

# Pres-Bits Newsletter

## The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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Dear Friends,

About a month ago, I submitted a “Pastor’s Letter” for the July issue of the Pres-Bits newsletter. It was, in hindsight, a fairly frivolous letter concerning my opinions on a movie. Shortly after the newsletter went to print, the cultural landscape of our nation dramatically shifted. The Supreme Court of the United States made the decision that all states must recognize same-gender marriages and give full faith and credit to marriages performed in another state. How I wish I would have waited just a couple of days to write my letter. I certainly would have addressed this issue.

This ruling of the Supreme Court was met with celebration by some in the Presbyterian denomination and met with grief and disappointment by others within the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is important to remember that earlier this year our denomination, the PC(USA), voted to allow pastors to perform same gender marriages in states where such ceremonies were legally recognized. Shortly after that decision, your session met and discussed the implications of that vote. But at that time, we could easily table such a discussion because the issue was moot – same gender marriages were not legal in Missouri.

That has now changed. A same gender couple may apply for a marriage license in Franklin County. That couple may be looking for a location for that ceremony. And, they may call our number. Will the Presbyterian Church of Washington (PCW) be willing to host their wedding? In our current church by-laws, session holds the right to allow or refuse any wedding held on the premises. When such a vote is required, your session will have a difficult decision to make.

It is important to note that our denomination and Presbytery have formally stated that they will support any congregation that either allows or refuses same gender marriages. PCW will be supported by our higher bodies no matter what session decides on this matter. My challenge to the congregation is for session to receive that same unconditional support from the membership of PCW. Session may not vote the way you would like them to vote. In fact, there is no decision your session can make that won’t make some in our membership upset or disappointed. Our loving and hospitable congregation has overcome some past conflicts. My prayer is that when session votes on this issue, that their decision is supported by all, even (and especially) if you disagree with it.

Another same gender couple may be looking for a minister who is willing to perform their wedding. It is important for all to realize that I have the freedom to disagree with session and act according to my own prayerful conscience. If session votes to host a same gender marriage, I have the freedom to refuse to perform the service and insist that another minister be invited to perform the ceremony. Conversely, if session refuses to host the wedding, I have the freedom to perform the wedding at another location. Even though session and I might disagree on whatever decision is made, I will openly advocate to the membership of PCW to support and abide by their vote. We can disagree and coexist as the Body of Christ.

Again, my prayer is that my personal decision will be respected and supported by the session and the congregation even and especially if you disagree with my decision.

Be assured, your session has discussed this issue at length over the past few months. No official decision has been made concerning allowing or refusing same gender marriages on the premises. It is possible that no decision will come until a specific request is made. And, that may be sometime down the road...perhaps years. Please be patient with your session as they prayerfully consider the guidance of Jesus Christ in this matter.

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.*



### August Office Hours

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

### Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the Presbyterian Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. for Nichol LaVaughn Schofield.

## **Current Elders**

<b>Karla Becker</b>	636-239-5370	<a href="mailto:twotales@gmail.com">twotales@gmail.com</a>
<b>Luther Bierbaum</b>	636-432-1293	<a href="mailto:emmettis@yahoo.com">emmettis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>David Brunworth</b>	636-239-4102	<a href="mailto:dbrunworth@hotmail.com">dbrunworth@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Bill Kellermann</b>	636-239-7958	<a href="mailto:wckellermann@gmail.com">wckellermann@gmail.com</a>
<b>Joy Kopp</b>	636-432-1800	<a href="mailto:joykopp54@gmail.com">joykopp54@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vivian Marshall</b>	636-667-0013	<a href="mailto:marshv1849@att.net">marshv1849@att.net</a>
<b>Jenny Scheibe</b>	636-239-3765	<a href="mailto:dandjscheibe@att.net">dandjscheibe@att.net</a>
<b>Barbara Schofield</b>	636-390-4123	<a href="mailto:barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com">barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sid Thayer</b>	636-239-7617	<a href="mailto:sidneythayer@yahoo.com">sidneythayer@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Paula Obermark</b>	636-239-5308	<a href="mailto:paulaobermark@gmail.com">paulaobermark@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bruce Wiese</b>	636-432-1057	<a href="mailto:ssswbw@charter.net">ssswbw@charter.net</a>

## **Worship Assignments for July:**

### **Sound Tech:**

8/2/2015	Allen Vogt
8/9/2015	David Brunworth
8/16/2015	Joe Hagan
8/23/2015	Bill Kellermann
8/30/2015	David Brunworth

**Worship Leader:** Sam Farrell

### **Greeters**

All five Sundays:  
Anna Mae Boehmer & Vivian Marshall

### **Ushers**

Paula Obermark & Mauri Truesdell  
Judy Bierbaum & Mauri Truesdell  
Judy Bierbaum & Mauri Truesdell  
Paula Obermark & Mauri Truesdell  
Paula Obermark & Mauri Truesdell

## **The Lord's Supper**

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, August 2.

## **Boiler Fund**

It isn't too late to donate! Can we get the meter moving? (on the bulletin board) As of the end of July, \$31,841.74 has been donated toward our new boiler. Thank you for your generosity. All contributions for the boiler fund are deposited into the savings account.

## **All-Church Potluck**

August's pot luck will be Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The special speaker will be Jenny Wallach from Mizzou's Extension Office. Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!

## Current Committee Members

### Christian Education

Bill Kellermann, Chair\*  
Karla Becker\*  
Vivian Marshall\*  
Laura Conley  
Kaci Conley  
Gretchen Farrell  
Jocelyn VanBuskirk  
Heather Miller

### Church Life

Judy Bierbaum, Chair  
Jenny Schiebe\*  
Vivian Marshall\*  
Anna Mae Boehmer  
Karen Ladd  
Jan Hardin  
Shirley Coulter  
Sharon Wiese  
Lois Kempf

### Property

David Brunworth, Chair\*  
Sid Thayer\*  
Barbara Schofield\*  
Mark Thayer  
Joe Hagan  
Scott McCracken  
Anna Mae Boehmer

### Mission/Outreach

Gretchen Farrell, Chair  
Jenny Schiebe\*  
David Brunworth\*  
Sid Thayer\*  
Barb Hagan

### Finance

Bruce Wiese, Chair\*  
Luther Bierbaum\*  
Karen Ladd  
Becky Vogt  
Laura Evans  
Carol Ramsey

### Worship & Music

Joy Kopp, Chair\*  
Karla Becker\*  
Barbara Schofield\*  
Tim Culp  
Anna Mae Boehmer  
Barbara Duemler  
John Bugele  
  
Emily Bounds

### Personnel

Paula Obermark, Chair\*  
Bruce Wiese\*  
Luther Bierbaum\*  
Gretchen Farrell

*\*denotes member of session*

## August Special Music

Special music for the month of August will be:

8/2 Jeremy Bates

8/9 Choir

8/16 Andrew & Elizabeth Clary

8/23 Tom Kempf & Mike Becker

8/30 Paula Nooley



## Food Pantry Item of Month



You may have heard that the shelves at Loving Hearts Outreach are running low. In an effort to revitalize our sense of mission to this organization, we will be collecting a specific item for the food pantry each month. August's food pantry item is **Pasta Sauces & Boxed Pasta**. All through the month of August, you are encouraged to bring pasta sauces and boxed pasta and place them in the donation box for Loving Hearts in the hallway. They can also use canned vegetables, canned meats, cereal and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Empty egg cartons can also be used. Thank you for your generosity!

## Confirmation

Fall is just around the corner. Sunday School will be starting soon. Youth group will be gearing back up. And, Pastor Pat will be teaching Confirmation! Confirmation is for students 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up who have not yet gone through the confirmation process. Confirmation will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm (alternating with youth group gatherings). The first night of confirmation is currently scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 2015 Per Capita

If you haven't already done so, it isn't too late to pay your portion of the 2015 church per capita tax. The amount this year is \$30.29 per person. Please note "per capita" on your check memo and envelope. There is an envelope in your packet of envelopes marked specifically for the per capita purpose.

## Sunday School Teacher

The Christian Education Committee is looking for volunteers to teach the K-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class beginning in the fall. Sunday school will begin this year on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin at 9:15am in the second classroom off of the Fellowship Hall. Easy-to-use curriculum will be provided. We are open to various teaching structures. We are open to "team teaching" where more than one teacher is present in the room. And, we are also open to a teacher "rotation" where a group of teachers rotate on a monthly or week-to-week schedule. All teachers must be members of the congregation with a completed background check on file. If you are interested in being this school year's elementary teacher, or if you are willing to be part of a teaching team, please let Pastor Pat or Christian Education Committee Chair Bill Kellermann know. We can easily perform a background check at no cost if you have not had one done yet.

## Rummage Sale

From putting the canvas sign along Highway 100-David Brunworth and Brady Richey on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>-, we were off at a run getting started for the annual Rummage Sale. Then many of you stayed after church July 12th to place items that David had removed from the shed. The new diagrams that Carol Ramsey had done-she also made new price lists and various signs to mark the areas-THANK YOU, THANK YOU Carol.

This is my opportunity to thank those people in charge of the areas & those who faithfully helped over the two weeks:

Joy Kopp - Advertising & Check out

David Brunworth - Signs & Clothes racks

Dan Greer - Clothes racks & Clean up

Karen Ladd - Jewelry

Anna Mae Boehmer - Housewares/Knick Knacks/Flowers

Jean & Kathy Van Der Kamp - Books/Games & Check out

Allen Vogt - Electronics/Furniture/Goodwill

Pam Schwarzen - Linens & Jenny Scheibe helped with the pricing

Vivian Marshall - Christmas & Toys

Jan Hardin, Barbara Duemler, & Allen Vogt did the pricing

Vivian helped with many things like cleaning out supply boxes

Kathy Froning - Children's clothing

Shirley Coulter, Jan Hardin - Clothing

Barbara Duemler, Judy Bierbaum

Allen Vogt & Richard Duemler - Pricing

Mike Becker & Kenny Barnhart, Scott, Miles & Ian McCracken - Pick up

There were many people who helped daily. A very special thank you to Whip Schultz for being there every day & helping with a multitude of things. Also to Roland Schwarzen for helping me clean the shed. On Friday we had 30 people who came, again on Saturday, and then Sunday for clean up. As you can tell it takes a lot of people to get the job done. God blesses me with each of you. THANK YOU many times over. David Brunworth & Dan Greer- you are super & a special thank you to Taylor Bierbaum who helped me set up tables on Sunday morning after the wedding on Saturday night. He also put the tables & chairs in the session room so Anna Mae's room was ready. WE MADE \$4435.76 less \$500 start up, which leaves us with \$3935.76. If you were unable to contribute and would like to help, a donation can be made to the Rummage Sale fund. One last thing - if a donation slip is needed for taxes, please get that to me to sign.



### **United Prayer for Peace**

Sunday, August 9 at 3 p.m. Pallottine Renewal Center, 15270 Halls Ferry Rd., Florissant, MO. An hour of prayer for our city and nation. Time to reflect on our need for peace and renew our faith in prayer. Keynote speaker: Civil rights activist Sister Antona Ebo, FSM. Sponsored by North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice and Presbytery's Social Witness Policy Action Team. For information, call 314-837-7100 or go to [pallottinerenewal.org](http://pallottinerenewal.org).

### **Faith-Based Support Group – THE REFUGE**

This month's meeting will be August 13, 2015. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M., in room 12 of the fellowship hall. For more information email [RefugeWashMo@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeWashMo@gmail.com) or call the church office 239-3178.

### **Coming Soon! New Church Pictorial Directory**

Your Church Life Committee is making plans for a pictorial directory to be done this fall. There will be an organizational information meeting Monday, August 10th at 3:00 p.m. Lifetouch representative Michael Dust will be present. You are encouraged to attend this meeting if you are willing to volunteer for a few hours as a host during the photography days on October 8th-10th.

### **Schnucks eScrip Cards**

If you are a Schnucks shopper, there is an easy way you can support our youth group. Every time you shop and swipe your card, Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your purchases to our church for the benefit of the youth group. Cards are available in the church office in a basket on top of the wooden mailboxes. Pick one up today and support the youth!

### **Breakfast at the Riverfront**

The Church Life Committee is bringing back our warm weather activity many enjoyed last summer. Bring a breakfast from home or grab a fast food breakfast and join us at the Rennick Riverfront Pavilion to enjoy eating and visiting together. It is a very pleasant, peaceful place to relax with a cup of coffee and enjoy watching the river. Picnic tables with benches are there but you might prefer to bring a lawn chair from home. People mostly arrived between 8:30 and 9:30. We will gather again on Tuesday, August 11th. Arrive any time that works for you.

## **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.

## **August Birthdays**



8-1	Jenny Scheibe	8-21	Matthew Becker
8-4	Wilma Luker	8-21	Jared Thater
8-7	Barbara Pierce	8-22	Isabelle Kampshroeder
8-14	Jane Lohan	8-23	Kathryn Becker
8-14	Fred Taubel	8-25	Gary Froning
8-18	Vivian Marshall	8-30	Janet Thayer
8-18	Mauri Truesdell		



### **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 – Note New Day!**

The group is changing their day of meeting to Tuesday at 9:00 beginning the first Tuesday of August. Meetings will be every Tuesday of the month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting is going strong! For information, please contact Barbara Duemler.



### MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Karla Becker, Janet Aaron, Roni Fowler, Scott McCracken, Laura Fenner, John Anglin, Jenny Scheibe, Kaci Conley, Lisa Conrad, Family of Don VanBuskirk, Jim Watson, Robert Luker.

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

VICTORIAN PLACE: Beth Saunders

SOUTH POINTE: Joan Schultz, Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Elaine Dodson, George Peters

CEDAR CREST: June Kleberger, Glenda Nagel, Dorothy Mutert

### FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

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)

Mary Bray Wheeler (friend of Barbara Duemler)

Larry Bernardoni (friend of Tim Culp)

Geri Waller (Gail Taubel's sister)

Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd)

Paula Pursley (grandmother of Hailey Joyce)

Patti Mathews (sister-in-law of Joe & Barb Hagan)

Harmon Wright (husband of Helen Wright)

Taylor Bierbaum (grandson of Judy & Luther)

Dottie Shelton (sister of Shirley Coulter)

Debbie Stone (daughter of Jack & Elsie Truesdell)

Jacqueline Brown (daughter of Pam & Roland Schwarzen)

LeRoy Riechers (cousin of Karla Becker)

Holly Stoltz-Smith (friend of the church)

Kay Hazel (friend of the church)

Betty Buerk (relative of Schultz, Vogt, Struckhoff)

Bill Johnson (grandfather of Alex Johnson)

### 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.