



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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contact us at: firstpresnews@gmail.com

Fellowship Hall Floor Installation
1st week in Jan.

Presbyterian Women Meet
Jan. 18

Dinner Group - Jan. 20

Congregational Meeting
Jan. 30

Souper Bowl - Jan. 30

Ski Trip - Jan. ?

Montreat - June 5-11

Marketplace - July 25-29

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The Annual Meeting of the
Congregation of First Presbyterian
Church, Carbondale, Illinois has been
set for Sunday, January 30,
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.

It is a time to remember and rejoice in the ministries in which we have found ourselves involved, as well as to look ahead to the life and ministry of the church in 2011 (and beyond!). As we continue to meet the needs of members and friends, we are also reaching out into the community more and more. Thanks to the faithful giving of church members and friends, we are finishing the year in the black, and have adopted a 2011 budget of \$311,255. In the midst of uncertain financial times, this is faithful work we do together.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
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

Pastor's Page

A moment in time. . .we captured just a moment in time.

When the Membership ministry was looking at what they might use as a cover for the new photo directory, they looked at suggestions from other churches' directories. The sanctuary (without anyone in it), the front of the building (with no one in the picture) – you get the idea? The shots were empty – devoid of any life, any Spirit of the Living God . . . So they concocted an idea – assemble the worshiping community in the chancel on a Sunday morning after worship, and take a picture. They wouldn't warn you too far in advance, lest you think you had a bad hair day, or had worn the "wrong" color outfit. We would just do it (to capture a phrase)!

So at the end of October. . .we were captured, if but for only a moment. A framed copy will be on display at the Annual Meeting. Interesting. . .Robbi is in the photo, and so is Mary. Carolyn and Tom needed to leave early that day. But there are babies on laps and in arms, people smushed into one another, others cajoled in the last moments to get up there and be represented. How much life. . .how much spirit. . .how much fun!

But it was just a moment in time. That is what our lives are. . .a string of moments in time. Some have commented to me about what wonderful funerals I have done. I usually laugh that off by responding well, when you've got good material to work with. . . . And that is the point. . . we are good material with which to work. Each one of us, passed through the waters, named and claimed by God – we are good material.

Some of you have asked me about coming in and talking about your plans for the time when all those beautiful moments of your life come together and you enter the joy, the fullness of God's Kingdom. Yes, please do. I would be more than happy to talk with you about what we do and say. . . and why we do and say those things. I would enjoy perusing the hymnal with you to select some hymns that will seek to remind those of us left behind of your deep beliefs. (Or of your lingering questions!)

We are a series of wonderful moments in time. . .strung together in joy and faith and hope. . .called together to seek and share and serve. . .commissioned to share the good news of God's love. In this moment. . .in all the moments of our lives – as individuals and as a community – a gathering – of God's people, let us fully live all these moments.

Peace be with you – this moment and always!



To paraphrase an old African saying, "It's takes an entire congregation to provide a worship service." The Worship Ministry thanks everyone who has volunteered to provide Children's Time, read scriptures, serve Communion, prepare Communion Elements, participate as Worship Assistant, help with sound production, and all the other countless tasks associated with providing spiritually enriched services this past year.

Looking ahead to 2011, we have designated four Worship Team leaders who will be coordinating worship volunteers. They are:

Sue Bailey – Communion Servers, assistants, and preparation teams

Rosey Gibbs – Children's Time

John Holt - Worship Assistants and Scripture Readers

Flossie Langin – "Elder of the Week"

Bob Luebbers – Head Ushers

We compiled a list of volunteers for 2011 and forwarded it on to Steve Dawson who has placed the names into an electronic spreadsheet. He has made every effort to honor the requests not to schedule folks who have indicated certain months and to keep spouses together when scheduling. Also, everyone is scheduled for only one task per service date. Schedules will be provided on a quarterly basis. All of our lists are now stored electronically and can be sent to you by email. Please notify your Team Leader if you wish to receive future lists by email and thus save postage, reduce paperwork and help the environment. Team leaders will:

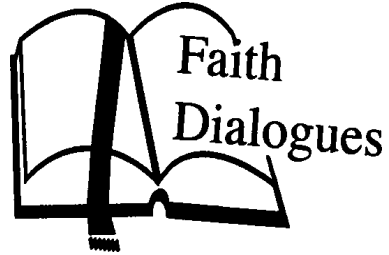
Recruit new volunteers throughout the year.

Communicate the quarterly schedule to their team members.

Train all volunteers.

Listen to feedback.

International Mission Trip 2011



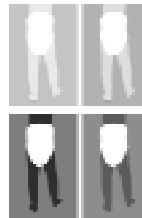
January 2, Mary Simon - Building a Carbondale Book Bank for Children
First Presbyterian Church has collections for the Women's Center, for the Food Pantry, and for the Diaper "Bank". Mary is eager to add a unique "bank" of books for the children of Carbondale. Perhaps she has talked to you already about this wonderful idea. During Dialogues on January 2, she will explain the full idea of this special program. Be sure to come to hear her plan.

Dialogues - January 9 - Daryl Meier- Forging steel knives, Damascus Knives

- January 16 TBA

- January 23 TBA

- January 31 No dialogues, Congregational meeting



Diaper Bank Update

The Diaper Bank had a very successful appearance at the sixth annual Alternative Gift Fair in December: we received \$450 in donations, as well as continuing to make our presence known to the greater community. Thanks to the Youth Group who helped to staff the Diaper Bank table, and to Rosey Gibbs for contributing knitted/crocheted items for the silent auction. We welcome additional financial or diaper contributions!

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. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit will be required by 1/31/10. Questions? Contact Judy Dawson - dawsonstevejudy@aol.com.



December, as always, was a special month for the children in the Sunday morning Christian education program for children ages 3- 11. The focus for the younger children was on Matthew, one of the Disciples chosen by Jesus. Their mornings in the computer room were a special delight as they listened to the Christmas stories and followed up with computer games. This all helped to build their understanding of the men who followed Jesus. Gateways begins at 10:30 (or soon after) with a gathering in room 140 for all the children. Walter Sickel meets with the older children there, while the younger ones head off to another room for Bible study, drama, art, games, or a movie. To close for the morning, the children gather again in room 140 for music and prayers.



This is the boat the Gateways children painted and created. Brian Gorecki is Zebulon, waving good bye as James and John go off to be followers of Jesus.

Photos on this page by Bob Luebbers

Max Jose



Joseph Prest



Ethan Forsberg



Bible Recipients on Sunday October 31, 2010



Marketplace - 2011

The dates have been set for July 25-29. The theme this year will be Baby Moses. Mark your calendars. Let Kitty Trescott and Michael Eldridge know if you can help. It is not too soon to begin planning.

Get Ready for "Souper" Bowl 2011!

Happy New Year to all the youth and their families! We will begin 2011 by focusing on the lack of adequate food and shelter for persons in our local community. We are trying again to arrange a volunteering opportunity at the Food Pantry or at Good Samaritan, the local homeless shelter, perhaps for Martin Luther King Day, which is Monday, Jan. 17. Details will follow in letters and emails.

We will have a regular youth group meeting on Sunday, Jan. 30 at church from 5:30 to 7:30 pm to make and eat dinner and to plan our Souper Bowl activities. In keeping with tradition, we hope to put on a skit during the worship service on Super/Souper Bowl Sunday and we will make soup for the congregation. This is our biggest fundraising activity of the year. We are normally able to raise more than \$1000 through donations which goes to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Cindy Buys or Cara Sronce.



SKI TRIP

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.



Montreat - 2011

The dates for Montreat are June 5-11. This is the week long Christian Education Program for teens from all over the country. Each week, hundreds of teens travel to this site to build their faith and fellowship, through worship, prayer, music, discussions, and shared time. First Presbyterian Church sponsors the teens of this church for that extraordinary experience. Michael Eldridge has the detailed information and registration forms.



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We hope that everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New year. Things are a little quiet at the Day Care in January, The Toddler's through Preschool room will be learning about Arctic and Australian animals. We will also be talking about good manners and handicaps/ feelings during this month. The Staff will be taking CPR on Tuesday January 11 from 6:00- 9:00 p.m.and First aid on Wednesday January 12 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. If you would like to join us please let the Director, Di Hagler, know. The Day Care number is 529-1551.



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The Christmas program in the almost remodeled Fellowship Hall was a success. The children were darling in their Christmas outfits and the singing was so great! Santa and Mrs. Clause put in a surprise appearance—much to the children's delight!

In the month of January the Frogs will be talking about M.L.King and doing cold weather projects which will include talking about the Arctic lands.

The Tadpoles and Polliwogs will be having a P.J. day and hat day during the month of January. The classes will also have cold weather projects.

The Preschool families and children had a wonderful vacation but are now ready to buckle down to a wonderful winter curriculum.



The Dinner Group does not meet in December so we have no December report. The January Dinner will be hosted by Don and Betty Darling on January 20. The location of the Dinner was unavailable at the time of publication of this news letter so watch in the Church Bulletin for details of the January Dinner.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Thanks to all who helped make our first Advent Festival a great success. Cookies were iced, cards, Advent wreaths and luminaries were created, the tree for fellowship hall was decorated and chili was served to over sixty people that attended and were a part of this wonderful event. Thanks to all who helped set up, cook, serve and create and thanks to those who attended. We are looking to



Fantastic Float

A group of brave Presbyterians led by Michael Eldridge succeeded in building a float for the Lights Fantastic Parade - a project that has never been tried by this church before. A small committee met two or three times to develop a theme and a plan. The theme we decided on was "We Still Follow the Star", and that we certainly did. Thanks to the engineering, design and construction skills of Bill Schwegman, we were able to create an eight foot tall star for the front of the float, with an equally impressive stable on the back of a trailer that was graciously donated by Dr. McElheny with the help of Mark O'Donoghue. Thankfully, Kent and Linda Brandon were able to help by providing a truck and driving talent during the parade. Diane Cash, designed and secured three beautiful signs for our float. Thanks also goes to Linda Brandon, Joe Cash, Kitty Trescott, Judy Schwegman and Flossie Langin for stringing up 2000 led lights that helped illuminate our star, stable and people during the parade.

Joe Cash, Sulaman Abdiah and Bill Martens excitedly portrayed the Wise Men while Flossie Langin, Ken Simpson and Kadn Langin worked together to produce an attractive Holy Family. Three striking angels, Kierra Langin, Carly Hertzling and Kellyn Daly and several handsome shepherds, Joseph Prest, Luke Daly, Isaiah Nalley, Grant Hertzling, Ethan Forsberg, gathered and adored the Holy Family. Immense thanks to Mary Boyle (with help from the Stage Company), for securing such wonderful costumes for all of our participants. Of course we can't forget Peter Hertzling who donated a limousine for transportation to and from the church and demonstrated fearless driving abilities while facing a large amount of traffic. Our group returned to Fellowship Hall for hot cocoa and cookies. Everyone involved and others who are not mentioned worked diligently to create such a memorable experience. A wonderful time, designing, constructing, costuming, shopping and riding was had by all. We are looking forward to this project again next year with a great sense of anticipation!

J & L Robinson and Quality Sheet Metal finished up their original contracts on Dec. 16. Finance wise we had about \$10,000 left over from our original appropriation for the project. At the Dec. 14 Session meeting Session authorized an additional \$4600 of the left over appropriation to install a new suspended ceiling in the kitchen along with appropriate adjustments for lighting and HVAC work and a new kitchen type floor. This should be a welcome improvement for those using the kitchen. The remainder of the funds will be held back to do some future work on improving the the acoustics in the room. The new floor in Fellowship



Hall is scheduled for installation the first week of January and at that point it will be 100% finished except for any work we may do on acoustical improvements. A big thank you for a job well done to the contractors; J & L Robinson, Burke Electric, Quality Sheet Metal; the Building Committee: John Baker, Gary Merideth and Robi Seibert, as well as, the construction overseers Gary Merideth and Bill Schwegman. We are all very satisfied with the results.

Photos by Bill Schwegman



An Opportunity to Help. . . .

Our new friend, Suleman Abdiah (international doctoral student from Pakistan), welcomed his son into this world from afar. Elijah was born this fall and Suleman is seeing him for the first time as he returns to Pakistan for the Christmas holiday. Elijah and Suleman's wife, Aimee, are planning to accompany Suleman when he returns to Southern Illinois in January (or travel around the same time). Please keep them in your prayers.

With this great joy comes a challenge. Suleman will be leaving the partially furnished Southern Hills apartment, and they will be moving into an unfurnished apartment in Evergreen Terrace. What follows is a list of things they will be needing (and I have added some things at the end):

1. Double bed
2. Double bed mattress
3. Pillows
4. Baby cot
5. Baby bath tub
6. Small Dining table
7. Sofas/ couch
8. Blankets
9. Microwave
10. Large & medium cooking pots
11. Study Table
12. Small lounge table
13. Chairs
14. Ironing table
15. Curtains for living room and two bedrooms
(2 windows in living room, 2 windows in bedrooms)
16. Dressing table
17. Dishes and glasses
18. Flatwear
19. Kitchen utensils
20. Bedding & Towels



Are you able to help provide any of these items? Gently used items are wonderful. There will be a sign-up at the church if you are able to provide any of these items. Small items can be stored at the church. Larger items (such as furniture) we will arrange to move when Suleman returns. If you can think of items they may need – which are not on this list – please add them to the sign-up list at the church. Thank you for your generosity! P.S. — The church will be planning a baby “shower” of sorts when they are all here to welcome this family and help them out with the things needed for the care and nurture of a new baby! Look for more information to come!

Thanks. . . .

To all who came to my recital,

It was such a great blessing to have so many of the churchgoers support at my recital. It is hard to put into words just how very grateful I am. My heart overflowed with joy as I saw my church family trickle into the audience one at a time. Having so many of you there calmed my nerves because I knew that you all would be happy no matter what you heard come out of my mouth. God has really blessed me these past few years and I know that with your love and support of the next year to come he will shower many more blessings upon me. Thank you for all of your love and kindness.

With love,

Sarah Besse



Presbyterian
Women

The meeting will be at the church on January 18. Imogene Beckemeyer will be the hostess and Francis Gilman will present the lesson. Dessert and coffee will be served at 1 p.m. with the lesson to follow.



Alisa Simpson is going to be doing the newsletter next month while I am on vacation. All submissions need to be sent to the newsletter's gmail address: firstpresnews@gmail.com in order to be included in the February newsletter.

Thanks for your help,
Linda Brandon

OOPS!

Food bank panty is
low.

This appeared in some other church publication, not ours.

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Carbondale, Illinois

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Pastor: Janice C. West

Home Phone: 618-549-9391

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January 2011



James R.E. Craighead began six years of service to our church in January, one hundred years ago.

The first record book of the Presbyterian Church of Carbondale is inscribed with the date of January, 1853. That record book is still in existence.