

The First Presbyterian Church  
FEBRUARY 2008

# CHRONICLES

4000 Victory Drive  
Kansas City, KS 66102

Office: 913-342-7225  
Fax: 913-372-7226

blessings@firstpresck.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

## Mission Yearbook

The church office has many resources for planning worship and for lectors to use. One resource is the PC(USA) Mission Yearbook. It is full of information about where the denomination has missionaries and has a day devoted to each Presbytery.

February 6 is Ash Wednesday which is the start of Lent. The Rev. Curtis A. Kearns, Jr., executive administrator, General Assembly Council wrote this for the Ash Wednesday page in the 2008 Mission Yearbook.

“Ash Wednesday seems to convey an attitude of solemnity. The frivolity of Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday - has ended, and suddenly the world looks at itself in the harsh light of reality, taking stock of its condition. For many this is a glass-half-empty proposition because what the light of reality exposes is sometimes difficult to look at - the prevalence of poverty and depravity throughout the world, the widespread frequency of violent and destructive conflict, the exhausting presence of personal hostility and stress. It’s easy to be solemn when this is the extent of your reality. But for Christians, Ash Wednesday and Lent are glass-half-full propositions. Jesus came to tell us that God envisions something more for us, something more than hopelessness, something more than pessimism, something more than discouragement. Jesus came to tell us that we don’t have to be somber or depressed because joy is a realistic prospect; indeed, Jesus came that we might have joy.

Hope and optimism are what mission is all about. Mission is about looking at poverty and seeing the potential for development; it’s about looking at conflict and seeing the potential for peace; it’s about looking at distress and seeing the potential for faith and trust. Mission is a visible demonstration of the

fact that the church of Jesus Christ is actively involved in bringing about the fulfillment of God's kingdom. It's an illustration of our confidence in God's vision for humankind: "Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight" (Isa. 65:18)."

### **Closings**

First Presbyterian Church has been added to the automated system for closings in case of bad weather. In case church is cancelled due to bad weather, Sandy Nuessen will notify the television and radio stations. The announcement will be broadcast on television channels 41 (NBC Action News) and 38 (The Spot), radio stations, KMBZ, KXTR, 106.5 The Wolf, 99.7 KY, 98.1 KUDL, 98.9 The Rock, and the closing will also be listed on the Kansas City Star website.

### **Task Force for the Future**

We met January 8, 20 and 29. We hope to announce shortly the name of our new pastor and redevelopment person. We compiled and reported the results of 30 surveys to the Session members. We began working with a realtor to start the process of buying property. **Final purchase of property will be contentigent on the vote of session, the congregation, the Presbytery and the sale of the building.**

### **Worship**

Lent starts early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 6. There will be a service in the Chapel at 6:40 pm. March 16 is Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday is March 20 and Easter is March 23.

Our pulpit supplies for January were Ann Keeling on January 6 (Epiphany Sunday), the Rev. Carol VanSchenk Hof on January 13, the Rev. C. Davis Young on January 20, and the Rev. George McCall on January 27.

Our pulpit supplies for February will be the Associate Presbytery Executive, The Rev. David Cliburn on the 3rd and 10th. The Rev. Elbert Darden on the 6th and 24th. February 17th pulpit supply is to be announced.

March pulpit supplies will be The Rev. George McCall on the 2nd, The Rev. Ron Patton on the 9th, and The Rev. C. Davis Young on Palm Sunday and Easter.

### **Christian Education**

We will be sponsoring Lenten Soup Suppers beginning Ash Wednesday at 6:00 pm. After supper on

the following weeks we will have people from the community who will share their mission stories starting at 6:40 pm. Childcare will be provided after the Lenten Suppers. During Holy Week we will not have a soup supper but we will have a potluck supper on Maundy Thursday.

The Youth Group is planning a Super Bowl Party on Sunday afternoon, February 3. They will be having a sleepover February 17.

### **Souper Bowl Sunday**

Super Bowl Sunday, February 3 is also the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring was born of a prayer. Young people found a way that they can make a difference in the lives of others. It is a way to show God our love by loving our neighbors by engaging communities of all faiths in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Please bring a can of soup or stew or a \$1 bill to donate to St. Paul's Food Pantry. Our totals will be added to those of this national endeavor. Fight hunger one soup can at a time!

### **General Fund Financial Report**

*Detailed financial statements are on file in the church office.*

Balance January 1, 2007	\$( 8,232.55)
Revenue	
Individual Giving	61,348.95
Other Income	56,890.79
Transfers	
Total Revenue	118,239.74
Expenses	109,519.80
Banlance December 31, 2007	\$487.39

**Notice that the balance as of Dec. 31 was a positive figure for the first time in a number of years.** Generosity and belt tightening allowed First Church to wipe out a deficit that was \$8,232.55 when we began 2007. Yahweh has certainly provided for and blessed First Church.

### **Happy Birthday**

1	Tony Boggs
3	Earl Timmons
4	Jennifer Longstaff
6	George Rimel
8	Sean Kelley
15	Darla Amstein
19	Pat Yingst
21	Nancy Johnson
27	Marlon Brown

## **Community Cafe**

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

### **February 1**

Salad, Breadsticks, Lasagna,  
and Cheese Cake.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early

### **March 7**

Irish Soda Bread, Corned Beef and Cabbage, and  
Pistachio Cake.

Carryout available.

Call Sharon Smith for reservations (913) 441-3334

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

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

## **St. Mary's Food Kitchen**

January was a bitterly cold month and the  
temperature hovered at 4 degrees as the Saturday  
morning preparation for St. Mary's Food Kitchen  
began. The group on Friday had prepared the  
casserole. The cold weather held the numbers down,  
but even so 234 meals were served.

This is one of First Church's answers to the  
commandment from Jesus to feed his sheep. If you  
would like to participate in this project, contact Doris  
Frazier or Sharon Smith, workers, prayers and  
monetary donations are welcomed.

## **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.

## **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.  
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## **Bible Study Circle**

The Bible Study Circle will meet on Wednesday  
the 13th at 11 am in the parlor. Men, you are also  
welcome to participate in this Bible Study. We  
are a caring and sharing group united for study  
and Christian Fellowship.  
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## **Recycle**

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

Please rinse out all food containers and place  
donations in the bins at the church's entry by the  
Kitchen.

## **Label Savings**

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

## **Deacons**

The Deacons continue to keep in touch with  
our Care and Concern members with cards, calls,  
and visits. We try to give some assistance to  
members with a need.

Please call the office to report any illness or  
hospitalization that we should be aware of.

**Chronicles Deadline  
for the March Issue is:  
Thursday, February 21.**

## **February Lectionary Readings**

3rd: Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99;  
Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9  
10th: Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32;  
Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

17th: Gen. 12:1-4a; Ps. 121;  
Rom. 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17  
24th: Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95;  
Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### **Mission and Outreach**

Thank you for all of you who participated in the Angel Tree project. Teresa Flournoy reported that we were able to help make Christmas a little better for several children who have parents in jail.

### **Our Prayers are with:**

**Peter Muritu** and his daughter. Peter has been under medical treatment and has had to leave his job at the Manor.

**Linda Leavell and her family**, whose grandmother Gertrude Gaunce died January 19.

**Susan Claflin**, whose uncle Claude Wilson, Jr died recently.

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

### **Announcements:**

**The Salvation Army Family Shelter** was glad to receive our donation of 10 pairs of mittens and 3 hats.

**Elsie Shearer** is doing well at the Presbyterian Manor. She is now 99 years old.

**Betty Voorhees** is living in assisted care at the Grand Court at 119th and Lamar. She has had some physical struggles, but is managing pretty well.

## **It's Here!**

# *The First Church Cookbook*

## **Great gift idea!**

350 favorite recipes from family and friends of First Presbyterian Church.

Keep one on your recipe shelf - give others as gifts.

Great for hostess gifts, bridal showers, wedding gifts. Only \$15 (plus \$2, if we need to ship it). Send your check to Cookbook Committee, First Presbyterian Church, 4000 Victory Dr., Kansas City, Kansas 66102.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed in my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ cookbooks at \$15 each, plus \$2  
each for shipping.

**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).*