

The Good News!

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

January 2012



Christmas came and went in a blur! Now that we're on the other side of December 25th, and I find myself stepping over the new toys and sweeping up the dry pine needles daily – I think, how did it all manage to happen?

And then I remember – it managed to happen because I wasn't in it alone.

I've just started writing all my thank you notes for the wonderful things I received that came wrapped up in paper and ribbon. But what touched my heart the most this season were the many people in our midst that gave the gift of their time to help make this Advent/Christmas season wonderful for us all. I am grateful for all of you – and lift up the following folks in particular:

Bill Hann, who once again spearheaded our efforts for Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse's International Relief Program. Thanks to the dozens and dozens of shoeboxes packed by members of our church family, we demonstrated God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world. Sue Scurato, for organizing our gift donations to a local family in need. George and Bonnie Knigge, for not only organizing the coat and blanket drive but then delivering all the donated items down to HomeFront.

Don and Nancy Watlington, together with Craig and Hope Murden who helped to organize the decoration of the church. George and Bonnie, together with Ruth Cereguas who worked together in an effort that spanned hours, making sure the supplies for our wrought iron candle lanterns were in place, functional and stable.

The Knigges, Keith & Susan Watlington and family, the Jacommas and the ladies of the

Prayer Shawl ministry who lit the candles of the Advent wreath through December.

All of you who donated a baked good to our Cookie Walk, and the Fellowship Committee for helping to organize and run things on our behalf. Members of the Fellowship Committee, and Wendy Bukowski and Debi Rittenhouse in particular for helping with our annual Christmas party. Ruth Van Dyke (and Nancy Watlington and Fran Nelson) for still speaking to me after I took the sparkling snowman.

All those who helped to support the children's pageant this year including George, who put out all of pieces of the stable in Bethlehem, Diane Gavin who organized, stitched and out-fitted the children, Ginny Trent and Beth Vittor for their onsite support – and all the children who recited a line or two including Gabi, Emily J, Julia, Jaques, Kate, Kara and her heavenly host(ess) Emily W, Kristina, Sophie, Maddie, Kingsly, Alexa, and Todd.

To all of you who were moved to restock the food pantry of the Crisis Ministry after their fire, thank you for your generous food donations.

What a wonderful Christmas! I am so grateful! Together let us say:

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God,

We bless you.

Object of the Magi's search, subject of an old man's song,

Fulfillment of the Baptist's preaching,

We bless you.

Mary's son, Joseph's son, God's only son,

We bless you.

Rev. Wendi

Birthdays

Dec. 31	Thomas Buckley	Jan. 20	Leslie Lanphear
Jan. 1	Kristen Wolf	Jan. 21	Victoria Ledingham
Jan. 3	Michael Hart	Jan. 22	Brian Knott
Jan. 4	Rory Brennan	Jan. 24	Eva Holsten
Jan. 5	Howard Beyrouthy Jim Vittor	Jan. 25	Courissa Bogdanowicz Zach Vittor
Jan. 6	Emily Werner	Jan. 27	Gail Kessler
Jan. 7	David Both Jimmy Brennan	Jan. 31	Thomas Quilter Jill Thompson
Jan. 17	Alysa Carbone		

This Month's Ushers

January 1:

Carolyn Bryant
Ruth Cerequas
Richard Hague
Carol Hague.

January 8:

Debbie Errichello
George Knigge
Bonnie Knigge
Leslie Lanphear

January 15:

Sue Brennan
Jan Bunch
Judy Cashmore
Lynne Ewen

January 22:

Harriet Terren
Barbara Trent
Alice Veghte
Marlene Wolf

January 29:

Preetta Gupta
Bruce Scurato
Emi Scurato
Ruth Van Dyke



The First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

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Our website:
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Our office email:
daytonpres@verizon.net

Rev. Wendi Werner's email:
wendi.daytonpres@verizon.net
Rev. Wendi's office hours:
Tues. through Fri., 10AM to 3 PM

*"Go and make disciples
of all nations..."*

Laity Sunday: February 19

Laity Sunday is a day when members of the congregation have the opportunity to share their talents by leading the worship service in different areas. A member of the congregation will be preaching the sermon, presenting a children's message, leading prayers, reading scripture, etc.

Please see Ruth Cerequas or another member of the Worship Committee if you are interested in taking part in this service. We would like to have as many people as possible participate!



Book Club News

The Book Club will meet after worship on January 15, 2012 to discuss the book *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. This is the story of Henry, a Chinese American living in 1986, and Keiko Okabe a Japanese girl he formed a friendship with in the 1940s. We will discuss this book, and select a book to discuss at our next meeting.



Call for the Annual Meeting for January 29, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church at Dayton, NJ has been called for Sunday, January 29, 2012, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt changes to our by-laws; elect four members of the congregation to serve on the 2012 Church Officers Nominating Committee, to review the reports of the Pastor, Treasurer, Clerk, Financial Secretary, the Session committees and the Harvest Fair Committee, to receive the Session approved budget for 2012, and to act on any other matters which may come before the Congregation and Corporation.

JANUARY PREACHING CALENDAR

- January 1** Communion Sunday
Epiphany Sunday
Text: Matthew 2:1-12
Meditation: "Keeping Your Word"
- January 8** Texts: Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Sermon: "Continually Amazed"
- January 15** Texts: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1Samuel 3:1-10
Sermon: "Life Before Caller ID"
- January 22** Texts: Psalm 62:5-12;
Mark 1:14-20
Sermon: "Quick Decisions"
- January 29** Congregational Meeting
Texts: Psalm 62:5-12;
Mark 1:21-28
Sermon: "Psalm111"
Sermon: "In the Congregation"

Check Out Our Newly Re-Designed Website! And Facebook Page!

The Dayton Church is proud to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website – found at **FirstPresDaytonNJ.org**. Our new website has been designed by Megan Berg, daughter of church member Kathy Bevenssee. Megan is the proud owner of web design/communications company Bad Tofu Designs. Through conversations with her mom, Megan learned that we were interested in investigating a new website design. Megan volunteered her services to us as a web designer, and helped to create a website for us that church members can search for pertinent information about our life together – and folks looking for a church home can search, so they can gain a sense of who we are. While portions of the site are still under construction, our website now contains directions, prayer and information request forms, a summary of our church's history, photos, newsletters and much, much more.



Many thanks to Howard Jones, who faithfully updates our church's web information – and who answered no shortage of questions for the new re-design.

And – thank you Megan – for all your hard work on our church's behalf.

And while you're checking out our new website – be sure to find us on Facebook as well! "Like" our page, and you will be updated on the weekly happenings of our church.



Session Highlights

One of the things I have enjoyed about being the Clerk of Session for umpty-ump years has been the unique position of being on the inside of the changes and developments over the years that have taken place in our church. One of the biggest changes was the reactivation of the Board of Deacons a little over a year ago. History was made again last night as we held the first annual joint meeting of Session and the Board of Deacons. This was preceded by a delicious dinner (with a really yummy dessert) prepared by our pastor. Later the Deacons spoke about the kind of work they are doing. Each of the Deacons is responsible for a group of our members and friends and tries to be in contact with them periodically to let them know we care and let the pastor know when her attention is needed. They also help in other ways which show the caring ministry of our church. There was a poem I learned when I was a child that started out "God has no hands but our hands to do His work each day." This is what they do. They were invited to stay for the rest of the Session meeting, but evidently, that is not what they do.

Session has called a meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, January 29, 2012, immediately following morning worship. You will be voting on the four members who will represent the congregation on the 2012 Church Officers Nominating Committee, and on the Personnel Committee's recommended compensation package for the pastor. Session has recommended some additions to our By-Laws as a result of the New Form of Government passed by General Assembly and approved by the required number of presbyteries last summer. These will be presented for your approval. You will also get to review the reports of the officers and the Session committees, the Board of Deacons, Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Music Department, and the Harvest Fair, as well as the 2012 Session-approved budget.

The pledges are coming in a little slower this year than last year, but we are very encouraged by the fact that, as of mid-December, 26 of the pledges received were new or increased, 24 stayed the same, while only 6 were decreased. A great deal of time was spent fine tuning the 2012 budget which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Keith Watlington and George Knigge presented the plans for the accessibility project and George displayed his 3D model at a special congregational forum on the 18th to acquaint everyone with the details and answer questions. One member suggested the possibility of placing the foyer bathroom on the same level as the outside entrance to allow for direct access close to these doors. This should be a simple change because it just means changing the door to an adjacent wall and extending the lower level. The committee will look into this and also a suggestion by the architect which would probably save us money on the lift but would require further construction which could wipe out a lot of the savings. Patience, folks. We're only going to be doing this once, and we want to get it right.

The Worship Committee, especially Ruth Cereguas and Bonnie Knigge, have spent more time and energy than you would believe trying to make sure that there will be no exploding glass at this year's Christmas Eve services. They have tried all sorts of things to make sure the candles stay in place and the globes fit securely. Today, as they were putting in the candles they experienced a miracle, right up there with the loaves and fishes and the story of Chanukah. They were using super gorilla glue to make sure the candles stayed in place and noticed that the bottle was almost empty and they were only about a quarter of the way through. Ruth went to the local Stop and Shop to buy more glue. It wasn't quite the same, but she figured they'd make do and went back to finish the job. When they were done, they realized that they were still using the same bottle and it looked exactly the same as it did when they thought it was almost empty, yet they had been able to do ALL of the candles. Oh yes, she was able to get credit for the unused glue.

Carolyn P. Bryant
Clerk of Session

Meet our Fundraising Partner

The Dayton Church is proud to be partnering with the company TerraCycle as a means of fundraising – and of furthering our commitment to the stewardship of creation. TerraCycle's purpose is to eliminate the idea of waste.

They do this by creating national recycling systems for previously non-recyclable or hard-to-recycle waste.



Once waste materials are received from

TERRACYCLE

different organizations, TerraCycle then converts the collected waste into a wide variety of products and materials. With more than 20 million people collecting waste in 14 countries, TerraCycle has diverted billions of units of waste and used them to create over 1,500 different products available at major retailers. Together, our goal will be to eliminate the idea of waste by creating collection and solution systems for anything that today must be sent to a landfill. For every item received, TerraCycle will send us 2 cents!

Please bring the following clean items to Fellowship Hall, and place into the specially designated boxes:

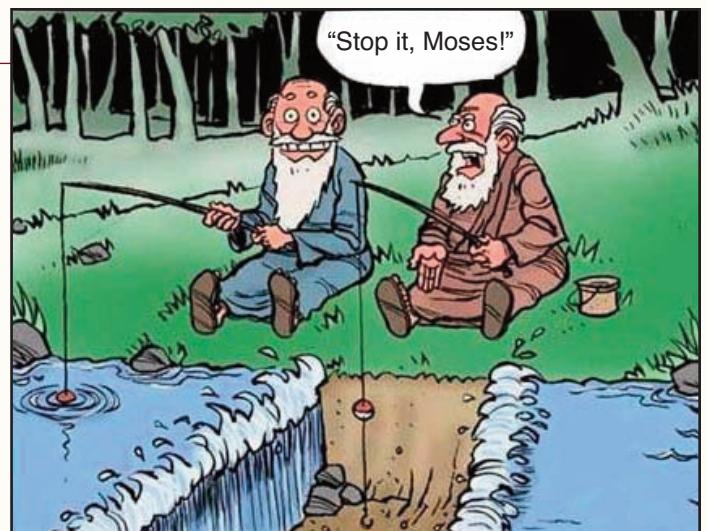
- All Capri Sun & Honest Kid drink pouches;
- Colgate Oral Care products (examples, toothpaste tubes, toothpaste caps, tooth brushes, floss containers);
- All brands of inkjet printer cartridges;
- Scotch Tape (examples: plastic tape dispensers, plastic tape cores);

- Kashi Packaging (examples: Kashi and ANY cereal bag liners, Kashi TLC® snack bar wrappers, Kashi GOLEAN!® bar wrappers, Kashi TLC cracker box liners, Kashi cookie and frozen entrée plastic trays, Kashi pizza paperboard packaging, Kashi cereal paperboard packaging, Kashi entrée paperboard packaging).

In addition, please consider contributing these additional items for donation to the South Brunswick Senior Center (Dayton Church is wait-listed to be added to these groups):

- All Mars candy wrappers (examples: Snickers, M&M, Twix, Skittles, Starburst, etc.);
- All Nabisco and Keebler cookie wrappers (examples: Oreo, Chips Ahoy, etc.), including the plastic tray inside;
- All types of Kraft cheese products, including Polly-O, Velveeta and Breakstone, wrappers and containers, (examples: Kraft Singles, string cheese, shredded cheese, parmesan cheese, cottage cheese, sour cream, etc.);
- Scott brand wrappers for toilet paper, paper towels and napkins (just no single rolls of toilet paper).

This initiative has been brought forward by our new hands-on-mission group, a subcommittee of the Stewardship/Mission Committee. Interested in hands-on-mission opportunities? Please contact Leslie Lanphear.



Amending our Bylaws

Bylaws are our church's organizational operating manual. With guidance from Scripture, support from our Book of Confessions and operating in the framework of our Book of Order, they are the rules that we adopt to help regulate our life together. The last set of bylaws was adopted on November 2, 2008. These bylaws were amended in January 2011 to include our Board of Deacons.

Now that the Presbyterian Church (USA) had adopted a new form of government (nFOG) – further revision to our church's by-laws is necessary. Following is an explanation of changes needed, and our Session's recommendations. All proposed amendments to our by-laws will be voted upon by the congregation at January's annual meeting.

Item #1:

The passage of nFOG removed the system-wide minimum standard for congregational and session quorums.

Step A: *Our current by-laws define a quorum as one tenth of all active members, as per the old Book of Order. Session recommends affirming the quorum of one tenth of all active members, as stated in our bylaws.*

Step B: *Our current by-laws DO NOT define what constitutes a quorum needed for Session vote. The former BoO dictated that a Session quorum consists of the pastor, 1/3 of the elders, except for the reception and dismissal of members when the quorum shall be the moderator and 2 members of Session.*

Session recommends adopting the previous standard of 1/3 of the elders for quorums for Session meetings, except for the reception and dismissal of members when the quorum shall be the moderator and 2 members of Session, and including the standards in our bylaws.

Item #2:

The passage of nFOG removed the former BoO's stipulation that notice for special meetings be run on two consecutive Sundays,

and instead indicates that "reasonable notice" is necessary. *Our current by-laws do not address the issue of notice. Session recommends notice for special meetings be run on two consecutive Sundays, and that this stipulation be included in our bylaws.*

Item #3

NFOG permits the congregation to form the nominating committee in whatever way it deems acceptable. *Our current by-laws stipulate the Nominating Committee:*

– be composed of at least 6 members of the congregation,

**two elected from Session (one to be designated chairperson – also determined by Session) and*

**at least 4 but not more than 6 from the congregation (none of which may be currently serving on Session).*

Session recommends affirming the composition indicated in our bylaws.

Item #4:

The former BoO called for the treasurer to be elected annually. nFOG indicates the session shall elect a treasurer for such as term as the session shall decide. *The term for the treasurer is not specified in our current by-laws.*

Session recommends the treasurer be elected to a 3 year term. This term should be included in our bylaws.

Item #5:

Neither the former BoO nor nFOG stipulates a term for the clerk, indicating only it is for a term the session may determine. *The term for the clerk is not specified in our by-laws.* It has been Dayton's tradition to elect on an annual basis. **Session recommends our clerk be elected to a 3 year term. This term should be included in our bylaws.**

ARE FINANCES A SOURCE OF STRESS FOR YOU? ARE YOU SEEKING HELP IN PREPARING YOUR TAX RETURNS? TALK TO SOMEONE – RIGHT HERE AT CHURCH!

Some people say money makes the world go round. Whether you believe this cliché or not, the truth is there are few things in life that cause more stress and anxiety than finances. And for many, this angst becomes the cause of collateral damage – shattering not only our bank accounts, but also our relationships and sometimes our faith. Financial stresses – like uncertainty, unemployment and hardship have the potential to hurt if you don't take the opportunity to talk with someone.

So take the time to talk to someone, right here at church. Church member Richard Hughes is a qualified tax preparer who has more than 150 corporate and personal clients. He has a BA in Accounting and Finance from Middlesex University (London), and an MBA in Finance from Howard University (Washington DC). He has volunteered his expertise to all members and friends of the Dayton church to prepare their tax returns, or to give financial advice. Richard will be available in Fellowship hall one Saturday a month, from 2pm to 5pm, January through April. He will not be charging any fee for his tax preparation or advice, but asks that all who are able make a \$50.00 donation to our church. All proceeds raised during this tax-preparation-ATHON will be donated towards our accessibility project.

Richard understands that trust and confidentiality are important to anyone seeking financial counsel. Additionally, many members of our community may be interested in pursuing this opportunity, but

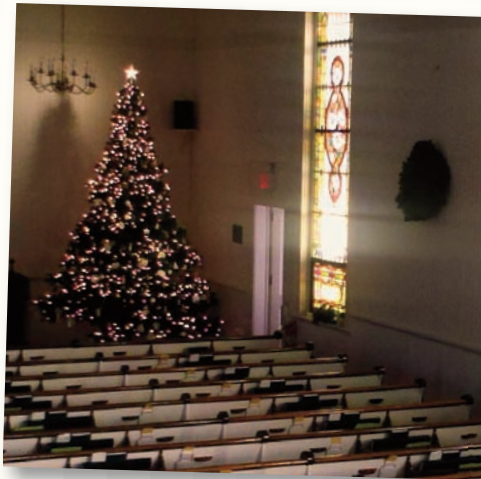
hesitate because they have had their taxes prepared by other tax preparers for numerous years. Therefore, to reduce any concern or fear, Richard encourages you to speak with him before deciding. To reach Richard, leave a message for him in the church office, or call him at (201) 320-0921.

Sign up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall, or you can call to schedule a one hour appointment. In order to secure confidentiality, you will not need to fill your name in on the sheet – simply use the word “reserved” to indicated your date and time preference.

Plan ahead! For personal returns bring: W2, 1098, 1099-Misc, 1099-Int, 1099-R, Form 5498, records of charitable contributions and any other relevant documentation.



CHRISTMAS 2011





Mission Connections

In order to keep our church members and friends informed about how your financial pledges and gifts are being directed and used towards Presbyterian Church (USA) missions work, the Stewardship & Missions Committee periodically publishes letters written by missionaries working in various parts of the world. This year, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has mission workers serving in 71 countries. These letters to our denomination will help you get to know them and their ministries. Learn what Presbyterian missionaries do and how you can support them!

A letter from Barbara Nagy in Malawi

November 2011

Of Power Cuts and Petrol Queues

You know you've reached a threshold when your daughter's imaginative play involves riding her elephant to the capital (60 km.) to convince the power company to turn the electricity back on. We in Malawi have been in the grip of daily prolonged power cuts combined with a countrywide shortage of fuel of all sorts for the past several months. Unfortunately, no end is in sight. How does this affect a 220-bed mission hospital? Ambulances and vehicles to provide medicines and vital supplies have to run on diesel; lab and X-ray equipment, sterilizers and refrigerators (vaccines, blood for transfusion, etc.) have to run; and most important, oxygen concentrators and emergency surgical equipment have to run in order to save people's lives and be true to our goal of providing "clinically excellent Christ-oriented health care."



Generally when the power goes out (daily) we have an emergency generator that is turned on. Due to power fluctuations, the switch that activates the generator has burned out and presently cannot be replaced, so a watchman has been hired to turn it on by hand whenever the power goes off. As the generator runs for six–eight hours almost every day, it has begun overheating and sometimes has to be switched off to cool. Prices for diesel have recently gone up, bringing the cost of running the generator at its current usage to \$4,655.00 per month. This is a catastrophic cost for a mission hospital that barely manages to survive financially from month to month. After weeks of trying to find fuel in the capital we have begun searching across a nearby border with Mozambique, but this is also fraught with difficulties and is dangerous and expensive. Corruption has reared its ugly head, and the tiny amount of available fuel is often sold off at much higher prices to roadside traders, posing danger of riots at the hours- to days-long petrol queues.

All of these circumstances converged last week when we had seven children on oxygen in the pediatrics ward, as well as patients in the adult wards. Power was off for almost 30 minutes as opposed to the 6-8 hour cuts we normally experience, and all managed to tolerate this interruption with the exception of our sickest pediatric patient. Clinicians stood by as she became more and more distressed, and eventually bag/mask resuscitation was instituted as her respirations failed completely. Finally, with the last small efforts of life failing, the power came back on, and she survived, though at what cost to her ultimate neurologic function is unknown. We are now at the lowest point of the year in terms of pediatrics admissions. What these continued episodes will cost in terms of human lives when the pediatric ward reaches its peak in the next months is unknown. Please pray with us for an end to the power and fuel shortages, as well as for just and wise governance in this country. We have two outstanding grant requests pending to fund a new generator capable of carrying the load of the entire hospital, but please also prayerfully consider helping with the ongoing costs of fuel for the hospital.

We are gratified that in spite of all these challenges we have been able to continue outreach clinics, which have made health care accessible to approximately 3,000 mothers and young children per month who would otherwise be beyond the reach of any health facility. We are committed to bicycling to these outreach clinics even if the fuel completely fails, but we would be able to offer only limited services, especially as the rains limit transportation of equipment by such means. I have prepared a year-end summary of activities for the hospital that can be accessed on the Mission Connections website: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections>

Thanks for the prayers and support that you have offered during the year 2011; may your Christmas celebrations be blessed and joyful!

Barbara Nagy

January 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day 10:00am Worship & Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00pm Buildings & Grounds at Manse</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Fellowship Committee 8:00pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:45pm Presbytery at Hamilton Square</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30pm Personnel Committee</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30pm Session Deadline for Submission to Annual Report</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30pm Deacons at Manse</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>