

Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

Washington, Missouri
(636) 239-3178

e-mail: presby@yhti.net
www.presbywashmo.org

Volume 43 Issue 9
September 2016

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Dear Friends,

A little over ten years ago, The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area ordained me to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Over those ten years, I have preached my share of sermons. My process for preparing for sermons has changed dramatically over the years.

Initially, I used to preach “as the Spirit led.” I chose scripture and topics based on how I felt God was communicating to me that particular week. You may not be aware, but protestant ministers have essentially two choices when selecting sermon scriptures. They can choose to follow “God’s direction” each week. Or, they can choose to follow a predetermined schedule of scripture readings, the most popular such schedule being the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Initially, I chose to follow the former. I viewed the RCL as a “human creation” that only served to stifle the Holy Spirit’s guidance to me.

Over time (and it didn’t take very long), I noticed that my method was fairly ineffective. I really wasn’t listening to the Spirit at all. I was choosing to preach the scripture passages that I liked. If I didn’t care for a passage, I wouldn’t preach from it. If the topic challenged me, or made me feel uncomfortable, I chose something else that felt less “controversial.” So, my sermons began to sound the same: similar topics, similar points, similar take-aways for the congregation. My sermons essentially reduced the entirety of scripture to about three or four themes (if that many). Essentially my method was lazy. And, this self-centered method effected my level of research and my level of writing. I became a lazy, half-hearted preacher.

I then decided that I would “submit” to the RCL. The RCL is a three year cycle. Each Sunday, during those three years, there is a Gospel Reading, Old Testament Reading, a Psalm, and an Epistle. And, very quickly, I found that this cycle encouraged me to examine ALL of scripture, instead of only my favorite passages. Plus, I came to the realization the Holy Spirit was at work through the RCL. The council of churches that determines the RCL have been guided by the Holy Spirit to help ministers, like myself, communicate the entirety of scripture to our congregations. And, many other ministers in our community preach the same cycle, so it gives me a great excuse to meet with other ministers to discuss scripture

(which I do every Tuesday morning with Rev Jocelyn and ten or so other ministers at Café Mosaic).

As of September 9th of this year, I will have been at PCW for three years. So, with the exception of a few sermon series, I preached through the entirety of the RCL in my time here. So, after Labor Day weekend, I have the choice to either start the RCL over again. Or, choose another direction.

After some time in prayer, I have discerned that God is leading me to give a new schedule a chance. And, there is a new cycle that has been increasing in popularity for some time: The Narrative Lectionary (NL). The NL is a four year cycle (one year for each Gospel record) that begins with Genesis and culminates with Revelation. It examines scripture as one whole “Story” and will guide us more “chronologically” through that Story. But, don’t worry, Christmastide will still focus on the Nativity story and Easter on the Resurrection.

There are a couple of things I really like about the Narrative Lectionary (even though I have admittedly not yet used it):

One: More focus on books of the Old Testament and Epistles. This will direct me to preach more on passages that I have yet to address in sermons at PCW. During the RCL these past three years, I have heavily favored the Gospel passage while the OT, Psalm and Epistle took a back seat. The Gospel writings will still be significant, but the other parts of the Bible will get their day in court as well.

Two: I believe the NL will help the congregation get a better overall picture of ALL scripture. It will help us all understand how historical books of the Old Testament relate to the letters of the Apostle Paul, etc. In essence, I believe it will give us a greater understanding of the intention of the Biblical writers and a better appreciation of the Divine Design of God through history and how that impacts our future in discipleship.

I will begin preaching from the Narrative Lectionary on Sunday, September 11th. Don’t worry! If you miss a Sunday during this four year cycle, you won’t get lost! I won’t need to do a previous Sunday “recap” like television shows (“Last week at PCW...”). Each Sunday will have its own specific and unique focus and message.

I am looking forward to this journey with you. And, I hope and pray that this cycle will increase your appreciation of the Bible and enhance your overall worship experience.

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.*



September Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. except Monday, September 5 when the office will be closed in celebration of the Labor Day holiday.

Current Elders

David Brunworth	636-239-4102	dbrunworth@hotmail.com
Vivian Marshall	636-667-0013	marshv1849@att.net
Barbara Schofield	636-390-4123	barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com
Sid Thayer	636-239-7617	sidneythayer@yahoo.com
Bruce Wiese	636-432-1057	ssswbw@charter.net
Jamie Tucker	314-814-2780	jmtsrvir09@gmail.com
Mary Ellenberger	636-742-4591	maryvet01@yahoo.com
Kathy Froning	636-239-7995	kathyfroning@yahoo.com
Lois Kempf	314-630-8379	loiskempf@hotmail.com
Karen Ladd	636-239-5271	jladd001@charter.net
Tim Urban	636-239-2082	tim.urban22@yahoo.com
Mary Eleanor Farrell	636-239-7300	mef@yhti.net

The Lord's Supper

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, September 4.

Communion Assignments for September:

Preparer: Barbara Schofield

Servers: Vivian Marshall, Tim Urban, Tom Ellenberger

Worship Assignments for September:

Sound Tech:

9/4/2016	David Brunworth
9/11/2016	Ian McCracken
9/18/2016	Joe Hagan
9/25/2016	Tom Ellenberger

Worship Leader: Nancy Thater

Ushers

Jean Weekly & Kay Hucke
Roland Schwarzen & June Gellhausen
Lither Bierbaum & Barb Hagan
Laura Evans & Jane Bugele

Greeters

Struckhoff's & Nancy Klingert
Tim & Gerry Urban
Don & Jenny Scheibe
Allen Vogt & Karla Becker

Choir

Choir began practicing for the upcoming season. Practice starts at 9:00 each Sunday. We will perform our first anthem on September 11th. We would love to see some new faces in the choir! Any questions please contact John Bugele at 636-346-2133.



All-Church Potluck

The next pot luck will be Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. The guest speakers will be the 14th Triennium Youth. Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!

Peacemaking Offering

Envelopes for collection of this year's Peacemaking Offering will be in the pews in the month of September beginning September 11. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to sustain their local peacemaking ministries. Please prayerfully consider how you may give.

Pajamas and Pastries!

Youth and children are invited to share in a Sunday School Kickoff! They will celebrate the start of the Sunday School year by wearing their pajamas and enjoying breakfast together in the Fellowship Hall. The date is Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 a.m. Stay for worship in your PJs too!

Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends will begin the fall season and a new Presbyterian Women Horizon's Bible Study on Thursday, September 22nd. The study is called "Who is Jesus? – What a Difference a Lens Makes." In 9 monthly sessions we will study Jesus from the points of view of the evangelists, Paul, other world religions, and contemporary cultural interpretations. Circle of Friends will meet at 10:00 a.m. each month on the 4th Thursday of the month, except on Thanksgiving, and probably in July at the time of the Church Rummage Sale. - Jocelyn

FREE Monthly Movie Night

Every month, a different movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall that will be free to the public. This month, Movie Night will fall on Saturday, September 24th at 7pm. This month, the movie will be the classic Action/Adventure movie “**Raiders of the Lost Ark.**” Popcorn and beverages will be provided to all. Please bring a comfortable seat (lawn chairs, bean bags, etc). Bring the whole family and invite your friends!

Alternative Gift Market

The Mission Outreach Committee is looking for a volunteer to help coordinate this year’s Alternative Gift Market. The Alternative Gift Market has been a very profitable global mission project of the church for many years. Jean Van Der Kamp has successfully led this program for many years, but is looking to hand-it-off to new leadership. If you are interested, please contact Mission Outreach Chair Lois Kempf or Pastor Pat.



Warblers

Warblers will meet on Wednesday, September 28. We would love to have more voices come. The only requirement is to make a “joyful noise.” Call Anna Mae Boehmer for more information at 239-3344 or call 314-691-0473.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin on Sunday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m. This year Pastor Pat will be using a Narrative Lectionary instead of the Common Lectionary that Presbyterians and other denominations have used for years. This Lectionary, which is used by Aimee Appel at Peace Lutheran Church, is on a 4-year cycle, with one Gospel for each year, Old Testament studies in the falls, and special Advent and Lenten studies. The Sunday School Class will operate in sync with this alternative lectionary series. For 3 Sundays in September we shall study stories in Genesis of the Creation and Fall, Abraham, and Joseph. Think you know all there is to know about these popular stories? Think again. And come to Sunday School. All you will need is your Bible. – Jocelyn

Pet Blessing

Attention Pet Lovers! Mark your calendars for this year’s “Blessing of the Animals!” This year’s service will celebrate the bond of pet and owner on Sunday, October 9th at 4pm. Last year, we blessed over 30 dogs, two horses, one cat, one goat and even one chicken! Please join us for a memorable afternoon!

Men’s Ministry

The Men’s Ministry group meets every third Saturday of the month at 7:30 am for breakfast, fellowship and prayer. September’s meeting will be Saturday, September 17.

September Birthdays



9-3	Aaron Bounds	9-17	Karla Becker
9-5	Mark Thayer	9-19	Brooke Tucker
9-7	Jeff Thater	9-21	Christy Eckert
9-10	John Bugele	9-21	Whip Schultz
9-15	John Anglin	9-22	Lauren Kellermann
9-16	Judith Bierbaum	9-23	Kimberly Taubel
		9-24	Karen Ladd

Food Pantry Items of Month

The shelves at Loving Hearts Outreach are still running low. In an effort to revitalize our sense of mission to this organization, we will be collecting specific items for the food pantry each month. September's items are **Canned Meats, Canned Fruit and Soups**. All through the month of September, you are encouraged to bring these items and place them in the donation box for Loving Hearts. They can also use canned vegetables, canned meats, and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Empty egg cartons can also be used. Thank you for your generosity!

Monday Night Football Men's Group

Attention all men! The Men's Ministry Group of the church would like to invite everyone over to David Brunworth's home at 7pm on Monday, September 19th. That night, we will indulge ourselves with some Monday Night Football. The Philadelphia Eagles (and QB Sam Bradford...remember him?) will play at the Chicago Bears. Please bring your own beverages. Pastor Pat will lead a devotional at half-time. David Brunworth's address is 4375 E State Road Old 100 (Washington).

Festival of Sharing

The Festival of Sharing is an interfaith celebration and gathering of resources for mission in Missouri and around the globe. Over the years our church has contributed "kits" for persons in women's prisons and schools in Missouri. The year – in light of our Women's Bible Study emphasis "Come to the Waters" and the current presence of flooding in our state and in Louisiana – the Circle of Friends will be preparing "Clean-Up Buckets" this year, 5-gallon buckets filled with prescribed cleaning aids. We also want to provide some "Backpacks of Love" to be given by C.A.S.A. volunteers to children in temporary foster care while their parent(s) are in the court system. If you wish to contribute to either of these Festival of Sharing endeavors, please make monetary donations to Jocelyn VanBuskirk so that the contents for the buckets and backpacks can be purchased and assembled. Thank you. – Jocelyn

Presby Script Program

The Scrip Program will continue to keep the most popular restaurant gift cards available for you to purchase immediately following worship every Sunday.

A list of popular National merchants and Local merchants can be found on the church website at presbywashmo.org or stop by the Scrip table to pick up an order form.

Remember, if you order gift cards one Sunday, they'll be ready for you to pick up the next Sunday.

Thank you to all those who purchased JCPenney gift cards! Just by purchasing those gift cards the church did not have to pay any shipping charges that week so that increased our profits to the church that week!

CROP Hunger Walk

Save the date. This year's walk will be the afternoon of Sunday, October 2.



Halloween Party



Mark your calendars for the annual Halloween Party October 30.



Change for Chickens

Are your pockets dragging you down with too much change? Are you paying for things with pennies and nickels to get rid of change? How about making a donation to Change for Chickens. A worthwhile cause to help others and get rid of that pesky change.

The Refuge

This month, "The Refuge" will have special focus: **Caring for Aging Parents**. If you have been feeling the burden of caring for parents of advanced age, we pray that this gathering will allow you some respite. Or, if you have parents who will soon need more attention, and you have questions and concerns, please come and join others with similar situations in life. This special gathering of "The Refuge" will be on Thursday night, September 8th at 7pm. We will meet in the middle classroom off of the Fellowship Hall. "The Refuge" is an open door support group. You may come once or as often as you like. An oath of confidentiality is expected by all who attend. Bill Kellermann will be the guest facilitator in September.

Mission Committee

A big thank you to our church family volunteers who had the privilege of serving 104 community friends at the Harvest table in August. What a blessing of giving and receiving. We will be serving our community friends again on November 19th. If you want an evening of blessing and fun mark your calendars.

Thank you to David for managing the planting and harvesting of our mission garden. It's a big job and the produce serves so many of our community friends. Also a big thanks to all who helped pick green beans after church on Sunday August 21st.

Wish List

The WISH LIST has been updated and is now available on the small table outside the Sanctuary for you to take and review at your leisure. The WISH LIST shows all the items already purchased with church member gifts up to now along with the \$35,000 Boiler replacement last year. It has been a real blessing to the church needs and programs to receive all these special gifts not able to be in the budget this time. The WISH LIST itemizes the remaining wishes submitted by various committees of the church. Anyone wanting to purchase an item can do so by sending a check to Carol in the church office and she will handle getting the item(s). Partial gifts are welcome on some of the items and we will deposit the money in an escrow awaiting the balance to be contributed by others. Thank you all for your support of this WISH LIST. It has made a big impact on the needs of the church and enhancement of its programs.

Progressive Dinner Report

Twenty-seven people had a really fun evening of food and fellowship traveling around Washington August 13th. Attendees just can't quit talking about it. We learned some things and hope we can make this an even better annual event. The evening wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of cooks and hosts who opened their homes to us. Many thanks to the Scheibes, Bierbaums, Vivian Marshall and Barbara Schofield for cooking AND hosting. We began the evening with everyone enjoying appetizers at the Brunworth's and ended with everyone at Sam and Mary Eleanor Farrell's home for dessert. Everyone truly appreciated their hospitality. Thanks also to the volunteer cooks who donated appetizers and desserts. Judy Bierbaum and the Church Life Committee

Name Tags

A new name badge signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. Nametags are important to all to all of us, and especially so for new members and visitors. Both lanyard and pin on badges are available. Please sign the sheet or contact Judy Bierbaum at 636-432-1293.



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.



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

Meetings are normally 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, Scott McCracken, Laura Fenner, Joy Kopp, Jean Van Der Kamp, Becky Vogt, Patricia Bagley, Pam Schwarzen, Marcy Ritchey.

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

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

CEDAR CREST: June Kleberger, Dorothy Mutert, Beth Saunders, Lisa Conrad

BARATHAVEN SPECIAL CARE: (Dardenne Prairie) Boots Bonney

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)

Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)

Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)

Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)

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

Phil Colter (friend of Mauri Truesdell)

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

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

Taylor Bierbaum (grandson of Judy & Luther)

Holly Stoltz-Smith (friend of the church)

Betty Buerk (relative of Schultz, Vogt, Struckhoff)

Jean Kimme (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Rena Middendorf & Family (niece of Kathy Froning)

Pam Evangelist (sister of Sharon Fenner)

Ray Tucker (father-in-law of Jamie Tucker)

Alexandria Caldwell (friend of Becker family)

Joe Bryant (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

McKenna Kleinheider (granddaughter of June Gellhausen)

Felix Frye (brother-in-law of Trisha Bagley)

Charles Bagley (brother of Trisha Bagley)

Jill Ince (friend of the church)

Alex Settles (friend and coworker of Robbin Thayer)

Debbie Bernardoni (friend of Tim Culp)

Annabelle Krueger (granddaughter of a friend of Tim Culp)

Family of Debbie Usry (friend of Melissa Joyce)

Lorraine Kellermann (mother of Bill Kellermann)

Family of Sibyl Kerr (friend of Sharon Fenner)

Lisa Brule (sister of Vivian Marshall)

Gregory Griffon/Jamie Griffon (grandson/son of Robert & Loretta Griffon)