

the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 2009

In This Issue

Jan. Lectionary 2
Allison Memorial 2
Budget Report 2
Mike's Page 3
Notes of Thanks 3
Session Notes 4
2009 Budget Table 5
Financial Report 5
Jan. Birthdays 5
Dates to Remember 6



Operation J.O.Y. and PYF Christmas Birthday Party

Operation J.O.Y. and PYF held a birthday party for Jesus Wednesday, December 10 for all children and teens in our church. We began the party by making small creche scenes using graham crackers, frosting, and various candies. Some creches stood as a testament to their builders' skills, while others fell as a testament to their builders' hunger. A big thank you to Mary Elam organizing and leading this activity.

Later, a beautiful birthday cake was both photographed and eaten. (see picture). Ice cream and punch were enjoyed by all.

At 4:30, two ladies from the Lifeline Pregnancy Center arrived, and each student gave them a wrapped baby gift which they opened. Many lovely items were received and will be put to good use. Thank you, boys and girls, for sharing a gift at our "baby shower for Jesus."

The party ended with small groups. Children in Operation J.O.Y. gathered in the sanctuary, and PYF members met in the Travers Room. The true Christmas story was told using the flannelgraph board for J.O.Y. and scripture readings for PYF.

Thanks to all leaders and parents who helped make this a thoughtful and exciting party. See you in 2009!



the Lantern

Published by First
Presbyterian Church

201 South High Street
Kirksville, Missouri
63501
(660) 665-4473

newsletter@presbykv.org
www.presbykv.org

January Lectionary

JANUARY 4

2nd Sun. After Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalms 147:12–20

Ephesians 1:3–14

John 1:(1–9) 10–18

JANUARY 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

JANUARY 11

Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1–5

Psalms 29:1–11

Acts 19:1–7

Mark 1:4–11

JANUARY 18

2nd Sunday in Ord. Time

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

John 1:43–51

JANUARY 25

3rd Sunday in Ord. Time

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalms 62:5–12

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

Welcome Alathea!

Alathea Stack was baptised and made a member of our church on Sunday, December 28. When you see her, bid her welcome!



Billie Allison Memorial Banners Dedicated

During the morning worship service December 14, 2008, two beautiful Christmas angel wall hangings were dedicated to the church, in loving memory of BILLIE RAE ALLISON (June 18, 1929 – March 24, 2007). This memorial gift also includes four different banners which will be hung during other special seasons of the year. It is most befitting for her memorial to include fabric, needlework and beauty, since these qualities were always a result of her busy artistic hands.

Billie was a 51-year member of this church, having served as Treasurer, Deacon and Elder. Billie also assisted with the Clothes Closet mission and created the applique of the Presbyterian Seal hanging in the office hallway. It is with reverence and gratitude that we dedicate this memorial to the Glory of God.

Linda Hudnall
Memorial Committee Chair

Report on the Proposed 2009 Budget

Last month, I reported on numbers related to our spending in 2008. This month, we follow with a report on the 2009 budget. Note that this budget has not yet been approved by Session and may still change. A summary of the numbers is provided on page 5.

Scott Thatcher

In order to create a realistic budget for 2009, current giving and expenses in 2008 have been used as a starting point almost everywhere. By doing this, overall budgeted expenses have been reduced from \$200,066 in 2008 to \$177,473 in 2009. Notable changes in the 2009 budget include the following:

Our budgeted "Direct Mission Support"—the amount we send to the Presbytery—has been cut from \$13,000 to \$3,300, which is the amount we were able to send in 2008. This change moves us from being one of the higher per capita givers in the Presbytery to being somewhere in the mid to low end of the pack.

The pastor's compensation has been held constant, without a cost-of-living increase. However, the Session has voted to provide additional educational assistance as Michael pursues a D.Min. during the next few years.

Under consultation with the staff, budgeted amounts for Administrative Assistant and C.E. Director compensation have been re-

duced. The C.E. Director's hours have been set at 25 hrs/wk, and the Administrative Assistant's position will replace overtime pay with flex time. These budget changes reflect actions that the staff had already begun on their own initiative in an effort to help the church remain in the black.

The Rollins apartments budget has been separated from the church's budget. In doing so, 10% of the Administrative Assistant's pay and benefits has also been moved to become a Rollins expense, in order to better reflect the work done in managing the apartments.

Even with these savings, we must assume approximately \$141,000 in regular giving during 2009 in order to achieve a balanced budget. However, we estimate that \$131,000 in regular giving is closer to what we should expect based on giving during 2008.

This \$10,000 budget shortfall can be attributed to some extent to the separation of Rollins finances. About \$5,000 in Rollins income is no longer being used to support the church's general fund. That \$5,000 is now being used to pay back the Bell Trust's roof repair loan and to begin to save for future repairs and improvements to the building.

Bridging this \$10,000 gap will be of continuing concern to the Budget & Finance Committee and Session during 2009.

Mike's Page:

Even though it is January, the church has an added bonus of "Christmastide," the twelve days of Christmas. For two Sundays following Christmas day, the chancel wears white, and we celebrate Christ's Birth. Wal-Mart may have all the Valentine's Day candy out for sale, but not us!! We are still celebrating Christ's Birth, God's mission to us.

One feeling I have during Christmastide is gratitude. I am so thankful for this congregation. Your generosity to me and my family this season is touching. From personal gifts, to the collection taken up by the personnel committee, each meant a lot to me and to the McCormack Family. Thank you. We certainly have found a good "fit" with you in Kirksville, and we hope you feel that way too. We are grateful to the members of this church and look forward to 2009. Even Noah is already making plans. For his birthday. In September.

In addition to thanksgiving, what does it mean for us to celebrate God With Us? What doesn't it mean!? It means hope without fear. It means God redeeming every part and aspect of our lives, from washing dishes to praying and then accidentally falling asleep. It means that we can really love ourselves, mind, body and soul. It's just as Paul asked us, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" No one, least of all us. Even we cannot get in our way with God on our side. As you pray, ponder, hope and dream about First Presbyterian Church and Christ's Ministry here, what is God calling YOU (and the rest of us) to do? What do you want to do more than anything? Maybe 2009 is the year to do it...

Perhaps as you read this, I am in Kansas City

Notes of Thanks

We just wanted to thank you so much for all of the wonderful items that your group provided the clients of Lifeline PRC. You can assure all of the children that babies in great need will be getting and using the items they contributed out of their generosity and care.

*Breanne Hunt, Executive Director
Lifeline Pregnancy Resource Center*

attending one of two Doctor of Ministry seminars at Saint Paul School of Theology. Let me share a couple of things with you about that, if I haven't already.

The Doctor of Ministry degree is the highest degree in professional ministry. The coursework focuses on practices in the church (preaching, ministry, prayer) if the church is practicing what they preach. My first class is the D.Min. Orienting Seminar, which will help me begin thinking about the project that will conclude my studies: the praxis thesis project. Some seminaries allow a curriculum to be written, others a book-sized-thesis, others a website. This class will eliminate some of those options and help me guide my studies in the most efficient way. I hope.

The second class has a fancy name but I call it "Theology of Preaching," because we have been reading books about what one believes in order to stand in the pulpit and preach. What do we believe about preaching? Is it the Word of God that I am proclaiming. Do you hear words that stir up the Word of God in you, in your spirit? Should one use illustrations from the world when they preach? Different theologians answer these questions differently and so this seminar will involve some interesting discussions. I hope.

The Season of Christmas is a season of gifts. We give and receive gifts to and from people we love. I hope you know that we feel very gifted by you. And I hope you feel gifted by us. Let us, as Paul reminds Timothy, "re-ignite the gift" within each of us. And let us be Christ's Gift to others.

Merry Christmas

The Church Staff wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the friends and members of First Presbyterian Church. The collection you took up for us was generous and very kind. We enjoy working with you in this place, side by side in this Ministry to which Christ has called us.

Merry Christmas

Mike's Office Hours

MONDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

TUESDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

WEDNESDAY:

1:00 – 5:00 pm

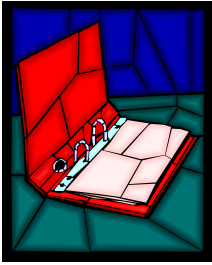
THURSDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

FRIDAY &

SATURDAY:

No office hours.



Notes from Session

DEACONS AND ELDERS JOINT MEETING

John Rowe reported that the Deacons are continuing to recruit members for bell-ringing at Hy-Vee as well as for work at Hope's Kitchen.

We will be happy to welcome Alatheia Stack, who will soon be baptized and become a member of our church.

Michael expressed thanks to the church for the White Gift Service and for helping with the youth retreat.

CONSENT AGENDA

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 18, 2009.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

A request was made to use the Oliver Fund income to pay our contribution to both Emergency Relief and KIM. It was decided to pay ERM first and hold our KIM payment until the first of the new year (after Oliver fund pays next set of interest) because KIM didn't have an immediate need for the money.

The 2009 budget was discussed. See the companion article on page 2 for more details.

The January Session meeting will be held on the 4th of January, immediately after worship, in order to approve the budget for 2009 and take any other necessary actions.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT

The committee brought the question of seeking a loan for the construction portion of the elevator project to the Session. Such a decision would have to go through the Session, congregation and presbytery, which would act as guarantor. In this scenario, we'd hope to start construction in 2009 and finish in 2010. The amount of the loan would be roughly \$200,000. Session will talk about this topic again in the new year. The committee will talk to the bank and the Church Development Corporation to get some numbers.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ronnaug has plans to meet with the Christian education leaders for Spring semester.

The *Operation J.O.Y.* winter kick-off will feature Christian clowns.

PERSONNEL

After Ronnaug, Danny and Michael left the room, the committee recommended that we offer to pay all of Michael's tuition in the D.Min. program. This would come to \$465 per credit hour, for 30 hours over approximately 5 years. In other words, just under \$14,000, or \$3000 per year. The motion passed, subject to the Budget and Finance Committee being able to fit this expense into the budget.

In April of this year, we had agreed to pay for two classes each year, with a cost of \$2000 per year. The 2009 budget currently contains \$1000 for the pastor's continuing education.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

Our insurance company wants us to consider terrorism coverage, but for the moment we have decided to decline.

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

Our current organist, Janet Coggins, will not be playing in 2009 (she plays in alternate years). Neither Dee Roberts nor Nancy Pennington are interested in playing during the coming year, but Michael has a lead at A.T. Still that he will follow up.

OTHER BUSINESS

Greg Marshall has offered to donate part of his personal web space to the church. We accepted the offer with thanks.

The Budget & Finance committee brought a motion to seek a loan (\$11,000 over 10 years at 4%) from the Bell Trust to cover the cost of Rollins roof repairs. The motion passed. [The Bell Trustees have also approved the loan.]

Scott Thatcher presented a draft of the Bell Trust's 2008 report.

Matt Matheny was elected as a Bell Trustee for another three-year term ending in 2011.

Annual reports from committees will be due in the church office by January 12.

Tentative 2009 Budget Summary

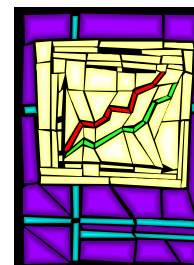
	2008 YTD	2009 Budget
Undesignated Income		
Regular Giving	118,627	141,228
Other (loose offering, building use, mineral rights, etc.)	6,857	6,500
Designated Income		
Bell Trust	20,000	20,000
Other (endowment, program income, Scrivens bequest, etc.)	8,037	9,500
Transfers from Other Funds*	5,205	245
Total Income	158,726	177,473
Expenses		
General Mission	3,400	3,400
Pastoral Leadership	57,433	63,235
Worship & Music	9,390	10,118
Christian Education	6,520	8,500
Administrative	53,657	56,190
Property Maintenance/Supplies	25,628	28,150
Other (general needs, campus ministry, membership shepherding)	3,965	4,130
Community Ministries (ERM, KIM, etc.)*	6,164	3,750
Total Expenses	166,157	177,473

* 2008 income and expense includes use of the Oliver Fund to buy snack milk for needy students. This use has not in the past been included in the budget.

Financial Report

NOVEMBER, 2008

	Month Income	Month Expense	YTD Income	YTD Expense
Giving & Other Revenue				
Restricted Program Transfers				
Designated Income/Expense				
Direct Mission				
Pastoral Leadership				
Worship & Music				
Christian Education				
Administrative Support				
House & Grounds				
General Needs				
Campus Ministry				
Membership Shepherding				
Community Ministries				
Rollins Ministry				
Westminster House Ministry				
Total				
Undesignated Cash Checking Account:				



Congratulations January Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Hannah Huston
Delmar Van Galen
Shelby Hunter
Melanie Collier



Dates to Remember

SUNDAYS

9:30–10:45 am: Sunday Worship Service

11:00 am: Sunday School for All Ages

5:30 pm: Campus Ministry meal at the Westminster House

...

Jan. 4: Session Meeting after church

Jan. 11: Congregational Meeting after church

Jan. 11: Second-Sunday Brunch

Jan. 11: Campus Meal Resumes

Jan. 25, 2:00 pm: Highland Crest Service

TUESDAYS

Jan. 13, 7:00 pm: Deacons

Jan. 27, 3:30 pm: Christian Ed. Comm.

Jan. 27, 7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women

WEDNESDAYS

1:15 pm: Bible Study

3:15 pm–5:15 pm: *Operation J.O.Y., P.Y.F.*

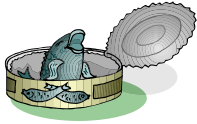
5:30 pm–6:30 pm: Adult Choir

THURSDAYS

Jan. 1: Office Closed

Jan. 15, 9:00 am: Presby Seniors at Rosie's

January Food:



Tuna!