

# **JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRAIDWOOD**

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### **FROM THE PASTOR**

Welcome to the New Year! I'm so glad that 2008 is over. What a wild and crazy year it was. Let's hope and pray that things will improve. You know, every New Year is like wiping all the dust off of the slate once again. (For you younger people, it's like removing all of that colored residue off of those white boards.) But it is also the perfect image of what God does with the sin in our lives. God wipes away all the yuck and gives us yet another chance. And the next time we stumble, God is there to wipe that yuck away yet again and again. What an AWESOME and LOVING God we serve!!!!

As I reflect on the past year though, I can't help but notice how far the world has fallen away from God. The turmoil and struggles we witness on the TV news just smacks of a Godless society trying to take control. Even in so many churches, the message of the Gospel has given away to entertainment. Our culture has forgotten about holiness. In fact those who walk in holiness are often ridiculed and laughed at.

1 Peter 1:15 says: "As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct." We are all imperfect. We will all stumble in our faith journey - we will sin - God will forgive. But for people to live in a continual state of sin without any regret, for people who thumb their noses at God, it is a slap in the face of our Holy God.

There is a tremendous need for Holiness in America, and the world. We don't need any more political solutions. We need a sweeping revival of holiness. We desperately need God. No, we can't change the world ourselves, but we sure can impact change in our homes and in our own community.

During this new year let us all resolve to live pure lives before God, and raise our families in that way too. May our lives expressed in holiness also then be lived in such a manner that God's love becomes contagious and attractive to those living without God. Yes, we can help change the world - one person at a time.

God's blessings and best wishes for a blessed and holy New Year!

Peace to all!

Dale

PS Dale and Pam wish to thank everyone for their love and generosity for the cards and gifts of Christmas. May you all have a blessed and prosperous new year.



Please visit our website at  
**[www.firstpresbraidwood.com](http://www.firstpresbraidwood.com)**  
 Or email:  
**[bdwd1stpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdwd1stpres@sbcglobal.net)**



### January Anniversaries

21<sup>st</sup> Bob and Tracy Marshall  
 28<sup>th</sup> Jim and Martha Patterson  
 30<sup>th</sup> Ron and Mary Maly



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah (Bauer) Morner  
 Hope Cathelyn  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael Kilpatrick  
 Kathy Patterson  
 Sondra Lee  
 Jeanne Venturini  
 8<sup>th</sup> Leo Fatlan  
 10<sup>th</sup> Mary Maly  
 Dean Gjerde  
 11<sup>th</sup> Bill Neumann  
 20<sup>th</sup> Gary Weathersby  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Yvonne Kilpatrick  
 28<sup>th</sup> Cara VanDermyde  
 29<sup>th</sup> Joe Wood

#### 2008 General Fund Financial Situation

January 1-November 30 Income:  
 \$60,794.15  
 January 1-November 30 Expenses:  
 \$61,143.16  
 Current General Fund Deficit:  
 \$349.01

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

#### JANUARY:

4<sup>TH</sup> Communion  
 11<sup>th</sup> Fellowship following  
 worship  
 14<sup>th</sup> Family night  
 21<sup>st</sup> Session meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational  
 Meeting

“Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...  
 The Lord will never give you more than you can handle.”





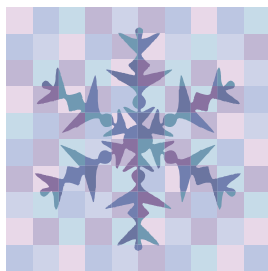
## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that bought gifts for our ADOPT-A-FAMILY project. You'll never know what joy you brought to those kids. A special thanks goes out to Ruth Bauter for sewing 200 stockings. Each child got a stocking filled with candy and other items. Another thank you goes to Hope Cathelyn for helping me with the project. This is a great mission project for our church. Thank you all again, Karen Bunting.

**The Annual Congregational meeting is called for Sunday, January 25, 2009. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary of the church immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the leadership of the church, review the budget and approve the terms of call for 2009.**

**Laura Stephens - Clerk of Session**

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?" The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said. The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said: He said, 'Tah-dah!'" — *via Andy Fisher Denville, NJ*



Thank you to everyone that helped with all of the Christmas celebrations this past December, including Susan Marchi and the children (and adults) for the beautiful program, all the people that cooked and set up for our turkey dinner, the families that lit the advent candles, the families that brought poinsettias including Tim and Sandy Freckelton in memory of their parents, and Pastor Dale and Pam for their extra help wherever they were needed.

## SESSION



Session Meeting  
First Presbyterian Church, Braidwood, Illinois  
October 15, 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: Joyce Bauer, Dennis Malher, Hope Cathelyn, Cece Weathersby and Bob Marshall

Excused: Kevin Marchi, Gregg Stephens, Jeanne Venturini and Josh Bolatto

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tolly presented a brief report on his activities and visits throughout the month. He noted that the grief and loss classes are underway and are going well.

**Action items:** -The motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Pastor's report.  
-The motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the September session meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joyce Bauer presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Action items:** -The motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.  
-The motion was made, seconded and carried to direct the treasurer to transfer money that would have gone to the roof loan into the building fund for maintenance and/or improvements until such time as it is no longer economically feasible to do so.

Witness Commission: No report.

Nurture Commission: Soup and salad fellowship went well. On 11/7 there will be a youth lock-in. 37 school supply bags were prepared for school children in need. They will be delivered to the November presbytery meeting.

Personnel/Property Commission: The lease for the manse has expired. In lieu of a rent increase, the tenants, Ken and Hillary Browning, will begin paying the water/ sewer/trash bill for that property.  
Action items: -The motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize Joyce Bauer to form a committee for the purpose of determining cost, design, layout, etc. to remodel the kitchen.

Presbytery: Nothing to report.

Other Business: The Session Nominating Committee will be meeting in the near future to begin the search for new session members.

With no other business, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The next session meeting will be November 19. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Stephens, Clerk

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Session Meeting  
First Presbyterian Church, Braidwood, Illinois  
November 19, 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: Joyce Bauer, Hope Cathelyn, Cece Weathersby and Jeanne Venturini  
Excused: Dennis Malher, Kevin Marchi, Gregg Stephens, Bob Marshall and Josh Bolatto

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tolly presented a brief report on his activities and visits throughout the month.

Action items: -The motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Pastor's report.

Clerk's Report: Laura Stephens reported that the minute book and church register were inspected in October at the annual clerk/treasurer meeting in Romeoville.

Action items: -The motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the October session meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Bauer presented the Treasurer's Report.

Action items: -The motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.  
-The motion was made, seconded and carried to direct the treasurer to pay \$600 to purchase the copier.

Witness Commission: The Sensaria fundraiser will be being held at the church this Saturday.

Nurture Commission: Joyce reported on holiday activities.

Personnel/Property Commission: The Commission will be meeting soon to discuss the pastor's review and contract renewal.

Other Business: Joyce Bauer reported that she has begun investigating options for bringing the kitchen up to Will County code standards. It was discussed that in order to help fund the necessary updates, perhaps a series of suppers be held.

With no other business, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The next session meeting will be December 17. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Stephens, Clerk