



Presbyterian “Connection”

April 2009 Volume 16 Issue 4

by Rev. Mark Lenneville

Vacation Time

I am taking a long-awaited vacation. It has been over 3 years since my last vacation and I am long overdue for some down time. As I think about my vacation, I recall when I was young one aspect of my family vacation that was not very enjoyable. That was being crammed into the back seat of the family car. I was too short to see out of the window and too tall to warrant a child’s seat. Trips longer than a few minutes found my mind wandering. There was one thought that caused my short attention span to become fixated and focused. There was one question that occupied my entire stream of consciousness during long trips. This was, “Are we there yet?”

Now that I am 57 years old, I must confess that this is still a question that haunts me. The mode of travel has changed...at least I can see out of the windows now. The destinations have changed. The question, however, still persists. “Are we there yet?”

I am not as concerned about the physical destination now. I have more adult matters that cause me to focus my question. “Are we there yet?” translates into “How long until...? My subject matter changes from a geographical destination to philosophical and religious musings. “How long until...

I stop getting my feelings hurt when someone criticizes me?

I stop needing to control others?

I start taking some time off...for me?

I can sit back and relax, not having to always be getting ready for the next sermon?

Christians will start acting like Christians?

Good people will have good things happen to them?”

It occurs to me that perhaps I am asking questions that defy answers. Perhaps, I am asking about arriving at “a place” of total perfection and complete harmony and wondering when my wanderings will get me there. Perhaps I am asking when I will finally be all that God has meant for me to be.

The answer, I suppose is, “never.” I suppose I must eventually admit that I will never achieve perfection, even if I ask the right questions and do the right things. All I can ultimately be is “on a journey.”

All of us are on a journey...a physical, emotional and spiritual journey. Life is about taking this journey. It is important to have an end “place” in mind as we take our journey. (As I have said in other contexts, “You can’t hit a target unless you know what it looks like.”) But the essence of life and living is not the end point or place but the journey. If we have reached our ultimate destination then life is over, our journey has ended. Some are a little farther along than others, but not one of us has it all “right.” Each of us, if we are honest, has the nagging question, “Are we there yet?” And each of us knows the answer is, “No.”

Since everyone is on a journey, should not this provoke our tolerance and forgiveness? Should this not demand that we “give each other a break,” “cut each other some slack.” and allow for each other to make mistakes and grow? Instead of thinking that we have reached our destination and this allows us to judge those who are still on their way, perhaps we need to recognize when we do this, we are simply standing beside the road and not getting any closer to our ultimate destination. Jesus said, “Judge not lest ye be judged.” And the Golden Rule reminds us that we should “treat others as we would want to be treated.” Both mean that we are on the road...on a journey... to our ultimate vacation where we will finally get an affirmative answer to our question, “Are we there yet?” For those taking some well needed rest, “Have a great journey!” for your vacation awaits you.

Blessings, Rev. Mark

CHURCH USHERS AND GREETERS

April 5 Irene Bere, Nancy Soares, Harry Van Gorden, Randi Saba and Sandy Erickson
April 12 Bill & Mary Kerr, Harry Van Gorden, Gail Sanderson and Irene Bere
April 19 Faye Brackett, Jean Hoefler, Norm Hockley, Esther Roberts and Bonnie Reeves
April 26 Sandy Erickson, Betty Aaron, Norm Hockley, Rebecca Walker & Mary Haggart

PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.-2008

April 5 Alpine Church, Amity Cleburne Avenue, West Helena
April 12 First, Lonoke Vaughn, Bentonville
April 19 First, Hot Springs Hispanic New Church Development, Springdale
April 26 Westover Hills, Little Rock Allison Memorial, Little Rock

PLEASE NOTIFY IRENE BERE IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.– Bible Study

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.– Coffee & Fellowship in Memorial Hall

Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m.– Bible Study on Women of the Bible led by Laura Lenneville in Memorial Hall.

Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.– Choir Practice

Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.—Presbyterian Actor Workshop

Reverend Mark will be on vacation from March 23 to April 7.

Sunday, April 5– Jini Sass Preaches

Sunday, April 5– After Church Brunch hosted by Esther Roberts, Bonnie Reeves, Betty Aaron, Harry Van Gorden and Tywllah Schauer. Guest speaker: Susan Mellentine from Life Line Screening will be here to give you information about this event coming in May. Don't forget to sign the "We Care" cards for our sick and shut in friends and family.

Tuesday, April 7– 9:30 a.m.– Presbyterian Women meet in Memorial Hall.

Tuesday, April 7– 7:00p.m.—Maundy Thursday Rehearsal for all the speakers.

Thursday, April 9– 7:00 p.m.– Maundy Thursday Communion Worship Service.

Sunday, April 12– 10:00 a.m.– Easter Sunday Worship Service.

Wednesday, April 15– 9:00 a.m.– Deacons Meet in Christian Ed. Room

Friday, April 17– 9:00a.m.– Session meets in the Christian Education room.

Monday, April 20– 3:00 p.m.– Historical Society meets in Memorial Hall.

Monday, April 27– 12:00 p.m.– P.W. Luncheon in Memorial Hall.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

April 1– Jean Lyon

April 6– Mary Ann Smith

April 7– Rebecca Walker and James Rowe

April 8– Warren Heydt

April 10– Betty Craig

April 11– Darcy Burghard

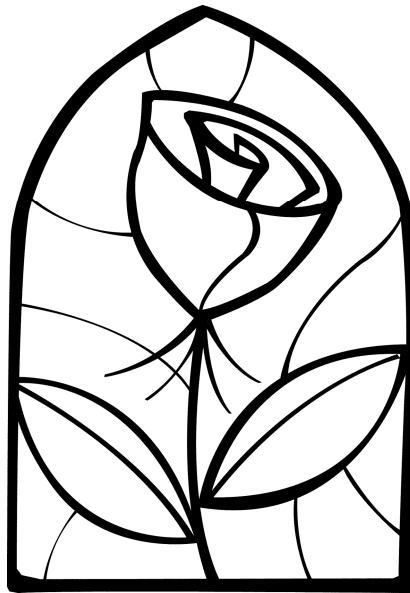
April 18– Vivian Meyers

April 19– Garrett Carpenter

April 22– Don Miller

April 27– Pam Cook

April 28– Chet Walker



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 15, 1950 Ed & Joyce King

April 30, 2005 Al & Deb Holtkamp

LIBRARY LINES

We have several new books: VIRGINIA WEDDINGS by Lauralee Bliss, and three by Joan Medlicott: book 8 of the Ladies of Covington series—PROMISES OF CHANGE; THE THREE MRS. PARKERS, COME WALK WITH ME; and YADA YADA PRAYER GROUP GETS TOUGH by Neta Jackson.

The book of the month is THE SHACK by William Paul Young:

“Mackenzie Allen Philips’s youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack’s world forever.”

“In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant THE SHACK wrestles with the timeless question: *Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?* The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.”

Enjoy the books.

Faye Brackett - Librarian

When Is Easter?

Every year the date of Easter changes. The main reason is that unlike holidays which are tied to specific dates, Easter always falls on a Sunday. Also, because the events of Jesus’ death and resurrection occurred in the context of the Jewish Passover festival (remember, Jesus and the disciples were Jewish), the date follows the Jewish pattern of being tied to the lunar calendar.

Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21, the vernal equinox, or the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus, Easter can fall anywhere in between March 22 and April 25.

To add to the confusion, Eastern churches (such as Russian and Greek Orthodox) use a slightly different calendar, and their Easter is about two weeks after the date celebrated by Western churches.

Several proposals have been raised throughout history to arrive at a fixed date, but none of them have taken off. The most recent occurred in 2001 when Eastern and Western dates coincided for the first time in centuries.

Proposals have included fixing the date on the second Sunday in April, or agreeing always to have seven Sundays in the Season after the Epiphany. Others have proposed a fixed calendar date of April 9, believed to have been the actual date of the original resurrection, but such a date would mean that Easter would seldom land on a Sunday. None of these proposals have ever been taken very seriously.

There is one major advantage to having the date change each year. As Christians we are called to follow Jesus and that often means being out of step with the rest of the world. When we follow a calendar that is just a little out of step it reminds us of the call to challenge the direction the world may be going. The floating date of Easter can help us remember and celebrate this.

MISSION MINUTE

THE PURPOSE

We are called by God to do works of compassion and justice by serving the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people both in our local congregation and outside our congregation. This is accomplished by proclaiming Christ's gospel, and making disciples and relating to the whole needs of all peoples.

“Creator God, we know that you love each one of us exactly as we are. Keep us ever mindful of your call to make it possible for everyone to enjoy the rights and privileges that freedom promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.”



Bible Puzzles

Use the music symbols code to find the words to 1 Corinthians 10:31. Then use the words to solve the word find at right.

Music Symbols Code					
A = C	F = f	I = I	N = //	S = C	V = DC
D = p	G = mp	K = f	O = fz	T = C	W = :
E = p	H = w	L = o	R = b	U = p	Y = $\text{}$

Answer: So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

C fz : w p C w p b
 $\text{}$ fz p p C C
 fz b p b I // f
 fz b : w C C p DC p b
 $\text{}$ fz p p fz p fz
 p DC p b $\text{}$ C w I // mp
 f fz b C w p
 mp o fz b $\text{}$ fz f mp fz p

A	C	R	O	F	B	R	R	C	S
D	T	S	W	E	D	E	O	O	G
H	E	A	H	I	V	J	F	E	F
K	Y	L	E	E	M	F	K	R	N
D	O	J	T	T	G	O	R	G	P
Q	U	A	H	W	L	O	F	R	K
F	H	S	E	R	O	T	D	N	T
W	U	X	R	H	R	L	I	V	H
G	N	I	H	T	Y	R	E	V	E
Y	W	U	N	X	D	O	Z	Y	M
B	P	I	O	Z	V	Q	U	E	A

A	C	R	O	F	B	R	R	C	S
D	T	S	W	E	D	E	O	O	G
H	E	A	H	I	V	J	F	E	F
K	Y	L	E	E	M	F	K	R	N
D	O	J	T	T	G	O	R	G	P
Q	U	A	H	W	L	O	F	R	K
F	H	S	E	R	O	T	D	N	T
W	U	X	R	H	R	L	I	V	H
G	N	I	H	T	Y	R	E	V	E
Y	W	U	N	X	D	O	Z	Y	M
B	P	I	O	Z	V	Q	U	E	A

RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT B IS TRAILING

by Jerry L. Van Marter

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — With nearly two-thirds of the votes in, a hotly-contested proposed amendment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution is trailing. The amendment — officially dubbed “Amendment B” — would replace the current requirement that church officers live in “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness” with a new G-6.0106b.

As of March 10, the unofficial tally is 42 presbyteries in favor, with 69 opposed. The final tally will be certified and announced by the Office of the General Assembly. The 111 presbyteries that have voted represent 64 percent of the PC(USA)’s 173 presbyteries.

A majority (87) of the presbyteries must vote to ratify the amendment proposed by last year’s 218th General Assembly in order for the new language to become church law. If ratified, it would tie ordination decisions more closely to assent to the ordination vows currently in the church’s Book of Order without singling out a sexual conduct standard.

The proposed new G-6.0106b reads: “Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.”

The current “fidelity and chastity” provision was added to the Book of Order in voting following the 1996 General Assembly. Two subsequent proposals to delete it have failed in presbytery voting — following the 1997 Assembly by a vote of 57-114 and following the 2001 Assembly by a vote of 46-127.

All indications are that the vote will be much closer this year.

Nineteen of the 127 presbyteries that voted “No” in 2001-2002 have voted in favor of this year’s amendment. No presbyteries that voted “Yes” last time have switched to a “No” this year.

If that pattern continues — with every presbytery that voted “Yes” last time voting the same this year — 20 of the remaining 37 presbyteries that voted “No” last time would have to vote “Yes” this year in order for the amendment to be ratified.

Presbyteries have until June 28 of this year to vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals to host health screenings that could save your life.

Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on Wednesday, May 20th. Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; and atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139. All four screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-800-324-1851, or visit www.lifelinescreening.com, for more information or to pre-register.

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Thank
you!

To our dear friends,
You have blessed us with your prayers and many kindnesses during Bill's illness.

Our memories are forever. Thank you.

We love you,
Jean Lyon and family



April showers bring May flowers and I hope you bring yourself to our April 7th meeting in Memorial Hall at 9:30 am instead of 10:00 am. Devotions will be given by Esther Roberts and our hostesses this month will be Mary Kerr and Ramona Marshall. Please mark your calendars and come out for some Christian fellowship, food and fun.

Our NO BAKE-BAKE SALE fund raiser is doing great and no weight gain either!! Thank you all for your generous contributions.

We had an election at our last meeting and Mary Kerr was elected treasurer. We are all so happy to have her on our coordinating team.

Our next fund raiser will be our very famous “Ice Cream Social”. It will be on May 16th, Armed Forces Day, with net proceeds designated for local missions including the V.F.W. for the benefit of soldiers serving over seas. Peni Lloyd is donating a beautiful afghan which she made and tickets will be sold at the Social for it.

Our ongoing missions projects are items for the troops in Iraq & Afghanistan to the V.F.W. and the Bull Shoals Food Pantry. A lovely quilt was made by Esther Roberts and sent to Vera Lloyd. The materials were donated by a friend of Betty Aaron and Esther also made Communion tray covers. She not only made them, but also donated the materials for them. Esther Roberts also presented PW with a check for \$60.00 she received from Best Choice labels she collected from our church family. Keep those Best Choice labels coming and a great big thank you to Esther!

Plan to attend & be sure to sign up to bring a salad for our April 27 Fashion Show & Salad Luncheon. Start inviting all our friends & neighbors. All our local churches, Mtn. Home & Yellville Presbyterian churches & our Catholic ladies of Bull Shoals are being invited. We hope to have a good turn out from our church and the other churches.

So many exciting & wonderful events are coming up in our church & PW. We certainly have all been blessed with God’s love for each other. I think Spring has sprung.

**Yours in Christ,
Elaine Matejka, Moderator**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee met March 5, 2009. Many topics were on the agenda for discussion. We are still looking for two more people to join our committee. Come help us with projects that will tell of God's word & His love for us.

With the day-light savings time in effect, we are looking for the Wed. Night Bible Group, The New Testament, to increase in attendance. If you like discussion type study groups, this is the one to attend. Rev. Mark gets good discussions going at every study.

The nursery is blessed with a darling baby boy named Tucker, Karla Thompson's son. We need ladies to occasionally help take care of him on Sunday mornings. I will be asking you for your help.

If you are on duty in the nursery on a Communion Day, tell Rev. Mark & he will see to it that bread & wine (juice) are brought to you.

Sharon Arra & Margie Stearns have already started making plans for Vacation Bible School. We will be the host church this year. VBS will be July 20-24 this summer. What a fun time that will be with the children of our community. Come join us.

This is one Scottish person that is looking forward to the Lyon's Scottish Festival on Sat. April 18th. Hearing the bagpipes & seeing the Highland dancers are two events that will be spectacular. Schedule of events, ticket prices & sign-up sheet are on the church office bulletin board. Sign-up for this event and payment of tickets to me ends March 31st. Transportation will be by automobile.

Hope you are planning to attend this fun event.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU & KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.
Shirley Jensen, Moderator

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THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT OR THURSDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY ON MARCH 25-26 AND APRIL 1-2 WHILE REV. MARK AND LAURA
ARE ON VACATION.

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COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The dates for the Community Vacation Bible School, 2009 are Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24. The times will be 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon each day with a closing program on Friday evening. We will be hosting this year. The theme this year is: Kingdom of the Son-Prayer Safari. Ages participating will be 4 years through 9th grade.

Sign up sheets for volunteers will be available at a later date.

DEACON CORNER

The Deacons will sponsor Golden Opportunity Days again this year May 3-19.

The theme will be “Baskets of Love”.

Watch for all the events in your Sunday Announcements and the May Connection.



CHRIST BY THE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sun. April 5 Palm Sunday Service with procession of Palms and Holy Communion.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday April 6, 7, 8 - 9 AM each day...
Holy Week Prayer Service and breakfast.

Thursday April 9—7 PM Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion

Friday April 10 7 PM Good Friday service with Tenebrae

Saturday April 11 7 PM Easter Vigil with Holy Communion

Sunday 10:30 AM Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion

~~~~NOTES FROM SESSION~~~~

Session Minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in the office and on the church website after they are approved. You may come by to read them or we will make a copy if you wish. In the newsletter we will let you know the actions taken by the session at the previous meeting. All stated session meetings are open to the whole congregation for observation. You may address the session by letting the Clerk (Vicky Bair) know in advance and she will put you on the agenda. You may have a voice but no vote on actions. Remember that everyone is invited to be on any committee they feel called to serve on (where you do have a voice and vote as a member of this church). Committees bring items to the session for vote.

February 27, 2009

It was voted to approve the 2009 church budget of \$89,749.00. 2009 budget spending projection sheets were passed out to committee moderators. Treasurer's report for January 2009 was accepted as given by Moderator/Treasurer Peni Lloyd.

The Mission Endowment Committee recommends the following missions be supported:

\$200.00Mexico Mission	\$300.00Helping Hand Fund
\$300.00Mountain Home Christian Clinic	\$300.00Marion County Senior Center
\$618.18G. A. Theological Fund	\$100.00Ferncliff
\$200.00Lyons College	\$200.00Gamma House
Total 2218.185% of \$44,365.66 (Mission Endowment Fund 2008)	

After discussion, **It was voted** to remove the Gamma House from the recommended list. **It was voted** to approve the amended recommendation list. Total approved is \$2018.18 with \$200 remaining for future missions.

It was voted to appoint Sandy Erickson as Co-Moderator of the Worship Committee.

It was voted to approve the request to hold a picnic/luncheon after worship on Pentecost Sunday (May 31) with the Worship Committee being in charge.

It is necessary to implement a rotation status of the Personnel Committee members for the continuity of the committee.

It was voted to adopt the following rotation schedule:

Members	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ELDER	Harry Van Gorden						
DEACON	Bill Kerr						
Member	UNK						
Member	UNK						
Member	Unk						

~~~~NOTES FROM SESSION~~~~

Continued from the February 27, 2009 minutes

It was voted that Elders Jini Sass and Irene Bere preach in Rev. Lenneville's absence.

It was voted to approve placing Irene Bere in nomination for the Committee on Ministry or Congregational Care and Development Committee.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS

I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.

– George Washington Carver

Everything feels crazy. But on small patches of earth, I can see just as much messy mercy and grace as ever.

– Anne Lamott

Credo [Latin for “I believe”] does not mean “I hereby agree to the literal-factual truth of the following statements.” Rather, its Latin roots combine to mean “I give my heart to” or “I commit my loyalty to.”

– Marcus Borg

I find John's account of the resurrection most moving and evocative . . . because it centers on the story of how a wounded person sees the living Christ. In my experience at least, it is in our pain that we most often meet the Messiah.

– Ralph Milton

If Jesus Christ were to come today, people would not even crucify him. They would ask him to dinner and hear what he had to say, and make fun of it.

– Thomas Carlyle

The suffering on the cross is meant not for itself but for something else. Christ does not suffer because suffering is in itself a value but because love without restraint requires suffering.


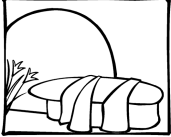
– Anthony Padovano



APRIL 2009



EVERY Thursday 10 a.m.—11 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
 EVERY Thursday 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
 EVERY Thursday 6:30 p.m.—7:30p.m. Choir Practice
 EVERY Thursday 7:30 p. m. Presbyterian Actors Workshop

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	1	2	3	4
	8 pm- AA		7 pm -Bible Study			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Jini Sass Preaches After Church Brunch 	8 pm- AA	9:30 am- PW	7 pm -Bible Study	Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Easter Sunday	8 pm- AA		7 pm -Bible Study		9 a.m.- Session	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	3 pm -Historical Society 8 pm- AA		Earth Day 7 pm -Bible Study			10 AM- Memorial Service for Vi Sass
26	27	28	29	30		
	12 Noon- PW Luncheon 8pm- AA		7 pm -Bible Study			

THIS WE BELIEVE

APRIL

**And being found in human form, He humbled himself
And became obedient to the point of death—
Even death on a cross.
(Philippians 2:7-8)**

~MISSION STATEMENT~

**“We will be scripture-based to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spiritually led to guide all people
to be active doers of the Word” Approved by Session on November 16, 2007**

CHURCH STAFF

**Minister: Rev. Mark Lenneville-Stated Supply, Church Secretary: Debbie Heroux
Clerk of Session: Vicky Bair, Church Treasurer: Peni Lloyd
Financial Secretary: Dick Sass, Asst. Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller**

DEACONS

<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>
Nancy Soares	Jini Sass	Bill Kerr
Elaine Matejka	Gloria Wiles	Irene Bere
Pat Erlewine	Betty Aaron	Sandy Erickson

THE SESSION

<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>
Norm Hockley	Bob Wiles	Peni Lloyd
Randi Saba	Tywillah Schauer	Mary Kerr
	Harry Van Gorden	Al Holtkamp

**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals
P. O. Box 687
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STAMP