



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

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William Bryant's Organ Recital  
Dec. 27

Little Dresses  
Sewing - Jan. 15 & 26

Dinner Group - Jan. 19

Youth Faith in 3D  
Retreat - Jan. 12-16

Annual Meeting - Jan. 29

Souper Bowl  
Fundraiser - Feb. 5

Discovery Class - Feb. 12

Lenten Book Study -  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 35

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Thurs-  
day 9:00-11:30 a.m. and  
12:30-4:00 p.m.

## Phone Extensions:

Janice 101  
Laurie: 102  
Carlyn: 106  
Barb 100  
SI Diaper Bank 110



Jan. 29

The Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation of First Presbyterian  
Church, Carbondale, Illinois has been  
set for Sunday, January 29, 2012  
immediately following morning  
worship.

This is a time to:

- 1 - hear and act on the reports of the ministries (committees) of the church;
- 2 - approve the terms of call for the pastor; and

- 3 - any other business properly brought before the meeting.

Ministries are to have their annual report information to Janice by the January 10 Stated Session meeting. A meal, served in Fellowship Hall, will follow the Annual meeting.

# Pastor's Page

They call it food insecurity nowadays. We used to call it hunger, or poverty, but now we say food insecurity. Food insecurity refers to when people do not have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.

Back in early November, the Food Stamp Challenge, made the news. Some of our elected officials, religious leaders and other concerned citizens took up the challenge to feed themselves on the amount an average adult receives in food stamps. That average amount is \$31.50 per week. (See: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/food-stamp-challenge-participants-step-into-the-shoes-of-the-poor/2011/11/02/gIQAnJPJmM\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/food-stamp-challenge-participants-step-into-the-shoes-of-the-poor/2011/11/02/gIQAnJPJmM_story.html) OR <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/11/27/1034186/-Learning-from-the-food-stamp-challenge-for-more-information>)

Now, before some of us start railing against this article, and raising voices about the "welfare state" and those people who should "just get a job" - take a look at the statistics, and listen to the news - this isn't just about the "chronic problems" of the system, but nowadays it is about the unemployed, under-employed, well educated in our cities and towns, and the elderly among us, as well.

Think of it - \$31.50 a week. WHO CAN DO THAT? I thought the DOOR Atlanta group was creative making a cold, gazpacho soup for the group on a dollar a person a couple of years ago. . .but it took an awful lot of thought to figure out how the six of us were going to eat fairly well on a total of \$6.00. This challenge figures out to \$4.50 a day. Again, I ask: WHO CAN DO THAT?

A lot of people do. A lot of people you see during the day, or know, do.

I bet you didn't know that people you might know regularly eat on that sort of budget, or depend on the Food Pantry, or go to bed hungry. But they do. You don't know, probably because they don't want you feeling sorry for them. . .or pitying them, or knowing that things have gotten so bad in their lives that this is how they live.

And Jesus said - Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me-you did it to me.

As a nation, every January we atone for the food excesses of November and December. Thankfully a Presbyterian Youth group once asked the question about hunger and connected it to the excesses of Super Bowl Sunday - and thereby birthed one of the greatest movements of our modern age - The Souper Bowl Sunday challenge. This month, I would challenge us all to consider the excesses in our own lives. . .and how much we can give so that others can eat. . .and not be food insecure. It is not just the right thing to do, it is what Christ calls us to do. Thanks be to God!

## Announcing



A Class for People Interested in Membership  
With First Presbyterian Church

Date: Sunday, February 12  
Time: 12:00-@1:30 p.m.  
Place: Fellowship Hall

What to bring:  
Your questions and curiosity

We will provide:

- ✦ a light lunch & drinks
- ✦ information about the church
- ✦ answers to questions about membership
- ✦ the opportunity to join first Presbyterian

For more information, or to RSVP, contact:  
Membership ministry members:  
Ken Simpson 618-303-1432,  
Diane Cash 618-985-4075,  
Rosey Gibbs 618-534-2318,  
or Barbara Stewart at the church  
office 618-549- 2148



This newest Small Group will take form in 2012. Our first activity will be participating in "Keep Carbondale Clean". We have chosen to do litter pickup in the block surrounding our church on an ongoing basis. Phyllis Beck will be recruiting volunteers so watch for your opportunity to sign up. Later in the Spring we have other outdoor activities planned, such as bike riding, hiking, bird watching, etc. Contact Phyllis Beck, 549-9819, or Karen Hippensteel, 684-4282, if you would like more information.



*If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus.* This is the title of the book by Phillip Gulley that the Sunday Evening Book Study group will be reading for Lent. One reviewer states that Gulley, a Quaker minister, "is taking a look at the current state of the 'Christian Church' - all of its 39,000 different denominations, and trying to bring it back on track with the actual values of Jesus."

The Group will meet in member's homes six Sunday evenings, February 19 thru March 25, from 6 - 8 p.m. for a pot luck dinner followed by discussion. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Small Group Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Please consider enriching your Lenten season by joining this discussion group. Contact Sue Bailey, 534-2433, or Karen Hippensteel, 684-4282, if you would like more information.



## Sunday School Classes

In the month of January, as we move through the season of Epiphany, our Sunday School classes will be considering the ways in which Jesus was called to his ministry and how we are called today to follow in faith. Everyone is invited to join a class as we explore our faith together. If you haven't been to Sunday School in awhile, try out a class this Sunday! Our classes are as follows:

All of our classes are using our *Feasting on the Word* curriculum to dig deeper into the scripture lessons we hear in worship and think about how they apply in our lives. Join a class this Sunday!

Infants and children through age 5 meet in the childcare room.  
Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade meet in Room 140.  
Children in 3rd through 5th grade meet in Room 146.  
Youth in grades 6 through 12 meet in the Youth Room.  
Quench, for college-aged adults, meets in the Conference Room on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.  
Sunday Morning Bible Study meets in the parlor.  
Faith Dialogues meets in the Chapel.

The preschool had our Christmas Sing on December 16. It was a great success, thanks to all who attended! We spent the month of December talking about Christmas and learning different Christmas traditions.



### PRESCHOOL

In January all classrooms will be begin by talking about winter. We will do many fun projects and learn about animals that like the winter.



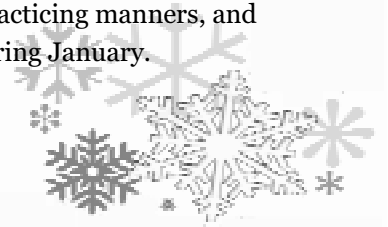
We would like to welcome Susan Rottinghaus to our staff. She will begin working with Ms. Lucia in the Frog classroom in January. Susan has had three children go through our preschool program and her youngest is currently in the four year old class. We are excited to have her on board!



New Year's greetings from the Daycare. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday as much as we did.

Even though we don't have quite as many activities as usual in January, we are glad to be back with our friends and are looking forward to learning about the animals that live in the Arctic and Australia. Can you name some from each area? Did you know that it gets very cold in the Arctic? We don't want it to be that cold here.

We will also be learning about and practicing manners, and discussing handicaps and feelings during January.



## Faith in

Five youth and four adults are travelling to Florida January 12- 16, 2012 for the Faith in 3D retreat at Disney. Please pray for them to have a wonderful trip!

# 3D Retreat

# youth group NEWS



The youth group will begin its regular youth group activities after they return from Florida with a meeting on Sunday, January 29, to plan for Souper Bowl Sunday. We will meet at church from 5:30-7:30 pm and will make and eat dinner together. As has been our tradition in recent years, the youth group will make soup for the congregation on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2012, to raise awareness and money for the hungry. All donations for the soup will go to Good Samaritan Ministries here in Carbondale.



# MaTT Club

**MaTT Club is a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus.**

*photos by Flossie Langin*



noodle. *Jingle Bell Run* took some skill not to drop any bells as they ran to spoon them into a stocking.

Our community service project for December was making favors. We made wreaths, foam snowflakes, two kinds of ornaments using juice can lids, and more. The children each got to make something to keep for themselves after making things for others. Thirty items were made to share!

This was the only time we met in December. Our next meeting will be on January 8. We'll be talking about how Joshua brought down the walls.

In the book of Galatians (6:9) Paul tells us, "**Never get tired of helping others**". Our December meeting was spent playing games and making "cheer up" Christmas favors.

We started the evening with some Christmas themed games. *Ornament Race* showed who our budding golf stars are! The children had to "golf" a silk ornament into a gift wrapped box using a swim

Happy Birthday to Abby on January 21.

A big thank you to all our helpers: Frances Gilman, Rosey Gibbs, Kara Hertzling, Jennifer Langin, and Katie Langin.

Thank you David and Carol King for providing our supper in December.

## Dinner Group's Trip to

### Patti's

Twenty-three persons went on the trip to grand Rivers, KY. for lunch at Patti's 1880 settlement on December 15.

Peter Hertzling was our bus driver and got us to Patti's early and got us back home early. There was considerable conversation on the way down and some snoring on the way home. The food was good and the shopping was, well shopping and interesting. The weather was cooperative and did not rain and was unusually warm for December. I think most everyone had a good time.



*photo by Bill Schwegman*

The Dinner Group will return to evening dinner at 5:30 p.m. on January 19 with Don and Betty Darling as our hosts. Watch the Church Bulletin in early January 2012 for further details.

## Little Dresses for Africa... and more

Thanks to all of you that participated in our "Little Dresses for Africa" project last fall. Twenty-seven of the 75 dresses we sent were distributed before Christmas to children of the Lutheran Bible School and the Theological School in the Central Africa Republic (CAR) through our contact, Rev. Deborah Troester. Between these two schools, there are thirty families with an average of three or four children (some families have six or seven children) so more clothing would be welcomed. Rev. Troester states that they need outfits for infants and boys as well as for girls.



We are currently collecting light-weight material and notions in preparation for sewing infant and boys' clothing to be shipped to CAR for distribution at Easter. **We have set two sewing dates at the Church in January: Sunday, January 15 following Christian Enrichment and Thursday, January 26 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** We hope many of you will join us, even if you don't sew. We need help with cutting fabric, ironing, pinning, etc. We will also have items assembled if you would like to sew at home. Contact Anne Barrett, 457-0123, or Karen Hippensteel, 684-4282, if you would like more information.

Dear Karen,



I gave out the dresses this past Monday. The Bible School students gave me a list of their children, with the ages of each, so that I could pick out the right sizes. I also bought some inexpensive T-shirt/shorts jerseys for the boys, so they wouldn't feel left out.

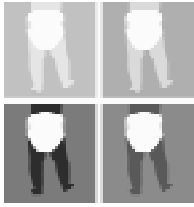
As you can see from the photos, the girls are very happy with their new dresses, and look great in them! I'm sorry I don't know all their names, but I can try to find out, if you like. The photo of Christine (the girl wearing the Orca print fabric) is with my housekeeper, Marie, who is her neighbor.

In all, I gave out 27 dresses this past week. I will probably wait to give out the rest till Easter, since I need to figure out how to get some clothing for the boys as well. I was lucky to find the jersey sets for \$1 to \$2 dollars just across the border in Cameroon. My father got some free T-shirts from Silkworm, but they probably won't arrive until February.

Anyway, THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!! The girls don't usually get nice things like this that are brand new, and good quality fabric.

Christmas blessings to you!

Deborah



## Diaper Bank News

The Alternative Gift Fair in December was a great success for the Diaper Bank – nearly \$400 was donated! Thanks to all who attended and supported the Diaper Bank. Keep depositing those wooden nickels at the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery in Murdale.

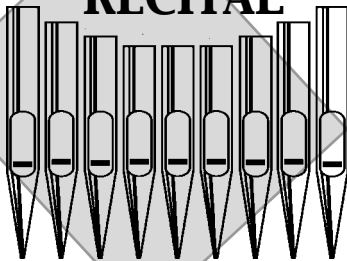
We're currently looking for additional storage space – if you know of an empty **garage or large storage shed** that the Diaper Bank could use, please contact Jane Swanson.



## Laurie's Hours for January

Laurie will be in the office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays in January – January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. She will also be here on Sundays January 15 and January 29. If you need to talk to her or have questions about any Faith Development activity, please call Laurie at 751-1419 or e-mail her at [laurie@fields-halva.org](mailto:laurie@fields-halva.org).

## ORGAN RECITAL



William Bryant be giving a recital at First Christian Church of Murphysboro on Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 6:30 pm. There will be a reception to follow as well. The church is located on the corner of Pine St and 15th St. It's a block north of the Crashaw Funeral home.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### HANDBELLS & CHIMES

We need additional “ringers” to bring in the new year (January & February). This is an opportunity for those of you who would like to participate in the Handbell/Handchime choir on a short- term basis. We have several members who will be traveling after the first of the year, and their bells will be “waiting to be rung”. It will be helpful if you have some ability to read music - no other qualifications! Contact Karen Hippensteel, 684-4282, if you are interested.



### NEWSLETTER

Want to try your hand at newsletter editing? Here is your opportunity. I am going on vacation so I need someone to put together the February newsletter. If you have some computer skills and would be willing to give it a try, please let me know. I will be happy to explain how it goes together and give you all the help I can. Call Linda Brandon at 529-3169 or email [brandx@midwest.net](mailto:brandx@midwest.net) or [firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com).



## *Advent Festival*



*photos by Linda Bandon*

## *Lights Fantastic Parade*



The remodeled Float with thousands of tiny LED lights came out again for the Lights Fantastic Parade

on December 3 which was a fairly "warm" evening. We had baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the three wise men and numerous shepherds and angles riding on the Float. Except for one power failure which was quickly corrected everything went well and everyone had a great time.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make it a success.



the Working Family,  
can't do without "em !

Rich Zimmermann-retuned the organ via cell phone  
with the professional.

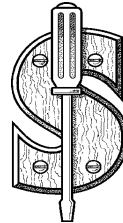
John Baker and John Holt (briefly)- Set Up and  
Take Down for - SIU Concert, Presbytery, and Advent Fest.

Joe Cash- Banner hanging, parking lot trash cans, drive  
through leaves

Mark O'Donoghue- Replaced ceiling tile and light fixture  
in room 146 after roof leak.

Clark Ashby-furniture repair

Gerry Buys replaced the kitchen garbage disposal.



Mortgage Balance \$15,968.21

***OOPS!***

*Hymn: "God I So  
Good"*

What an interesting approach to  
confession.

This appeared in some other  
church publication, not one of  
ours.

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**Pastor: Janice C. West**

**Home Phone:** 618-549-9391

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No, I'm not talking about Twitter.  
I literally want you to follow me.

# January 2012



Fifty years ago, 1962, “The Grand Avenue Mission” site was bought. Anyone know the history behind that activity? Church membership totaled seven hundred and fifty.