

Presbyterian Profile



First Presbyterian Church

January, 2012

Dear Friends On December 19, 2011 I wore my long-sleeved Indianapolis Colts t-shirt for the first time during the 2011 NFL season. In part, it was because the Colts had finally won a game – against the Tennessee Titans, no less. Mostly it was because the long-sleeved t-shirts I normally wear were in my laundry basket and I was feeling chilled. (Most of my t-shirts, long-sleeved or short, are plain, solid colors. I don't put bumper stickers on my car and I don't tend to wear clothing with slogans or pictures.)

As I pulled the shirt out of the drawer, I remembered a conversation we had during the Confirmation classes this fall. Four participants in the class were young men, and all of them are athletically inclined, so conversations would turn to sports from time to time.

One evening, the subject of the Colts somewhat lackluster season came up. Needless to say there was not a lot of optimism expressed for the season. I mentioned that even though the Colts were unlikely to perform at the level to which their fans have become accustomed, we should not give up entirely on them. I mentioned that the writings of Paul have something to say to Colts fans and players. It is in the fifth chapter of Romans, and it speaks to the experience of God's redemptive activity in the midst of adversity.

Paul wrote, “. . . we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

I have preached on those verses from time to time, and probably reflected on them in newsletters, as well. There is always cause to heed such wisdom, to ponder it, wrestle with it, and seek to understand it.

Each year, as the ball drops in Times Square and Father Time bids farewell so that the Baby who represents the new year can replace him, we reflect on our dreams for the coming year, our joys and sorrows for the year ended.

I think it is always appropriate to approach that transition with hope, because hope is a gift of God's Spirit, given to us that we might share it with others.

Happy New Year. I hope it's a good one for all of us – and for the Colts.

Bob Madsen



Notes From The Boards

Session Happy New Year From the Session:

2012 will bring new adventures and challenges for your Session; but before we get ahead of ourselves let's look back at your Session's 2011-achievements.

As 2011 began two (2) major projects remained open, from the gracious 2010-gift received from a congregation member; they were the Chancel Renovation and Church Sign. Both of those projects have been completed and complement our worship area and church grounds. In addition, a new sound and lighting system has been added to enhance the Sanctuary; from funds approved by the Legacy Committee.

All of our committees, Mission, Christian Education, Youth, Social, Building & Grounds, and Outreach & Evangelism established goals and worked passionately to achieve their completion. The most significant accomplishment the committees achieved was working together to get our church back to its pre-fire condition. Special thanks go out the Pastor Madsen, Ted Smith, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and John Whicker, Church Treasurer, for their dedicated and extraordinary efforts. The Administration and Finance Committee had an extremely productive year. The new "Power Church" financial software system is fully operational and an interim "Financial Secretary" has been hired until a permanent one is found.

In February the Session conducted an interview with Tyler Gibson for the purpose

of approving his request to move from "Inquirer" to "Candidate" for Ordination. Tyler spoke of his experiences at Louisville Seminary, as well as his dedication and faith in the service of Jesus Christ. The Session unanimously approved his request. In May, Tyler presented himself before the White Water Valley Presbytery for the purpose of moving from Inquirer to Candidate for Ordination. His examination went well and the Presbytery approved his candidacy for ordination.

In March our "Commissioners" attended the special Presbytery meeting for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, approved by the 219th Presbyterian General Assembly. In June we held the joint service with our sister churches of Ossian and Decatur. And our "Church Records" were approved by the Presbytery, and our annual financial review showed no discrepancies.

Special thanks go out to Elders Rollyn Coverdale, Debbie Elkins, Tim Hartigan, Patty Randall and Ira Zadyak for their service to the congregation; as they have completed their three (3) year term on Session. And an appreciation of service goes out to Julie Coverdale, as Christian Education Director, and Stephanie Hiday, as Youth Director, who resigned their positions. Julie has served in this position for many years with distinction. Their dedication and effort will be greatly missed.

*Ira Paul Zadyak
Clerk of Session*



Outreach & Evangelism

What is Outreach and Evangelism?

In 2009, our Session created a new committee of Session called “Outreach and Evangelism”. The mission of this committee is to find ways to increase the engagement of members in our Church’s mission, and to reach out to the community to increase attendance and participation in our Church. Much of the O&E Committee’s work revolves around finding ways to reach out to people more effectively. In today’s world, much of the preferred way to reach people is through modern electronic means, such as email, text



messages, and providing a website that provides up-to-date information. We have also sponsored a bench at the street fair, and a few other ways to get people to take notice of what’s happening in our Church in today’s busy world.

Our website is mostly complete, though it can always be better and does need constant updating. You can find it at www.firstpcblyffton.org.

So – let us know what else you see that can be done, and mostly, please do your own outreach – go talk to someone you know that may be interested in participating in our Church life. Bring them in – nothing is a substitute for the old-fashioned personal invitation. So – go talk to someone you know!

Tim Hartigan



Mission Committee

In a recent newsletter I highlighted some of the ways the Mission Committee was at work in 2011. Mission trips, preschool scholarships, Kate's Kitchen, food, toy & diaper drives kept us busy last year. We will be continuing many of these same activities in 2012. We will have focus each month for donations to the Wells County Food Bank so be on the lookout for the item of the month listed in the church bulletin. Canned fruits and vegetables will be the focus for February but feel free to start bringing them in anytime. This spring

we will be collecting items to prepare hygiene kits for Church World Service.

Thank you to the 2011 committee members: Caroline Seese, Aleyce Lowe, Lin Harrold, Sue Smith, George Babcock

Julia Babcock

Christian Education

Happy New Year!

As most of you know, Julie Coverdale has stepped down as CE Director. Bruce Antrim has moved into the position on an interim basis beginning this month. Julie has provided the church with excellent programming over many years and Bruce will do his best to live up to her standards during the time he holds the position.

Bruce served CE previously at 1st Pres. with the Junior and Senior High classes, and looks forward to getting to know the congregation's parents and children in the younger youth programs. He will try to make the transition as seamless as possible and programming and curriculum will remain unchanged.

January events will include a pizza and bowling party on January 29, 2012. More details will be posted in the Narthex on Sunday January 15.

Bruce





January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year 9a Sunday Sch 10:30a Worship	2	3	4 6p Day Care Board 7p Mission Committee	5 1p Administration & Finance	6 Epiphany	7
8 9a Sunday Sch 10:30a Worship	9 7p Christian Education Committee	10 7p Outreach & Evangelism	11 7p Board of Deacons	12	13	14
15 9a Sunday Sch 10:30a Worship	16 Martin Luther King	17 7p Worship Committee	18 5p Kate's Kitchen	19	20	21
22 9a Sunday Sch 10:30a Worship	23 7p Christian Education Committee	24	25 7p Session	26	27	28
29 9a Sunday Sch 10:30a Worship	30	31				



Birthdays

January Birthdays

1. Brian Kain
- 2.
3. Natalie Brege, Susy Jones
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Cindi Pastore
- 8.
9. David Vogel
- 10.
- 11.
12. Andy Carnall
13. Wade Kain
14. Tom Jackson, Starla Steckbeck, Jennifer Neireiter
15. Carolyn Graham
16. Duane Nodine
17. Tom Plummer, Chris Liby, Darcy Shaw
- 18.
19. Nicholas Stuff
20. Camille Himes, Ken Hauser
- 21.
22. Matthew Robles, Joan Phelps
- 23.
24. Kendall Dunwiddie
- 25.
26. George Babcock, Sarah Nodine
27. Carol Blevins, Chris Harrold, Jennifer Pastore
- 28.
29. Patti Engle, Chad Wilhite
30. Pam Gibson
31. Wilson Whicker

February Birthdays

1. Lynn Babcock
2. Amy Elkins
3. Nedra Hiday, Rachel Miller, Shane Plummer, Jolin Whicker
4. Candice Beavens, Angie Vachon
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Kimberly (Captain) Neireiter
9. Betty Deihl
10. Nancy Lowe
11. Karen Harrold, Robin Johnson, Kelly Weybright
12. Sally Kain
- 13.
14. Lauren Marshall, Sara Runyon
15. Debbie Elkins
16. Phillip Coverdale, Duncan White
17. Michelle Blount
- 18.
- 19.
20. Cora Lynn Shaw
- 21.
22. Josh Brigner, Tara Evans
23. Rita Engle, Logan Wilhite
24. Monya LaFollette
25. Carla Alspaugh
26. Andy Vogel, Fritz Nodine
27. Kelsie Johnson
- 28.
- 29.

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(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

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See You Sunday!

9:00 Sunday School

10:30 Worship