



# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FALL  
2011

124 North Chestnut Street Barnesville Ohio. 43713



## WEEKLY EVENTS

- ❖ WORSHIP SERVICE  
Sunday 10:30AM
- ❖ CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
and Nursery each Sunday
- ❖ CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE  
Sunday Noon



- ❖ COMMUNION first Sunday  
of each month
- ❖ ADULT SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
Sunday  
9:15AM  
except  
1st Sunday
- ❖ ADULT  
BIBLE  
STUDY  
Wed 11:00AM
- ❖ CHOIR REHEARSAL  
Thursday 4:30PM
- ❖ SESSION MEETINGS most  
first Sundays 9AM
- ❖ TRUSTEE MEETINGS  
8:30AM Sunday as called



## FROM the PASTOR'S DESK:



I send warm greetings to all of you in this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Season. The wonder of Christmas is that God has come and comes among us as one of us in Jesus Christ to save us from darkness, sin, and death. We need the hope He brings. We need to welcome Him into every area of our lives. With Him there is a deep joy.

This church faces new challenges because we used most of our investment resources to save and improve our building. Consider increasing your weekly or monthly giving. And if you have or will benefit from energy leasing, give a portion of that blessing to the Lord and His church.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has new ordination standards which our Presbytery did not approve. If you would like to discuss this, please let me know. Our national standards are not as clear as they once were. Congregations and presbyteries now have more freedom and responsibility.

After 20 years as your pastor I have decided to retire after Easter at the end of April. Barbara and I are planning to move to the house Ruth Cook once had on East Main Street. Presbytery will help you find an interim or supply pastor.

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Woods.

## PRESBY PROFILES

Marie and Dennis McCrate moved here as a young couple with three children when Dennis took a teaching and coaching position at Barnesville High School. Both had been a little dissatisfied with their former churches. The pastor of First Presbyterian was the first to reach out and invite them to come to church. So they did! They have been deeply involved in our church ever since. Dennis, as our liaison during the renovations, biked or walked to be on site daily. Marie's commitment as



Financial Secretary provided the practical baseline for decision making during this difficult time. Marie - calm, warm, spunky and pragmatic has been an indispensable ingredient of our staff and community as well as a member of our choir. Now retired from over two decades as Village Clerk she spends most of her weekdays with her grandchildren who are delighted to participate in our Sunday School activities when they visit.





The Barnesville Pumpkin Festival rests on a tradition of the Harvest, celebrating our labors and thanking God for the grace of his bounty. Our Deacons provide food and fellowship for hundreds who attend each year.

FALL  
2011

page 2

FROM the OFFICE:

The First Presbyterian community has been a significant part of what has led me recently to pursue theological studies and this fall I am a full-time 'hybrid' student – part on-site, part online. As part of this, I have been visiting a variety of churches, both ones I am writing about as part of my studies and those where I am invited to provide music ministry. Seeing a spectrum of worshipping congregations, lends appreciation to what First Presbyterian has that is so unique. Our church was built in the center of Barnesville at a time when the Church as an institution was the indisputable center of civic, family and spiritual life. While modern trends nationwide have challenged church growth nationwide, our members remain committed to living and acting on their faith, maintaining traditions and seeking new ways to reach out to the community. This is a great lead in to reports from our Youth Educator, Deacons and Presbyterian Women!

Ela J. Robertson



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Our energetic Youth Coordinator, Bryana Bahmer, appropriately dressed as a surgeon for souls (?) for the Halloween party has been putting together a full schedule of events for church and community children. The weather finally cooperated for the Congregational Picnic at the Bahmers' where all enjoyed, food, fellowship, kite flying and corn hole. August's week of Vacation Bible School hosted an average of 25 kids per night. Children learned bible stories, sang, played and created crafts related to the themes of Creation, Noah, Jonah and the



*continued on p. 3*

DEACONS' NEWS

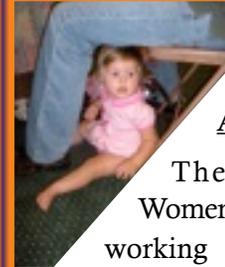
"Oh, Emery Stewart's on the run, here and there, everywhere he stops -- he does good things, he makes things happen."

The 2011 Barnesville Chamber "Citizen of the Year" award went to our inimitable Deacon leader, Emery Stewart. The first two lines (above) of a comedy song written in his honor, capture the energy of his spirit. However, the Deacons and other volunteers who meet the challenge of his pace are also to be honored. Our



*continued on p. 3*

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



The Presbyterian Women's Association is working on re-inventing our organization. All women of the church are automatically members of P.W.A. and welcome to become involved in our building a better and hopefully more productive group. We are planning on



a special meeting on Monday, December 5th, 6:15, with food and entertainment.

It is important to the life of our church that we become active in keeping it alive in its service to God. Look for a special invite from our officers. May God be with us.



Iva Wise,  
Moderator



Photos: Emery Stewart, Bryana Bahmer, Ela Robertson & others

**Presbyterian sites of interest:**

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking)  
[www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger)  
[www.pcusa.org/webelieve](http://www.pcusa.org/webelieve)



**OUR WEBSITE:** [firstpresbybarnesville.org](http://firstpresbybarnesville.org) Our site will soon be linked to several community websites including UOV Presbytery, the City of Barnesville, the Barnesville Chamber, and the Historical Society. This summer families were able to register for VBS online! Our newsletters are available on the site and we will gradually be adding new features such as pastor's sermons. Please submit your news and suggestions to the office or to our webmaster, Bill Cullingford – [bill@middleforkmaestro.com](mailto:bill@middleforkmaestro.com)

FALL 2011

Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

page 3

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you do not yet have a copy of the new pictorial church directory let the office know; we will send you one. Thank you to all who contributed to its production.



**APPRECIATION**

Thank you to Iva Wise and Sue Hanlon. You make producing the weekly bulletins a breeze and a fun time!



Dick Johnson is the wizard who keeps everything in place and sparkling each week even when messy renovations are happening. You're a blessing!



**IN MEMORIAM**

2011

*Kitty Ulrich*



**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts**  
alternating Tuesdays 5:30

**3M Choir** Tues 6 - 7

**TOPS** Thursdays 5PM

**Destination Imagination**

Thursday after school



**Blooper?**



**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** *(continued from p. 2)*

'Feast for 500'. The 6-foot long blow-up of 'The Whale' was a favorite playmate and mascot. Beth, Aggie, Mary Ann, Molly, Marie, Ruth H, Sue Hanlon, Jean Davies and Ela all pitched in co-leading activities or providing refreshments for the kids. Bryana also volunteered as the pre-school teacher for Bible Program at the Park this July and brought First Presbyterian balloons and coloring contest entries to the 200-300 children who attended the October 'Fall Festival.'

For Pastor Woods and others who attended, The Trip to the Oglebay Zoo provided a fascinating "behind the bars" opportunity to hear about life 'down under' and actually hold baby koala bears. Something not to be missed next year.

A Sunday School Potato Bar was added to our Pumpkin festival offerings and sold out in the first hour! Another first was the Halloween Fun night October 31. This provided a safe, fun place to enjoy Halloween and warm up for the city trick or treat activities. Children delighted in the Halloween treats, favors and costume accessories and played pumpkin roll, and "guess the goo" i.e. feeling something "gross" inside a black box (former chemistry teacher Bill Cullingford made colored 'slime.')

All these activities are designed to open wider the doors of our church and expand the reach of our community. The support and participation of members of the congregation was essential. THANK YOU!! All have been enlivened by the energy of the children at these festivities.



**DEACONS' NEWS** *(continued from p. 2)*

Deacons continue to be the primary missional force in our church community. This year they raised over \$1300 at their Pumpkin Festival soup and snack bar, thanks to generous donations from former deacons covering the cost of food and supplies. Since January of last year Deacons have contributed to Hurricane relief and have helped over a dozen local families and individuals experiencing job or home loss, illness or economic challenge. They have also helped purchase supplies which will soon make Pastor's messages available to shut-ins and have hosted special outings such as the trip to the Wilds last spring. Funeral luncheons have provided compassionate outreach to bereaved families. Thank you Deacons! You are the core of our "esprit de corps" (a common spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion to a cause among the members of a group).



**Your Newsletter and  
Bulletins**  
Please submit announcements,  
items of interest and articles to  
[presbyterian@spcglobal.net](mailto:presbyterian@spcglobal.net)  
or drop them off at the office for  
inclusion in our bulletins or  
newsletter.

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FALL 2011

Newsletter

page 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 27** Advent Begins
- DEC 3** Christmas Parade
- DEC 5** 6:15PM PWA
- DEC 11** Special music by  
Mary Ann Droll
- DEC 18** Christmas Dinner  
and Children's Pageant
- DEC 24** 11PM Christmas  
Candlelight Service
- DEC 25** **CHRISTMAS**  
Service 10:30AM
- JAN 1** **Happy New Year!!**
- JAN 22** Congregational  
Meeting
- FEB 26** Lent Begins
- APR 8** **EASTER**

editor: Ela J. Robertson



### The First Pres Coloring Contest

Does anyone know the date or the artist for this archival drawing? Everyone is invited to get out their color box and fill in the photo to left or pick up a form from the office. Sleds and scarf sets are the prizes for age groups 2-12. Get your grand kids involved. Due date for entries has been extended to Dec 18. Thank you, Bryana for the great idea!