



July 2015

LIFELINE

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

I'm reporting on some actions of Session since the luncheon held regarding the Options for our Church for the future. The Session met and reviewed the discussions of the groups and prayerfully tried to make some preliminary decisions regarding where God is leading us. Here are some of those decisions:

We eliminated the following 3 most radical options for our church:

Option 1, which proposed continuing our church with a bare-bones budget and services, would mean living within the income received by the congregation and probably would consist of a pared-down church service with little other activity and perhaps only a visiting minister. We believe this is not what God wants for us; we still have much to offer and would likely lose current members. However, Session does agree that economies could be made, which we will continue to work on.

Option 3 proposed a major transformation. This was rejected for several reasons. We don't have the funds or the human resources to tackle such a change, but we also don't believe that our congregation wishes to radically change the way we operate. Even though we rejected this option, the Session does agree that there might be some changes that we could or should make and we will investigate these.

Option 5 proposed selling the church and moving to a smaller venue. We have investigated this in the past. It is unlikely that we could sell the church, but if we could, we would have to invest considerable funds to make it acceptable for selling. But most of all, we reject this because we believe that the people of our church want to keep this church which has been our home for a long time

The second decision that we made is that we will consider Option 4 in the future. This option proposed leaving some sort of legacy for a hypothetical time when our church might no longer exist as The First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn. We are not interested at this time in taking a large amount of savings for that purpose, and we would only do it when the closing of the church is clearly in the future. Nevertheless, we may explore *planning* for such a legacy in the nearer future.

The third decision we made was to embrace Option 2, which proposed to maintain current levels. We interpret this option to mean that we want to maintain the current quality levels

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of service to the church and community. This does not mean keeping the status quo; it means reevaluating our services, activities, budget, and staff and making changes where necessary or desirable. Our goal would be to continuously improve what we do for the congregation and to carry out God's plan for us to be workers for His ministry. This means being effective in what we do and efficient with our resources.

Our final decision that Session made is related to the issue of forming a PNC to seek a new minister. Before the discussions on options, the Session met with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry to discuss where our church is at this point, whether it is time for the AC to complete its formal relationship with us, and if the transitional pastor status of Karen Cassidy could be changed to Stated Supply. The COM was very pleased with what our church has accomplished over the two years and was very supportive of our future endeavors. It agreed with the AC that their time with us will end at the end of the summer, although certainly we can have access to help when we need it. The Session's relationship with the AC members has been invaluable in enabling us to get to this point, and we will miss them. They have given tirelessly of their time and experience and wisdom. Finally, the COM agreed that, if the Session wishes to have the Rev. Cassidy lead us in the direction we would like to take the church, and if Rev. Cassidy agrees that she is led to do this, we can extend an offer to her to become our Stated Supply minister. This would mean we would not form a Pastoral Nominating Committee. While this has yet to be finalized, the Session feels strongly that the congregation wants Karen to remain with us and Karen believes in our direction and will seriously consider going on this journey with us. For this we are very fortunate.

None of the above decisions requires a vote of the congregation. All of it has been heavily influenced by what Session has heard from you, by what we believe the congregation would support and, most of all, by where we believe God is leading us. We know that not everyone in the congregation may agree with each decision, but we sincerely hope that you all will support us in these very important decisions for the future of our church. We have much work to do in guiding the future, but we are confident now that all the work that has been done in the last couple of years has set the foundation for our moving forward. At our next Question and Answer session in July, you will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Finally, please continue to pray for Session as we work for our Church, and prayerfully ask yourself if you should take a part in the work of Session. We will soon be asking people to participate in God's work as an Elder or a Deacon and we are in great need of people to step up and help us lead the church.

Our objective is to continue to communicate with you and receive your input for your church. Thank you very much for your attention.

Ruling Elder Paula Saunders

The Pastor's Prayers

I want to bring you up to date on some important changes happening at various levels of our denomination.

Presbytery

Many of you are aware that our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, the Rev. Doris Arnett Whitaker, died on June 5. This has left a big gap for our Presbytery. The Stated Clerk keeps minutes of all Presbytery meetings, keeps track of all contracts, maintains membership rolls, and much, much more. Our Presbytery Leadership Council has taken two practical steps to cope with this sudden loss.

First, they proposed that Executive Presbyter Dennis Piermont assume the additional role of serving as Interim Stated Clerk. He is the one who has been most aware of what Doris has been working on, and has been seeking to find documents in computers, memory drives, file cabinets, etc., so that the work of the Presbytery can continue. It was felt that Dennis would be able to do this work more easily than someone coming in from outside. At his request, Dennis will receive no extra compensation during what is hoped to be a short time.

Second, Leadership Council has also proposed that they will form a Nominating Committee to search for our next Stated Clerk. This will be done with all due haste, so that a new Stated Clerk may begin sometime this fall. At the same time, however, they will be reviewing Presbytery's staffing structure to see if any changes need to be made.

Both of these actions were approved at the June 23, 2015, special Presbytery meeting.

Denomination

Denominational executive Elder Linda Valentine has resigned, effective July 10. She has been executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the ministry and mission arm of the Presbyterian Church (USA). An interim will be appointed.

The Big Tent is taking place July 30-August 1, in Knoxville, TN. As you may know, our General Assembly meets every other year to conduct business for the denomination. On off years, we have been gathering at the Big Tent, an opportunity to learn about mission and gather in worship. For more information, go to: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/big-tent/>

Finally, a denominational personnel matter that you may have heard about has been resolved. Four denominational employees were involved with creating an outside corporation to establish new worshipping communities. Money was NOT used inappropriately; however, there was disagreement about whether the outside corporation was formed with full denominational approval. The four employees are no longer with the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Karen

*** Gracious God, continue to bless and work through the Presbyterian Church (USA). Keep individuals and congregations faithful to you and enriched by our common life in presbyteries and as a denomination. Amen.*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

James G. McMillan sent a gift to the Capital Improvement Fund in memory of his wife, Nancy, and his parents, J.C. & Ruth McMillan.

June gifts in memory of Dan Bigelow, David Earls, Margaret Kelly, Gladys Rivenbark, Jan Sharp, Gladys Sherman and Tom Swaim were received from Don Stroud.

Gene & Dottie Anderson and Gordon & Ardene Roberts remembered David Earls.

FAIRBORN CITY SCHOOLS

Dear Rev. Cassedy and Members:

On behalf of the Fairborn Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your wonderful donations to the Fairborn Primary School during the 2014-2015 school year.

\$900.00 — COSI

\$625.00 — Value of donations to the library

\$593.67 — Toward the Air Force Museum trip for the first graders

\$780.00 — Dayton Philharmonic trip

Also, thank you for your many hours of volunteering at Fairborn Primary School. The students and staff greatly appreciate everything you do.

Your donations were gratefully and formally accepted by the Fairborn Board of Education at its Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 11, and will be recorded in the Board of Minutes, which are a permanent record of this educational institution.

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness, interest, and consideration of the students and staff of Fairborn City Schools.

Sincerely,

Dave Scarberry/ Superintendent

~Birthdays~

- Jul 1 Sara Jane Lowe
Lily Yeh**
- 2 Bob Bastin**
- 4 Rich Hopkins**
- 10 Art Myers**
- 11 Vicki Priaulx**
- 14 Shelda Cox**
- 16 Ae Sook Worley**
- 20 Margaret Beaver**
- 21 Cassandra Locke**
- 22 Dottie Anderson**
- 27 Marlene Acus**
- 31 Jeff Firestone**
-
- Aug 7 Robert Purdy**
- 10 Don Stroud
Kenny Brown**
- 18 Shirley Schlafman**
- 23 Susan Murphy**
- 25 Barbara Bush**
- 27 Dawn Baines**
- 28 Wanda Winters**
- 31 Shirley Eastep**



STAFF NOTES

Sexton Ron Gross had knee replacement surgery on June 25. He came through surgery well, and is in rehab at Dayspring. Please keep him in your prayers for a full recovery. Ron will be out approximately 6 weeks: arrangements are being made to cover his work during his absence.

SUMMER CHOIR

All are welcome on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., when the Summer Choir will rehearse an anthem for worship that day. We are in summer choir mode and would love to invite you to enjoy singing with us! Please see Denise Lo Cicéro if you have questions. Thanks!

Dear Friends;

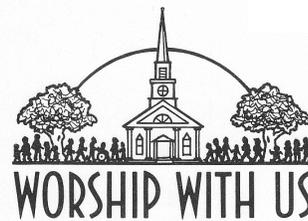
Bill and I want to thank you so much for your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and the flowers Don Stroud presented for Sunday's service. They are beautiful.

The doctors have decided on a diagnosis so I'm now in balance therapy.

Please keep us in your thoughts. We appreciate all of your kindnesses.

Bill & Jane Arnold

**Ask a friend or two to join us!
Invite your neighbors.**



July 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>OUR CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY JULY 3 TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY</p>			<p>1 1:00 Hope Circle - Lounge 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room</p>	<p>2 1:00 pm Great Christians class- Lounge</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4 4th of July Holiday</p>
<p>5 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Communion</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:00 am Bible Study – Roush’s</p>	<p>8 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room</p>	<p>9 1:00 pm Great Christians class- Lounge 2:15 pm CLS Meeting in lounge</p>	<p>10 10:30 am Opera- tions Meeting– BR</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship And Q&A</p>	<p>13 11:00 am St Vin- cent Cooks 5:30 pm St Vincent Servers</p>	<p>14 7:00 am Bible Study – Roush’s</p>	<p>15 10:00 am Bake for Fisher House</p>	<p>16 1:00 pm John Calvin class- Lounge 2:30 pm Deacons Meeting—BR</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Double Shower for Sondergelt Twins (Wedding for Ellen) (Baby for Katie)</p>
<p>19 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship Preacher David Girbert</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7:00 am Bible Study – Roush’s 7:00 pm Session—BR</p>	<p>22 9:00 am Cook for Senior Center 12:00 Serve lunch at Senior Center</p>	<p>23 1:00 pm John Calvin class- Lounge</p>	<p>24 LIFELINE DEADLINE</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship A brief CLS meeting after Worship.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 am Bible Study – Roush’s</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Lifeline—the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio
1130 Highview Dr, Fairborn, OH 45324
“The Friendliest Church in Town”

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 8:45 am

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am

Pastor: Reverend Karen Cassedy

Congregational Activities Coordinator and Director of Music: Denise Lo Cicéro

Financial Secretary: Carolyn McMillan

Director of Chancel Ringers: Iris Berry

Organist: Jeff Firestone

Church Secretary: Shelia Yux

Sexton: Ron Gross

Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday, 10 am—4 pm (closed Monday)

Phone: 937-878-3954

Fax: 937-878-3399

Remember! **FISH Pantry** donations are the first Sunday of each month. Non-perishable items may be brought in any Sunday and placed in the barrel in the narthex.

Suggested donations are:

Canned Soups

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit

Canned Juices

Canned Meats

(Tuna, Stews, Spam, etc.)

Boxed Items

(Rice, Cereal, Crackers, Mac n' Cheese, etc.)

Baby Items

(Diapers, Formula, Canned Foods, etc.)

Personal Hygiene Items

(Soap, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, etc.)

Thank you for your generous donations!



Articles for the August Lifeline need to be in the office by July 24.

There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline* in the lower narthex if you need to pick one up.

Please let the office know of any meetings that you have scheduled in the church building so that we can maintain an accurate calendar and answer questions as folks call.