

First Presbyterian Church
509 S. Pearl Avenue
Joplin, MO 64801
417-624-2433
www.fpcjoplin.com
www.facebook.com/FPCJoplin

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Dave Burgess, *Pastor*

Program Staff
Terry & Karen Dolanc
Choir Directors

Dr. William M. Roehling
Organist

Eric Williams
Assistant Youth Director

Doris Walters
Stephen Ministry Leader

Administration
Richard Sapp, *ShoalKirk Ranger*

Mary Wilson, *Business Administrator*

Beverly Scroggins, *Office Administrator*

Jamie Martin, *Custodian*

Donna Scheid, *CE Supply Clerk*

KidStuff Preschool
417-624-0196
Alexa Gillman, *Director*

The First Presbyterian News (USPS 198-280) is published bi-weekly by First Presbyterian Church, 509 S. Pearl, Joplin, MO 64801-2597. Periodical Postage is paid at Joplin, MO 64801-2597. Postmaster: Send address changes to the First Presbyterian Church News, 509 S. Pearl, Joplin, MO 64801-2597.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 27, 2011 ♦ Volume 45 No. 25

F.P.C. News

Merry Christmas and Happy Abundant New Year!

What a long strange trip we had together in 2011. There were many highs and some dramatic lows in the life of our community and our church. The week after Christmas is the perfect time to take stock of the previous year and look forward to what God is doing in the future.

The one question worth asking as we enjoy this season of Christmas and move forward into 2012 is how can we make our world better?

One New Year's Eve at London's Garrick Club, British dramatist Frederick Lonsdale was asked by Symour Hicks to reconcile with a fellow member. The two had quarreled in the past and never restored their friendship. "You must," Hicks said to Lonsdale. "It is very unkind to be unfriendly at such a time. Go over now and wish him a happy New Year." So Lonsdale crossed the room and spoke to his enemy. "I wish you a happy New Year," he said, "but only one."

Too often we look at those who have wronged us and, at best, give these kinds of limited blessings. The great news of the Christmas season is God came to the world in human flesh to reconcile the world to Godself. The miracle of God being with us does not end there as God continually calls us to be a reconciling community of faith sharing forgiveness with others. We do not do this because others are worthy, but precisely because we are unworthy of the grace.

"So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10:7-10.)

My prayer for myself, for you and for our entire congregation in 2012 is that we all might have life and have it to the full. We cannot receive this life giving grace with hands clenched in anger, resentment or petty disagreements.

May the world know we are Christians (in 2012 and beyond) by the way we love! May we all have a Merry Christmas by having an abundantly Happy New Year!



In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave

A T T E N D A N C E

	<u>Dec. 18 '11</u>	<u>Dec. 19, '10</u>
Worship	266	261
Kid's Kingdom	12	15
Nursery	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	282	282
Sunday School	18	106
	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	<u>Christmas Eve</u>
Early Service	203	256
Late Service	105	111
	<u>Dec. 25, '11</u>	<u>Dec. 26 '10</u>
Worship	92	125
Kid's Kingdom	-	10
Nursery	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	92	135
Sunday School	N/A	60



Happy Birthday!

January

- 1 Sallie Beard
- Bette Koch
- Janice Steele
- 3 Bob Harding
- 4 Alex Kangethe
- 11 Claude Jardon
- 14 Derrick Buehler

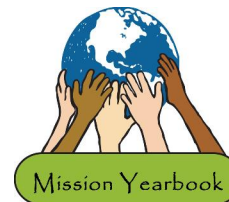


Make these your top three 2012 Resolutions!

1. I will make at least one new friend this year.
2. I will get in touch with at least one friend I have not seen for awhile.
3. I will go to every 1st Tuesday Lunch this year . . . and I will bring at least one of my new or old friends with me each time.

Next lunch: Tuesday, January 3
 Serving time: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Cost: \$6.00
 To benefit: *Ozark Center for Autism*
 Call ahead for carry-outs - 624-2433
 Dessert donations & helpers always appreciated.

Mission Art Yearbooks - Every year the Presbyterian Church puts out a mission yearbook highlighting the ministry of various missionaries, churches and presbyteries. We are planning to purchase a number of 2012 yearbooks to be used as devotionals in the coming year. The church will cover one half of the cost of the books, making the price \$6.00. If you would like to purchase one, please fill out the coupon below and return it to the church office by January 8. If you prefer, you may call the church office to reserve your copy. (624-2433) Payment may be made when books arrive.



I would like to purchase a 2012 Mission Art Yearbook.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of copies: _____

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper



Wednesday night Fellowship Suppers will begin again on Wednesday, January 4. Start the year 2012 on a positive note by planning to enjoy dinner and fellowship with your friends and family, followed by a new study led by Pastor Dave.

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle 1
 1:30 pm, Thursday, January 5
 All women invited.

DVD's Available of the 2011 Christmas Cantata "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" Available in JKH For a \$3.00 donation to cover the cost.

Deacon on Call
Month of January
 Megan Klosterman - 439-1102
For a Stephen Minister call
 Doris Walters - 781-2876 or 850-8924

Pastor Dave and Sarah Burgess
 809 Hampton Place
 Joplin, Missouri 64801
 1-334-695-6201 (cell)
 daveb@fpcjoplin.com or
 pastordaveburgess@yahoo.com



2012 Stewardship Giving
 Goal: **\$353,100**
 Pledges received to date: **\$334,261**
 Number of units: **143**



502 Youth Group

No youth group meetings on New Years Day.
 Get ready for lots of great youth group meetings in January.
 The regular 5:02 pm schedule will resume on Sunday, January 8th.

A New Year's Blessing
 May God make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
 But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows.
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

-Author unknown



Over the coming months we will be doing something different in our worship services. Instead of reciting the Apostle's Creed together on Sunday mornings, we will work through the Shorter Catechism from the Westminster Confession of Faith.

On Christmas Day, we asked questions one through three from this fantastic document, and we will continue this practice through the new year.

Each question and answer comes with scriptural references which we would like the congregation to review. Here are the first several questions from the catechism for you to look up:

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, (I Cor. 10:31; Rom 11:36) and to enjoy him forever, (Ps. 73:24-26; John 17:22,24)

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, (Gal. 1:8, 9; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:29,31; II Tim. 3:15-17) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man. (Micah 6:8; John 20:31; John 3:16)

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, (John 4:24) infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, (Ps. 90:2; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17; I Kings 8:27; Jer. 23:24; Isa. 40:22) wisdom, (Ps. 147:5; Rom. 16:27) power, (Gen. 17:1; Rev. 19:16) holiness, (Isa. 57:15; John 17:11; Rev. 4:8) justice, (Deut. 32:4) goodness, (Ps. 100:5; Rom. 2:4) and truth. (Exod. 34:6; Ps. 117:2)

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God. (Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10)

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. (II Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19; Matt. 3:16,17)

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. (Eph. 1:11; Acts 4:27,28; Ps. 33:11; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 9:22,23; 11:33)

Q. 8. How doth God execute his decrees?

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence. (Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:11)

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good. (Heb. 11:3; Rev. 4:11; Gen. 1:1-31)

FPC Calendar

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day

8:15 am Intercessory Prayer

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship, JKH

10:45 am Sunday School

No 502 Youth Group

Monday, January 2

KidStuff & Church Office closed

6:30 pm Cub Scouts

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 3

6:45 am Men's Bible Study

9:30 am Membership Committee

11:30 am 1st Tuesday Lunch

Wednesday, January 4

7:00 am Motley Crew, JKH

Thursday, January 5

1:30 pm PW Circle 1

Friday, January 6

No activities scheduled

Sunday, January 8

8:15 am Intercessory Prayer

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship, JKH

10:45 am Sunday School

5:02 pm 502 Youth Group

Monday, January 9

5:00 pm Finance

5:30 pm Gifts & Memorials

6:00 pm KidStuff Committee

6:00 pm Buildings & Grounds

6:30 pm Cub Scouts

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 10

6:45 am Men's Bible Study

7:00 pm PW Circle 7

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 am Motley Crew, JKH

1:30 pm Book Club

Thursday, January 12

7:00 pm Deacons

Friday, January 13

No activities scheduled

KidStuff Pre-school . . . Open 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. . . Monday - Friday

KidStuff News

According to kids:

"In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."

"Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients."

"The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."

"The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."

"When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."

They didn't learn this from our KidStuff teachers!

Happy New Year from KidStuff.

Miss Alexa, Director, KidStuff direct line: 417-624-0196



REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION
December 24, 2011

This report is from the Session meeting of November 22, 2011. Moderator Reverend Dave Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Elder Martha Kungle opened the meeting with prayer. Ten Elders were present; four were excused and two were absent.

Minutes: Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the minutes of the stated Session meeting of October 25, 2011 were approved.

Reports:

Pastor Dave provided an oral report of his recent church and community activities.

The Clerk's Report for the period from October 20, 2011 to November 16, 2011 was presented and approved by **motion, seconded and passed**. The Clerk passed out information forms received from new members received in September with the request that committee chairs observe the areas of interest noted by each new member. A note from Sallie Beard thanking for the new tree planted in her yard and for the care and compassion of the church family was read.

Finance Committee Chair Charles Edwards reviewed the monthly financial reports for the General Fund as of October 31, 2011 appearing at pages 7 and 8 of the Session Packet. October revenues were \$63,649 and expenses were \$39,311. Charles noted that both the Carlson and Toutz trusts made distributions to the church during October. Year-to-date revenues are \$469,413 and expenses are \$406,212. **Motion** to approve the financials as presented. **Seconded and passed**. Charles observed that KidStuff might break even this year for the first time in many years.

The Stewardship Committee (Martha Kungle, chair) presented stewardship statistics over a six-year period, including the current stewardship drive. As of November 17, 122 of 230 Giving Units solicited have pledged a total of \$282,359.

Devotional:

Reverend Burgess read from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 19, verses 13 through 22, the passages relating the rich young man asking Jesus what he might do to possess eternal life. He asked the Elders to state those things for which they are especially thankful. He then prayed and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Reports (continued):

For the Building and Grounds Committee, Bob Toft advised that a heating and air-conditioning unit had gone out at our 502 building and it would be necessary to replace that unit. This summer Satterlee Plumbing and Heating had replaced a similar unit at a cost of \$6,479. **Motion** to authorize the purchase of a new unit at a cost not to exceed \$7,000, the payment to be made 15% from the Tornado Disaster Fund and 85% from the 502 Fund. **Seconded and passed**. Bob presented a bid from E.F. Shea to construct a ramp from the south Pearl Ave. door to the street at a cost of \$800. Session determined to postpone action on this bid until its December meeting.

The Gifts and Memorials Committee presented minutes of its meeting held November 14, together with financial statements as of October 31 showing \$393,936 in total assets. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, \$1,195 that has been donated for Pastor Bill Christman's medical expenses during September and October was authorized to be paid to Gina Christman.

Sallie Beard reported for the Hospitality Committee. Seven members are serving as hosts for disaster volunteers and hosting operations are going smoothly.

Sallie also reported for the Personnel Committee. She submitted a proposed Position Description for the Senior Pastor. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, that position description was approved. She then presented a proposed Performance Review form for the Senior Pastor, commenting that the Personnel Committee use that form for a formal review with Reverend Burgess on December 6. She asked Pastor Dave to leave the meeting room briefly and asked the Session for any comments regarding our Pastor's service. All comments were quite favorable.

The Children and Youth Committee presented minutes of its meetings held November 2 and 14. The committee continues to look for teachers. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the date of the "Fast Food Frenzy" youth activity, to be held off campus, was set for December 4.

For the Congregational Life Committee, chair Lorraine Whittington submitted a memo setting forth the many activities that will be taking place during the Advent Season.

The KidStuff Director and Committee provided a combined report at page 6 of the Session Packet. KidStuff is operating at 90% of capacity.

The Membership Care Committee submitted minutes of its meeting held November 1. The committee is anticipating a meeting with a representative of a church directory-publishing firm at its December meeting.

The Mission Committee submitted minutes of its meeting held November 10. Our church donated 47 Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. The committee is hoping to increase the participation of our congregation in international mission and in peacemaking.

Reverend Burgess reported for the Nominating Committee, stating that volunteers have been obtained for the vacancies for Elders and Deacons. The Elders-Elect will be invited to attend the December Session meeting.

Other Matters:

Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the date of the December Session meeting was moved up to December 20 from the stated meeting date of December 27.

Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Sallie Beard and Ed Wuch were elected as commissioners to the stated meeting of John Calvin Presbytery to take place Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, MO.

The following changes were noted to the Committee and Ministry Area Organization roster: Bill Fellers is a member of the Finance Committee and Pastor Dave should be shown as the Chair of the Disaster Fund Disbursement Committee.

Several changes were noted in the Elder Communion Schedule.

There was no further business. At 9:20 pm there was a **motion** to adjourn, **seconded and passed**. Bob Toft closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude Jardon, Clerk of Session

