



The Profile

January
2015

Co-Pastors: Revs Laurie Williams and Rodger Allen
Music Director: Susan Farris
Secretary: Carmen Minge; Custodian: Tim McNulty

The Presbyterian Church
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Pastor's
Ponderings

One meeting which will be coming up at the church in January is the January 7 meeting of the Worship Committee, so I am reminding you that we are seeking your input on two recent “experiments” in our worship service. For each of them, I believe the committee would be interested in the reason(s) behind your opinion, rather than simply “Like it!” or “Don’t like it!”

The first experiment has been described this way in our Sunday bulletins for several weeks: There are more than one acceptable translations of the Lord’s Prayer, and the Worship Committee, responding to a couple requests, is asking that we “experiment” for a little while with some wording that is a little different from what some of us are used to. A few words are updated to contemporary English (“your” instead of “thy”); and the word “sins” better fits our usual use of the word than “debts”, which we usually associate with money. Please try this wording out, and if you would like to provide feedback on our experiment, speak with Carolyn Brown Hodge, Tom Hebermehl, Vicky Jewell, Kathy Smilie, Susan Farris, or Rev. Rodger. (This version, by the way, is one of two presented in the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship*.)

“Our Father who *is* in heaven. hallowed be *your* name. *Your* kingdom come, *your* will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our *sins* as we forgive *those who sin against us*. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For *yours* is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

The second experiment is one we have tried twice in worship in the last three months: a period of a few minutes of prayer near the end of the service. After a hymn to open this part of the service, we share our joys and concerns with each other (as we do every Sunday), and then offer the opportunity to pray silently in your pew, speaking to God or listening to God, or to come to the front of the sanctuary to have a soft spoken prayer with one of the pastors. (We can also come to you where you sit if that is preferred.) This section “feels” a bit like communion, with its soft music and silence for a few minutes. If we continue it, I would anticipate it being maybe three or four times a year – but that could be determined by the feedback we receive as well. Please contact one of the people listed above to let us know what you think.

Our (shorter-than-usual) sermons on the two Sundays we had periods of prayer were on the subject of prayer, and we have had some requests to put in the newsletter the “nine types of prayer” described in one of the sermons. The ones we listed were:

Innvocation- asking God to be present in the worship or prayer time

Praise- praising God for God’s greatness, goodness, power, love, creation, ...

Adoration- a little quieter statement of confidence or appreciation of God’s presence and goodness

Thanksgiving- listing things we thank God for

Lamentation- lamenting to God the troublesome things happening in our lives (example: Psalm 88)

Confession- naming and asking for forgiveness for things we have done wrong

Dedication- of a gift we are bringing, or a promise we are making, to God (as we say after our offering each Sunday)

Intercession- asking for something for others

Petition- asking for something for ourselves

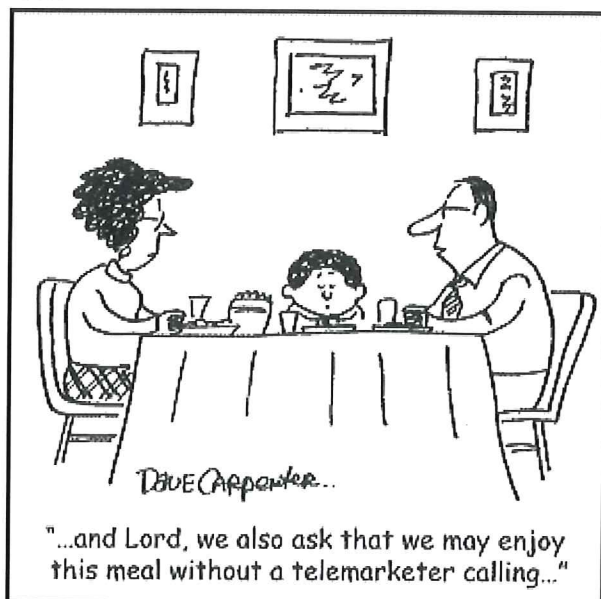
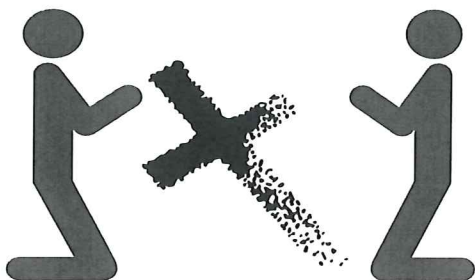
A prayer which included exactly one sentence of the nine types would be a little unusual and awkward, but would sound something like this:

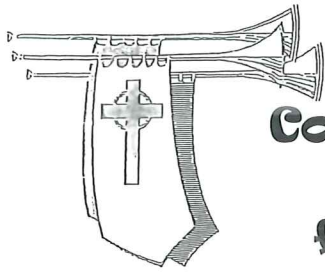
“God, be with me in this time of prayer. I praise you for your ability and willingness to hear our prayers, to respond to them all. I am confident that you are with me, listening, now. Thank you for this day, this church in which to worship, this time of prayer. I am dismayed, O God, that I so often don’t feel your presence when I ask; where are you, at those times? But I confess that there are many times I don’t turn to you when I should, forgive me Lord. I promise I will try to do better; I will try to set aside some time of prayer each and every day. I ask you to encourage all those who have difficulty coming to you in prayer, who are inconsistent in their prayer.

And I ask you to guide and inspire me to be more faithful in my praying.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Worship Committee would like to hear from you, regarding our “experiments”, and what we hear will determine how we proceed with each of them. So, please be in touch.





**ANNUAL
Congregational
Meeting
for 2015 is on**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

It is essential in the life of a congregation and its vitality that members participate in making decisions. This is one of your chances.

LUNCH will be served around 11:40 A.M. with the meeting starting at approximately 12:30 P.M. The business concerns are reading reports and asking questions of committees' chairpersons or the treasurer, and electing officers. **We hope to see you first for Sunday School and Worship, and then join us downstairs.**

UNdecorating
From Christmas

Help us make quick work of taking down the Christmas decorations Saturday, January 10, at 9 A.M.



**AN OGHS THANK YOU
AND UPDATE**

Our church is one of thousands, of many denominations, which collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering at Easter. We recently received this information on some of the things the offering is accomplishing this year:

CHANGE IS HAPPENING because of YOU, and you and you and you..... Thank you for your continued support of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). You and your congregation answered God's call by generously providing thousands of people with the help they need. Through partnerships with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) , Self-Development of People (SDOP), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) we are alleviating world suffering world suffering and strengthening Communities – and that's because of you.

(OGHS 'thanks' continues on the reverse side)

FIVE PURPOSES OF PRAYER

- 1 Praise and adoration: responding to the glory and grandeur of God.**
- 2 Thanksgiving: acknowledging the Giver of all good gifts.**
- 3 Confession: admitting our failures and asking for pardon.**
- 4 Petition: asking God to take care of us.**
- 5 Intercession: asking God to help others.**

LAST YEAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$2,092,055
Presbyterian Hunger Program	\$2,327,738
Self-Development of People	\$2,081,729

You're helping build something incredible:

- Projects supported by OGHS are underway in over 100 countries.
- We are actively responding to the most devastating epidemic of Ebola In African history through education, prevention training, and construction of an isolation center for patients.
- We continue to provide resources and support to impoverished and under-developed communities that are, nearly a decade later, still reeling from Hurricane Katrina.

DOING GOOD: These snapshots provide a glimpse of the kinds of efforts supported by OGHS:

Michigan (SDOP): Supports Opportunities for The Blind, an organization working with young people who are blind or visually impaired, helping them grow into capable adults.

Kenya (PDA): Partners with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, providing people in the Kitui community with sustainable sources of clean water as well as opportunities for work.

North Carolina (PHP): Funds the Community of the Beloved in Asheville, which provides shelter and food to people living in poverty.

New Orleans/DeHa Region (SDOP, PDA, PHP): All three programs are working together to assist families still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

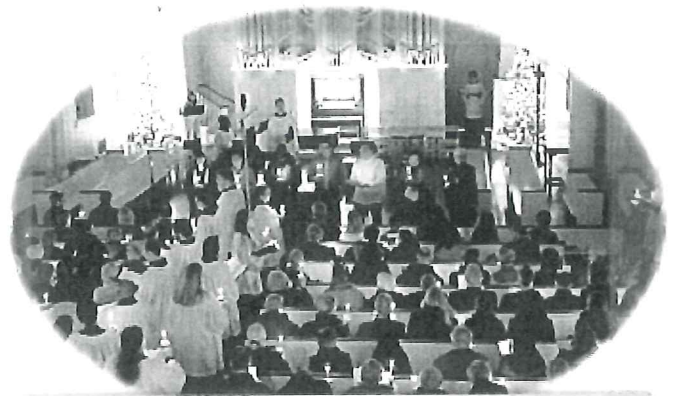
Many of the true heroes of the world have never seen battle, are not athletic, nor have ever been to Hollywood. They have been too busy plodding away on mission fields.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM KAROL!!

Thank you so much for your generous support for my ordination service held here in November. Words cannot express how meaningful that was for me as I begin this journey into ordained ministry. I'm grateful that so many of you could be part of the celebration. You have blessed me in many ways as I've grown up, and I pray that this congregation will be a blessing to many others in the coming years.

In Christ,
Rev. Karol Farris (December 2014)

To the Saints of Paris Presbyterian Church



for generations to come...
seminaries and churches together

Thank you for your gift this year in support of theological education, and best wishes for a grace-filled Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

In Christ's Service,

Lee Hinson-Hasty,
Coordinator of Theological Education
& Seminary Relations

Nancy Benson-Nicol,
Associate for Theological Education
Funds Development

Jeffrey F. Bullcock
Chair, COTE

Mindy Douglas
Vice Chair, COTE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!

"The Presbyterian Outlook" is an independent magazine which covers stories about the Presbyterian Church USA. Each issue also includes short lists of things like "People Ordained to Ministry" and "Retirements." In the December 8 issue, part of one list was:

ANNIVERSARIES
The Presbyterian Church
of Paris
Paris, Ill. 190 years



MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thank you to all who participated in The Monday evening Bible Study during 2014. The group will resume its Meetings on January 12, from 7:00 to 8:15, in the Parlor, and invites everyone To attend.

DID YOU KNOW.....

.....that at least 100 different people participated in Paris Presbyterian Church worship services or other activities during the month of November (and that does not include the many guest at the ordination worship service)?

God's purpose

God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year, God is working his purpose out and the time is drawing near;

Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,

When the earth shall be fill'd with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

—Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)

CHURCH FAMILY OF THE WEEK

Our "Church Family of the Week" program gives us a chance to lift up a different family (group or individual) of our congregation each week, include them in our daily prayer for our families and friends, and to send cards or greetings or in some other way to let them know we are glad they are part of our church family. The 'Church Family Of the Week' is listed in our Sunday bulletins. If you missed one or more of those recent announcements, I'll bet those families wouldn't mind if you prayed for them this week. Those recently listed are:

Misty Smith
251 W. Wood St., Paris

Drew, Tom, and Ginni Bradshaw
315 E. Washington St., Paris



CHOIR NEWS

Many thanks to all the talented individuals of all ages who sang and played for worship in December and also for the annual Christmas program. We enjoyed a wonderful array of musical numbers!

The Christmas Eve service was beautiful and meaningful, as always. We were especially blessed that evening with solos by Greg Idleman, Mike McCrocklin, and flutist Susan Hiddle. Thank you to each choir member for the time and talent shared with all of us.

We wish you many blessings in the New Year!

THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

As described in the December news letter, Christmas is a season in the Christian calendar, not just a day, and runs until January 6. The season is followed by two special days on the Christian worship calendar:



Epiphany is January 6, and is usually observed in the church on the Sunday before, or closest to, the 6th. The word 'epiphany' literally means a revelation, appearance, or showing—specifically, here, a revealing of who God is, a revealing that Jesus is God. In the churches of Western Europe and the Americas, the event revealing Jesus is God that is usually considered is the coming of the Magi to see Jesus. The appearance of these special visitors, coming from a great distance, with their valuable gifts, following a sign in the heavens (Matthew 2:1-11), “showed” that this was a special child indeed. In the Eastern Church, this day is also often set aside to look at the baptism of Jesus, which included a voice from the heavens and the Spirit of God looking like a dove (Matthew 3:14-17); and the turning of water into wine (John 2:1-11) – both of which “show” or “reveal” Jesus’ identity as God.

Baptism of the Lord Sunday is the Sunday following January 6. This event, described in all four gospels, not only reveals who Jesus is, but also begins his public ministry and reminds each of us of our own baptism and incorporation into the community of God, the Church.

God is in our midst; he is now here. In him we live and move and have our being. Our very bodies become his temples, and our lives must be daily fashioned after the pattern of his presence.

Drew Bradshaw, Rev. Laurie Williams, Gauge Davis, Celina Lindsey, Kenisha Davis, and their puppets from the Sonbeam Puppeteers recently presented a Christmas musical, “Candy Cane Lane: The Recipe for Life” at the Presbyterian Church.

I AM THE BIBLE

I am the Bible.

I am a library of sixty-six books.

I am the world's best seller.

I am more than a mere book. I am a force that overpowers opposing systems of thought.

I am the rock upon which civil liberties and social freedom rest.

I answer the question: Who and where is God?

I was written by minds saturated with consciousness of God.

I am published in more languages and dialects than any other book that has ever been written.

I am cherished by millions of people as being the only concretely available rule of faith and practice.

I am the Word of God as set forth by inspired prophet, law-giver, priest, poet, genealogist, historian, theologian, essayist, seer, story-writer, and moralist.

I set forth the way of life that leads to abundance and satisfaction of experience.

I tell the story of the great drama of redemption.

I am the meeting point of the human effort to discover God and God's revelation of Himself to humankind.

I inspire devotion to truth and purity of life purpose.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS DONATIONS

In Memory Of:

*My lovely wife Dona & my other relatives from Dr. James E. Baumann.
George, Glenna, & Jim Veith & Harry & Reva Benefiel from Debbie & Steve Benefiel.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ewart, Mr. Glen Brower, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Benson, Sue Ann Ewart
Peters, & Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Parkinson from Jerry & Mabel Benson.
Lloyd & Frances Lindsey, J. David Lindsey, & Elmer & Alice Bergdolt
from Barbara & Terry Bergdolt
Our families from Jane & Steve Blair.
Donald D. Craun and our parents from Mary S. "Mike" Craun.
Walter & Adelia Hodge, Joseph & Marie Hodge, Bill Hodge, Barbara Hodge O'Hair, &
Garrett Hodge from the Jeff Hodge family.
Lloyd & Frances S. Lindsey, J. David Lindsey, Russell & Genevieve Gough from Liz & Ken
Gough & family.
Rosemary & Kenneth Stephens from their children and grandchildren.
Loved ones from Virginia Zimmerly.
Ernie Dahlin from Betty Dahlin.
Cynthia Ann Idleman, Mary Ann Sprouls, Emma Shephard, & Dona Baumann from Greg
Idleman & Tom & Ginni Bradshaw
Wayne & Lois Jones & Hugh & Lois Cross from Larry, Carol, Garrett & Matt Jones.
Loved ones from Betty Piper.
Loved ones from Lisa & Melfina McCollough.
Gen & Charles Willis & Bill Hebermehl from the Hebermehl family.
Brian K. Russell, Turner & Edna Russell, Clayton & Georgia Hill
from Christie & Alan Russell.
Harry & Reva Benefiel, Marjorie Roche, Jim & Phoebe Pfeiffer, & Becky Crisi
from Fred and LaNee Pfeiffer and family.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Griffin & Mr. & Mrs. Orris Kimball from Juanita and Al Kimball
and family.*

In Honor Of:

*Our children & grandchildren from Charles & Corky Wishart.
The Scott Russell family & Sheryl Russell Clark family
from Alan & Christie Russell.
Gloria Hebermehl from the Hebermehl family.
Our families from Jane & Steve Blair.
Our church's puppet teams from Laurie Williams & Rodger Allen
Susan Farris, in appreciation and admiration from the Sanctuary Choir.*








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Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

9:30am ALL Sunday School classes 10:30 Worship/ Junior Church 11:30 Fellowship		Every Tuesday: 5-8pm TOPS		1 2 0 1 5 A New Year Begins	2	3
4 <i>Epiphany</i> SUNDAY No Junior Church	5 4 or 4:30 Christian Education Com	6	7 1:30 Worship Com 7pm Sanctuary Choir	8 15 10am Board of Parish Visitors	9	10 9am Un-Decorating the Church 
11 baptism of the Lord  ONE LORD, ONE BAPTISM	12 7-8:15 Bible Study resumes	13 5-8pm TOPS 6pm Stewardship 7pm SESSION	14 4:40 Children's Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	15 22	16	17
18 11:40 DEACONS	19 MLK Jr. Day 7-8:15 Bible Study 	20 5-8pm TOPS	21 4:40 Children's Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	22 23	24	25
25 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 1 Chronicles 16:29	26 7-8:15 Bible Study	27 5-8pm TOPS	28 4:40 Children's Choir 5pm Sunshine Puppets 7pm Sanctuary Choir	29 30	31	



and



FEBRUARY 1

starting at 11:45am; meeting around 12:30pm