

Presbyterian Profile



First Presbyterian Church

November, 2011

Dear Friends During the month of November we approach the day of Thanksgiving. It is a celebration that has been with us since almost the beginning of the colonial period. And for many years it has been defined as a holiday, a word that is derived from the designation "holy day."

Recently I heard a report on National Public Radio concerning the Indian observance of Diwali. If I had ever heard of the festival before, I had forgotten. I consulted the online oracle "Wikipedia" for enlightenment. According to the site, Diwali is a festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil and prepares for the arrival of the goddess Lakshmi. Firecrackers are used to drive out evil spirits.

What I remember from the radio report was an interview with a man who regretted the commercialization of the holiday – which runs from mid-October to mid-November. In modern India, the ancient meaning of the season is being eclipsed by a frenzy of sales.

It seems commercialization is no respecter of culture, doesn't it? Thanksgiving, which began as a day of celebrating God's provision for colonists who endured harsh living conditions, has become the day that marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Predictions are made for the outcome of black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving when retailers hope sales will bring the balance sheet from red ink to black. And people speak of the shopping season as if the fate of the nation depends upon it.

In recent years, Christian comment on this phenomenon has seemed to focus on whether sales clerks wish shoppers a "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas." Very little is said about how we lose sight of the meaning of Thanksgiving, and even less about how the nation's shopping season eclipses the church's season of Advent.

I am not calling for a "holiwar" on "holidays." I would simply suggest that the man in the NPR story and I share a common concern which has a common response. The response is not to condemn forces in culture beyond our control, but to assist our culture in remembering the importance of days and seasons by being clear about what they mean to us and why they are important.

For Christians, observing a single day of Thanksgiving is silly. If we follow the advice of the Apostle Paul, we should be continually giving thanks, and Paul even thanked God for the hardships he encountered as an ambassador of the gospel.

And as for the season of Advent, its meaning is also embodied in the daily routines of Christian faith, because it anticipates the coming of Christ and his kingdom and the renewal of all creation. (Check this space next month for more about that.)

Faithfully,
Bob Madsen



Notes From The Boards

Day Care

Hi everyone! My name is Stephanie Bixler and I am your Day Care Director. I have been here since the end of March and I am so absolutely thrilled to be here! We have such an awesome group of children/families enrolled in our day care. I just want to give a quick update about some changes that I have been working on making.

I have been working hard to incorporate a more educational curriculum for the children throughout the day. We are now working on rotations from 10:30 until 11:30. Rotations consist of three different rooms; Playroom/Social Skills with Amanda Crews, Arts/Crafts with Camille Havens and reading/poems and songs with myself and Lindsey. The three different groups of children are divided age accordingly.

If you haven't seen the playroom, you should swing by and check out our new learning rug! It helps with teaching colors, numbers and letters.

I have also been working on a curriculum to fit all of their needs accordingly.

The day care staff and kids really enjoyed being in the Bluffton Street Fair this year! A special thank you to the Blount family for helping decorate our float and to Brandon Blount for driving his truck and our float in the parade. Also, a special thank you to Tim and Cheryl Hartigan for allowing us to use their trailer as our float for the parade! Again, I am so happy to be a part of your Church and am enjoying the children/staff/work and just everything so much! I hope everyone has a great Fall!

Sincerely,

Stephanie



Mission Committee

As the mission committee's year nears its end, I wanted to share with everyone some of the great work the committee has done this year:

- Two trips to help those rebuild after flooding in Nashville and continuing the work in Northern Quintana Roo, Mexico.
- Helping four First Presbyterian Pre-school families by providing scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition.
- Preparing and serving over 2000 meals so far this year through Kate's Kitchen.
- Providing children in need at the local elementary schools with gym shoes.
- Monetary donations to various local organizations such as Adams Wells Crisis Center, United Way Faith Fund, Wells County Food Bank, Panos Free Clinic, Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity.



Please take a look at the tree in the narthex this month, as we will be collecting new toys for Santa's Workshop organized by the United Way along with food and other household staples for the Wells County Food Bank.

Thank you,

Julie Babcock





Upcoming Events

Christmas Party

Sunday December 4th
5:00 p.m.
At the Home of
Gary & Michelle Blount
433 Grassland Court



Appetizer and Dessert Carry-in





November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints 7:00 Social Events Committee	2 7:00 Mission Committee 7:00 Day Care Board	3 1:00 Presbyterian Women	4	5
6 DST ends 9:00am Sun Sch 10:30am Worship 5:30 Confirmation Class	7 7:00 CE/Youth	8 7:00 Outreach & Evangelism	9 7:00 Board of Deacons	10 1:00 Admin & Finance	11 Veterans Day	12
13 9:00am Sun Sch 10:30am Worship 5:30 Confirmation Class	14	15 7:00 Worship Committee	16 5:00 Kate's Kitchen	17	18	19
20 9:00am Sun Sch 10:30am Worship 11:30am Carry-in Thanksgiving Dinner 5:30 Confirmation Class	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 Advent Sunday 1 9:00am Sun Sch 10:30am Worship	28	29	30 7:00 Session			



Church Financial News



Legacy Funds

McPheeters Endowment Fund

\$109,611.16 Historic Value 12/31/2010
\$110,001.82 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ 329.66 Net of Deposits & Dist

Fryback Endowment Fund

\$ 31,008.77 Historic Value 12/31/2010
\$ 33,657.76 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ 2,598.99 Net of Deposits & Dist

Memorial Funds

\$ 11,129.10 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 2,433.36 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ 254.26 Net of Deposits & Dist

William & Elizabeth Mann Fund

\$ 22,694.82 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 21,359.09 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ 753.73 Net of Deposits & Dist

Seese Fund

\$ 9,150.14 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 8,803.89 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ (346.25) Net of Deposits & Dist

Building & Grounds Fund

\$ 87,249.12 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 83,670.59 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ (3,578.53) Net of Deposits & Dist

Hunt-Manning Scholarship Fund

\$ 11,815.57 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 11,398.23 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ (417.34) Net of Deposits & Dist

Geist Family Fund

\$ 12,824.59 Market Value 12/31/2010
\$ 12,275.06 Market Value 09/30/2011
\$ (549.53) Net of Deposits & Dist

Total of all Funds: \$283,599.80

The value of the funds declined by \$7,359.17 compared to the previous reporting period ending 08/26/2011, reflecting the market turmoil during that period.

The Legacy Committee met on October 11, 2011 with Jeremy Todd, Edward Jones Investments. No changes in investment policy recommended. The following officers were reappointed for 2012: Bette Erxleben, Chair; Tim Babcock, Secretary; and John Whicker, Treasurer. Tim Babcock and Caroline Seese were reappointed for another three-year term. The next meeting of Legacy will be held on January 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for the year-end review.

Financials prepared by John Whicker, Treasurer

Submitted by Bette Erxleben, Chair



Birthdays

November Birthdays

1. Bette Erxleben
2. Richard Sills
- 3.
- 4.
5. Dorothy Hunt, John Whicker, Mike Studabaker
- 6.
- 7.
8. Ryan Crismore
- 9.
- 10.
11. Christopher Studabaker, Sue Smith
12. Phillip Smith
- 13.
14. Cameron Blount
15. Tom Antrim, Chip Mann
16. Keller Whicker
17. Ira Zadyak
18. Aaron A. Carnall
19. JJ Whicker
- 20.
21. Iona Evans, Ric Geist, Andrea Vogel
- 22.
23. Judy Werling
24. Therese Evans
- 25.
- 26.
27. Tim Hartigan, Dana Pursley, Rachel Smith, Jacob Weybright
28. Joyce Books
- 29.
- 30.

December Birthdays

- 1.
2. Connor Hiday, Courtney Hiday
3. Parr Durr
4. Sandra Morey
5. Suzanne Huffman, Celia Jackson
6. Neal Pitts
7. Andy Antrim, Ryan Werling
8. Josh Morris
9. Maria Weybright
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
14. Julie Babcock
- 15.
16. Joe Elkins, Kaitlyn & Kirsten Johnson
- 17.
- 18.
19. Tim Babcock
20. Matthew Studabaker, Laura Liby, Linda Bauer
- 21.
22. Bryce Biberstine, Melissa Reinking
- 23.
- 24.
25. Linda McDonald
26. Augie Mann
27. Lin Harrold, Conor Jackson
28. Mike Herman, Jamie Lemler
- 29.
30. Bill McKinley, Cari Whicker
- 31.

First Presbyterian Church
215 Dustman Road
Bluffton, IN 46714
824-0767

(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

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See You Sunday!

9:00 Sunday School

10:30 Worship