

# the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

MAY 2008

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## On the Web

You can find Notes from Session on the last two pages of this newsletter or on-line at [www.presbykv.org](http://www.presbykv.org). This month, we have notes from a meeting with lawyer Brent Mayberry concerning trusts.

*the Lantern*

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## Summer Reading Express

Jump on board for a great ride in Narnia this summer! Our congregation will be reading and studying two books from the *Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. The books are *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *Prince Caspian*. While these books are frequently read by children, any adult who has read the books will say, "It's NOT just for children!"

Come join us during the Sunday School hour and discover the story within the story; together we will find the biblical parallels and truths. Books will be available soon; a \$6 donation will be appreciated. For more information, contact Ronnaug or Pastor Mike.



## Declaring Their Faith

On Sunday, May 4, the members of this year's confirmation class met with the Session. Each had prepared a statement of faith in preparation. Reprinted below are sections of these statements. Let's all join to welcome our new confirmands on Sunday, May 11!

### WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN TO ME?

Jesus is very important to me because he is my lord and savior, who died for our sins so that we may live on Earth in a peaceful manner. Jesus in my opinion is like the tiny thread that holds the world together, because without him, things would be quite different. A quality of Jesus that I really respect is the fact that he forgives all people, no matter how many times that they might have wronged. He accepts anyone, no matter how different they are from one another. A portion of the Bible that really speaks to me is the Parable of the Lost Son. It has this effect because it describes the quality of forgiveness in Jesus.

*Andrew Giovannini*

Jesus to me is my savior and my teacher. He is also a friend that will pull you out with a gentle hand from the dark abyss of sorrow and guilt, and brings you into joy and light through love and forgiveness. He means a new life to me and someone to talk to when no one else is around. He teaches to forgive and forget, have faith when everything has failed, and to love with all of my heart. I wish to try with everything I have to follow his ways so that I can become more like him, because he is my friend, teacher, savior, and above all the life of us all.

*Megan Matheney*

### WHAT DOES THE CHURCH MEAN TO ME?

To me the church is like a home away from home, and it will always be there. It's a place to be with Christ and learn about him and try to follow him. It's a place to get away from all the bad things in this universe and listen to God and really hear what he is saying. The church makes me feel very secure.

*Ellie Dublin*

*[Continued on Page 2]*

## May Lectionary

### MAY 1

*Ascension of the Lord*

Acts 1:1–11

Psalm 47:1–9 or Psalm

93:1–5

Ephesians 1:15–23

Luke 24:44–53

### MAY 4

*7th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 1:6–14

Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

John 17:1–11

### MAY 11

*Pentecost*

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers

11:24–30

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or

Acts 2:1–21

John 20:19–23 or John

7:37–39

### MAY 18

*Trinity Sunday*

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Psalm 8:1–9

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

Matthew 28:16–20

### MAY 25

*8th Sunday in Ordinary*

*Time*

Isaiah 49:8–16a

Psalm 131

1 Corinthians 4:1–15

Matthew 6:24–34

## Declaring Their Faith

*[Continued from Page 1]*

The church is a fellowship, in which we stand together in our faith. We, as a group, stand up against moral injustice in the world and help each other in times of need. We are a body sent by Christ to spread the word.

*Matthew Matheney*

### WHAT DOES BECOMING A MEMBER OF MY CHURCH MEAN TO ME?

By becoming a member of my church, I will complete my statement of faith, and will become confirmed as a Christian. By becoming a member, I will be able to help the church more. I may be able to contribute to group discussions or help make decisions concerning the church. After I become a confirmed member of my church, I can learn more about Christianity and go deeper into specific religious topics.

*Derek Jones*

Joining this church means a lot to me. It tells me that I am fully committed to God, even more than before. It helps show me that I am

joining God in another step of my church path, to be joining him in leading myself and my life down a new step.

*Sydney Slavin*



**Above:** Sydney Slavin, Derek Jones, Andrew Giovannini, Matthew and Megan Matheney are initiated into the mysteries of the church Archives after their examination.

## Financial Report

**MARCH 31, 2007**

	Month	Month	YTD	YTD
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Giving & Other Revenue				
Restricted Program Transfers				
Designated Income/Expense				
Direct Mission				
Pastoral Leadership				
Worship & Music				
Christian Education				
Administrative Support				
House & Grounds				
General Needs				
Campus Ministry				
Membership Shepherding				
Community Ministries				
Rollins Ministry				
Westminster House Ministry				
Total				
Undesignated Cash Checking Account:				

## Mike's Page: A May List

For this month's newsletter article, I would like to share a few tidbits with you. There is no overall guiding principle or idea to link these thoughts together. I will just make a little list of things I would like you to know.

1. May 11th is a special day for us in the church. It will be confirmation Sunday. It will also be Pentecost and Mother's Day and a day when we dedicate a gift to Stubbins Memorial Family and Youth Center in the name of David Lintner. We will also share the Lord's Supper together on that Sunday. I am looking forward to that day, and I hope you are too. It will be very special.

2. We are all getting older, becoming more concerned about our health, and possibly having trips to the hospital. Should you ever call the ambulance to come and pick you up, or if you call the ambulance for a loved one, I would like to be notified. I say this because you might not know. It's hard to know what to tell the pastor, isn't it? But it seems to me that if an ambulance is involved, your situation has moved from "questionable" to "emergency." And so, if you feel comfortable, I would like you to call me. I realize you won't be at your best, but then, if it's in the middle of the night, neither will I!

3. At our April 27th congregational meeting, we unanimously elected a new slate of officers for our church. I think that it is a great testament to the Power of the Spirit that each year people agree to serve our church and move it forward. This is an exciting time in the life of our church. Christ is drawing us forward to respond more graciously to each other, our

neighbors and people in our lives. Often it is our elders and deacons who show us how to do this.

4. I want you to know you can still give money to the elevator project. We are in the first phase of this project and this phase has been fully paid for by our congregation. But we will be ready very soon to 'move up' to phase two, and that's when your financial support will be needed. You do not have to give very much, but I would like you to contribute if you can. It would be a nice thing for each church member to feel that they contributed for our elevator. Indeed all have contributed already by voting to begin the project at all. And, as a final thought, it would be great and kind of funny to have the project totally completed next year on Ascension Sunday. Get it? Ascension! But that is one year, so much needs to be done.

5. Finally, let me just close by saying what a wonderful church this is. Remember my proposed slogan for us: "First Presbyterian Church. I can't BELIEVE you don't go here!" Our officers, our music, our members, our friends, our affection, our talents. You are what makes this church so good. Don't ever fall into the trap of thinking that a pastor makes a church. I have thought that in the past. "Oh, well everyone goes to the [insert name of church] because of Pastor [Proper Name]." That's not true. People come into our community of faith because the Spirit draws them in, and when they meet YOU, they stay. And for that I thank God, and thank you!

## Silver Chalice Given

A silver chalice has been given to the church by elder Charles Cannaday. The chalice belonged to his brother, Karl Cannaday. Karl graduated from United Seminary at St. Paul, MN, and he was ordained in 1972. He served churches in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and

Kansas, for over 25 years. Karl died in 2002 and is survived by a widow and six grown children. It is with deep gratitude and love that we accept this gift to the Glory of God.

*Linda Hudnall*  
Memorial Committee

## May Birthdays

### BIRTHDAYS

John Haman  
Blake Collier  
Melina Matheney  
Matt Matheney  
Todd Sparks  
Mary Novinger  
Alexandra Arabas  
Brenda Matheney  
Margaret Ferrell  
Jane Trimborn  
Sydney Ross  
David Giovannini  
David Bulen  
Georgia Walter

### ANNIVERSARIES

Jamie & Todd Sparks  
J & Jan Biehl  
Brenda & Matt  
Matheney  
Bob & Barbie Sanders

## Mike's Office Hours

### MONDAY:

8:30 am – Noon  
1:00 – 5:00 pm

### TUESDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

### WEDNESDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

### THURSDAY:

8:30 am – Noon  
1:00 – 5:00 pm

### FRIDAY &

### SATURDAY:

No office hours.

## Recycle this Summer!

Do you recycle? Did you know that you can recycle glass at the Truman Recycling Center on LaHarpe? That's great news!

But don't get too excited, because they're cutting back on their Saturday pick-up hours during the summer months. This summer, recycling can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 7:00 am–3:30 pm.

## Dates to Remember

### SUNDAYS

**9:30–10:45 am:** Sunday Worship Service  
**11:00 am–12:00 noon:** Sunday School for all ages  
**5:30 pm:** Campus Ministry meal at the Westminster House

**May 11:** Pentecost, Confirmation, Second-Sunday Brunch

### TUESDAYS

**May 13, 7:00 pm:** Session/Deacons  
**May 27, 7:00 pm:** Christian Education  
**May 27, 7:00 pm:** Presbyterian Women

### WEDNESDAYS

**1:15 pm:** Bible Study  
**7:00 pm–8:15 pm:** Adult Choir

### THURSDAYS

**May 1, 1:30 pm:** Budget & Finance Committee

### FRIDAYS

**May 16, 6:00 pm:** Parents' Night Out

### SATURDAYS

**May 10, 9:00 am:** Presby Seniors at Ponderosa



## Notes from Session

### DEACON'S REPORT

**Picnic:** John Rowe reported that Reservations have been made for a church picnic on September 21 at the Point picnic shelter.

**Food 4 Kids:** The *Food 4 Kids* program will run from July 7 through August 15, Monday through Friday. They have asked John if he will serve as Kitchen manager for a week and get First Presbyterian to serve for that week. Based on his schedule as manager, we have scheduled July 14-18 as our week.

**Fred Wheeler:** We decided that we should have a Fred Wheeler Appreciation Day, perhaps during the Second-Sunday Brunch on June 8th.

### TIME WITH BRENT MAYBERRY

Lawyer Brent Mayberry spoke with the Session concerning legal issues surrounding trusts.

#### *Looking at our Bell Trust Documents*

- Sources of rules regarding trusts include the will that establishes the trust and the law that oversees trusts.
- The trustee has broad discretion in investment methods.
- The trustee shouldn't invade the principle of the trust. If expenses exceed the income, the trust will terminate.
- After payment of costs, the income should be paid to the trustees of First Presbyterian Church.
- The trustee of the trust should receive a reasonable compensation, and that should be agreed upon by church and trustees.

#### *History of Bell Trust Management*

- There was an attempt in the 70's where the church tried to ask a judge for control of the trust, but in essence the judge declined to get involved because the correct parties weren't involved in the lawsuit. That occurred in the 1970's.
- The second attempt occurred more recently, and resulted in a ruling appointing three members of our church as trustees and giving the Session authority to appoint successor trustees as needed.
- We have appointed trustees in 3-year terms, staggered once per year. We have two vacancies now.

#### *Issues Related to Our Current Situation*

- There are rules for these situations, but cases are (in practice?) fact-driven. For example, someone overcharging by a large amount and doing other questionable things would be looked at differently than someone doing it for free who might have done something questionable.
- We know how to appoint a trustee because of the court order.

- Trustees can be removed for malfeasance, no-fault unfitness, administrative defaults (don't co-operate with other trustees), failure to keep records, etc.
- There is a judicial process to remove a trustee.
- In 2005, a law was passed that changed the way things are done with trusts, but our trust would operate under the old law. A trust can be changed, especially when the finer points are not spelled out in the trust document. Modification can be made, as long as the overall intent is maintained.
- There's a legal concept of estoppel: If this trust has been working in one way for 40-60 years—even if it is not the most legally correct way—and no one has objected, there's a general reluctance by the courts to step in and make changes.

#### *Questions from the Session*

- Could we use the Presbyterian Trust to manage this money? It seems likely that such a modification would be accepted a judge. The difficulty of the process would depend on whether the church and trustees agreed.
- How common is it to see a trust that doesn't define the way the trustees and beneficiaries interact? It's not "common," but it does happen frequently.
- How broad are the powers of the trustee? Broad with respect to investment, but not with regard to how the money is given to the church.
- Today, does it still make sense to pay the trustee in addition to the stock broker, since the trustee is no longer doing all the work? Have we had situations where the compensation to the trustee and fund manager was above the income? The typical way to compensate is as a percentage of the net income of the trust. There is not much doubt that year in and out, the compensation of the trustees shouldn't exceed the trust's income. The general rule (absent a special agreement) is that a reasonable fee should be paid based on the income received and paid out. Under that circumstance, if there's no payout to the beneficiary, there should be no fee. There is no agreed-upon percentage, but perhaps 5-20% is common on a case-by-case basis. This percentage would perhaps depend on how well an individual trust does.
- Who decides the percentage and the general procedure?
- The goal should perhaps be to appoint trustees that agree on what should be done with the trust and then move the money to the Presbyterian Trust. If the trustees can't agree, then you might have to pursue removal of trustees through legal action.

- Being a trustee is a tough job, both because of legal liability and because of the necessity of legal/financial knowledge.
- The Session thanked Brent Mayberry for his time.

#### *Session Discussion*

- What do we know about the Presbyterian Foundation? We currently have Scrivens and Oliver Fund money there.
- What percentage do they charge? A percentage of assets. Ratio is about 1.35% of assets.
- We need to appoint two trustees to take the positions held by Laura Easley and David Lintner. When and how should that happen? It was noted that the Session, not the Nominating Committee appoints these trustees, and it was decided to put the question of appoint on the May agenda.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

We will begin to publish the date of the congregational meeting: Sunday April 27th.

#### **PASTOR MIKE'S CONTINUING EDUCATION**

The Personnel Committee (upon being asked by Michael) recommended Supporting Michael as he begins studies toward a Doctorate of Ministry. This degree is a professional doctorate degree, like a doctorate in education. One *must* be in full-time pastoral service to pursue this degree, and it's a part-time program. The program at St. Paul in Kansas City would involve two weeks in January and two weeks in July, and would get yield a degree in approximately four years.

If we were to accept this plan, we might be asked to provide some financial support for these studies. Michael's continuing education allowance is \$1000/yr right now, and

one class is \$950/hr. If we would pay for two classes per year, the McCormacks would pay for the other two classes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve these recommendations. It was approved unanimously.

#### **CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The campus ministry group also plans a mission trip to the Gulf Coast in August of this year.

#### **GIFTS AND MEMORIALS**

Kay Alm's memorial refrigerator will be dedicated on Sunday, April 13. The refrigerator box is still going strong as a play house at the Kirksville Child Development Center—an unexpected memorial gift, but much appreciated. Most recently, the children were all involved in a messy "mortaring" of the playhouse.

#### **ORGAN REFURBISHMENT**

A question was raised about what we were doing related to organ refurbishment. Periodic refurbishment of organ components has never been done, and it is high time to do them. Furthermore, our organist has reported that there are several unusable stops that should be repaired. Both the Bell Fund and another possible donation have been mentioned as sources of funds for these needed repairs. We will need around \$20,000 for the repairs. The organ company had openings late this summer and in 2010, when last we checked with them. We don't know if the openings for this year are still available.

A motion was made and seconded to inquire about availability of repair for this year, and if available, to make the commitment. Concern was expressed that the Bell Fund is currently in flux. However, it was decided to ask the Bell Fund to provide funds toward this renovation. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Editor's Note**

It seems advisable to add that although we discussed many issues related to trusts, and although Brent Mayberry made his comments knowing there has been dissatisfaction in the Session with our interactions with the Bell Fund, this was not a meeting where we sought legal advice because we were in the midst of planning some sort of legal action. Rather, members of the Session simply wanted to become more aware of the issues surrounding trust law because we wanted to know better what we should expect from and how we should handle our interactions with the Bell Fund. Interested members should speak with members of Session.

*Scott Thatcher*