

# PULASKI HEIGHTS HERALD

## JULY/AUGUST 2019 EDITION

*“Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid.”  
John 14:27*

### Church Office Closings

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, July 3; Thursday, July 4; and Friday, July 5. The office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to noon, on Monday, July 8. Unless posted, the office will be open normal office hours the rest of the week of July 8.

### Reaching Our Church Staff

Regular church office hours are Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office phone is 663-8361. If you call during regular office hours and we are either temporarily away from the office or already on the telephone, you will get the voice mail.

*Please leave a message* and we will return your call. Now that you know how and when and where to reach our church staff, *do stay in touch!*

### A Word From Ruskin

A word of thanks to all in the congregation for bearing with me thus far in the aftermath of my broken ankle. The injury and then the surgery have left me non-weight-bearing on my right foot for all of May and June, and it will keep me non-weight-bearing at least through mid-July. This has rendered me unable to drive, and my ability to get around and work has been limited to what can be done in a wheelchair or on a walker or crutches. I've tried to keep up as much of a regular schedule as possible during this time, and, with a lot of help from others, have managed to do that relatively well. But of course there is oh, so much that I would like to have been able to do during all this time, including getting out and about to visit folks, that just hasn't happened. I now am counting on being more in position to tend to such things by sometime in August.

It has been important to me to carry on with my regular work as much as possible – without overdoing! As we all should know, the pain and limitations an injury like this imposes have a way of planting despair in one's mind and wrapping depression around one's heart. So keeping on keeping on has been a good thing. And that's something I couldn't have done without a lot of help! On the other hand, it also has been good being able, the latter part of June, to step away from that schedule for some time to be away just with family. The timing for this time off has been, I believe, fortuitous.

I'll be away from the pulpit and still on the mend the first two Sundays of July. I hope soon thereafter to get the medical green light to start putting weight on my right foot. Maybe, when I return to the pulpit on July 21, I'll actually be able to step (or at least hobble!) up to the pulpit. On the other hand, I do have the feeling that preaching from a table in the middle of the chancel area has worked pretty well thus far. So in either case, we'll all carry on together with the cause of the gospel! And it is vital that we do that! As was noted in my last sermon here, back on Pentecost Sunday: more than it realizes it, the world needs for us to carry on with that cause!

Let me close for now by inviting you again to ponder the words that closed that sermon:

*The church was born at Pentecost in joy-filled courage. The church was born*

*Sunday mornings begin with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., followed by worship at 10:45 a.m.*

*through the work of the Holy Spirit, filling followers of Jesus with joy in the realization that they are perfectly safe – perfectly safe! – in God's eternally gracious love, no matter how threatening or hostile the world around them often seems. The church was born through the work of the Holy Spirit, inspiring followers of Jesus to commit their all to belonging to a community and a movement that joyfully, serenely, peacefully, and humbly boldly lets itself be guided by the gospel of Jesus in confronting, challenging, criticizing, and chipping away at the politics, economics, morals, attitudes, and habits of the present world, which is a world bent on destructive and self-destructive ways. For, now as then, the tendency of the world is to go its way tragically out of touch with the reality, truth, and presence of God – tragically out of touch with the very power that can save the world from its destructive and self-destructive ways.*

*If this world is ever to step back from and move beyond its destructive and self-destructive ways, it needs to learn God's gracious goodness, and it needs to learn to do God's goodness justice. That means this: the world needs the church to show the world the light of the gospel. Over and over, however, and time and again, the world keeps choosing demonic darkness over gospel light, and it keeps finding ways of bringing harm to the work of the church. That means this: Without realizing it, the world needs precisely the church that was born at Pentecost. The world needs for us to be a community and movement joyfully rooted in gospel courage – courage capable of loving and of serving the true good of the very world that the church, in so many other respects, really and truly must resist.*

*Once more: The world needs for us to be a community and movement joyfully rooted in gospel courage – courage capable of loving the very world, and of serving the true good of the very world, that the church, in so many other respects, really and truly must resist, really and truly must work to change, really and truly must work to turn upside down.*

*Let it belong to our prayer that the Holy Spirit shall keep the church today – including us here at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church – blessed with the joyful courage we need, for confronting, challenging, criticizing, and chipping away at the politics, economics, morals, attitudes, and habits of a world that is bent on choosing demonic darkness over gospel light, a world that*

#### **Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch gathers at 11:15 a.m., the first Thursday of each month, to eat together in a local restaurant of the host or hostess's choice. All are welcome to come be part of this fellowship time. The Blessings Committee has decided to cancel the July Lunch Bunch. Lunch Bunch will resume in August. If you would like to be the host/hostess for the August gathering, please contact the church office.

#### **Hillcrest First Thursday Ice Cream Social**

On the first Thursday of each month, our Hillcrest neighborhood merchants stay open a little later than usual and, beginning at 5:30 p.m., invite everyone to come “Sip and Shop” and enjoy sidewalk fellowship and entertainment. On July 4, First Thursday will include an old fashioned ice cream social from 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. (or until the ice cream runs out!) at Crest Park on Kavanaugh. A brass band will be there, as well as other entertainment. All are invited to come out that evening and enjoy a little red, white, and blue neighborhood fun!

#### **Sunday School**

Sunday School meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15. Youth meet in the classroom at the end of the downstairs hallway. The adult class meets in the upstairs classroom between the parlor and the choir room.

The youth class teachers are Marian Dyer and LaWanda Harris. The adult class ordinarily is led by Ruskin Falls. The classes he will be leading in upcoming weeks will, from Sunday to Sunday, take up a variety of scriptural, ecclesial, and theological explorations.

On the first Sunday of each month and sometimes on other Sundays, one of the adult class's other participants serves as teacher, leading the class in a discussion of a topic or subject matter of particular interest to him or her. Serving as teachers the next two months in addition to Ruskin are: July 7, Bo Lewis; July 14, Peg Falls-Corbitt; August 4, Bill May.

Our Sunday School presentations and discussions are inquiring, instructive, edifying, and thought-provoking. New and different voices are always a welcome part of the conversation. If you're not already participating, give thought to joining the conversation!

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Editor: Jane Anne Spikes*

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### **Pulpit Supplies and Pastoral Care**

Our minister, Ruskin Falls, will be away from the pulpit from now through July 14. Our Worship Committee has invited guest preachers to join us for worship and fill the pulpit the while he is away. Preaching on June 30, will be PHPC member and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary student, LaWanda Harris; preaching July 7, will be General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith; and July 14, will be philosophy professor at Hendrix College and ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Conway, Peg Falls-Corbitt, who is also Ruskin's sister. As Ruskin regularly notes, it is good and even important over the course of each year, to have more than just one voice – and, so, on occasion, to have voices other than his -- coming from the pulpit to help us hear and heed the voice of God in our lives. We look forward to having LaWanda, Stewart, and Peg lend their respective voices to our work of worship this coming June and July!

Should a pastoral emergency arise during Ruskin's absence, he has made arrangements for pastoral care to be provided. The church secretary will be able to put you in touch with a pastoral care-giver.

### **The PHPC Choir**

During the month of July, the PHPC Choir is on vacation. They will not have choir practice on Wednesday evenings during the month of July. They will start Wednesday evenings practice on Wednesday, August 7. Normally, our choir practices each Wednesday evening at 7:15 p.m., and also on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. New voices and instruments are always welcome to come join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord. If you would like to participate in the work of our choir, please consider yourself invited to do just that!

#### **July Birthdays**

Guy Amsler, III-1<sup>st</sup>  
Matt Worrell-6<sup>th</sup>  
Sabine Falls-9<sup>th</sup>  
Vicki Atchley-14<sup>th</sup>  
Amanda Worrell-23<sup>rd</sup>

Mark Sullivan-4<sup>th</sup>  
Caroline Hatcher-6<sup>th</sup>  
Joyce Gates-14<sup>th</sup>  
Bob Briggs 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **August Birthdays**

Tom Atchley-2<sup>nd</sup>  
Corey Alexander-8<sup>th</sup>  
Sara Meeks-19<sup>th</sup>

Joyce Phillips-Mitchell-6<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Worrell-15<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Qualls-26<sup>th</sup>

### **Working at Stewpot**

The third Tuesday of every month is Pulaski Heights Presbyterian day at Stewpot. This is the day that PHPC members are responsible for feeding the hungry at the Stewpot, which is located on the second floor of First Presbyterian, Little Rock. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jane Anne in the church office.

### **Food Manger**

In the narthex you will find the "Food Manger," through which we fill our church's food pantry and strive to help those in our community whose home pantries are too meager for their family's needs. You are invited, Sundays (or any other day!) to contribute non-perishable goods to this cause. Monetary gifts are also appreciated. Please label your check "food pantry". Also personal items such as bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, any personal hygiene items, etc. are needed and appreciated. A suggestion list can be found in the manger or in the church office. We are proud a member agency with the Arkansas Food Bank. This means we can purchase non-perishable food items from the Arkansas Food Bank at a much lower price than we can purchase through a grocery or discount store.

The third week of June, we sent out a plea to all of our church members that we were out of food for the Food Pantry and out of money in the Food Pantry fund. The Blessings Committee cannot thank all of our members enough for pulling together and re-stocking and monetarily replenishing our Food Pantry and the Food Pantry fund. We are once again so grateful to everyone. For the month of June, as of June 20, we have given out 66 bags of non-perishable food. This was to 22 families. Of these 22 families, 8 of these families have 4 or more persons living under the same roof. Thank-you again to all that helped replenish.

### **School Supplies for Vera Lloyd Pres. Home & Family Services**

The Blessings Committee has decided that this year's school supply recipient will be Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home. A Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home representative would like to pick up our collection of school supplies the first week of August. We will begin collecting school supplies or ongoing needed items in July. As soon as they publish the school supply list, it will be published in the weekly bulletin announcements. If you do not have time to shop, monetary donations are accepted. Be sure to label them for "Vera Lloyd". We hope to have a trunk load of "goodies" to take to Vera Lloyd.

#### **Potluck/Fellowship Meal**

Our next potluck/fellowship meals are set for Sunday, July 28 and August 25, immediately following worship. Members are asked to bring a dish to share with the multitudes. All are invited and welcome to join in and enjoy good company and a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall.

#### **Attention Session Members**

The stated meetings are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, immediately following worship. The July meeting will be July 21 and the August meeting will be August 18.

#### **Funding the Work We're Here to Do**

Unless otherwise designated, money given to our church is placed in what we call the **General Fund**, through which we cover our regular operating and mission expenses. We also have three special funds through which we fund our work. They are: the **Food Pantry**, for helping to feed hungry families in our community; the **Audie Lee Jones Ministry Fund**, for helping people in financial crisis toward courage, hope, and new opportunity; and the **Building Fund**, for tending to our building, grounds, and furnishings beyond regular upkeep and maintenance. *To donate to these special funds, simply note on your check or envelope the fund you are giving to.*

We are still a small congregation housed in a large facility that we are out to fill with faith, hope, and love learned at the feet of Jesus and practiced hand-in-hand in his Spirit. Nine years ago, our membership and financial resources were on the verge of being simply too little to keep up the work of being the kind of Presbyterian presence in the community that we have believed this church is called to be. During the past nine years, however, we have had many new members join us in our effort. Members as well as friends of our congregation have contributed generously to the funding of our work. We have returned our facility to being a wisely used and beautiful corner of the Hillcrest neighborhood. We have provided much important personal and financial assistance to persons and groups needing help in their effort to better their own and others' lives. And we have carried humbly boldly on as a center of worship, theological learning, generosity, and courage, where hearts are lifted, minds stretched, and wills moved by the guidance and grace that God has spoken and speaks into the world through the life and mission of Jesus and the present stirring of his Holy Spirit.

*Let us be grateful for what we've been enabled to do, and joyful in all we do together, giving cheerfully of what we are and have!*

#### **The P.L.A.C.E.**

Saturday, August 10 at Trinity Presbyterian Church (note location change), will be leadership training for every church in our Presbytery. It starts at 9:00 a.m. with registration. 9-9:15 a.m. is registration, 9:15-9:30 is opening worship; 9:30-10 Keynote Address "Following Jesus: The Discipleship Path" by Steve Hancock, Pastor/Head of Staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church and the workshops start at 10:15 a.m. There are a wide range of workshops to choose from. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board outside the church office and watch the Sunday announcements for further information. There is no charge for these workshops, but you have to make a reservation. Please contact either Marian Dyer at 666-8609 or Jane Anne Spikes in the church office if you would like to attend and which workshops you would like to attend. Reservations are needed by Wednesday, July 31.

Below is a list of the workshops:

#### **Section A-10:15-11:15**

1. Passionate Worship: *Not So Ordinary Time*
2. International Faith Formation: *Deep & Wide*
3. Risk-Taking Mission and Service: *Service as a Path to Discipleship*
4. Spiritual and Generational Giving: *Extravagant Generosity*

5. Clerk of Session Training part 1

**Section B-11:30-12:30**

1. Passionate Worship: *Not So Ordinary Time*
2. International Faith Formation: *Deep & Wide*
3. Risk-Taking Mission and Service: *Service as a Path to Discipleship*
4. Roots of Presbyterian Worship: *Why We Worship as We Do*
5. Clerk of Session Training part 2
- 6.

**Mid-Year Giving Statements**

Sunday, July 14, our treasurer, Randy Gates, will be handing out mid-year giving statements in the narthex. Any that are not picked up, will be mailed Monday, July 15. This allows each of us the opportunity to do a mid-year comparison of our intended giving to the church in 2019 and our actual giving, six months into the year. Also, it allows us to make sure that the treasurer's records match our own records of giving to the church. In the event of a discrepancy or any questions, feel free to contact our treasurer, Randy Gates.

Remember, too, that, in addition to *general gifts* to the church, we also welcome gifts to any of our three *designated funds*. They are: the *Food Pantry Fund* (to purchase non-perishable food goods for feeding hungry families in our community); the *Audie Lee Jones Ministry Fund* (to help people keep their head above the waters of financial crisis and, so, to help them toward the courage, hope, and opportunity they need for moving forward); and the *Building Fund* (to keep our building fit for the work it's here to house, by making specific repairs and renovations beyond the regular maintenance that we're able to cover each year through our general fund).