

## Treasurers Report


Since we were half-way through the year as of June 30, this is our mid-year report. In short, although we started the year strong with a successful stewardship season and increased pledging, we have cooled during the summer as attendance has moderated and contributions have slowed. Through June 30, our contributions have fallen 10% off of our expected levels based on our pledges.

Although we are under budget on expenses through June 30, we also have some significant and extraordinary expenses to address in August. In addition to our significant insurance renewal that occurs every August, the Session has approved an extraordinary (and long overdue) plan to replace the flooring in fellowship hall.

For those of you who are current with your contributions and pledges, we thank you for your discipline and steadfastness. For those of you who have fallen behind, please prayerfully consider catching up. For everyone, please consider contributing more in support of the Church's mission because we all trust in God's mercy, we shall make a joyful noise unto the Lord, and we shall serve Him with gladness. *Tom Stewart, Treasurer*



**Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church**  
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## A New Floor for Fellowship Hall

In early August, the basement of our South wing will get a new floor. The floor is being installed in order to comply with KCMO Health Department requirements. The Health Department noted that our current floor has large gaps and cracks between the boards that trap dirt and food particles.

The Operations Council researched flooring options and requested bids from several flooring companies. Session has approved the installation of a wood-look vinyl plank flooring in the entire area, including Fellowship Hall, both bathrooms, all hallways, the kitchen and the Wengler Room. This will be funded from our Capital Improvement budget and with donations from the Preschool and a private donor.

Volunteers have worked to prepare for the arrival of the installers by moving many items. Our thanks to: Steve Guthrie, Sean Stoy, Craig Babb, Lynne Crossette, James Lusk, Jean Hunter, Bob Nelson, Brian Happell and Alex Happell.

*Steve Guthrie, Operations Elder*



# Ward Press

*Glorify God & Grow Disciples & Go Serve*

August 2015

## *& Reflections from Pastor Connie &*



*“Wherever he went—in villages and cities and out on the farms—they laid the sick in the market plazas and streets. The sick begged him to let them at least touch the fringe of his robe, and all who touched it were healed.”*

Mark 6:56 NLT

When Jesus was around, there was never a dull moment. He confronted and perplexed; he taught and healed. Jesus demonstrated great power by stilling storms, demons, and hypocrites, yet he had such tender compassion for the hurting, the demon possessed and those who were far from God. When the crowds followed Jesus as he was trying to get away to rest and refuel with his disciples, Mark's gospel tells us that Jesus *“had compassion on them because they were like a sheep without a shepherd.”* His compassion led to action as he taught them and then fed them supper.

I wonder how many people today think of Christ's church as a place where they can come to be near Jesus, to touch his robes by interacting with his people, to taste his goodness by taking part in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and to experience a type of healing that cannot be found outside of Jesus. The church is a place of healing.

But you may think, *“I cannot heal another person.”* It is true that in your own power you can do very little. But if you are willing, God can use you to bring Christ's healing to another. In prayer, you can bring the needs of another to the Lord. By lending a listening ear, giving a hug, expressing concern for another, you can bring comfort to someone in distress. Paul tells us that Jesus comforts us in our troubles, *“so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God”* (2 Corinthians 1:4)

May we be not just a comfortable community, but a community that strives to bring the comfort and hope of Jesus Christ to a hurting world.

Your in Christ's love,

Pastor Connie

**Sunday Worship, 10:30am**  
**Christian Education, 9:30am**

**Office Hours M-F**  
**9:00am -1:00pm**  
**816.361.2200**

**Email: [office@wppresbyterian.org](mailto:office@wppresbyterian.org)**

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor, Connie Happell**  
**Office Administrator, Tina Hill**  
**Choir Director, Joseph Hill**  
**Organist, Dr. Arthur Rinehart**

**Bookkeeper,**  
Chuck Keneyse  
**Custodian, Scott Curry**  
**Preschool Directors,**  
Kim Manford  
Leslie Bullington

### **Officers**

#### **Elders**

**Worship: Diana Justus**  
**Fellowship & Hospitality:**  
Lynne Crossette

**Mission and Stewardship:**  
Bob Liepsner

**Personnel & Administration:**  
Steve Nelson

**Adult Discipleship: James Lusk**

**Youth Discipleship: Sean Stoy**

**Operations: Steve Guthrie**

**At Large: Mardy Cottrell**

**Clerk of Session:**  
Karen Wiederaenders

#### **Deacons**

Warren Bell, Jim Kurtz,  
Shirley Lytle, Rosemary McDaneld,  
Susan Stewart & Pat Wiederaenders

#### **Trustees**

Marlene Durig, James Lusk,  
Jean Hunter  
Tom Stewart-Treasurer



## Prayers and Concerns

### Prayers:

- \*Thanksgiving for the birth of Temperance Ann King, daughter of Nick and Lara King
- \*Thanksgiving for the marriage of Ashlea and John Finn
- \*For our children, youth and college students and their teachers as school begins
- \*For our preschool
- \*Employment for those seeking jobs
- \*Guidance for those facing difficult decisions

### Prayers for healing:

- \*Doris Boyd
- \*Marlene Durig
- \*Pat Wiederaenders
- \*Dale Lundhigh
- \*Sean Stoy's mother Theresa
- \*Mike Montgomery's sister-in-law Pat
- \*Scott Curry's wife, Joyce

### Prayers for our homebound members:

- Doris Boyd, Dorothy Clarke, Ethel Hahn, Thelma Haynes, Wilma Holmes, Jean Horst, Phil & Pinky Johnson, Dale Lundhigh, Doris McCool, Del McCracken, Muriel Oldberg, Bob Rohlfing, Carol Scott, Ruth Slagle, Carol Smith and Jean Sprinkle

*The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:17-18*

## Happy Birthday!



**Will Hembree-August 12**  
**Janet North-August 15**  
**Richard Smith-August 17**  
**Katie Crossette-August 18**  
**Virginia Dodge-August 19**  
**Carol Smith-August 20**  
**Doris Boyd-August 22**  
**Hans Guthrie-August 25**  
**Lynne Crossette-August 28**  
**Ira & Arlo Good-August 28**  
**Phillip Johnson-August 29**

## Notes



Dear Connie and church members,

Mom (Wilma Holmes) is certainly enjoying the bulletins, newsletter and notes which you so kindly send her. At 98 years old, she is very perky—walks fairly fast with her walker and is still enjoying her bridge games. She inspires me by her lively good humor! Thank you for being such a blessing.

Sincerely,

Linda Balwanz (Wilma's daughter)

My family and I are grateful to all who helped out in setting up the luncheon for Mom's funeral service. We felt so loved, and Dad was quite humbled by the love of the church.

With you in Christ's service,

Doug and Claudia Burford

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Lara, Nick and Maggie King!  
Temperance Ann King was born at 5:30pm on July 21.



Ashlea and John Finn married July 11, 2015.  
Their new address is: 14442 Chadwick St.  
Leawood, Kansas 66224  
ashleablackfinn@gmail.com

## Preschool News



We are gearing up for our first days of school in a couple of weeks. We will start off our year with our all staff meeting on Tuesday August 18th. This is always a fun time to get our staff together for some reflection and planning for our new year. Our classroom "Get Acquainted Conferences" will be held August 24th and 25th. These are technically our first days of school with 40 minute conferences for the parents. These conferences are much like a meet and greet for our families, and a time for the children to get acquainted with the classroom and meet a small group of other children.

We are moving forward with interviews for a couple of teaching positions for our new classroom. We have received some resumes from some very qualified candidates and are in the process of meeting with them. We were sad to learn that one of our long time teachers, Patty Quick will be retiring. Patty has been a teacher here at Ward Parkway for the past 19 years! She was a wonderful asset to our school and will be greatly missed!! She will be having a double knee replacement in the coming weeks, and we will be praying for her speedy recovery.

Thank you for your continued prayers for this preschool. August is always such a busy time for all of our staff as we plan and prepare for a wonderful year! **Kim and Leslie**



*Hunger never goes away!*

## May / July Session Notes

**Deacon's Report:** The food ministry is being revitalized by the deacons.

### Pastor's Report:

-Connie suggested the session consider participation in Heartland Presbytery's New Beginnings program which helps churches envision their future.

-Several children from the congregation will go to Heartland Camp this summer. The church will cover some of the cost.

-Vacation Bible School will be June 15-17.

-Youth Sunday will be May 31. A designated offering will be taken to support Heartland Camp scholarships.

### Council Reports

#### Mission: Bob Liepsner

Bob gave a report on efforts to hand out water bottles to the homeless. He would like to start email correspondence with our missionaries abroad.

#### Operations: Steve Guthrie

-Steve is getting bids for fixing exterior wood damage on the building.

-In response to insurance company requirements, we had our gutters cleaned professionally, we have no tree branches hanging over the roof, and we have had an electrical inspection of the property.

-The floor in fellowship hall must be replaced because of Health Department concerns. On July 5, in a called meeting, the session approved the floor recommendation of the Operations Council. (See newsletter article)



You can make a difference in the life of a needy child by prayerfully filling a shoebox with gifts. As we did last year, our congregation will send shoeboxes to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. There are several ways to contribute: fill a shoebox yourself, contribute supplies for several boxes that will be packed by our youth, or make a cash donation. Remember school supplies will be on sale in August! Lists of suggested items to include are available in the narthex. We will be assembling the boxes in order to bless them in worship on November 15.