



# Presbyterian “Connection”

January 2009 Volume 16 Issue 1  
by Rev. Mark Lenneville

## The New Year: A Time for Laughter

I was present when an elder gathered her flock at the front of the church for the pre-Christmas children’s message. In a very serious and studious voice, she asked her young brood, “Does anybody know what season it is?” Without hesitation, her four-year old grandson cried out, “Duck!” The congregation fell into chaotic laughter. This was a “God moment.” The congregation needed to laugh after negotiating a very difficult time in its corporate life. The child’s innocent response reminded the congregation that we should not take ourselves too seriously.

I was recently reading excerpts from the minutes of the FPC in Monticello, AR where Elder Lamar Williamson was the Clerk of Session from 1916- 1957. (I know some of you will say, “Mark, you need to get a life!”) These excerpts, however, are from ...A Time to Laugh compiled and edited by Jerry Tompkins. Throughout his tenure Mr. Williamson took seriously Eccles. 3:4b- “..., and a time to laugh;.”

In recording the finances of the church he penned, “The Pastor reported the condition of the Treasury to be low (like the outside thermometer and the inside spiritual conditions) but not alarming: in other words, worse after being better.”<sup>p.39</sup> Regarding membership, he quipped, “....Mrs. Campster requested no Letter because the Baptist Church does not recognize the existence or validity of the Presbyterian Church, but the Session insisted on recognizing our Baptist brethren and loving them whether they like it or not.”<sup>p.16</sup> The Pastor was not immune. The Session minutes of Oct. 19, 1941, stated, “The Pastor urged each of the elders to attend the Evening Service to hear his report on ‘Synod of Arkansas.’ Six of the seven elders did so,- and wondered why.”<sup>p.9</sup> He also poked fun at himself when he wrote, “.... The Clerk also appeared but was entirely out of harmony with the proceedings, and was therefore properly ignored.”<sup>p.31</sup>

As Presbyterians we take seriously our tasks of helping individuals and the institutions glorify God. We, however, can’t take our role and ourselves too seriously. At our base, Presbyterians do what we do best when we live according to the answer to the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism “What is the chief end of man <sup>[sic]</sup>?” When we “glorify God and enjoy Him forever” we can and need to have fun, laugh at ourselves and do what we do with a joyful spirit. (Perhaps our denominations declining membership is because we have been taking our tasks, our polity issues, our monetary problems and ourselves way too seriously.)

Let’s resolve to have fun this year. Let’s resolve to build in and celebrate opportunities for laughter. Let’s resolve to be joy-filled ambassadors of Jesus. If you are not having fun, doing what you are doing, perhaps a New Year’s resolution is in order.

## **CHURCH USHERS AND GREETERS**

**January 4 — Irene Bere, Ramona Marshall, Betty Aaron & Shirley Jensen**  
**January 11 — Bob & Gloria Wiles, Jim & Phyllis Rowe**  
**January 18 — Harry Van Gorden, Sandy Erickson, Betty Craig & Penni Lloyd**  
**January 25 — Bill & Mary Kerr, Esther Roberts & Bonnie Reeves**

### **WEST ENTRANCE GREETER**

**Norm Hockley**

### **PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.-2008**

<b>January 4</b>	<b>Active Elders and Deacons</b>	<b>Church Musicians</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>First, McGehee</b>	<b>Church Administrators</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>First, Lincoln</b>	<b>First, Heber Springs</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>First, Ozark</b>	<b>Faith, Horseshoe Bend</b>

**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 (There will be no Bible Study on Jan. 7. Romans 1-4 will be discussed at the Jan. 14th Bible Study weather permitting)**

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

**Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.— Choir Practice**

**Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.— P.A.W.S. (Presbyterian Actors Workshop)**

**Sunday, January 4— Communion Worship Service and After Church Fellowship.**

**Tuesday, January 6— 10:00 a.m.— Presbyterian Women meet in Memorial Hall.**

**Thursday, January 15— 11:15 a.m.— Laura Lenneville will begin to lead a Bible Study on Women of the Bible in Memorial Hall and will continue every Thursday after.**

**Friday, January 17— 9:00 a.m.— 12:00 p. m. —Elder and Deacon training session in Memorial Hall.**

**Wednesday, January 21— 1:30 p.m.— Deacons Meet in the Christian Education room.**

**Friday, January 23— 9:00 a.m.— Session Meets in the Christian Ed. Room.**

**Friday, January 23— 5:00 p.m. - Family Night Dinner**

**Saturday, January 24— 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**The 218th General Assembly (2008) is proposing some changes to the Book of Order. One of the changes will certainly make its way into the secular press. Come to a presentation about changes to G-6.6010...related to ordaining church officers, lead by Rev. John King and Elder Dawn Scarborough. Both were commissioners to the 218th General Assembly. A light lunch will be provided. Read ahead materials are in the church office or contact Rev. Mark.**

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

**January 2– Dot Pitts**

**January 8– Frank Docauer**

**January 9– Mary Kerr**

**January 16– Debbie Heroux**

**January 17– Alexis Haefer**

**January 18– Debra Holtkamp**

**January 19– Bob Hobbs**

**January 26– Eric Meyers**

**January 31– Bob James**



## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**January 20, 1952 Richard & Sharon Gardner**

**January 28, 1967 Ray & Pat Erlewine**

# LIBRARY LINES

We have a new fiction book:

A SKELETON IN GOD'S CLOSET located on the new book shelf.

The book of the month is SNOW ANGEL by Jamie Carie. "When Noah Wesley hears the faint sound outside the door of his remote Alaskan cabin during a violet nighttime blizzard, it is no less than the voice of God that urges him to take a closer look, to discover there his snow angel. Unconscious and more than half frozen to death, her name is Elizabeth, a beautiful young woman, fragile yet fierce, intent on discovering gold like so many others rushing headlong toward the Yukon. But why Elizabeth is so drawn to the gold, and why she would chase it even through a pounding storm that no man would dare face, is a secret to be shared with no one, not even at the invitation of Noah's deep-blue, trusting eyes."

Enjoy the books.

Faye Brackett, Librarian



To our dear members and friends, we thank you for all your kindness, thoughts, and prayers during Bill's health problems. We love you all dearly.

Bill and Jean Lyon

\* \* \* \* \*

To all of you,

We sincerely appreciate your expression of kind sympathy.

The Richter Family

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for the holiday tray filled with beautiful and delicious fruit, cookies and candy that Deacons Pat Erlewine and Jini Sass brought me! You are so thoughtful and caring!

I'm always happy and grateful when you come visiting. You mean so much to me, and each one of you is in my daily prayers.

I wish for you this Christmas the same joy that you have gifted me with all year with your cards, visits, phone calls and prayers.

With Love,  
Dorie Ulmer

# Decode the Code

Using this code, discover what God said to Moses in Exodus 12:2.

A .	H . - -	O . . . - - -	U - - . .
B . .	I . - - -	P - .	V - - . . .
C . . .	J . . -	Q - - .	W - - - . .
D -	K . . - -	R - - - .	X - - - . . .
E - -	L . . - - -	S - . .	Y - . -
F - - -	M . . . -	T - . . .	Z . . .
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Answer:  
This month shall mark for you the beginning of months;  
it shall be the first month of the year for you.

Youth look to the church to show them something, Someone, capable of turning their lives inside out and the world upside down. Most of the time we have offered them pizza.

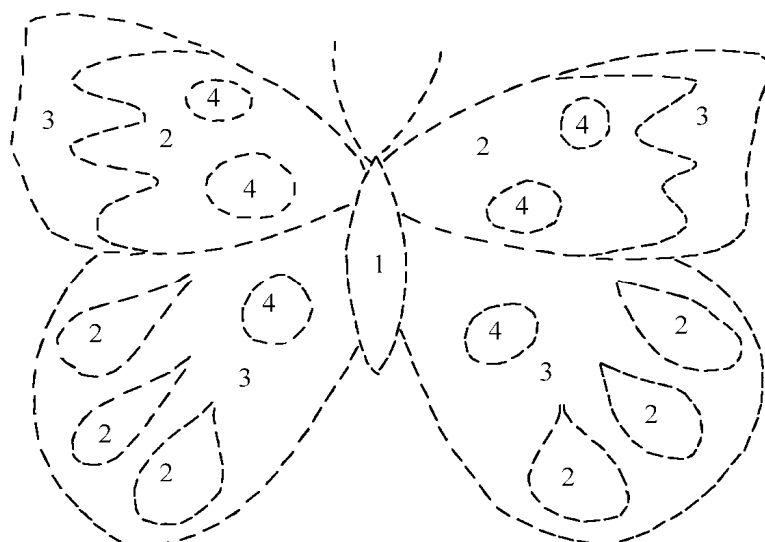
– Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster, *The Godbearing Life*

# Connect the Lines

Butterflies are a symbol of new life. Connect the dotted lines and color the butterfly with the colors listed below, or your choice of colors.

## Color

- 1 = Black
- 2 = Blue
- 3 = Purple
- 4 = Green



# MISSION MINUTE

By , Faye Brackett Mission Co-Moderator

## 2008 ANNUAL MISSION REPORT

The following is a list of missions we supported for the year:

Marion County Senior Center  
Helping Hand Fund  
Mountain Home Christian Clinic  
Bull Shoals Ministerial Fund  
Disaster Outreach  
Lyon College  
Ferncliff  
Hospice of the Ozarks  
Arkansas Rice Depot  
North Central Christian School of Mountain Home  
Theological Fund  
Arkansas Sheriff's Dept. Youth Ranches  
Mexico Missions  
Gamma House  
VFW Children's Christmas Party

We also sponsored the One Great Hour of Sharing offering held in March and April with donations going to Disaster Assistance, the Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

An Ice Cream Social was held in August with the proceeds split between Vera Lloyd Home for Children and Ferncliff Camps for children. We collected school supplies for Vera Lloyd home again this year.

The month of December we sponsored the Christmas Joy offering with the proceeds going to racial ethnic schools and colleges and the Board of Pensions assistance programs. We also put up our Christmas Card Tree again this year with the proceeds going to the Food Pantry which we also support through out the year as needed.

The Gamma House has been added to the Mission Program as an ongoing mission project. Mirta Van Gorden will be taking over my position as Mission Co-chair. She will do a great job and brings a lot of enthusiasm to missions. These last two years as mission co-chair have been very rewarding. I would like to thank my mission committee, Gloria Wiles, Jean Lyon, and co-chair Vicky Bair.

Many thanks to all who gave of their time, support, and prayers to the mission projects and the mission committee. We could not have done it without all of you.

# STEWARDSHIP FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The following article is from “The Door Post” by Lee Dixon. It is a publication of The Center for Congregational Health of Winston-Salem, NC.

## TOOLS FOR LIVING WELL: BUDGETING IN TOUGH TIMES

**The Philosophy:** In times of economic stress, setting the annual church budget can be daunting. Whether resources are few or plentiful, it is helpful to think of the process not as a spending exercise, but as investing decisions to build God’s Kingdom. A strong budget process can drive strategic thinking about how a church fulfills its unique calling within God’s kingdom. Along those lines, it is helpful to do the following:

- Engage ministry leaders, encouraging them to take ownership of their budgets and to be accountable for actual results—they know their ministries best and can make informed decisions about prioritizing investments.
- Require individual ministries to show “all in” costs for each ministry (postage, staff resources, promotion, events, etc.) so they have a clear understanding of the resources needed to support their ministries.
- Link the budget and stewardship messages. Do not just ask members to support the church; provide tools to help them manage their personal finances from a Biblical perspective.

**The process:** Churches should start the budgeting process early, allowing time for thoughtful planning consistent with overall ministry goals for the next year and awareness of the local economy. Our church’s fiscal year is the calendar year. The annual budget process is as follows:

- In September, a “top-down” budget is prepared with guidance and expectations management from the staff leadership team and finance committee and is communicated to the staff, church governance board and congregation.
- In October this budget is updated from the “bottom up” as ministry leaders submit detailed budgets showing curriculum, personnel resources, events, etc. for the coming year by ministry. The staff leadership team and finance committee review these plans and may make changes for relative strategic investment and consistency with the overall church plans for the next year.
- In November and December budgets go to ministry committees for review and input. Committee ownership is essential, as the committees are charged with discerning God’s will for the individual ministries and they will present/defend the budgets to the governing board.
- In December the budget is sent to the church governing board for preliminary review, pending the final actual results of the current year.
- In January the finance committee and governing board review the final current year results (which typically are difficult to predict during the year since 20 percent of our congregational contributions come in during December) and the final budget is approved by the governing board.

**Adjusting to the current economic climate:** In the face of economic crisis and fear, it is important that the church be a non-anxious presence. At the same time, it is vital for ministry leaders to acknowledge the anxiety and communicate expectations about the church’s steps toward responsible stewardship. Other things to consider:

- Annual budgets often have a “faith element”—the gap between written pledges received and the income needed to cover planned expenses. This may be larger than usual this year, as members are nervous to commit in this economy.
- It may be helpful for faith communities to prepare several budget versions for differing scenarios: 7

1. Business as usual– the regular church budget
  2. Prudent budget focusing on potential savings for discretionary items such as carpet replacement, new choir robes, etc.
  3. Conservative or flat budget with no increases across the board
  4. Reductions budget identifying areas of potential expense cuts beyond discretionary spending
- If budget cuts are a probability, leaders should discuss these **before** a crisis hits and nerves and emotions fray. While these types of discussions are not easy, having them now rather than in the midst of the crisis may lead to better decisions. Be transparent-let the faith community know that contingency plans have been made and potential hard decisions have been carefully deliberated, but that the church is moving forward in faith and hopes to implement these plans.

Al Holtkamp recently sent this:

So what have we learned in 2 millennia?

“The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest *ROME* become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.”

Cicero-55 BC

Apparently nothing!

It's comforting to know that budgeting has always been of concern since the ages and that we are pursuing our budgeting process much the same as the article suggests and that we have a loving and giving congregation!

**Bob Wiles, Finance Moderator**



# **DEACON'S CORNER**

**The Deacons had an exciting and rewarding year.**

**One of the events was Golden Opportunity Days (G.O.D. held during the month of May. This year the theme was “Helping Hands and Changing Lives” and our project was Gamma House, in Mountain Home, which is a transitional shelter for homeless women and children. Gamma House’s Director, Carolyn Gill, was our speaker on Family Night.**

**During the month we collected items that were needed at the home. A large number of our church family did yard work, adopted a room which we painted, and for which we purchased and laid new carpet. We collected \$2,134.00 from our church family and friends. After paying expenses amounting to \$1,095.69, we presented a check for \$1,038.31 to Ms. Gill to be applied toward a badly needed new heating and cooling system.**

**During G.O.D. we hosted a get-together at Care Free Living, an assisted living home in Bull Shoals. We baked cakes for the event and had an enjoyable time as the residents joined with us in reminiscing about family and days gone by.**

**Last month, in addition to the regular ministries for which the Deacons are responsible, we baked cookies, made fudge and purchased apples, bananas and oranges for Christmas trays which we prepared and delivered to shut-ins. They were touched at receiving the trays of goodies and expressed their joy and appreciation for being remembered. A large bowl of these goodies were also delivered to Care Free Living for all their residents.**

**The February 2009 “Connection” will list the Deacons’ statistics January through December 2008 covering ministries.**

**We have called upon our church family for assistance many times during the year. We appreciate and thank you for your willingness and eagerness to help. What a blessing you have been! We couldn’t have done it without you.**

**P.S. If you would like to assist in furnishing salads or cakes for when the church has a “Celebration of Life” after a church family’s Memorial Service, please get in touch with Sandy Erickson or myself.**

**Pat Erlewine, Moderator of Deacons**



I was so sorry to have missed our PW'S Christmas breakfast, as I was under the weather, way under! So a big thank you to our hostesses Joanne Kahm and Betty Aaron. Also, Esther Roberts and Jean Hoefer who lead the games. A good time was had by all.

We have decided to have a meeting in January on the first Tuesday of the month when we always meet. Tuesday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m. We need to spend more of our money & send some to the Texas Disaster Fund and decide on a few others. We also have to start planning our Spring Luncheon which will be on April 27, 2009. We are inviting all the women of Bull Shoals Churches. We have not had a luncheon in several years. We will be needing a good committee. We already have our program chair person with a great program & some hand made favors for our guests all done. More information to follow.

I hope you & your family had a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!

We are all looking forward to an exciting 2009. Plan to attend.

Your Moderator in Christ,

Elaine Matejka

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Another year has gone by so quickly. Let's look to 2009 with enthusiasm in accomplishing God's work.

Our committee is working on getting Sunday School classes started for the children & a variety of study groups for the adults.

We welcome everyone to attend the Sunday Comprehensive Bible Study & the Wed. evening study of The New Testament with interesting discussions.

A new Bible Study group is starting on Jan. 15th, Thursday, at 11:15 after Coffee Fellowship. The study will be WOMEN OF THE BIBLE. Laura Lenneville will be the teacher. Come learn all about the women of the Bible.

If you would like to join the Christian Education Committee, we would like to have you. New ideas are always needed. It will put a joy in your heart working on projects that will tell of God's love for everyone & His word on how to be a good Christian.

We are still looking for volunteers to help in the nursery. Wanting to get several people so one person will not have to be there every Sunday. Even if we do not have anyone to watch for the nursery, a person has to be there to check, just in case we do.

We did not have a committee meeting in December. Our next committee meeting will be February 6, 9:00 a.m., the first Friday of the month in the Christian Education Room. Looking forward to doing wonderful things for God & our church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE. IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR.

SHIRLEY JENSEN, MODERATOR

## WHAT'S YOUR TESTIMONY?

Every one has one! We would like to add a testimony tab to the church web site and need YOU to submit a 3-4 sentence testimony about how being a part of this church has been meaningful to your life and what encounters with God you have had. We also would like your permission, if you would consent, to use your name and maybe even your picture too! Let's show the world how good God is to us!

**Q: What does "Testimony" mean?**

**A: A testimony is a public acknowledgement of the ways God has changed a person's life.**

## **~~~~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.

**November 21, 2008**

**It was voted to place Pam Cook on the Inactive Rolls as per her request.**

**It was voted to drop Bill and Ada Jeffrey from Church Rolls as per their request.**

**It was voted that \$100 from the Missions designated account be donated to the Bull Shoals Library to use for the 2008 Annual Bull Shoals Community Christmas Party held at the Bull Shoals VFW.**

**It was voted to appoint JoAnn James as co-moderator of the Worship Committee.**

**It was by consensus that the Personnel Committee meet again to formulate a contract for Debbie Heroux which will be reviewed annually stating what is required for the position and the compensation that will be given, etc.. The recommendations are to be presented at the next Stated Session meeting (December 19th).**

**It was voted by consensus that Rev. Lenneville contacts the two General Assembly Commissioners to come explain the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) & Proposed Ecumenical Statements. Rev. Lenneville will contact the other Cluster II churches and invite them to this event. We will provide a lunch.**

**+ + + + +**

### **CONTACTING REV. MARK**

**Rev. Mark has a new toll-free number for church business. It is 866-541-1964.**

**This number will "find" Rev. Mark where ever he is.**

**Also feel free to call him at his other numbers:**

**Bull Shoals 870-277-4509, Lampe 417-423-8107**

**toll-free 866-541-1964, Cell 870-480-8869**

Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals  
903 Walnut, P.O. Box 687  
Bull Shoals, AR. 72619 (870) 445-4622  
[presch@bullshoals.net](mailto:presch@bullshoals.net)  
[www.presbyterianchurchofbullshoals.com](http://www.presbyterianchurchofbullshoals.com)

### **THIS WE BELIEVE**

**January**

**“A sower went out to sow his seed...Some fell into good soil,  
And when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.”  
(Luke 8:5,8)**

### **~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**

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

### **THE SESSION**

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

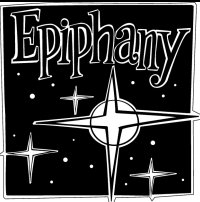
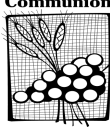



# JANUARY 2009



EVERY Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
 EVERY Thursday 10 a.m.—11 a.m.  
 EVERY Thursday 11:15 a.m.  
 EVERY Thursday 6:30 p.m.—7:30p.m.  
 Every Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study  
 Coffee Fellowship  
 Bible Study  
 Choir Practice  
 PAWS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Happy New Year!  No church activities today.	2	3
4 After Church Fellowship Communion 	5  8pm-AA	6 10:00 a.m.- PW mtg. in Memorial Hall	7	8	9	10
11  8pm- AA	12  8pm- AA	13	14	15 11:15 am -- Bible Study led by Laura Lenneville	16	17 9am-12pm Elder and Deacon training in Memorial Hall
18	19  8pm- AA	20	21  1:30 p.m.- Deacons Mtg.	22 11:15 am -- Bible Study led by Laura Lenneville	23 9 a.m. Session  5 p.m. Family Night	24 11:00am—1:00pm Guest Speakers Rev. John King and Elder Dawn Scarborough in Sanctuary. (see page 2 for more info.)
25	26  8pm- AA	27	28	29 11:15 am -- Bible Study led by Laura Lenneville	30	31