

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



First Presbyterian Church News

November, 2009

In This Issue

Our Next Steps
Nov Events & Activities
Thanksgiving & Stewardship
Notes from a Session Member
Financial Corner

OUR NEXT STEPS



Jimmy Fields, chair of the Session's interim pastor search committee, reported that he expected the church's letter to Presbytery initiating our search for an interim pastor to go out the early part of November.

Our nominating committee will soon be working on candidates for our pastor nominating committee (PNC). At Presbytery the Committee on Ministry (COM) presented a workshop on the pastor search process. Two areas were especially emphasized: 1) qualifications (committee members should be computer

Welcome to the November issue of *First Presbyterian Church News*, our monthly online newsletter for all our members and friends. Thank you for the feedback on our October issue, and thank you to those who have let us know they will accept their newsletters by email. That is a great savings for us in time, energy, resources, and money. You will see two new features that we expect to appear each month: These are **Notes from a Session Member** and **Financial Corner**. We hope that you will find these new features as well as our other articles interesting and useful.

Please contact Emily Laurel at etlaurel@aol.com or 501-778-9564 or Cary Shillcutt at cary.shillcutt@us.army.mil or 501-315-2605 if you wish to make suggestions, write articles, or contribute in any way to making sure everyone stays well-informed.

November Events and Activities

Lots is happening this year during the month of November. Please mark your calendar especially for some key days in November: Our annual **Thanksgiving potluck** lunch will be on November 15 with the **Hanging of the Greens** and decorating the sanctuary at 3 PM; **Christmas DeLights** on November 20-21; and the **first Sunday of Advent**, which falls on November 29. Please join with us in sharing the joy of this time of the year with your church family if you can. If you cannot, be with us in spirit and remember us in your prayers.

Thanksgiving time at FPC means we will have the chance to enjoy the fun and excitement of our second annual Christmas gala, called **Christmas DeLights** this year. Once more, Elder Kate Reecer, head of the Revenue Generating Task Force, is spearheading our celebration, which is also an important fundraiser. We will enjoy a great musical experience featuring Lisa Hester's magic fingers playing the Jardine pipe organ on Friday night, November 20, and then we will have a full day of delicious goodies, great crafts, many Christmas trees and decorations, a silent auction, and much, more on Saturday, November 21.

November signals the beginning of the Advent Season with its colorful and exciting events and activities. To view the complete calendar of activities for the church online, go to the FPC-Benton website (www.fpcbenton.com).

Thanksgiving and Stewardship

literate and have ready access to online capability; there should be a good writer included; and members should be available to meet regularly and to travel); and 2) personal characteristics (members should be people who can maintain the strictest confidentiality due to the extremely sensitive nature of the assignment).

Meanwhile, the Reverend Dick Knott is filling the pulpit and is providing pastoral care for our church family for the time being. If you need assistance with any pastoral concern, please contact Rev.

Dick at home at 501-778-4366 or at 501-317-8448 (cell). You may also 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.

We are grateful that Rev. Dick agreed to come out of retirement to offer his insights from the pulpit as well as his pastoral care for our congregation.

But he and his wife Madelyn are doing even more: They are opening their home to our church family and friends on Friday evening,

Here at FPC-Benton at this time of year we traditionally take time to look back and give special thanks for the accomplishments and blessings we have enjoyed each year. This year we can include the completion of our new playground, the continuing mission activity with Kids Day Out, having Youth Director Maruka Reecer for our young folks, our new LED sign that shares our faith with people on the street, and the list goes on and on. We also give thanks for the five years of loving service of the Reverend Kris Crawford, who is now settled in her new home in Louisiana, and for the heartfelt service of the Reverend Dick Knott, who has stepped up to the plate with his insightful and provocative sermons.

This is also the time of year for our annual stewardship drive. This year's theme is PRAY, STUDY, WORSHIP, SERVE, GIVE, INVITE, ENCOURAGE. You notice the first element of our theme is PRAY. As Rev. Dick Knott suggested in a recent sermon, wonder what would happen if each of us picked five people from church and prayed for each one individually every day? Please consider taking that on as a part of your commitment to stewardship of our church.

The second element of our theme is STUDY. Take the time to study the 2010 budget information posted in the foyer adjacent to the sanctuary. It includes many notes to help you clearly understand the budget items. With your STUDY of our financial picture, you may find that you have questions. Please ask every question you have. It is much better to have your questions answered now rather than later wondering why something was or was not included or why certain things were or were not done.

Although stewardship does involve supporting our church's financial needs (GIVE), it is also about our love for God (WORSHIP), our love for one another (ENCOURAGE), our concern for those who do not yet know Christ's love (INVITE); and it's about meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of others (SERVE).

Please turn in your pledge card on Sunday, November 8; and if you are not current with this year's pledge, do what you can. But most of all, PRAY. Pray for your church family and pray for the five (or more) people you have chosen as your prayer subjects. You'll be glad you did.

Notes from a Session Member

Our stated session meetings are always very interesting, but our October meeting was especially so for several reasons. In addition to all the committee work being done and other activities to discuss, this meeting was our first with our moderator, Jim Miller. With his sure, steady guidance, we completed our business in a timely fashion.

It is time now to **budget for 2010** for each session committee. There was a lively discussion, which ended with Moderator Jim Miller leading us in prayer for our church. One thing we discussed was how very important it is for us to be able to continue to have leadership for our young people. To see the vitality and creativity that our kids are expressing with Maruka's help means so much to every one of us--for these children are the future of our church family and our

November 6, for First Friday Fellowship.

For those who do not usually attend this informal monthly gathering of folks who enjoy a pleasant and comfortable evening together at a different home each month, you are missing a great opportunity to experience the fellowship. It's a good time to get to know and enjoy people from your church family. The food is wonderful and the company delightful!

Join us at 7 PM on Friday, November 6, at Dick and Madelyn Knott's home at 3800 Legacy Village in Benton. Their home number is 501-778-4366 if you get lost. Please bring your favorite beverage or dish for pot luck. If you can't, come anyway! And--bring a guest or two!

Please include Rev. Dick as well as our elders and deacons and our church family in your prayers.

Pray also for God's guidance for our church's nominating committee as they fulfill their responsibilities in nominating the people who will form our pastor nominating committee (PNC).

Quick Links...

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

community. Giving them everything we can to help them build a firm foundation for the future is critical for them and for every member of our congregation.

Likewise, having someone to staff our church office is very critical as we recognize that virtually any pastoral candidate would dismiss us from serious consideration without administrative support. Our volunteers and staff do a wonderful job, but we must be able to offer the continuity of an administrator for our church. The Youth Director position and a part-time administrative position are priorities for the 2010 budget, so remember that as you are determining your pledge for the year 2010.

We also discussed the importance of having a plan to help us take care of each member of our congregation in case of a larger need, such as occurred during ice storms or other natural disasters in past years. Even though this is not a very pleasant subject to tackle, just like any other family, we must think ahead and plan our actions to anticipate many contingencies.

A group of Session members from Worship & Music, Congregational Life, Communications & Strategic Planning, and Stewardship & Building & Grounds and a member from the Board of Deacons will be working on a plan in the coming months. If you have ideas for us or are interested in participating, please contact Emily Laurel at 501-778-9564 or etlaurel@aol.com. Please pray for us as we go about the business of caring for you.

I have saved the best for last! The last thing we decided during the October session meeting was for each individual session member to **pray daily** for individual members of our congregation. Remember, our theme for the year 2010 is PRAY, STUDY, WORSHIP, SERVE, GIVE, INVITE, ENCOURAGE; and it begins with prayer.

Please join with us in our prayer life. When you come to church, look around and notice those who are not attending and say a little prayer for them. If you have not been participating in the life of the church for some reason, pray for God's loving grace and guidance. If you are not accustomed to praying, you could say something very simple, like: "Dear God. Thanks for your loving care and guiding hand in my life. I feel guided now to hold (name of person) in the light of your boundless love and pray your blessings on him or her now. Thank you, God. Amen."

Financial Corner

Our year-to-date financial situation is:

Operating Funds	
Revenues	\$ 147,802
Expenditures	<u>155,268</u>
Over/(Under)	(7,466)
Capital Funds	
Revenues	29,217
Expenditures	<u>13,695</u>
Over/(Under)	15,522

Join Our Mailing List!

Thanks to a small group of dedicated volunteers, the church continues to function. We thank each of you for your service.

You are invited to examine your available time, talents, and resources and consider whether you might be able to contribute in some way to making our church home a better place. We need your help!

We hope that this newsletter is useful and interesting. Please contact Emily at etlaurel@aol.com or 502-778-9564 or Cary Shillcutt at cary.shillcutt@us.army.mil or 501-315-2605 with your comments, ideas, topic suggestions, and offers to volunteer.

Thank you for taking the time to read the *First Presbyterian Church News*.

Until next month,

Sincerely,

Emily Laurel and 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 Charlse Lane | Benton | AR | 72019