

First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood

April 2008 Newsletter

Halleluiah! Christ is Risen!



FROM THE PASTOR

April showers, bring May flowers – Right? As I sit and write this, I am looking at the heavy frost on the deck from last night and a small pile of snow at the back door from the freakish sleet we had the night before. WHEN WILL IT EVER END????

My calendar says it is Spring. I feel like Doubting Thomas – I'll believe it when I see it.

In Exodus 17, God was leading the Israelites through the wilderness. He provided for their every need, yet they still grumbled instead of trusting the Lord.

None of us are like that though, right?!?! (Note: see reference above). We are all human and sure like to grumble a lot. But, if we truly look back on our lives we can all see countless times when God's hands were upon us, caring for us, and seeing us through.

All of us doubt at times when we shouldn't and stop trusting God when we should trust him. Let's try to remember that God is our provider. He sustains us and gives us our every breath.

When the Israelites were thirsty, God commanded Moses to strike a rock with his rod, and fresh water came out. This rock was a representation of our Lord, Jesus Christ – often referred to as our "Rock."

He gives us strength, stability and durability. Like a rock that remains solid year after year, He never changes. The water represents his Holy Spirit, which has been given to us. The water provided comfort to the thirsty Israelites. Christ's Holy Spirit also comforts us and gives us the strength to handle our daily trials.

This Easter season (and always) let's decide to trust God more. Let's turn to the ROCK, not just when we have no where else to turn, but every day. Together we can witness the tremendous difference God can make in our lives and our outlook.

Oh look!!! Is that the first Robin of Spring I see, and the tulips sprouting out of the soil? How about that! My outlook is getting better already.

God's love and peace to all,
Dale

EOBO

What the heck is that? It's our theme for this year – Each One Bring One. In our efforts to reach more people for Jesus Christ, and grow the church, it takes the effort of everyone.

Countless studies say - 50% of un-churched people would attend, if they were just invited. Church ministry is everyone's responsibility.

Family Night

Don't forget about family night— April 9th- starts at 6pm since Dale is already at the church. Feel free to arrive when you are able. It's not the time you arrive that's important. It's your presence with us that makes it special. It's a casual time of fun, games and fellowship. Come when you can, leave when you need to.

Verse of the Month

1 Samuel 16:7 The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



Birthdays This Month

- April
- 6 James Patterson
 - 7 Martha Stahl
 - 9 Chris Patterson
 - 16 Kent Lee
 - 20 Allison Gjerde & Roger Patterson
 - 22 Doris Glidden & Gregg Stephens
 - 24 Amber Luhrsen
 - 27 Julie Botta

April Anniversaries:

- 30 Mark & Sherry Boyer



April Greeters Schedule

- 6 Bob Marshall
- 13 Tracy Marshall
- 20 Bob & Kay Kostall
- 27 Cecelia Weathersby

Reminder

Leadership Training Event
Topic: "New People". How Do We Welcome Them Into Our Fellowship?

Joliet Lectionary Study Group has invited anyone who is interested to come to this study group. It will be held Sunday, April 6th at 3pm in New Lenox at the Central Presbyterian Church. Group study will last between 2 to 2 1/2 hrs.

Receipts

If you purchase an item at Berkot's or Ace Hardware & charge it to the church, please place the receipt in an envelope and put it in the treasurers mailbox in the church office

Presbyterian Women:

Presbyterian Women - Synod of Lincoln Trails Gathering on May 30-June 1, 2008 at Millikin University in Decatur Illinois. Workshops are on a variety of topics. See Linda Bumgardner for registration forms. Forms will have further information on them.

Presbyterian Women Updates:

The Presbyterian Women of Blackhawk Presbytery will be holding their annual meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Joliet on April 5th-9am to 3pm. The program is Kemmerer village. The cost of attending is \$7 and includes lunch. If you are interested in attending please see Linda Bumgardner or Ruth Bauter.

The Presbyterian Women newsletter is going electronic (just like everything else). Keep your eyes open for upcoming memos on the Blackhawk Presbytery website – www.blackhawkpresbytery.org.

Family Night Hosts

It was suggested that we have a host for each family night, we posted a sign-up sheet and we have had a GREAT response. As of right now we have hosts thru July. Please check your calendars for the remainder of the year and sign up if you can.

We serve a RISEN and living Savior.
May or lives be living examples of the One who lives within us!



We're gearing up for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme will be Rainforest Adventure. Once again we will work in concert with the members of the Catholic Church and will utilize both facilities.

Mark your calendars for the week of June 23 thru June 27, from 9:00 til noon. Bring your kids and let them know that they are able to invite their friends too! It's a great time to make new friends and to learn about Jesus' love for us. See you there!

By the way, Moms and Dads, you're welcome too and we will probably ask you for some help too. Won't you join in the fun too?

Prayer Chain:

The prayer chain list has been updated and is ready for you to pick up a copy. They are located on the table in the narthex, if you have not yet received a copy.

If you have a name or a concern for prayer please call:

Linda Bumgardner at 458-6548 for the morning chain

or

Susan Marchi at 458-7710 for the evening chain.

Witness Commission

The witness commission is gearing up for some of the annual fundraisers. Coming up are the annual garage sale and flower sales. Further information will follow.

Castle Tour

Have you ever seen the castle? We've not.

Well here's a reminder for your calendar. We are taking our youth to Stronghold to see the castle. There will also be maps available for those wishing to walk the grounds.

The date is set for Saturday May 24 at noon. We will probably leave Braidwood around 9:00 or so. There is a \$3.00 per person charge at the castle.

This should be a good time for us to visit and fellowship together for a day. Come join us.

Graduation

Graduation is coming up next month. Please provide us with the names of those who are advancing from Kindergarten, 8th grade, High School or college. Names can be left on the Pastor's desk. Thanks!



Our records indicate that we are \$2300.00 in the red. Please stay current on your giving.

Monthly Newsletter:

Newsletter Information

If you have something you would like included in the May newsletter, please write it down and put it in the box marked "newsletter" that is located in the narthex. Deadline is April 23rd – including Commission updates.



There are no April Fools in Christ!



Session Meeting

Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
January 16, 2008

The regular meeting of session was called to order by Pastor Dale Tolly (moderator) and opened with prayer at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Present: Dennis Malher, Joyce Bauer, Jeanne Venturini, Cecelia Weathersby, Laura Stephens, Gregg Stephens.

Excused: Kevin Marchi, Josh Bolatto

Pastor's Report: No report.

Clerk's Report: Laura Stephens reported that the budget which was approved in December contained a mathematical error.

Session approved:

- The minutes from the December session meeting.
- Allowing Laura to correct the mathematical error in the 2008 budget.
- A resolution was made to retain Laura Stephens as Session Clerk.
- The final Treasurer's report for 2007.

Nurture Commission: Joyce Bauer reported the following events for 2008: 2/3 - Communion; 2/6 - Ash Wednesday service; 2/10 - Fellowship; Communion will be held on the first Sunday of each month and Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Session approved:

- Nurture Commission report - The Communion schedule for 2008.
- Personnel/Property Commission - The few changes to Pastor Tolly's new contract.

With no other business, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Stephens, Clerk

Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
February 20, 2008

The regular meeting of session was called to order by Pastor Dale Tolly (moderator) and opened with prayer at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Present: Dennis Malher, Josh Bolatto, Joyce Bauer, Bob Marshall, Cecelia Weathersby, Kevin Marchi, Jeanne Venturini, Gregg Stephens.

Excused: Hope Cathelyn

Pastor Tolly presented his report on his various activities throughout the month. He also reported that the new computer software is installed and is coming along well.

A request for use of the Fellowship Hall on 2/24 for a Girl Scout activity was made by Susan Marchi.

Session approved:

- To receive the Pastor's Report.
- The minutes from the January session meeting.
- Susan Marchi to use the Fellowship Hall on 2/24.
- The appointment of Joyce Bauer as treasurer.
- Commission reports were presented and approved.

With no other business, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Stephens, Clerk