



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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A Different Look This Month!

Yes, our newsletter looks different this month! Our editor, Linda Brandon is enjoying a much deserved vacation! We greatly appreciate all the time and effort she puts in to give us a great newsletter each month. Thank you, Linda! We are looking forward to your return.

Put the Date on Your Calendar! The Second Annual Hat Day at Church is Sunday, February 15!

Fellowship Ministry will host Hat Sunday February 15. Please wear a hat to Church and join in the fun. After Church, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a "Mad Hatter's Tea" (okay, really just Fellowship/Coffee Hour). Awards will be given for hats in the following categories:

Most Glamorous Women's Hat

Best Man's Hat

Best Child Under 12-years-old Hat

Best Teen's Hat (13 to 19-year-old)

Best Fascinator (think royal wedding)

Funniest or Most Outrageous Hat

Best Handcrafted Hat

Best Antique Hat

Be prepared to have your picture taken in your hat. Questions? Contact Anne Barrett.



Volunteers needed to host Fellowship/Coffee

Thank you to those who have filled the roster for January -March! The April- June sign up sheet is on the Fellowship Board in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer for an upcoming special celebration, such as a birthday, graduation or wedding anniversary, please contact Beth Forsberg or Anne Barrett so the special date can be saved for you.

Pastor's Page

It happened yesterday - the day after the annual meeting. I heard it on the news in the morning, and the thought of it helped me get out of bed. It may not have been true, but the thought of it was enough to brighten the day - yesterday was the meteorological middle of the winter. We're half way through with the partially sun-lit days and bundling up. (*I'm doing my little happy dance right now, sans ice! Yippee!*) Tell that to the residents of the upper east coast who are getting hit with the *storm-of-the-season* as I write, I'm sure that will make them feel better. Yeah, right.

But we know that there is at least some truth in the statement. Since December 21, the daylight has been getting longer for us, and we know that the Church Season of Lent is a scant three weeks away. The roots of the word Lent are in both German and Old English and can mean both to lengthen and spring. So, at least for those of us in the northern hemisphere, the word rings true.

So, if the days are lengthening and the world around us deepening during this time, what about us? . . . what about our lives? Certainly, are lives are lengthening, but are they deepening? Are we tending to the soil in our lives. . . adding the moisture necessary for growth. . . applying the stuff that may not smell so good, but we know is good for us and for our spiritual growth? Most of us love looking at gardens filled with beautiful flowers (allergies aside), and we marvel at the time and effort it took to nurture such beauty. It is not until we actually try it ourselves that we truly appreciate how much hard work it really does take to have such glorious beauty *spring forth* with such grace and seeming ease.

Same with our lives of faith. It takes practice. That's why we say that we are practicing our faith. That's why we have our children with us in worship, so that they can practice their faith - and see us practicing our faith. That's why we ask one another difficult questions of faith - not expecting easy answers from anyone. . . except maybe Jesus. . . and we probably knew that answer in the first place. (I love how the framers of our *Affirmation of Mission*, jumping off of our Vision Statement, wrote: *In seeking the faith we commit ourselves to: . . . Wrestling with issues of faith, avoiding both simplistic answers and rigid theologies* and then followed that up with the words we use in ordination . . . *Responding to God's call with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love*).

On February 18, Ash Wednesday, we'll meet that evening for worship. We'll read the traditional texts of the day, we will hear the words echo again and again - *you are dust, and to dust you shall return* - we will gather at prayer stations and around the Table of the Lord, to practice our faith, to be nourished, to tend to the spirit and the life of faith - maybe in some new ways. As the days lengthen, as spring promises to come, as Lent is around the corner, may we be ready for the deepening of our faith as well.

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

It was cold outside in January but MaTT Club's meetings were warm and cozy. We finished our unit about Friendship this month. In February we'll be talking about Family.

At our January 4 meeting I asked, "What kind of friend are you, a mosquito or a ladybug?" Jennifer led us in some mosquito and ladybug games. The children had a relay race with green M&M mosquitoes and red M&M ladybugs. There were M&Ms "flying" everywhere but we had a lot of fun! After that the kids provided some wind to help their ladybugs fly to the orange trees. Finally they used a paddle to swat some ping pong ball mosquitoes.

During Bible Exploration time we brain-stormed and listed ways that friends are sometimes bothersome like a mosquito. The kids learned how their mouths can cause pain like a mosquito's mouth. We then talked about ways that ladybugs are helpful. Have them tell you the story about the California orange trees. We read Ephesians 4 and learned ways to be (kind) ladybug friends.

Kara helped the children make some buzzing mosquitoes and paper ladybugs during craft time.

Our January 25 meeting focused on the fact that Jesus is our best friend and how we can be Jesus' friend. During games time we played some magnet games.

During Bible Exploration Time we reviewed the things we have been learning about making and being a friend. We talked about similarities between magnets and friendships and then played a game about attracting and repelling friends. Just as magnets attract and repel, Jesus wants us to attract friends that will enable healthy friendships. Jesus wants us to repel those who would lead us into unhealthy friendships.

After reading the story of Jesus and the children, we used our imaginations to think about what kind of things Jesus and the children might have talked about. We think they could have talked to Jesus about their friends!

We finished up this time by reading Matthew 25:40 and discussing ways we can be a friend to Jesus. We brain-stormed some ideas and wrote them on the whiteboard. The children cut paper doll chains to put in their Binder Books. Ask to see their book.

Kara had a magnet craft for the children to make.

Happy birthday, January 19, to Catherine. We have no February birthdays.

Thank you, Aline Johnson and Jennifer Langin, for providing suppers in January.

Thank you, Jennifer, for leading game time. Thank you, Kara, for organizing crafts. Thank you, Rosey, for recording it all with the camera.

The Dinner Group

The Dinner Group met at Bandana's on Thursday, January 15, with Mary Mantovani as our Hostess. Eighteen persons were present and enjoyed some good BBQ.

The next meeting will be hosted by Judy and Steve Dawson at Hunan's on Thursday, February 19, at 5:30 pm.

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

The Deacons send warm birthday wishes this cold month to Emeri O'Donoghue who turns 5 on the 21st. Lilliana Lusk is another 5 year old - her birthday is on the 1st.

Hesther Van Kuilenburg will be 15 on the 9th, and Elwood Prest turns 11 on the 27th.

Happy Birthday!

Others with birthdays this month are Lisa Hollabaugh, Bill Schwegman, David King, Brenda Myers, Jerre Pfaff, Karen Hippensteel, Alan Sronce, Ann Darling, Kelty O'Donoghue, Mary Jane Brooks, Frances Gilman, and Gary Uhler. May the heat from the many candles on your cakes remind you of the warmth of our wishes!

Tracy Prosser and Grover Leech will celebrate 13 years of marriage on February 3. Happy anniversary, Tracy and Grover!

Pizza and Movie Night

Pizza and Movie Night this month is February 20, 6:00 pm. Pizzas will be hot and ready at 6 pm, along with salad, fruit, and dessert. The movie, "The Wind Rises" will start as soon as the table is cleared and the kitchen cleaned. We move down to our little theater for the show. This is an animated film about a young man's dream of creating flying machines. It was released in 2013 via Japanese film-makers. Let Kitty or Bart Trescott know you plan to be there; call 203-1807 or send an email: trescott@midwest.net



Mission Ministry

Christmas is a time for sharing, and the First Presbyterian congregation certainly followed through. We enjoyed four special mission activities, each with its own focus, and each of which was supported generously.

1. The congregation contributed just over \$3,000 to the Christmas Joy Offering. One-half of this offering goes to current and retired church workers who are in need, by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances. The other half of the offering goes toward the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges.

2. Unless otherwise specified, donations during the Christmas Eve offering are earmarked for our local Brother's Keeper program. This program provides assistance to individuals in the community who are in desperate need of generally small amounts of money. Often these funds go to help women and their children who are escaping violent/abusive relationships. This year the congregation contributed nearly \$2,000 for the Brother's Keeper fund during the Christmas Eve offering.

3. The congregation was also very involved with the Spirit of Christmas program, in which persons in our church family purchase Christmas gifts for individuals in the community who live in poverty and would otherwise probably not receive Christmas gifts. The donated gifts literally lined the entire main hallway in the church office suite.

4. We also coordinated a 'mitten tree'. Just before Christmas we set up a Christmas tree in the Narthex for the purpose of collecting winter clothing for needy children. Members of the First Presbyterian congregation contributed several hundred items of clothing that were then distributed to local elementary schools.

Thank you for your generosity and support of so many worthwhile projects. We appreciate the way in which you respond to the Christmas message by sharing your resources with those who are in desperate need in our local and national communities.

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

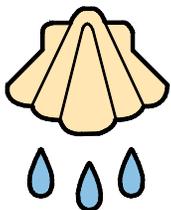
Betty Brooks Darling

February 7, 1930 - January 10, 2015

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



Faith Development

Laurie's Hours for February

Laurie will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays in February and in worship on Sundays, February 1, 8, and 22. If you need to talk to her, please stop by on a Monday or Thursday, call her at 618-751-1419, or email her at: laurie@firstprescdale.org

Join us in Sunday School!

Sunday School classes for all ages continue to meet each week after worship, starting at 11 a.m. We encourage you to join a class this week. Classes meet in the following rooms:

Pre-school: Room 146

Kindergarten - 4th grade: Room 140

Fifth Graders: Computer Room

Youth: Youth Room

Faith Dialogues: Chapel

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Parlor

Faith Dialogues

In February, Faith Dialogues will continue our book study led by Pat Manfredi. This year's book is *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*.

If you need a copy of the book, contact Laurie at laurie@firstprescdale.org or 751-1419.

New members are always welcome to join the discussion!

Souper Bowl of Caring – February 1

February 1, the Youth Group will have soup available for donations in Fellowship Hall after worship. All donations will be sent to Good Samaritan Ministries. This is a part of the annual celebration of the Souper Bowl, an event started 25 years ago to raise money to feed the hungry on Super Bowl Sunday. Your generous donations are appreciated!

Camp Carew

It's that time of year again - time to think about spending part of your summer at Camp Carew. Brochures will be available from Laurie or in the church office in February.

The brochure will also be on Camp Carew's website for you to download (www.campcarew.com). Letters with more information about scholarships for Camp will go out to all families with children in early February. Speak to Laurie you need more information.

Vacation Bible School – Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School will be June 8 - 12, 2015, in the evenings. Our theme is "Message Received: Hearing God's Call." We invite our whole church family - children, youth, and adults - to join us for a week of faith and fun.

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The Women's Retreat Report

Many of you have asked "Why was the Women's Retreat so much more expensive in 2014?"

The simple answer is two main reasons:

1. The first year we received the use of Camp Carew free; this was Presbytery's incentive to get people to use the camp and want to come back willing to pay a fee.
2. If you remember, the first year some of us spent a GREAT part of the retreat working in the kitchen. The 2014 planning team decided that wasn't fair to those women who missed out on parts of the retreat in order to see that everyone was fed and cared for. Thus we hired a cook.

In addition, there are also expenses for some of the workshop leaders and the keynote speaker. The workshop leaders who are members of our church have, in the past, very graciously donated their time, and often some or all of the supplies for their classes. However, outside leaders must be paid. In the past these have included massage, yoga, ceramics, henna, etc...

If we want to offer swimming or boating, Camp Carew/Presbytery has a mandate that requires a lifeguard to be present. The fee for the lifeguard is \$25 an hour. This is non-negotiable.

We also want to be sure that no young mother is prevented from attending due to childcare difficulties, so we offer childcare for the day. The mother pays part of this bill.

The 2015 Planning Team is working to bring the registration fee to a more manageable amount; fair for those who attend only one day and fair for those who attend the whole time. The planning team members pay their way. We waive the fee for those church members who are leading workshops. We also offer a scholarship for anyone who desires to attend but is having difficulty paying her way. We have not received a lot of donations for scholarships but the Lord always provides a way. We are immensely grateful to those who offer a way for others to attend.

A one night trip to St. Louis to a ball game costs more than the whole weekend at the Women's Retreat! When viewed in this way, you are getting one heck of a deal. Your one low fee pays for all your food, your lodging, and your entertainment. All you do is come, relax, and enjoy the weekend in God's beautiful camp setting with all your sisters-in-faith!

Worshiping in February. . .Worshiping in Lent. . .

The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday Worship on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will include the Imposition of Ashes (the burned palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday service), the Lord's Supper (served by intinction, where you come forward, break off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup and then commune), and prayer stations which are interactive stations around the room which can be accessed before and after worship and at various times during the service and which are designed to enhance both your worship experience and your start to your Lenten journey. There will be child care for K & under, but the prayer stations are designed with all ages in mind.

Sunday worship in Lent will find us looking at scripture and the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church USA to discover what we say we believe about who God is for us. While we recognize that the confessional statements of the Church were written in a particular time and place, and for a particular reason, we also believe that they can be instructive to us in this age, as well. We will draw from descriptives about God found in The Scots Confession, The Heidelberg Confession, The 2nd Hellenic Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Confession of 1967. We will also draw from hymns and other confessions as we look at our pictures of God.



Membership Ministry

Our January 11, 2015, Discovery Class Meeting for those wanting to learn more about the Presbyterian Church and what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian, Carbondale, was well attended! We encourage you to get to know our new members.

Fred and Sara Bierer

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921-9731



Kimberly Tomberlin (affiliate)

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Lord Jesus Christ,
you refused to turn stones into bread.
Save us from using our power,
however little,
to satisfy the demands of selfishness
in the face of the needs of others.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you refused to leap from the temple top.
Save us from displaying our skills,
however modest,
to win popularity
in the face of nobler calls on our abilities.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you refused to bend the knee to a false god.
Save us from offering our devotion,
however weak,
to cheap or easy religion
in the face of the harder path
on which you bid us to follow you.

Savior of the World,
you saw Satan masquerading as an angel of light
and shunned him.
Give us wisdom
to discern behind each subtle temptation
the ploy of the prince of darkness;
and in the face of all that is hellishly attractive,
help us to choose the will of God. Amen.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Fellowship 11am - Sunday School 11:45am - Deacon Ministry 12pm - Yarning Group 4pm - MaTT Club</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30pm - Stewardship 7pm - Ovretrs Anon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm - CODA GRP 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm - F.O.B.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am - KISS 12pm - Debtors Annon</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Fellowship 11am - Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm - Ovretrs Anon 7pm - Session</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5pm - CODA GRP 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm - F.O.B.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am - KISS 12pm - Debtors Annon</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Fellowship 11am - Sunday School 4pm - MaTT Club</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1pm - Presby Women 6:30pm - Faith Dev 7pm - Ovretrs Anon</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5pm - CODA GRP 5pm - Daycare Board 7pm - Ash Wed. Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm - Restrant Grp 6:30pm - GS Ldr Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm - F.O.B. 6pm - Movie Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am - KISS 12pm - Debtors Annon</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Fellowship 11am - Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5pm - Mission Ministry</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:30pm - Personnel 6pm - Presby Men 6:30pm - Fellowship Min 6:30pm - Interfaith Cncl 7pm - Ovretrs Anon</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5pm - CODA GRP 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - Small Groups</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm - F.O.B.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am - KISS 12pm - Debtors Annon</p>

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February 2015



In 1940, 75 years ago, American was once again facing a war that soon became worldwide in scope.

Many family members and friends of the present congregation members served overseas.

Rev. E. J. Gibson answered our call and served until 1946 when Rev. William Janssen was installed.