

# THE BRIDGE

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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*"Diverse in Background, United in Faith"*

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Friends,

As many of you know, our denomination held its biennial General Assembly from June 14-21 this year. The conclusion of General Assembly – or GA, for short – is always cause for much news and discussion. I sat down to write for you a synopsis of how the Holy Spirit moved through the PC(USA) this past week, and realized that I simply could not do any better than the below letter from our denominational leadership. So, in lieu of my regular monthly letter, please read the letter following with a hearts of energy, intelligence, imagination, and love! For the original letter online, please visit [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org).

Blessings,  
Elizabeth

June 21, 2014

To the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adjourned today after a full week of discussion, debate, prayer and discernment. The week also was enveloped in worship, celebrations, fellowship and glory to God. The Assembly, anchored on the theme “Abound in Hope” (Romans 15:13), was a resounding confirmation that the PC(USA) is alive, well, and fully engaged in being faithful to God.

Tough issues were tackled and challenging decisions were made. These actions were not done lightly, and each commissioner and advisory delegate carefully and prayerfully worked in committee and as a full body in plenary. Now, over the next two years, members of the 221st

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Assembly and other leaders in the church will be about the business of interpreting and guiding people through the decisions made. We hope you, too, will be ambassadors for the Assembly's work, and we offer ourselves and our colleagues as resources.

Now, some highlights:

### **Relating to the world**

- The Assembly approved the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" campaign, recommended by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This is a call on the whole church to join in a movement to provide quality education to 1 million children in the U.S. and around the world in the next four years – as a way to alleviate poverty.
- The Assembly approved a measure to divest from three corporations –Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions – it believes are not in compliance with the church's policy on socially responsible investing. The decision is a significant step in the denomination's policy that says it should not profit from "non-peaceful pursuits." This does not constitute divestment from Israel – the church maintains significant investments in companies that do business in Israel.

### **Relating to our communities**

- The Assembly approved "The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" This statement is the result of work by Presbyterians, Christians of other denominations, and representatives of many faith traditions to study how Presbyterians should best engage with people of different faiths.
- Recommendations that the PC(USA) advocate measures to prevent gun violence won resounding approval. The GA's decision calls for such actions as the formation of support, healing and advocacy groups for those who have experienced gun violence in their families; and opposition to "stand your ground" and other legislation that may entitle gun owners to shoot before taking alternative measures.
- The Assembly celebrated the nearly 250 new worshipping communities in more than 100 presbyteries that have been counted since the last General Assembly. Clearly this is a movement of the Holy Spirit, giving the promise of renewal and rebirth throughout the church.
- For nearly 200 years, the Presbyterian church has served as one of the greatest forces for mission in the world. In that spirit, the Assembly endorsed an initiative to encourage Presbyterians to go beyond the walls of their congregations and increase their engagement in service to their communities and the world. By "living missionally," we are intentionally joining in God's transformations of societal injustices by following Christ's example of service through faith, hope, love, and witness.

### **Relating to each other**

- The Assembly approved a recommendation to allow teaching elders pastoral discretion to perform "any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform," where legal by state law. The body also passed a recommendation to change language

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in the Book of Order to indicate that “marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” Our prayer is that together, through our covenant with one another, the PC(USA) can move forward on this issue in love and with respect.

- The Assembly overwhelmingly voted to add the Confession of Belhar to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions. The action must now be ratified by a majority of the presbyteries within the next year.

Specific language on all of the Assembly’s actions is available on PC-biz ([www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org)). Assembly in Brief, a more detailed compilation of the Assembly’s decisions, will be available for download next week at [www.pcusa.org/ga221](http://www.pcusa.org/ga221).

Jesus clearly tells us in John 13: 34, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Agape love for those in our world, in our communities, and for each other is essential in these days ahead. We don’t all agree, yet we must find paths to peace and reconciliation using the unconditional love of God as our guide.

Our charge to you now is to go forth with the actions of the 221st Assembly, living missionally as the church beyond walls, and engaging in the process of working together with churches in the task of reconciliation. We look forward to working with you.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Ruling Elder Heath K. Rada  
Moderator, 221st General Assembly (2014)

The Reverend Gradye Parsons  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Reverend Larissa Kwong Abazia  
Vice Moderator, 221st General Assembly  
(2014)

Ruling Elder Linda Bryant Valentine  
Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission  
Agency

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## THANK YOU . . .

*Trinity Family,*

*Thank you for the graduation card! You all have been a source of joy and support from my earliest days that I can remember. I hope to make you all proud in the coming days as I begin my career in the Submarine Force.*

*Love,  
Tony*

*From the Women's Morning Circle...*

Thank you, Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes. We have already collected 1742 for 2014. Please keep saving!

*From the Sew & So's...*

The sewing group needs used bed sheets to use as filling for their quilts. If you have extra to donate, they would be so grateful.

## 2014 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

Trinity will again be paying our assigned per capita assessment in 2014 by asking members of the congregation to donate their own \$32.95 per active member. This will help to ease our budget.



July	1	Barbara Burnett
	3	Sally Burns
	7	Margaret Edwards
	10	Becky Layman
	13	Claire Ann Sprick
	19	Bonnie Piper
	21	Bob Sorensen
	26	Sylvia Livingston



July 20 Rich & Donna White

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### Computer Users:

Please bring in your printer cartridges when you come to church. There is a box to place them in by the Session members mailbox.

Questions—See Sondra Tivis



### WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for these:

<b>July 6:</b>	Joe Gordon Steven Gordon Katie Griffith
<b>July 13:</b>	Tom Haggard Christine Hanes Bill, Lynda & Madelyn Hansen
<b>July 20:</b>	Reid Hansen Dave & Deborah Hatton Rick & Amy Hetzel
<b>July 27:</b>	Jack & Jess Layman Tim, Becky, & T. J. Layman Sylvia Livingston

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### *Musicians Needed*

As the choir takes a much-deserved Sabbath from weekly anthems this summer, all musicians of the church are invited to offer solo or small group pieces for special music in worship. If you feel the Spirit moving you to serve in such a way, please call Jack Palmer at 728-6646.



### T.I.G.E.R.s' Corner

July 6: 6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s  
July 13: 6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s  
July 20: 6:15 p.m. - **NO** T.I.G.E.R.'s  
July 27: 6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s

T.I.G.E.R.'s questions call  
Becky Layman at 830-4066



In the last few months, the TIGERs have done some great activities. In March, we went to see the "God's Not Dead" movie, and followed that up the next week with a discussion with Elizabeth about it and what we got out of the movie. April was a busy month since they had a lock-in, helped with the Easter Egg hunt and presented the Son Rise Service on Easter and went to a Youth Retreat. They held their 30 Hour of Famine lock-in with 9 in attendance, 5 of which were guests. The kids played games to help them relate to the struggles other kids live with on a daily basis just to survive, and we

included bible verses to correspond with the situations. There was a cardboard town they made and displayed outside (picture attached). They raised \$215 in donations. Also, six TIGERs attended the Heartland Presbytery Youth Retreat where they enjoyed fellowship with kids from around the area. Our youth assisted in the retreat by helping with the registration sign in and the ice breakers at the beginning of the retreat. We've had fun seeing other movies at church and in the theater like "LEGOs" and "Grace Unplugged." Also we have had a great time hiding Easter Eggs and playing Bocce Ball in the church's front yard. We are looking forward to upcoming activities like a trip to the Zoo, mission trip to Heartland Presbytery camp, working the Funnel Cake booth, Festival of Sharing and more.

Becky Layman



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**ONLY 3 DAYS LEFT**

We hope your spurs your boots have been put to good use for this year's VBS – *Avalanche Ranch!* We have been meeting with First Presbyterian and First Christian Churches of Independence from Sunday, June 29 – Thursday, July 3 (6:00-8:00pm) which means that there are only three days of fun-filled learning left for this year's VBS.



**July 20, 2014**  
**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting an Ice Cream Social in Founders Hall with ice cream, toppings, & cookies.

Come and enjoy dessert with your church family and friends.

Donations will be accepted.



To millions of people all over the world, America is a magic name. Here we find schools, parks, libraries, churches, playgrounds, peaceful living, and the freedom to choose our vocations and plan our lives. Most of us assume these things are our natural right.

We should remember that every benefit, every right, was bought for us at a great price. When we think of what our freedoms cost, we realize that living in this great land is a privilege.

On this Independence Day, thank God for the sacrifices many have made to preserve our American heritage.



**PERFORMING ARTS SUNDAY**  
**SUMMER SERIES**

**All Concerts 3 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 13**

**Mr. Scott Foppiano**

Nationally recognized award-winning organist

**Sunday, August 10**

**Mr. Mark Hayes**

Internationally renowned pianist and composer

**Tickets \$10 per concert**

To purchase visit

[www.fpciPerformingArtsSeries.com](http://www.fpciPerformingArtsSeries.com)

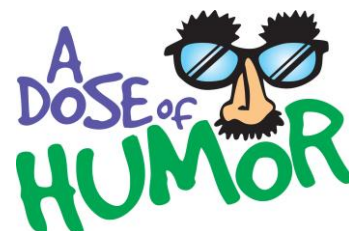
or call/text 816-935-5808

**First Presbyterian Church**

**100 N. Pleasant Street**

816-252-6662    [www.fpcindep.org](http://www.fpcindep.org)

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Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's Morning."

## PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

### What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

### What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!



### A LETTER TO GOD

Dear God,

I saw the Grand Canyon on vacation.  
Nice piece of work.

Love  
Adam (age 9)

## WAYNE CITY LANDING DAYS



SUGAR CREEK MISSOURI

### The 1st Wayne City Landing Days Festival

The City of Sugar Creek, MO announces this family event to be held Thursday, August 7 through Saturday, August 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The festival will commemorate one of the first riverboat landings west of the Mississippi River. It will be held in Sugar Creek along Sterling Avenue, from Kentucky Avenue to Elizabeth Street. It will include the Pride of Texas Carnival, craft vendors, food vendors, live entertainment, and adult beverage gardens.

**Session has approved our participation in this festival as a way to raise funds for our church by selling funnel cakes. This will be on a much smaller scale than Santa-Cali-Gon.**

If you have any questions, please call Larry Clark 853-6379 or Jan Privett 419-9405.

### JUST FOR FUN . . .

#### HOT AIR

Scientists have discovered that sound travels faster in the summer than in the winter. In hot summer air, sound travels at 1,266 feet per second. But in cold air, sound travels as slow as 1,066 feet per second. So that means sermons preached in summer will naturally be shorter, right?



### Summer Time Fun!!!!

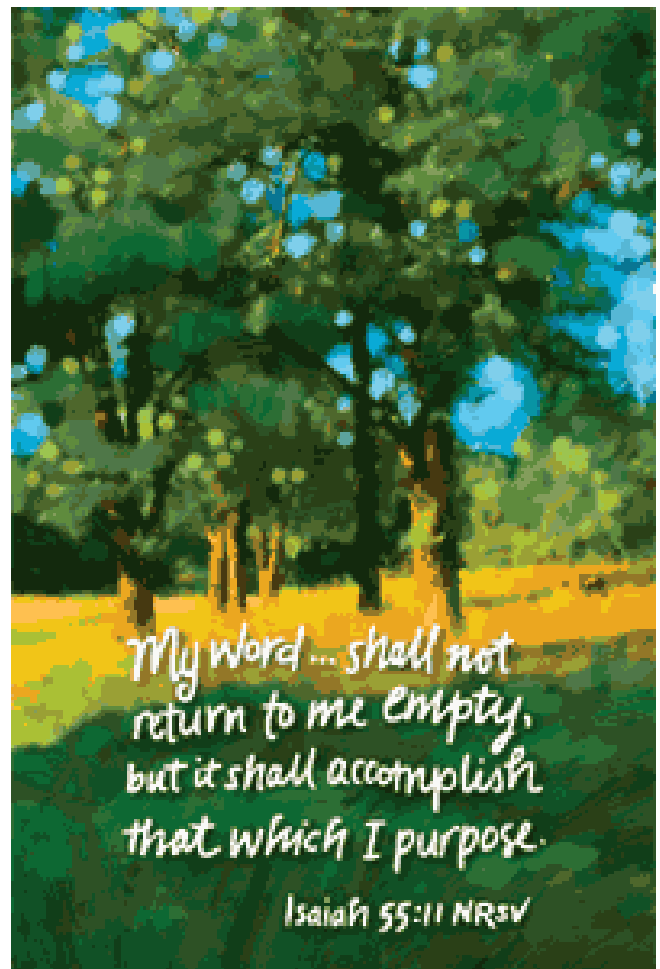
Looking for something fun to do this summer. Check out Summer Cruise In every Saturday night from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm at Hartman's Heritage Center. This is in the same parking lot as Buy Buy Baby, Buffalo Wild Wings, David's Bridal and plenty of other fine shopping. Family atmosphere and plenty of parking, local shopping promotions plus restaurant discounts. Further information needed contact Jim Tormena at 808-1154.

Our good friends at First Presbyterian on the square will be hosting a Performing Arts Summer Series. The second Sunday of June, July and August will have special performances for only \$10.00 per ticket or if you chose to attend all three concerts you can get a 3 pack of tickets for \$28.00. Sunday, June 8, they will host Raytown Christian Church Handbell Choirs. Sunday, July 14, they will be hosting Mr. Scott Foppiano organist. Sunday, August 10, will feature Mr. Mark Hayes composer and pianist. All performances will start at 3:00 pm. For more information and ticket ordering information go to <http://fpciperformingartsseries.com/> What a great way to spend a Sunday evening.

Take a trip to Heartland Center to hear the wonderful end of camp performances by those in the Music Art Dance and Drama camps or M.A.D.D. camp. The date of the Middle School M.A.D.D. performance will be Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Our own Faith Nickens will be performing. Senior High M.A.D.D. performance will be Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Into Handbell Music then Heartland Center has an awesome treat for you. Thursday July 10, 6 p.m. there will be a massed Handbell Choir performance. This will be the conclusion of their Handbell camp. In years past there have been 30 or 40 members in this group from all over the Metro area. Not only is it awesome music but it is free.

Don't forget free Friday Night fireworks at Royals Stadium. You can see them from as far away as 40 highway and Blue Ridge Blvd. or the Blue Ridge Crossing complex. Check your Hy-vee ads for the Friday nights the Royals will be doing this. Of course if you want to our boys in blue play you can see the fireworks up close and personal.



## 2014 Strawberry Festival



Thanks to everyone who made the Strawberry Festival such a success. We had a wonderful assortment of desserts, a huge crowd, and great fellowship. We raised \$1,250.38 which will be used to help purchase new lightweight tables for the church. Thanks again for your support.

Jan Privett

**ALUMINUM COLLECTION**

For several years this congregation has recycled aluminum cans. Proceeds are given to help our youth activities expenses. This has yielded \$200 - \$300 a year.

There have been some clarifications from the buyer. they **only** want beverage cans, clean, dry, & empty. The current price is 58 cents per pound.

- NO** pet food cans.
- NO** foil or pie pans
- NO** paper of any kind
- NO** plastic except the sack

Put them in the black box in our parking lot.

At special times we could benefit from collecting old aluminum cookware, aluminum guttering, and old aluminum storm windows.



*On the first Day of the Week  
"The people came together..."*

*Worship Services:*

June 1.....	84
June 8.....	82
June 15.....	77
June 22.....	59
June 29.....	84

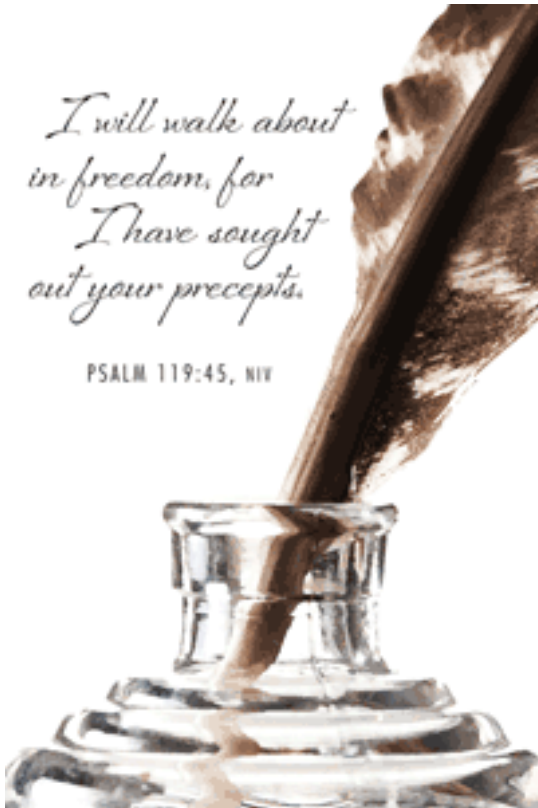
*"and the people gave . . . "*

June 1.....	\$3,017.73
June 8.....	3,002.11
June 15.....	1,409.00
June 22.....	852.50
June 29.....	<u>Not Available</u>
Total .....	\$8,281.34

Budget information: (as of January, 2014)  
 Weekly Bgt. Requirement ..... \$ 2,823.96  
 June Average Weekly Giving ..... \$2,070.33

*I will walk about  
in freedom, for  
I have sought  
out your precepts.*

PSALM 119:45, NIV



~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Muncie, Indiana:  
 rejoice in God's many blessings.  
 Praise God!  
 For he richly provides all our needs  
 God is indeed our greatest treasure!