

The First Presbyterian Church
APRIL 2008

CHRONICLES

4000 Victory Drive
Kansas City, KS 66102

Office: 913-342-7225
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blessings@firstpresckc.com

Church School 9:45 AM

Worship Service 10:45 AM
Visitors Welcome!



The Staff:

Secretary

Crystal Mangos

Treasurer

Ann Keeling

Financial Secretary

Sharon Smith

Custodian

Lovell Watson

The Session:

Moderator

Rev. Kathleen Knehans

Clerk

Sandra Nuessen

Members

Nancy Bessent

John Blake

Phyllis Coyle

Mary Janet Douglass

Teresa Flournoy

Ann Keeling

Jennifer Longstaff

Sandra Nuessen

Jean Parrett

Bruce Schlosser

Sharon Smith

Vision Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, KS is a caring and inclusive congregation, celebrating more than 125 years of God's Grace, from a rich past into a bright future. We desire to plant our congregation in Western Wyandotte County, building upon the traditions, resources and talents of our predecessors. We have the good news of salvation to share and strive to glorify God in worship and service while staying connected to the entire city.

Mission Yearbook

Heartland Presbytery

Kansas/Missouri

The 109 congregations of Heartland Presbytery are the spiritual homes for 24,656 Presbyterians. These churches welcome new congregations that are in union with other denominations. Kaw Prairie Community Church of Lenexa, Kansas, was received by Heartland Presbytery as a union church with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in November 2006.

At its start in 2004 with forty Lutherans in an elementary school, evangelist Dan McKnight and others spent the summer knocking on doors and marching with the worship band in area parades. Meanwhile, Central States Synod of the ELCA and Heartland Presbytery drafted a constitution and agreed to locate the church's facilities on land the presbytery owned. By spring 2007, 250 were worshipping each week, and the church had conducted a capital campaign to build a facility.

With a "casual-on-the-outside, serious-on-the-inside" attitude, Kaw Prairie lowers the barriers for seekers looking for Jesus while raising the bar for disciples serving him.

One of the church's primary outreach tools is a Christmas Eve Family Barn service. In 2004, members found a barn they could use and turned Christmas Eve into an outreach event. With an average attendance at worship of eighty a week, they planned for about one hundred at the barn. As it turned out, 325 people - and the Kansas City NBC affiliate - showed up. It was too crowded to have Communion or even to take an offering! Each year attendance has doubled, reaching 1,300 over four services in 2006. As with all Kaw Prairie ministries, it's lots of work, but the goal - changing lives with Jesus' love - is worth it.

Task Force for the Future

On March 6, Nancy Bessent, Jean Parrett, and Ann Keeling met with the Committee on Ministry about the possible hiring of a redevelopment person. On March 9 after church service and before brunch, the candidate for the pastor/redevelopment position met with the congregation and talked about possible marketing strategies.

Nancy Bessent has tried contacting two school districts about rental space for Sunday mornings. After having to fit in calling while at work, we do not have a definite space or price.

At the time of this publication, our candidate is still thinking about accepting the position.

Worship

We continue to be blessed by a variety of people in Heartland Presbytery who are willing to be our pulpit supply while we continue to search for our new leader. We are also blessed with worship leaders in our own congregation.

Elder Nancy Bessent portrayed three women (the Samaritan women from the well, and the sisters Mary and Martha) who were in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Elder Ann Keeling was the narrator for Nancy's Palm Sunday message on March 16.

The Rev. George McCall preached on March 2, and the Rev. Ron Patton preached on March 9. The Rev. C. Davis Young was our pulpit supply on Maundy Thursday, and on Easter Sunday (March 23), and the Rev. Bill Johnson, Director of Outreach for the Harold Thomas Center, preached on March 30.

In April, we will have a couple of people who have not preached for us before. Elder Paul Moss lives in Lee's Summit and has completed training for commissioned lay pastors. Mr. Moss will be pulpit supply on April 6. The Rev. Clay Cook, newly retired from John Knox Kirk, will preach on April 13. The Rev. Don Sears will be the pulpit supply on April 20 and 27.

The worship commission will be responsible for planning the brunch on April 13.

Christian Education

Easter Egg Hunt - Though it was chilly on Easter Sunday the preschool-kindergarten class donned sweaters and coats to hunt for eggs hidden among the playground, grass and church yard. Due to the cold, the hunt did not last long, but everyone had an enjoyable time.

Graduates - If anyone knows of a church member or friend of the church who will be graduating this May, please contact one of the Christian Ed committee members: Nancy Bessent, Phyllis Coyle, Peggy Longstaff or Jean Parrett.

St. Mary's Food Kitchen

Even with the cold, snowy weather in February, 250 guests were served at the Hot Lunch Service. Two extra groups brought volunteers to join First Church and Grace Covenant in serving the meal on Saturday. It is always a joy to have new people discovering the need to feed the sheep in this community. If you are interested in participation, we need prayers, financial support and volunteers to help prepare the casserole on Friday and to serve the meal on Saturday. Please do as you are able to continue the success of this project.

St. Paul's Pantry

St. Paul's Food Pantry is another food mission with which First Presbyterian is involved. Besides food, St. Paul's Food Pantry can use paper goods, such as toilet tissue, paper towels and napkins. Donations of soap, personal hygiene items and monetary contributions are always gratefully accepted and appreciated. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

Happy Birthday

- 1 Maxine Day
- 6 Don DuTeau
- 7 Bryan Whitehead
- 8 Norma Lee Finn
- 9 Phyllis Coyle
- 12 Maria Coyle
- 13 Martha Budke
- 14 Bill Barber
- Betty Voorhees
- Kaila Evans
- 21 Bud Thurston
- 25 Rich Gill
- 30 Amber Keeling

Remember the **Prayer Chain** is available for any concerns.

Contact Mary Janet Douglass at 913-299-3138 or Phyllis Coyle at 913-371-3570.

Bible Study

The Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday the 9th at 11 am in the parlor. Lunch will be provided. We are a caring and sharing group united for study and Christian Fellowship.

Recycle

Recycle your **plastic, glass, cans, newspapers, cardboard, paperboard and office papers** here at First Church.

General Fund Financial Report

Detailed financial statements are on file in the church office.

Balance January 1, 2008	\$487.39
Revenue	
Individual Giving	6,662.21
Other Income	22,214.05
Transfers	
Total Revenue	28,876.26
Expenses	22,636.50
Balance February 29, 2008	6,727.15

Community Cafe

Mark your calendars and join us from 5:30pm - 7pm.

April 4

Company Chicken Breast, Rice, Salad, Dessert by Esther.

Carryout available.

Call Sharon Smith for reservations (913) 441-3334

**Chronicles Deadline for the May Issue is:
Sunday, April 20.**

Clothing Barrel

Cleaning out your closets? Want to donate your gently used clothes? Then bring them to First Church and place them in the blue clothing barrel. Mary Janet Douglass takes the donations to a charity which puts them to good use.

Label Savings

Remember to remove and save "Best Choice" and "Campbells" soup labels and turn them in at the Fellowship Hall.

Shepherd's Center 2008 Spring Classes

Shepherd's Center is offering Drawing and Watercolor on Mondays beginning April 7 and ending May 26. Call 913-281-8908 to register.

2008 Per Capita

The total Per Capita for 2008 is \$28.96

The following is how this is distributed:

\$20.04 Heartland Presbytery

\$3.13 Synod

\$5.79 General Assembly

Our Prayers are with:

Family of Patrick Burns who died March 24.

He had lived at the Community Living Opportunities home in Lenexa for 22 years. His father, Harlan, was an Elder of First Church. His brother, Mike, is one of our Eagle Scouts.

Keith Longstaff, who had knee surgery Friday, March 28.

John Blake, who is at Overland Park Regional Medical Center with pneumonia.

Lee Kelley who was hospitalized and is temporarily in a nursing home before undergoing tests.

Bryan and Mary Whitehead. He is in hospice care at Aberdeen Village.

Brad Amstein's father, who is recovering from pneumonia.

Maraina Beers and her parents Marc and Leslie, who are neighbors of the Keelings. She was hospitalized for a week when she was two weeks old. She is now gaining weight.

Peter Muritu, who continues to have health problems.

Missions from Lent 'N' Soup 2008 Program

Greg Mortenson as his organization builds schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Rev. Lisa Harris and Bethel Neighborhood Center.

Pam Blood and University United Methodist Church.

Rakmi Shaiza and women in Napaland.

Cori Fayne and Head Start.

Earl Timmons who was hospitalized.

The Task Force for the Future, the Session, and the congregation, as we move forward in planning for the future of our church.

Announcements:

Next stated meeting of Heartland Presbytery is April 12 at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley.

Cleanup Day will be April 26 at 10:00 a.m. There will be both indoor and outdoor tasks.

William Beem and his fiance Peggy, will be married in April in Florida.

Join Heartland Center's Thursday Volunteer Crew.

Heartland Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center will have a variety of volunteer projects on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Come in the morning, bring a sack lunch, and stay as long as you are able. Projects include mailings, computer entry, gardening, mowing, trail maintenance, building or equipment cleaning or repairs, and light construction. No reservations required, although it would be helpful to know how many people to expect. Call (816) 891-1078 or email us at relations@heartlandcenter.org.

Attention College Students

Are you a College Student or know of a College Student that wants a summer job AND to make a difference? Heartland is looking for individuals that love God and Kids to serve as Summer Staff for the 2008 summer camping program. For an application call Heartland Center at 816-891-1078 or online www.heartlandcenter.org.

Hey, Hey, 3rd and 4th Graders

How would you like three to four days of camping, swimming, campfires, camp songs, riding horses, playing games, making new friends and learning about God? Sounds cool, hun? This summer you can come to a Trailblazer Camp or our Trailblazer Adventure Camp at Heartland and do all of this stuff and more! For more information pick up a Summer Camp Brochure at the church office, or call the camp office at 816-891-1078 or online www.heartlandcenter.org.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Providence Medical Center has a support group that meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Keenan Education Center. For more information call 913-596-4750.

PUMN

The Presbyterian Urban Ministry Network meets in a different church each month. On April 22, the group will meet at First Church starting at 5:30 p.m.

Lectionary Readings

April 6:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; PS. 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 13:

Acts 2:42-47; PS. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25;
John 10:1-10

April 20:

Acts 7:55-60; PS. 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

April 27:

Acts 17:22-31; PS. 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Kansas is a caring and inclusive congregation, celebrating over 125 years of God's Grace, from a rich past into a bright future.

Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. On the second Sunday of the month we will celebrate Holy Communion and a brunch or potluck will usually follow the worship service.

Join us at 9:45 a.m. for Church School for all ages (Sept.-May).