

Microsoft

TIDINGS



IT TAKES GRACE...

Special Dates of Interest:

- National Day of Prayer, May 5
- Mother's Day, May 8
- Day of Pentecost, May 15
- Armed Forces Day, May 21
- Memorial Day, May 30

I'm writing this on April 13 for a very special reason. History will be made tonight and I want to do this before the momentous events take place. It is going to be an historic night in the National Basketball Association for two reasons.

1. Kobe Bryant is retiring... finally. Tonight is his last game. Kobe has been a Los Angeles Laker for twenty years. (He has sweat socks older than some of his teammates.) He is the third-leading scorer of all time and has been an All-Star eighteen times. That's impressive.

2. The Golden State Warriors are trying to win more games in one season than any team in history. If they win tonight, it will be their 73rd victory, while losing only nine times all season. That, too, is impressive.

Another thing to impress about

tonight's events is the price of admission if you want to witness either event. I just heard on the radio that the last available seats for the Lakers/Jazz game – two seats – were purchased for \$45,000. And for the Warriors game, the average list price for one ticket (now sold out) was \$1,594.

Still want to be a part of an historic event? I thought not...

On the other hand, I'm wondering this afternoon how many folks will turn out for something even more exciting, and relevant, too. We will have 40 or 50 people sit down for fellowship and a terrific meal, followed by Bible Study, children and youth activities, and choir rehearsal... for a deal-buster price that is .0003% of a seat in Los Angeles. If you're paying attention, that is with a meal thrown in, travel will be minimal, and you

can still make it to work in the morning. What a deal!!

I know. There's something in us that is attracted to the historic. We want to be part of something greater than ourselves. Down the road, we want to be able to say, "I was there. I saw that happen." Just remember God invites you to "remember the former things of old" but know that "I am God, and there is none like me." [Isaiah 46:8,9]

Sorry, Kobe. Sorry, Warriors. I think I'm busy tonight with more exciting, more relevant things. (And I know the meal here will be much better than the \$12.50 hot dogs in California.)

You really ought to try church sometime. It's the best deal on earth!
Blessings,
RevLon

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The General Fund (Faith Promise) needs your help! Below is the first quarter General Fund income and expenses of our church. The General Fund expenses exceed our income by an average of \$2,693 per month for the first quarter. Our expenses include approximately \$18,300 monthly fixed cost consisting of salaries, utilities, insurance, etc. that cannot be reduced. The staff has been asked to save in discretionary spending wherever possible.

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	SHORTFALL
January	\$26,116	\$27,435	(\$1,322)
February	\$20,070	\$21,864	(\$1,795)
March	\$16,162	\$23,144	(\$4,962)
Total 1 st Qtr.	\$64,366	\$72,445	(\$8,080)

The designated funds (Building, Prayer Garden, etc.) are well funded, but our General Fund needs help.

Thanks in advance for your support!
Dale Davis
Tem Major
Finance Committee



“Congratulations to our Seniors”

Every spring brings forth a change of seasons. We eagerly wait for the longer warmer days that will soon become summer. For those of us who have the privilege of working with the youth of this church it is a season of change too. The nearing end of another school year comes with the spring flowers. This year the class of 2016 is blessed to have six students that all uniquely and unquestionably impacted our lives here at First Presbyterian. Noah Collins, McKenzie Conover, Hunter Goodwin, Dakota Miller, Logan Taylor and Sierra Walker are ending a season of their lives as they graduate high school and start the next season of their lives.

So, Noah, Kenzie, Hunter, Dakota, Logan and Sierra, wherever your path takes you please know that each step you've taken so far God has been preparing you for what lies ahead. Hopefully you've noticed that, but if not then reflect back and see where He's shown up. At this stage of life you're going to start realizing that time will start to accelerate and it's a phenomenon that you've probably not really paid attention to yet. But enjoy your time and make the most of what comes your way. Some things will happen to build your character. That's another way of saying disappointments and failures are still going to be learning experiences. You probably already know that though. Whenever you can make sure you pay for some random persons meal anonymously, trust me you'll enjoy it. Because being generous works on a part of us that God meant for us to develop, being gener-

ous and cheerful about it. Humility is a trait that reminds us that God has made us all in His image so we don't feel like less or more than anyone else, just the unique one a kind you He intended you to be. Live life to the fullest and make the most of what comes your way because life can go by really quick and I know that you'll do your best to soak in as much as you can! Keep growing deep in your faith of God and don't allow the world to distract you from that precious relationship.

Thanks for blessing my life in a special way that only you could. I've got the best job I've ever had because I get to hang out with people like you! You've made me laugh and you've just now brought tears to my eyes because I know the love we share for one another. That's the tough part of working with students who grow up and graduate and move on, there's a season for everything and it's the season to say goodbye to 6 very amazing people. You know how much you mean to our family here at First Pres and you'll always be a part of this family no matter where life takes you. May the peace of Christ be yours now and forever!

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-16, “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.



Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong.

Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!”

Congratulations Noah, Kenzie, Hunter, Dakota, Logan and Sierra we are so proud of you and wish you the best that God can give you in your future!!

I love Y'all!
Rob
Romans 12

If you would like to come out and enjoy some good food and wish them well then we invite you to come to our annual “Grill Masters & Sweet Treats Cook Off” and Senior Celebration May 4 at 5:15. And if you're interested in entering the cook off please let Rob know and plan on cooking enough meat or sweets to feed around 20.

YOUTH NEWS

Please be in prayer for our students as we finish up another school year and head into summer.

June 11-18 is our High School Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. There our students will serve the people with the love and compassion of Christ. Those going from this church joining those of other W. KY Presbytery churches are De Allen, Abby Brown, McKenzie Conover, Halley Cope, Madison Cummings, Emily Fischels, Michael Milam and myself. Thanks in advance for your prayers!



Denise and I along with Brad, Katie and Lexi would like to thank you all so much for the prayers, cards, messages, calls, visits and gifts you gave during our saying goodbye to Lincoln. We know that children are experiencing an unexpected blessing because of your honoring his life by giving to Heifer International in his memory. It was

such a blessing to imagine what kind of boy, teenager and man he would have turned to be. We can only imagine but we are certain that one day we will meet him again in heaven. Our hope and peace rest in our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ who cradles Lincoln in his arms. God bless you all!

May's Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd	Merry Brooks	19th	Monty Crawford
4th	Tem Major	25th	Chrissy Barker
8th	Chesley Wilson	26th	Michael Milam
14th	Rob & Denise Wilson (A)		Josh Pohlman
15th	Calvin Griffith	27th	Madison Duncan
16th	Emily Fischels	28th	Alan Johnson
	Rick & Susanna Lee	29th	Pat Bonney
	Linda Shanks		
	Steve Arnold		
18th	John Ewing		



Patriotic Concert

The Community Choir will present a free concert of patriotic music at the Glema Center of the Arts on Sunday, May 1 at 2:00PM. Three of our church choir members are singing in the 50 voice choir. Luanne Cole, Janet McClain, and Merry Brooks have worked since January, rehearsing the familiar songs. The Ft. Campbell Jazz Band will also have a set of music. We cordially invite you to attend.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 9:30AM Norma Siria Circle 7PM GB Team Mtgs	3 7PM Session Mtg	4 5:15 GrillMaster Cookoff 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 	9 7PM GB Team Mtgs	10 Presbytery Mtg O'boro First	11 BLOOD DRIVE Noon til 6:00PM	12 Women's Great Banquet #173	13	14
15 Day of Pentecost →	16 7PM GB Team Mtg	17	18	19 West Kentucky CC Great Banquet #16	20	21
22	23	24	25 Navigators Leaders Group	26	27	28
29 Navigator Student Group	30 	31				

ON THE INSIDE



Often, I wish to write something that you will take note and say: “That was a mighty fine article you wrote for the newsletter, Pete”, then I realize most of you may not even read the newsletter. Often, I wish to go to a gathering and have someone come up and say: “That was a really good thing you did the other

day”, or “Come sit down with us, have some wine and something to eat, thank you for...”, but then I read Luke 17:10: “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.” As I sit here thinking of great things, the Holy Spirit reminds me of Matthew 7:22-23. I guess I’ll just go about my business and

do my duty to God , the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit; knowing that one day I’ll lay my crown before Him, and He will say “Welcome Home, Pete.” On the inside, Hallelujah!

Ruth, a Pentecost story?

“...God united two enemy peoples for his grand purpose.”

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth’s devotion to her mother-in-law (“Where you go I will go Your people will be my people ...” [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: lovingkindness — all the more remarkable because she’s a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth’s story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth’s marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ’s reign for the good of the world.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn’t mention the law, let

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem,

“Just keep swimming...’



In Athens, the apostle Paul responded to the people’s worship of “an unknown god” by declaring, “[God] is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being’” (Acts 17:23, 27-28, NIV).

Author Diana Butler Bass echoes that sentiment: “If the water is invisible to the fish, is God, as

the One in whom we swim, also invisible?” (*Grounded: Finding God in the World*, HarperOne).

I, in turn, am reminded of Dory, the blue tang fish in *Finding Nemo*. Feeling overwhelmed and alone, she chants to herself, “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming.” When we feel alone and can’t see God, it’s not that he

doesn’t exist or can’t be known; rather, he surrounds us so closely that sometimes we miss the fact. God is the Living Water in which we swim. Sometimes we need to just keep swimming until we become aware of that again. —Heidi Mann

HUGE THANKS YOU'S!!

Have you noticed all the good things going on and getting done around the church?

* Our relationship with Grapevine Elementary is growing stronger through the efforts being made in recognizing the staff there. We've received lots of genuine "thank you's" from individuals at the school.

* The prayer garden is clean, weeded, and mulched. It is a beautiful place to rest.

* We have new air conditioning for the fellowship hall and upstairs classrooms.

* The ceiling in the library has been restored and repainted, and with the digitalizing of books, DVD's, and material, it is becoming a good place for information again.

* The Good Friday Prayer Chart filled out faster than ever before.

* The manse is getting a kitchen re-do.

* We are sending off six high school seniors from the youth group, and there are eight from the group going on the Presbytery Mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in June.

* The gym and kitchen have gotten new paint and floor-

ing, along with a plumbing upgrade in the big kitchen.

* Our sound systems for the fellowship hall and gym have been revamped and sounds terrific.

* The Wednesday Night Cook Crew is finishing up an awesome school year of marvelous meals, and the kids and youth are completing one of the most active seasons ever.

* Vacation Bible School is gearing up for June 18 and a focus on Living Waters for the World in Mexico.

* Our Living Waters team will be returning to the Yucatan in June with high expectations of continuing and even expanding our efforts there.

* The Girl Time Group is up and running with fellowship and activity.

(An effective men's group is just around the corner...)

* Our Sunday School teachers continue to put out great learning potential for everyone who is participating in that effort.

* The Great Banquet season – in house and in jails and prisons – continues to run at an extremely high level of efficiency...More is going on in that community than ever before. Each season seems to grow from the

strong foundation of earlier efforts.

- We received a report of technology in use now, along with the potential down the road. Those folks who have made such a success of technology in every area of our church do need some help, though. Call the church for details (270.821.6420).
- We have a handful of folks involved in the strong ministry of Bible Study and worship at the Hopkins County Jail. Chaplain Pete Phelan does a great job overseeing the ministry there.
- By the end of April we will have had six new members join the church family in 2016.

We'll stop there...for now. Remind the church of other areas of growth and excitement and we'll be sure to get it in next month's newsletter. Thanks to all of you who make all these things possible!



"Vacation Bible School is gearing up for June 18 and a focus on Living waters for the World in Mexico."



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