

# PULASKI HEIGHTS HERALD

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018 EDITION

*“Arise, shine; for your light as come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”  
Isaiah 60:1*

### **Potluck/Fellowship Meal**

Our next two potluck fellowship meals are set for Sunday, September 30, and Sunday, October 28, immediately following worship. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. All are invited and welcome to join in and enjoy good company and a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall.

### **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. Our next Lunch Bunch will be on September 6, with Alex Gray as the host. He has chosen Olive Garden at 10715 Rodney Parham Rd. If you would like to carpool from the church, please contact the church office by that morning before 10:00 a.m. Please contact the church office at 663-8361 with your reservation. We will meet at Olive Garden at 11:15 a.m. We don't have a host/hostess for the October 4 Lunch Bunch. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.



### **A Word From Ruskin**

Surgery for torn tendons in one of my knees kept me homebound for a couple of weeks the latter half of August. As I write this, we're entering August's final week; I'm in my study at the church; and I'm glad to be back up and about again.

At least, sort of up and about. The knee needs a month of healing before I can even begin rehab/physical therapy, so right now I'm wearing (even at night) a knee immobilizer to prevent any and all bending of the knee. That means I'm getting around painfully slowly, and I'm unable to drive at all. Once I do start therapy, I'll spend a month working on getting the knee to bend again, and, after that, another month strengthening what by then will be my seriously atrophied leg muscles.

This leaves Sabine having to do all the driving for our family for a while. What with her now having to keep up with her own often tight schedule while, at the same time, carting Eli, Neil, and me around to all

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the places we need to be when we need to be there, my injury is, in some ways, even harder on her than it is on me. We are, however, getting by – with, of course, a lot of help from our friends! We appreciate the kind expressions of concern and the gracious well-wishes we have received, together with the offers of assistance, particularly assistance in getting Eli, Neil, and me to our appointed places when Sabine has had appointments of her own that she could ill afford to cancel, and when she's had other responsibilities that she could ill afford to neglect. We appreciate everyone's readiness and willingness to do what they can to provide encouragement and help!

Until I'm better able to move around, and especially until I'm able to drive again, I won't be very ministerially mobile. I do, however, expect to be in my study every day. I may not be able to come to you, but the door remains always open for you to come to me. Feel free to call or come by any time. And count on my being back in the pulpit starting September 2.

In the meantime, I actually am recruiting some help with some of my ministerial responsibilities. My sister, Peg Falls-Corbitt, who is a professor of philosophy at Hendrix College, is going to be stepping in to help me with the adult Sunday School class. I'll still be part of the class, but Peg, rather than I, will be doing most of the planning, organizing, and leading of the class. (For more information on what we're doing, see the article on Sunday School at PHPC in this newsletter!)

Also, I've asked LaWanda Harris to give me a hand tending to some of our members' pastoral care needs. LaWanda is enrolled in the distance program of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and, this fall, she's doing a course called Supervised Practice of Ministry. That's a project she'll be carrying out here in her home church, with me serving as her supervisor and our session serving as her evaluation committee. Pastoral care was to be part of LaWanda's project this fall anyway, and the plan now is to have her take even more of a leading role than first anticipated, in tending to some of the pastoral visiting that I'm not presently able to tend to. I quite expect this to turn into a good opportunity for LaWanda and a blessing for our congregation.

I know that I'm going to be slowed for a while regarding how efficiently, how thoroughly, and how well I'm able to carry out my ministerial responsibilities and get things done. My hope, though, is this: to turn my recent surgical setback into a congregational opportunity to try new things. The silver lining in my setback just might be that, as a result, we are going to discover new and fruitful ways of going about our work in and as Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church. My setback just might turn into a congregationally significant experience of what the New Testament letter to the Colossians calls *growth that is from God*.

#### ***Friday Bible Study***

The fall/winter session of Friday Bible Study will begin on Friday, September 14, and will run through Friday, December 14. Dr. David Dyer is teaching. This session is on The Book of Exodus. It is always a delight to have Dr. Dyer teach. Come at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and fellowship, with lesson from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Bring a friend and join the Friday Bible Study

#### ***Called Congregational Meeting***

The session has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, September 16, at the close of worship. The purpose of the meeting is: a) to elect four ruling elders to the session's Class of 2021; and b) to elect three members not actively serving on the session, to serve as members-at-large on the 2019 Congregational Nominating Committee.

To be nominated for election as ruling elder, one must be given the opportunity ahead of time to give prayerful consideration to this invitation to serve. The job of the Congregational Nominating Committee is to work together to nominate candidates who will be representative of our congregation, and whom the committee has determined to be willing to commit themselves to—and able to provide our congregation with—good church governance and leadership. The Committee's nominees for the Class of 2021 are: John Frets, David Harper, LaWanda Harris, and Ann McSwain.

### **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 this fund, we cover such expenses as utilities, regular maintenance, and insurance; mission outreach; things needed in the way of supplies for worship, fellowship occasions, Christian education, office and other administrative needs; staff salaries; and denominational support. In addition to gifts to the General Fund, we encourage members and friends of our church to give prayerful thought to giving also to the three *special funds* through which we do our work.

The *Food Pantry* is operated by our Blessings Committee as a way of helping hungry families. In addition to gifts of non-perishable food items, monetary donations also are welcome, with which the committee can purchase such items.

The *Audie Lee Jones Ministry Fund* is overseen by the session and is the fund through which we extend monetary assistance to persons caught in a financial crisis that has put them in need of a helping hand in order to be able to move on.

The *Building Fund* is overseen by the session and is the fund through which we make major repairs and renovations to our physical facility, to keep it fit for the work it is here to house.

*To give to these special funds, simply note on your check or envelope which fund or funds you are giving to.*

We are 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 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 much 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, in the cause of the gospel of Jesus.

### **Church Office Closings**

The church office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

### **Attention Session Members**

Stated meetings of the Session are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. The next stated meetings will be Sunday, September 16, and Sunday, October 21. Meetings are held in room 303, following worship.

### **World Communion and Peace & Global Witness Offering**

Sunday, October 7, is World Communion and Peace & Global Witness Offering Sunday. During the regular offering that morning, we also will receive contributions to this year's Peace and Global Witness Offering. This offering is received nationwide by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support ministries of peacemaking, reconciliation, and healing in a world that's filled with sorrow, hurt, and suffering. Three-fourths of the offering will be put to use through ministries of the Synod of the Sun and of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. One-fourth of what is received that day in our own church will be retained for local use. The session has approved placing that amount in our church's Audie Lee Jones Ministry Fund, a special fund intended 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 in life. All of us are asked to give prayerful thought to making a generous contribution to this offering on October 7.

**Stewpot**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month is Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church day at Stewpot. Based at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in downtown Little Rock, Stewpot serves up hot meals at noon Monday through Friday to those that are hungry. Right now, there are 6 from PHPC that cook and serve on our day and we have a total of 8 as our team. Ideally, we need 10 to 12 persons on a team. If you would like to volunteer any time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month to feed the hungry, please contact Jane Anne in the church office. We can always use extra hands.

**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. Ordinarily, the adult class is led Ruskin Falls. Some Sundays, one of the adult class's other participants serves as teacher, leading the class in a discussion of some topic or subject matter of particular interest to him or her. Serving as teachers the next two months are: on September 2: Bill May; and on October 7: Jane Moore.

Starting in September, the class sessions ordinarily planned and led by Ruskin will be largely planned and led by his sister, Peg Falls-Corbitt. Ruskin will be a regular participant in the class, but in more of an assisting than in a leading role.

Peg is a philosophy professor at Hendrix College and a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Conway. At last February's meeting of Arkansas Presbytery, she was asked to plan and lead a presbytery discussion of the topic, "The Church in Civil Discourse." The directive she was given was this: "Recognizing how discussions of politics affect all parts of the life of our congregations, theological discussion [at this meeting of presbytery] should focus on: how we can have difficult conversations as people of faith; the theological concepts behind these conversations; specifics on dealing with politics, not just from the pulpit, but throughout the community of faith." Peg's task was to bring those present "into discussion of politically related theological issues in a way that encourages empathy and understanding for those who disagree with us," and "to model a kind of hands-on activity ... to aid in the discussion of politics, especially politics in the church and in the life of faith." The project Peg put together on that occasion was very well received and widely praised as a valuable exercise for all. Now she is going to take what she did for presbytery that day, and turn it into a series of Sunday School classes here at PHPC.

Our Sunday School classes are open to one and all. Come check us out!

**The PHPC Choir**

The adult choir practices from 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and at 10:20 a.m. every Sunday morning in the choir room. If you would like to join our choir, please just show up at the church at the practice time. New choir members are always welcome.

**September Birthdays**

Jerry Murrel-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Anna Woody-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Billie O'Neel-14 <sup>th</sup>	Ferris Allen-17 <sup>th</sup>
Ruskin Falls 21 <sup>st</sup>	John Frets 22 <sup>nd</sup>

**October Birthdays**

Mary Kai Clark-7 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Alexander-7 <sup>th</sup>
Jo Kinder-8 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Baskin-17 <sup>th</sup>
Rees Shell-27 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Cole-28 <sup>th</sup>
William Shumaker-28 <sup>th</sup>	Gaylon Brunson-30 <sup>th</sup>
Ann McSwain 30 <sup>th</sup>	

**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, etc. are needed and appreciated. A suggestion list for non-perishable foods and personal items can be found in the manger or in the church office. We are grateful to say that the church is now a member agency with the Arkansas Food Bank. This means we can now purchase non-perishable food items from the Arkansas Food Bank at a much lower cost than we can purchase through a grocery or discount store.

**Hillcrest HarvestFest**

Saturday, November 3, has been set as the date for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Hillcrest HarvestFest. The day begins with the Hillcrest Residents Association preparing and serving a pancake breakfast here at PHPC. Then, at 11 a.m., the party begins. Kavanaugh will be closed off from Walnut to Monroe. There will be children's activities, food trucks, vendors in the streets, gumbo cook off, a dog show, and local bands performing until 9:30 p.m. Support our Hillcrest neighborhood by coming and being part of this delightful event. Go to [www.harvestfest.us](http://www.harvestfest.us) for more information.

**Chili Cook-off in the Courtyard**

You're invited to "Chili Cook-off in the Courtyard" to benefit the Presbyterian Village Foundation. Join in Thursday, October 18, from 5-7 p.m. in the PV Lodge Courtyard for spirited chili tasting and voting, dinner, and musical entertainment. Do you have a winning chili recipe? Enter the Cook-off for only \$25, with a chance to win 3 monetary prizes. Rules and information are on the bulletin board outside the church office. Adult tickets are \$25 and kids' tickets are \$10 (ages 5-18). You may also call Melissa Jenkins at 225-1615.

**Church Picnic, Fellowship Meal**

Sunday, October 28, the Blessings committee is inviting everyone to come ready to picnic following worship. We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Our "Master Griller" will be Todd Gates. Drinks, chips, buns, condiments, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, and relish will be provided. We are asking you to bring potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, desserts, or other picnic goodies.

**Ordered Ministry Training**

Our annual church leadership instruction class will be held this year the afternoon of **Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, following worship and our monthly fellowship meal. The class will meet in the fellowship hall. It will be led by our minister, Ruskin Falls. Newly elected session members are required to attend, other session members are highly encouraged to attend, and anyone else who is interested is welcome to come for all or part of this afternoon of reflection on and discussion of the life, work, responsibilities, and future of Christ's church, of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church.

**Redesigned Website**

For the last several weeks, Jason Weinheimer, with Fellowship Hall Sound, has been redesigning our website. It is still the same web address, [www.phpreslr.com](http://www.phpreslr.com), but it has a whole new look. We feel the website is now easier to navigate. Visit the website and let us know what you think!

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