

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
41 West College Avenue  
Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103  
614-882-3155 Phone 614-882-2421 Fax  
[www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org](http://www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org)

October 2018



## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

November 11, 2018

**Veteran's Day marks its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!**

On Sunday, November 11, our church will pay tribute to veterans, especially our own. There will be three special ways that the Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee will help us honor our veterans and their service to our country:

**Recognition During Worship and Photos Afterward**

**A Potluck Lunch After Worship**

**A Program Following Lunch Celebrating "Patriotism in Sentiment and Song."**

### **Recognition during worship and photos afterward**

On Sunday, November 11, we would like to take photos of our veterans who are at the worship service. If you are in attendance on that day, we would like you to do one of the following:

1. Wear your military uniform or something from your time in the military (hat, jacket, etc.).
2. If that is not possible, then please try to dress in something with patriotic colors like navy blue slacks, white shirt & tie. (Red, white & blue is preferred)

Right before or right after worship, we will take individual photos of veterans who are present. We will take a group photo of everyone as well immediately following worship. Later, we hope to put together a photo collage of all our members who have served our country.

### **Potluck lunch after worship**

We will have a signup page to which you may add your name so we know the *number* of folks who plan on staying for lunch on November 11. You do not need to write down what you will bring. It is a potluck. Just bring a dish to share.

## **Patriotic program: “Patriotism in Sentiment and Song”**

Following lunch, about 12:45 pm, a presentation by Bev Etling will highlight how American patriotism began and has changed over the years since the founding of our country. This presentation is about one hour in length. It was well received by the Westerville Kiwanis a couple of years ago. Mentioned in the presentation are some famous writings of various types, and we will include music and patriotic songs that have been a part of our country’s history. The audience will be invited to sing several of these songs, ones that touch our hearts as Americans.

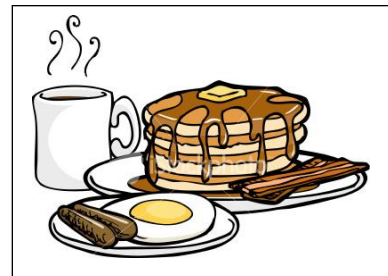
On this special day, the Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee hopes that everyone will find a moment to embrace the love of our country, especially the freedoms we enjoy. Please take time to thank a veteran for his/her willingness to serve. We have the right to gather together and the right to worship as a community because of the freedoms protected by our veterans and their service to our country.

Thank you!



## **More from the Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee:**

**Men’s Breakfast** – The next Men’s Breakfast is Saturday, October 27, beginning at 9:30. With Veteran’s Day coming soon, we have asked our veterans to describe their military service assignments, experiences, and lessons learned. All men are welcome; veterans are honored.



**Discovery Zone meals** – Discovery Zone begins on Wednesday, October 3, and will continue for 20 weeks. Volunteer cooks are needed for each week; we suggest a team of two. Pastor Hicks has prepared a meal suggestion for each of the 20 weeks. This menu list is on Linda Lemity’s counter and will be placed in our Sign Up book. Last year, men prepared most meals, and while we are willing to do it again, we shouldn’t have all the fun, so women are welcome too. Direct any questions to Jack Anderson.

# Last Church Service

*This past summer, Sarah Brickersmith shared her faith story during a worship service. This was just before she headed off to college at the University of Kentucky. For those who were not there that Sunday, and for those who were, here is her message, and a reminder of the many ways we minister to each other and the world.*

This was my last year at my mission trip camp at Lakeside, Ohio. To start from the very beginning, I was scared and reluctant to drive up to the Lake by myself. Although it wasn't my first time driving a long distance, I was scared and didn't know what to expect. I knew God would be on my side the whole time, but it sure does get boring very fast. I took country roads that had practically no turns, and all I saw were corn fields, occasional barns, and some farm animals. Once I made it to Lakeside, I felt home. I was so excited for the week to start. The best part is seeing the people you see only once--maybe twice--a year. When you get there, it's like we never left. We met our mission groups first thing that night, and at first I wasn't excited to work with these people. I was the oldest camper in my group, and everyone was awkward and I thought, "Oh great, I'm gonna have to carry these people through our Bible studies this week." But by the second day, I was proved wrong. Every mission group I've ever had has become family. They were so fun and energetic, and I could definitely see God shining through each of them during that week.



For our mission, we drove two hours to Canton, Ohio, for Canton Calvary Mission. This place was a former Methodist church that closed down in 2000 and became a soup kitchen and food pantry. On the first day, we separated into groups and went to do different projects. I was with two younger boys, who became my "sons" by the end of the week. For our project, we got to organize school supplies donated by the community for the school supplies drive. We made piles for notebooks, crayons, and every other kind of supplies you could

think of. During that time, with no air conditioning I might add, we got to talk and bond and listen to Moana. Everything was going great until we were told to count every single item. Working in retail, I've had experience with inventory. But this was on a whole new level. Every box of crayons, every pencil--yes, every pencil--and everything in between. We called the bottles of glue an army because of how many we had. 150 to be exact. We made piles for each grade, and it turned out great. We spent that night hanging out and eating our weight in chicken and playing murder in the dark. In that short time span, we made memories, and I laughed so hard I cried.

The next morning we went back to Canton Calvary and assisted the people shopping in the food pantry. We helped them drive their carts back to their cars and helped unload their groceries. This experience was especially eye opening, considering that I have never in my life had to think twice about getting a meal. Also that I could just go shopping and get the supplies I needed for my school year was never a doubt in my mind. I got to speak to another mission leader who was from Indiana, and he asked me about my path with God and my faith. I told him I was brought up in a small church, and I felt that I always knew God from the beginning and that I accepted him early in my life.

After we finished, we left to drive back to Lakeside. With a lot of things going on in my life and family at the moment, I decided to fall into Jesus' arms that week and let him take the wheel. I've felt like I've always known Jesus because of my parents and my relationship has always been there. At times, especially during my senior year, I put Jesus on the back burner. We talked during the week about how we as teenagers put things in place of Jesus to fill the void. I played golf in the fall, started a new job, and was juggling school on top of my sport and career. Putting Jesus in the passenger seat instead of the driver seat will cause you to crash, I've always told myself. Our verse for the week was Hebrews 6:19 which reads "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

So if you didn't know already, this Sunday will be my last service before I leave for The University of Kentucky on Wednesday. As sad as I am to be leaving this amazing church, I am overjoyed to be able to come to this place and call it home. For the 18 years I've been here, I've been faced with life's adversity and biggest obstacles. I went through my grandma's death, my dad's illness, my teammate's suicide, and lots of things I don't think I could possibly have handled without God as my right hand. Even with a couple tragic events along the way, I was given many better gifts. I've created multiple friendships, got a job, was accepted into my dream school, went through hours and days of education, graduated, and grew with and for God.

I thank God every day for my opportunities in Westerville, but right now I want to thank some honorable mentions in the congregation for my upbringing. I hope to not sound like I'm accepting an award, but here it goes. First and always first, is my Mom. She brought me to this church since my trip from Vietnam, and I couldn't imagine myself worshipping anywhere else. She's been my number one supporter through everything and puts up with my crap all the time. My Mom and I like to joke and say that the day I met my parents in Vietnam, I was saying as an infant, "I got you now, lady. No returns or exchanges. I'm yours forever. Might as well hand over all your money and love now." Mom, you're the other half of my heart, and I'll always be your bean.

The next people are John Robbins and Gary Hinzman. If you aren't friends with them, I'd definitely recommend becoming friends. They will and always will have a special place in my heart. Kim Hunt, my deacon, who has been the BEST deacon a girl could have. She's come to my golf matches, sent me cards and gifts and I just love having her by my side. And last but never least, is Mark. Mark has become a second father figure over these 18 years and has made me want to grow with Jesus every day. He's been big part of my upbringing in my faith.

*-Sarah Brickersmith*

## **A Sincere Thank You!**

The Chappell/Driskell family would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love shown to us. Thank you for your gifts of service and food given for Jerry's Memorial luncheon. It was a beautiful blessing to our family.



# A Festival of Banners and Creeds

Reformation Sunday, October 28

Join us in Worship on October 28 as we celebrate Reformation Sunday with a “Festival of Banners and Creeds.” This service brings the Creeds of the Presbyterian Church to life as they are presented through a display of creative banners. Each Creed and Confession of the Church has a banner, made by members of the church, and each creed will be explained and celebrated in word and song. This uplifting service celebrates the heritage of our faith and reminds us that Presbyterians have faithfully declared their faith throughout the ages and continue to do so today.

## Friends of Music Fund



The Friends of Music Fund is in need of boosting! You might ask, “What is the purpose of the Friends of Music Fund?” The goal of our music program is to touch our worshipping congregation more deeply through music. The Friends of Music Fund is used to meet the needs of our music program that are not included in the church budget. For instance, the new music folders that each choir member is using this fall were purchased using this fund. So, anyone who would like to

support our music program is encouraged to make a donation to our church and designate the gift to be placed in the Friends of Music Fund. You will be thanked musically!

## Stewardship and Plans for Next Year



The Session has proposed a budget for next year that includes a 2.5% raise for our personnel and increases for utilities and insurance now that our beautiful new addition is finished. It also restores Mission and Outreach funds that were cut at the beginning of this year to balance the 2018 budget.

During the month of October, we’ll be talking about stewardship as part of our faith. Some members of our congregation will share their thoughts, and we will all be asked to pledge to support this budget. We plan to dedicate those pledges on Sunday, October 28.

If you have questions about the proposed budget, please ask a member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee (Lane Hough, Gary Hinzman, Chuck Mannix, Dave Stamm, John Simpkins, Lori Lampel).

## 2018 Financial Report and 2019 Budget

### Income: 2019 Estimated Income vs. 2018 Budgeted and YTD Actual Income

	<b>2019 Estimated Income</b>	<b>2018 Budget Approved</b>	<b>2018 YTD Income as of 8/31/18</b>
Current Year Pledges	\$242,000.00	\$206,650.00	\$137,866.00
Nonpledge Contributors (Member)	\$20,550.00	\$19,640.00	\$13,113.00
Named Contributors (Nonmember)	\$8,000.00	\$6,825.00	\$9,003.00
Anonymous Contributors (Offering Plate Cash)	\$2,940.00	\$2,940.00	\$1,810.00
Per Capita	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$4,121.00
Administrative Services - Building Rent	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Membership, Evangelism, Events	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00	\$986.00
Christian Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,150.00	\$284.00
Worship - Chancel Flowers	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,042.00
Unbudgeted Income (Past Yr. Pledges)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$490.00
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$282,865.00</b>	<b>\$245,580.00</b>	<b>\$168,735.00</b>

### Expenses: 2019 Estimated Expenses vs. 2018 Budgeted and YTD Actual Expenses

<b>Committee (Elders)</b>	<b>2019 Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>2018 Budget Approved</b>	<b>2018 YTD Expenses as of 8/31/18</b>
Personnel (Jim Hines)	\$195,345.00	\$187,746.00	\$120,814.00
Facilities (Doug Dunlope & Jim Hines)	\$56,920.00	\$53,749.00	\$31,964.00
Christian Education (Kim Wise)	\$7,850.00	\$7,850.00	\$2,390.00
Membership, Evangelism & Events (Matt Borth & Jack Anderson)	\$3,525.00	\$3,525.00	\$1,940.00
Stewardship & Finance (Lori Lampel & Lane Hough)	\$14,385.00	\$14,355.00	\$6,109.00
Outreach (Bill McCormick)	\$6,800.00	\$5,306.00	\$3,011.00
Worship (Phil Nussdorfer & Diana Westfall)	\$6,110.00	\$5,740.00	\$4,208.00
Deacons (Debbie Dunlope)	\$1,030.00	\$780.00	\$300.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$291,965.00</b>	<b>\$279,051.00</b>	<b>\$170,736.00</b>

*Notes: Facilities actual expenses include \$3,150 invoiced late by cleaning service and paid on 9/10/18. The difference between 2019 income and expense will be covered by \$9,100 from dedicated funds. These funds include Property Maintenance, Manna Café, Youth Mission Trip/Camps, Memorial Landscape Garden and Scholarships. The intent of each fund used will be followed. With the exception of the Haffenden Scholarship, none of these funds represent the principal of investments held in the Vanguard account. The 2019 budget does not rely on funds that may result from any excess of income less expense in 2018.*

# Introducing Newly Appointed Deacon Carol O’Kane

I joined First Presbyterian Church 20 years ago and previously served as a Deacon. I grew up in the small town of Toronto, Ohio, and moved to Columbus in 1973. My husband Pat and I have five grown daughters and eight grandchildren. I enjoy outdoor activities – kayaking, swimming, hiking and bicycling--and am also an avid reader, enjoying most types of books, but preferably mysteries and historical novels. We enjoy train traveling and trips to visit family who live in Denver, San Diego, and Hilton Head.

I retired last year from Health Management Systems and am presently working as a part time as a substitute van driver for the newly implemented MyVan transportation services for the Westerville School District.

Through Christ, I look forward to knowing you better.



## New Members!

### **Linda Lewis**

We welcome Linda Lewis back to Westerville and First Presbyterian Church. Linda grew up in this church and is eager to get back to her roots. Linda returns to us from Arizona and recently retired from Roche Diagnostics, where she worked in the IT department. She hopes to reconnect with her heritage here at First Presbyterian and to grow in her faith.

### **Wayne and Rev. Linda Springer**

Wayne and Linda moved to Westerville from eastern Tennessee, but since they grew up in Ohio, they are moving back to familiar territory. Wayne has officially joined the church while Linda, an ordained Presbyterian minister, will place her membership with the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. They both have been helping with Manna Café, and Linda was a guest preacher for us in September. Welcome to both Wayne and Linda!

# Youth Groups

## Discovery Zone

Wednesdays, starting at 4:45 pm

The kids are about to take the church by storm! In our church, we are a family, and we take family very seriously. Everyone has a role to play, including our youth and young people. They are not just the future of the church, they are a part of the church today.

This year, our program, "Team Kid," will help our young friends, preschool (3 yrs) to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, learn to be team players in God's amazing plan here in our own community and around the world. We invite them to join us for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study at 4:45pm. We will be inviting our older youth (7th-12th graders) to serve as helpers during this time.



We will start by gathering in the youth room (which will be renamed by our youth this year since it is no longer blue). This will be a time for us to catch up with one another and get ready for our first activity. Once they all arrive, we will move into practice for the spring musical with Robin Buser. This is always a fun and exciting time as the kids get their wiggles out dancing and singing God's praises. Music will be followed by a Qigong session with Becky Stamm. This session will give the kids a chance to stretch and quiet down before beginning Bible Study.

We will have three Bible Study teachers this year. Megan Teener will lead our preschool class. Kathy Gauen will lead our K-2nd graders, and Pastor Mark will lead our 3rd-5th graders. After Bible Study, Pastor Mark will lead the youth on filling the backpacks for Backpack Bounty (a program that helps ensure children in need get two meals on weekends). Then the adults of our church will serve a wonderful meal. Parents and members are welcome to join us during our meals as we fellowship together at 6:30pm. Dismissal will be at 7pm.







## **Jesus and Me**

### **Sunday Mornings during the Church Service**

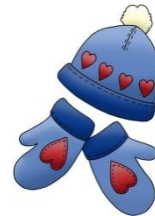
Our Sunday School Program has already started for this year. We are working our way through the Bible stories starting in Genesis. Each J.A.M session is during the worship service, but after the children's focus time. We invite all of the children K-5th grade to join us upstairs in the youth room during this time. Parents may pick their children up there after worship. Our teachers for this year are April Fuller, Julie Borth, and Heather Hicks.

J.A.M will meet only on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month so the children can participate in worship and see how we do things during communion on the first Sunday. This is an important part of learning what it means to be Christian. We do have worship bags for the children during this time. Within each bag is a coloring book for non-readers and a worship book with pages for readers to follow along with the service. We hope that you and your family will find this helpful as we work together to show the young people of our congregation what it means to follow Christ and accept His love. May God bless you. We look forward to seeing you and your child!



## **Pike County Hats & Gloves**

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Sunday, Nov. 4



We will be collecting hats, mittens, socks, gloves, and scarves to take to Pike County beginning Sunday, October 7, through Sunday, November 4. The container will be at the bottom of the south entry stairs, and will be marked: "PIKE COUNTY HATS & GLOVES." THANK YOU!!!!

# Youth Fellowship for October



## **Trunk or Treat** **Sunday, October 28, 6-8 pm**

We are inviting everyone to a Trunk or Treat Party on Sunday, October 28, from 6pm-8pm. Adults, please decorate your car trunk and bring some treats as we welcome the kids from our community and our church to a fun night of dress-up (rainy day spot will be inside the church). The middle and high school youth will be hosting games and activities for the kids. We welcome children of all ages to come and join in the fun. Costumes are welcome, but not necessary.



## **Trip to the Corn Maze** **Sunday, Oct. 14, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

We'll tackle the Lynd Fruit Farm Corn Maze again! We'll head out from the church after worship and have lunch at the site before entering the maze. We'll return around 2:00 p.m. after having successfully traveled through the tangled paths.

## **Confirmation for October**

**Sunday, October 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Church Library**

**Sunday, October 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Church Library**

Confirmation is open to all youth in grades 6-8. Contact Rev. Gauen for more information about our Confirmation Program and its requirements.



## **Acolytes Wanted**

### **Training: Wednesday, Oct. 3, 6:00 pm**

We will once again have our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students serve as acolytes during worship each Sunday, beginning October 7. We will have an acolyte training session for acolytes and parents on Wednesday, October 3, at 6:00 p.m. This is part of the Discovery Zone program, but children do not have to be in Discovery Zone to be an acolyte. After the training, all kids and parents are invited to stay for dinner at 6:30. Even if your child or grandchild previously has been an acolyte, we still want them to attend this training. This is an important opportunity for your child to participate in the life of our church and does require some advance knowledge of what they will be doing. If you cannot make this training event, but your child wants to be an acolyte, please call Rev. Gauen to set up a separate training session. You may sign up for acolyte training by signing the form in the Sign-up Book, calling the church office, or emailing Rev. Gauen at [pastormark@fpcw.us](mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us).

## **Ladies Night Out**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 6:30**

This month, we'll meet at Matt the Miller's Tavern, 1436 Gemini Place (614-841-4430; in front of Costco). All women of the church—and their friends--are welcome! We do have fun! Please let Diana Westfall know whether you are coming. She has graciously agreed to take over organizing this group. Thank you, Diana! And many thanks to Kim Hunt for all her years of guiding this group! (It's like herding cats!)



## **Friday Dine-Out Group**

### **Friday, October 12, 6:30 pm**

The Dine-Out Group will be going to **Wendell's Restaurant** (614-818-0400) in north Westerville at 6:30 pm on Friday, October 12. It is located at 922 North State Street. From Highway 3, turn left at the light just north of Polaris Pkwy toward Meijers. Then turn immediately right and drive right into the parking lot behind several stores. The restaurant faces Highway 3. Invite friends to join you. We have a great time getting to know each other better while enjoying good food. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place with questions or to say whether you will be able to come.

# Vegetarian Dining Group

## Friday, October 26, 6:30 pm

Along with “regular” Dine with 9 Groups and a Dine Out Group, our church offers a dining opportunity for people who either are vegetarians or would like to see what tasty treats people eat when they don’t eat meat.



The past few years, we have had up to 14 people at our veggie meals. We’d love to grow to 15, with *you* as the 15<sup>th</sup>—or 16<sup>th</sup>, or 20<sup>th</sup>, or however many can join us.

Please note: we’re not weird (or *too* weird); we don’t expect people to forego meat for always; actually, few of us are really vegetarians. But we do enjoy the tasty and nutritious meals that result from the variety of dishes we bring to each dinner.

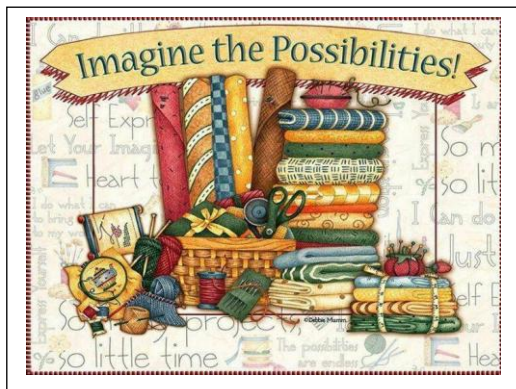
Our first dinner for 2018-19 will be Friday, October 26, at 6:30. For the first time, we’ll meet in Fellowship Hall at the church. (Our homes have been bursting at the seams with 14 diners, so we’re trying a new venue.)

Please join us! For more information, call Beckey Stamm, and you’ll be in for a treat. (Did I say that the people are great, too?)

# Fabrics of Faith

## Monday, October 15, 1 pm

Every three months, Fabrics of Faith meets so we can do needlework, share completed projects, or watch others work. We chat and laugh and enjoy fellowship, whether working or not. We have fun!



We meet quarterly, so please join us in the Fellowship Hall at church on Monday, October 15, 1:00 pm. Watch Sunday’s bulletins and announcements in church for the location.

You don’t have to have a project in hand; you don’t have to know how to do one. We have materials; bring yourself and a smile.

Please contact Beckey Stamm for information or to say you’ll be there. And men—you’re invited, too!

# Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
<b>Tuesday Morning Bible Study</b>	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	“The Spreading Fire-The Book of Acts” Join us this month as we begin a study of the New Testament Book of Acts. See how the church was born in the fire of the Holy Spirit and how that fire spread throughout the world.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	Be sure to join us on Monday, October 22, as we discuss <i>Faith in Words</i> , a collection of writings by a variety of Presbyterian authors.
<b>Sunday Seminar (formerly called the Library Class)</b>	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	The Sunday adult Bible class, renamed Sunday Seminar, is for all who want to understand our faith and apply it to the world in which we live. We are studying <i>Strength to Love</i> , a collection of MLK Jr's sermons.
<b>Circle 4 Women</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	Our Presbyterian Women’s Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Be sure to join us at our next meeting, October 18. Elaine Foley is our study leader.



## Pastor's Page

*“And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.”*

*– I Corinthians 12:28*

Dear Friends:

At the September 18 meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, I was nominated and elected to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery for a term beginning January 1, 2019, and ending on December 31 of that same year. This is a prelude position, for on January 1, 2020, I will automatically become the Moderator of the Presbytery and will serve in that position until the end of 2020. This is a great honor and a great responsibility.

I arrived at this position the same way that the elders and deacons do within our local church: A nominating committee approached me. The Presbytery has a nominating committee, and in its wisdom, decided to ask me to serve in these two roles. Just like elders and deacons do within our church, I considered the invitation and, upon prayer and reflection, I felt that God was indeed calling me to this service to the broader church.

The Vice-Moderator position is designed to prepare one to be Moderator. The Moderator chairs the meetings of Presbytery and works with the Coordinating Team of the Presbytery to set the agenda for each of the Presbytery Meetings. The moderator also serves as the leader of the team that ordains and installs pastors within the Presbytery. This will mean that I will have an extra meeting each month and extra preparation for these meetings. There are other duties for the Moderator, but these are the primary ones. In my year as Vice-Moderator, I will help out in these roles when the Moderator cannot.

This position will take me away from the church and church activities from time to time, although it should not require me to miss any Sunday mornings. I shared this information with the Session before I accepted the nomination, and they offered their encouragement for me to accept this role. I am thankful for their support now and over the next two years.

In the Presbyterian Church, we understand that we are called to positions of leadership by God, through the actions of the body of the church, whether that body is the local congregation or the Presbytery. However, leaders in the Presbyterian Church are not elevated to some special status of prestige. Indeed, as Paul tells us in the verse above, leaders are well down the list of God's appointments, behind Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Doers of good deeds, and Healers. Leaders are needed to help organize and run the church (and the Presbytery), but they are no more important than those in other positions of service. In other words, I can be honored at being selected as a leader, but I shouldn't let it give me a "big head."

Anyway, as I enter this two-year journey, I hope that you all will pray for me and for our Presbytery so that together we can discern God's will for the Presbytery and work wisely and diligently to fulfill that will.

Yours in Christ,

Mark