

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

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MARCH 2010

FROM THE PASTOR

TOO MANY DOORS

As I've gotten to feel "at home" in the manse, one observation I've made is this: *There are too many doors!* There are three direct accesses to the outside from the manse . . . then there's the door from the study to Union Street, and the Julien House door. I have keys to all of them, and all but one have deadbolts, which means carrying keys with me everywhere! My first week or so, I was afraid a door would slam (assuming a breeze) and I would be trapped somewhere and couldn't get back into the manse.

"Too many doors" has stuck in my mind, and I've tried to think of how I could use it as a metaphor. Perhaps it's about too many doors – too many options – and how hard it is to focus when we're distracted by them: the media with its constant advertising, unrelated to the self-denial of a traditional Lent . . . the phone/email/Facebook with interruptions at all hours . . . the many forms of entertainment and relaxation that are far more pleasurable than critical introspection . . . or maybe just all the conflicting "shoulds".

Or perhaps it's about the anxiety of being "locked out" . . . reminiscent of the entrapment of the rich man who cried out, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire." (Luke 16:24) What traps you? Is it financial worries and constraints? Is it the myriad commitments that make your calendar black with ink? Is it a web of untruths which bind you in a role that isn't true to your real nature?

Lent is about waiting, just as I read to the children on Sunday. But it's not the expectant, excited, golden-hued waiting of Advent. If we take seriously the events we commemorate during Holy Week, Lent is about an ominous waiting – our desire to avoid contemplating the horror that was the first Good Friday.

Yet, even then, we are prepared. We have a key. We are not trapped. One door beckons — it's the door of faith, the entryway of hope, the portal of love. The one who beckons us to Easter is the One who said "I am the gate." (John 10:7) In this time of waiting, I pray that you will seek and find the comfort and confidence that is offered to us in grace, and that the waiting will prepare you for a truly joyful Easter!

*Shalom,
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 MARCH

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

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanists — Tina Vilic and Debbie Hill

Secretary — SaraLee Pindar
office@bordentownpresbyterian.org
*SaraLee's Office Hours: T & Th 9-1;
Wed 9:30—1:30*

Deacon of the Month—George Carmichael
499-1768; gccarmichael@verizon.net

Worship Co-Leaders

3/14 — Robert Joe Lee

3/21 — Jean Allegretti

3/28 — Pat Terry

*To volunteer as a worship co-leader contact
Donna Potts, 585-0211*

Communion Servers

March 7: John Burke, Victoria Taylor,
Greg Hoch, Mary Terry, Pat Terry

April 1 (Maundy Thursday):
Dan DiLeo, Donna Potts

Extended Care

Willing disciples needed!

*To volunteer for extended care, call
Elke McAteer at 324-0271*

Fellowship Hour

3/07 — Debbie Branson

3/14 — Donna Potts

3/21 — Kathie Ackerman



3/16	Michael & Kim Ward
3/22	John & Cathy Robertshaw
3/23	Greg & Nancy Hoch
3/25	Kevin & Megan Patterson
3/27	Jean & Henry Allegretti
3/31	Raymond & Betty Jones



3/03	Michael Ward
3/09	Kyle Potts
3/10	Matthew Kohnke
3/11	George Carmichael
3/12	Betty Jones
3/13	Jacqueline Bowker
3/14	Donna Potts
3/15	Nancy Grim
3/18	Simme Darpino
3/19	Jennifer Konek
3/24	Lisa VanPelt
3/30	Jodi Hawyrluk
3/31	Donna Loschiavo Boris Vilic

MISSION IN ACTION!

OGHS ~ One Great Hour of Sharing: Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

Jesus said, "Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep." (John 21:16-27)



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go? The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent.

When will the OGHS offering be received? On Palm Sunday we will dedicate our offering to OGHS, using envelopes in your offering boxes or in the pews, as well as "Fish Boxes" which were distributed to our church school children.

Our next Bread of Life Mission Meals:

March 27, 2010 (changed to Saturday due to Pancake Breakfast).

April 26, 2010 (immediately following worship).



Next Grocery Bag Mission due date: Week of March 22, 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.

LENT ~ A TIME FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY BROWN-BAG LUNCHES

During the five weeks of Lent prior to Holy Week, I'm inviting you to join with me for some study and reflection. We'll meet in the Julien House on Wednesdays at noon, February 24 through March 24. Bring a brown-bag lunch; I'll provide soda, water, and coffee. Since it's Lent, we will have a *Dessert-Free Zone*. Don't sneak a brownie in with your lunch!

There are many ways we can seek to deepen our spiritual life, but one of the most rewarding is sharing with others as we delve into scripture and story. Bring a friend and bring your Bible.

Come one Wednesday, or come to all five!



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Pastor Robin's sermon on Sunday resonated strongly with Mike and me. We had spent the weekend repurposing and recycling things in our home and were feeling great about our small contribution toward making the earth a better place.

The focus of our weekend's activities started me thinking that Stewardship is so much more than the annual campaign. It is (or should be) a way of life. God entrusted us with everything that he created and, frankly, we have really dropped the stewardship ball on this environmental thing.

Pastor Robin brought this idea home through her sermon in a very effective and thought provoking way, and later shared this observation by a teenage writer:

“There's a traditional Jewish saying that if you kill a single tree, it's like silencing a thousand songs, and if you save a single soul, it's like saving all of humanity. Maybe taking care of creation works the same way. Every little act, whether it's cleaning up an empty lot or recycling one can, is like my trying to save a single whale. It's only one act, but it's caring for one creature whose presence gives God infinite delight. And that's enough by itself.

“I don't know. Maybe. What I do know is that things are pretty messed up. And it's time to do something about it—to live out our prayers and what the scriptures say. It's time to actually care for Earth. And who knows? Maybe when you're out there caring, and really doing things, maybe that's when you're praying in the way that's most important.”

There are any number of small ways in which we can make a difference in caring for the earth. One easy way I use all the time is a website called [www.100things.org](#). You simply pull up the website, find a group near you, register and you're ready to go. Through this site you can post items you are willing to give away and also find things that you might be able to use. This weekend, we gave our old, but still working, television to a young couple for their family room. Every day, this organization keeps over 500 tons of items from ending up in landfills!

In coming weeks, I'll be compiling a list of ideas that folks use to conserve and honor the resources with which God has blessed us. I'll share this list with you and post it on the bulletin board at the church. Please email me at branson@stjohns.org with your own suggestions and I'll add them as well. I'm going to pledge to make one small change each month as my contribution to the conservation movement.

Let us follow our covenant with God as we're instructed in this passage:

"The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land." - Lev. 25:23-24

Deb Branson



SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND CHIMES

**PALM SUNDAY ANTHEM
MARCH 28, 2010**

PARENTAL HELP NEEDED

The Sunday School children will join the children's choir and chimes, Adult choir, Tina Vilic on piano and Robin Lostetter on organ in singing our Palm Sunday Anthem on March 28.

Palm Sunday is an exciting Sunday in our church year and an especially wonderful time for children to be a part of the service.

To help the children enjoy their part the most, I ask you the parents to help learn a line of the first verse of this famous Palm Sunday hymn a week. I know you and your children lead busy lives so I have a suggestion. Ask your children to repeat their lines at least three times on three different days. Suggestion: Day one: Sunday on the way home from church. Day two: When you remember during the week (car ride?) Day three: Sunday on the way to Sunday School. Thanks for your effort! Here's a site to click on where you can listen to this familiar hymn. <http://www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh278.sht>

SUGGESTED LEARNING SCHEDULE

Week of Feb. 21 – First Week: "Hosanna in the Highest the little children sing"

Week of Feb 28 – Second Week: "through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang."

Week of March 7 – Third Week: "To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,"

Week of March 14 – Fourth Week: "the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best."

Week of March 21 – Fifth Week: All four lines:

"Hosanna in the Highest the little children sing
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best."

Week of March 28 – We're singing today in church. There'll be palm branches!

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: Did you know that SaraLee Pindar is an award-winning photographer whose work has been described by one juror as "going beyond photography"? She recently won 2nd prize for photography in the Artsbridge Members Show at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ.

SaraLee says her "eye" was developed by her mother, a Philadelphia artist who taught her composition and color. She discovered early on, however, that she can't draw, but began taking photographs in the late 1950s. After much prodding by family and friends, she began showing her work just three years ago. During that time her photographs have been juried into 15 shows and three photos have won prizes in art exhibits. She has held two solo shows and is scheduled for four more in the central New Jersey region during 2010 and 2011.

She is impressed with Dostoevsky's saying that "beauty will save the world," and through her photos tries to draw the viewers' eyes and minds into a peaceful and contemplative environment. She is grateful that her ability to travel has afforded the opportunity to capture a wide variety of subjects – from icebergs in Greenland to fascinating alleyways in Europe as well as wildlife right here in New Jersey.

As if that weren't enough, SaraLee is also a musician and serves as choir director at St. Vladimir Orthodox Church. Next time you stop in the office, ask to see one of her photos, and maybe you'll also hear some beautiful Russian choral music emanating from her CD player.



HAITIAN HOSPITAL RECEIVES PDA RELIEF FUNDS

(Photo from a February 1 news release by Presbyterian News Service; photo is pre-earthquake.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance approved a \$200,000 grant for Hôpital Sainte Croix (Holy Cross Hospital) and an affiliated nursing school in Léogâne, Haiti, from the \$1.2 million donated thus far for earthquake recovery.

PDA approved the email request within two hours of receiving it on January 22. The hospital and nursing school are ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and have been a major focus of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission in Haiti. Léogâne is near the epicenter of the January 12 earthquake and both facilities sustained serious damage.

"We've been told by our Episcopal partners in Haiti that despite the damage, the nursing school began operating as a makeshift hospital within a half-hour of the quake," said Randy Ackley, PDA coordinator. "In addition, nursing students have established 10 first-aid stations around the main part of Léogâne. The people on the ground are working hard to help one another and this grant is one way we can support their live-saving efforts."

News media have reported that 80 to 90 percent of the buildings in the main part of Léogâne were destroyed. The PDA grant will support electrical power and distribution needs, water and sanitation facilities, fuel for generators and vehicles, and salaries for local staff involved in the cleanup.

You can contribute to PDA's work in three ways:

- by making a check to our church with "Haiti earthquake" in the memo line
- by making an online gift through the denomination's website (<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/>), being sure to specify that you're making your gift on behalf of First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown.
- give generously to OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing), and 32% of that gift will go to PDA.

GIFT OF THE HEART BABY KITS



We are collecting items for the Gift of the Heart Baby Kits for Haiti. We are asking members of the congregation to donate the items listed below to make completed baby kits to send to PDA. There is a box in the back of the church to drop off your items. Any questions, see Bobbi Maiuro or Donna Potts.

BABY KIT

6 cloth diapers (Note: While cloth diapers are not as commonly used in the United States, they are a necessary part of the layette. 12-packs of cloth diapers can be purchased at Target and many Sears stores, or online at CottonBabies.com, ClothDiaper.com, BabyBestBuy.com, ThanksMama.com).

2 t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)

2 washcloths

2 gowns or sleepers

2 diaper pins

1 sweater or sweatshirt

2 receiving blankets (one can be a knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

All items should be new and under 12 months in size. Thank you!

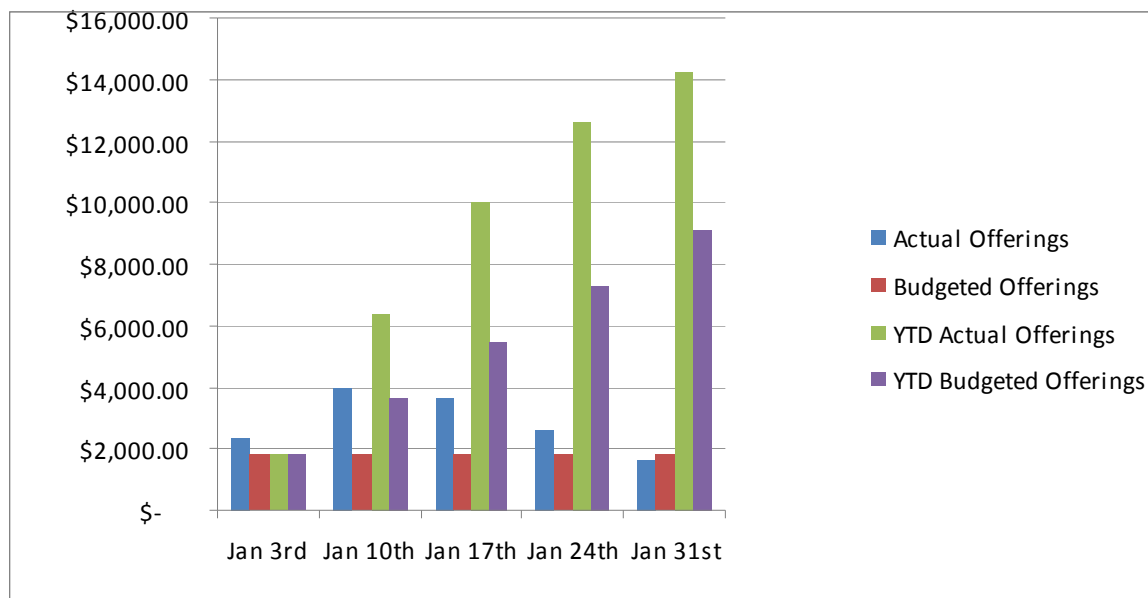
JANUARY 2010 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Before discussing January's Offerings, I would like to recap a few items from the 2010 Budget. First, as a result of offerings being \$10,500 below budget last year, Regular Giving for this year was budgeted at \$135,561 compared to \$145,021 for 2009. This is a reduction of \$9,459 or 6.52% from 2009. Given that the economy is still sluggish we felt it was best to budget offering at last year's actual level. Also, Fundraiser income was budgeted at \$10,000, compared to \$14,800 in 2009. As a result of these reductions in income projections, the 2010 Budget has an \$18,000 deficit, compared to a Budget deficit of \$10,000 for last year.

However, the year has gotten off to a good start. Aided by a large one time contribution, Regular Offerings totaled \$14,262.67 compared to Budgeted Offerings of \$9,032.80. This resulted in an overall surplus of \$3,050.65, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$1,848.97, for the month of January.

Guy Tassi
Finance Committee

JANUARY 2010 ACTUAL OFFERINGS COMPARED TO BUDGETED OFFERINGS						
	Jan 3rd	Jan 10th	Jan 17th	Jan 24th	Jan 31st	Month Totals
Actual Offerings	\$ 2,365.00	\$ 3,992.00	\$ 3,663.00	\$ 2,619.00	\$ 1,624.00	\$ 14,263.00
Budgeted	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 9,105.00
YTD Actual	\$ 1,793.00	\$ 6,357.00	\$ 10,020.00	\$ 12,639.00	\$ 14,263.00	
YTD Budgeted	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 3,642.00	\$ 5,463.00	\$ 7,284.00	\$ 9,105.00	



March



2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Deacons 7:00	3	4 AA 7:00 Choir 7:00 Handbells 8:15	5	6 Hightstown Event 8:30 am to 12:40 pm
7 Communion 10:30	8 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Women's AA 7:30	9 Session 7:00	10 Junior Scouts 7:00	11 Choir 7:00 Handbells 8:15	12	13 Youth Event 9 am to 3 pm
14 Rotation Series Fair 11:30	15 Newsletter Deadline Women's AA 7:30	16	17	18 AA 7:00 Choir 7:00 Handbells 8:15	19	20
21	22 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Women's AA 7:30	23 Presbytery at UPC Yardville 7 pm	24 Junior Scouts 7:00 Book Club 7:30	25 Worship Committee 6:15 AA 7:00 Choir 7:00 Handbells 8:15	26	27 Mission Meal
28 Palm Sunday Installation of Officers Pancake Breakfast following worship	29	30	31	April 1 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm		

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

MUSICAL FUNDRAISER

On **Friday, April 23**, I am planning a fun evening Folk Concert at the church to benefit The First Presbyterian Church and the people that were devastated by the earthquake in Haiti who are still lacking basic services.

The music will be provided by two groups I'm a part of: "Spring Muse" (Celtic Style) and "Wild Mustard" (Americana) plus (hopefully) one or two other local groups.



If you'd like to get a taste of what you might hear, come see us perform at the Bucks County Folk Music Society's Spring Concert at the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown on Saturday March 6 at 7 pm.

For the event to be a successful fundraiser as well as a fun evening, **I need your help** to get sponsors for the concert and food for intermission - and people to sell the food. E-mail me at giduly@juno.com if you can help.

Wendy Huber



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