



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Linda Brandon web address: <http://www.firstpresdale.org>
The First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave., Carbondale IL 62901
contact us at firstpresnews@gmail.com

Advent Preparations

Youth Stuff Spirit Sacks - Nov. 28

Sevice for Carolyn
Jefferson - Dec. 4

Advent Festival - Dec. 4

Lights Fantastic -
Dec. 4

Bring Cookies - Dec.5

Alternative Gift Fair - Dec. 5

GFF Du Quoin Lights Fair -
Dec. 11

Caroling - Dec. 16

Day Care & Preschool
Christmas Parties - Dec. 17

Pastor's Open House -
Dec. 19

Church Office Hours

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

Phone Extensions:

Janice 101
Carlyn: 106
Barb 100
SI Diaper Bank 110

Plan to join us at Church (someplace) for the Advent Festival on Saturday, December 4 from 3:00 p.m. until parade time. Everyone will find something to do, some way to help, some preparation to make to begin our season of Advent at First Presbyterian Church



- o Help trim the tree
- o Make photo ornaments for the tree
- o Find places to put up the crèche
- o Decorate Christmas cookies
- o Make cards to go to our homebound members
- o Assemble advent wreaths
- o Create decorations for this Advent season
- o Prepare luminaries for the front of our church
- o Lead, sing, and listen to the season's music



THEN.....stay for a hot meal of chili and all the "go-withs" before heading out to watch the parade. We might even have to sample some of those decorated cookies. No reservations are needed. Bring friends. Help make this a truly FESTIVE occasion. But, if you want to volunteer for a specific activity or to bring something for our supper, tell Michael Eldridge or Kitty Trescott. Or, if you just want to watch, to hang out, please come anytime between 3:00 and 6:00 pm.



Pastor's Page

It is a toss-up. When asked which Advent hymn is my favorite, it is a toss-up. I, almost instinctively, move to either *Creator of the Stars of Night* (#4), or *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (#5). Both have a haunting melody, and the texts are from the first millennia of the church. One Advent season (not in this congregation) I practiced and practiced and with the help of small ensembles, played *Let All* on my bowed psaltery as the Introit to worship. Boy was I nervous. I'll stick with the liturgy and preaching, thank you.

But over the years, I have learned some new Advent hymns. The David Haas hymn, *God of All People* has been sung now in this church - *God of all places, present, unseen; voice in our silence, song in our midst. We are your people, knowing, unsure. Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

Last year, the choir sang a beautiful Introit during the season - *Waiting, we are waiting, Lord. Waiting, we are waiting, Lord. Fill our mind 'til we find Your light, Your truth.* (The song makes a reprise in the Cantata this year!)

I love the Christmas carols we will sing later in the month, but my heart yearns for the Advent hymns - their text, their music, their reminder that we wait, in faith, in hope, and in love for the coming of Christ - in our hearts and lives; and for the return of Christ when all things will be made new.

It is a tender, and touchy season. Stores have had their "holiday" displays and sales running for weeks - it is a wonder that the Thanksgiving Turkey and the Halloween Ghosts have any room on the calendar any longer. . .like people taking ***Spirit of Christmas*** names to shop for, and an increase of goods in the Food Pantry shopping cart. Some are frightened by the ghosts of Christmas' past, while other gaze wide-eyed and open hearted at the new possibilities of the season. Some will mourn losses, some will give thanks, but the church will continue to sing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.*

Ransom us, Lord, for we are awaiting a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come. . .in the silence of the night, the silence of our hearts and create in us anew.

Bring the light of Christ into the dark world, dear friends. . .for Christ is coming!

Christmas blessings. . . .

In sure and certain hope. . .

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. . .

The church family extends sympathy to the family and friends of

Lenora Norris Rendleman Leffler
November 22, 1933 – November 4, 2010

C. Carolyn Jefferson
January 9, 1927 – November 8, 2010

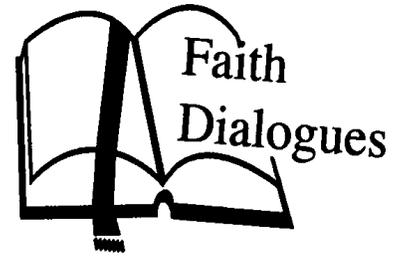
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11:25-26



Service of Witness to the Resurrection
Giving Thanks to God for the Life of Carolyn Jefferson
December 4, 2010 - First Presbyterian Church

9:30 Visitation
11:00 Service
noon Family Meal



Advent Dialogues - The Thoughtful Christian, *Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited*

This group meets in the chapel on Sunday mornings following time of Fellowship after the worship service.

December 5 Phyllis Beck
December 12 John Baker
December 19 Michael Eldridge

There will be no Dialogues on Sunday, December 26, but there might be an impromptu discussion in the chapel.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The group has been reading and discussing I Samuel. That will most likely continue through the month of December. Join them any Sunday morning. It always promises to bring out some unique Bible discoveries.



Join Us In Celebration of the Season



The Deacons will be hosting Fellowship Time on December 5. They are encouraging the congregation to bring Christmas cookies to share that morning and to be taken to our home-bound congregants.

Pastor's Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 19 drop in for some cheer between 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

2908 West Kent Drive, C'dale (549-9391)

Pastor Janice



Once again this year, everyone is invited to join us in Christmas caroling. The tentative date is Thursday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m.

When we are done caroling, we will return to church for snacks and cocoa.



The Christmas Joy offering will be taken on December 19.





The younger children have now been introduced to five of the Disciples, via computer, Bible Study, movies, art projects, fishing, and games and puzzles. Did you see the boat they painted? Did you receive one of those rocks indicating you were someone they could truly depend on? Do you know the song, "Fishers of Men"? Now, they know it too, and will be glad to sing it for/with you.

Walter Sickel has added a circle of rope to the prayer circle to keep us all connected while we pray at the end of our hour. That same rope has been to several other places in the world. Ask Walter to tell you more about those experiences and travels.

In December, the children will learn about Matthew, how he was chosen by Jesus and what he wrote in the Bible about Christmas that we all cherish so many years later



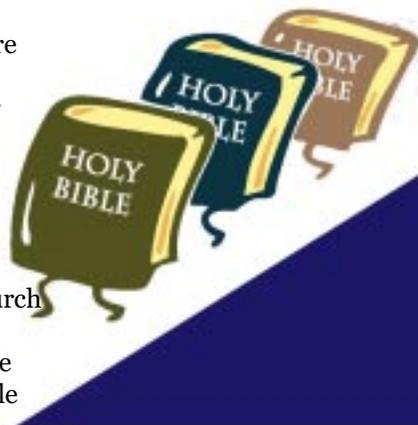
GFF Du Quoin Holiday Lights Fair

Growing Families in Fellowship will meet on Saturday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. for a pizza dinner and then caravan to Du Quoin to see the Holiday Lights Fair at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. We will reconvene in the Expo Center to see Santa, ride the indoor train, and enjoy hot cocoa. All families of young children (0-12) are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please also feel free to bring your friends! Questions? Contact Mary Louise Cashel at 713-3404.



Bibles Presented

On October 31, personal Bibles were presented to Ethan Forsberg, Joseph Prest, and Max Jose. Their families were part of the presentations and this special time in their faith journeys. Each boy had chosen a Bible verse that was personally significant. We, as members of First Presbyterian Church are pleased to play a role in this presentation, and wish for the three that this will always be a memorable Sunday.



Kids In Christ will help with the Advent Festival on December 4. Beth Forsberg will let the families know if other activities are planned for December. Any suggestions? See her.



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

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MaTT Club continues our theme of "Why we do what we do in worship" by learning about the Prayer of Confession. We talked about the importance of saying "I'm sorry". Our meeting started by playing the board game "Sorry".

Our memory verse was *When you are guilty, immediately confess the sin. Leviticus 5:5*. The kids learned that "sin" is another word for mistake. We talked about the fact that when we know we have done something wrong, we need to admit it. Then we need to say "I'm sorry." But most important, we also need to try to correct what we did wrong **and promise that we won't do it again.**



Photo by Flossie Langin

After brainstorming ideas of sins, or mistakes we sometimes make, we wrote our own Prayer of Confession. Our next meeting will focus on God's Assurance of Pardon. Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, May 22, 2011 when MaTT Club, having helped create the service, will help lead worship. See how we've grown in our understanding of our faith and what it means to be a 'people of God'.

Our craft on November 14 was turkeys made from rolls of toilet paper. They were similar to the toilet paper pumpkins we made in October. The kids loved them so much they suggested that we make toilet paper Santas in December.

MaTT Club will only meet once in December (12/12/2010). At that meeting we will make favors to be delivered by the Deacons.

Thank you Ken and Alisa Simpson and Jennifer Langin for providing our suppers in November. Thank you Emily, Frances, Jennifer, Kara and Marta for helping the meetings run smoothly.

**YOUTH
GROUP**
News



On Sunday, November 28 at 2 pm, the youth will meet in Fellowship Hall at church to help stuff "Spirit Sacks" for the college students who are away from home to give them a boost while they are studying for final exams. After we are done, we will go shopping for our "Spirit of Christmas" child.

During the afternoon of Saturday, December 4, the youth and their families are invited to participate in the advent event at church. There will be a chili supper and everyone will then head outside to watch the Lights Fantastic parade.

On Sunday, December 5, the youth will again volunteer at the Alternative Gift Fair. The Fair is being held at the Unitarian Fellowship Church on Parrish Lane from 2-5 pm.

Once again, the youth are invited to join the church in Christmas caroling. The tentative date is Thursday, December 15 at 6 pm. When we are done caroling, we will return to church for snacks and cocoa.

In January, (no specific date set yet), teens are invited to go to Paoli Peaks to ski for the day. Please see Michael Eldridge or Peter Hertzog to let them know you are interested in going. Parents permission, of course, is needed. The exact date will be set in consideration of all who want to go. Then permission slips will be distributed. Money for the trip is still also being discussed.

Quench



Quench continues to meet twice a month after the worship service, under the leadership of Kathy and Pat Manfredi. This is the group for college students, and college-aged adults. Their discussions are lively, as you might imagine. Strong friendships are growing among the adults in this group. Please see Kathy or Pat about the next time they meet, and any special December events they will be sharing.



Updates

Diaper Bank

Our total distribution is now over 35,000 diapers...clearly the need continues to grow. Thanks for your continued support! Visit us at the Alternative Gift Fair on December 5, and make a donation to the Diaper Bank as a Christmas gift for family and friends. See Jane Swanson for further information (diaperbanksi@gmail.com).

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

The total collected for Carbondale was over \$800. Our small group of six from First Presbyterian Church enjoyed their time on Halloween walking around asking for donations. Thank you for all who took part and contributed to this wonderful cause.



The Big Round Window in the Narthex is in the process of being replaced after working out the details of its replacement with the insurance company and Universal Glass (Ellis & Tim Mitchell). The window was broken some time ago by an air rifle shot. The insurance company has agreed to pay approximately \$1800. The Church has a \$500 deductible policy for window breakage. Hopefully be the time you read this the new window will have been installed.

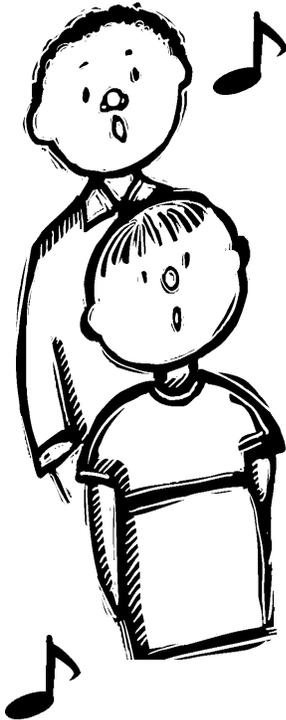


Photo by Bill Schwegman

DAY CARE

We had a great time at Breezy Hill farms. It was a little cold, but the children enjoyed seeing the animals, playing in the barn and going through all the mazes.

In December we will be working on Christmas shirts and the Christmas program with the children. We will be having our Christmas program and party on Friday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. and the children's program will be at 5:45 p.m. with Santa's arrival at 6:00 p.m.



PRESCHOOL

The Frogs, Tadpoles and Polliwogs spent time before Thanksgiving talking about what Thanksgiving means.

The Frogs made Indian vests and had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast. The Tadpoles' families decorated turkeys for the classroom (they can be seen on the walls in the classroom) while the Polliwogs read books about the special day.

Archway was in this month to screen children for any deficits. This is a free service provided by Archway.

The Frogs are looking forward to going to Classics for Kids at the Mall in December.

As things stand now, the Preschool Christmas program will be held in the Fellowship Hall on December 17. It will start at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to attend to see the children sing and to see the Frogs and Tadpoles put on a darling show!

The Preschool wishes everyone a wonderful holiday!



International Mission Trip 2011

We will be participating in a PCUSA sponsored project in Costa Rica during the week of June 18-25. Commitments from interested individuals are needed by January 30. Questions? Contact Judy Dawson - dawsonstevejudy@aol.com.

Good Samaritan Celebrates Anniversary



Susan Metcalf, former executive director of Good Samaritan House was the featured speaker for Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement Wednesday, November 17, at the Dunn Richmond Center on Pleasant Hill Road. Susan told of Good Samaritan's history, services and growth as Good Sam celebrated its 25th year.



Alternative Gift Fair

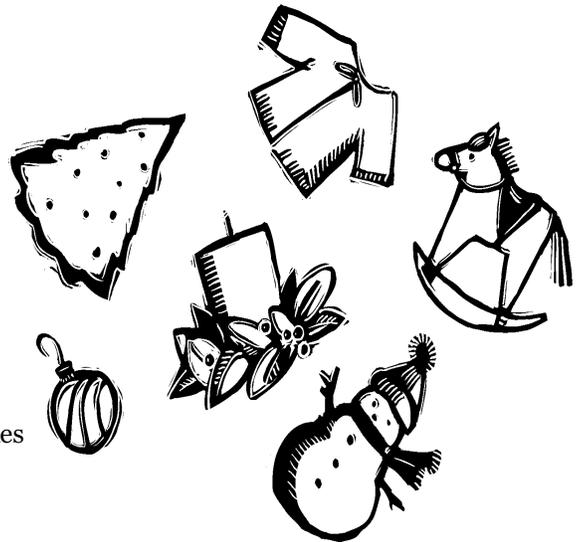
Sunday
December 5, 2010

You are invited to the sixth annual Alternative Gift Fair from 2- 5 pm on Sunday, December 5, at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, 105 N. Parrish Lane. This charity fundraiser helps participants experience the joy of making a donation in the name of a loved one or purchasing a gift for someone knowing that the money is supporting a good cause.

You can bring the whole family - there will be a Kids' Area with volunteers to help kids do some fun crafts. Live musical entertainment will be provided by the UFO's (Unitarian Folk Orchestra), the CUUkes (Carbondale Unitarian Ukeleles), Parsley and Sagebrush (with Candy Davis), and the CU Recorder and Dulcimer Ensembles. Refreshments will be available for a donation.

Participating organizations will include Good Samaritan Ministries, the Women's Center, Rainbow Café, Boys and Girls Club, Lifesavers, Sierra Club, Diaper Bank of Southern Illinois, Free Again, Heifer Project International, Habitat for Humanity, For Kids' Sake, Zambian AIDS Partnership and more. Fair Trade coffee and chocolates will be available for purchase.

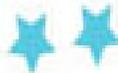
The event is sponsored by Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Fellowship, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), St. Francis Catholic Church, the Carbondale Interfaith Council and Church Women United of Carbondale. Come for a special afternoon and give gifts that matter!



★ **Dinner Group**

The Dinner Group meet at Stone Creek on November 18 with 18 persons attending. Tom and Karen Hippensteel were our host. A hats off to Tom and Karen for a fine dinner at an excellent location.

The Dinner Group doesn't meet during December due to all of the other things going on that month. We will be back in January of 2011 with Don and Betty Darling as host. The location of the Dinner will be announced in the next newsletter and in the Church Bulletin in January. Have a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



Frances Gilman and friend Nancy Fligor at Stone Creek with Presbyterian Dinner Group

Photo by Bill Schwegman



Kitty, Michael & Flossie

The Float for the Carbondale Lights Fantastic Parade



Yes, there is a seven foot star. Yes, there will be "real" people riding on the float: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and wise men. Yes, you are welcome to walk along beside the float, dressed as townspeople. Yes, there are hundreds of lights on our float, and banners telling who we are and what we are doing. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, but there is a lot to do even before that. Your help is welcome in putting all these pieces and people together. Our thanks to Michael, Mary, Flossie, Bill, Judy, Barb, Joe, Diane, Linda, Carolyn, Kitty, Mark, Gary, Bob, and so many others who supplied the float, the place to work, the costumes, the props, the children, the time, the energy, the creative ideas, and so much more to make this a reality as "We Still Follow The Star".

Photos by Linda Brandon and Judy Schwegman



Michael, Kitty & Flossie



Judy & Michael





The repair of the roof by Baine Roofing is finished. The ceiling of the Fellowship Hall is also completed, all of the wiring in the ceiling is done and the contractor is working on the structural aspects of the soffit at the time of writing this article. The soffit structural work should be finished by the time you read this and the electrical work that goes inside the soffit underway.

After the lighting is all completed the drywall will be placed on the soffit frame and finished. The soffit and the walls of Fellowship Hall will then be painted. The project should be complete, except for the floor, by the end of the first or second week in December. Completion of the floor is dependent upon the delivery of the necessary material which at present is scheduled for December 22. Unfortunately this is going to be too late to have the fellowship Hall 100% complete by Christmas but we hope to have it completed by the end of the year. That is our revised goal.



As of November 17, 2010 our pledges have reached \$210,530 which is 80% of our goal. This time last year we had pledged \$180,960 so we are substantially ahead of last year but still short of our 2011 goal of \$265,000. If you have already pledged we would like to thank you very much. If you haven't but intend to do so we would urge you to turn in your pledge as soon as possible. Stewardship must make a 2011 projection of revenues as accurately as possible so Session can adopt a 2011 budget at the December 14 meeting. We remain optimistic that we can reach our goal with your help.

OOPS!

Song: "We Three Kings of Orient Art"

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

First Presbyterian Church
Carbondale, Illinois

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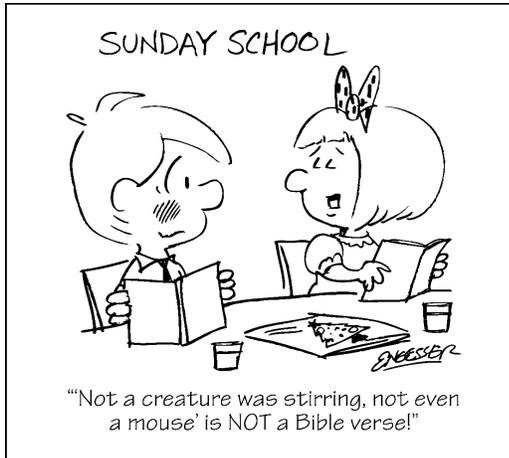
Web Address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>

Pastor: Janice C. West

Home Phone: 618-549-9391

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December 2010



One hundred fifty-eight years ago, December 1952, Asgill Connor offered the use of his unfinished log cabin for the FIRST Presbyterian Church service in the new town of Carbondale.

Two lots were purchase for the new Presbyterian Church to be build on the corner of Normal (now University) and Elm Streets.