

Subj: **First Presbyterian Church News**  
 Date: 6/1/2010 1:35:43 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
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## First Presbyterian Church News

501 N. East Street, Benton AR 72015  
 501-315-7737 [fpcos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcos@sbcglobal.net)  
 The Reverend Dari Victoria Rowen, Interim Pastor

**June, 2010**

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### Dari's Update

I had the privilege of traveling to Chicago the last week of May. The "windy city" was absolutely beautiful and WARM. This trip the temperatures were in the low 80s and the sun shone brightly! It was nice walking the two miles to class each morning, and it was a

### We are trying something new!

There is newness in the air, and I mean more than the floating vestiges of the cottonwood trees! Our new summer schedule began Sunday, May 30. It was tough for some, but people got to church earlier and worshipers gathered at 9 AM rather than the usual 10:45 AM. We are trying something new with the shift to an earlier service between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. The famous last words of the church ("we have always done it that way") are pushed aside as we brave new territory.

Change is tough for nearly everyone. There are personality types who enjoy trying new things and do so with abandon. However, this does not describe most of us at First Presbyterian or even most people. I'm optimistically looking forward to the summer and the new schedule. There are those of us who aren't particularly morning people and have not embraced the notion of early church with outstretched arms; while at the same time there are those of us who look forward to a summer of early worship that will allow for a longer period of time after church to engage in summer activities with friends and family.

My encouragement to all of us, myself included, is to give this new schedule a try. Come a bit earlier on Sunday and see what you think. Change is difficult but I imagine we can handle it; and, if we aren't careful, we might even enjoy this new thing!

*Dari*

Remember, summer hours are:

*Sunday morning worship at 9:00 AM, with fellowship and Sunday School following.*

treat to be in the city this trip.

My years in Chicago where I completed my Master's of Divinity are clouded by what I consider to be horrible weather. At one point in my study at McCormick Theological Seminary, it was terribly dreary. I was remarking about the weather to a woman in a meeting one afternoon when she informed me we had just experienced a long period of dreary weather which included 72 days without any sight of the sun. Ick! I am a lover of warm weather and sunshine. I am perfectly happy in the hot and humid weather of Arkansas.

But back to my studies. As most of you are aware, I am in the process of achieving the Doctor of Ministry degree. I am back at my alma mater, McCormick, for this degree. Interestingly, McCormick was the pioneer in developing the Doctor of Ministry decades ago. Nonetheless, I am coming toward the home stretch with this degree.

My concentration of study is Pastoral and Spiritual Care. The class I recently took was entitled "Feminine Voices in Pastoral Care." From the title you can tell this was a class seeking to provide us with the tools for working with the

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](mailto:etlaurel@aol.com) or 501-778-9564. Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month.

## June Events and Activities

**Please note: we will observe summer hours every Sunday-- Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.**

**Morning Worship 9 AM  
Fellowship 10-10:15 AM  
Sunday School 10:15-11 AM**

### Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, June 1, 5:45 PM at the home of Ron and Brenda Sasfai, 6702 Foxfire Lane, Benton, 501-794-2108 for directions. Wear your most fabulous flip-flops to this fun evening.

### First Friday Fellowship

Friday, June 4, 7 PM, at the home of Ron and Brenda Sasfai, 6702 Foxfire Lane, Benton, 501-794-2108 or 501-837-1835. This is a monthly informal get-together of friends and family - bring your favorite appetizer or beverage.

### Presbytery of Arkansas Meeting

Saturday, June 5, Malvern, AR - Elder Emily Laurel, Commissioner

### Committee/Ministry Team Meetings

Tuesday, June 8, 6 PM. No supper will be served during the summer break.

### Second Thursday Fellowship & Potluck

Thursday, June 10, at noon in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited for potluck lunch - bring your favorite dish to share.

### Stated Session Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 6 PM

### Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 20 - Thursday, June 24, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, supper served at 5:30 PM

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

## Young People at First Presbyterian

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, June 20 - Thursday, June 24, with supper served at 5:30 PM and ending at 8:00 PM. The theme is "Raiders of the Lost Ark and other Bible Adventures." Christian Education needs volunteers to help out each evening. Contact Maruka Reecer, our youth director, for additional information and to volunteer your help at 501-317-5072 or [mreecer@gmail.com](mailto:mreecer@gmail.com).

A trip to Mo-Ranch in Hunt, Texas, is scheduled for July 10-15. Taylor Snellback and Ron DuBois will be representing First

specific needs of women in life situations where support might be sought. The class was great. I learned much and enjoyed the time studying with the folks in my cohort group. This class was especially exciting as we inch forward to completion of our degrees.

Having this class under my belt leaves me with only one more class to complete prior to graduation in a little less than a year from now (May 14, 2011). While there is a lot of work to do between now and then with my thesis project and with the requirements for the last class and the upcoming one in October, the end seems to be in sight! I can tell I will enjoy the work ahead, all the while keeping my eyes upon the prize of graduation.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

*Dari*

Pastor Dari will be attending interim ministry training at Montreat, NC and enjoying a brief vacation from August 29 - September 10, 2010.

**Please note:**

Pastor Dari provides pastoral care for our church family. If you need assistance with any pastoral concern, please contact her at the church, 501-315-7737

Presbyterian-Benton.

Six kids (Sam, Brad, Tyler, James, Nathaniel, and Liz) will be attending Montreat July 24-31. Maruka and Ron will attend as youth leaders and/or small group leaders.

### Notes from a Session Member

In our May meeting we unanimously and heartily approved the recommendation of our Personnel Committee to adjust the terms and conditions of Lisa Hester's position to more accurately reflect her service to First Presbyterian. Hired as our organist, Lisa will now be serving as Music Director and Organist, along with supporting us in the church office.

The May Clerk's Report included home communion offered for five of our members: Gerald Broadway, Margaret Downs, Letha Friend, Pauline Turner, and D. L. Webb. This loving duty of pastoral care offers the opportunity for those unable to attend church in person on communion Sunday to have the Lord's Supper. We consider home communion to be an extension of our worship service, so everyone, regardless of condition or disability, receives the deeply comforting sacrament of communion and the feeling of community that we experience in church as we gather together. Rev. Dari and Deacon Cheryl Winters offered home communion this month. The month before, Deacon Jo Wright assisted Rev. Dari.

The Clerk's Report also included receiving into membership Duane and Lori Runyon and their children, Elliot and Garrett. We joyfully welcome the Runyon family into our midst. Another item was the transfer of Lisa Galbraith Mundy's membership to Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Lisa is the daughter of Richard and Barbara Galbraith. We shall miss Lisa, Allison, and Katie.

Session approved the formation of a transitional steering team to assist Pastor Dari with the next phase of our church's journey, the gathering of information. Led by Pastor Dari, the team will have the responsibility for:

- Gaining perspective on the last chapter of the congregation with the former pastor;
- Gathering feelings and ideas of members and non-members of the congregation about the church in this time of change;
- Providing a forum for the sharing and focusing of hopes and aspirations for the future;
- Helping the congregation move from preoccupation with the past to a state of readiness for a new chapter in its life with the leadership of a new pastor; and
- Involving the congregation in accomplishing the developmental tasks of the interim period.

Have you noticed the beautiful lilies in our parking lot? One day last spring I drove into the parking lot and noticed Lisa Hester digging a hole nearby. She was planting Easter lilies that were through blooming rather than throwing them away. They are once more in full bloom, greeting us with the blessing of their beautiful presence

or by cell telephone at 870-820-4616.

If you need assistance and are unable to reach Pastor Dari, 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!](#)

### Prayers of the People



We are praying for our people.

#### PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS:

Barbara Galbraith  
 Britni Anderson

as we come to church. Be sure to thank Lisa for her thoughtful gift of loving labor for planting those flowers last year so that we have them now to enjoy.

### Financial Corner

At the May, 2010 stated session meeting the church's financial situation was reported to be as follows (figures are as of April 30, 2010):

#### General Funds

Revenues	\$ 44,139
Other Funding	4,000 transfers from capital campaign funds - \$3,200, from Stewart Trust - \$800
Expenditures	<u>-46,628</u>
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,511

#### Capital Funds

Revenues	10,404
Expenditures	- 111
Transfer	- 3,200 to fund the director of children & youth position
Debt Reduction	<u>-10,000</u>
Over/(Under)	- 2,907

If there are any questions, contact Jimmy Fields at [jfields@aristotle.net](mailto:jfields@aristotle.net) or by telephone at 501-425-9279.

A detailed first quarter financial report and spreadsheet is 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.

### Choir & Music Notes from Lisa

#### Music Specials for June

June 6 - Communion: At the Table of the Lord

June 13 - Sweet Beulah Land

This anthem is given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Long by Bob and Peaches Calhoun.

June 20 - Kumbaya

June 27 - Canon in D, Karen Coker, Flute

Needed: Vocal and instrumental music specials for the summer months. Contact Lisa at [lphester@juno.com](mailto:lphester@juno.com) or 501-860-3093.

Join the Choir for the musical production of "Annie" at Murry's Dinner Theater, on Wednesday, August 11. Reservations are needed early, so Contact Lisa if you are interested in attending. A coupon is in the Little Rock telephone book ... buy one get one half price. This is a great family outing time, just before school starts.

### Building & Grounds Update

David Monkus completed replacing tile in the fellowship hall and regrouted various areas of the church.

Billingsley  
 Karen Friedman  
 Parker Caple  
 James Tabor, 1-1/2  
 year-old friend of  
 Arabelle Wade  
 Betty Neely, sister of  
 Brenda Sasfai and  
 Barbara Neely  
 Bud Burchfield, brother  
 of Don Burchfield  
 Cathy Sober, friend of  
 Henry Griswold  
 Ernestine Dunn, mother  
 of Frank Dunn  
 Reggie Pierce, friend of  
 Ron and Brenda Sasfai  
 JoLynn Gibson, friend of  
 Alice Griswold  
 Penny Garver, friend of  
 Jo and Tim Wright  
 Randy Russell, grandson  
 of Arlene Rainey  
 Fred Bush, nephew of  
 Arlene Rainey  
 Joe Grant, friend of  
 Marti and Steve  
 Snellback  
 Bill Haas, friend of Ron  
 & Brenda Sasfai  
 Devon Gentry, infant  
 nephew of Brenda Bryan

Charles Bessy, friend of  
 Arabelle Wade  
 Richard Widup, son-in-  
 law of Carl & Cheryl  
 Winters  
 Charles Patton, brother  
 of April Counts  
 Jimmy Roy, friend of  
 Dori Wilson  
 David Cole - brother-in-  
 law of Barbara Laule  
 Vinnie Donnor - friend of  
 Vickie Cowart  
 Joe Godbehere - friend  
 of Fred Wilson  
 John Major Depingre,  
 nephew of the Knotts  
 Judy Jennings, sister of  
 Barbara Galbraith  
 Phyllis and Hope  
 Hankins, friends of the  
 Galbraiths  
 Ethel Womack, mother

Perkins Fire Pro installed communications link to the fire department/police and designated persons should a fire occur. Additional work needs to be done to notify our insurance provider to receive proper credit for having the fire alarm monitored.

Clog in men's restroom was cleared. It is my understanding that a gasket caused the problem.

The following items need to be completed by Benton Sheet Metal:

1. Air conditioner in kitchen is not working.
2. Air conditioner drain above parlor is leaking.
3. ll filters need to be changed (filters were last changed in December, 2009) and air conditioner season is once more upon us.

Help is always welcome for our "honey do" list. Contact Ron Sasfai at 501-837-1835 or [bsasfai@aristotle.net](mailto:bsasfai@aristotle.net).

### Update from the Mobeys

Hi to all the wonderful people at Benton First Presbyterian Church! Earl and I arrived in Farmington, New Mexico on Friday, April 30th. We had a safe trip across I-40, even though there were times we wondered if we would be blown off the Interstate! Winds were terrible from Henryetta, OK to Amarillo, TX with gusts up to 65 miles per hour. Our son-in-law, Gary, was driving the 24-ft. truck and had to fight it, but the Lord was with us all the way and we arrived in New Mexico safe and sound.

Gary had lined up three men to help unload the truck the afternoon we arrived. They went right to work and finished the job in about two hours. Then my job started - unpacking boxes! So much work and so little space! We're getting fairly settled and it is starting to look like home.

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for all the things First Presbyterian did for Earl and me to prepare for the move and for the closing. Steve Snellback, Jimmy Fields, Tyler Fields, Brad Fugere, Sam Anderson, and James Hogue came to our rescue on Sunday, April 18th, knocking the fence down and hauling the wood away to make it possible to close escrow on April 26th.

Also, a big "Thank You" from us for the time and effort that went into planning the reception after church. You all made us feel so special! The going-away gift of the beautiful Niloak vase... what a wonderful surprise! Words can't express our appreciation for such a lovely gift. I will cherish that vase forever and will think of all you wonderful people every time I look at it. Special "Thanks" to Arlene for making it possible to purchase.

"Thank You" hardly seems enough to express our feelings and love for all there at Benton First Presbyterian. We love you and truly miss all of you. May the Lord Bless each and every one, and Bless First Presbyterian Church in Benton, Arkansas.

Shalom, *Earl & Donna Mobley*

of Barbara Webb  
 Ken Ball, brother-in-law  
 of Joyce Porter  
 Dick Anderson, father of  
 Barbara Laule  
 Carita Taylor, friend of  
 David and Lenore  
 Monkus  
 Barbara Sasfai, Ron's  
 cousin  
 Patty Gossage  
 Shawn Wood

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR  
 MILITARY:**

Staff Sgt. Brad Hancock -  
 to Iraq, May 2010, friend  
 of Marti and Steve  
 Snellback  
 Troy Duncan - to  
 Afghanistan, Spring  
 2010, son of Carolyn  
 Duncan  
 Kevin Creed, AR  
 National Guard,  
 grandson of Carolyn  
 Duncan  
 Tech Sgt. Kurt Tull, -  
 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 - Iraq,  
 friend of Russell and  
 Trisha Betts  
 Lance Cpl. Branden  
 McCullough, USMC  
 PFC Taylor Edmondson -  
 AR 39th National Guard  
 Kilo Co., USMC  
 Lance Cpl. Drew Short,  
 USMC  
 Major Jack Keene  
 PFC Mike Speer  
 George Snyder III  
 Kelly Bartholomew

Remember the leaders  
 of our country.

Please contact the church  
 office, 315-7737 or  
[fpcos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcos@sbcglobal.net) for any

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](mailto: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](mailto:fpcos@sbcglobal.net) [www.fpcbenton.com](http://www.fpcbenton.com)

changes.

## Celebrations

### Happy birthday to:

Benjamin Gilbert 6/1  
Sydney Sasfai 6/5  
Jim Porter 6/6  
Nathaniel Hafferty 6/6  
Charlotte Rue 6/7  
Alan Jessup 6/11  
Kellie Fugere 6/16  
Kelsey Fields 6/17  
Haylee Stewart 6/19  
Alice Griswold 6/21  
John Fugere 6/22  
Barbara Neely 6/24  
Allen Webb 6/25  
Linda Stewart 6/25  
Cary Shillcutt 6/17  
Kristen Snyder 6/27  
Alicia Wheeler 6/30

### Happy Anniversary to:

Bruce & Vickie Cowart  
6/2  
Ken & Donna Anderson  
6/11  
Jim & Joyce Porter 6/16  
Henry & Alice Griswold  
6/21  
Gregg & Melody St. John  
6/23  
Phil & Ann Flanders 6/26

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