



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE

2010

124 North Chestnut Street Barnesville Ohio, 43713

EVENTS

BAMA LENTEN SERVICES

All Wednesday services 7pm
followed by refreshments

Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
First Christian Church

Feb 24 Nazarene Church

Mar 3 Main St. UM

Mar 10 Somerton UM

Mar 17 First Methodist

Mar 24 Stillwater Meeting

April 1 Maundy Thursday
7pm *Morristown Christian*

April 2 Good Friday
Noon *First Presbyterian*

Apr 4 Easter Sunrise
6:30am *First Christian*



Apr 4 10:30am Easter Service
9:30am *Easter Breakfast*

Apr 19 Women's Association
6:15pm *Meeting & dinner*



RECENT

Jan 24 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation *Please call the office if you would like to have a report sent to you.*

Feb 14 Congregation attends UM Church to hear Aggie Timmon's daughter, Sue Busler, deliver the message: 'Complaining.'

Making Christmas Baskets



FROM the PASTOR'S DESK:

Wow! We have certainly had a challenging (but often beautiful) winter! I wish each and all of you the best for this new year.

Lent began with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7PM at the Christian Church and similar Wednesday services will be held until Holy Week. As we go from one church to another, we worship in different ways and can walk more closely with our Lord.

This year will be an eventful one in the life of our church. Major, costly work will begin in June to strengthen the roof structure in the attic. During that time we will be able to have worship in the Elva Nuzum Room. We can be thankful that the structural problems were found before the weight of clay tiles and snow caused damage this winter. We can also be grateful that through past generous giving and bequests and careful management of assets our church has had an endowment which makes it possible to begin to pay for much of the work that needs to be done. We will need to raise funds to pay for the structural work and the final roofing. Gifts from members and friends of our church and people in the community are most needed and welcome. Copies of our annual reports are available. Dennis and Marie McCrate and I and other trustees and Session members can give you information about plans and financial needs. I pray that all of us will walk in faith with our Lord Jesus in 2010!

Yours in Christ,
Andrew Woods

DEACONS' NEWS:

It seems this past year raced by but it was filled with lots of good things! We hosted a picnic as part of the 150th anniversary commemoration of our church, fixed lunches for those who helped with the Old Ireland project, made more than a thousand dollars with our annual Soup and Sandwich fund raiser during the Pumpkin Festival, hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, helped with the Christmas Dinner and

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Laughlin Chapel Girls Club Luncheon

PRESBY YOUTH:

It was a delight to host the Wheeling Laughlin Chapel Girls Club Dancers before the Christmas parade again this year. The Church Hall buzzed with the warmth and energy of these young girls from our Presbytery.

A special thank you to Lane, Avery and Regan Hanlon who volunteered during their holiday to help prepare bulletins and candle holders. The involvement of our youth is always appreciated!

Robb grandchildren





Your Newsletter

Thank you to all contributors to our new newsletter! While it took a bit to get the ball rolling, items have been coming in up to the last minute. Don't hesitate to send in your thoughts, news or pictures for the next issue!

ABOVE: a Barnesville picture postcard WINTER 1910

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FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

In November, the community celebrated Betty Griffin's nine years of service to the church with a lively party in her honor. As I had to be in California for a memorial service, I regret that when I was hired I missed any overlap time with Betty. Her warm familiarity with each and every event and person in the church community was left as a legacy. During my first months here, I have felt that I have been endeavoring to weave new designs from the patterns that Betty and others bequeathed. Thank you to Session and Trustees who approved our new wide screen (refurbished) computer. I am particularly interested in expanding awareness of the church's unique history and architecture with these current technologies, and using these assets to serve and coordinate the ministries and development of the church while getting to know each of you.



I thought it was appropriate for John Knox (in residence at St. Giles Church, Edinburgh) to assist in introducing me to those of you I have not met. In 2005, I was in Scotland for a Robertson family reunion and visited the towns across the Firth of Forth where my grandparents met and were Choir Directors of their small Presbyterian 'kirks'. I was raised in the First Presbyterian Church of Wichita, Kansas and while it has been many years since I have been a part of any presbytery I am enjoying my work in the beautiful stain glass lit office of the red stone church in the heart of Barnesville. Send an email or visit anytime: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-12.



Ela Jean Robertson

Deacon's, continued from page 1

prepared Christmas baskets for those members unable to make it to worship. We even managed to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship at John and Annie Glenn's home in New Concord. After Christmas several were able to visit the Victorian Mansion Museum here in town to see the Christmas Show. The deacons also helped Session provide a hot meal for the marchers from the Laughlin Chapel in Wheeling before they performed in the Barnesville Christmas Parade. It was, in all, a busy 2009! My hope is that 2010 will be just as bright.

From the Deacons....

A Healthy Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Emery



Elders enjoying service in the kitchen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Babies and Baptisms



Gunnar Dudzik

Our youngest church attender lately has been a little winter-wrapped bundle named Gunnar James, son of John and Danelle Dudzik, born December 22, 2009.

Lynzey Marie Kiser, daughter to Jeff and Ronna Kiser and granddaughter of Ellen and Ron Robb was born on November 27. (see photo with Santa Claus p. 1)

A beautiful girl, Ellie Rose, was born to Drew and Lexi Greenwood September 15, 2009.

Alden Jae Starr, born August 12, 2009, son of Beth Ann and Jeremy Starr, was baptized by Pastor Woods on December 20, 2009.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

February 21, 2010

Presbyterian Women's Association will meet Monday evening, April 19th, 6:15pm in the church dining room. We will have a Lasagna Dinner. We are hoping to invite the women of First Methodist Church to share the evening with us. No reservations needed. Jane Hall will present the program.

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BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

20 Steven Neal
22 Eileen Dosson
23 Krystal Kinney
26 Betty Pudlowski

MARCH

1 Mark Hanson
2 Jean Woodward
4 Lizabeth Smith
6 Grace Starr
9 Ted Hanlon

APRIL

14 Melissa Crawford
19 Faith Schanks
28 Susan Mayberry
Bill Ulrich
Ronnie Robb
29 Gary Parsons

APRIL

1 Megan Velas
3 James McClure
Carol Snopel
Susan Campbell
4 Sarah Marie Long

APRIL

10 Samuel Thompson
11 Ruth Householder
Katie Bostic
14 Barbara Lucas
15 Myrtle Hudson
Joshua Scaggs

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Old Ireland R.I.P

Cleaning and restoration of Old Ireland Cemetery, one of our church anniversary projects, was very successful, although not complete. Work done by Hiram Bowen, Warren Twp. employees headed by Jimmie Grear and our own volunteers headed by Dennis McCrate, did yeoman work on a formidable project. Township trustees will do annual maintenance in the future, but there is much yet for us to do. One project the youth might undertake is creating signage so that future generations would know that this cemetery is where the earliest Presbyterians, many who established this church are buried as well as many other very early area settlers.

A big thank-you to the Deacons for providing food and drink, to those who gave financial support and to area genealogists.

Jean Davies

jeandavies@comcast.net

PWA from p. 1

She has recently become involved with a program called "Free Wheelchair Mission!" This mission constructs inexpensive wheelchairs making them available, free of cost, to people of all ages around the world. Jane will explain more about it at our meeting. This is an exciting and much needed service. Please remember any woman of the church, regardless of age, is invited to become involved in the Presbyterian Women's Association. We need your support and prayers.

God Bless.

Co-moderators,

Iva Wise, Jeanne Hines

LETTERS of CONCERN:

Dear Friends:

We are in a period of financial concern as related to our church roof. In the near future probably by the end of March we will be receiving proposals from contractors to repair the church roof with a supportive steel structure. Expectations are that this will cost the church with engineering fees approximately \$430,000.00. We have already expended \$143,695 in roof removal, engineering fees, and masonry work the previous year.

We feel we currently have enough in our investments to pay for a majority of the estimated costs for the roof repair and engineering. But, of course, this is all dependent on what happens in the stock market. We need to maintain a significant portion of our investments to supplement the operation of the church as we have been doing for years. Our dilemma will be installing a new roof on the church. The cost for installing a new roof is proposed at \$162,965.00.

The temporary rolled roofing material which we presently have on the church is estimated to last 5 years. We hope to raise the funds for our new roof before the life of the temporary roof runs out.

Dennis McCrate, President of the Trustees

As a member of this year's Nominating Committee representing the deacons, I'm having even more difficulty finding members to serve on our board this year. I'm aware that numbers are down and that we are faced, like many churches in town, with an aging congregation. Looking through records from 40 years ago, I recall having twice as many on our membership rolls. With less than half that number today, I understand the frustration in getting four members to commit to three years' service as an elder, deacon or trustee. As a result, as numbers decline, we find the same people being asked to fill the same offices. They've done a good job and will continue to do a good job! But our bylaws were amended in 2009 to permit deacons and elders to serve two successive terms. That should be a somber indication to us all. Many Presbyterian churches have a unicameral board. The session and trustees are united as one unicameral group with "elders in charge of finance" present at each session meeting.

It's a more compact, efficient and modern system that permits boards with diminishing numbers to function more easily. My hope is that serious consideration and discussion will be given to such a proposal. We're not the congregation we were in 1970.

If you've never been asked to serve on one of our church boards or would like to do so, contact any elder, deacon, trustee or Andy. My prayer is that God will lead us to make the necessary decisions.

Emery Stewart

Our church lends a helping hand to many community members who like to lend a helping hand back. Thank you to Jeffrey Yeargin, Julianne Coleman, Steve Williams and Brandi Johnson who helped compile shut-in mailings and leant muscle to creating a more spacious furniture arrangement in our office!

Quotes from John Knox (c.1505-1572)
"No one else holds or has held the place in the heart of the world which
Jesus holds: other Gods have been as devoutly worshipped, no other man has been
so devoutly loved."
"You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time."

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(740) 425-3144

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E-mail us!

presbyterianbarnes@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to Bill Cullingford for cracking the code that has re-established reliable internet for us again in the Church Office. The easiest way for us to compile an email list is for you to send us an email! If you prefer to get your newsletter electronically let us know.

The Church Directory

The church roof renewal has, understandably, overshadowed progress on the Church Directory. If you did not have a chance to be photographed for the directory or would like to submit an alternate photo or new address, please submit them to the 'Directory Committee' care of the church office or email: prebyterianbarnes@sbcglobal.net

design: ela J. robertson

U.O.V. PRESBYTERY NEWS:

College Scholarships: Russell Scholarships are given every year to our Presbyterian youth members, or non-members, attending and involved in any of our Presbytery's Churches. Applications must be postmarked by **MAY 28, 2010**. Info: Rev. Robert Willits (304) 232-3383. Information and an application for the **Russell College Scholarship** can be found at website www.uovpresby.org.

Other Presbytery sites of interest:

www.pcusa.org/peacemaking
www.pcusa.org/hunger
www.pcusa.org/webelieve

SPIRITUAL RETREAT:

"Mountaintop 2010," the 24th annual Christian getaway weekend for men and women of all denominations will be held at Wilson Lodge, Oglebay in Wheeling, WV on March 5-7. For information contact Margie Watson at (740) 695-6542. She raves about this! mountaintopconference.org

The Presbyterian U.S.A. logo



The evocative power of symbol rests in its ability to call forth both personal and community meaning. The design for our news letter has been adapted from the official seal of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. How many images do you see layered in this symbol? There at least eight! What do each signify to you or the church? *Make a list and send it by email, mail or personal delivery to the church office.* I'll compile these and include samples in our next newsletter.

Those who submit the most comprehensive lists will receive something special! All ages urged to participate. Pastor Woods will help officiate.

Ela Robertson