

Subj: **First Presbyterian Church News**
 Date: 3/1/2010 9:25:39 A.M. Central Standard Time
 From: etlaurel@aol.com
 To: etlaurel@aol.com

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



The First Presbyterian Church News

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

March, 2010

In This Issue

OUR NEXT STEPS
 March Events & Activities
 Young People at First
 Presbyterian
 Notes from a Session Member
 Financial Corner
 Choir Notes
 Building & Grounds Update
 Holy Week at First Presbyterian

OUR NEXT STEPS



The Reverend Dari Rowen joins us officially on March 1 as our interim pastor, and will conduct her first worship service on Sunday, March 7. She is a gifted preacher with a conversational style. See you March 7!

Come and meet Pastor Dari at **First Friday**

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

We would like to offer more prayer opportunities and are considering a **military prayer list** as a starting point. Please take the time to let Emily Laurel (etlaurel@aol.com) know whether you would be interested in having the names and other particulars about members of the military to be included for a prayer list. If approved, Session will decide the location of the military prayer list (members only, password protected section of our website and/or this newsletter, etc.).

We appreciate your suggestions, articles, and help in making sure everyone stays well-informed, so let Emily know at etlaurel@aol.com or 501-778-9564 or any other session member with your feedback. 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.

March Events and Activities

Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, March 2 at La Valentina, a new Mexican restaurant (formerly Dizzy's) near the Wal-Mart in Benton. If you can join us, be there at 5:45 PM and plan to see a movie after dinner.

First Friday Fellowship on March 5 will be a great chance to get acquainted with the Reverend Dari Rowen, our interim pastor, and to visit with other friends and neighbors. Bring your favorite

Fellowship on March 5 at 7 PM at the home of Bob and Emily Laurel and Pauline Turner. They live at 1150 Charlse Lane, Benton, AR 72019, which is in Wellington Pointe subdivision.

Our **2010 Nominating Committee** is now formed with Elders Emily Laurel and Tim Wright, Deacon Sam Parnell, choir member Arabelle Wade, Presbyterian youth James Hogue, Barbara Webb from the Genesis Class, Donna Mobley from the Smith Class, and Jo Wright from the Generations Class.

Please keep this group in your prayers as they prepare to do their work in forming the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and in nominating the next class of elders and deacons to lead our church into the future.

Reminder: Pastor Dari is now providing pastoral care for our church family. If you need assistance with any pastoral concern, please contact Pastor Dari at the church, 501-315-7737 or 870-820-4616. Otherwise, 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-Wednesday from 9 AM - 1 PM (office is closed on Thursdays and Fridays).

appetizer or beverage to Bob and Emily Laurel's and Pauline Turner's home at 1150 Charlse Lane in Wellington Pointe, near Highway 5 and Kenwood in Benton. Everyone is invited to this monthly informal get-together of friends and family (church family, that is) starting at 7 PM.

C to the Third Power (Christ, Committees & Chow) begins at 6 PM on Tuesday, March 9, with supper, followed by our committee meetings. This month the folks from Stewardship, Building & Grounds will be cooking up supper for us. Please come if you can; we need your help and support.

During this Lenten season please come to our **Lenten season study**, a series led by Barbara Webb offered on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM for supper, followed by the evening's lesson. The study is focusing on **Five Spiritual Practices for a Fruitful Congregation: Radical hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service, and Extravagant generosity**. The evening meal is being prepared by Congregational Life & Fellowship on March 3, Communication & Strategic Planning on March 10, by Stewardship, Building & Grounds on March 17, and by Christian Education on March 24 and March 31.

To view the complete calendar of activities for the church online, go to the FPC-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.

Our PYF was very busy in February with the PYF luncheon on February 7 and Versacce's Italian Extravaganza on February 13. Versacce's earned over \$800 for the youth of our church.

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.

Notes from a Session Member

As mentioned last month, we were all grateful to begin this year "in the black." In spite of expensive repairs to some of our kitchen equipment, we remain in the black. If you are a person who prefers for your financial contribution to be used to support our church building and are considering making a donation to the church, during the coming months we will be needing roof repairs and either repair or replacement of our ovens and ice machine. Ron Sasfai, co-chair of Stewardship, Building & Grounds, asks that you mark your donations accordingly if you wish your contribution to be used in a "brick and mortar" way.

Ron also reports that he is working on getting someone to monitor our fire alarm system. Currently, if we have a fire and the alarm is activated, a siren sounds; but, unless someone is actually in the building at the time, there is no one to call the fire department. Let Ron know if you have any suggestions for a company to monitor

How to Get to Know your Pastor

Source: *The Presbyterian Handbook*

Pastors play an important role in the daily life of your congregation and the community. Despite their churchly profession, fancy robes, and knowledge of Greek, pastors experience the same kinds of ups and downs as everyone else. They value member efforts to meet, connect with, and support them.

Connect with your pastor after worship. After the worship service join others in line to shake the pastor's hand. Sharing a comment about the sermon, readings, or hymns lets the pastor know that his or her worship planning time is appreciated.

Pray daily for your pastor, because he or she doesn't just work on Sunday. Your pastor has many responsibilities, like visiting members in the hospital, writing sermons, and figuring who can help drain the flooded church basement. In your prayers, ask God to grant your pastor health, strength, and wisdom to face the many challenges of leading a congregation.

Ask your pastor to share with you why he or she entered ordained ministry. There are many reasons why a pastor may have

our alarm system.

Ron has been very busy with getting our facilities in tip top shape, but he cannot do it without us. He is calling for help from us to join the Heavenly Dusters and those folks who might be interested in our "Adopt a Spot" campaign. Heavenly dusters are already at work, so let Ron know of your willingness to help out. And, if you like to set your own schedule, consider adopting a spot (a flowerbed, a section of the church, etc.). You can do your work to take care of your spot at your convenience, without waiting for an invitation or having to keep to anyone else's schedule. Contact Ron to offer your help or choose your spot now.

Kate Reecer, co-chair of Congregational Life & Fellowship, reminds us that the **Second Annual Junktique Crawl** is coming up on Saturday, April 17, from 8 AM - 1 PM. During your spring cleaning, remember that one person's trash is another person's treasure. Bring your donations to the church and put them in Room 003 in the basement. Do not leave them in the main floor hallway. Also, it would be really helpful if you could price your donations (smallest increment \$.25 or if worth less, grouped with other items). Please keep large items at home to be picked up during the week of April 17 (make sure to let us know so your pick-up can be scheduled). As you can see, this important fundraising activity takes a lot of time and energy, so plan now to attend and to volunteer.

Good news! Our water fountains have been turned back on. Drink deeply and enjoy.

Financial Corner

At the February, 2010 stated session meeting the church's financial situation was reported to be as follows (figures are as of January 31, 2010):

General Funds

Revenues	\$ 12,009	
Other Funding	800	transfer from capital campaign funds
Expenditures	<u>-10,648</u>	
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,161	

Capital Funds

Revenues	2,677	
Expenditures	-800	transfer to general fund
Debt Reduction	<u>-4,000</u>	
Over/(Under)	\$ (2,123)	

Choir Notes

A Meditation For The Choir Family

To be in a choir is to be part of a family,

a singing/ringing family
 a Christian family
 a committed family
 a caring family
 a praying family

enrolled in seminary to become an ordained minister. Be prepared for a story that may surprise you.

Stop by your pastor's office to talk, or consider making an appointment to get to know him or her. Pastors welcome the opportunity to connect with church members at times other than worship. As you would with any drop-in visit, be sensitive to the fact that your pastor may be quite busy. A scheduled appointment just to chat could provide a welcome break in your pastor's day.

Daylight savings time begins at 2 AM on Sunday, March 14. Spring forward; fall back, so set your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 13.

A Lenten Prayer

Lord Jesus, let me travel this Lenten journey with You.

Let me kneel beside You in the Garden.

Let me stand with You before Pilate and help You carry the cross to Calvary.

Let me hear You cry out in those last moments and let me weep with those who gather at the foot of the cross.

Make it a new story for me, Lord, this year so that I can sing it and tell it and live it

a joyful family
a fun-loving family

To be in a choir is to minister to others through song.
To be in a choir is to be blessed.

Choirs Available

The Sanctuary Choir meets at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays.

The Handchime Choir is for 8th graders to adult and meets on Wednesdays beginning March 3 at 8:00 PM (after Sanctuary Choir rehearsal).

Children's Music time is 9:15 AM on Sundays.

Interested in playing a musical offering or singing a solo in worship? Contact Lisa at lphester@juno.com.

Sanctuary Choir Anthems for Lent/Easter

March 7 - How Beautiful

March 14 - Walking in Faith

March 21 - Give Me Jesus--Sanctuary Choir with Emily Laurel, soloist

March 28 - Antiphonal Hosanna

April 4 - Pieta with Karen Coker, Flutist In Christ Alone
Behold The Lamb

Building & Grounds Update

Update to the roof situation: Roofers completed repairs to shingles on the roof over the south entrance. It turned out that old shingles had to be removed from around the roof equipment, a rubber membrane (sticky on both sides) and new shingles installed, and every shingle caulked, along with extra caulking done around the equipment. Also, the flat roof above the storage room in the choir loft area had water under the membrane, and the original membrane was coming up. The roofers removed the old membrane and flashing, installed a new membrane and redesigned the flashing to expel the water (the old flashing did not have escape routes for the water). The cost for repairs is approximately \$900.

Yes, it is that time again. Spring is just around the corner, and it is time to refresh everything, just as God does with the earth. In the past a number of our ladies in the congregation accepted the challenge to become "Heavenly Dusters." No, they did not receive any special credits from God; that's not how it works. However, they did feel called to spread Murphy's Oil on the baseboards and church pews and to dust and apply the oil on the woodwork in the front of the sanctuary; some decided to remove the candle wax from the rugs and pew cushions; while others cleaned the kitchen and pantry and "spruced up" the other rooms.

So, become a Heavenly Duster; it will be good for you and for the church. Heavenly Dusters do not meet at any special time; it's when they have the time and feel like spring cleaning God's home. Once their areas are identified, it is up to the Heavenly Dusters to make it happen. We can have teams, friends working together, people

with a real sense of Your
suffering
Your sacrifice
and Your pain. Amen.
Contributed by Lisa Hester

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

working alone; it's your choice.

Call me, Ron Sasfai, at 501-837-1835 to set up a time to meet ONE TIME ONLY to plan our attack--no food, no special events; just a planning session. The more the merrier and it's quicker. Invite your friends and know that I will help. I do know how to clean after being well-taught by my mother and spending four years in the U.S. Navy--Mama was worse than the Navy--but I learned from her.

If you don't feel cut out to be a Heavenly Duster, here are some other ways that you can help:

- We need a pressure washer and person to use it to clean our sidewalks and main entrance--this is a good reason to purchase that pressure washer you have been wanting;
- We need volunteers to regROUT the tile in the fellowship hall;
- We need people to inventory the contents of the entire church;
- We need volunteers to "adopt a spot." If you are an Adopt a Spot veteran, please step forward to adopt a spot and be a wonderful example to others while serving your church.

To volunteer, please contact Ron Sasfai at 501-837-1835 or by email at bsasfai@aristotle.net.

Holy Week at First Presbyterian

There are opportunities for worship during Holy Week (March 28 - April 4) throughout Saline County and at First Presbyterian.

During Holy Week we will have worship services at First Presbyterian on Palm Sunday, March 28, Maundy Thursday, April 1, and on Easter Sunday, April 4. Detailed information will be provided soon via email and in the weekly announcements.

Holy Week services are offered through the Saline County Ministerial Alliance at noon each weekday with a worship service and meal. More information will soon be provided as soon as possible, also via email and in the weekly announcements.

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](tel: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

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to etlaurel@aol.com by etlaurel@aol.com.

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

Email Marketing by



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