



The Bell-Tower NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

MISSION STATEMENT

- * Preaching and teaching the Bible with passion and love
- * Bringing the unchurched to a trusting and redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ
- * Nurturing our congregation
- * Serving the needs of our community



By hosting the Jesus Love Feast, I believe we are striving to be faithful to Jesus. The event's meaning and purpose-- I think is summarized well in Matthew 22: "Then the master

said to his servants, "Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests." The master's order to the servants is not a suggestion; it is a command. In light of that, I feel that as followers of Jesus, we should be proactive in reaching out to the homeless, hungry and often hidden in the St. Louis community. By reaching out and gathering around a meal, we will be doing everything we can to break down barriers between the satisfied and the hungry, the comfortable and the disturbed, and those of us with our own shelter/homes and those on the street/homeless.

The central aspect of Jesus Love Feast is getting people to sit down together for a conversation and a meal. The key to the feast is good food, sweet desserts, cool drinking and lots of talking and listening. Sitting down together around the table can break down barriers of prejudice, stereotypes and fears. By primarily building relationships between widely different groups in our community, we may help someone that has never had a face to face conversation with a homeless person and are scared to death realize that we all simply want respect and our dignity.

Caring for strangers and those that may be so different from us is one of those good deeds that glorifies God. It is a way we let Christ's light shine into the world through us. As I've wrestled more deeply with our mission as

disciples, as I've pored over the gospels and as I've looked at how Jesus relates to people, I realize that Jesus taught and practiced an all-inclusive love and that Jesus was always working to welcome those on the margins of his world. I'm excited about Jesus, challenged by Jesus, and I think if the church can really see His inclusive love at work in the Jesus Love Feast, I think there will be some amazing blessings going to breakthrough into our relationships, our discipleship, and our church.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sean



CLERK'S CORNER – *Barb Spurgeon, Clerk of Session*

On July 12th the Session met for their meeting with the opening prayer being given by Rev. Sean Butler at 7:12 p.m. The Study Time for July was from Acts 10:1-16 regarding Cornelius and Peter's vision. The Holy Spirit descends on them. Cornelius is the first gentile to be baptized. The Docket for the meeting was approved and attendance was taken. The Clerk's Report, Minutes of June 14th and the Treasurer's Report were approved as presented. Correspondence was handled.

CHURCH OPERATIONS – Church Ops reported that in the Learning Center all lights are working in classrooms, restrooms and corridors. They have been working on getting trees removed, trimmed and brush cleaned up. Everyone needs to be aware that we have Poison Ivy and Poison Oak on property.

WORSHIP & MUSIC – They will be meeting on the 30th. The Liturgist and Communion Server sheets to sign-up were passed around. They are looking for someone from the congregation to serve on this Commission.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – They are not having a meeting until September.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE – They also need someone from the congregation to help them.

CHURCH LIFE – The Jesus Love Feast is coming soon and we will have a Sock/Underwear drive from August 6 through September 8. The following monies have been sent: Church World Service (Blanket Sunday) - \$234.00; TEAM (part of Lenten Offering) - \$255.00; One Great Hour of Sharing \$779.00 – Per Capita - \$2,269.00. Stewardship Drive will be from October 29 through November 19. The Craft Fair is potentially November 18. World Communion Sunday will be October 1 and service will be held outside. There will be campout on September 30 and perhaps a movie outside.

FPCLC (Learning Center) - School for the little ones will start on August 14th. Angie has a full school. Open House will be on August 10th. September 26 will be the next board meeting. They are replacing a lot of their carpeting.

GREEN COMMITTEE – There is an Earth Congregation gathering on July 31 at Webster Groves.

The next Presbytery meeting is on August 31st in Washington, MO.

NEW BUSINESS – A new banner to hang in Harmon Hall was approved. Barbara Spurgeon said that the Mariners would be glad to pay for the banner. They are still looking into new T-shirts.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:05 p.m.



AUGUST Birthdays

4 Sandra Hensley	14 Robert Kaatman	24 John Gierer
6 Dolores Wilson	18 Judy Shy	26 Matthew Denno
8 Joy Lee	18 Diana Robb	27 Laura Hicks
8 Angelyn Rosenberger	19 Sherrelyn Rosenberger	28 Pamela Pisors
9 Dorothy Light	19 Cora Hendrickson	29 Rebecca Hutchison
10 Alma Crook	21 Richard Lee	31 Betty Carper
10 Ellen Law	21 Jeffery Buddeke	31 Jacki Robb
14 Fern Litz	24 Nancy Salfen	

Happy 90^{Plus} Birthday!

Dolores Wilson & Fern Litz

If you would like to send birthday wishes, Dolores' address is NHC Healthcare #113B, 2920 Fee Fee, Maryland Heights, MO 63043; and Fern's is 1395 Lindsay Lane, Florissant, MO 63031.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Sue Edwards, married 29 years on August 29

Bob & Sue Lorenz, married 7 years on August 17

Rolla & Ronna Smith, married 57 years on August 20

From the desk of...
Kay Laughlin

Something I have appreciated about my father and have missed since his death in 1995, is that he was always glad to see us. I can remember coming home from Mizzou and hiding in the front bushes to surprise him some weekends, knowing he would be delighted to see me. His grandchildren also experienced his constant enjoyment of their company. Only occasionally the boys, mine and my brother's, might catch some disciplinary trouble.

My father comes to mind as I consider how welcoming you all are when we join you in church on occasional Sunday mornings. When I started writing for the monthly letter, I never anticipated your kind responses and encouragement. The blessing of doing the articles is on both ends, the giving and receiving. I was invited to join a monthly writers' group led by a delightful English Professor at Eastern University. There, too, I have been uplifted by feedback and by the great sense of humor displayed by all, really.

Offering our love and encouragement to one another is central to what makes us stronger as individuals and as a body. A word often used in the Bible is edify or edification, most simply meaning to build up. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). How we speak and how we act is addressed: "Therefore, let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things which one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

God is love and He gives us the opportunity that as believers "in Christ," we can tap into a powerful source of love that far exceeds the limits of our own emotions. More than once, I have reacted to something in my hurt emotions, but as we desire to live on a higher plane, God has moved me out of a selfish range to the love He longs to express to us and through us. I describe it as moving from reacting to responding to a given situation as God wants me to.

Finally, God makes a distinction between the value of knowing things and that of expressing love. We now live in a university town, Eastern Illinois University, where many have distinguished academic honors and degrees. These things have their place, however such knowledge can puff people up, "but love edifies" (1 Cor. 8:1).

Yesterday and today, thank you for the love—which edifies—you have shown us as we worshipped among you and as we hold you in our hearts here in Charleston. When we show up, your kindness is always a joy.



By/Betty Walters

Jesus Sends Love, Hope, & Happiness

What helps get me through the roughest of times?
When I go to Jesus and tell him what's on my mind.
Sometimes my heart feels burden heavy and sad.
That's when I know Jesus is the best friend I ever had.
He sends love, hope, and power my way.
Then I know I can make it through another day.
He will bring you out of whatever you are going through.
Our Lord is waiting to hear from you.
Keep calling out because your deliverance is near.
Please send me words of comfort and wisdom that I will hear.

June 1, 2017

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Church News

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JESUS LOVE FEAST - Underwear Drive - Beginning August 1st we will be collecting **NEW** underwear and socks for distribution at the JLF on September 23rd. All sizes for men, women and children are needed.

Personal care items (shampoo, lotion, soap) and used winter clothing are also accepted.

Jesus Love Feast Volunteers Needed - Everyone please sign up to volunteer. Our next meeting will be August 17th at 6:30 PM. Come be part of the planning. Clothes sorting days will be announced as they are scheduled. On the event day, volunteers are needed:

- Set up
- Host and Hostesses to direct the guests to appropriate areas
- Help to store and secure guest's personal belongings
- Monitors to keep paper supplies in the bathroom
- Kitchen Help
- Food servers
- General cleanup
- Distribute Clothes and personal care item
- Children Crafts
- Manicures

AND much more!

Just providing Christian fellowship to a stranger is important. We expect 300 - 400 guests so lots of help is needed. It's a great service project for scouts, youth groups and high schoolers needing service hours.

CHURCH LIFE

MARINER LOG - Sunday, July 23rd we celebrated the birthday of 43 of our members. We missed celebrating the birthday of so many of our members and we are sorry they could not come to the party!

The celebration started with a special family worship service of prayer and song. We were visited by Abraham's oldest servant who told us all about his life of service to Abraham and Sarah. He has been with them many years as had his father. His latest service for Abraham is to go out and find a wife for Isaac. He was on that trip when he stopped in to visit with us.

After worship the party moved into Harmon Hall. We played a fun game of passing the "envelope". Each envelope contained either a \$10 or \$25 dollar gift card or a worthless Pokémon card!!!

The table was set with any kind of salad you could think of and some you never heard of. They were all delicious and we had plenty for everyone.

The birthday cake was beautiful with "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and all the months listed in different colors. It too was delicious as was the ice cream.

In place of gifts to exchange everyone brought food for TEAM and/or school supplies for KidSmart. The donations were very generous with many items collected. THANK YOU!

The month of August we will have the KidSmart "Push for Pencils" drive box out for any of you who did not make the party or wish to make additional donations. We have no planned activity for August at this time.

SEPTEMBER - In September we will be sharing a meal with our Learning Center families-watch for details.

GREEN COMMITTEE

Earth Care Team Tips for Green Living - Re-use Gray Water – Keep a bucket in the bath or shower to catch the water waiting for hot water to arrive. Use this gray water to water your garden or indoor plants or to flush your toilet. Re-using the gray water reduces waste by 100%.