

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

October, 2009

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Our Next Steps



The Session's interim pastor search committee is beginning its search. Committee members are Jimmy Fields, Chairman; Doyle Webb; and Cary Shillcutt.

We are indeed fortunate that the Reverend Dick Knott has agreed to temporarily fill the pulpit and offer pastoral care for our church family during our search for an interim pastor.

The Reverend Dr. Sallie Watson, Interim General Presbyter, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, October 18, 2009.

If you need assistance with any pastoral concern, please contact the church office at 315-7737.

Quick Links...

Welcome to the premier issue of First Presbyterian Church News, a monthly online newsletter for all our members and friends. The publication is intended to keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening in our church. We will be communicating with you through Constant Contact, an internet email service used by many churches to stay in touch with their members and friends.

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.

October Events and Activities



October is always a fun month, especially for the kids. Be sure to mark your calendar for our special Halloween activities, Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 28, and Holy Halloween! A Tour of 7 Spooky Stories of the Bible, on October 29 and 30.

To view the complete calendar of activities for the church online, [visit our website](#). Otherwise, please contact the church office to get a copy of the calendar.

Kids Day Out's new direction

Our Director of Music Ministry, Lisa Hester, wears many hats at FPC-Benton. As the new director of Kids Day Out, she has introduced R.A.G.S., a system of teaching young children about rhythm, art, games, and singing.



Please tell your friends and neighbors that drop-ins are welcome at Kids Day Out (rate is \$18) from walking age up to kindergarten age. Kids Day Out is held each Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Kids Day Out will be closed on Monday, October 26.

[Our Website](#)
[Presbyterian Church](#)
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Join Our Mailing List!

Youth Director update



You may have noticed many photos of our kids on bulletin boards throughout the church. They exist, thanks to our Director of Children and Youth, Maruka Reecer.

Funding for Maruka's part-time position does not come from the church's general fund, but instead comes from a combination of private donations, capital campaign funds, and Stewart Trust funds. Funding will soon run out, but we are searching for alternate sources of funding so that this critical ministry can continue without interruption.

It seems especially important at this time to provide as much continuity of leadership as possible for our church, including its younger members. Above all, we are committed to continuing to provide a rich Christian experience for our children and youth with Maruka leading the way.

Christmas DeLights



Before we know it, Christmas DeLights will be here as it is scheduled to occur on November 20-21.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this exciting extravaganza. If you are able to help or support this important fundraising effort in any way, please contact Kate Reecer at

k8reecer@sbcglobal.net or 501-860-7307.

Guidelines for church members on how to relate to a former pastor

This is a time during which we must be especially sensitive to the change in our relationship with Rev. Kris that occurred when her call was dissolved. To help us through this transition period, we are providing a summary of the guidelines given to our church by Presbytery for how to relate to a former pastor. A copy of the full set of guidelines is available on our website and in the church office for anyone who wishes to review that document.

Guidelines on how to relate to a former pastor:

- Friendships based on common interests and personal compatibility are entirely appropriate to continue as long as care is taken to avoid slipping into a pastor-parishioner relationship. Always remember that a former pastor is no longer the pastor.
- It would be improper to request the former pastor to perform pastoral services (wedding, funeral, etc.). If asked, the former pastor would be expected to decline the request due to ministerial etiquette and ethics.
- It is imperative no one discuss issues concerning the congregation, the current pastor, staff, session, or any other aspect of congregational life with the former pastor. That would put Rev. Kris in an extremely awkward situation.

Please pray regularly for current and former pastors and for the congregation.

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
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