

**The First
Presbyterian Church**
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Pastor

Jim Roberts
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care

Bob Newman
Lay Academy

Richard Lamb
Parish Associate

Jim Buckalew
Fellowship, Recreation
and Property

Robin Harlow
Visitors/New Members

Barbara Hopta
Child/Family
Ministry

Jackie Lilly
Business Administrator

Mary Odin
Music Ministry

Ginna Taylor
Preschool Director

Sue Webster
Community Ministry

Kathy Bruner
Child Care Coordinator

Debbie Eads
Children's Choir

Tom Daugherty
Librarian

Fred Gaul
Organist

Beth Leister
Interim Youth Ministry

FACILITY STAFF
Lee Richardson, Supervisor
Sherry Ball
Howard Johnson
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SUPPORT STAFF
Ina Armstrong
June Mills
Jenny Pitchford
Marilyn Walbe

MISSION WORKERS
Carl Agsten & Leslie Clay-
Nicaragua
Art & Sue Kinsler-Korea
Jolana & Stefan Nather
-Slovak Republic
Presbyterian Fair Trade Project

**MINISTERIAL
CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS**
Kate Hopta
Robert Peterson

PASTORS EMERITI
Thornton W. Tucker
P. Douglas Heidt
A. D. Ellison

First Presby News

January 2011 • Volume XLIV, Issue 1

*First Presbyterian Church will strive to be a welcoming home, a beacon of
Christ's light arising from inspiring worship and loving discipleship.*

Sunday Worship Times: 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Radio Broadcast at 11:00 a.m. on 580 AM WCHS

Phone: (304) 343-8961 Fax: (304) 343-8970



FROM THE PASTOR:

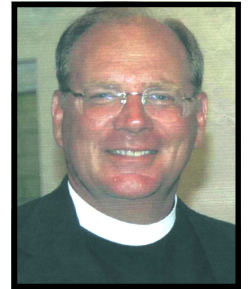
Our men's group recently discussed a chapter in Philip Yancey's book, What's So Amazing About Grace, in which Yancey says our churches should have "Grace on Tap," suggesting that all too often we gather, seeking to project images of lives that do not need grace. We seek to appear to have our lives together, ordered, disciplined, focused and fulfilled. Yet the fact is none of us fit that description. We are, finally, all sinners constantly in need of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. In fact, we cannot know God's peace until we realize that fact about ourselves. Only then can we fully, joyfully receive the Grace of Christ and become conduits of grace for others.

May we all begin this new year profoundly aware that we are consistently and continuously in need of God's grace and forgiveness, and gratefully cognizant of living each moment in the light of Christ's grace. May that be the spirit that pervades our lives and our fellowship as we, together, seek God's will for and through our lives into the new year.

'See you in church,

Bill

Bill



Bill McCoy



Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and the thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dreams.

Isaiah 60:1-3

VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

January 9, 16 and 23 are the dates for the upcoming Inquirer's Class - a great three-week series for those who would like to learn more about Christianity, Presbyterianism, and First Presby. We will take a tour of the church on January 9. Please come and join us!

Inquirer's Class meets in the Ruffner Room, Sanctuary Building next to the Chapel. For more information contact Robin Harlow at 304-343-8961 ext. 138.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes resume on January 9. You are most welcome to visit all of the classes listed below. They all begin around 9:45 a.m.

Trinity Class, Susie Early Room:

Using The Present Word "A Future for God's People" from Isaiah.

In the Activities Building -

Ruffner Class, Room A-201:

Otis O'Connor will present a most interesting Bible study.

Seneca Class, Room A-203

the class, Room A-204: *Spiritual Terrorism* with author Dr. Boyd Purcell

Discovery Class, Recreation Room: Love Thy Neighbor

In the Education Building -

Foundations Class, Room E-310

Covenant Class, Room E-406: The Gospel of John

Koinonia Class, Room E-411

Sojourners Class, Room E-412

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK

If you haven't had your blood pressure checked recently, please stop by the church library on Sunday, January 9. A parish nurse will be ready to assist you.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

If Kanawha County Schools close or dismiss early, church activities are cancelled, unless you are directly notified to the contrary. If schools open late, check with the church office. On days when school is not in session, listen to WCHS-AM 580. When in doubt, please call the church office at 304-343-8961. **PLEASE NOTE: SUNDAY WORSHIP ALWAYS TAKES PLACE.**

SECOND SEMESTER OF LAY ACADEMY

We had a great success with the first class offered in the Lay Academy, with over 80 registrants. Attendance held high for each class session. Dr. Bob Newman, the Director of the Lay Academy, taught the first half of "How Shall We Love God With All Our Mind." January, 2011, begins our second semester of the Lay Academy. **This semester, we will offer two classes.**

Bob will lead the second half of "How Shall We Love God With All Our Mind? Part Two" beginning Sunday afternoon, January 16, at 4:00 in the church dining room. He will continue to use the book, *Christianity 101*, as a backdrop to his lectures. If you need a copy of the book, it may be purchased through the church office for \$15. You may register for this class through the church office or at a registration table in the hallway near the church office.

Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, will lead a study of the Book of Revelation via DVD. This is a 12-session series based on his award-winning commentary, Revelation. This series engages the viewer with 30 minutes of expert teaching by Dr. Blount, followed by a period of discussion led by our Associate Pastor, Jim Roberts. The first session will be on Wednesday evening, January 5, at 6:45 in Room 201 in the Activities Building. Subsequent classes will meet at 6:45 on the third, fourth, and fifth Wednesday nights through June 1. In addition to Jan. 5 and June 1, those dates are: Jan. 26; Feb. 16 & 23; March 16, 23 & 30; April 20 & 27; May 18 & 25. If you would like to have dinner at our Wednesday Connections Dinners at 5:45 P.M., please make your reservations as usual by placing your reservation from the green sheet in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office. Take note: dinner will not be served on January 5 or June 1.

Please register for the Revelation Class through the church office or at a registration table in the hallway near the church office. There is no registration fee.

SIX GREAT DATES:

**Date # 4
January 14**

You are invited to the fourth of our "Six Great Dates." It's for all ages and lengths of marriages or those with wedding plans. We are using Dr. Lowery's *Balanced & Blessed* DVD series. The topic will be "What Goes On Behind Closed Doors." **With his usual humor, Dr. Lowery will address the issue of "How men think and what they need (that they'll probably never tell you."** Jim and Diane Roberts will facilitate the discussion following the video. Then you have the next two hours for your date du jour.

Remember that we have free childcare from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. We DO NEED you to call the church to make a child care reservation. This allows us to plan how many child care workers we will need.

It's okay if you missed the previous or all of the other Great Dates. You can "catch up" on what you missed by reading that lesson in the participants book (\$5 each). Contact the church office for a book, or pick one up at our next date.

See you Friday night, January 14!

SICK, HOSPITALIZED, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER?

Let your church family know of any needs you have. The church has a telephone/e-mail prayer chain, a "pray for" list in the newsletter, and prayers during worship.

Tell us your concerns or ask a friend to inform us. If you want to tell us about someone else, a friend or family member, be sure to respectfully ask their permission first. You can also confide in one of the pastors and request it be kept confidential. Rev. Jim Roberts maintains the "pray for" list. Please call him at 304-343-8961, ext. 118.

THANK YOU!

Our church is truly blessed with countless volunteers who work behind the scenes to be God's hands here on earth. While the list below is by no means a complete list of those who serve, these folks have dedicated many, many hours of their time to further our ministries here. Please offer your personal thanks to them for ministries that have touched your life.

Advent Workshop Coordinator	Dawn Hawkins
Archivist	Betty Damewood
Artist	Janet Chambers
Attendance Recorder/Usher	Allison Pitchford
Bell Choir Director	Kathy Lynch
Bus Drivers	Tim Spears, Mark Holmes
Chancel Flowers Coordinator	Becky Smith
Cherub Choir Director & Accompanist	Debbie Eads & Toni Clendenin
Christmas Eve Tableau Director	Sallie Daugherty
Columbarium Development Coordinator	Sara Hoblitzell
Equal Exchange Ministry	Linda Elliott
Fall Festival Coordinator	Amanda Hughes
Financial Office	Jim Thomas, Kay Lamb, Judy Keller, Dick Golden, Bob Schacht
Floral Arrangements	Jill Johnson
Food Pantry	Sam Strickland
Friendship Pad/Visitation Coordinator	Jeff Harlow
Funeral Reception Hostess Coordinator	Sally Slicer
Gardening Angels Coordinator	Sara Hoblitzell
Global Marketplace Coordinator	Mary Kay Boyle
Greeter Coordinator	Barb Gessner
Head Usher - 11:00 AM	Dave Pitchford
Homebound Communion Coordinators	Mark Holmes & Ruth Pitchford
Interior Designer	Holley Bailey
Junque Room Coordinator	Flossie Kourey
Men's Breakfast	Tim Spears
Morning Office Crew	Sally Slicer, Naomi Krieg, Kay Lamb, Becky Smith, Barbara Gessner, Jill Johnson, Bev Peters, Vicki Sporck, Sara Joseph
Music Librarian	Pat Hedrick
Monthly Newsletter	Do Sub Chun, Joyce Baker, Mary Craig, Barbara and Bill Gessner, Betty Kerns, Anna Raab, Martha Jane Williams
Over-night Groups Host	Claude Churchwell
Sound Technician	Wayne Odin
VBS Coordinators	Dawn Hawkins and Janet Chambers
Volunteer Ministry Database	Jill Johnson
Webmaster	Lesli Forbes
Wednesday Connections Dishwashing Brigade	Lyle Sattes, Terry Raab, Bob Glass, Jessica Harper
Wednesday Connections Set-up Team	Ann Patterson, Jarve Currence, Judy Keller, Nancy Douglas, Sara Joseph, Flossie Kourey, Sue Chase
Wednesday Work Crew	Louise Christensen, Dick Smith, Art Doumaux, Les Hawker, Lee Bivens, Bob McEldowney, Tom Bulla

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Captain Gene Seiter, Army near Kabul, Afghanistan, nephew of Carolyn Sturgeon
Eric Wilson, Navy
Frankie Botorff, Navy, San Diego, CA
Brian Leister, Citadel
Ryan Hovis, United States Coast Guard, Yorktown, VA, son of Tammy Hovis
Shelly Park, Iraq, granddaughter of Sarah and Mac McGriff
2nd Lt. Stephen Bruner, Army, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA
1st Lt. Matthew M. Bruner, Army, Fort Stewart, GA
Edwin Anderson, US, cousin of Mary Odin
Airman 1st Class Caitlin Workman, Omaha, NE, granddaughter of Pat Workman
Airman 1st Class Franz S. Workman IV, Moody AFB, GA, grandson of Pat Workman
Warrant Officer David McDarmont, Iraq, son of Liz O'Finan
Owen Brown, US Navy, Pensacola, FL, son of Earle Brown
David Rucker, Germany, nephew of Barbara Brown
Donald Boylen, VA, grandson of Dick and Becky Smith

Please call the church office to keep this information current. Thank you.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

We pray for churches in our Presbytery and in the Presbytery of Nyeri in Kenya, Africa.

Jan. 2: Alderson Presbyterian Church; Bethel PC, Waverly; Church of Our Savior, Clarksburg; Gaaki Parish, Kenya.
Jan. 9: DuPont City PC, Belle; Frankford PC; Hughes River PC, Cairo; Gichira PC, Kenya.
Jan. 16: Marsh Fork PC, Dry Creek; Village Chapel PC, Charleston; Valley Bend PC, Beverly; Kabiru PC, Kenya.
Jan. 23: Pineville PC; Rock Forge PC, Morgantown; Kangaita Church and Youth Polytech, Kenya.
Jan. 30: Summersville PC; First PC, Waverly; Winfield PC; Kiawaithanji PC, Kenya.

SESSION PASSES 2011 BUDGET

At the December meeting, the Session passed a balanced revenue and expense budget of \$1,659,485, an approximate \$100,000 increase over the 2010 budget.

This was made possible by meeting the Stewardship Challenge! (The budget also assumes those families who have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2011 will continue to give at least at the same level they did in 2010.)

The 2011 budget includes several one-time expenditures, some increases to existing expenses, and a few new programs. The one-time expenditures include property repairs such as lighting and electric projects, classroom ceiling and wall repairs, carpet and window treatment replacements, and repairs to the bus. The C. E. division will be purchasing some new TV/DVD projection equipment for classrooms. Increases to existing line items include a salary increase to staff for the first time in three years, community ministry projects, Vacation Bible School, utilities, and landscape and grounds. Some new items in the budget include the LOGOS program, the Lay Academy, an organ maintenance fund, and an all-church retreat.

The church budget is a collaborative effort among the Divisions of the Session, the Board of Trustees and the staff members who implement it. Of course, the ministries it funds are made possible by you, the church family.

Thank you for your continued financial support.

2010 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

We will be mailing contribution statements at the end of January. Please do not submit your 1040 tax return claiming a contribution to the church until you receive the written statement. Thank you for your generosity in support of our church's ministry.

DAILY BIBLE VERSES

- 1/1: Matthew 22:15-22
- 1/2: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- 1/3: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- 1/4: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- 1/5: Isaiah 55:10-13
- 1/6: Psalm 103:6-18
- 1/7: Matthew 14:22-33
- 1/8: 1 John 4:7-16
- 1/9: James 5:13-18
- 1/10: John 17:20-26
- 1/11: Matthew 7:13-14
- 1/12: Romans 10:10-17
- 1/13: Isaiah 55:1-5
- 1/14: Jeremiah 6:13-19
- 1/15: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 1/16: Colossians 3:12-17
- 1/17: Luke 18:18-30
- 1/18: Philippians 3:10-16
- 1/19: Matthew 25:31-46
- 1/20: Deuteronomy 11:1-7, 18-21
- 1/21: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- 1/22: Psalm 63:1-8
- 1/23: Acts 26:9-18
- 1/24: Psalm 121
- 1/25: Matthew 11:28-30
- 1/26: Lamentations 3:55-57
- 1/27: Exodus 17:1-7
- 1/28: John 14:1-6
- 1/29: Psalm 126
- 1/30: Colossians 1:15-23
- 1/31: Luke 18:22-31

FINANCE DIVISION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2010



<u>Month of November</u>	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,290	\$ 2,290
Trustee Funds:	29,555	29,450	(105)
Other Revenue:	10,020	10,214	194
Total Income:	139,575	141,954	2,379
Expenses:	113,458	97,828	(5,630)
Net Income (loss):	\$ 36,117	\$ 44,126	\$ 8,009

<u>Year to date: 2010</u>	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 960,000	\$ 933,629	\$ (26,371)
Trustee Funds:	285,300	284,144	(1,156)
Other Revenue:	158,842	152,406	(6,436)
Total Income:	1,404,142	1,370,179	(33,963)
Expenses:	1,406,716	1,382,354	(24,462)
Net Income (loss):	\$ (2,574)	\$ (12,075)	\$ (9,501)

CARING FOR THE GREAT GIFT OF CREATION!

While putting away Christmas decorations, consider how they might be re-used or recycled. If you aren't going to save your greeting cards for future crafts, the Care of Creation Committee will accept them. Simply label them with "COC" and place on the credenza in the church office.

The church is accepting all packaging materials until January 5.

Donate old electronic items, even if they no longer function. Goodwill accepts old computers. Best Buy and Sears accept small electronics for recycling as does our local waste management.

Take old batteries to Target, Radio Shack, or Batteries Plus.

Bring all your empty ink cartridges to the Preschool.

YOUTH EVENTS

Beth Leister, Interim Youth Director
youth@firstpresby.com

The Middle School and High School Youth are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and COFFEEHOUSE! Saturday, January 8 with dinner at 6:00 and music from 7:30-10:30 p.m. All youth and parents are encouraged to join in to help make this community-wide fundraiser a huge success! **Contact Beth Leister to see how you can help.**

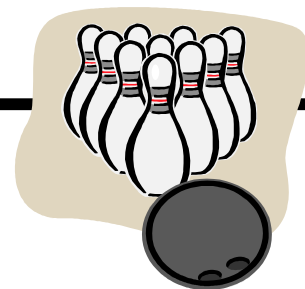
Middle School Ski Day at Winterplace

We anticipate going to Winterplace on Saturday, January 15. Do you like skiing, snow boarding or tubing? Winterplace offers all of these. Look at your calendar and start planning now. Contact Beth Leister at youth@firstpresby.com to indicate your interest. We will drive up in the morning and come back that evening. We hope for perfect ski weather!

High School Ski Weekend at Canaan

Thanks to Bob Orders, the high school youth will travel to Canaan on Friday and return on Sunday. We are looking at the weekend of January 28-30. Plans need to be made now. If you are interested, contact Beth Leister at youth@firstpresby.com.

Bowling! Plan for a great time bowling on January 30. Time 4:00-6:00 p.m.



KNITTERS ARE MOVING TO A NEW TIME!

January 10, 2011, 10:30 in Room 406 of the Education Building, is the time First Presby's Knitting into the Mystery group will be knitting, sharing, and praying. Beginning in January they will be meeting on the second Monday of each month. If you wish to join our group please come. We will teach you how to knit and provide you with supplies. For more information call Joan Steven, 304-346-6542.

COMING UP: LENT

With Lent beginning in early March this year, we are looking ahead for what Lenten Growth Groups will be offered. If you have an idea and/or would like to lead a group, please contact Jim Roberts at 304-343-8961 or jroberts@firstpresby.com. Thank you.



You are invited to the

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

January 20, 12:00 p.m.

Combined Bible Study:

Join us for a wonderful look at Lesson Five in our study of Revelation with Pastor Jim Roberts

Also join us for Prayer at 11:30 a.m. in Room A-201.

Call the church at 304-343-8961 by January 18 for a lunch reservation.



NEW GRANDDAUGHTER

Congratulations to Cheryle Hall on the birth of her first grandchild, Ross Hall Gawthrop on December 12. Parents are Laine and Brian Gawthrop of Kirkland, Washington.

CHILD AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Prayer

God, help me to be a faithful Christian. I do not need to worry or be afraid, because You love and care for me all of the time. Let me show, in all I say and do, the love I feel from You. Amen.

Blessing for Meals

*For health and strength and daily food,
We praise thy name, O Lord!*

Bible Verse

*I pray that the Lord will be kind and faithful to you. I will be your friend because of what you have done.
(2 Samuel 2:5-7)*

Word of the Month: Faithful

To be faithful is to be honest and loyal. A faithful friend will stand by you, no matter what happens to you. To be a faithful Christian is to love and serve Christ in everything you say and do.

Chain of Kindness

You can do this activity by yourself or with a friend. Cut construction or scrapbook paper into 1 x 8 ½ - inch strips. Write out all of the things you can do to help other people, one on each strip of paper. Pick one strip of paper and tape or glue it into a circle. Your chain is begun! As you do more kind things for people, add links to your chain. Keep adding to your chain all year long so that you can put it on your next Christmas tree! You will be amazed at how much you have done. If you are doing this with a friend or in a group, you can combine your efforts to make one giant chain. How long will your chain of kindness be?

What You Can Give

We all are blessed to have so many things – clothes, toys, books, and games. Many times we have more than we need, more than we can ever use. Is there something you have that you can give away to help someone else? Be faithful with what you have been given.

A message from Barbara Hopta, Director of Child/Family Ministry

Recently I have been the recipient of beautiful stories from people who have been touched by angels. The angels they have encountered range from one seen in dreams, to one who called for attention, to ones who have appeared in hospital settings. Each angel brought gifts of comfort, reassurance of God's presence, a feeling of peace, and a message.

A few years ago I was given a message by a child who was one of the throng of angels in First Presby's Christmas Eve Tableau. She was one of the many precious children who participated that year, but she was the only one who wasn't ready to leave when it was time to go home. This angel was so moved by the evening's experience, the magical feeling of Christmas Eve at First Presby, that she felt compelled to give me a message: she wanted to wear the costume home and be a Christmas angel there, too. She made her request quietly and seriously. Fortunately, I understood. Christmas, after all, began with messages by angels: first to Joseph, then to Mary, and later to the shepherds.

I thank God for all of the children who have participated in First Presby's Tableau over the years; for the families who know how memorable this can be; for the volunteers who patiently and lovingly direct, guide, lead, costume, participate, and reassure; and for the hundreds who worship as the children respond to the story. The message they enact, God's love born to us in a way we can understand, is new every year. Thanks be to God!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

The Child/Family Committee is offering a second opportunity for children and their parents/grandparents to experience a hands-on Communion workshop on January 9 at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., beginning in Room 201 in the Activities Building.

- Designed for kindergarten through first grade children and their parents, this event explores the sacrament of communion on a young child's level of understanding and prepares children to receive communion during worship.
- **Please call the church office at 304-343-8961** if you are interested in participating, or complete and return the form which will be mailed to your home.
- Some children enjoy repeating this workshop! If that is the case with your child, welcome back!
- Miss this as a young child? Older children will find this useful and are also welcome to attend!



What You Can Do

What can you do to start your Chain of Kindness today? Start with something simple, such as saying hello to someone new at school, or cleaning the walkway of an elderly neighbor's house. Offer to be in charge of giving your pet fresh water every day. What about giving someone a smile and a hug? That may be just what is needed to make someone feel good for the rest of the day.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Coffee House 2011: Fun with a Purpose!



The Youth of First Presbyterian Church cordially invite you and your guests to kick off our 2011 Coffee House series:

Saturday, January 8

Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Music and entertainment by FPC players and talented guests throughout our community at 7:30 p.m.

FUN WITH A PURPOSE!

All proceeds benefit our friends in Nicaragua.

Let's enjoy the New Year while helping others!

Special appearance by Leslie Clay and Carl Agsten!!!

Cost of dinner: Adults \$6.00; Children \$4.00

Tickets will be available leading up to the event and at the door.

There is no cost for admission to the Coffee House but a free-will offering will be accepted to support Flood Relief in Nicaragua.



Please plan to attend and support our youth and our friends in Central America!



A young church member presents her Cents-Ability offering to Jenny Pitchford, Financial Secretary.

HABITS THAT MAKE CENTS!

So many times habits are the things we'd rather not have – biting nails, eating too much, or piling our clothes on a chair.

BUT, putting coins (2 cents, 4 cents, a nickel, a dime) into a bank at each meal is one habit we can encourage.

Is your offering bank growing? A few coins (2 cents, 4 cents, a nickel, a dime) aren't much by themselves, but as the numbers of people who get into the habit increase, so will the results.

Here at First Presbyterian Church we collected \$3,282.10 in our Cents-Ability Offerings in 2010. Pretty impressive habit, huh?

Don't forget to put your Cents-Ability donation (2 cents, 4 cents, a nickel, a dime) in each time you eat. Also take time each day to thank God for your food and care, to remember those who do not have enough to eat, and to ask that God will reveal to you and your family new ways in which you and all of us can respond to the needs of the poor and hungry, here and around the world.

On behalf of all who receive help from the Cents-Ability offering, "Thank you!"

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MISSION COMPONENT OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The very generous giving of our congregation is in action through the grant funding made possible by the Mission Component of the Capital Campaign. As we are made aware of the progress or completion of the funded projects, we will "spotlight" that for you through words and/or pictures.

Our first report comes to us from Frank Mathews on behalf of The Sanctuary Jinja – an orphanage that was awarded funding to build a new chicken house to provide economic self-support by selling eggs and chickens.

Frank Mathews reports from Jinja, Uganda that it has rained everyday, even though it is the dry season. He is assisting with the construction of a new chicken operation at The Sanctuary Boys Home. On December 8, large piles of dirt were leveled and the foundation holes were dug. On December 9, the construction materials were purchased and the 12 support poles were buried in concrete. The next day the framing was started and an order was placed for 200 layer and 200 broiler chickens. This project places food on the table and also is a steady source of income for the orphanage.

Frank says the 12 boys, ranging in age from 12 to 16, are amazing. One day as they were walking, the boys started singing a song about reading the Bible and praying everyday and growing strong. The boys lived on the streets prior to living in the Sanctuary Boys Home where they go to school six days a week. They are now on a two month break in order to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, which are very big occasions in Uganda.



OVERSEAS MISSION NEWS: NICARAGUA

Dear Friends,

As we write to you at the end of our first year in Nicaragua, what comes to mind is that we feel like students again. Some lessons we have learned the hard way, and some have landed lightly in our laps. All of them are precious to us. Our family answered God's call to be mission coworkers because we believed there were lessons to be learned about living intentionally and sharing our lives with our neighbors in Central America. We wanted to challenge our assumptions in order to experience a broader worldview. We were scared to death about the Managua heat, about learning the Spanish language and being proficient enough to do our jobs, but we were also reassured by God's promise "I will be with you always!"

After three months of language study, we began our work with CEPAD in January of this year. The transition to life in Managua was challenging to say the least. We rented a house, bought an old Toyota 4Runner, and started getting to know our new hometown. Right away we knew that our language lessons were ending and our life lessons were just beginning.

So at the end of our freshman year, here are some of the lessons we have learned.

Lesson 1: Pay Attention

Nicaraguans sometimes describe themselves as *vivo*, literally meaning alive. What this term signifies to them is that they are quick, alert, astute, and can even be tricksters. They are the opposite of naïve, and they certainly pay attention to their surroundings. So to us northerners they say: "Pay attention. If you don't, somebody else will and you might not like the consequence."

Paying attention goes beyond just watching out for the safety of your family and your things. It means watching out for your neighbors as well. Our greatest opportunities for mission happen every day at the traffic light, next door and at the market. So if you keep your eyes open, opportunities to be in community and to accompany someone in need are everywhere.

Lesson 2: Just Say Yes

Whether someone is extending an invitation or extending a hand for help, the answer is Yes. Unless there is a compelling reason to withhold, the answer is always *claro que sí* (sure, or yes of course). These opportunities are the connectors, and they almost always lead in the direction of grace.

The lawyer who helped us get our Nicaraguan residency also works for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. Her name is Blanca Fonseca, but everyone calls her *Blanquita*, we think for two reasons: her diminutive stature and her affectionate manner. Our relationship began as all business, mostly because she made zero concessions for our language deficiencies. Her Spanish was like a machine gun, with a short pause every once in a while to ask "Me entiende?" (Do you understand me? No Doña Blanca, we do not have a clue.) We heard one day that she broke her leg at a bus stop. Our friend invited us to accompany her to visit *Blanquita* and bring her food. Our response was *claro que sí*, because by then we were beginning to learn our lesson. The visit was a little awkward, but pleasant enough. After the visit, however, our relationship changed completely. *Blanquita's* Spanish slowed down and her connection with us was unmistakable, like we had gone from clueless gringos to intimate friends overnight. Now, our friendship with her is one of our most treasured experiences.

Lesson 3: Know Your Support

Self-reliance is an illusion. In times of need you need all the support you can find, whether it is existing networks or the kindness of strangers. Leslie likes to say "you can't have too many angels!"

The day we moved into our house in Managua, we let the door swing shut and locked ourselves out. Not knowing the word for "locksmith" Carl began driving through the city looking for a sign with a key on it. Then he remembered Tracey, our regional liaison and friend, who is one of our angels. Tracey gave Carl a phone number for a *cerrajero* (locksmith).

Carl somehow muddled through in Spanish with Juan Manuel the locksmith, who said he would need a ride to the house. Juan



Leslie with her teacher Lussi at the Spanish School Matagalpa.



Just say "Yes!" to all birthday party invitations!



Leslie's Nica Support (left to right): Damaris Albuquerque (CEPAD Executive Director), Blanquita Fonseca (UNHCR), and Anita Taylor (Nehemiah Program Director).

Manuel (our second angel of the day) patiently waited for Carl to realize he was lost, then found an easier landmark: the Tip Top (a local chicken joint). On the long drive back to the house Juan Manuel cheerfully explained that he would be late for his son's third birthday party, but that he would never turn down someone who is locked out. The locksmith made quick work of the break-in and charged next to nothing. Carl grabbed Kai's new Mickey Mouse ball as an extra gift for the party, and drove Juan Manuel to his house in time for cake. So at the end of a long evening we had a new friend and a locksmith for our support list.

Lesson 4: Be Bearers of Hope

We have met a great many people who care very deeply about Nicaragua, mostly from churches and communities who visit here as mission delegations. In our work with our Nicaraguan Partner (CEPAD) we have received 38 delegations in 2010, including 40 dear friends from our home church First Presbyterian of Charleston, West Virginia. People want to connect with their global neighbors and do something to reduce the trauma of poverty. The message of hope that they bring to the rural communities of Nicaragua is much more powerful than any aid or assistance they can offer.

Dr. Gustavo Parajón, who founded CEPAD in 1972, puts it like this: "For us in the rural areas, the most important thing we can share is not material but spiritual. And the people from all these other places... they are actually interested in us! They've taken the time to come. And that sparks in us a hope. I think that the church has to be the bearer of that hope."

Lesson 5: We Are All Connected!

We want to thank each of you for your love, your prayers, and your support. It has meant the world to us to know that you are lifting us up. One church we had never heard of sent us their bulletin with the signatures of all those who attended a Sunday worship service in which they had prayed for our mission. We were blown away!

God really works in mysterious ways and connects us all. Each night Kai and Ella join us to end our day in Managua with this prayer:

God is my All,
I have no fear
for Life and Truth and Love are here.

We end the prayer by thanking God for all our friends and family, and invite Kai and Ella to name the ones who are in their hearts. Then we ask for God's blessing on each of you and ask God to help us be a blessing to you. Certainly you have been a blessing to us.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Leslie & Carl



Ella with a Christmas angel in La Concepción.



Tom Elander, elder at Brentwood Presbyterian, serves children at the feeding program of Verbo Church in Bluefields.



"Merry Christmas to All the Children of the World" from Los Quinchos, a home for former street children.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

JOIN A MUSICAL GROUP, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER!

FROM MARY ODIN

In her 1992 Christmas message, Queen Elizabeth II stated, "1992 is not a year I shall look back on with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'annus horribilis'".

Those words echoed in my head all day on December 15, 2010, the day we went Christmas caroling on the trolleys last month. At 7:15 a.m., my car's transmission failed. By 11:00 a.m. it had been towed three times and declared in need of a \$2500 repair. At 2:00 p.m. I learned that my father in Chicago was critically ill and on his way to the hospital. At 4:30 p.m., our son James launched an epic whine-fest about a mitten which went on for 45 minutes. By the time the trolleys returned to church at 8:00 p.m., I was spent. One more phone call from Chicago when I got home, probably the 26th phone call that day, finally sent me over the edge. I couldn't wait for my "dies horribilis" to end.

A few days later in worship on December 19, we sang: *"All is well, all is well, let there be peace on earth. Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alleluia!"* Peace on earth isn't very meaningful unless you know what strife feels like, and I had had a small taste of it the previous week. God came to us and promises to stay with us in our bad times, sustaining us and working to redeem the worst of circumstances for our good whether or not we choose to give Him credit. **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."** (Romans 8:28 KJV) We may not see it while it's happening, but God is working.

With just a few days distance from December 15, my eyes are beginning to open and see how God was at work that day: When my car broke down, Blair Taylor pulled over to offer me help, encouragement, and brotherly love. My own brother in Chicago was able to get my father to the doctor and ultimately to the hospital. In the Recreation Room after the trolley caroling, I told Jimmie Dale I really needed a snow day on Thursday and he immediately grabbed my hand and called out to Jesus for his exhausted friend. Scripture tells us that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16 KJV) Jimmie Dale was certainly fervent, and he must be pretty righteous, because you'll recall we got not one but two snow days from his prayer. I do not really believe God created a snowstorm for my personal benefit, but He certainly redeemed bad weather to provide relief for me. **God sustained me through many brothers and sisters He placed in my path all day, even while I did not have eyes to see.**

In case you're wondering, this morning I finally saw God's grace in the Great Mitten Whine of 2010: I have a beautiful, healthy little son whose greatest trouble on my Dies Horribilis was that his mitten got tangled up in his coat sleeve. For that and so many other blessings of 2010, thanks be to God.

GENEVA CHOIR

Geneva Choir for youth and adults rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 in the Choir Room. This month, we will resume our regular rehearsals on Epiphany, January 6. You do not need to be musically literate to join us; in fact, singing in a choir is an excellent way to learn to read. We have plenty of folders and robes to fit everyone, so come join us!

FPC LYRES CLUB

Our folk harp players rehearse in the Ruffner Room on Tuesdays evenings from 5:30-6:30. We will resume our regular rehearsals on January 11. To join us, contact Mary Odin at modin@firstpresyb.com. No previous experience is necessary; instruments and music are available through the church.

WORSHIP TEAM

This ensemble uses voice, guitar, and other instruments to accompany congregational song at both worship services on Sundays. We rehearse on Wednesdays. To join us, contact Bill McCoy or Mary Odin.

CHERUB CHOIR AND MUSIC OF THE ANGELS

Our children's choirs rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir (grades K-2) meets downstairs with Debbie Eads in the Susie Early Room. Music of the Angels (grades 3 and up) meets upstairs in Room E-305 with Mary Odin. We will resume our regular rehearsals on January 12. Come join us and invite a friend!

PRESBY THESPIES

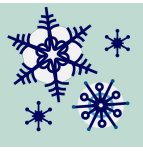
This group offers dramatic gifts to God in worship and other settings. To add your name to the list of actors available for occasional, short-term commitments, contact director Carole Carter through the church office. All ages are invited.

CAPELLA BELL CHOIR

The Capella Bells rehearse on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with director Kathy Lynch. To join us, contact bell director Kathy Lynch through the church office.

2011 Montreat Worship and Music Conference: June 19-25, 2011

We still have a few beds available in Chestnut Lodge. **Let Mary Odin know your plans to attend this life-changing week of worship, Bible study, music, and the arts near Asheville, NC.** Adults, youth, and children (rising grade 4 and up) may register; Child care and clubs for ages 6 months through high school is free for all children of conferees. Room and board costs are around \$150 for the week; the conference ranges from \$250 (child/youth registering early) to \$460 (adult registering late). Scholarships are available. **Conference registration has begun.** Leave your \$100 housing deposit in the church office to reserve your space.



January 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
2 10:00 Pot-Luck Breakfast in the Dining Room 11:00 Worship	3 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 6:30 Ballroom Dancing	4 9:30 Tuesday Study Group 7:15 Boy Scouts	5 <i>Regular monthly meetings fall back one week in January.</i> 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:45 Lay Academy Revelation Study 8:00 Worship Music Team	6 <i>Ephiphany</i> 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore study 10:00 PW Coordinating Team 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Geneva Choir	7 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Saturday, January 8 Nicaragua Flood Relief Fundraiser: 6:00 Spaghetti Dinner 7:30 Coffeehouse </div>	8
9 8:45 Worship 9:45 Inquirer's Class 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Stop by the Cablish Room for a blood pressure check.	10 8:30 Aerobics 10:30 Knitting Into The Mystery 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Ballroom Dancing	11 9:30 Tuesday Study Group 5:30 Lyres 7:15 Boy Scouts	12 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Property Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:15 Christian Education Div. 5:45 Wednesday Connections 6:45 Preschool Parent Ed 6:45 Deacons 6:45 Mission Division 6:45 Personnel Division 6:45 Worship Division 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	13 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:15 Preschool Parent Ed 9:30 Women's study 5:15 Coordinating Council 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Geneva Choir	14 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 9:15 Preschool Parent Ed 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Six Great Dates	15 Middle School Youth Trip to Winterplace—weather permitting
16 8:45 Worship 9:45 Inquirers' Class 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Lay Academy	17 Church Buildings closed in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday	18 9:30 Tuesday Study Group 5:30 Lyres 7:00 Alzheimers Support Group 7:15 Boy Scouts	19 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Finance Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:15 Child and Family Committee 5:45 Wednesday Connections 6:45 Session 7:30 Contemplative Prayer (Febuary Newsletter Deadline)	20 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore Study 11:30 Prayer Group 12:00 PW Combined Circle Luncheon 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Music Together 7:30 Geneva Choir	21 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise	22
23 Communion Cents-Ability Offering 8:45 Worship 9:45 Inquirer's Class 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting 4:00 Lay Academy	24 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Ballroom Dancing	25 9:30 Tuesday Study Group 7:15 Boy Scouts	26 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Fellowship and Rec. Div. 5:00 Visitors/New Members Div. 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:30 Wednesday Connections dinner 6:45 Lay Academy Revelation Study 7:00 Worship Music Team 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	27 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore Study 10-1:00 Shepherd's Center programs and luncheon 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Music Together 7:30 Geneva Choir	28 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise High School Ski Trip weekend through Sunday	29
30 8:45 Worship 9:45 Inquirer's Class 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Lay Academy 4:00 Youth Bowling	31 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Ballroom Dancing	First Presbyterian Church 16 Leon Sullivan Way Charleston, WV 25301 304-343-8961 www.firstpresby.com				



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PRAYER CONCERNS

CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tim Gooley, friend of the McCoys; Jean Mercer's niece Ann and her husband, John; Ann Yetter; Al Raposo and family; Carl Agsten; Grace Stinchcom, mother of Jim Buckalew's friend; Justin, Linda Elliot's four-year-old neighbor; John Doeringer, father of Mary Odin; Carol, friend of Ruth Pitchford; Maude Carr, sister of Flick Goldsmith; Judy Hughes, mother of Charles Hughes; infant Alyssa Faith Wilson, friends of Sandy Zando and Claude Churchwell; Doug Chambers, father of our Doug Chambers; Jackie Taylor; Mary Jane Hopkins, mother of Mary McCoy; Marcia White, mother of Heidi Marcinkowsky; Fran Gossage; Patti Biven's mother; Tom Marchio; Jim Scherr; Claude Churchwell; Steve Hopta; Coleen Kimball, sister of Jackie Lilly; Mary Helen Tully's mother; Carolyn and Ron Vogelbach; Jon Stoecklin; Paul and Mary Trotter.

EXTENDED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Del Preslar, father of Kari Preslar; Libby Cowgill, sister-in-law of Candy Strader; Shaina Riggall, friend of Nancy Winefordner; Louise Stephenson; Pat Miller; son-in-law of Karen White; Helen Blair; Ruth Gates; Betty Childers.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Barbara Klingler, mother of Chris; Sophia Slack, daughter of Sandy and Steve Slack; Teresa O'Connor, daughter-in-law of Lisa and Otis; Leslie Meadows, neighbor of Jenny Pitchford; Traci McVey, granddaughter of Ruth Gates; Marsha Cornell, friend of Amy Keller; Janet Riddle, friend of Sally Slicer; Cleo Kennedy, mother of Barbara Brown; Jeanne Weil, friend of Barbara Brown; Steve Carcaterra, friend of Bill McCoy; Jane and John Lewis, friends of Bill McCoy; Craig Christensen, nephew of Dave Christensen; Kim Thompson, friend of Sandy Zando; Mary Murphy, mother of Perry Keller's friend, Tim; Rhea Essa, her son Ramsey, and her brother, Jeff, friends of Toni Clendenin; Susan Petryszak, friend of

Marie and John Nesius; Michelle Swanson, Dick Golden's step-granddaughter; Leigh Ann Hesson, friend of Sandy Zando; Kathy Goble; Sue Place, friend of Sandy Zando; Mary McFarland, sister of Sarah McGriff; Sandy McGriff, daughter-in-law of Sarah and Mac; Phyllis Dowd, friend of Lindsey McCoy; Eleanor Hemphill, mother of Barbara Hopta; Kara Bruning, friend of Barbara Gessner; Sylvia Grandall; Betty Holland; George Hamrick; Aaron Owen, son of Tammie; June and Art Turner, and their son Jarrod, friends of Bob Welty; Jeanne Persinger, sister of Truman Chafin; Tammy Rhodes, friend of Pat Doumaux; Dr. Audrey Farley, daughter of Elizabeth and John Lambros; Eleanor Scott; Edwin Scherr, father of Jim; Laura, daughter of Tom Bulla; Chaun Rong Tsao, brother-in-law of Howard Doumaux; Jack Gastineau; Candy Galyean; Joseph Sprouse; Charles Hendricks; Charlie Young.