re-financing of the FPC loan in the current principal amount of \$2,545,855.00. Letters were sent to five lenders requesting interest in financing. Responses were received from four of the five. Rev. Ramsey asked for a motion to discuss the proposals. It was moved and seconded to discuss the proposals. After discussion, the Session chose to go with the lender that currently holds the construction loan, Boone County National Bank. The terms are as follows: Modify the existing loan to an interest rate of 4.35% (currently 5.89%), pay interest only from July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2012 along with unscheduled principal payments. Then thru July 1, 2015, principal and interest payments with interest rate of 4.35%. Amortization period 25 years but can be modified at the church's request. There will be no cost to modify the loan. The motion was made, seconded and approved to re-finance the existing loan with Boone County National Bank. Rick Means will give a minute for mission on Sunday, June 20, 2010 on the Capital Campaign and where it stands as of this date. He will also give the information that Session has approved the re-financing of the current loan, with Boone County National Bank.

Deacon's Report

Kim Fennewald reported that the Deacons met Wednesday night and shared reports on their flocks. They are also doing the planning for the Chapel Services at Boone Hospital for July. The Deacons are discussing the transportation needs of those in the congregation who need rides to church functions.

New Business

Rev. Ramsey brought the following recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Committee: That Ann Bouchard and Nathan See be granted two Sundays away in exchange for two week day vacation days. The motion was made, seconded and approved to allow the exchange. Rev. Ramsey informed the Session that a Session Retreat is being planned with Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Interim Synod Executive of the Synod of Mid-America as the leader. The dates will be announced when they are final. Rev. Ramsey asked for volunteers to represent the Church with Ragtag Cinema in talks concerning their use of the social hall and welcome area for the True/False Film Festival as a venue for films in early March 2011. It was moved, seconded and approved to have Betsy Garrett, Chair, Elizabeth Brixey and Jane Ledwin represent FPC and bring a recommendation back to the August meeting of the Session.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Ramsey reminded the Session that he will be attending the General Assembly Meeting July 2-13 and then vacation from July 24-Aug 5, 2010. Rev. Kathie Jackson will represent the Synod of Mid-America at the General Assembly Meeting on July 5-6, 2010. During their absence, Rev. Rim Massey, Trinity Presbyterian Church will provide pastoral care for FPC. Rev. Ramsey indicated that Rev. Jackson has indicated that there is the possibility of a called Session meeting on July 18, 2010 for the purpose of accepting new members into FPC.

You Should Know

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Literacy Action Corps needs volunteers to teach adults how to read and/or to teach English as a second language. Training is scheduled for Tuesday evenings Sept. 14 thru October 12 evenings at First Baptist Church. Call 442-4280 or email laccolumbia@yahoo.com.

Memorial Service for Kathleen Edwards
A memorial service for Kathleen Edwards will be Thursday, July 22, at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary; followed by a reception.

WARM UP COLUMBIA

First Presbyterian Church will again be participating in VAC's Warm Up Columbia to collect CLEAN GENTLY USED coats/blankets/gloves/scarves/hats for the needy in our community. If you would like to donate any of these items there will be a collection box in the Welcome Center area from July 4 to August 29th. Please wash all donated items and if you have any questions call Cindy Mustard at 449-6959. Many Thanks!

Thank You
Thank you to the following people who worked at the Wardrobe in June:

Anita Heidbrink	Judy & Larry Berres
Jane Ellen Ashley	Janet & Dennis Dierker
Betty Eyestone	Ginger Gillmore
Lynn Willbrand	

Ladies Lunch Group

Join us for lunch and fellowship as we meet monthly at various restaurants in town and around the area. Everyone is invited—and we'd be happy to give you a ride! Please call Kathleen Brown at 445-7498 if you would like to attend and if you need a ride.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| July 8 | Emmet's in Fayette at 11:30 a.m.
Meet at 11:00 a.m. in North Dillard's parking lot for rides. |
| August | No lunch planned |
| September 8 | 63 Diner on 763 at 11:30 a.m. |

About Our Organ...

The Middlebush Organ was a gift of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Middlebush. Their wish was that it not only serve as an instrument for worship but that it also be made available to the community. In the early years, organ instruction was provided at the University of Missouri and Stephens College. Arrangements were made for students to practice on the organ and to do student recitals.

Such instruction is no longer offered at those institutions, but the organ has still been something of a community resource. Every year second grade students come from Lee School for an introduction to the organ. As a magnet school for the arts, teachers there are interested in integrating the arts into the academic curriculum. The students have usually completed a major science unit on the properties of sound. The visit to see and hear the organ reinforces some of their learning. I also use the opportunity to point out some of the features of our architecture as an art form as well.

Through the years, music teachers organizations have used the organ for regional competitions and demonstrations of the organ for keyboard players. Early in June, the students at the Missouri Piano Camp came for a demonstration. These students ranged in age from 14-17. Most of them had never laid hands on an organ. They found the difference between the technique required of pianists and organists challenging and intriguing. The American Guild of Organists has identified the nurturing of future organists as a high priority. Making the Middlebush Organ available for such activities, I hope, contributes to young people's understanding of the King of Instruments.

Recently, the Paul D. Higday Trust granted the church \$25,000 for repairs to the organ. The unique character of the organ's voicing for music from Mozart's era as well as the willingness of the church to open the organ to community uses contributed to the willingness of the trustees to provide this funding.

Michael Bancroft

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Harry Morrison, Tom Baumgardner, and Brenda Kinkade's father

Our Christian Sympathy:

To Phyllis Boillot for the recent loss of her mother.

To Molly Means for the recent loss of her father.

Congratulations

To Anne Ross and Daniel Mosqueda, who were married on June 12 by Rev. Richard Ramsey. R.D. and Louretta Ross are proud parents.

To Jonathan White, high school graduate. Parents are Barak and Krista White.

Change of Address

John and Florence Anderson
PO Box 2161, Lakeland FL 33806
Mary's cell phone is 863-398-7215.

Brian and Lora Lee Hensel
25 Sycamore #10
Vermillion, SD 57069

Financial Update

Total income for June \$ 56,801
Total income Year To Date \$422,885

Total expenses for June \$ 60,483
Total expenses Year to Date \$379,924

Attention First Presbyterian men!

You are invited to breakfast together at B&B Bagels (on Nifong) on Tuesday mornings. Come at 6:30 a.m., or anytime after, and stay as long as you like. This is just a time for conversation and fun. If you have any questions, ask Chris Bouchard.

@First

If you would like to receive our E-Newsletter, @First, please fill out a red postcard and drop it in the offering plate, send us an email at office@fpcolumbia.org, or sign up at our website, www.fpcolumbia.org. We can't send it to you without your permission; and we promise not to use your email for any other purpose or give it to anyone.

It's Your Birthday!

July	August
1 Dennis Dierker Kevin O'Brien	1 Ryan Brodhacker Dustin Griffith Becky Means
2 Richard Baumann Emily Reynolds	2 June Haseman Nicole Montgomery
5 Marty Whitehead Hap Whitney	3 Shelley Morris Charles Franklin Alice Lendt Zoe O'Brien
6 Mary Lyon	5 Meredith 't Hoen Lora Lee Hensel
7 Kellen Clowe Courtney Keilholz Joyce Lake	6 Myra Hancock Amanda Nell
10 Catherine Mayo Ryland Rodes	7 Laurie Everett Savannah Everett Rebecca Hopper Becky Walker
11 Rebecca Cramer Isabelle Summers	8 William DeYoung Gary Fox
12 Jane Ledwin Nina O'Brien	9 Jean Miller
13 Jean Glauert	10 Jack Beckett Doris Brandt Lynn Shackelford
14 JoAnn Foriester Caitlin Keilholz Brenda Kinkade	11 Mary Jean Maerz
15 Keith Branson Kelli Buchanan Shelle Morris Ann O'Brien Bob Weis	12 Barbara Altis Tyson Moore Mary Lou Wright
16 Mary Cunning	13 John Clowe Brian Hays Martha Hensel Ryan Presley
17 Jim Boillot	14 Bill Kaufman Bill Regan
18 Pat Douty Joan Kunce	
19 Sally Sharp	
21 Stephen Erdel Harlan Lynn Michael McCrary Terry Weston	
22 Phyllis Crawford Joan Hahn Whitney Hicks	
23 Karl Evans Asa Talbott	
26 Linda Coffman	
27 Philip Dierker Charles Mitts	
28 Corby Clowe William Harris Vivian McGuire	
29 Benjamin Calvert Lois Daugherty	
30 Joyce Coday Joyce Noteboom	
31 Rob Littlejohn	



16 Hitt Street
Columbia, MO 65201

Non-Prof Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit 8

Return Service Requested

Sunday Worship
9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Church office hours:
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
(Monday - Friday)

Church phone numbers:
Office: (573) 442-1164
Fax: (573) 442-7161

E-mail: office@fpccolumbia.org
Web site: www.fpccolumbia.org

The next Epistle will be mailed on August 5, 2010.
The deadline for articles and information is Friday, July 30.