

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRAIDWOOD

phone: 815-458-6317  
email:bdwd1stpres@sbcglobal.net  
Website:firstpresbraidwood.com

## NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



### FROM THE PASTOR

November 1<sup>st</sup>, where has the year gone? It seems like just last week we were knee deep in kids during VBS, yet just yesterday we were knee deep in kids knocking at our doors hollering “Trick or Treat.” No matter what time of year, one of the best blessings we can share in together is to be knee deep in kids anytime and anywhere.

In fact at this time of the year we really do consider so many of the blessings we have received. Every day, I acknowledge that all I have and all that I am, is a gift from God. Were it not for God’s grace I would be nothing. I hope you do the same in your daily routine.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we are constantly reminded of how our forefathers and mothers acknowledged God’s provision for them even through the tragedies that befell them in coming to the new world. Death and hunger was all around them. Yet, gave their thanks to God.

Following is an excerpt from an article by Pastor Paul Holte: Pollster George Barna reports that 1 in 5 households have decreased their giving. We’re in tough times financially and experiencing the worst recession since the great depression of the 1930s. Budgets are being cut back; watching our spending; trimming out luxuries and non-essentials. Even churches are feeling the pinch.

In this context, it’s good to ask, “What is really important to your faith? What is a ‘need’ and what is a ‘luxury’? Is your faith just a luxury or a necessity?” If faith is just a luxury for you – something expendable in hard times – then friend, you’re in deep trouble.

In these hard times, some will stop giving regularly. “Oh, I can save \$5 or \$10 a week by cutting my church contribution.” But the true tithers and givers will keep on giving, knowing that all we have is God’s, we are just stewards of what God has provided us. For true believers, the need for worship and fellowship will increase, not decrease, during troubled times.

Friends, I hope and pray that you are being adequately fed and nourished in your faith. May you all be richly blessed throughout this month and especially as the Thanksgiving holiday nears, remember to thank God for everything that God has provided and done in your life.

Blessings to all,

Dale



Please visit us on our website at  
**[www.firstpresbraidwood.com](http://www.firstpresbraidwood.com)**

Or email:

**[bdwd1stpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdwd1stpres@sbcglobal.net)**



**Happy Anniversary to**

Albert and Anna Crater November 8th



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Henry Gunning
- 11/4 Marie Crater
- 11/7 Christine Patterson  
Anastasia Lee
- 11/14 Linda Bumgardner  
Roberta Kilpatrick
- 11/21 Paige Hinderliter

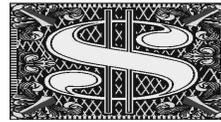
## General Fund Financial Situation

January 1-September 30, 2009

INCOME: \$50,749

EXPENSES: \$51,050

Sept. 30 General Fund Deficit:  
\$301



## Our Gifts and Tithes

Session will soon be once again evaluating our ministry and mission as a church body. The upcoming months will call us to times of reflection, ... reflection on years past, ... reflection on years to come. There is an undeniable intertwining relationship between “mission” and “stewardship.” Without a clear “mission” there is no need for “stewardship.” Without “stewardship”, “mission” is impossible.

Most importantly, neither matters much if we feel no personal responsibility to be a part of both in our church body. Neither matters much if we fail to pursue and live out our individual roles as members of the body of Christ.

Ponder on these words from Gigi Graham Tchividjian: *“Not everyone possesses boundless energy or conspicuous talent. We are not equally blessed with great intellect or physical beauty or emotional strength. But we have been given the same ability to be faithful.”*

The Apostle Paul challenged the church at Galatia: “Live creatively friends. Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don’t be impressed with yourself. Don’t compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.”

Each of us has been given the ability to be faithful. Each of us has been given the responsibility to be faithful. Now may we each do

just that. What is the future of our church? It's in your hands.

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**News from New Hope Presbyterian Church – Coal City:**

Are you thinking about adoption as a parenting option? New Hope Presbyterian Church will be hosting an adoption education conference geared at “How to Start an Adoption Process.” It will be held on Sat. Nov. 21 from 9:30 to 3:00. Speakers on different topics such as legal issues, international adoption, open vs. closed adoption, adopting older or special needs children via foster care. Personal stories will be heard and tables set up with information on agencies, counselors, attorneys, etc. A light lunch will be served. The conference is free to the public.

To register, please contact the New Hope Presbyterian Church office at 815 634-8332 or by e-mail [newhopepres1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newhopepres1@sbcglobal.net). Walk-ins are also welcome.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Advent starts early this year – November 29 will be our Hanging of the Greens service.



- e The annual ecumenical worship service will be held at Main Street Baptist Church. The date is Tuesday November 24, 7:00pm. Please plan on attending this special worship service to give God our thanks for all the blessings God has given our community this year.



**CHURCH  
CHILI  
SUPPER**

See the insert for more information. The witness Commission is raising funds to replace the roof on the manse.  
Come Hungry!!!!