

Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER OF BRIDGEPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 2010 – VOLUME 17 NUMBER 5
WWW.BRIDGEPORTPRESBYTERIAN.COM

the  *Light*



Our Barefoot4Haiti Event!

For countless Haitians, the shoes they put on their feet on the day of the earthquake are the only pair of shoes they have. Imagine the dangers of navigating broken glass, mangled metal and raw sewage in tattered shoes, sandals, or worse – barefoot.

On April 18 our church went Barefoot4Haiti. We collected new and gently used shoes for the shoe charity, Soles4Soles to distribute to Haitians in need. We can all make a difference, one pair at a time.

May Church Events

- 3 – PW Bible Study
- 3 – Christian Education
- 8 - Clothing Collection
- 10 – PW Bible Study
- 10 - Quiz Bowl Picnic
- 11 – Session
- 14 – Parents Night Out
- 16 – Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition
- 17 - PW Bible Study
- 17 – Congregational Life
- 17 – Outreach
- 20 – PW Meeting
- 24 – PW Bible Study
- 26 – Men’s Breakfast
- 28 – Office Closed
- 31 - Office Closed

Lunch For A Buck

On April 16, the Outreach Committee prepared and delivered 32 lunches for the WVU Campus Ministry Center located on Willey Street in Morgantown. August to May every Friday, the Campus Ministry Center provides lunch for WVU students from 11:30 to 1:30 for \$1.00. The meals are provided by local and regional churches. This is the second year that Bridgeport Presbyterian Church has participated and we're planning to do so again next year. All our WVU students, grad and undergrad, were contacted so they could take advantage of this opportunity if so desired.



Free Concert

British pianist, Jack Gibbons, will be performing "A Gershwin Gala" at the Harper-McNeeley Auditorium on the Davis & Elkins campus on Friday, May 7 at 7:30 PM.

This free benefit concert is to celebrate the Highlands Scholar Program. The Davis and Elkins College Highlands Scholar program is a unique scholarship program that provides a private education at a public school price.

Students from Randolph and six surrounding Highland counties who are current high school seniors with a 2.5 GPA or higher may qualify.

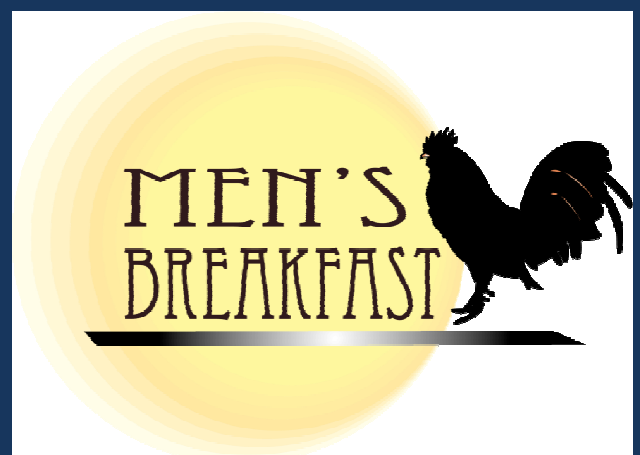
<http://www.davisandelkins.edu>

Acclaimed virtuoso pianist Jack Gibbons will visit our community for three days for classes plus two free public concerts on our grand Steinway in Harper-McNeeley Auditorium. Mr. Gibbons is one of the world's leading performers of the music of George Gershwin. For more information, go to

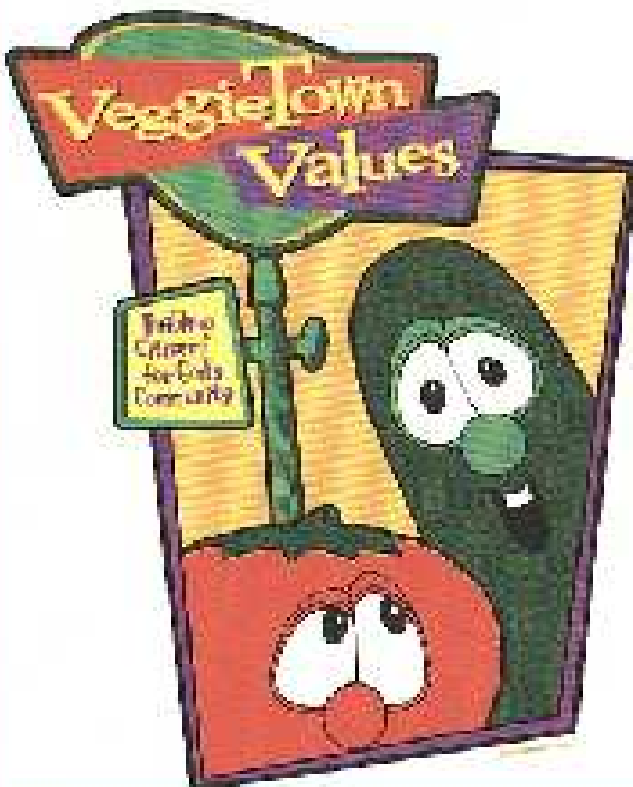
<http://www.jackgibbons.com>

Men's Breakfast

For their May get-together, the Men's Breakfast Group will meet in the back room at Eat 'n' Park Restaurant at 7:00 AM on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. Our speaker will be Tim Brady, Executive Director of the Greater Bridgeport Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), and he says there are many very interesting things coming up in the Bridgeport area to talk about. Tim accepted our invitation to speak with great enthusiasm, and he said he is really looking forward to the opportunity. So this should be one you don't want to miss. Come along and bring a friend



Over Half a Ton (1030 pounds) of recyclables were collected at BPC April 17-18



Bob and Larry are hoping you and your friends are planning to attend Vacation Bible School July 12 - 15 from 6 to 8 PM

Presbyterian Women

All women and friends are invited to the *Spring Fling and Second Hand Things* gathering on **Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 PM** in the **fellowship hall**.

A simple “**spring supper**” will be provided by the Coordinating Team. Please bring monetary donations for the annual **Birthday Offering**. The 2010 recipients of this offering are the Kindergarten and Childcare Center in Kirkuk, Iraq, and the R.I.S.E. Project of Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Our youth group will be coordinating a used clothing collection for the Clarksburg Mission. To help them with this project, the CT asks that all women attending the meeting **clean out their closets and bring those old clothes** to the gathering. Then those who would like to participate in a **Second Hand Fashion Show** may choose an outfit from the collected clothes to model for us.

In keeping with the spring theme (and cleaning out and cleaning up), we are also asking for the women to **bring items for the cleaning kits** that are distributed through the Children’s Health Pantry. Possible items are:

- Bleach 96 fl. oz.**
 - Dishwashing detergent 34 fl. oz.**
 - All-purpose cleaner 32 fl. oz.**
 - Pine cleaner 28 fl. oz.**
 - Toilet bowl cleaner 29 fl. oz.**
 - Scouring powder 21 oz.**
- (Small variations in sizes are okay.)

More information will be available closer to May 20. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our Spring Fling.

PW will be serving the dinner at the Clarksburg Mission on July 3. See Sue Davis if you are interested in helping with this activity. A summer outing is being planned; a trip to the Parkersburg/Marietta area is being pursued. You can learn more about the details at the May meeting.

From the Choir Director

While I was reading through song titles in the hymn history book, trying to find something to write about for this newsletter, I found one that sent me through a mirage of remembrances. The first time I’d ever heard that particular song sung was by a dear friend of mine in South Carolina. That friend, Ruth Ann, my husband, and I had been singing together in a gospel trio. We had an engagement at a rather large church for a Sunday evening service. Our song list was too short, and we each needed to pick solos to sing to add to our program. Ruth Ann sang a Sandy Patty arrangement of “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.” I was extremely moved by the song and her rendition of it. I eventually added the Sandy Patty version of it to my CD collection. However, more recently, while reading a historical fiction book about the Holocaust, one character who was in prison in Germany for publicly supporting the Jews had a sparrow visit him in his prison cell. This character frequently quoted Scripture such as Luke 12:7 – “Do not fear... you are of more value than many sparrows.” With these memories fresh in my head, I picked Civilla D. Martin’s “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” to write about.

Like the minister in my fiction book, Civilla was inspired by the many verses of Scripture about sparrows. As the wife of an evangelist, she was quite familiar with them. However, the ultimate influence for her words came from a visit to an elderly, crippled couple in New York, the Doolittles. Civilla and her husband were astounded by the great faith and joy the afflicted couple exhibited, and how they spurned inspiration and comfort in all that knew them. Civilla asked Mrs. Doolittle for the secret and she responded with, “His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.” Inspired by this, Civilla Martin penned the hymn and sent it to gospel composer, Charles H. Gabriel, to compose the music.

Keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open – your inspiration may be in the smallest of things.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne A. Davis – Music Director

Adult Sunday School

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah was a prophet who for 40 years served as God's spokesperson to Judah. He urged God's people to turn from their sins and back to God. Unfortunately no one listened. Because the people rejected his warning Jeremiah began predicting the destruction of Jerusalem.

A. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON JUDAH

5. Restoration is promised

May 2 - Chapters 30-33

6. God's promised judgment arrives

May 9 - Chapters 34-39

May 16 - Chapters 40-45

B. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

1. Prophecies about foreign nations

May 23 - Chapters 46-52

MS Walk on June 6th

The Bridgeport Presbyterian Church has been participating in MS Walks since 1995 with a break in 2009. We began in support of Kathy Dodson who had just been diagnosed with MS. During that time, the church family has raised more than \$12,000 that can be documented. There is a period of five years in which we walked but there is no ready record for the money that was raised. Since 1995, the church has been recognized statewide for raising funds, recognized for the largest church group in the state, and won the Golden Shoe Award for largest team. Since 2007 our church has sent the money collected directly to the National MS Association for research.

This year our walk will begin immediately after church. Please wear your walking clothes and shoes to the morning worship service. Pray for sunshine and a lovely breeze!!

Those who want to walk may follow the walking trail in Compton Park which is .2 mile once around or walk from the church to the walking trails behind the high school and back. The trip from the church to the school is approximately 1.1 miles, the trail around the playing fields is .6 mile and the trail up the hill and parallel to the railroad tracks is .75 mile. For those of us who don't want to walk, the Congregational Life committee will have fun and games at the church. The Outreach Committee will be selling tee shirts and collecting money beginning May 16 in the Fellowship Hall.

The day will culminate with a delicious lunch prepared by the Congregational Life Committee. So suit up, be prepared to have fun, eat well and help to fund research for a cure for MS on June 6th!

Do you have clothes you no longer need or want? Time to do more spring cleaning! The Youth will be collecting clothes on Saturday, May 8th from 11am-1 pm, and will come and pick them up at your house. The clothes will be donated to the Clarksburg Mission for them to sell to raise funds for their upkeep. Please contact Jessica or Garth Leech for a pick-up. Women of the church are encourage to hold onto a few items for our fashion show at the Spring Gathering on May 20th.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Mary Mills	16 Cindy Pulice
3 Michael Wilson	17 Cher Yager
5 Pearl McPherson	19 Rebecca Williams
6 Brad Tate	21 Sarah Wilson
7 Brooklyn Jeffers	22 Jessica Trickett
8 Betty Jo Jones	25 Penny Ranson
10 Jackie Romeo	26 Shelley Carpenter
12 Richard Tetrick	29 Wanda Lhotsky
13 Ruth Allen	30 Nancy Atkinson
16 Jakie Martin	31 Pam Pinti

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Anna and Eric Winans
14 Martha and Eric Stearns
19 Jessica and Garth Leech
22 Robin and Craig Ray
23 Jean and Ken Pote
25 Tammy and Bill Hamner
28 Cindy and Mike Jeffers

Mom's Day Out – April 20th

This popular activity is scheduled for Friday, May 14 in the church fellowship hall. Children ages infant through age 10 will be served a delicious dinner prepared by Betty Jo Jones. Dinner will be followed by times for creative play, watching videos, reading stories and making crafts. The fun will begin at 6 PM and conclude by 9:30 PM. While the children enjoy their time under the care of nurturing adults, the parents are free to go shopping, partake of a quiet meal together, go to a movie or just enjoy some one-on-one time. All caregivers have been screened through background checks provided through the WV Presbytery office.

In order to provide adequate staffing, food and supplies, please contact Betty Jo Jones (842-2669) or Sue Davis (842-6532) with your reservations by Wednesday, May 12. Invite your friends and family to participate in this activity as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL BUDGET

Identified receipts for the month of March were \$12,000, versus a budgeted amount of \$11,000, while the year to date amounts are \$38,000 and \$32,000 respectfully. This variance is the result of the booking in 2010 of prepaid giving that was received in 2009. When this is considered, the giving continues at expected levels.

Expenses for the month were favorable by \$600 as compared with budget, and year to date amounts were favorable by \$3,900. It is expected that as committee activities get more underway for the year, expenditures will be at budgeted levels.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

In 2004, the church decided to do a building enlargement and kitchen remodeling project that cost in excess of \$300,000. Payment was supported by a three year pledge drive from the congregation, transfer of funds from our major maintenance investment fund, and a note at the bank of \$85,000. Session decided, in 2007, that rather than have an additional fund drive to pay off the note, we would encourage members to give periodically to cover the principal amount of the monthly payments, and pay the interest portion of the payments from the general budget. Currently, the note balance is \$43,400. The monthly principal payments are \$428. The fund from which we make these payments has a balance of \$1,187. It is time to ask you to prayerfully consider giving to this fund so that we can continue to make our required payments in a timely manner. We all use and enjoy our beautiful fellowship hall and kitchen. Let's all work together to finish paying for it.

Thank you for your continued support of our church. Charlie Burkhammer Treasurer

Session Notes

A new and improved policy to notify relatives who have had memorial contributions to the church made in honor of a deceased person has been established. This will aid those sending acknowledgements to respond in a more reasonable time.

Pastor Robin will take vacation time October 12th to the 19th. And study leave to attend the 2010 Institute of Theology Seminar from August 9th to the 15th. She has been providing home communion to shut ins with the aid of Elders.

The annual MS walk will be Sunday June 6th. Our walkers will be treated to a picnic after the walk.

Nancy Atkinson and Robin are working to reestablish the Stephen Ministry program. Funds have been approved to send two or three persons for leadership training.

The Christian Education committee will have intergenerational classes in June and July. The last date of regular Sunday School will be May 9th. May 16th is Youth Sunday, with a luncheon to follow Worship to honor our graduating seniors.

PENTECOST, May 23

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day of Passover. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that about three thousand converts were baptized that day. (You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-41).

HOW WILL WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?

You are invited to wear red, yellow or orange symbolizing the colors of Pentecost. We will have a special liturgy in worship and activities and special snacks are planned during the Sunday School hour for all ages. Help us celebrate the birthday of the church!



We will also collect the Pentecost Offering that day. It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. We will be using our 40% to support the Children's Health Pantry.

The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.



*Our Outing to the
African Children's
Concert*



*Our Children
performing
Bullfrogs and
Butterflies in Easter
Service*

*Barry
mowing the
Grass –
Thank you for
your hard
work!*



Our annual Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition will be held on May 16th during the Morning Worship. As is our custom, the Trustees of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church will present each of our graduating seniors with a monetary grant. The qualifications for this grant include participation in church activities and presentation of an essay on the subject of “What my Church Means to Me”. These are the submissions received from this year’s graduates.



Devin Hamner
What the Church means to me

As the start of my adult life will soon begin, I realize just how much this church means to me. The Bridgeport Presbyterian Church is the only church that I have ever attended. I have grown close to many members, as they have motivated and watched over me throughout my life.

Although I haven't attended church as much as I should, church has taught me the life lesson that through family and faith, anything is possible. Church has also taught me that we are all one large family through Christ.

When I was in elementary and middle school, I always looked forward to everyone questioning me about my basketball or baseball games. It made me feel like I was a true part of the church because I was being included. As I grew older, the encouragement that the people of the church gave me when I was young evolved. During my high school athletics and theater productions, it always felt incredible to look into the crowd or audience and see the smiling faces of the members of my church. My most recent activity was the Bridgeport High School All-School Play, "Seussical the Musical." Every night I was always congratulated and encouraged by members of the church. It feels incredible to know that I have such a large family supporting me no matter what I am involved in. I will never be able to truly thank everyone for how much they have helped me throughout my entire life.

The most memorable thing about church for me has always been Youth Group. I will never forget the long nights of Church Lock-Ins or the lessons that I learned through Youth Sunday. During my life, I have watched many seniors get recognized in front of the church. As my time of recognition is growing near, I wish I could go back and do it all again. Youth Group provided me with some of the greatest times of my life. This church means everything to me and I hope that one day I can be as supporting and encouraging to the youth as everyone at BPC has been to me.

Jessica Trickett

What the Church Means to Me

Ever since I was a little girl, I have attended the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church. For almost seventeen years, I have gained many memories from my church and church family. All through my years, the church has given me unconditional love and support and I could not be more grateful! When I attend church, I feel as if I am with a second family.

Some of my earliest memories lie within Christmas productions at Christmas time, making pretzels with Ruth Allen at Easter, and vacation bible school in the summer. With each season, I learned something new and exciting about God and Jesus. The knowledge that I gained when I was a little girl laid a firm foundation for my faith. I feel very blessed to have known so much about Christianity at a very young age.

Once I had a firm foundation, I gained more knowledge through middle school Sunday school class with Sue Davis and Nancy Atkinson and communicants class with Gary McGrew. In Sunday school, Sue and Nancy made learning a fun and enjoyable experience for me! After getting lemonade once church ended, I was always very excited to go to class and learn more! I was very proud of myself after successfully completing communicants class and becoming an official member of the church!

As high school is coming to a close, I now realize how much the church has influenced my life. I have participated in several youth activities such as: serving dinner at the mission, ice skating, lock-ins, hiking at Cooper's rock, and youth Sunday. I have enjoyed spending time with the youth leaders and other kids while having fun. High school has provided its share of trials and tribulations, and the lessons I have learned through youth group and high school Sunday school have helped me get through them.

No matter what I will go through in life, I know that my church family will always be there for me. I am very blessed to have grown up in the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church. The memories and life lessons I have learned will stay with me forever! Even though I am going off to college and starting a new chapter in my life, the church will always have a special place in my heart!



May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School	3 10:00a PW Bible Study 7:00p Christian Education	4	5 3:00p CHP Setup 6:30p Choir Practice	6 9:00a CHP Kit Assembly	7 5:30p Girl Scouts	8 9:00a The Lay Academy - FH - L 11:00a Clothing Collection 7:45p AA -- FH
9 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School	10 10:00a PW Bible Study 5:30p Quiz Bowl Picnic 6:30p Choir Practice	11 Presbytery Session 7:00p	12	13	14 6:00p Parent's Night Out	15 7:45p AA -- FH
16 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Youth Sunday - Sr. Recognition Dinner!	17 10:00a PW Bible Study 6:30p Congregational Life 6:30p Outreach	18	19 3:00p CHP Setup 6:30p Choir Practice	20 9:00a CHP Kit Assembly 6:30p PW meeting	21 5:30p Girl Scouts	22 2:00p Lounge & Kitchen - Shower for Ann Wilson 7:45p AA -- FH
23 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School	24 10:00a PW Bible Study	25 9:00a CHP Board	26 7:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Choir Practice	27	28 Office Closed	29 7:45p AA -- FH
30 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School	31 Office Closed					



Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday 9:30am – 12:30pm
Email: Pastor Robin Ray pastorrobin@bridgeportpresbyterian.com
Email: Office office.bportpresby@verizon.net
Website: www.bridgeportpresbyterian.com

Pastor	Robin Ray	842-3332
Clerk of Session	Bob Allen	842-3638
Treasurer	Charlie Burkhammer	842-2819
Director of Music	Lynne Davis	842-2211
Organist	Beth Armentrout	745-4881
Presbyterian Women	Sue Davis	842-6532
Janitorial Support	Sharon Salate	842-2211
Church Secretary	Janice Oldaker	842-2211



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