



Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume V, Issue 5

The way it looks from here...

Pastor Terry McLellan



Dear Friends,
“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom,

it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.” So begins Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*. The same can be said of these days in the Presbyterian Church USA, depending upon which side of the question of same-gender marriage you find yourself.

In the summer of 2014 the 221st General Assembly passed a proposed amendment to the *Book of Order*. This proposed change would alter the wording of the portion of the *Book of Order* that speaks to the purposes,

intentions and structure of worship. More specifically, the amendment sought to change the section governing marriage; who is authorized to officiate, who can be married, etc. Upon passage by the GA in 2014, the amendment was then sent to the presbyteries for ratification. Our polity requires that a majority of the presbyteries must vote for the amendment before it becomes effective. By March 15, 2015, the necessary 86 presbyteries had voted in favor of the change, including our own Grace Presbytery. Thus the amendment will become part of the current constitution no later than June 15, 2015. It is known as Amendment 14-F.

Before this change the *Book of Order* said that Christian marriage is a “covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship.”(W-4.9001) The amendment would instead read, “Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support

each other for the rest of their lives.” The amendment goes on to outline the nature of Christian marriage in terms of commitment, seriousness, fidelity to one another and the keeping of promises made before God and the gathered congregation.

There is no further reference to the gender of the members of the couple, leaving the minister and the Session free to perform and host same-gender marriages in states where it is legal under civil law. In addition to the legal requirement, it must be acceptable to the minister and to the Session to perform such a marriage. Neither any Session nor any minister can be compelled to officiate a same-gender marriage, against their wishes.

The PCUSA is now finally free to chart its own course after some years of dispute and discord over issues relating to same-gender sexuality and equality. It is a blessing that now churches and teaching elders are free to act on their own God-given, Holy Spirit-driven consciences in these matters.



Inside this issue

- News from the pastor
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- Calendar of Events
- ...and more!

The next newsletter is June 2015

The deadline for articles is Friday, Friday 5/15

Presbyterian Women

Patti Sloey, moderator

Presbyterian Women have a long tradition of caring and helping. One way they help is through the Birthday Offering. They will once again have the Birthday Luncheon in May. Stay tuned to the worship bulletins for more details on this annual event.

Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 am at the church, May meeting, Tuesday, 5/12.



Thursday Morning Circle-2nd Thursday, 9:30 am at the church, May meeting, Thursday, 5/14.

Thursday Evening Circle-will meet at 7:00 p.m. on May 21 in a FUPC member home. Contact the church office if you need further information.

The Starboard Stitchers will meet on Tuesday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m. continuing their stuffed animal project for the clinic at North Dallas Shared Ministries. Come to stitch or stuff and enjoy the fellowship.

Potluck Picnic Luncheon!

Brenda Burkham, Church Life

Sunday, May 17th—after 11am service. All are invited to join in the fun & fellowship. An indoor/outdoor picnic! FUPC will provide the hot dogs and fried chicken for the lunch. Bring a favorite picnic side or dessert to share. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish and/or help with set-up/clean-up.

Please let us know how many in your family will attend beside your name when you sign up!



The way it looks from here ...

Cont.

In the light of the Law of Love (Mark 12:30, 31), there is no place in the Church of Jesus Christ for excluding any persons who seek a deeper relationship with the living God, including the fact of who they love or to what gender they identify themselves. The Kingdom is not one with locked gates allowing only those with passwords and keys to get inside. In the crucified and risen Lord, the gates have been knocked askew, chains broken and the Light comes to shine on all those dark places. Thanks be to God for loving us all.

My prayer is that we learn that the radical welcome into His Kingdom which Christ offers us is available to all regardless of any human trait, including those among us who seek life in a committed and loving marriage with a person of their same gender.

Love to you all, Pastor Terry

Terry@FaithUnited-pc.com

If you would like to read more about these issues, go to this link and read what others have said.
<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221/ga221-marriage/>

News from New Beginnings

A few members of the various small groups joined the New Beginnings leadership team on April 6 to help clarify and expand on the information provided by the small groups discussions. There were several reports of positive energy in the groups with a growing comfort with the process and each other. All of the groups reported a lack of specific options for going forward in mission. The problem of change became very apparent. What does change look like to us? What does change feel like when it's happening?

The pastor reminded the group that everything is still on the table, including leadership, outreach and programs. He encouraged patience with the process, but be sure to record any change to measure momentum and feel the progress toward becoming a mission oriented church.

Suggestions for discussion at the next scheduled meeting on Monday, April 27 are:

- ◆ Each member of the team will choose two statements from the New Beginnings materials that describe more clearly a mission oriented church.
- ◆ Research outside resources to facilitate our progress.
- ◆ Explore the definition of mission statement and values.
- ◆ Get information on the number of vehicles that pass the church on Marsh Lane on a daily basis.
- ◆ Communicate regularly with the congregation through newsletter articles.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the Lord's direction in this process.
- ◆ We ask the whole congregation to continue in prayer for our church's direction and mission.



Session & Such

The Session has a Called Meeting once a month for the purpose of meeting and receiving prospective new members. This month's Called Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 10 at 10:15 a.m. They

Kay McLellan



We offer this prayer:

I Tremble on the Edge of a Maybe

O God of beginnings, as your spirit moved over the face of the deep on the first day of creation, move with me now in my time of beginnings, when the air is rain-washed, the bloom is on the bush, and the world seems fresh and full of possibilities and I feel ready and full. I tremble on the edge of a maybe, a first time, a new thing, a tentative start, and the wonder of it lays its finger on my lips. In silence, Lord, I share now my eagerness and my uneasiness about this something different I would be or do; and I listen for your leading to help me separate the light from the darkness and in the change I seek to shape and which is shaping me.

Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*, 1984.
Innisfree Press, Inc. Philadelphia, PA

meet in the Pastor's Study in the office area. The next stated session meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 after worship. Lois Duell will lead the devotional.

Words of Faith

Notes & News from the Pews



I would like to thank everyone for all of your prayers for my sister, Käthe and husband, Eberhard Kaschung. She is now doing much better and may plan a visit to the states soon.

~ Margaret Jones

To FUPC

Thank you for allowing us to use the heater for Earl's bedroom to keep him warm during this past winter. We appreciate all that you have done for us over this past year; communion, visits and food. We donate a new space heater as our way of saying Thank You!

*~ Love, the Blackney's
Earl, David & Debi*

Directory updates

Please remember to notify the church office if your contact information changes so it can be published in the next newsletter.

Coming Soon!

Look for your copy of the 2015 printed Directory in early May.

Renee Wensley (new email & phone)
Email: renee.wensley@gmail.com

Steve & Teresa Nelson
new email for Steve)
Steve email: slntan56@aol.com
Teresa email: slntan8@aol.com



From the editor

Brenda Swindle



It seems the years go by faster with each year that I age. It is hard to believe that May is upon us. Soon we will be complaining about the heat of summer.

Please note that the 2015 Directory will be available for pick-up the first or second Sunday in May. We request that you use the bradded folder that the old directory was in. We will have a supply of bradded folders if you cannot locate yours. Also, please notify the office if you have difficulty coming to the church to pick up your copy. We will arrange for delivery.

Thank you for submitting articles to the newsletter. No matter how big or small the event, send the information so that it can be included in the next issue of **Words of Faith**. You may submit articles in writing to the church office or via email to

Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com

The next issue will be June 2015. The deadline for articles is Friday, 5/15/15. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office if you or your group has information to share.

**Next newsletter is
June 2015. Deadline
for articles,
Friday, 5/15/15
Contact church
office or Brenda
Swindle via email to
submit articles.**

Outreach & Evangelism

Lois Duell

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

you're supporting ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Christ.



Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Special Offering will be collected on May 24. This offering supports a broad range of programs that work to nurture young people. Our congregation designated our 40% of the offering which

stays in our community to support Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Look for information and envelopes on the table in the narthex.

Community Pancake Breakfast

Our next free breakfast will be Saturday, May 9, between 8 and 10am. Come bring your neighbors and friends and enjoy fellowship and nourishment.



The breakfasts are always on the second Saturday of the month and we can always use help in cooking and greeting and visiting those who attend.



Austin Street Meal—The May meal day will be Monday, May 4.

Looking ahead, the June meal will be June 1. Plan ahead for your food donation. Refrigerator for cold food storage is down the hall from the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Sunday School Class

Kay McLellan

We want to get the word out about the Sunday School class that meets in the Health Resource Room. Please join us. We are a group who value open discussions of various topics related to our faith and beliefs. We have just finished a series of videos by the well-known Christian author, Phillip Yancey, entitled, *Vanishing Grace: What has happened to the good news?* We consider ourselves searchers who look for ways that the Holy Spirit leads in our world and pray for the eyes to see and ears to hear God's working in our own lives. So, if this appeals to you, please drop by at 9:30 a.m. and check out "The Searchers" class. We are currently looking for a new study. It is the perfect time for YOU to join us!



Words of Faith

Happy Birthday!

May 1

- * Nathan Miller
- * Cleo Sherrard

May 2

- * Anne Kirchmeyer
- * Mary Marxer

May 3

- * Charlie Cole

May 4

- * George Mills

May 6

- * Jan Cole

May 8

- * Peggy Wesch

May 9

- * Bobbie Jones

May 11

- * Fiona Coughenour

May 15

- * Joan Nelson

May 16

- * Linnie Hinkle

May 17

- * Cathy Marxer

May 28

- * Jo Ann McKnight

May 30

- * Steve Nelson



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for:

- ♥ Oscar Bennedsen
- ♥ Keith Daniels
- ♥ Greg Haben
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Käthe & Eberhard Kaschung
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer (David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Til Rathbun
- ♥ Dr. Joel Roffman
- ♥ Alan Swope
- ♥ Lynda Taylor
- ♥ Carol West
- ♥ Dr. Byrne Williamson



Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

Psalm 86:6-7

Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Earl Blackney
- ♥ David Daly
- ♥ Lois Davenport
- ♥ Bobbie & J.R. Jones
- ♥ Henry & Dena Knight
- ♥ Joanne McKnight
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Roc & Clarice Mitchell
- ♥ Emroy Quevreaux
- ♥ Freddie Simmons
- ♥ Don Speigel
- ♥ Martha Watson

**Know of someone who is homebound & not on our list?
Let us know, contact the church office.**

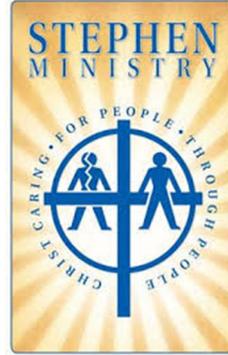
May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Calendar Legend GA=Gamblers Anonymous ABA=Anorexic & Bulimics Anonymous OA=Overeaters Anonymous LTCDS = Little Treasures School PW=Presbyterian Women CSID=Church of South India Dallas RYLA=Rotary Youth Leadership Awards	27	28 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 7:00 FUPC/HH #4	29 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	30 10:00 LTCDS #1 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	1	2 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
3 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd 12:30 FUPC Session	4 6:00 Shelter	5 1:00 Starboard Stitches 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	6 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	7 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	8	9 8:00 FUPC Breakfast #1 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
10 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:15 FUPC Session 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd	11	12 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	13 6:30 CSID #4 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	14 9:30 PW Circle #2 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	15	16 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
17 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd 12:15 Picnic Lunch 3:00 RYLA group #1	18 6:15 LTCDS Staff	19 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	20 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	21 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:00 PW Circle 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	22	23 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
24 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd	25  MEMORIAL DAY Memorial Day observed Church Offices Closed	26 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	27 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	28 10:00 LTCDS #1 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	29 7 pm OA group set-up for 5/30/15	30 8:00 OA-Fellowship #1 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
31 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd 12:15 FUPC meets #1	1 6:00 Shelter	2 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	3 7:00 FUPC Choir #9	4 3:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Fellowship #1 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	5	6 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID #9 & Sanctuary
Please contact the church office with meetings, classes or events for the calendar to prevent conflicts.						

Stephen Ministry

Lisa Laclede

If you or anyone you know would like a caring, Christian, listening ear, this is the role of a Stephen Minister. Please contact the church office at 972-243-2866, or Stephen Minister Leaders, Nancy Smith at 972-418-0537, or Lisa Laclede at 214-686-1519.



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Faith United Presbyterian Church

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On the Web!
www.FaithUnited-pc.com

