

Presbyterian Voice

INVITE A FRIEND SUNDAY

Invite a Friend Sunday is December 12th with the Fellowship Dinner to follow. Please be sure to invite all your friends & neighbors.

A Big Thank you to all who helped & or Donated with the Thanksgiving Dinner we really do appreciate all your hard work. Thanks again. Outreach & Fellowship Committees. We served 93 people that is 20 more than last year.



Make Our Guests Welcome

December 2010

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Heart of America Christmas Pageant - Every year more than 600 First Baptist Raytown family members present the story of Christ's birth, life, death and Resurrection. A dazzling blend of heart-stirring music, drama, and dance will transport you back to the very first Christmas in Bethlehem, as well as the miracles, crucifixion, resurrection and Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Tickets are free, although a freewill offering is accepted. If you would like to attend on Friday, December 10th at 7 pm, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board by December 1st so we can get the tickets. See <http://www.firstbaptistraytown.com/ministries/pageant.html> or Jim Beer-ends for more details.

PRAYER LIST

Evans, Phyllis— Has breast cancer, close friend of Bill & Alice Garrison
Garrison, Bill & Alice—Need prayers
Goodman, George & Audrey— Needs prayer
Manda, Joan— Needs prayer
McDowell, Rev Al— Has some serious health issue
Sexson, Farrell— Needs prayer
Sherwood, William— Is in Appleton City Manor
Woolsey, Sally Jo— Needs prayer
Military Personnel at home and abroad
Victims of Natural Disasters

LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

Date	Scripture
Dec 5	Isa. 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7,18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12
Dec 12	Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11
Dec 19	Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7; 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25
Dec 26	Isa. 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

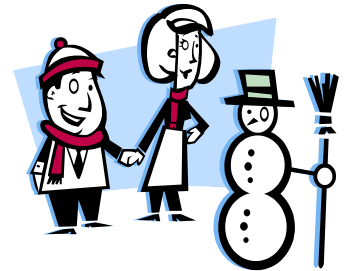
VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

WORSHIP LEADERS

DEC 5 Alison Snyder
 DEC 12 Patty Sudhoff
 DEC 19 Chris Taylor
 DEC 26 Kyle Sudhoff

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Chris Taylor
 Kristy Boney
 Vickie Taylor
 Alex Boney



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Dec 1 B.J. Snyder & Judy Hickman
 Dec 2 Jerry Talkington
 Dec 4 Connor Coffel
 Dec 5 Becky Bornaman

Anniversaries For this Month

Dec 10 John & Kathy VanGorkom
 Dec 20 Bill & Sharon Kahl

Dec 6 Lizz Talbot
 Dec 7 Cher Carpenter
 Dec 8 Madeline Mercer & Brian Dinges
 Dec 10 Steve Long
 Dec 11 Jan Edmondson & Donna Long
 Dec 17 Diane Gorman
 Dec 18 Micah Taylor
 Dec 19 Brian Flynn
 Dec 20 John Van Gorkom
 Dec 28 Sally Jo Woolsey & Hannah Talbot

Deacons and Elders for the Month of December

Elders: Ken Meyer & Jim Beerends
 Deacons: Amber Beerends & Chris Taylor

DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paints 6:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30-8:30 pm Youth 7 pm Choir	2 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paint 6-7:30 Clothes Closet 8 pm AA Meeting 6 pm Stewardship 6:45 Deacons 7:30 Outreach	3	4
5 Communion Sunday Fellowship Hall 4-7 Ken & Mary Pat Meyer	6 9-2 Puzzle & Paints 8 pm AA Meeting	7 9-2 Puzzle & Paints 9-12 Clothes Closet	8 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paints 6:30-8:30 Youth 7 pm Choir	9 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paints 1:30 Presbyterian Women 6-7:30 Clothes Closet 8 pm AA Meeting	10 7 pm Heart of America Christmas	11 9-Noon God's Lil' Sparks
12 Bring A Guest Sunday Fellowship Dinner Children's Program	13 9-2 Puzzle & Paints 8 pm AA Meeting	14 9-2 Puzzle & Paints 9-12 Clothes Closet 7 pm Session	15 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paints 6:30-8:30 Youth 7 pm Choir	16 9-11:30 Puzzle & Paints 6-7:30 Clothes Closet 8 pm AA Meeting	17	18
19 Cantata Conor Boney Baptism Christmas Joy Offering	20 9-2 Puzzle & Paints 8 pm AA Meeting	21 9-12 Clothes Closet Preschool Christmas Program 10:00 am	22 6:30-8:30 Youth 7 pm Choir	23 6-7:30 Clothes Closet 8 pm AA Meeting	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service	25 Christmas
26	27 8 pm AA Meeting	28 9-12 Clothes Closet	29 6:30-8:30 Youth 7 pm Choir	30 6 pm Burris & Gorman Wedding Rehearsal 8 pm AA Meeting	31 5:30 pm Burris & Gorman Wedding	

GOD'S LIL' SPARKS

God's Lil' Sparks will be held on **Saturday, December 11** from 9:00-12:00, instead of the 18th as previously scheduled. Please have each child bring 1 dozen cookies so we can put together cookie trays to deliver to shut-ins to help celebrate the holiday season. The cookies can be store-bought or homemade, but PLEASE no peanut butter!

Dec 13th Will be our next meeting of God's Lil' Sparks! We are excited that it is growing already, but that means we will need more help. I will be putting a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone to sign up and help out in the upcoming months. I will need an adult to be in charge of Arts & Crafts and another adult to be in charge of snacks. We will have Youth to help out in all the different areas. I am very excited about God's Lil' Sparks... this has been a dream of mine since I first started coming to this church and it has finally

become a reality! Please sign up to help out if you can! Call Malena at 816-540-8953 or 816-529-1602 with any questions.

Dec 18th—

Theme-- "A Story of Joyful Giving"

Craft-- S'mores Picture Frame
Service Project-- Each child will be asked to bring a dozen cookies (can be store brought or homemade-no peanut butter; please!) we will then assemble cookie trays (12) to be delivered to members of the church.

Preschool Christmas Program:

The preschool Christmas program will be on December 21st at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Church Post Office - Are your Christmas cards ready to go? The church Christmas post office has been placed in the narthex and is ready to help you deliver holiday greetings to other church members! Please feel free to use this box as a convenient way to send cards to other church members and then donate the money you would have spent on postage to help support the Angel Tree program. If you have any questions please contact Amber Beerends at 540-4811 or abeerends@gmail.com

Angel Tree

When mom or dad is in prison, it's the children who do hard time. But you can let them know they aren't forgotten! Our church will once again be participating in Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program which provides Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison. We will need volunteers to buy and deliver gifts. The tree is now up and angels are ready to be adopted. Please bring your wrapped gift back to church by December 12th to allow time for gift delivery. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Amber Beerends at abeerends@gmail.com or 540-4811.

Address for Jason Bartok (Yvonne Curry's son)

Bartok, Jason N.
 451 ECS\SCOTI
 APO, AE 09347

Don't write on the outside anything you want stolen. Just put socks. Please mail earlier it takes awhile to get over seas.

Heartland Presbytery Meeting Highlights
November 16, 2010

Heartland Presbytery was hosted by the Effingham Union Church in Effingham, KS. The presbytery worshiped in the style of the Iona Community of Scotland with the Rev. Matthew Reeves, Associate Pastor of Parkville Presbyterian Church, preaching the sermon. Rev. Glenda Watts and Rev. Jeff Cochran celebrated communion. The worship offering of \$881.51 benefitted the Effingham Community Thanksgiving Fund.

The presbytery examined Elder Paul Moss and commissioned him to Lay Pastor of the Jacoby Chapel, Warrensburg, MO. The honorable retirement of Rev. Bill Bridgewater from the Community and Maxwell Heights Churches of St. Joseph was celebrated with laughter and expressions of love.

The presbytery elected their future leaders: Rev. Donna Chavez, pastor of the Argentine (KCK) and Southridge (Roeland Park, KS) congregations will be Presbytery Moderator Elect for 2011 and Elder David Meerse will be Stated Clerk 2011-2013.

The presbytery debated and approved the addition of the Confession of Belhar to the *Book of Confessions* following the Brief Statement of Faith. At this point, amending the *Book of Confessions* will require 2/3 approval of all the presbyteries and another 2/3 approval of the 220th General Assembly in 2012. The tally on all General Assembly issues can be followed at <http://oga.pcusa.org/pdf/votes.pdf>.

Mission and Social Justice Ministries Division invited interest persons to travel to Thwake Village in Kenya, Africa departing in late February 2011. The Guatemalan Maya Quiche Partnership returned with suitcases filled with beautiful crafts from the villages of the Maya Quiche Presbytery. Many presbyters did their Christmas shopping early. The Guatemalan Market will return during the February presbytery meeting.

**Next Stated Meeting:
Saturday, February 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
St. Joseph, MO
Installation of Elder Beverly Barr as Moderator
Voting on the Book of Order Amendments from GA**

It is a very exciting time in the church here at 1st Presbyterian of Pleasant Hill, MO. God has been so gracious to us all and we are a very fortunate congregation. We are excited that we will be forming a PNC to start our search for a permanent installed full-time Pastor. Wait!!! What does all that mean? Deep breath...Here at 1st Pleasant Hill we have been so graciously blessed by God to have the Mercer's. Their relentless pursuit to make this a church that strives constantly to do God's will has not only been a huge success, but has led us to a point where we are hearing God call us to take our church to a new level. Madeline and Jeff have so graciously devoted all their resources, time, talents, and treasures to furthering of not only God's will for 1st Pleasant Hill, MO but the greater church as well. We are eternally grateful for their dedication, training, and implementation of the Presbyterian way. God Bless both of you!

PNC - Pastoral Nominating Committee: A committee formed by the congregation of a church for the purpose of seeking an installed Pastor for their church. Made up of congregational members selected by vote in a congregation meeting, committed to finding a new pastor.

"A new Pastor? but we love the ones we have!"

"YES we do! But God has led us and them to a place that demands we heed His call."

"But wait, are they leaving?"

"Yes, eventually, but only when they are ready."

"But I don't want new Pastors!"

"Neither do I, but God does. This is the start of a process that will take some length of time depending on what God has in store for us. Be open, be positive, be encouraging, but mostly be Prayerful!"

Installed Pastor - A full or part-time Pastor that commits their time to the church under contract to be a permanent Pastor until such time the Pastor or the church, through God, decides to make a change.

Interim Pastor - A Pastor designated by the Presbytery to serve as Pastor until such time an installed Pastor is called by the church.

Temporary Supply - A Pastor that is supplied to the church on a *temporary basis* until which time a congregation calls an installed Pastor.

Pulpit Supply - A list of Pastor's that have been approved by Presbytery to fill in on a week by week basis until an installed Pastor can be found.

First call Pastor - A Pastor that is coming out of seminary and will be in the pulpit for the first time. This can be a young person or a second career person. Aren't all Pastors a first call Pastor initially?

Why all these different terms for Pastors? There are many situations that church's find themselves dealing with and as such the Presbytery helps supply the needs of these different situations.

Here at 1st Pleasant Hill, MO we have the unique opportunity to participate in a program where we can call a *First call Pastor* to help them get started in their career. We help them and they help us. What are the benefits of that? The Presbytery selects only those that are willing, have the skill sets, and are mentored from a Pastor from Presbytery, to participate in this program. It is a new and exciting way to find someone that God has determined to be ready to accept a call to our lovely community of faith. Are they installed? They are called for a 2 year commitment, if chosen by us and themselves, to come to our church as a Pastor. Then what? We can then call them as installed or send them on to their next calling in the ministry. But that doesn't seem very permanent. (I don't think when a woman goes to the beauty shop for a permanent every year it is very permanent either, but I digress.) It is what God chooses it to be. Some of the benefits are some funding from Presbytery, through various resources, someone that is willing to live in our community and participate in community activities with us. But what if we do not choose a First call Pastor because we do not find a fit? No problem, we just keep searching through our PNC for an installed Pastor through the normal Presbytery channels. This could be an opportunity for us as a church to give back to the very people that have given so much to us.

Be prayerful daily as we go forth to seek God's will for our church. Be open-minded and I strongly urge you to ask as many questions as come to your mind at anytime. Ask an Elder, the Pastor, a Deacon, the session. Use your resources. The Session here at our church is made up of diverse, thoughtful, knowledgeable and willing servants of God to assist you with any and all concerns you have with your church home.

In Christ,

Chris Taylor

Proud Congregational Member of the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Hill, MO



Leadership Development Training:

Saturday, January 22, 2011
Brookdale Presbyterian Church
 203 S. 31st • St. Joseph, MO • 64501

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Reverend Maggie Lauterer



This year's "Embracing Hope" keynote speaker is Rev. Maggie Lauterer. Maggie has been Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville, North Carolina for 10 years and her church has tripled in size during this time. Maggie graduated from Montreat-Anderson Junior College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and she received her Master of Divinity degree from Union-Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

Maggie has served the Western North Carolina Presbytery as member of the Examinations Committee, Moderator of the Presbytery and also Moderator of the Presbytery Council. She was a delegate to the PCUSA General Assembly in 2008.

She is married to Zack Allen.

SCHEDULE:

- Registration/continental breakfast ... 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
- Worship/Keynote Speaker 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.
- Workshop #1 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
- Lunch..... 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Workshop #2 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.
- Workshop #3 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.
- Closing: *Take HOPE with you* 3:35 p.m.

Cost for workshops and lunch is \$25. per person.
 Watch for additional information coming soon!
 Register online after Nov. 1 at www.churchresourcecenter.org

QUESTIONS? Please call Malinda Spencer: 816-923-5486

WORKSHOPS:

- 1A Earthkeepers Diane Waddell
- 1B Unbinding [the Gospel] Nancy Kahaian
- 1C Personal Finance Brian Hathhorn
- 1D Strategies for Serving Special Needs Children Edna Smith
- 1E Sexual Misconduct Teresa Clark
- 1F Doing Church in the Digital Age Leigh Gillis & guests
- 2A Financial Officer Training Brian Hathhorn
- 2B Elder Training Charlie Spencer
- 2C Deacon Training Nancy Mabrey
- 2D Clerk Training Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery
- 2E Ministry in Your Neighborhood Paul Gaug
- 2F Diversity Matters Keith Harris
- 2G Planning Mission Trips Parkville church
- 3A De-Mystifying Adult Education Malinda Spencer
- 3B Hospitality Dan McKnight
- 3C Personnel in the Local Church Jeff Clayton
- 3D Stewardship Presbytery Stewardship Committee
- 3E Vital Worship for Small/Mid-size Churches Maggie Lauterer
- 3F Planning International Mission Trips Parkville church
- 3G Small Church Youth Ministry Marci Glass

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH SERVICE BLITZ:

Friday, January 21, 2011 • 8:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church • St. Joseph, MO
 Youth and leaders will be challenged by youth keynoter Marci Glass, and will perform service projects to benefit the St. Joseph area. More information on Marci is available at www.marci-glass.com. The blitz will conclude with Sunday worship at FPC St. Joseph. \$30 per person will include meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Watch Heartland Connection for details, or for questions, contact Paula Igrig at pigrig@secondpres.org

210 N. Jefferys
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080
Phone: 816-540-6179
or E-mail: 1stpresp@embarqmail.com



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WORSHIP WITH US!

We invite you to join in the worship of God each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. We also invite you to participate in the prayers, fellowship, work and activities of this church. For more information about these opportunities to be involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Hill, please speak with any member of Session, Pastor Mercer or call the church office at 540-6179 or email at 1stpresp@embarqmail.com

Office Hours

Monday- Office Close
Tuesday- Thursday 9-12
Friday 9-12

Clothes Closet

Tuesday 9-12
Thursday 6 pm-7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Staff

Rev Madeline Mercer, Pastor
Alison Snyder, Clerk of Session
Pam White, Church Secretary
Dawn Anderson Church Treasurer
Ebony Shaffer, Choir Director
Mary Pat Meyer, Church Organist
Marcia Brinkman Pianist



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1STPRESBYCHURCH.NET