

The Staff:	
Paul Moss, CLP	
Ann Keeling, Treasurer	
Crystal Mangos, Secretary	
Sharon Smith, Financial Secretary	
Josef Walker, Redevelopment Coordinator	
The Session:	
Paul Moss, CLP, Moderator	
Sandra Nuessen, Clerk	
Elders	
Phyllis Coyle	
Mary Janet Douglass	
Ann Keeling	
Margaret Longstaff	
Sharon Smith	



Greetings from Pastor Paul:

January finds First Presbyterian Church in the New Year, we are yet faithful and continue to preach Jesus as God's new creation for humankind. The total number of Jesus' name is 888. Eight symbolizes new beginnings. We are

like the number eight as we expect a new beginning for a great New Year. I recommend the list below and guarantee that you will have a prosperous and Happy New Year. This year be sure to *lie, cheat, steal, drink, and swear as much as you can.*

- * *Lie* back and relax more, don't worry, things are looking up; be positive.
- * *Cheat* failure, if you don't succeed the first time try again, learn from your mistakes.
- * *Steal* away time for God to pray, read the Bible, and pray for others.
- * *Drink* from the fountain of knowledge, continue to learn and explore, try new things.
- * *Swear* to do your best at all times; your goal is to be perfect, regardless of your situation.

"For last year's words belongs to last year's language and next year's words await another voice, and to make an end is to make a beginning." T. S. Eliot

The major substance of life is words. We need words for everything, without words nothing happens. We would sit here just staring at each other wondering what to do next. And even then we would be making words with our eyes, hands, arms and faces. We have to have words to make something happen. Someone has said that we are a bunch of words wrapped up in flesh. Babies are little persons who without words can make a lot of things happen. All of their little body parts will make words of their own.

Sometimes we older adults make words with our bodies too. So you see we have to have words to communicate. John in the fourth gospels says in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, because he had something to say and he has the word and the words to say it. Words are tangible, they are physical and mental, they are material and immaterial, seen and unseen, they are positive and negative, and they are personal.

Therefore in the New Year let's be intentional and speak words that embrace forgiveness and faith. Let's think words that will allow an open door to new opportunities in our life, no matter what our age. Words that will replace pride with humility and words that will let go of stress and anxiety.

God loves you so much that he came into his own world, and then to our neighborhood so we could see what he is like; and how he feels toward us. God loved you so much that he sent Jesus the Word made flesh. Love is the very nature of God and the nature of love is that it gives. How shall he not with Jesus also freely give us all things? Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift, he saw that when we have the Word of flesh we have everything. In Christ we have every spiritual blessing and all things belong to you (1 Cor. 3:21.)

New Year's Blessings to you all, I love you.
Pastor Paul

Session

The session was looking forward to the sale of building to Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church being completed on December 18. Mount Sinai is continuing to work on financing, so things at this point are up in the air.

When First Church moved out of the building at 4000 Victory Drive, we sold or gave away most of the physical things and kept some for use in a new location. The session will be taking bids on remaining items and will be again give some things away to churches. The proceeds will go to sending our young people to Triennium in Purdue in July. Any money left over will go to Heartland Presbytery to help other youth go to Triennium this year or in the future. **Active** members will have until January 15 to put in bids on desired items, sending them to the office. Other people and churches may send in bids and requests by January 31. A list is enclosed.

Pastoral care will be arranged for those known to be in continuing need. Between the last service on January 10 and February 20, the session will tie up final matters including identifying where members wish their memberships to be transferred. Those members who have not arranged for letters of transfer will have their records sent to the Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery.

Pastor Paul will continue to work through the end of January and be available for pastoral care in February. Crystal Mangos and Ann Keeling will continue to work until January 15, 2010.

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Vision Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Kansas 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.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

FEED MY SHEEP

In 1982, Father Richard had a dream - to open the old St. Mary's church building at 5th and Ann as a place to feed the hungry. He approached other churches and organizations in the metro area, asking each to be responsible for one day a month. First Church joined the effort, assuming responsibility for the third Saturday of each month. Mary Sue Thomas led the efforts as various church members met on Friday to prepare the food and then transport it to the kitchen for serving on Saturday. Following in Mary Sue's footsteps as coordinators over the years were Evelyn and Charlie Barber, Sharon Smith, Doris Frazier, Mary Janet Douglass, Gloria Quigley and Pat Yingst. For many of those years, Karen Thurston transported the hot casseroles each month. In recent years, that transport responsibility was shared by Linda Leavell, Peggy Longstaff and Susan Robare. Saturday, Dec. 19, First Church served 334 meals (including 89 children) for its last meal as a sponsor. During 2009 First Church served 3,621 meals. When First Church membership aged and dwindled, God provided a partner in Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church to help with the food kitchen responsibilities. Now God has called St. Michael's of Leawood to replace First Church. Although First Church will no longer be a sponsoring unit, Grace Covenant and St. Michael's would welcome our help in the Saturday food service. The time is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (includes prep and cleanup). Jesus told Peter, "If you love me, feed my sheep." First Church has certainly responded to that command as an active participant in the food kitchen program through the years. If you would like to continue to support the program financially, you can send your contributions to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas 66210-2796, mark your check to indicate it is for the food kitchen ministry.



The Emergency Food Pantry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is open every Wednesday from 12:30-3:30 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. The Pantry will be closed January 2nd.

Please send any monetary donations directly to St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1300 N. 18th Street, Kansas City, KS 66102. If you want to donate items or have questions, call their church office at (913) 321-3535 or the pantry number (913) 321-8674.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continues to meet. The regular time for study and lunch is at 11 am on the second Wednesday of each month. The location varies each month. The group is now studying the book of Joshua.

Questions? Contact Peggy Longstaff, (913) 342-3810 for more information or to let us know you are joining us.

Presbyterian Women

One of the checking accounts has been closed and the other will be soon after benevolence checks are written. What few "Best Choice" and Campbells' soup labels we have in the church office will be given to Prince of Peace Lutheran.

Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study

Mission in the United States

Heartland Presbytery • Kansas, Missouri

Does your house or apartment building have a front porch? People used to come outside and sit on their front porches after dinner. All the neighbors would take time to visit with each other, tell stories, and share dreams. But if you don't know your neighbors or are afraid to be outside at night, you might not ever want to use your front porch. In the Ivanhoe neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri, there is a Front Porch Alliance ministry. The people of the Front Porch Alliance are working to make their neighborhood a happy, safe, and friendly place. They want neighbors to come out and sit on their front porches again. The Front Porch Alliance does things a good neighbor would do. A good neighbor might help you fix a broken bike, teach you how to grow tomatoes, or give you a ride to the store. The Front Porch Alliance does those things, and it sponsors block clean-up parties and summer art classes for children and youth.

The Front Porch Alliance was started by Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, near Kansas City, but is now supported by churches throughout the area.

Elder Cathy Hoop and
Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell

Our Prayers are with:

First Church members as we reach out to do the Great Commission in new locations and through new congregations.

Denise Blake who fell and broke her hip.

Peter Muritu as he continues to recover from treatments.

People may help Peter by donating to

National Foundation for Transplants

Kansas Stem Cell Fund

In honor of Peter Muritu

5350 Poplar Ave, Ste. 430

Memphis, TN 38119

Announcements:

Coralie Price, Maria Fields, Carolina Coyle (adult sponsors) and **Katie Leavell** (youth delegate) are going to Triennium in July. The gift certificates to Kelley's Grill and Bar in Basehor, Kansas raised \$60 and the cinnamon rolls has raised \$100 so far. The weather has delayed deliveries.

Prince of Peace graciously welcomes any First Church people to worship with them after our final worship service.

Lectionary Readings

Jan. 3 - Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14
Jan. 10 - Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 17 - Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
Jan. 24 - Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
Jan. 31 - Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Received 12/28 via e-mail

Greetings:

I am an architect that specializes in church architecture and although I live in Shawnee, Kansas, I grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. I visit the area quite often and while taking my mother (who still lives in KCK) on errands this past week I noticed your banner in front of the Lutheran Church at 82nd and Parallel.

My initial thought was perhaps you were planning to relocate to that location and might need an architect to assist in a building project. After visiting your website it became clear to me who First Presbyterian Church is. Your site stated you were closing your existing facility and jointly utilizing the Lutheran Church facility.

For whatever it is worth, I can remember your old church location well. When I was young and in High School (Wyandotte) I attended many a dance in your fellowship hall. In fact my wife lived just a few blocks from your church (near 33rd and Wood). You had a beautiful and large facility that served the neighborhood well for many a year.

I know how it can be when a church kind of outgrows itself. Although I do not know the specific circumstances with your decision to close your facility, I do know that it happens. My parents attend Sunset Hills Christian Church at 63rd and Leavenworth Road. It was once a thriving congregation, but as the kids grew and moved on it was left with only the adult parents, which are now starting to pass on. The facility is still there, but not near as many families attend. It is a shame that more and more people are currently "unchurched," and do not see it necessary to attend any church.

I will not ramble on. Please believe me when I say that I will pray for your congregation and I wish you all the best in your future plans. Even if you have had to make the decision to close, you must be aware of the fact that your presence in KCK has left an impact on many a soul over the years. It is better to leave a building knowing it served the people well, then to have never been there for the people.

God bless you all in your future!!!

Larry Lisbona
 Lisbona Architect, Inc.

We encourage you to personally recycle. For those who do not have curbside pickup, Deffenbaugh at Inland Drive and I-435 is open Monday-Fridays and accepts more items than the curbside pickup. Check their website www.deffenbaughindustries.com for a list of accepted items.

Remember the **Prayer Chain** is available for any concerns.
 Contact Phyllis Coyle at (913) 371-3570.

General Fund Financial Report

Detailed financial statements are on file in the church office.

Balance January 1, 2009	(7,143.64)
Revenue	
Individual Giving	26,703.78
Other Income	49,637.81
Total Revenue	76,302.09
Expenses	102,871.66
Balance November 30, 2009	(33,713.21)

Worship

With disappointment, due to the weather Christmas Eve and December 27 worship services were cancelled. Sandy Nuessen, Pastor Paul, Carolina Coyle, Maria Fields, Ann Keeling, and Coralie Price are planning on playing three handbell pieces at the January 3rd worship service. Our final worship service will be January 10, the Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

Carolina, Maria, Coralie, and Katie Leavell are scheduled to go to Triennium in July. Triennium equips young people to be leaders in Christ's church. It might be a little awkward for these four young women to be going to Triennium as delegates from a congregation that no longer exists. However from their experiences at First Church, Heartland Presbytery, and Triennium they will have the background to continue to be faithful witnesses for Christ in whichever congregation they attend.

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 8 Rehea Brown | 12 Tamara Jones-Dunn |
| Esther Rogers | 22 Brad Amstein |
| 10: Amie Longstaff | 23 Linda Koehler |
| Daniel Amstein | 26 Jayne Spellman |
| 11 Ruth Passaro | 27 Teresa Flournoy |

*A Member of the Churches of the
Presbytery of the Heartland,
Synod of Mid-America,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*



Contact Information:

Office Hours:

Mondays and Tuesdays: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Thursdays and Fridays: mid-afternoon

Pastor's Office Hours:

Mondays and Fridays: noon to 1:30 pm

Phone: (913) 342-7225

Fax: (913) 342-7226

E-mail: [blessings@firstpreskck.com](mailto: blessings@firstpreskck.com)



First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 12409
Kansas City, KS 66112

Address Service Requested

Stop the Mail?

If you no longer wish to receive mailings from us, please check the box above and return this page or call



**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.



Practicing for Christmas Eve



**Pastor Paul playing at
Nov. 29 worship**

