

# First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood

## February 2008 Newsletter

### From the Pastor

The Bible is an essential part of our Christian faith. It is possible that we may even know the Word of God inside and out yet not really know the God of the Word. Many Christians have not yet taken their spiritual pursuits to the next level.

Believers often experience burnouts or even disconnects with God in their walk. This is most often because we tend to depend on our selves, which is a very unreliable power source, to sustain us through life's circumstances.

We may often find overwhelming things in our path. Yet God offers us the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's calling on our lives. When we cut off the connection with the Spirit, operating on our own, we burn out. As we continue on the self directed path, we grow discouraged, tired, and weary.

We never were meant to be our own power source. Rather we are intended to be the conduit through which God flows. God's will was never intended to be carried out by ourselves. It is better for us to "let go and let God" be our power and our guide through life.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday – February sixth. Lent is the time for us to really take a close look at our faith life and evaluate our walk with the Lord. Are you feeling overwhelmed or perhaps distant from God? You are invited to renew your relationship with God this Lenten season and allow the Holy Spirit to refresh and empower your life.

Let's all take that journey together this year.

God's love and peace to all,  
Dale

**Maggie Wojciehowski**

The youth in Linda's class have collected more than two gallon jugs of pop tabs full so far to help Maggie and her family. Please continue to save all of your pop tabs between now and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Valentines from God**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5**

**This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has not man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends John 15; 12-13**

**My dear friends, let us love one another, since love is from God and everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7**

**Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8**

**Above all, love each other deeply, because lover covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16**

**Neither height nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39**

### ***Family Night***

Don't forget about family night. February 13thth- starts at 6pm since Dale is already at the church. But 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. Remember it's a casual time of fun, games and fellowship. Come when you can, leave when you need to.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**



Ash Wednesday is February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the beginning of Lent. Won't you

consider attending the Ash Wednesday service to be held at 7:00 pm?

Many participated last year and were blessed by the service and the imposition of the ashes. It is a good opportunity to begin the 40 days of introspection that follow through Lent.

### **February Birthdays:**

- 2/1 Delmer Hakey
- 2/4 Thomas Maly
- 2/7 Rick Gjerde & Caroline Marchi
- 2/9 Emma Tolly
- 2/12 Carrie Weathersby & Janet Caise
- 2/23 Dave Grant & John Weathersby
- 2/24 Pastor Dale
- 2/26 Sandy Freckleton

### **February Anniversaries:**

- 2/7 Dale & Pam Tolly

### **Greeter's Schedule:**

- 2/3 Bob Marshall
- 2/10 Tracy Marshall
- 2/17 Jeanne Venturini
- 2/24 Ron & Mary Maly

### ***Health Corner***

#### ***February is American Heart Month***

**An average heart pumps 2.4 ounces per heartbeat. An average heartbeat is 72 beats per minute. Therefore an average heart pumps 1.3 gallons per minute. So .. it pumps 1,900 gallons per day, almost 700,000 gallons per year, or 48 million gallons by the time someone is 70 years old.**

**Not too bad for a 10 ounce pump.**

## **February Happenings:**

- 2/3 -9am Youth Sunday School  
-10am Worship Service
- 2/6 -Pastor in office  
-Ash Wednesday-Service at 7pm
- 2/10 -9am Youth Sunday School  
-10am Worship Service  
-Lunch Fellowship following service
- 2/13 -Pastor in office  
-Family Night –starts at 6pm
- 2/14 -Valentine's Day
- 2/17 -9am Youth Sunday School  
-10am Worship Service
- 2/20 -Pastor in office  
-Session Meeting 6:30pm
- 2/24 -9am Youth Sunday School  
-10am Worship Service  
-Happy Birthday Pastor Dale!

### **Presbyterian Women**

(My apologies to Ruth Bauter and the Presbyterian Women. The following report was omitted from the Congregational meeting packet.)

Although we don't have formal meetings, we are still quite active. Each year in September we pledge to the "Fellowship of the Least Coin." This is given to hospitals in third world countries, and some in the United States for the care of women and children. So save your pennies (and a few dollars won't hurt) and give them to Martha Patterson, Linda Bumgardner or Ruth Bauter.

Each August for twenty plus years we have taken cakes for the birthdays celebrated by residents of Embassy Care in Wilmington. We continue to gather new greeting cards, note paper, and used greeting card fronts, which are taken to Embassy Care for resident crafts and projects. We also give to Mom's cookies with plastic coffee cans filled with cookies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Bauter



Don't forget your "honey" 2/14/08

## Newsletter Information

If you have something you would like included in the March newsletter, please write it down and put it in the box marked "newsletter" that is located in the narthex. Deadline is February 20<sup>th</sup>..

## Meet the Member(s)



Jim and Martha Patterson are our highlighted members this month. They have been members of this church for a

total of 133 years. Jim has been a member for 74 years and Martha for 59 years.

Most people will know the Pattersons for their many years serving the community through the Patterson Funeral Home. In fact Jim was the third generation to run the funeral home. Martha also became a licensed Funeral Director after they were married and they continued to work together well after retirement.

Some time after Jim's sister Mary Jean introduced him to Martha, this wonderful couple was married on January 28, 1950 in just about the same place where they are currently living. Their home (built by grandson Chris) is constructed on the site of the original funeral home.

The Pattersons have three children: James "JR" and wife Sherry, Roger and wife Kathy, Carol Bissell and husband Sam. There is a slew of grandchildren, great grandchildren and even granddogs that follow. And believe me when I say that their love and pride shows when they talk about their family.

Their involvement in the community has kept them busy. They were involved in the Braidwood Rec. Club since it first opened. The ambulance service was once a part of the funeral home. Jim worked with the Rotary Club and was at one time the past Master of the Masonic Temple. Martha too was once the past Matron of the Eastern Star.

The Presbyterian Church though, has been central to their lives together. They express how very warm and friendly the church has been and they recount the endless numbers of friends they have made here. Jim and Martha both have said how much they enjoyed the fellowship of the church and how much they miss now, not being able to attend as before.

The funeral business has caused them to cross paths with so many wonderful people over the years. They express how they have been touched in beautiful ways by so many families.

It is always a delight for me to visit with the Pattersons. I cherish the talks we have. This community and our church are indeed blessed to be able to call Jim and Martha our friends.



Congratulations to our newly elected Elders: Hope Cathelyn and Bob Marshall. Ordination service will be held February 17<sup>th</sup>.

For those who were unable to attend the annual Congregational Meeting on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> there are copies of the annual report in the Narthex of the church.

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**Lent**

begins February 6<sup>th</sup>.