



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE,

OFFICE ADDRESS: 435 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505

OFFICE PHONE: 609-298-1243

[WWW.BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG](http://WWW.BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG)

[OFFICE@BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG)

## JANUARY 2010

### FROM THE SESSION

#### INTRODUCING REV. ROBIN E. LOSTETTER

Most of you have heard by now that Session has entered into a contract/covenant with the Reverend Robin E. Lostetter as our Temporary Supply Pastor. Her official start date is January 12, 2010 and her first day leading worship is January 17, 2010. We are pleased to introduce her to you and invite you to also read her own message to the congregation provided on page 2 of this newsletter.

Rev. Lostetter was born and raised in Roswell, New Mexico. Her family attended the Episcopal Church. She took her B.A. in Liberal Arts (with a lot of work in music) from The Colorado College in Colorado Springs, her M.A. in Music from SUNY at Buffalo, and her M. Div. at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester. She served in church music from the time she was in junior high, in several Protestant Denominations. Prior to entering the called ministry, she was an organist/choir director in two Presbyterian churches for about eight years each: Lockport, New York, and Binghamton, New York (where she also served as Stephen Leader/Assistant to the Pastor). She was ordained February 20, 2000, and has served as Associate Pastor for Membership and Nurture at the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church ever since. While there, her primary responsibility has been pastoral care and adult nurture.

She has been a faithful, dedicated servant to Monmouth Presbytery in many ways. First, she has assisted two congregations with specific development challenges: (a) She served as the liaison from the Committee on Ministry to the United Presbyterian Church of Yardville when the church was formed through a merger. Rev. John Milne advises that she helped them through several rough patches in the process and prevailed in bringing them to where they are today. (b) She served on the Administrative Commission that assisted the Tuckerton Presbyterian Church through a rough period. Second, she presently serves on the Mission Council, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Representation, the Committee on Ministry, and the Tri-Presbytery Joint Administrative Commission on Tres Iglesias Presbiterianas (which is seeking to develop a specialized ministry to reach out to the state's burgeoning Hispanic community). She has previously served as Moderator of Monmouth Presbytery and in numerous other capacities too many to list here. According to Presbytery leaders we interviewed, she has been an effective presence in every instance: articulate, reasonable, compassionate, and pastoral.

She has also participated in national denominational activities. For example, she was a Minister Commissioner from Presbytery to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 2006-2008 and is the vice chair of Presbyterians for Disability Concerns.

Robin is compassionate about all of God's children and creatures. She has become a leader in ministries for those living with disabilities or age-related limitations, is involved in various aspects of social and eco-justice (she brings her two rabbits with her, has experience with "greening" churches, and participates in Presbyterians for Restoring Creation), and has assisted in several mission projects (including Katrina relief in Gulfport, MS).

Her track record with respect to continuing education and special interests shows her to be someone who is committed to becoming informed about many issues of today's changing world and changing church. She clearly is committed to being fully equipped to lead our congregation through whatever challenges we may face.

*Continued on the back page*

Dear New Friends,

Grace and Peace to you . . . and Happy New Year! How appropriate that greeting feels . . . 2010 will indeed be filled with new experiences, new friendships, and new challenges. I look forward to getting to know you, both as individuals and as a community of faith.

You may want to know something about me as well, and about my vision for the mission of First Presbyterian Church, Bordentown. But instead, let me draw your attention to this statement from your website:

*Guided by the Holy Spirit,  
we will blossom more and more  
into faithful stewards of our gifts, time and talents.*

This is from your congregation's mission statement, a statement which attracted me to this church in the first place. And while I am here, we'll be looking at that mission statement – we'll see if it fits, if it needs a little tweaking, or if you have an entirely different identity from when this was adopted.

We'll talk about your past, your present, and your future. We'll work with what you have and what you remember, in order to create a narrative of this church's life and history, and together we'll begin to envision the future. In the meantime, we'll do our very best to be a representation of the Reign of God to the community around us . . . showing Christ's love not only through ministry and prayer, but also through fellowship and laughter.

And me? Well, my primary message is always, "God loves you." That knowledge, when internalized, is transformative and strengthening. And it invites us into living the Great Commandment – to love God and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

And something else . . . you are the church here in Bordentown. Elton Trueblood said it well: "The laity are not the passengers of a ship. They are members of the crew."

I am excited to help the crew steer this ship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Robin



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Eugene Adam; Henry Allegretti; Diane Andreas; Virginia Bonnell; Peter Darpino; Karen Giambrone; Judy Harrison; Toni Holevinski; Alicia, Nick and baby Nicholas Kalojiannis; Candace and Virginia Lindh; Joseph McCarthy; Heather Mergen; Alice Patterson; Fern Sacks; Paul Sootkoos; Claire Swarts; the Tolbert family; Pat Wright.

## WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR JANUARY

### Preaching this month

1/03—Rev. Courtney Cromie

1/10—George Carmichael

1/17 and following—Rev. Robin Lostetter

**Director of Music** — Wendy Huber

**Pianist** — Tina Vilic

**Secretary** — SaraLee Pindar

office@bordentownpresbyterian.org

*SaraLee's Office Hours: T & W 9-1;*

*Th 9:30—1:30*

**Deacon of the Month**—Candy Walling, 298-2581

### Worship Co-Leaders

1/03—Pat Terry

1/10—Mae Hamilton

1/17—Don Reilly

1/24—Bobbi Maiuro

1/31—Jean Allegretti

*To volunteer as a worship co-leader contact*

*Donna Potts, 585-0211*

### Communion Servers for January

Kathie Ackerman, Greg Hoch, Don Reilly

Anne Reilly, Melonie Newton

### Communion Servers for February

Karen Deets, Bill Deets, John Burke

Pat Andrus, Jim Andrus

### Extended Care

*Willing disciples needed!*

*To volunteer for extended care, call*

*Elke McAteer at 324-0271*

## ANNIVERSARIES



1/01 Bill & Candace Walling

1/06 Michael & Kristen Lukach

1/21 Cole & Donna Schleper

## BIRTHDAYS



1/02 Dorothy Barnard

1/05 James Maleski

Montana Pell

1/07 Robert Joe Lee

Frances Wolverton

1/10 Timothy Goldner

1/11 Mike VanPelt

1/14 John Applegate

1/16 Regina Del Vecchio

1/17 Alexandra Clemens

1/19 Mae Hamilton

1/21 Colleen Burke

1/22 Kathie Seaman

1/23 Kenneth Allen

1/24 Kathleen Allen

George Yates

1/26 Anne Reilly

1/27 Lori Marchetti

Kimberly Ramalho

1/30 Allison DiLeo

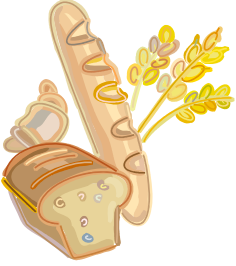
Debra DiLeo

# MISSION IN ACTION!

**Our next Mission Meeting:** We will correspond by email in January for Mission activities, there will not be a meeting in January. Look for an email with the meal plan for January's mission meal.

**Our next Bread of Life Mission Meals:** January 24, 2010 (immediately following worship).

**Next Grocery Bag Mission** due date: Week of January 18-23, deliver items to the First Baptist Church in Bordentown.



Our church provides 50 microwaveable meals for the homeless each month. Our donation is combined with donations from other churches to provide 20-30 grocery bags to homeless families living in local area motels. Some examples are pop-top soup cans, Chef-Boyardee pasta meals, or cans of stew. Donna Potts has left a pot in the back of the church with soup can labels for your reference. If you can donate some items for this monthly collection, please place them in this pot.

## Ready to distribute Mission Meals:

On a regular basis throughout the year we have visitors that come to our church asking for food because they are either transitioning to a new place to live, homeless or have found it financially impossible to feed themselves and their family. The Mission Team has been making up paper bags containing non-perishable food that can be stored and ready to be distributed. The bags consist of bottles of water, juice, cereal, soups, microwaveable meals, fruit cups, puddings and anything else that stores well and doesn't need refrigeration. Please help us continue this important mission in our church by making up a bag now and then that can be stored at the church. Give your donated bag to anyone on the Mission Team and we will put it in storage.

## FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND CHOCOLATE SALES



The Mission Team is taking over the Fair Trade Sales, look for us during fellowship hour to restock or to buy a great gift for someone you love!

Contact Karen Chamberlin if you have a special order or if you have any questions... 609-291-0603 or [kcpix@verizon.net](mailto:kcpix@verizon.net)



Grace and Peace to all!

The Mission Team

Karen Chamberlin, Donna Potts, Bobbi Maiuro, Kim Kelly, Anne Hernandez, Patty Korsak, Nancy Foster, Colleen Swiderski

Contact Karen Chamberlin @ 609-291-0603 or email: [kcpix@verizon.net](mailto:kcpix@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping with a meal or any of our mission projects.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MOVE REV. LOSTETTER INTO THE MANSE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 20, 2010:** The Buildings and Grounds Committee is helping Rev. Lostetter move and helping the church save over what it would cost to hire professional movers. We will be renting a truck and moving her belongings to Bordentown ourselves. A few of us will get the truck and head out early to Point Pleasant (her office) and Lakewood (her home) to pick up all her belongings (she will have helpers on that end to help load the truck). We will need several persons to be available in the mid- to late-afternoon (possibly even early evening!) to unload the truck at the manse.

Since we don't know how long it will take to pack up the truck and get back to Bordentown, it's impossible to know in advance exactly when we'll need the help. What we're planning to do is have a contact person in Bordentown whom we'll call once the truck is packed and we're headed west. That contact person will then advise our volunteers of the anticipated time the truck will arrive.

If you can help, please let us know in whichever of the following methods works best for you:

1. Fill out the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary OR
2. Send an e-mail to Don Ryba (dsryba@aol.com) OR
3. Call Don Ryba at 609-324-9095 (or his cell, 609-234-0693)

Thank you very much!!!!

**FROM THE DEACONS:** A BIG "thank you" to all who helped make the Silver Tea a success!

A special thanks:

- to those who helped set up
- to those who graciously loaned silver serving platters
- to those who let us share their culinary dessert talents by signing up for the tasty Christmas cookie treats
- to Mary Terry and Dot Bernard, who served over 60 cups of tea and coffee from the traditional tea sets
- to Donna Potts, who let us enjoy her eye for color and design by way of the Fellowship Hall decorations

What a nice way to honor the musicians who performed in the Cantata!

SENIOR LUNCHEON: Reminder that the next luncheon is planned for Saturday afternoon, January 23rd.

**BOOK CLUB:** Our schedule for the next four months is:

**January 20:** *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See, the story of two sisters whose newly bankrupt father sells them as wives to two men from Los Angeles. The story is set in the 1930s and subsequent years and follows the sisters as they cope with the effects of World War II and as they struggle to make new lives in the U.S.

**February 24:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This novel is set in the south of the 1960s. It is the story of a young white writer who is working on a book intended to blow the lid off the suffering endured by black maids in Jackson, Mississippi.

**March 17:** *Home Another Way* by Christa Parrish. This is a Christian novel about Sarah, a young woman who is required by the terms of her father's will to move to his house in rural New York. The novel traces Sarah's bumpy road to conversion and introduces a variety of well-drawn characters.

**April 21:** *The Hour I First Believed* by Wally Lamb, a long, complex and powerful novel centered on the Columbine shootings as they affect Columbine teacher/narrator Caelum Quirk and his wife. It draws on major events to explore a multitude of issues and themes — marriage, alienation, psychological trauma, identity, redemption.

**PLAY AND LEARN REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2010-2011:** If you are interested in registering a little one for Play and Learn, please call the school at 298-1678 to set up an appointment.



# JANUARY 2010

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                           | Wed                                    | Thu  | Fri                           | Sat       |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
|  |   |                               |  |  | <b>1</b><br>NEW YEAR'S<br>DAY | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b> Communion<br>10:30  | <b>4</b><br><br>Women's AA 7:30                                 | <b>5</b><br><br>Deacons 7:00  | <b>6</b>                               | <b>7</b><br><br>AA 7:00<br>Choir 7:30;<br>Handbells 8:45 | <b>8</b>                      | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br><br>Women's AA 7:30<br>Women's Bible<br>Study 7:00 | <b>12</b><br><br>Session 7:00 | <b>13</b><br><br>Junior Scouts<br>7:00 | <b>14</b><br><br>AA 7:00<br>Choir 7:30<br>Handbells 8:45 | <b>15</b>                     | <b>16</b> |
| <b>17</b> Rev. Robin<br>Lostetter's first<br>worship service with<br>us 10:30 am | <b>18</b><br><br>Women's AA 7:30                                | <b>19</b>                     | <b>20</b><br><br>Book Club 7:30        | <b>21</b><br><br>AA 7:00<br>Choir 7:30<br>Handbells 8:45 | <b>22</b>                     | <b>23</b> |
| <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br><br>Women's Bible<br>Study 7:00                    | <b>26</b>                     | <b>27</b><br><br>Junior Scouts<br>7:00 | <b>28</b><br><br>AA 7:00<br>Choir 7:30<br>Handbells 8:45 | <b>29</b>                     | <b>30</b> |
| <b>31</b>  |   |                               |  |  |                               |           |

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Chimes 8:55; Sunday School 9:15; Worship 10:30

## NOVEMBER 09 FINANCIAL UPDATE

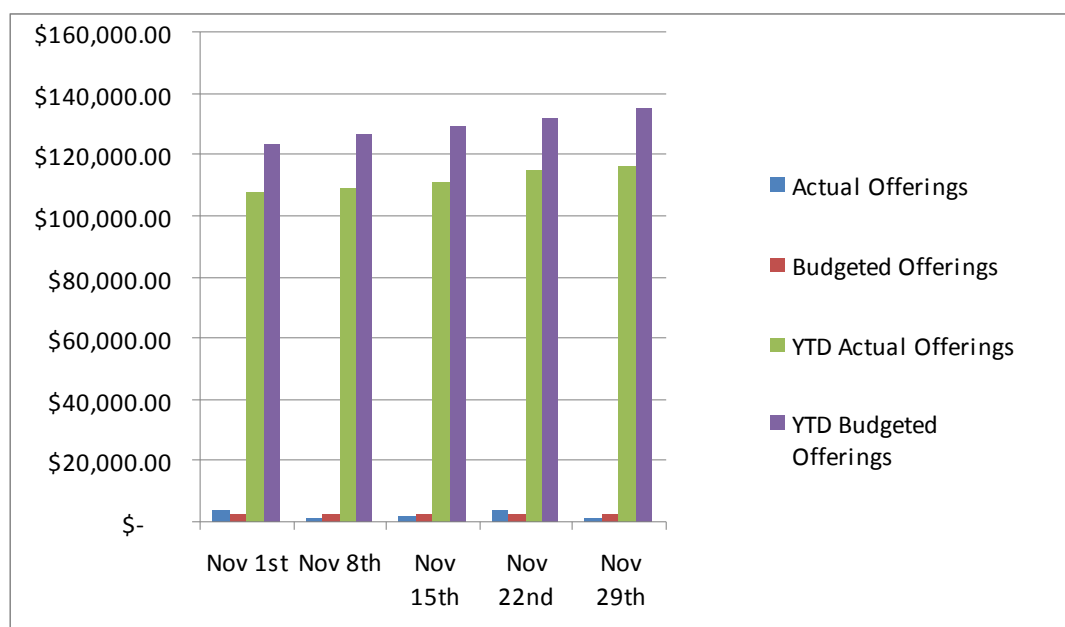
For the month of November actual regular offerings totaled \$12,599, compared to the budgeted amount of \$13,945 (5 weeks at \$2,789 per week), resulting in an increase of the deficit of \$1,346 for the month. Year- To-Date (YTD) regular offerings total \$116,444 compared to the Budgeted amount of \$134,864 (YTD deficit of \$18,420). This would project to an annual regular offering deficit of \$20,095.

With regard overall income and expenses, YTD income through November 2009 totaled \$124,532, compared to the YTD budgeted amount of \$150,180, a deficit of \$25,648. Expenses YTD through November 2009 totaled \$136,933, compared to the budgeted YTD amount of \$159,347, a surplus of \$22,414. Through November 2009 we have an overall deficit of 12,400 which projects to an annual deficit of \$13,527 (compared to an annual deficit of \$31,836 in 2008).

The citrus fruit sale netted the Church approximately \$800. Tina Vilic won first prize (\$75 gift certificate to the Farnsworth House) with sales of 9 ½ cases and Victoria Taylor won second place (4 movies tickets) with sales of 8 ½ cases. I'd like to thank both of them for their outstanding efforts and everyone who helped make the sale a success.

Guy Tassi, Finance Committee

| FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH                                    |               |               |               |               |               |              |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| OCTOBER 2009 ACTUAL OFFERINGS COMPARED TO BUDGETED OFFERINGS |               |               |               |               |               |              |
|  | Nov 1st       | Nov 8th       | Nov 15th      | Nov 22nd      | Nov 29th      | Month Totals |
| Actual Offerings   | \$ 3,765.00   | \$ 1,420.00   | \$ 2,023.00   | \$ 4,045.00   | \$ 1,306.00   | \$ 12,559.00 |
| Budgeted Offerings   | \$ 2,789.00   | \$ 2,789.00   | \$ 2,789.00   | \$ 2,789.00   | \$ 2,789.00   | \$ 13,945.00 |
| YTD Actual Offerings   | \$ 107,650.00 | \$ 109,070.00 | \$ 111,093.00 | \$ 115,138.00 | \$ 116,444.00 |              |
| YTD Budgeted Offerings                                       | \$ 123,708.00 | \$ 126,497.00 | \$ 129,286.00 | \$ 132,075.00 | \$ 134,864.00 |              |



FROM THE SESSION (*continued from the front page*)

Rev. Lostetter is deeply committed to providing prophetic pastoral leadership for vision-casting and faith formation. She seeks to pose questions that stimulate and motivate discipleship through preaching that is grounded in scripture, sensitive to members' pastoral needs, and cognizant of members' strengths and weaknesses. She strives to help members catch a glimpse of the divine mystery in worship and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our fellowship and deliberations.

On a more personal side, Robin has two daughters and four grandchildren (one family is in Buffalo, the other in Pittsburgh). Her favorite leisure activities include bird watching, watching movies, reading medical mystery novels, cruising the internet, and eating out with friends.

One of the references we contacted described her as a tireless soul who fully dedicates herself to any endeavor she undertakes, a quality that follows through to her ministry to the people of any church she serves. Let us give thanks for her life of service and the gifts she brings to our congregation. Welcome, Rev. Lostetter!



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