

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

OFFICE ADDRESS: 435 FARNSWORTH AVENUE,
BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505

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REV. ROBIN E. LOSTETTOR, PASTOR

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JANUARY 2012



*Wishing you a New Year filled with
new hope, new joy and new beginnings...*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! And what an auspicious beginning for this congregation! The initial stewardship results have been very positive. Perhaps you're one of the folk who increased your estimate of giving for this year, or who turned in a "pledge card" (estimate of giving card) for the first time — this is a tremendous help to our budget-preparation. But more than that, it is a vote of confidence in the new beginnings in our church ministries: so far, 48 families or individuals have pledged \$117,252.00, including 9 who've never pledged before and 20 who increased their estimate over last year. If you're waiting – now's the time to send in yours!

Perhaps the single most unexpected result was the beginning of our "seed money" for a capital campaign for future goals set by our mission study. The results from this informal start-up totaled **\$42,460!!!** And about 3/4 of that amount has already been received! As your session seeks to discern which ideas might offer new avenues for ministry to our community, help build teamwork and fellowship, create a more inviting environment, and set us on a path to sustained growth, these monies will help us begin to work toward them. If you find, during the year, that you can make a "5th week" or "13th month" gift above your regular offering, you can help us get a head start on that process!

There is always a big question over the term "per capita". The session has come to understand that "per capita" is really our congregation's share in the expenses of a connectional church – a church that provides such things as Camp Johnsonburg, mission co-workers, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and resources for congregations and ministers in their daily work and their long-term ministries. The method for determining the amount is based on the number of active church members, but is not the responsibility of those members — it is one of the church's obligations, such as electricity, postage, salaries, and the like. Our congregation's per capita responsibility is approximately \$6100. You can contribute \$35 per person toward our connectional "obligation", but no envelope has been provided for that purpose this year. We expect that your stewardship giving will cover it. However, we welcome any additional gift toward it for those folk who are struggling financially and cannot give on a weekly basis.

As always, we set our sights on the biblical model of tithing, which is generally considered 10% of our income. And, yes, several in our congregation do faithfully practice this biblical call! If you would like to join those leaders who make dreams come true, I invite you to move up to being a tither. Is it time for you to think about proportional giving, or to take the step of tithing? The blessing you will receive is beyond anything I can describe. But if you try tithing for six months and find out it is not working for you, then you can have your old life back!

In this new year, I wish for you new hope in the future of our congregation and in your personal lives; new joy in belonging to this faith community; and the fun and challenge of new beginnings!

in Christ's shalom,
Pastor Robin



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Megan Arnold; Virginia Bonnell; John Burke's co-worker, Don; Charlotte Daley and her niece Shirley; Emily Dallas; Jodi Hawryluk; Edward, baby grandson of John & Peggy Lauricella; Ruth Newton; Nancy Rodman's daughter-in-law, Marie; Susan Cramer Schlegel.

WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR JANUARY

Minister — Rev. Robin Lostetter
Church Office or Cell Phone: 732-644-8631
Best time to call is between 10 am & 10 pm
rlostetter@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanists — Lynn Flickinger, Debbie Hill
Tina Vilic

Secretary — SaraLee Pindar; *SaraLee's Usual*
Office Hours: W, Th, Fri 9-1;
office@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Deacon of the Month —
Kerri Pell, 324-3824

Worship Co-leaders:

1/08 — Jean Allegretti
1/15 — Blake Bolinger
1/22 — Elke McAteer
1/29 — Debbie Branson

Fellowship Hour:

1/08 — Pat and Mary Terry
1/15 — Cathy Elliott-Shaw
1/22 — Ron and Dot Barnard
1/29 — Tina and Boris Vilic

*To volunteer as a Co-Leader or for Fellowship
Hour, contact Kathie Ackerman, 298-0661\|
ackermankathie10@gmail.com*

Communion Servers — January 8:

Don Ryba; Blake Bolinger
Karen Chamberlin; Greg Hoch

Communion Servers — February 5:

Bobbi Maiuro; Kerri Pell
Cathy Elliott-Shaw; Nancy Grim

Extended Child Care:

*To volunteer for extended care, please contact
Elke McAteer, 324-0271*



1/02 Bill & Candace Walling
1/06 Michael & Kristen Lukach
1/21 Cole & Donna Schleper



1/02 Dorothy Barnard
1/05 James Maleski
Montana Pell
1/07 Robert Joe Lee
Frances Wolverton
1/11 Mike VanPelt
1/13 Riley O'Malley
1/14 John Applegate
1/16 Regina DelVecchio Jensen
1/19 Mae Hamilton
1/21 Colleen Burke
1/22 Kathie Seaman
1/24 George Yates
1/26 Anne Reilly
1/27 Lori Marchetti
Kimberly Ramalho

MISSION IN ACTION!

Our next Bread of Life Mission Meals: Sunday, January 29, 2012 (immediately following worship)
 Sunday, February 26, 2012 (immediately following worship)
 hosted by Elke McAteer's girl scout troop

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile mission in our church, write a check to The First Presbyterian Church in Bordentown and write "Mission" or "Bread of Life Meals" in the memo section.

We have started sending an email blast to the email list so that we can get more people involved in the Mission Meal. We've had a good response for help and have had many people approach asking how they can help for future meals. We truly do have a "need to feed" in our congregation and the motel residents repeatedly send their love and many thanks to all of you!

Next Grocery Bag Mission due date: Week of January 16-21, 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:

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.

Grace and Peace to all!

The Mission Team:

Donna Potts, Karen Chamberlin, Bobbi Maiuro, Patty Korsak, Nancy Foster, Colleen Swiderski

DEACONS MEETING: Tuesday, January 3, 2011; 7:00 pm in the Julien House

THE SILVER TEA: The Annual Silver Tea was a joyous event once again. Thank you to the Choir for sharing their talents and for engaging us in the spirit of the season!

CHRISTMAS GIVING: With your help, the Deacons were able to financially assist a few families this year during these very difficult economic times.

DEACON ON CALL.... **January — Kerri Pell, 324-3824**
 February — Barbara Kimball, 424-0861
 March — Amy Dallas, 259-5498

Your Deacons,

Nancy Grim, Melonie Newton, Karen Chamberlin, Greg Hoch, Amy Dallas, Bobbi Maiuro, Barbara Kimball, Kerri Pell

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THE MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE

Getting to know us: The earliest minutes note that the committee was formed in 1985 under the direction of Pastor Ernie Olsen. The committee cataloged the memorials and entered them in the Book of Remembrance, i.e. the red book on the counter as you enter the church. It acknowledged memorial donations and discussed with families how they wished the donations spent.

A bit of nostalgia: Notice memorials, big and small:

In the sanctuary: the communion table; pipe organ; stained glass windows; the paraments in liturgical colors on the pulpit and lectern (the ones with hand prints were made by the church school children). There are also hymnals, bibles, choir robes, bells and chimes, among others. The newest memorial is the AED presented by the committee with assistance from Play and Learn.

In the Julien House: the chandelier in the hall; and most recently new furniture in the pastor's study.

In Fellowship Hall: the "oyster room"; refrigerator; even the potato masher. There are many more noted in the book.

Who we are today: During our series of pastors, the committee was sometimes active but left no minutes. Since 2003 we have been a rather ad-hoc committee, loosely under the Session. We continue the work as started by the original committee. The fund has grown over the years, and is divided into the Abrams/Adams Adult Education Fund for furthering education of teachers and/or those interested in advanced studies. The Youth Activity Fund gives money every year toward Camp Johnsonburg scholarships, retreats, and this year, towards a youth mission team.

There are funds designated for choir robes and the bell choir, as well as un-designated funds waiting for appropriate memorials to be suggested – we welcome any ideas.

While it is not part of our funds, the money left for organ maintenance is included in the report the church treasurer gives us. In December, Elder Guy Tassi joined the committee giving us a liaison and more direct contact with Session's finance committee.

Members of the committee are: Charlotte Daley; Simmee Darpino; Cathy Elliott-Shaw (member of Session); Marlene Lyszczak; Marion Stoneback; and Evelyn Seyebe. Marlene will take over as president in January 2012 as Marion resigns from the committee.

AFTER SCHOOL GOOD NEWS CLUB



Trinity UMC invites children to this once a week, one hour club that provides dynamic bible lessons, creative learning activities, inspiring stories and meaningful songs for children from 5 to 12, delivered by specially trained Christians and sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship of New Jersey. Flyers and registration forms are on the back counter for this year's club, which will be held at the Peter Muschal School. For more information, call Helen Magowan at 298-1401.

“We Are What We Sing”

by Charlotte Kroeker

The past few years have brought us new awareness of the power of music. We have Baby Mozart, Baby Bach, and Baby Beethoven products and their relatives, along with knowledge that music contributes to intellectual development. Neuroscientists explain that music is fundamental to our brains and that music communicates the emotions and ideas that are the building blocks of human nature. Music therapy offers healing for mind and body. Marketing experts use the suggestive nature of music to tap our purchasing instincts. Educators understand the capacity of music to help children learn facts and concepts. We watch people who have Alzheimer’s and those who have suffered a stroke retain the capacity to sing and play an instrument much longer than the ability to speak words or to carry on a conversation.

Music creates memory that is more lasting than words alone. Music helps us to see the same idea in new ways, to find new insights, to uncover new ways of being, to love again, to express emotion otherwise unknown. It takes us into another dimension where we can live more fully. The better the music, the greater its capacity to do its work. Although music has been a part of Christian worship as long as Christians have prayed and praised, we are only beginning to realize its importance. As a good friend has said, “We are what we sing.”

The word liturgy has its roots in the Greek word leitourgia, which combines the words for work and people. “Liturgical” describes communal Christian worship that is participatory. Thus, if we speak of Christian worship or liturgy, we are speaking about the work of the people. What do the people need to participate fully in worship? What do people need to know to sing God’s song faithfully? Granted, participation can be defined as listening or speaking, but singing requires full body involvement and hence has been a primary means of communal participation.

Today’s church lives in a culture where we are more likely to listen to music than to sing or play it. This state of affairs has profound implications for a church whose worship has been sung for all of its history. If we value this head, body, and heart experience of worship, congregations need ways to build their singing capacity. If we ignore this value, we not only lose hundreds of years of worship practice and tradition that have made the faith real to worshipers since Old Testament times, but we also lose the capacity for congregations to do their work through song, in the one way that allows head, heart, and body together to offer praise and prayer to God.

So how can a congregation and its leaders go about claiming the rights and performing the duties of their baptism through the vehicle of music?

1. Congregations can purposefully master a broad and deep repertoire of hymnody and service music that will reside in the memory of the community. Granted, this effort will be different for every congregation and will change over time. Clergy and music leaders can help the congregation determine this repertoire, but ultimately it belongs to the congregation. Every congregation is situated in a particular cultural and ethnic context and has its own musical gifts. Experience shows that the life of a hymnal is about twenty years. Yet a succession of hymnals in any one denomination will share a surprising number of the same hymns, as will the hymnals across a variety of denominations, so these often serve as a starting place. Familiar music can form a basis for an ongoing repertoire and set a standard for other music to be added to the collection. After a basic repertoire is mastered, confidence will allow the exploration of a wealth of new music to enhance and enrich worship.

Continued

“We Are What We Sing” - Continued from page 5

2. Leaders can teach the congregation the art of singing. Singing is a physical act requiring breath and movement. Understanding how the body produces sound and reading music are fundamental to singing. Sophisticated knowledge is not necessary, but following the movement of pitches and having some understanding of simple note values helps. Perhaps a twenty-first-century equivalent of the early American singing schools could be initiated. Bulletin notes, Sunday school classes, adult education offerings—all are possibilities for such education.
3. Stewards of church facilities can provide the acoustic environment for singing. Perhaps the greatest deterrent to good congregational singing is a dead acoustical environment. Hard surfaces create the best sound environment for singing, allowing voices to blend easily so that no individual voices sound alone. Even in acoustically dead environments, simple remedies can help, such as painting sound-absorbent acoustical tile or removing carpet.
4. Musicians can accompany with sensitivity. Instrumentalists who play too loudly or do not “breathe” with singers will discourage singing. Good accompaniment facilitates but does not dominate the “voice of the people,” helping the people listen to one another rather than to the accompaniment.
5. Leaders can seek out capable musicians in the congregation to enrich the song. Choirs, instrumentalists, children, and anyone with special musical gifts can add enormously to the song of the people. When woven carefully into the fabric of the music of worship, they lend “many gifts but one spirit.” When given the opportunity to contribute to a verse of a hymn, a descant, a prelude, or an offertory, individual musicians reflect the tapestry of the congregation and give cause for celebration and thanksgiving.

Building the capacity of the congregation to offer its praise and prayer in song increases worshipers’ participation in ways that nothing else can. It not only engages many aspects of the individual but also connects many individuals in ways that create community. When communal music-making is done with skill and creativity, beauty and transcendence result, making possible an encounter with God.

The power of music and its impact have been understood intuitively and in practice for centuries. It is for twenty-first-century Christians to discover this treasure anew as we define our faith in this time and place, using a gift as old as faith itself. Thanks be to God for this extraordinary gift. Let the song continue.

Comments welcome on the Alban Roundtable Blog

Adapted from *The Sounds of Our Offerings: Achieving Excellence in Church Music* by Charlotte Kroeker, copyright © 2011 by the Alban Institute. All rights reserved.

THANK YOU TO THIS GENEROUS CONGREGATION! On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you for our Christmas gifts of cash. I know that, at least for me, it was a welcome help during the holidays, and I hope you know how much it was appreciated. I enjoy serving this congregation, and I have heard as much from each member of the staff. May God bless you all abundantly during the coming year! –Pastor Robin

My sincere gratitude to the Congregation, Session and Deacons for their generous Christmas gifts. Jerry and I will enjoy using our gift card and, of course, a bonus is always welcome!

We wish everyone at First Presbyterian a New Year that is spiritually and physically healthy and happy!

SaraLee

A note from John Jones, our Custodian: Thank you sooo very much for the gift. It is very much appreciated. I hope you and the church family have a merry & blessed Christmas. –John Jones

many
many
many
many
many
thanks

IF YOU WERE WONDERING

handed out on November 20, associated with them. Some contributions to mission, youth against child molestation, and



matching mission gift challenge, so was truly doubled. One added her dollar to a little she had saved and made a lunch ticket book for a needy person. Two people used coupons to multiply their dollars and contribute to our mission or Thanksgiving meals. We got into games of chance . . . a Bingo win increased the dollar to \$11, and an informal lottery netted \$5 plus the opportunity to tell the story of the talents to family members. One embroidered a shirt, another made jewelry. But my favorite is this: “My wife and I merely doubled the 2 dollars we were given. It was worth 2 dollars more to us to reinforce our belief that we should stay clear of investments. They have never worked for us!” (And I add, from my own history - Amen! Robin)

what became of the dollar bills there were a great variety of stories “multiplied” them by adding them to group, mission meals, ARC, efforts PCUSA peacemaking – one went to a

matching mission gift challenge, so was truly doubled. One added her dollar to a little she had saved and made a lunch ticket book for a needy person. Two people used coupons to multiply their dollars and contribute to our mission or Thanksgiving meals. We got into games of chance . . . a Bingo win increased the dollar to \$11, and an informal lottery netted \$5 plus the opportunity to tell the story of the talents to family members. One embroidered a shirt, another made jewelry. But my favorite is this: “My wife and I merely doubled the 2 dollars we were given. It was worth 2 dollars more to us to reinforce our belief that we should stay clear of investments. They have never worked for us!” (And I add, from my own history - Amen! Robin)

YOUTH GROUP in JANUARY

Youth group will resume on the *FIFTH* weekend in January! **LOCK-IN!!** January 28, 7:30 p.m. . . . Come for fun, snacks, games (yes, yes, yes, there will be Sardines, of course!) and a surprise guest with a sneak preview of a possible summer trip!

2012

January

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship	2	3 7 pm Deacons	4	5 7 pm AA	6	7
8 10:30 Worship with Communion	9 7 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 Women's AA	10 7 pm Session	11 7 pm Scouts	12 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	13 4 to 9 Manse Open House	14
15 10:30 Worship	16 MLK Jr. Holiday 7:30 Women's AA	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	20	21 8:30 am to 3:30 pm "Equipping the Saints" at Princeton Seminary
22 10:30 Worship 11:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	23 7 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 Women's AA	24	25 7 pm Scouts 7 pm Play & Learn Board Meeting 7:30 Book Club	26 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA 8:15 Handbells	27	28 7:30 pm Youth Group Lock-in
29 10:30 Worship Mission Meal after Worship	30 7:30 Women's AA	31				

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

SECOND FRIDAYS CONTINUES

MANSE OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 4-9 P.M.

There will be light refreshments, and some videos to entertain:

“A Christmas Without Snow” for all ages, and “The Christmas Bunny”, a charming family film.

CAFÉ 420 ~ VALENTINE MEMORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7-9:30 P.M.

Open Mike & THE BACKBEAT BOYS DUO

back by popular demand!

Playing Popular Covers and Some Original Songs

www.myspace.com/thebackbeatnj

(Who knows? We might even clear a dance floor?!)

APRIL 13 ~ FUN NIGHT

MAY 11 ~ CAFÉ 420

JUNE 8 ~ STRAWBERRY FEST

(Strawberries permitting)

For More Info: www.bordentownpresbyterian.org

Open mike: Wendy at giduly@juno.com



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