Remember and Do Not Forget

As we continue the journey through Lent, making our way to the joy of Easter, we are invited in the 8th chapter of Deuteronomy to remember that it is the same God who led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the promised land that still leads us today. Maybe one of the things we can examine during this season of Lent is all the blessings we have and how God has been present to us throughout our lives. Deuteronomy addresses the early struggles of the people of God as well as their growing prosperity. The admonition is for them to remember and not forget: God is leading them and with them through it all.

Deuteronomy 8:2
Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.

Deuteronomy 8:11-13
Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God...(w)hen you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied…

How is God present with you now? How might you acknowledge the blessings God has bestowed upon you? How might you use those blessings to bless others now and into the future? These are just some of the questions Lent invites us to consider. Rather than examining our sin, maybe this year we can examine our blessings, offer a profound thanks to God, and then ask: how can I love God and neighbor with what I have?

Peace,

David

The week of February 18th was gray, rainy and filled with ominous clouds and winds. It was downright depressing. When Sunday arrived, so did the sun. The sudden change was palpable and many of you were remarking what a wonderful thing it was to see sunlight again. When I got home I could see the green shoots of daffodils and tulips rising above the dark soil in the garden. I could also see some of the stalks and branches from last year’s growth would need to be pruned back in order to prepare for new growth.

It occurred to me that these things seemed to encapsulate the challenges of the journey of Lent. For even the gift and beauty of creation blossoming forth cannot happen unless there is a time to lie fallow, to be nourished, and maybe even be pruned back. Lent is not just about what we give up and get rid of, it is a time for nourishment, growth and repairing. Lent is a time to be renewed, to heal and honestly repent of the past so that we may prepare for and welcome the joy of Easter.

Karen
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 4, 2018 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
Sermon: To Live In Freedom - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and Exodus 20:1-17

The most important part of the Ten Commandments is at the very beginning of the passage: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...” What Christians have considered the ten most important commandments of the Old Testament are really just ways to live in and enjoy complete freedom. Moses tells the people: Here’s how you live without guilt, without worry, without fear. Here’s how you live in wholeness and peace and freedom with yourself, your family, your community, and all others. In looking at Exodus 20, we will explore God’s glorious pathway to freedom.

March 11, 2018 - 4th Sunday in Lent
Sermon: The Way to Freedom - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21

In this passage from the Gospel of John we see Jesus portrayed as ‘the new Moses’—the one who leads God’s people out of bondage to freedom. We also see the depth of God’s love for us: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” God’s desire for us is to live in the freedom of grace that transcends all that tries to bind us up in this world. On this fourth Sunday of Lent we’ll explore how Christ leads the way to freedom for us and all people.

March 18, 2018 - 5th Sunday in Lent
Sermon: The Promise of Freedom - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: John 12:20-33 and Jeremiah 31:31-34

On this finally Sunday of Lent, we hear God’s amazing promise offered to an unfaithful people: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” In the Gospel of John we read that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise. Jesus is the promise of freedom for us and all people, even as we continue to sin and fall short of God’s deepest desires for us. Freedom is ours through Christ.

March 25, 2018 - Palm Sunday
Sermon: The Turning Point - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: Mark 11:1-11 and John 12: 12-16

This week we walk into the stories leading to the crucifixion. We start at the palm procession from the gospels we walk in at the turning point. We begin with a moment of celebration, but we soon see that this is the moment at which things move into a different direction. The tougher direction. We come to give thanks for the gift of the Son, mindful that it is a gift offered that comes with a cost for him and a challenge for us. We are invited to ask ourselves where will we be standing in the crowd?

From the Director of Music Ministries

We continue the journey of Lent during the month of March. There are many changes in the music during this season, and for very good reason. Lent is a time of contemplation, meditation, sacrifice, prayer, quiet – we engage this during worship as we recall the events in the life of Jesus during his final days on earth. Of course, we know what will happen on Easter morning. The music will be festive with trumpets, instruments, and wonderful singing! But before Easter, we need the quiet and solemnity of Lent to prepare. So enjoy and fully enter in to this period of Lent, and be ready to rejoice on Easter day.

Yours,
Bill
**Youth Led Worship**

Our Senior High Students have been working on preparing to lead the Arise! service on Sunday, March 4th. We are going off of the lectionary a bit and will focus on the first few verses of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. Most of you are familiar with those words and we are excited to bring you new and creative ways to hear them. Students are also excited to be welcoming our Quest students on this day!

**Work Camp Auction is Coming**

Our SHF students will be heading to Red Wing, Minnesota, for Work Camp in July for two weeks of work in and around the city. We are slated to take about 40 students on the trip this summer!

Our fundraising for this mission experience is focused on the Work Camp Auction, which includes a sit down dinner, silent auction and live dessert auction. Our students will start planning things after the first of the year, we hope that you will put April 15th on your calendar NOW!

If you have items to donate for the Auction now, bring them! More on that next month, but we have space now.

**Sign-Up Parties**

A fun way to support the Youth and have a bit of fun yourself is to sign up for Sign-Up Parties at the Auction! The idea is simple - we have people hosting and you chip in to Work Camp and attend their party!

Crazy Card Party, Saturday, April 28th: Come play Spades in a variety of ways! Prizes are given to the winner and the loser of the night. Hosted by Barb Theerman

Cinco de Mayo Party, Saturday, May 5th Join us for a Mexican themed dinner, Pennington Salsa and of course margaritas! Hosted by Frances Pennington and Ivy Hutchison

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**Children’s Ministry**

**Sunday School**

The month of March will bring our Sunday School group stories from Mark and John. Throughout the month we will learn about the Last Supper, Jesus washing his disciples feet, and we will celebrate Jesus as coming king. Hosanna! Over the four weeks they will learn about Gratitude (Mark 12), Jesus feeding the Disciples (Mark 14), Jesus washing the Disciples feet (John 12) and Palm Sunday (Mark 11).

Our preschool and elementary Sunday School classes will be doing an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 25th during the 10:00 hour. All are invited!

**LOGOS**

Our LOGOS kids are already getting things together for the Spring Musical in April! They have just begun practicing the songs for The Tale of the Three Trees and are excited to bring you that story on April 29th.

LOGOS Themes for this month are:
March 7 - Dr. Seuss Night: Silly made up words will rule the night!
March 14 - Camping Night: We get to pretend it’s Camp K and sing everyone’s most favorite song!

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**Youth Ministry**

**Senior High Fellowship**

We will continue to plan for leading the Arise! service on Sunday, March 11th. We will also start planning for the Work Camp Auction, on April 15th.

Plans are fully in swing for our Work Camp trip this summer to Minnesota. Keep an eye on this space for details about our work as the year goes on!

**Quest (our Confirmation Ministry)**

Our Quest students will be joining the church on Sunday, March 4th! They will be sharing the creed they have written together. We will publish it in the April Kirkwood Pres for those that are not able to attend the worship service.

**Middle School Fellowship**

Our Middle Schoolers meet as a part of LOGOS each week. Our 6th-8th grade students learn a bit each week and play lots of (often loud) games together!
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS LECTURE SERIES: 9:00A.M. in Room 009
March 4, 11 & 18: Through the work of a professor at Washington University, the stark reality of disparities in health care and early childhood education in our area have been shown to be significant and impact the lives of children and adults in significant ways. *Faith and For the Sake of All* is a newly formed organization funded by the Trinity Wall Street and Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves for the expressed purpose of sharing this information with faith communities through education, dialogue, and reflection with the goal of educating and encouraging people of faith to respond in ways that bring about change. Stay tuned for more information about the presenters of this series.

FIREPLACE ROOM SERIES: 10:00a.m. in Room 030
March 11 and March 18: *What's Next?:* An exploration of the concepts of heaven and hell, the life to come, and the after life. These terms describe issues that are explored in various religious and philosophical traditions in the attempt to describe what happens to us after death. We are pleased to welcome Adam Ployd, Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Eden Seminary, who will give us an overview of how these terms have been explored, taught and bandied about over the centuries sharing the history of these terms of the "after-life" in Greco-Roman society, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and then later Christianity.

FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD  10:00a.m. in room 029
The class, *Faith in Today's World*, meets in room 029 on Sundays at 10:00a.m. The topic for discussion in the coming weeks will focus on Adam Hamilton’s work on *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*. The class is open to everyone and the material’s focus is from a family perspective. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Butler at swbutler@gmail.com or Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

NEW SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS
There will be an opportunity for those interested in creating a spiritual formation group. The idea behind spiritual formation is to consider the leadings of the heart through prayer, meditation and study for the purpose of deepening one's faith. Tom and Debbie Wiser Edelstein invite you to join with them on Sunday morning, March 11 beginning at 9:30 in room 028 to share ideas and plan for future meetings. If you have any questions please contact Tom at tedelstein@att.net or Debbie at dwisestl@sbcglobal.net or call Karen Blanchard at the church office.

KirkCare, our local food pantry, is in need of drivers to deliver food monthly to the homes of those designated to receive food. This volunteer work involves going to the designated pantry, gathering the food to be allocated by the size of family and bringing the food to the homes of local families or individuals. The amount of time involved would be determined by your availability to deliver, with each delivery taking about an hour to package up, deliver and drive back to your home. If you are interested in volunteering in this important way, contact church members Steve VanAsdale: mrsavana@gmail.com or Molly Wainwright: mar09gh@gmail.com, both serve on the board. If you would to talk directly to someone who has done this work, contact Al Hinton at alhint@charter.net.

LIVE STREAMING CHURCH SERVICE
Are you going out of town, not feeling well or just not able to be in church on a given Sunday? Don’t worry. Our 11:00a.m. worship service is live streamed just for you! All you have to do is go to www.kirkwoodpres.org and click on Church Service Video Streaming at 11:00a.m. and you are good to go. Also, just below that button is a printable version of the bulletin so you can follow along. Don’t miss out. Give it a try!
LENTEN STUDIES

Saturdays, March 3, 10 & 17, 9:00a.m - 10:15a.m.
If you were to take a walk through the Bible, you might be surprised to find that the words about eating and bread far outnumber the times words are about praying and prayer. Luckily for me, I have concordance and the internet, and together they revealed that the numbers are something like 943 times that we read about the words eating and bread to 520 for use of the words pray, prays and prayer (and one would also be right to assume that the praying words were often used in connection with a meal.) That is essentially the focus of Cynthia Campbell's book, God's Abundant Table. Cynthia Campbell is a Presbyterian minister who has served both as a professor and as a pastor. Her Lenten study reminds us that hospitality, having enough to eat, the building of relationships and breaking bread together are all central to Jesus' teachings and ministry and the gift and meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Wednesdays, through March 21, 9:00a.m. Room 029
Join Dr. Holyan on Wednesdays in Lent for a consideration of Wayne Muller's, How Then Shall We Live? In this book, Muller examines four questions: Who am I? What do I love? How shall I live knowing I will die? What is my gift to the family of the earth? Through reading and discussion, we will explore what it means for us to be alive at this time and how to live intentionally as a people called by God to share our gifts with our neighbors in order to be a part of a more just and loving community of faith. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the hallway.

BOOK GROUPS & STUDIES

TUESDAY MORNINGS
9:00a.m. ROOM 029
We will begin discussing a new book called Paul through Mediterranean Eyes, by Ken Bailey. Paul is an intriguing character who helped to build and shape the early church. He was also well versed in Jewish thought and no stranger to the Greek and Roman culture of his time. Ken Bailey, a Presbyterian minister who lived and taught in the Middle East for many years, shares his insights on the influences that shaped Paul along with an explanation of the meanings behind the stories and events in I Corinthians. Join us beginning Tuesday, March 6 through mid April as we gain deeper understanding of the times and perspectives of the apostle Paul.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP
1:30P.M., Room 029
March 28, 2018
“Dead Wake” by Erik Larsen

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER & BIBLE STUDY
Through March 22
5:30p.m. Gathering Space and Chapel
Join Dr. Holyan on Thursday nights in Lent (February 22 through March 22) for a wonderful homemade dinner at 5:30p.m. and Bible study at 6:10p.m. We will again enjoy great food and fellowship followed by a consideration of the preaching texts for the upcoming Sunday. This is a wonderful time to be open to the Spirit and to share in the formation of the Word. We will be finished at 6:55p.m. to allow choir members who wish to participate time to get downstairs for choir practice.
The Con Spirito Concert Series

Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series

Join us every Friday in Lent for a half hour recital in our Chapel
12:00-12:30.

March 2: Terry Langerak, harp
March 9: Jeanine Garesche’, clarinet
March 16: St. Louis Irish Arts
March 23: Patrick Rafferty, guitar

The Gateway Men’s Chorus presents

“We Will Rise”
Saturday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
The Gateway Men’s Chorus builds a future where no voice can be silenced –
one that celebrates inclusion, amplifies the human spirit,
and values the arts as essential to the human experience.

Maundy Thursday, March 29:
6:30p.m. Soup and bread supper with communion in the Gathering Space followed by a Tenebrae worship service in the Tree of Life Chapel.

Good Friday, March 30:
12:00p.m. The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Durufle’s “Requiem” in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 1:
8:15a.m. Communion Worship in the Sanctuary with music by the Chancel Choir and Clarion Brass.
9:05a.m. Arise! Worship in Fellowship Hall with music by the Praise Team
11:00a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with music by the Chancel Choir and Clarion Brass.

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EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

If you would like to make an Easter Flower Dedication, please fill out and tear off this form. You may mail it to church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

*(suggested donation $25 each)* Due in the church office by Monday, April 10.

In honor/celebration of: _________________________________________________________
or

In memory of: __________________________________________________________________

Given by: ___________________________________________________________________

Phone # and/or e-mail: __________________________________________________________
“Faith in Action”
Mission Trip to Lafayette, LA and BBQ Fundraiser
Kirkwood Pres volunteer mission teams will be returning to Louisiana in April to continue with flood recovery, most recently from Hurricane Harvey.

Our team will be staying at The First Presbyterian Church of Lafayette and will work with “Rebuilding Together Acadania” to rebuild homes. We’re looking for volunteers to join us. Because Lafayette is about 11 hours away, we plan to arrive on April 15, in time for our work dates of April 16-20. We plan to return to St Louis on April 21. Please contact mission trip leaders Liz McCane (lizmccane@gmail.com), 314 965 2709, Linda Jarrett (write4you@sbcglobal.net), 314-956-8386, or Georgina Sikorski (gwsikorski@gmail.com), 678-644 -2782 for more information.

To help support the expense of the mission trip, we have been taking orders for t-barbecue–to-go. Pick up your orders following any of the services on Sunday, March 4.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMING TO ST. LOUIS
Please mark your calendars and save these dates for June 16-23, 2018. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA will be meeting in St. Louis and the Presbytery of Giddings/Lovejoy will be helping to host and plan this event! Volunteer opportunities will soon be available via an on-line sign up tool. Volunteers will be needed to support worship, the business portion of the convention/gathering, special events, hospitality, arrivals, departures.

In short terms – we need lots of smiling and helpful volunteers. –More information and volunteer opportunities will be shared via weekly bulletins, webpage updates and email notices. If you have questions, there are several members of First Pres of Kirkwood that are involved. Jennifer Pitcher, Brad Gift, Sharon Crossiant, Craig Wilde. That’s it for now! –Stay tuned for more info on June 16th-23rd.

SPRING BLOOD DRIVE
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood will be hosting our spring Blood Drive on Monday, April 9 from 2:00p.m. until 7:00p.m. Please come donate if you are able. If not, come keep us company. Contact Peggy Collins with any questions at 314-822-4857.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11!
BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast Club will meet on March 8, the second Thursday in March (just this once), at 8:00a.m. in the Fireplace Room. Our guest speaker will be the ever popular, Dr. Ron Evens, who will continue to bring us up to date on the state of the medical profession. Come join us for fellowship and the best bargain breakfast in the city!! Bring a friend and have some fun!

CONDOLENCES
The congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:
* Lois Neighbour on the loss of her husband, Bert on January 17.
* Marge Ewing on the loss of her husband, Neil, on January 21.
* Barb Byerly on the loss of her husband, Jim, on January 20.
* Cindy Pratt on the loss of her father, Bill, on January 27.
* Robert Trottmann and family following the loss of his father, Stuart on February 11.

PRIMETIMERS
The Primetimers have a unique opportunity to learn about and view the Saint John’s Bible at the St. Louis Basilica in a docent-led tour on March 20 at 10:00a.m. at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica on Lindell. In 1998, Saint John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher, Donald Jackson, to produce a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible, the first of its kind in 500 years. We will explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium. The Bible was a recent gift to the Archdiocese. More information on this amazing set of books is available at archstl.org/bible. Meet at 9:30 at the First Pres parking lot to carpool to the Basilica of St. Louis. We will lunch in the Central West End after seeing the Bible. Space is limited to 10 participants. A sign-up sheet will be available near the welcome desk or contact Stan or Sharon Croissant (314) 909-8136 or scrois@sbcglobal.net.

GYPSY
The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, March 27, 7:00p.m. -8:30p.m. in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hirschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

Meal-A-Month Items
Beef Stew, Canned Carrots, Canned Peaches, Cornmeal Muffins (no eggs required)
Optional: Soup

Congratulations to Kristen and Patrick O'Brien on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Renee O'Brien, born on February 1.
MEMBER CARE
If you or someone you know is ill, in the hospital or in rehab, please let the church office know so that we may lift up our members in prayer and schedule visits if needed. If we don’t know there is a need, we miss the opportunity to provide care to our members. Thank you! (NOTE: If you are in the hospital under a different name than your pastor and church friends know you as, please share that information. Hospitals and care facilities are bound to privacy agreements and do not give this information out.)

In addition, we have a list of members who receive updates about those in need of prayers each Friday with requests that come in between. This is a powerful way to be connected to others at First Pres and provide them with encouragement in times of need and support. If you would like to be a part of our prayer chain, contact Karen at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org. While we do most of our contacts by email, if you do not have email and wish to participate, contact Karen through the church office.

PRAYER SHAWLS
Members of our congregation have made prayer shawls that are available for anyone to take to or mail to someone in their time of illness or need of support. The shawls are soft and provide both physical and emotional warmth for those who are going through illness or a difficult time. They come with a note that explains that it was made by those who offer them as a gift of comfort. If you would like to pick one up, contact the church office for a time to come by to select from available shawls stored in our office.

FROM THE VISITOR/NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE
First Pres is a big church and it is sometimes difficult to put names and faces together. Please take some time in the Gathering Space for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Lent will bring an abundance of visitors and family guests to church. Please extend your best 1st Pres welcome – one in which they really "feel at home!"

VISITOR/NEW MEMBER GATHERING: As you meet and become acquainted with visitors in our church, keep in mind our next Visitor/New Member Gatherings. If you know of someone that is interested in joining, please share with them our next Visitor/New Member informational meetings at 10:00a.m. in the Lounge on 2/25, 3/11, with those interested, joining 3/18.

BE A GREETER! One way for you to participate that helps support our Know no strangers perspective, would be through serving as a door greeter. A great way to renew acquaintances with members, but also a way to welcome visitors to our building and worship services. IF you are interested in door greeting, -- Please look for a sign up sheet in the area between the Welcome Center and the Gathering Space. Consider greeting with a friend – It is a great way to catch up with all the goes on in our busy lives!

Again, - thank you to each of you for your continued smiles and warm welcome to our visitors! – You are helping to grow our church one person at a time!

New Member and Welcome Committee: Brad Gift, Al Murray, Leah Engelhardt, Stuart Jaeger, Al Hinton, Kristy Mitchell, George Durnell, Karen Blanchard
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Reneau (Renee) Schriefe: Renee grew up in St Louis and was raised in the United Church of Christ. She attended nursing school and retired a few years ago, having spent the majority of her career as a Labor and Delivery nurse. She is the mother of four and has been blessed with ten grandchildren. She first attended Kirkwood Pres last spring when her grandson was confirmed. She felt very comfortable here and has been attending ever since. She is joining by reaffirmation of faith.

Jim and Pam Cooper: Jim grew up in Ohio and Florida. He graduated from Georgia Tech and worked for IBM and Northrop Grumman. He served as chairman of African Palms, a church non-profit selling palm crosses made in Tanzania and making grants for basic human need back into Africa. Pam grew up in New Jersey and Venezuela and graduated from James Madison University and Trenton State University. She worked as a teacher of the deaf, and later as an administrative assistant for African Palms. Jim and Pam were married in 1975 and have one child, a daughter, who lives with her family in Kirkwood. Jim and Pam recently moved from Silver Spring, Maryland, to be near their daughter and her family. They have previously been members of Episcopal and Lutheran churches.

Paul and Pat Nuckolls: Paul and Pat have joined the choir and handbells here at First Presbyterian. Paul's hometown is Tulsa, and Pat grew up in Indiana. They met in the choir (and married) at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas. Paul graduated from the University of Tulsa in Electrical Engineering and retired from AT&T Network Planning and Engineering. He is an acrylic painter of landscapes, animals and still life. Pat graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a major in Spanish before attending graduate school at Xavier University in Corrections/Criminal Justice. She has worked as a counselor in a men's halfway house in Cincinnati and in four academic medical institutions, retiring 5 years ago, from SLU. Give Pat a hook and a skein of yarn and she will crochet almost anything. Their kids are all four legged and furry - they have rescued cats and dogs for 30+ years. They love the people, music and sermons at First Presbyterian and are excited to be here. They are transferring from St. Lucas UCC in St. Louis.

Greg and Samantha Sevem: Born in Ohio, and has lived in the midwest, Greg moved to Kirkwood in eighth grade, graduating from Chaminade in 1995. He completed his undergraduate work at St Louis University in accounting. In 2005 he traveled to Peru as part of his masters curriculum and then graduated from Washington University with a Masters in Business Administration. He has since worked as a Consumer Insights Researcher in New York, Chicago and is now happily employed at Nestle Purina. Sam is a native of Kirkwood and graduated from Kirkwood High School in 1997. She graduated college from the University of San Francisco with a degree in Media Studies, and then worked in television in Los Angeles and New York. She moved to Florence, Italy for a semester to study design and then completed a master’s degree in Interior and Environmental Design at Illinois State University. She currently works in the design industry and she and Greg live in Kirkwood with three sons, Rowan and Weston, age 6, and Keaton, age 3. She is very happy to be joining First Presbyterian community.

Paul and Melanie Eschen: Paul and Melanie were married June of 2016, and welcomed their first child Collier last July. Paul, a SLU High graduate, was born and raised in University City and is the Marketing Director for Maritz Travel. Melanie grew up in Kirkville, MO and moved to St. Louis after graduating college where she works for Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Paul and Melanie are both graduates of Mizzou, and love to cheer for the Tigers, walk their golden doodle, Olive, and explore St. Louis with Collier. Melanie comes by letter of transfer from the Presbyterian Church in Kirkville and Paul by reaffirmation of faith.

Marty Sumner: Marty is a newcomer to Kirkwood. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, she worked in public health in Baltimore and Seattle, before moving to Springfield, Illinois where her late husband developed the Department of Vascular Surgery at SIU School of Medicine. They raised three children at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, and one daughter now lives here in St Louis. Marty’s passions include community work, books, and ceramics. She is becoming an affiliate member of our congregation.

Janet Fortune: Janet heard about First Pres from her brother Andy Marx who joined last fall. She grew up in Webster Groves and attended DePauw University and then UMSL for her masters. She taught Physical Education and Health the last 25 years were in the Pattonville School District. Now retired she enjoys volunteering for several organizations, kayaking, traveling and trivia nights. She lives is Shrewsbury with husband John and their two cats Sugar and Spice. She comes by transfer from St. Lucas UCC in Sunset Hills.
Buy Recycled Products: When you go shopping, try to buy products from the market that are made up of recycled materials with minimal packaging (i.e. the product should be environment friendly). Look into manufacturing processes to see if it was made from recycled materials or if the use of plastics or chemicals were involved in its production.
CHURCH STAFF
David A. Holyan, Pastor
Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor
Tom Glenn, Parish Associate
Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries
Travis Evans, Music Associate
Rob Monroe, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Paige Misselhorn, Children’s Ministry Assistant
Sherry Peters, Director, First Presbyterian Children’s Center
Paula Bujewski, Office Administrator
Jane Meppiel, Financial Coordinator
Donnell “Dee” Robinson, Head Custodian
Brian Clay, Custodian