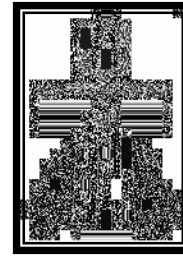


First Presbyterian Church
 212 College Avenue
 P. O. Box 1068
 Clarksville, AR 72830

Pastor-Reverend Marci Ward
 Church Phone 754-2942
 Home 705-0111
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THE HIGHLIGHTER

January, 2008

*First Presbyterian
 Church*



Happy New Year! It is a joy to be here in Clarksville and looking forward to a successful 2008! I was pleased by reading the Annual Reports at how much this church has done over the last year by reaching out to the community and to the world in mission. You are always ready to help out others who are in need and your graciousness is well known in the community and throughout the Presbytery. Sometimes, however, it is difficult to recognize the needs that are right under our noses and even within our very facility.

Each month the utility bills for the church come in, just as they do at each of our homes, and it takes over \$1500.00 to cover those costs. It doesn't matter if it is summer or winter, gas and electricity both are needed to make our sanctuary and classrooms comfortable.

We have some of the most talented and qualified staff of any church in the Presbytery; our music department is second to NONE, Linda is a true gem, and the rest of us are pretty good too! But it takes money each month to pay salaries. Add to that the costs of supplies, insurance, regular care and repairs of our building, and all the rest of the bills and we seldom take in enough money to pay bills.

We usually spend from \$2000 to \$5000 each month more than we bring in. Last month was a little better than usual – that is good news – but we also had one of our heaters in the church go out and it will need to be replaced at a cost of over \$7000.

I don't want to begin the New Year with a gloomy prognosis – I am not gloomy despite the numbers. In fact, our numbers are good in other areas. Attendance is up in worship, in Children and Youth activities, and in the Music department. Excitement is in the air and we can feel the Spirit moving around calling us to more ministry. We are also exploring grant opportunities to put storm windows on our single paned areas of the church to save on utilities. Ministries are really gearing up for a record year – and ministries take money.

If your family has not yet made a pledge to the church, I urge you to consider doing so as you think about New Year's resolutions! Giving to the church is one way to respond to God's blessings in your lives and God blesses us daily! Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in this new year! Grace and Peace! Pastor Marci

<p>Calling all Chili cooks!</p> <p>We will have a Chili tasting contest on Sunday, January 27 Following worship!</p> <p>Judges will be the congregation members</p> <p>The cost of the meal will be donations</p> <p>For our Children's Ministries Bring a pot of chili and a healthy appetite!</p>	<p>Sunday, January 13</p> <p>Ordination and Installation of New Elders</p> <p>Potluck after the service.</p> <p>Stated meeting of Session Following potluck.</p>
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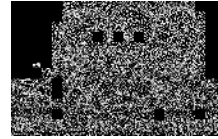
2007—A year end review

Our church has been a very giving and caring church this year, especially after not having a pastor for over a year. We nurtured each other, welcomed new members and visitors and finally, welcomed a new pastor and family in September.

Highlights of our church in action are listed below:

- ◆ Support of Interfaith Service Network by giving of space in the church, telephone and utilities and member support by bringing offerings of food and supplies.
- ◆ One week each month of delivering Meals on Wheels.
- ◆ Our Thrift shop has generated \$30,000 income to our church and provided low cost items to our community. They also provided free merchandise through clothing vouchers to those in need.
- ◆ Yearly benevolences to Forrester Davis-\$2,700, Vera Lloyd Children's Home-\$1,500, University of the Ozarks Scholarship Fund-\$6,000, Presbytery of Arkansas Unified Giving \$11,000.
- ◆ Homebound communion was provided each month to members and others in homes and nursing homes.
- ◆ While we were without a pastor, we were privileged to have so many wonderful speakers and ministers who blessed us with many styles of preaching. (Thank you Dawn Scarborough!)
- ◆ Gretchen Teeter led two Beth Moore Bible Study series for our women and women of the community.
- ◆ We started our new children's church-*Adventure Bay*, in July. Each week, we have 10-20 children attending. This room was fully painted with an ocean/tropical theme and is visited each week by a pirate, parrot, and various tourists and is led by Captain Michelle Colvin.
- ◆ We began two new Sunday School age groups, 3-4 and 8-10. We also have a 5-7 in place and 11 and up. We started a great new curriculum, *Live B.I.G.*
- ◆ We have a children's bell choir led by Pastor Marci.
- ◆ Twenty-four children met for 10 weeks in a new Wednesday after school program and began practice on a Christmas program. We were all so impressed to see the end result on December 2 with sixteen children in the program and they did a wonderful job!

Continued on next page



Congratulations to Angela Ham on the birth of a daughter. Stephanie Nicole was born on November 21 at 12:08 a.m. in Clarksville. Stephanie weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs. Sandy Nelson is the proud grandmother.

Congratulations to Glenda Hannon on the birth of her granddaughter born in Hot Springs. Madison Taylor Hannon arrived on December 12 weighing 7lbs. 10 ozs. Her parents are Martin and Lori Hannon. Grace Ganner is the great grandmother.

Serena Parish, granddaughter of Doug and Lorraine Belote will become Mrs. Tony Henderson on December 29th at the Quapaw District Methodist Church in Little Rock..



Welcome new members Billy Ward and Carolyn Ward by transfer of membership. Billy is the husband of our new pastor, Marci, and Carolyn is her daughter. We are very happy to have the Ward Family in our church.

Presbyterian 101

Teacher —Pastor Marci Ward

January 13 – March 3 (8 weeks only)

10th grade – adults

“Sondra Jones” classroom – Third Floor South

9:00 – 9:45 am

Did you know that the American Revolution back in 1776 was referred to as “A Presbyterian Revolution” by King George? Did you know that we have books filled with questions about faith and the bible (and answers to them) that you are afraid to ask your Sunday School teacher or pastor?

If you have questions about what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian verses a Baptist or any other denomination; this is the class for you. If you have above a 9th grade education and want to know the basics of how the Presbyterians get things done; this is the class for you. If you are interested in joining the church with a group of others instead of standing alone for the session interview and the welcome handshake by the church; this is the time and class for you. If you are already a member but you still have questions; this is the class for you.

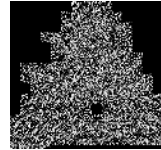
Presbyterians are different than others and not just because we are frugal with our money. We are a denomination that encourages our people to think about and to even question faith matters on their own. One of our key theological concepts is that, “God alone is Lord of conscience.” Come and learn what it means to be a part of a congregation that doesn't want you to turn off your brain at the door to the sanctuary. We will use discussion, videos, and other methods to learn about the Presbyterian Church USA. Come and learn about your faith with others like you!

Memorials



In memory of Earl & Xenya Coats
 Earl Coats, Jr.
 Mary Sue Coats
 Earlene Coats
 William Coats
 By Tom Richardson for the heating fund

In honor of Mary Johnson
 By Henry and Joann Walton



Poinsettias were purchased by Scout
 Snowden in memory of
 His grandparents
 J. T. and Lucile Patterson

And by Mary Kimbrough in memory of
 loved ones.

Louise King is currently in the hospital.

Helen Fulton had eye surgery but is doing
 well.

David Scarborough is recovering from knee
 surgery in the JRMC Rehabilitation Center
 and is doing very well.

Mary Boyer had knee surgery and is at
 home also recovering very well.

Bea Elkins is now at
 Clarksville Convalescent Center
 400 Oak Ct. #65
 Clarksville

Katherine Riddell

Gene Harris
 Randall & Dorothy Bossard
 Cal & Martha Ann Shahan
 Cindy Martin
 Dr. & Mrs. John Warren
 Presbyterian Women
 Wanda Walker
 Katherine Ianni
 Don Pennington
 Faye Roble

Prayer Requests

Bernetta Augustus
 Shala Baheri-Meshkaty
 Helen Batman
 Gloria Beer
 Patsy Blackburn
 Bea Elkins
 Rose Gamble
 Terrie Kaiser
 Louise King
 James Laster
 Martha Neilson
 Amos Reeves
 David Scarborough
 Marjorie Scarborough
 Anne Wade
 Karen Wade
 Diane Ward
 Ronald Warnock
 Robert Waterman
 Bill Willett

- ◆ The youth have been active with Youth Council and attending Senior High Youth Quake while meeting each Sunday afternoon led by Sandy Nelson.
- ◆ We participated with the Methodist and Catholic churches in Vacation Bible School and sponsored a fishing derby in Creek Fest.
- ◆ We had a Christmas Float in the parade for the first in MANY years if not the first time ever. We had twenty-four children and adults riding on the float.
- ◆ The Memorial Committee funded the refinishing of the floors in Fulton Hall and we now have beautiful original hardwood floors. Another project for the Memorial Committee was the funding of the Adventure Bay room by purchasing paints and other décor.
- ◆ The Fellowship Committee prepared bereavement dinners and fellowship activities such as potlucks, and our annual Peach Banana Split Contest.

These are just some of our events in 2007. As you can see, we are a church committed to growth. Detailed committee reports are available in the office.

Year End Financial Report as of **December 17, 2007**

As of 1-1-07	Beginning Bal.	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
General Fund	\$1,423.76	\$175,508.71	\$161,691.43	\$15,813.02
Memorial Fund	11,454.34	2,685.00	3,781.77	10,357.57
Memorial Invest. Fund	31,212.25	7,653.18	00.00	38,865.98
A. G. Edwards Invest. Fund	100,201.95	75,306.13	20,000	155,508.08

Our heat/air system for the third floor (children's side) has gone out. We must replace it at the cost of \$7,200. Thanks to some very generous people, we have received donations totaling \$3,100. If anyone would like to make a donation toward the cost, please bring it to the office.

The church office will closed December 24-January 1.

January 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Office Closed	2 Christian Education Committee 6 pm Choir practice 7pm	3	4	5 Ruby Reynolds Jack and Karyle Barnett
6 Communion Worship Committee after church Take down Christmas decorations Youth 4:30 pm	7 Nancy Hull	8 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting 3pm Burl McCartney	9 Choir practice 7pm Judy Wilkins	10 Kitchen Work Day	11	12
13 New members class 9am New elder ordination & intall. Potluck Session meeting after potluck	14 Administration Committee 1 pm <u>MEALS ON WHEELS WEEK</u>	15	16 Choir practice 7pm	17	18 Pat Edmunds	19 Claude Batman
20 New members class 9am Youth 4:30 pm.	21	22	23 Choir practice 7pm	24	25 Jeremy Castleman	26
27 New member class 9 am Chili tasting contest Youth 4:30 pm.	28	29	30 Choir practice 7pm	31 Lacy Hughes Ciampoli	PW and CIRCLE will <u>not</u> meet until March.	**Remember to save your aluminum cans for the children's fund. Drop them by the church!