

From: First Presbyterian Church of Benton, Arkansas (etlaurel@aol.com)
To: fpcos@sbcglobal.net;
Date: Wed, March 31, 2010 6:20:09 PM
Cc:
Subject: First Presbyterian Church News

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



First Presbyterian Church News

501 N. East Street, Benton AR 72015
 501-315-7737 fpcos@sbcglobal.net
 The Reverend Dari Victoria Rowen, Interim Pastor

April, 2010

In This Issue

Hello to Everyone
 Singing to the Glory of God
 Prayers of the People
 April Events & Activities
 Our Young People
 Session Notes
 Financial Corner
 Choir Notes
 Building & Grounds Update
 Providence

Hello to Everyone



It is with excitement and joy that I say an official hello to all. The first month of my tenure as your interim pastor has been a good one. I have enjoyed getting to know a few of you and meeting even more of you. I look forward to becoming more familiar with you as our time together advances.

Welcome to the April, 2010 issue of *First Presbyterian Church News*, our monthly online newsletter for all our members and friends of the church.

We appreciate your suggestions, articles, and help in making sure everyone stays well-informed, so give your feedback to any session member or to Emily Laurel, our newsletter coordinator, at etlaurel@aol.com or 501-778-9564. It is very much welcomed as we seek to support our church's mission statement of January 29, 2005: *We exist to glorify God through our faith and worship, to love and serve one another, to surrender to God's call for us, and to live our lives together reflecting God's love and hope in Christ for all people.*

April Events and Activities

Holy Week Activities will be at First Assembly of God Church at 1801 Hot Springs Highway in Benton beginning on Monday, March 29, and continuing throughout Holy Week, culminating on Good Friday. The theme of this year's activities is *The Last Words of Jesus*. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by an ecumenical worship service. The Saline County Ministerial Alliance sponsors this yearly community gathering of people from area Christian churches. First Presbyterian, a member of the alliance, will help with lunch on Thursday.

Easter traditions at First Presbyterian will include:

- April 1 - Maundy Thursday worship service with communion at 7 PM. Message will be "That Last Night." Musical prelude begins at 6:45 PM.
- April 4 - Easter Sunday
 - 6:45 AM - Easter Sunrise service at 213 South Main Street in the lot behind Doyle and Barbara Webb's home. Coffee and donuts will be served.

I would like to tell you a bit about myself. I most recently pastored the First Presbyterian Church in Warren, AR. Warren is about 50 miles south of Pine Bluff. Warren is perhaps best known for its pink tomatoes. They truly are the best of the best. I have already been asked to maintain my connections in Warren so that I can supply pink tomatoes to all. I'll do my best!

Part of the covenant between me and First Presbyterian-Benton is that I will complete Week 1 and Week 2 of the Interim Ministry Training Program. Week 1 was held at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary a couple of weeks ago. The leaders were quite knowledgeable and the learning was intense but filled with applicable and practical information for this interim process in which we find ourselves. I look forward to participating in Week 2 of the training at the end of August at Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina.

Prior to Warren I served a congregation in my home state of North Carolina as interim director of Christian education. This was my first position following graduation from McCormick Theological Seminary. McCormick is a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) located in Chicago, IL. Currently, I am working toward a

- 9:30 AM - Sunday School with Easter egg hunt at 10 AM, with refreshments and fellowship to follow.
- 10:45 AM - Easter Sunday morning worship service will include special music, the flowering of the cross, and communion. Bring your spring flowers to adorn the cross; and, ladies of all ages, be sure to wear your Easter hat. The best hat will win the prize!

First Friday Fellowship is on Good Friday, April 2, at the home of Cary and Angela Shillcutt, 1315 Lyledale, Benton. Call 501-315-2605 for directions. Bring your favorite appetizer or beverage to this monthly informal get-together of friends and family (church family, that is) starting at 7 PM.

Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, April 6, at Western Sizzlin' just off the I-30 North frontage road in Benton. If you can join us, be there at 5:45 PM and plan to see a movie after dinner.

Our **Second Thursday Fellowship** plans to visit Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs on April 8. If more than 20 people have reserved a spot, the group rate cost will be \$6.25 per person. If we do not qualify for the group rate, senior price is \$7.75 and regular price is \$8.75. Please contact Marcia Snyder at 501-837-6211 for additional information.

On Sunday, April 11 from 2 - 3:30 PM there will be a **wedding shower** for Andrea Price and Tyler Drake. Andrea is the daughter of Mike Price. She is registered at J. C. Penney, Walmart, and Target.

Christ, Committees & Chow begins at 6 PM on Tuesday, April 13, with supper followed by our committee meetings. This month the folks from Congregational Life & Fellowship will be cooking up supper for us. Please come if you can; we need your help and support.

Saturday, April 17, from 8 AM - 1 PM, we will have our second annual **Junktique Crawl**. We need your items to be included in this giant rummage sale before April 17; be sure to mark the prices and take them to Room 003 in the basement. We will have a pickup of large items as well, so let Elder Kate Reecer know at 501-860-1856 or k8reecer@sbcglobal.net if you need items to be picked up.

To view the complete calendar of activities for the church online, go to the First Presbyterian-Benton website (www.fpcbenton.com).

Young People at First Presbyterian

Senior High Youthquake is planned for April 9-11, and we have six of our young people planning to attend. A trip to Montreat is planned for July 24-31, also with six planning to go.

Contact Maruka Reecer, our youth director, for additional information and to volunteer your help at any of these events at 501-317-5072 or mreecer@gmail.com.

Session Notes

Our March session meeting was our first with Rev. Dari Victoria. We all enjoyed a fruitful evening's work and even completed our business at a reasonable hour! We are busily getting her acquainted with First Presbyterian and hope that you will join with us in

Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick as well.

My background includes growing up on a tobacco farm and working from sun up to sun down during the harvest season. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with degrees in psychology and social work. I worked as a mental health social worker, as a medical assistant, and as a certified massage therapist before recognizing the call to ministry. While it is a circuitous route to where I am at this point in life, I am confident that the road I took to this place in life is precisely the one intended by God.

Once I finally get my apartment unpacked, I look forward to picking up my hobbies of reading (for fun), going to movies, spending time with friends, and riding my bike.

I look forward to our time together. It will be a time of self-discovery and growth for us all. Let's embrace the journey and hang on for the ride!

Dari Victoria

Please Note: Rev. Dari Victoria provides pastoral care for our church family. If you need assistance with any pastoral concern, please contact Dari Victoria at the church, 501-315-7737 or by cell telephone at 870-820-4616. Otherwise,

welcoming her to our midst. If you have not yet met her, please take time to do so.

One of our young people, Sam Anderson, son of Donna and Ken Anderson, will be participating in Footsteps of Faith, which is a study of the apostle Paul. He will spend a future summer tracing the footsteps of Paul on the other side of the world. Sam is following in the footsteps of another of our young people, Baxter Reecer, son of Elder Kate Reecer and brother of Maruka Reecer, our director of youth & children.

Home communion is being offered for persons unable to attend church on communion Sunday. Please contact Rev. Dari Victoria at 870-820-4146 or Marcia Snyder at 501-837-6211 if you need to receive home communion.

Session approved the purchase of two alpacas through Heifer International at a cost of \$300. Donations from our children's peace pipe offerings given during worship on Sunday mornings and some of the proceeds of the upcoming Junktique Crawl on April 17 will be used to pay for the alpacas. This service project is being conducted by Melia Snyder Kizer, daughter of Jon and Marcia Snyder, in May, 2010.

Session also approved a 50th wedding anniversary celebration to be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010, for Bob and Peaches Calhoun. Other approved items included our annual Mother's Day Luncheon on May 2 and a second "gold party" on May 16.

Please remember that the Deacon's Roundup is now on the last Sunday rather than on the first Sunday of each month. Be sure to bring your food items or monetary donations on the last Sunday (April 28). Check the weekly announcements for what is needed to fill the grocery bags full of food for hungry families and help us help others.

Financial Corner

At the March, 2010 stated session meeting the church's financial situation was reported to be as follows (figures are as of February 28, 2010):

General Funds

Revenues	\$ 20,979
Other Funding	1,600 transfer from capital campaign funds
Expenditures	<u>-20,247</u>
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,332

Capital Funds

Revenues	4,561
Expenditures	-1,600 transfer to general fund (1)
Debt Reduction	<u>-6,000</u>
Over/(Under)	\$ -3,039

(1) Transfer to fund the Director of Children & Youth position

Choir Notes

New choir robes have arrived! Beginning on Easter Sunday the sanctuary choir will have a new look at morning worship. Thanks to the generosity of your gifts provided in memory or in honor of your

contact Marcia Snyder, head of the Board of Deacons, for assistance at 501-837-6211. In addition, you can contact any member of the session or call the church office at 315-7737 Monday-Thursday from 9 AM - 1 PM (office is closed on Fridays).

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)
[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Elijah: Singing to the Glory of God

Several members of our church will be singing at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on Saturday, April 3 with the UALR Community Chorus and concert choir in a presentation of Mendelssohn's Elijah at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock. Tickets are \$10. Call the UALR Music Department box office at 501-569-8993 to reserve your tickets and pick them up during regular business hours.

Be sure to look for Alice Griswold, Barbara Allen, and Ron and Brenda Sasfai, members of our sanctuary choir, who are singing to the glory of God in Elijah!

See you there!

Prayers of the People

loved ones and through the church's memorial fund, new choir robes have been purchased.

There is still time to "purchase" a robe in honor or in memory of a loved one at a cost of \$150 per robe. These robes will be labeled inside the neck with the names of the giver and the honoree/memorialized person. The normal lifespan of a choir robe is about 25 years.

In **Children's Music Time** our kids have been learning a delightful song, "The Bible in Fifty Words," by Dana Livesay and Mark Burrows. It is composed of 25 stories of the Bible in 50 words. The words are: God made; Adam bit; Noah arked; Abraham split; Jacob fooled; Joseph ruled; Bush talked; Pharoah plagued; Sea divided; Tablets guided; Promised landed; Judges led; Saul freaked; David peeked; Kingdom divided; Prophets warned; People exiled; Hope rose; Jesus born; God walked; Anger crucified; Love rose; Spirit flamed; Word spread; God remained! Lisa Hester, our organist and acting director of music ministry, looked up the scriptures for these stories and is making sure to include bits and pieces of them as she teaches this anthem. The "God remained!" is "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Children's Music Time begins at 9:15 AM every Sunday. Make this a part of your family's Christian ministry time.

Anthems

April 4 Pieta, Sanctuary Choir and Karen Coker, Flutist
 Behold the Lamb
 In Christ Alone
 April 11 What the Lord Has Done in Me with Jesus Paid It All
 April 18 God So Loved the World
 April 25 The Lord Is my Shepherd
 May 2 Let Us Be Bread

Building & Grounds Update

Elder Ron Sasfai was hard at work in March on safety and maintenance concerns. On the safety front, our fire alarm system has no means currently for notifying the fire department and church contacts should a fire occur. If no one is near enough to hear the fire alarm sound, fire could destroy our church very quickly. Updating our system will not only give us the means to raise an immediate alarm in case of fire, but also we will save about \$600 annually on building insurance premiums.

Maintenance items include repairs done to the south entrance roof and ceiling tiles, replacing burned-out light bulbs, trimming "sucker" branches from hackberry trees, replacing broken fence slats, and installing risers in the choir area of sanctuary.

Future plans are to remove broken tiles in the fellowship hall, regROUT several areas of tile, and trim crepe myrtle trees. Help is always welcome for our "honey do" list. Contact Ron Sasfai at 501-837-1835 or bsasfai@aristotle.net.

Providence: God at work in our lives

by Elder Emily Laurel



We are praying for our people.

PLEASE PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Pauline Turner, Peyton Owen, Fannie Dorian, Letha Friend, Lila Viner, Horace Lovell, Phyllis Webb, Margaret Downs, Gerald Broadway, Charlotte Morrison, D.L. Webb, Mignon Pevey, Brenda Bryan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Raymond Dobbins family (death of Martha Wilson's brother-in-law), Pate Family on the death of 17-year old Jordan Pate (friend of Kelsey Fields), Joe Grant (friend of Marti and Steve Snellback), Wil Laule, Bill Haas (friend of Ron & Brenda Sasfai), Mary and Chuck Ward and family (death of niece, Allison Stroud), Deven Wyatt (infant nephew of Brenda Bryan), Larry Kreder (friend of Alicia Wheeler), Charles Bessy (friend of Arabelle Wade), Richard Widup (son-in-law of Carl & Cheryl Winters), Charles Patton (brother of April Counts), Immy Roy (friend of Dori Wilson), David Cole, (Barbara Laule's brother-in-law), Vinnie Donnor (Vickie Cowart's friend), Joe Godbehere (friend of Fred Wilson), John Major Depingre (nephew of the Knotts), Judy Jennings (Barbara Galbraith's sister), Phyllis and Hope Hankins (friends of the

Joan DuBois and I began training to become Presbyterian lay pastors in February, 2009, at Lay Academy, a commissioned lay pastor training program held at Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village by the Presbytery of Arkansas. Together we have been learning about many aspects of becoming lay pastors, including the essential tenets or foundations of the reformed faith. I would like to share with you an important part of the foundation of the reformed faith and one way in which it is unfolding in our church to support our commitment to our mission.

The **doctrine of providence** is the conviction that God is personally active in all creation, in nature, and in history. We believe that God guides our lives and provides for our needs. Our lives are not left to fate or blind chance; they are guided by the God who created us. Belief in God's providence does challenge us to cooperate with God's purposes and to see God's will for our lives. Looking back and reflecting on the paths of our lives and of our church's life allows us to more readily see God's hand at work.

There are many examples in our lives every day, but one stands out: First Presbyterian Church will be purchasing two alpacas through Heifer International at the request of a "child of our church," Melia Snyder Kizer, daughter of Jon and Marcia Snyder. Melia, who recently earned a master's degree in counseling at Appalachian State University, will be traveling to Bolivia for a service learning project, which involves the purchase of two alpacas. At the March session meeting we received a request from Melia for help in buying the alpacas; and, as we discussed how to pay for this mission activity, we decided to use the proceeds from our annual rummage sale, the Junktique Crawls, as well as donations from the children's "peace pipe" offerings.

In addition to depending on everyone's tithes and offerings to support our church, over the last couple of years Session has worked to create other ways to supplement our budget. We are able to pay for the alpacas now because God provided a path for Session to bring in additional revenues for the church. After much prayer we created the Revenue Enhancement Committee, chaired by Elder Kate Reecer. The committee has spearheaded several fundraising efforts, including last year's and this year's Junktique Crawl and the recent "Gold Party." Thanks be to God for these revenue-generating ideas and more to come.

Through the work done by church members, God has provided the means for us to support an important request for assistance from Melia. Enabling Melia to fulfill her mission commitment through the money earned by the Junktique Crawl and the peace pipe offerings is but one example of the divine law of providence at work in our lives.

Take a moment to give thanks for God's providence, the promptings of Holy Spirit that are guiding us in our path of service, and the people who carry out God's will for our lives. Thank God for inspiring us to have the energy, resourcefulness, persistence, and motivation to fulfill our mission and purpose.

Take a moment also to commit to support our church's efforts through volunteer activities and in every other way we are able. It takes all of us working together--hand in hand--to do God's will.

Galbraiths), Betty Neely (sister of Brenda Sasfai and Barbara Neely), Mrs. Womack (Barbara Webb's mother), Ken Ball (brother-in-law of Joyce Porter), Dick Anderson (father of Barbara Laule), Carita Taylor (friend of David and Lenore Monkus), Parker Caple, Barbara Sasfai (cousin of Ron), Troy Carmichael (friend of Alicia Wheeler), Shawn Wood.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: Staff Sg .Brad Hancock to Iraq May 2010 (friend of Marti and Steve Snellback), Troy Duncan in Afghanistan and Kevin Creed on joining the Arkansas National Guard (son and grandson of Carolyn Duncan), Tech Sgt. Kurt Tull, stationed in Afghanistan (son-in-law of David and Lenore Monkus); Pvt. Jared Paxton (friend of Barbara Neely); SPC John Vestal (nephew of Hazel Horn); LTC Scott Stanger, stationed in Iraq (friend of the Betts); George Snyder III; Marine Lance Cpl. Branden McCullough; Major Jack Keene, PFC Mike Speer, and PFC Taylor Edmondson with the AR 39th National Guard; USMC Kilo Company; USMC Lance Cpl. Drew Short; and the leaders of our country.

THANKS BE TO GOD: Kelly Bartholomew, USMC, home from Iraq (Jo Wright's nephew); Maj. Daniel Wilborn, home from Iraq; Captain Matthew McMillan, Air Force, home from Iraq (grandson of Earl and

Thank you for taking the time to read *The First Presbyterian Church News*. We hope you are finding it useful and interesting. Please contact Emily at etlaurel@aol.com or 501-778-9564 with your comments, ideas, topic suggestions, and offers to volunteer.

Until next month,

Sincerely,

Emily Laurel & Cary Shillcutt
Communication & Strategic Planning Committee
First Presbyterian Church
501 N. East Street
Benton, AR 72015
501-315-7737 fpcos@sbcglobal.net www.fpcbenton.com

Donna Mobley); Garrick Hogue, home from Iraq; Lance Cpl. Kasey Baker, home from Iraq; USMC Pvt. Nick Speer; 39th Infantry Brigade home from Iraq.

Please contact the church office, 315-7737 or fpcos@sbcglobal.net for any changes.

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to fpcos@sbcglobal.net by etlaurel@aol.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Connecting Spirit | 1150 Charlesea Lane | Benton | AR | 72019