

“Christ is all and in all.” Colossians 3:11

Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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Dear Friends,

By now many of you have probably read or heard of articles published in the St Louis Post Dispatch concerning the property battle that has ensued between our Presbytery and Bonhomme Church (formerly Bonhomme Presbyterian Church). The article did not present our denomination in a very flattering light. Some of the article was accurate, some was not, and much of it was misleading.

Here's what is true. The congregation of Bonhomme Church has elected to leave the PC(USA). There is a legal battle over the property of Bonhomme Church. Like many other denominations, the property of churches belonging to the PC(USA) are held in trust by the denomination itself. It is also true that the denomination has voted to allow ordination of homosexual individuals and is poised to allow ministers to perform same sex weddings in states that legally allow such unions.

Here's what is not true. Some of the leadership of Bonhomme feels that they would be forced to allow and even perform same sex marriages or risk being defrocked by the denomination or faced with legal action. This is not true. The PC(USA) understands and respects the theological diversity of its churches and ministers. A PC(USA) congregation and its ministers will be allowed to refuse a wedding based on its theological understanding of scripture. It was also reported that the denomination has an official “pro-choice” stance. That is also inaccurate. The denomination has made no formal stance on the issue of abortion.

Here's what is misleading. It was reported at www.christianpost.com and other sources that our presbytery initiated legal action to sue the church over its property. That is misleading. When Bonhomme elected to leave the denomination, the Presbytery received a letter from its leadership that any further conversation between Bonhomme and the Presbytery would have to be made through its lawyers. The Presbytery had prayed that a discussion between the church and an elected commission could come to a peaceful and amicable solution. The move to legal action was the only option available to the Presbytery to have any discussion with Bonhomme.

It was also not reported that two of the three ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacrament of Bonhomme elected to remain within the denomination even though it meant the loss of their job.

This is a very challenging time for our denomination. Some Presbyterians will be delighted by the denomination's recent votes. Others will be highly discouraged. But, keep in mind, that our denomination is a denomination of diversity. We don't expect all of our members and churches to be of one mind on all social issues. We allow for disagreements. I have my own opinion on homosexuality and same sex marriages. But, I don't expect you to always agree with me on every topic. I will not force you to see things differently. We can disagree and still love each other. We can disagree and still accomplish great things together in the name of Christ.

I have faith that the PC(USA) will endure this storm. But, prayers for our Presbytery, Bonhomme Church, and our denomination are highly encouraged.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Pat

Our Church Mission Statement

Jesus Christ calls us to:

- *Enliven our spiritual lives by experiencing God among us,*
- *Grow in love for one another as children of God,*
- *Invite all to share in our fellowship,*
- *Demonstrate God's love through service to others.*



March Office Hours

The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Current Elders

Karla Becker	636-239-5370	twotales@gmail.com
Luther Bierbaum	636-432-1293	emmettis@yahoo.com
David Brunworth	636-239-4102	dbrunworth@hotmail.com
Bill Kellermann	636-239-7958	wckellermann@gmail.com
Joy Kopp	636-432-1800	joykopp54@gmail.com
Vivian Marshall	636-667-0013	marshv1849@att.net
Jenny Scheibe	636-239-3765	dandjscheibe@att.net
Barbara Schofield	636-390-4123	bcschofield60@gmail.com
Sid Thayer	636-239-7617	sidneythayer@yahoo.com
Paula Obermark	636-239-5308	paulaobermark@gmail.com
Bruce Wiese	636-432-1057	ssswbw@charter.net

Worship Assignments for March:

Sound Tech:

3/1/2015	Allen Vogt
3/8/2015	David Brunworth
3/15/2015	Joe Hagan
3/22/2015	Bill Kellermann
3/29/2015	David Brunworth

Worship Leader: Laura Lawson

Greeters

1. Whip Schultz & Nancy Klingert
2. Tim & Gerry Urban
3. Don & Jenny Scheibe
4. Allen Vogt & Karla Becker
5. Karen Gruber

Ushers

Shirley Coulter & Diane Brunworth
Richard & Barbara Duemler
Luther Bierbaum & Barb Hagan
Laura Evans & Jane Bugele

The Lord's Supper

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, March 1.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who signed letters recently advocating EMMAUS MARTHASVILLE being a wonderful part of the Washington COMMUNITY. We advocated that the campus continue to be funded and open for the Developmentally Disabled who have enjoyed safety and good care there for many years. Sharon Fenner

Thank you!

A belated thank you to the Session for allowing the church parking lot to be used for overflow parking for the Nov. 20, 2014 TANNENBAUM AUCTION at 'N Sports Center across from the church on Hwy. 100. The highly successful Tannenbaum Auction was held as a benefit for EMMAUS MARTHASVILLE. Sharon Fenner

Thank You!

Thanks to my church family. Thanks to Pastor Pat for the visits and communion at home, hospital, Cedarcrest and Victorian Place. Also thank you to my doctor of many years, Dr. B., who came here also. I must admit that I was disappointed when the carolers were scheduled to come here during the holidays and they had to cancel.

Please accept my thanks for the beautiful holiday and get well cards. I was unable to send cards this year. With my Lord's help, my arm will be healed and I can do more next year. My heart is filled with kindness, your love and prayers.

Sincerely, Dorothy Mutert.

SOUP-ER Bowl Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that donated canned/pantry goods and/or cash to our SOUPer Bowl of Caring efforts. This was our 14th year doing it at our church with the help of our Youth Group, having done the last couple years in memory of Robynn Greer who so faithfully supported the Youth Group and this event for many years, and this year it was actually on Robynn's birthday! Also this year, we collected 208 food items and \$20, the biggest food tally for us EVER, and it all was donated to our local Loving Hearts Outreach Food Pantry, and they were very thankful for it!

World Day of Prayer Service

Church Women United will be hosting the service on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Washington. The World Day of Prayer Service for this year was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of The Bahamas and the World Day of Prayer USA Committee.

All-Church Potluck



There was no regular pot luck in February but was moved to a soup dinner on Ash Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. The next regular pot luck will be Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30. The guest speakers will be a David & Diane Brunworth telling us about their mission trip to Kenya.

Fundraising Dinner

There is a fundraising turkey dinner planned for Sunday, April 12 after worship. Free-will donations will be received with proceeds going to the boiler fund. Everyone is invited!

Annual April Book Sale

Our Community Book Sale is set for **Friday, April 17th & Saturday, April 18th**, from 8am – 6pm both days, in our large Church Fellowship Hall and we will FILL it completely! Please stop by and see the THOUSANDS of books, children's books, music, cds and dvds that we have! We have a reading area where anyone can sit and sample some of their favorite selections, and have the kids color and play. All books are organized into categories and volunteers are ready to help one find a special book, or to fulfill a summer reading list. Donations are very welcome at any time now until Thursday, April 16th. Please contact Gretchen Farrell with any questions.

Holy Week Services/Events

Sunday, 3/29 – Palm Sunday Service with Children's Choir

Thursday, 4/2 – 7pm – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with The Lord's Supper

Saturday, 4/4 – 11am – Community Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, 4/5 – Easter Sunday with The Lord's Supper and Special Musical Guests

Community Easter Egg Hunt is on again!

Hop to it! Our 6th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at our church is coming up on **Saturday, April 4th, at 11 a.m. (the day before Easter!)** and we are looking forward to lots of fun! Come join us for a great, festive day as we hunt for over 3500 plastic candy filled eggs (along with some special prize eggs!) on the back lawn of our church followed by cookies and punch in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have face painting and coloring in the Fellowship Hall, too. Last year, we had a terrific turnout of just over 100 kids hunting eggs on a gorgeous day and in a friendly Christian way! All children through the age of 12 years are welcome to join in on the fun as we have three age groups going in a staged start to the Egg Hunt. We are hoping for another wonderful day, but **RAIN OR SHINE**, we are on! Tell all your friends and neighbors about it! Watch for the candy donation box to be out around mid-March as we'll need to fill all those wonderful plastic eggs. We're having our Youth Group help hide and fill eggs, but as there are so many, we'll still need to have an egg filling party on Monday, March 30th at 10 am in the Senior High room, and all adults are welcome! Thank you!
Gretchen Farrell & Laura Conley.

Background Checks

The Christian Education Committee is looking for more volunteers to help in its various ministries. Our church's policy requires all adult volunteers to have a background check performed. These background checks are very simple and non-intrusive. So, if you think you might ever volunteer for the nursery, for youth group, for Sunday School, for a mission trip, camp or retreat...if you think you might ever help with transporting children or youth to go bowling, or to a movie, or to a restaurant...then we ask you to consider filling out a background check form. Please know that just because you have a background check done, that doesn't mean that you can't say "No" when someone from the Christian Education Committee calls to recruit you for an event or ministry. To fill out a background check, please talk to Carol in the office, or to Pastor Pat.

Palm Sunday

As an added treat for our Palm Sunday worship service, 3/29, the children of the church will grace us with a palm-waving processional and a song. The children's choir will involve children 5th grade and younger. They will practice at 9am in the sanctuary each Sunday before Palm Sunday beginning Sunday, March 15th.

Maundy Thursday

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held in our sanctuary. It will involve a candle-lit service, often called a "Tenebrae" service. We will incorporate the drama "A Service of Shadows" by Norman H. Wiegel into our worship. We will also celebrate The Lord's Supper together in commemoration of the last meal that Jesus ate with his disciples. This special service will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm.

Boiler Fund

To date, \$13,555 has been donated to the boiler fund. The invoice has been received and the cost for the new boiler is exactly \$35,000.

Washington Bridal Extravaganza



The Washington Bridal Extravaganza was held on Sunday, February 22nd at N-Sports. The church participated this year with a booth to showcase our Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary. We gave away a magnetic clip with the church name and phone number to all the brides and put together a special brochure to advertise the



hall & sanctuary. We also had photo books with past rental pictures to show the Hall setup. Congratulations to Emily N. Lawson of Pacific, MO who won the free rental at our booth!

Thank you to Joy Kopp, Judy Bierbaum, Lya & Haylee Struckhoff & Becky Vogt for their part in putting this event together. Also, thank you to Carol Ramsey for her help with printing the brochures and Gretchen Farrell for providing decorations.

Valentine's Day Dinner Pics



March Birthdays



3-1 Jonathan Farrell
3-3 Anna Mae Boehmer
3-4 Luther Bierbaum
3-4 Bill Kellermann
3-5 James Conley

3-10 Jean Van Der Kamp
3-11 April Robison
3-19 Tom Farrell
3-20 Sharon Fenner
3-29 Elizabeth Farrell

New Address

Sam and Boots Bonney
Park Place Assisted Living
2002 Boardwalk Place Dr., Apt. 457
O'Fallon, MO 63368
636-695-4409

Youth Group March meetings

We missed our Youth Group last month as we got SNOWED OUT both meeting dates! Think SPRING, everyone! Our Church Youth Group will be meeting on March 4th and 18st this next month. We continue to meet on our regular schedule of meetings with the first and third Wednesday nights. The first Wednesday of the month we usually do a mission project and on the third Wednesday, we usually have a fun activity. We meet in the Church Youth Group room, the first room to the right off of the Fellowship Hall. All Youth from 6th – 12th Grades are welcome to come have some fun, snacks, a short Bible Lesson and a great time to be with other Christian Youth. Any questions? Just ask anyone on the Church Christian Education Committee, Pastor Pat, Laura Conley, Vivian Marshall, Heather Miller, Karla Becker, Bill Kellermann and Gretchen Farrell.

New Faith-Based Support Group – THE REFUGE

Founded and facilitated by Robbin Thayer, this group was formed in order to provide **refuge** to those experiencing sadness, grief, stress, anger, or any other negative feeling caused by life's endless obstacles. The Refuge is an open door support group. You may come once or as often as you'd like. An oath of confidentiality is expected by all who attend. Facilitator is not a licensed therapist. Group will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M., in room 12 of the fellowship hall. This month's meeting will be January 8, 2015. For more information email RefugeWashMo@gmail.com or call the church office 239-3178.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Contributions to this special offering support Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. These ministries strive to help all of God's people find resilience, hope and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. Please be in prayer about how you can give to OGHS. Look for envelopes in the pews Palm Sunday.

Come Join Us in Celebration!

*A reception is being held to honor
Jean Van Der Kamp
on the occasion of her
90th birthday.*

All are invited to attend.



*When: Saturday, March 7, 2015
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*Where: Fellowship Hall,
The Presbyterian Church of Washington*



Cake, cupcakes, and cookies will be served.



No gifts, please.

Hosted by the Van Der Kamp children:
Bill ∞ Kathy ∞ Larry ∞ David ∞ Robert
For details, contact Kathy at (703) 369-3728 or KathrynVDK@gmail.com.



Loving Hearts Outreach Please continue to remember this outreach mission. They can use canned vegetables, pastas, canned meats, cereal and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Please bring items and place them in the box in the Narthex and Jean Van Der Kamp will deliver them to Loving Hearts.



Bridge

Please join us on Fridays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to play Bridge. Everyone is welcome to come and play. Bring your friends.



Creative Hands Group

The group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. except the third Wednesday of each month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting has begun! For information, please call Barbara Duemler.



Prayer for Life (PFL) meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.

Prayer can be the glue that holds individuals, couples, ministry teams, families, and churches together and the fuel that makes them soar. It is the means by which we can all engage in ministry to each other. Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. We study and learn a variety of prayer methods, both as individuals and as a group, to connect people and their needs to God.



MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Don VanBuskirk, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Karla Becker, Janet Aaron, Boots Bonney, Roni Fowler, Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Scott McCracken, Haylee Struckhoff, Sharon Wiese.

NEW HAVEN CARE CENTER: Evelyn Walters

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

VICTORIAN PLACE: Dorothy Mutert, Beth Saunders

SOUTH POINTE: Joan Schultz

HOMESTEAD: Mary Lais

CEDARCREST: June Kleberger

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

George Peters (parent of Nancy Thater)

Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)

Cindy Demitroff (friend of Paul & Lya Struckhoff)

Jim Lebreton (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Jordon Creason (friend of Nancy Nolting)

Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)

Doug Holtmeier (friend of Karla & Mike Becker)

Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)

Rose Pitman (friend of Elsie Truesdell)

Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)

Jeff Pierce (son of Barbara Pierce, brother of Janet Aaron)

Macy Lynn Crecielus (friend of Sam & Boots Bonney)

Joan Archer (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Phil Colter (friend of Mauri Truesdell)

Rick Kresse (father-in-law of Mauri Truesdell's daughter)

Becky Lunsford (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

Sarah McGurthy & family (daughter of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)

Rosemary Phillips (friend of Pierce family)

Mary Bray Wheeler (friend of Barbara Duemler)

Larry Bernardoni (friend of Tim Culp)

Geri Waller (Gail Taubel's sister)

Corey Gurnow (friend of Barbara Duemler)

Evelyn Jackson (daughter-in-law of Jim & Charlene Jackson)

Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd)

Paul Gruendler (brother of Laura Lawson)

Paula Pursley (grandmother of Hailey Joyce)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please call the office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list. Also please notify the office if you have made a prayer request for someone who should be removed from the list.