

Subj: **First Presbyterian Church News**
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First Presbyterian Church News

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

February, 2011

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FROM THE PASTOR

I was approached sometime before Christmas by a woman representing a group of women who wanted to begin a women's Bible study group. The group already had a curriculum chosen. They knew when they wanted to meet. They were even

Welcome to the February, 2011 issue of *First Presbyterian Church News*. 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. Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month.

Please Note: The church's events and activities are all listed on the church website, www.fpcbenton.com. Please [click here](#) to go to the current month's calendar. For people without access to the internet, a copy of the calendar is attached to this newsletter.

We Say Goodbye to Maruka



With a heavy heart we come to an important moment in the life of our congregation. The end of January brings with it the closing of the ministry of Maruka Reecer with the children and youth of the congregation. Maruka has served the congregation in this capacity for two years. She is loved by the children and youth of the congregation. They are already missing her as they adjust to the idea of her stepping down

willing to take responsibility for leadership of the study and the provision of refreshments! The group met for the first time in January. There were 12 of us gathered around a circle sharing our thoughts and insights.

I continue to marvel at the willingness of the people of this congregation to take on leadership roles. The day-to-day operation of the church, committee activities, nurture, and worship are all taken seriously. People respond with willingness and sincerity. This gathering of God's children is blessed while being a blessing to others! "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Quick Links...

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Jay Wilborn, 2/4
Braden Allen Owens, 2/5
John Lucas Allen, 2/8
Candy Webb, 2/10
Elizabeth Kraus, 2/11
Trisha Betts, 2/12
Hunter Hogue, 2/15
Marti Snellback, 2/16
Jim Horn, 2/17
Dillon Coker-Quintus,
2/19
Gerald Broadway, 2/20
Ellen Wilborn, 2/20
Horace Lovell, 2/28

from this post. I overheard one person pleading with her to stay because Maruka needs to be the youth director for his children. This is but one example of the ways in which Maruka will be missed. She has formed a powerful bond with the children and youth of the congregation. Perhaps more important, she has led the youth to share a bond with each other.

Thank you, Maruka.

We are thankful and most appreciative for Maruka's service as the Director of Children and Youth. She has accompanied the children and youth through many experiences, whether it is a fun trip to the zoo, providing leadership for Vacation Bible School, attending youth conferences at Montreat, or putting together a collage of frightening Bible stories for Halloween. She led the children and youth through many growth experiences over the last two years.

Thank you, Parents.

Led by Christian Education committee members, the parents of our children and youth responded to Maruka's resignation by coming together to plan for 2011 and beyond. They discussed how best to handle responsibilities for youth and children's programming without a paid staff member in the lead.

The response of the people was truly inspirational. The needs of the children and youth were listed on poster paper. As the needs were stated, people were immediately responding, "I can do that!" or "I'll take care of that!" There was even a couple at the meeting (who have already raised their children) declaring their commitment to the youth program for one year. No teeth had to be pulled or arms twisted. People readily rose to the challenge. What a blessing!

Speaking on behalf of the congregation and the younger members in particular, Maruka, take this message with you:

Maruka, we love you.
Maruka, we thank you.
Maruka, we will miss you.

Blessings, *Dari*

Choir & Music Notes from Lisa



Music Specials for February

February 6 - In Remembrance of Me
February 13 - The Gift of Love
February 20 - Prayer of Saint Francis
February 27 - His Eye Is on the Sparrow

SANCTUARY CHOIR rehearsal will begin at 6:30 p.m. from February 2 through March 2 while Lisa participates

Happy Anniversary to:
Ray & Faith Hogan, 2/4
Lance & Angela Pelton,
2/12

Fred & Dori Wilson, 2/12

Prayers of the People



Please pray for
members of
our church family:

Pauline Turner, Lila Viner, Horace Lovell, Phyllis Webb, Margaret Downs, Gerald Broadway, Charlotte Morrison, D.L. Webb, Mignon Pevey, Brenda Bryan, Fannie Dorian, Jim Porter, Barbara Galbraith, Peyton Owen, Chuck Ward, Linda Stewart, Parker Caple, Pat Plumridge.

Carl Berry, friend of Linda Stewart, Caroline Grubb, friend of Henry Griswold, Jessie Neel, mother of Jo Wright, LaDonna McCormack, friend of Arlene Rainey; Fred and Marla Bush, Arlene Rainey's nephew; Magan Stewart; Charles Patton, brother of April Counts; Janice Parker, mother of Lisa Hester; Courtney Spradlin-Hutchinson, friend of Kelsey Fields; Patty Felton; Joseph Womack, father of Barbara Webb; Jim and Druetta Craig, friends of Tim and Jo Wright; David Winters, son of Carl and Cheryl

as Music Director for the Royal Players' production of *Godspell*. There will be no rehearsal on Ash Wednesday, March 9, but the choir will be singing during the special Ash Wednesday service as we begin our Lenten journey together. On March 16 the Wednesday evening choir rehearsals will return to 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC TIME

is continuing during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School hour, so make plans for your child to attend Sunday School (there are some Sunday School classes for you, too).

HANDCHIME 101 has been rescheduled to February 10 in conjunction with Second Thursday Fellowship Noon Potluck. Everyone available during the daytime is welcome to come to the Noon Potluck and to stay and discover that you do not have to have any musical ability to play handchimes. Join the fun!!!!

ANTHEMS. The following choir anthems are available to be purchased *in honor of* or *in memory* of someone special in your life. Each choir anthem will be affixed with a label showing that "This anthem is given to the glory of God in *honor or memory* of by" Also on the day it is sung, a similar announcement will appear in the bulletin. Contact Lisa if you are interested or have questions.

CDs of the following songs are available to help you choose which choir anthems you wish to purchase for the church:

\$40.50- Wonderful, Merciful Savior - to be sung during Lent
\$40.50- I Will Rise - to be sung on or after Easter
\$39.50- The Risen Christ- to be sung on or after Easter
\$35.20 - Lord, Be Glorified (has Canon in D as part of the music)

- - to be sung on Mother's Day

\$42.60- You Are Mine- for confirmation, baptism or anytime
\$39.50- Be Still- good anytime

Financial Corner

The church's financial situation was reported to be as follows (figures are as of December 31, 2010):

General Funds

Revenues	\$ 137,881	
Other Funding	10,400	transfers from capital campaign funds - \$9,600 and Stewart Trust - \$800
Expenditures	<u>- 148,949</u>	
Over/(Under)	\$ - 668	

Capital Campaign Funds

Revenues	31,972
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Winters; Mark Malbrough, friend of Donna Anderson; Gary Wallis, friend of Linda Stewart; Joyce Dobbins and Billie Mungle, sisters of Martha Wilson; Brennan Jennings, grandson of James Jennings; Betty Neely, sister of Brenda Sasfai and Barbara Neely; Ernestine Dunn, mother of Frank Dunn; JoLynn Gibson, friend of Alice Griswold; Penny Garver, friend of Jo and Tim Wright; Charles and Cindy Bessy, friends of Arabelle Wade; Richard Widup, son-in-law of Carl and Cheryl Winters; Jimmy Roy, friend of Dori Wilson; David Cole, brother-in-law of Barbara Laule; Joe Godbehere, friend of Fred Wilson; John Major Depingre, nephew of Dick and Madelyn Knott; Judy Jennings, sister of Barbara Galbraith; Ken Ball, brother-in-law of Joyce Porter; Carita Taylor, friend of David and Lenore Monkus; Barbara Sasfai, Ron Sasfai's cousin; Shawn Wood.

Please pray for our military:

Jared Paxton, friend of Barbara Neely; Troy Duncan, Afghanistan, son of Carolyn Duncan; Kevin Creed, AR National Guard, grandson of Carolyn Duncan; PFC Taylor Edmondson, AR 39th

Expenditures	- 126
Transfer	- 9,600 to General Fund
Debt Reduction	<u>- 10,000</u>
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,246

If there are any questions about the above information, contact Jimmy Fields at jfields@aristotle.net or by telephone at 501-425-9279.

The 2011 budget, a detailed financial report, and a spreadsheet are available in the church office and in the narthex. Please read these documents to bring yourself up-to-date on how our contributions are being used for God's purposes.

Notes from a Session Member

What will the Love of Christ look like at First Presbyterian Church, Benton to the greater community and those who come here to be spiritually fed? That question was asked in last month's newsletter, and now I am noticing ways in which First Presbyterian's ministries already are feeding us spiritually. Yes, we usually share a meal together or at least have snacks, but what is most important is that we are opening our doors and our hearts to others in an important ministry--one of presence!

The chili cook-off is a good example. Not only was it a fun evening that was a huge break from everyone's nightly routine, but also it helped our Young Presbyterians financially, gave our kids a safe place to go on Friday night, and offered a time of fellowship for our church family.

Handchime 101, scheduled for the February 10 Thursday Fellowship Potluck, is another example of ministry to each other and the community. It combines Lisa Hester's ministry with the deacons' ministry in a very special experience for those able to get together during the daytime. We are very fortunate to have such leadership with our music ministry and our Board of Deacons ministries.

Yet another example of a ministry that could turn out to be an important way to serve our community is the work being done by our Emergency Preparedness Task Group. Session has approved our recommended course of action, which will ultimately result in greater safety for each and every one of us willing to take the steps necessary to protect ourselves, our church, our homes, and our families should disaster strike. The task group is working on mapping the location of all member households, and we will soon be planning how to meet the special needs of our church members. If you have not yet filled out the "In Case of Emergency" form for your household, blank forms are available in the church office and in the narthex. Please turn in your completed form at the church office as soon as possible.

According to the *Book of Order*, G-5.0102 Membership as Ministry, "a faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of his Church. Such involvement includes: a. proclaiming the good news, b. taking part in the common life and

National Guard Kilo Co., USMC; Chris Red and Tim Taylor, Kosovo, friends of Russell and Trisha Betts; Major Jack Keene; Kelly Bartholomew.

Remember the leaders of our country. We pray that God will guide this nation in ways of justice and truth and establish peace among us.

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

FYI

First Presbyterian's 2010 Annual Report was distributed at church on Sunday, January 30, after the congregational meeting to elect our 2011 Nominating Committee.

worship of a particular church; c. praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church; d. supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents; e. participating in the governing responsibilities of the church; f. demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church; g. responding to God's activity in the world through service to others; h. living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life; and i. working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment."

The ministries mentioned above as well as countless other actions taken by individuals and groups within our church are all ways in which we fulfill our callings to love and serve the Lord and the requirements of the *Book of Order*. Each of us has an important place in meeting the needs of our fellow church members and friends as well as those of the larger community. Thank God for all of you who serve, whether it be serving at CJOHN or Safe Haven, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, working on a special project, etc. For those of you feeling the prompting of Holy Spirit to come forward to serve, just come to our Second Tuesday Committee or Ministry Team meetings and you will be rewarded with many blessings as you go about the Lord's business!

Your comments, suggestions, ideas, and participation are most welcome!

Blessings, *Emily*

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 & Jon Snyder
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