



## From the Pastor

### So, What's Next?

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*  
Isaiah 43:19c

Give yourselves a BIG hand and a pat on the back – we have held three enlightening and inspiring “Summits” on the past, present and future, conversations about our history, our values, our sense of mission and ministry, and seeking to discern God’s emerging calling for our church family including beginning to dream about ways to do and be church differently.

In his book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, the Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger shares the surprise from when Lewis and Clark were commissioned to find a water route connecting the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River. After 15 months canoeing the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark were certain they had to be near the Pacific Ocean. Instead they saw something no European had ever seen – the Rocky Mountain range. Suddenly, they realized, all of their maps were wrong. What had gotten them this far on their journey couldn’t get them any further. And their canoe wasn’t going to work!

So, what did they do when faced with this new and unexpected terrain?

- They became explorers.
- They became adventurers.
- They became risk takers.
- They began to see the landscape differently and realized that moving forward would mean letting go of some things while embracing others.

They also realized the biggest change was not in the landscape, but in themselves. They would have to be willing to change in order for the mission to succeed. Dr. Bolsinger offers this story as a metaphor for the terrain and the opportunity facing our 21<sup>st</sup> century churches

As we did after the “Summits on the Past and Present”, summaries of the conversations from the “Summit on the Future” were compiled and sent to you, with paper copies now available for pickup in the narthex.

From these, a team of Carol Gruber and Bev Stobie are now writing up our mission study report for presentation to the Session and to the Presbytery for approval. Their report will also inform the drafting of a joint mission study report with Pacific Presbyterian for submission to each Session and the Presbytery as well. Please hold them in your prayers this month as they endeavor to represent what we have been learning along with our hopes and dreams for the future.

See you in worship, at the Welcoming Table dinners, and around the church, as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

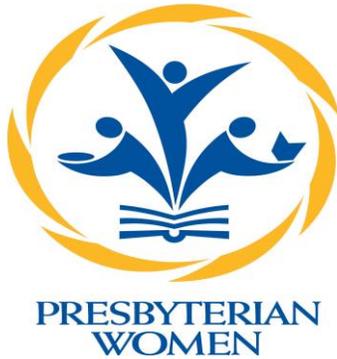
*Pastor Marilyn*



### Contents

Message from Pastor Marilyn	1
Presbyterian Women	2
Worship for Sept.	2
UKirk Meal	2
Fellowship/Usher list	3
Mound Ridge work day	3
Guest Preacher	4
Yoking News	5
Calendar	6

## Presbyterian Women (by Georgia Paulus)



Presbyterian Women met on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> at Susan Buchanan's home. Charley, her furry companion, was there to greet us with tail wagging. Charley soon decided there were to many women to deal with so excused himself to sofa-sleep in the sunroom.

The nine of us enjoyed a delicious brunch. It is great fun to experiment with new recipes and try them out on each other. Her new egg casserole was great as well as the other dishes.

Our study was based on portions from Hebrews and psalms 95.

Discussion topics:

1. Difference between Hope and Faith
2. Importance of sabbath "resting in the Lord"
3. Concerns of decline in Sabbath Celebration and results to culture
4. Future eternal rest

Something to consider: Why do you think "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" is one of the 10 commandments?

Next Meeting Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>; Hostess - Dorothy Clarkson  
Lesson leader - Karen Calvin

Upcoming Events:

**Fall Gathering: September 29<sup>th</sup>** at John Knox Presbyterian Church

*Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all*



### Serving Dinner to members of UKirk

Let's go to College! We will have the opportunity **Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>** to provide a meal for UKirk. UKirk is a worshipping community that sings, reflects, prays, and celebrates communion together. UKirk serves together, plays together, and rejoices in Christ together. Students from Washington University and St. Louis University meet Sunday's at 7 p.m. at Trinity PC(USA) Church in University City. Everyone interested in preparing a meal and delivering it to UKirk be sure to put November 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. More details will follow.

### Sunday Morning Worship for September

September 2 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Communion – Guest Preacher – the Rev. Vanessa Hawkins

September 9 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – "Feeding All the Children: Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman" – dramatic presentation from Mark 7:24-37

September 16 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – "Receiving Shocking News" from Mark 8:27-38

September 23 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – "Admitting When We Don't Understand" from Mark 9:30-37

September 30 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – "Audaciously Hoping: Queen Esther" from Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22



### Fellowship List for September

- Sept 2 Bev Stobie, Violet Lansford  
 Sept 9 Rich and Leighann Hoekel  
 Sept 16 Carol and Myron Gruber  
 Sept 23 Karen Calvin, Jackie Jany  
 Sept 30 Ralph and Dinah Sudholt

### Usher List for September

- Sept 2 Ralph and Dinah Sudholt  
 Sept 9 Mike and Laura Hill  
 Sept 16 Phil Clarkson, Dale Paulus  
 Sept 23 Bev Stobie, Violet Lansford  
 Sept 30 Jackie Jany, Susan Buchanan

If you are not able to fulfill your assigned Sunday, please ask another member to take your place and let the secretary know of the change. Thank you

#### Prayer List:

Jackie Jany with the death of her Husband Russell Jany



## **Mound Ridge Work and Play Day**

All are welcome to spend the weekend in Fellowship with Pacific Presbyterian Church at Mound Ridge Retreat and Mission Center on **October 26th and 27th.**

Come early on Friday, spend the night and play! Saturday will be the work day as the pool house is in need of painting along with other needed chores.

For more information you may contact **Kathi Risenhoover at 314-406-1103.**



## **Pastor Marilyn Is Training to Be a Certified Pastor Coach**

For the remainder of her study leave this year, this fall Pastor Marilyn will be taking on-line classes two days a week, two weeks a month in September, October and November toward becoming a Certified Pastor Coach. She has received a scholarship for half the tuition cost from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in exchange for accepting pastor clients for coaching within the Foundations, 13-state midwestern region, which includes Missouri.

The impact on our two churches this month will be that Pastor Marilyn will not be in the office September 18, 20, 25 and 27.

## **Guest Preacher Sunday, September 2**

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Vanessa Hawkins as our guest preacher Sunday, September 2. Rev. Hawkins is the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Designated Associate Presbyter. Originally from Henderson, North Carolina, her experiences as a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary and as a mission partner at a South African Anglican seminary helped her to grasp that spirituality is a significant factor in congregational development. She believes that it is the discerning congregation – the one who risks following the blowing of the Spirit – who becomes a vibrant, relevant, and life-giving ministry for their members and surrounding communities.

Over the years, Vanessa has served as a Presbyterian campus minister, mission partner, pastor, and staff at denominational and presbytery levels. Most recently she served as the Associate for Nurturing Ministries in the Presbytery of New Hope in North Carolina. The focus of her work was spiritual nurture of presbytery leaders (pastors, session members, and educators). In this position, Vanessa established and supported fellowship gatherings, retreats, and new pastor support groups as well as produced introductory videos on the role of spiritual practices in the life of congregations.

Pastor Marilyn will be on vacation September 1-7 for a family reunion in Bowling Green over the Labor Day holiday weekend and to celebrate her and Craig's 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 4.

During a joint meeting of the yoking committees, we discussed the Summits on the Future that each church had. Observations are that:

- Our visions are similar
- Both churches would like more community outreach
- Food ministries are important

We then discussed pastor qualities both churches envision in a new Minister of Word and Sacrament which are in no particular order, nor with any particular ranking or weighting:

- Emergency pastoral visiting
- Energy and enthusiasm to be a yoked pastor
- Sense of humor
- Comfortable with people in groups and individually
- Participates in church activities and models servanthood
- Models personal relationship with God beyond intellectual/theological knowledge
- Openness and sensitivity to diverse views
- Able to plan creative and diverse worship opportunities
- Encourage to be involved in an organization in the community
- Well organized and able to delegate as appropriate
- Willing to participate in the Presbytery

These are considered a starting point in our future discussions.

Both churches are working on Mission Study reports from the summits we each held. These will also be combined into a joint mission report.

Pastor Marilyn also shared information about the two kinds of called and installed pastor positions we may consider when we look for a new pastor. There are advantages and disadvantages to both, and we will be exploring this more in future meetings. The options are:

1. Traditional Called and Installed Pastor: Our joint Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) would review ALL candidate applications with Presbytery doing reference checks on those we would want to interview. Presbytery would then do a more thorough background check on our finalist(s). Our finalist would be presented to the two congregations for approval and would be installed by the Presbytery to serve indefinitely. This requires congregation approval for a PNC.
2. Designated Called and Installed Pastor: Our joint Designated PNC would trust the Presbytery to review and pre-screen for our two churches ALL candidate applications, contacting candidates Presbytery thinks would be a good match to confirm their interest in being considered, and would do an initial reference check before referring the candidate applications to the DPNC for consideration. Presbytery would then do a more thorough background check on our selected finalist(s). Our finalist would be presented to the two congregations for approval and would be installed by the Presbytery to serve for a designated period of two to four years. Within the last six to nine months of the designated period all parties – the pastor, the two churches, and the Presbytery – would either agree to make it a traditional called and installed position or to not continue the relationship. If the decision is to continue the relationship, new terms of call removing the designated language would be presented to the two congregations for
3. approval and the pastor would be installed by the Presbytery to serve indefinitely. This requires congregation approval for a Designated PNC.

Pastor Marilyn's contract expires at the end of November. She is willing to continue as our Transitional Pastor for up to another six months while we are searching for a new pastor.

## First Presbyterian September Calendar

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> Usher– Ralph & Dinah Sudholt Fellowship - Bev Stobie, Violet Lansford <b>Guest Preacher</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>The Welcoming Table - Zion UCC Serving 6:00 PM</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm–3:00pm</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Usher - Mike & Laura Hill Fellowship– Rich & Leighann Hoekel	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm–3:00pm</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Usher - Phil Clarkson, Dale Paulus Fellowship– Carol & Myron Gruber	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>The Welcoming Table - Second Blessings Serving 6:00PM</b> <b>"Pastor Marilyn out of office"</b>	<b>19</b> Session Meeting at 7:00PM	<b>20</b> <b>Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm–3:00pm</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Usher - Bev Stobie, Violet Lansford Fellowship - Karen Calvin, Jackie Jany	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM</b> <b>"Pastor Marilyn out of office"</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm–3:00pm</b>	<b>28</b> PW Meeting— Hostess Dorothy Clarkson; Lesson leader Karen Calvin	<b>29</b> Fall Gathering at John Knox Presbyterian Church
<b>30</b> Usher - Jackie Jany, Susan Buchanan Fellowship - Ralph & Dinah Sudholt						