



Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER OF BRIDGEPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2009 – VOLUME 16 NUMBER 9
WWW.BRIDGEPORTPRESBYTERIAN.COM

the  *Light*

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

We will offer several different types of opportunities for fellowship, personal and spiritual growth this fall. I pray that you might find the places which will help you in your faith journey.

In the Body of Christ, the Church, we are united in Christ, who is our “Bread of Life.” Our goal is to live as faithful disciples that we might grow into spiritual maturity. One of the biggest determining factors for faith maturity, according to a study by the Search Institute, is one’s involvement in Christian Education over a period of a lifetime. It is through regular participation in study with others in the Body of Christ that we can truly grow.

Sundays, 11:15 am Beginning 9-13 Search and Discovery Bible Class

Mondays, 10 am Beginning 9-21 PW, Study of Joshua

Wednesdays, Noon Beginning 9-16 Pastor’s Brown Bag

Thursdays, 6:30 pm Beginning 9-24 Lectionary Study

“Don’t have a cow, man!”

Do The Simpson’s make you laugh? All youth who are in Sixth to Twelfth Grade are invited to join us on Sunday Mornings for *The Gospel According to the Simpson’s*.

Church Events

- Sept 6 Worship on the Patio
- Sept 7 Office Closed
- Sept 13 Sunday School Kickoff
- Sept 15 Moms Day Out
- Sept 16 Pastor’s Brown Bag
- Sept 18 PW Fall Kickoff
- Sept 19 PW Retreat
- Sept 21 PW Bible Study
- Sept 23 Pastor’s Brown Bag
- Sept 24 PW Bible Study
- Sept 28 PW Bible Study
- Sept 30 Men’s Breakfast
- Sept 30 Pastor’s Brown Bag

Search & Discovery Bible Class Sunday's 11:15 am starts 9-13

The Search & Discovery Bible Class is a basic comprehensive introduction to the Bible as a whole. The phrase "the Bible as a Whole" is used to convey a concern for more than learning about each book and its contents. It seeks to underscore an interest in seeing the inter-connections among the many parts of the entire Bible, as it speaks to us of God and faith and people. Through a process of reading, reflections, discussion and creative expression we are discovering people, events and places and encounter a variety of biblical ideas. While the focus of the course is to provide an introduction to the Bible as a whole, the hope and expectation is that it moves beyond learning details about people, events and places to new understandings and experiences of faith and life. Personal preparation is essential to the success of this learning experience. While the time spent in class offers a variety of learning experiences, the course is based upon the readings from the Bible that are to be completed before the group meets. During the class, individuals have ample opportunities to share the discoveries and questions that arise from the readings. Some readings raise more questions than answers. Other readings trigger ideas that invite further exploration and research. The class has just completed the book of Psalms and will pick up with the Book of Proverbs when it resumes in September. A study Bible with cross references, footnotes, and annotations is recommended.

Each SEARCH leads to DISCOVERY - discovery about the history of the people of God; discovery about how God acts in the lives of people and nations; discovery about the ways God has been and is active in our lives today. The process of "SEARCH & DISCOVERY" is completed only when, and to the degree that, the transforming message of the Bible becomes manifest in the faith and life of the people who participate in the study. For more information please contact Sarah Wilson.

Presbyterian Women, Study of Joshua Monday's 10 am starts 9-21

The morning circle will begin their study of Joshua, Monday September 21st 10 am in the lounge. In the nine lessons of "*Joshua: A Journey of Faith*", author Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war," and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God. As a side note, some of our very own Bridgeport Presbyterian Women participated in the field study of this bible study in its infancy. For details or interest please contact Sue Davis, morning circle chair. Child care provided.

Pastor's Brown Bag Wednesday's Noon starts 9-16

When you think of the book of Daniel, do lion's and strange vision's come to mind? If so, now is the time to dig a bit deeper. Daniel's life and character provide help to those of us who are trying to live a distinctly Christian life in the context of a pagan, secular society. The theme of godly living in and ungodly world runs throughout the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel is written in a literary form known as apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic literature speaks to us in those times when God seems to be absent. The crushed people of Judah in Daniel's Day were saying, "Where is God?" Daniel answers their questions by showing them that, even in a national catastrophe; God is working out God's purpose and plan.

We will meet on Wednesdays over lunch beginning on September 16th. Please feel free to bring your lunch and of course your bible, as we study the book of Daniel together. For details contact Pastor Robin.

Lectionary Study Thursday's 6:30 pm starts 9-24

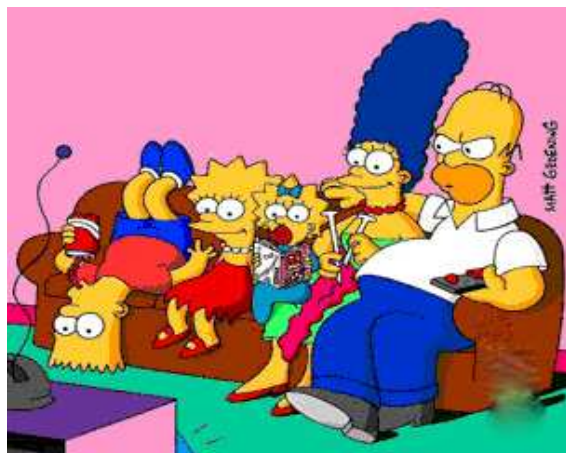
Have you ever wondered how the Pastor picks her scriptures on Sunday? Would you like time to study the scriptures that will be preached on Sunday mornings? Then this Thursday Night Bible study is for you as we study the lectionary passages each week and focus on the passages that will be preached by Pastor Robin. The coordinating team of PW has decided to open up the evening bible study to ALL people of the BPC. Both women and men are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will just be sponsored by Presbyterian Women. Please come to the first meeting Thursday September 24 starting at 6:30 pm for refreshments and conversation about the study. For details or interest, please contact Lois Withrow, evening circle chair.

Treasurer's Report July 2009

Actual receipts for the month of July totaled \$7,156. However, actual receipts include dedicated funds of \$3,457 for the month and \$16,258 for the year. These dedicated funds are not included in the budget and must be subtracted in order to obtain an accurate comparison. Therefore, actual adjusted receipts for the month are \$3,699 and adjusted receipts for the year are \$78,001. This compares to budgeted dollars of \$11,195 for the month and \$78,366 for the year to date.

Actual expenses totaled \$13,609 for the month compared to a budget amount of \$11,677 and actual year-to-date expenses of \$73,483 compared to a year-to-date budget of \$81,738. Dedicated expenses are not included in the budget. July expenses exceeded the budget due to insurance payment which is budgeted monthly but paid annually.

As you can see, adjusted income is no longer above the budget. Therefore, we are still projecting a budget deficit for the year. Please remember that the church depends on your pledges to meet its obligations.



Don't have a cow, Man! Youth Sunday School Class

Do The Simpson's make you laugh? Is their dysfunctional family the opposite of yours, or perhaps a little too similar? Does it bug your parents when you watch the show, do they say the show has no redeeming value? Would it surprise them that it has been said that, The Simpsons portrays American religion better than anything else on T.V.? Now is the time to find out on Sunday mornings immediately after worship, as we gather in the upper room for Sunday School. We will meet each week to watch all or part of a Simpson's episode as we embark on an exploration of the religious themes prevalent in this popular animated comedy series. Topics include prayer, morality, God, pluralism, the institutional church, hell and the devil, and the Bible.

All youth who are in Sixth-Twelfth Grade are invited to join us on Sunday Mornings. We are still forming the teaching team, but Pastor Robin and Rocky Loar are all in, would you like to be part of the team?

From the Choir Director

Hope everyone has had a great summer break, but it's time for choir to start up again. The first rehearsal of the season will be on Sept. 2nd at 6:30pm with rehearsals every Wed. thereafter. The choir will sing together as a group for the first time this fall on Sept. 13th. Choir members need to be at church ready to rehearse on Sundays by 9:15am.

Last year we were blessed to have two new members join and two former members return. We'd love to add a few more this year. It does not matter what part you sing or how often you can come to rehearsal, we'll find a place for you. The job of the choir is not to entertain, but to raise joyful praise to the Lord. So, if you see this as something you'd like to be a part of, please join us on Wed. Sept. 2nd. If you'd like to do it, but cannot attend rehearsal, then let us know and we'll get music to you. In addition to singers, we always have room for instrumentalists. If you are a closet musician and would like to share your gift with your church family let us know. There is always room in the service for instrumental solos.

Look to future newsletters for information on practice for an instrumental ensemble. I hope to get one ready for Advent, and we will probably begin rehearsing in October.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne A. Davis
Director of Music

Visit The Website

Please take a look at the website www.BridgeportPresbyterian.com see the latest changes and news. The calendar is on the front page and is easy to use. Let us know what you think. Thank you.

Why Now, Why Not?

Presbyterian Women News



Today's modern woman. What do you think of when you hear this phrase? A business woman, a doctor, mother, lawyer, scientist, a teacher, or an artist? Could be any or all of these. Diversity. Beauty. Strength. BUSY! These are just a few adjectives to describe a modern woman. Chances are there is one reading this article right now. Presbyterian Women embrace and celebrate all women and their place in God's world. Through PW programs we strive to hear and discern God's call to His daughters, through bible study, mission projects, prayer, worship, and fellowship activities.

So where have you been?

In looking around most PW activities one will notice the lack of participation from a certain age group. And most people would jump to the conclusion that it would be our younger women, the ones with small children. They would be wrong. Well maybe it's our most senior members then...no, they are there too. So who is it? The answer is our women in their 40's. Women with high school and or college age children. Some with empty nests, some still with children at home. Busy, overworked, and underappreciated women. But these are the women who stand to gain the most and give the most to PW and the church. Because it's not just PW who is feeling the absence of these women, but the whole church. These are the women who could gain comfort from older women who have been there, done that, or could give advice to younger women with smaller children coming up through school. To be a part of the life and community of faith with other women, a true sisterhood of believers. Think about it if you are one of our sisters who have been MIA. If you try to think of a reason not to come and join in, chances are pretty good that one of our other ladies is going through or has gone through the same things that are holding you back now. We miss you all! Summer has already been fantastic, but the fall looks even more promising! Our kick-off for all is Saturday Sept. 23 and the fun starts at 9am. The theme is The Colors of Prayer and the Colors of The World. We have many activities planned and it is going to be a full day of rewarding and meaningful experiences. I'm pretty sure that a woman could find at least one of our activities enjoyable if given the chance. So please plan on attending this day of activities. Women's Sunday is October 4th. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper as well as Women of our World, which is our theme for the day. Many plans are being made for this special day and we need every woman to participate to make this the best Women's Sunday ever! We have scheduled time during the Sept. retreat to plan and practice for the day. Use the gifts God has given to each of us to His glory.

All Women of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church have been invited to the First Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg Thursday September 24th. There will be a program about our Children's Health Pantry and dessert will be served. It will be a day of Mission, fellowship and group cooperation! RSVP to Betty Jo Jones.

Bible Study will begin again in September. The morning circle will begin their study of Joshua, Monday September 21st 10am in the lounge. In the nine lessons of Joshua: A Journey of Faith, author Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. For details or interest please contact Sue Davis, morning circle chair.

The evening circle is trying something new and we hope will be an exciting addition to the adult education at the BPC. PW is going to sponsor an evening adult bible study. Both men and women are welcome and encouraged to attend! Please come to the first meeting Thursday September 24th starting at 6:30pm for refreshments and conversation about the study. For details or interest, please contact Lois Withrow, evening circle chair.

So much is happening with Presbyterian Women! We encourage all women of the BPC to come and be a part of any or all activities of the PW. We are working to bring Christ's Love and message to the world through bible study, prayer, worship, mission and fellowship opportunities. And we always encourage women to bring friends! If you have any questions or suggestions for future activities, please contact any member of the PW coordinating team.

PW Coordinating Team

Anna Winans – Moderator Sue Davis – Morning Circle Chair
Lois Withrow – Evening Circle Chair Barb Judy – Secretary & Bi-laws committee
Caroline Tate – Treasurer Erma Reel – Historian
Kathy Dodson- Nominating Committee Beth McCaugherty – Nominating Committee
Rev. Robin Ray – Pastor

Session Notes

The Session of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church met for their Stated Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 7:00 pm. The meeting was called to order and moderated by Reverend Robin Ray. Drew Tate opened the meeting with prayer and presented the evening's devotions.

Session approved the following:

- Wedding on Saturday, October 10, for Rebecca McGhee and Todd Rolston.
- Use of Church facilities by Presbytery on November 1 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm for Elder Training.
- Use of church facilities for seven Saturdays on the second Saturday of the month, for the months of Jan., Feb., Apr., May, Sept., Oct. and Nov., from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for a lay academy.
- September 6 as day off for Beth Armentrout.
- Oct 12-14 for Reverend Ray to attend Clergywomen's Retreat
- Change in day off for Janice Oldaker, Church Secretary, from Wednesday to Monday starting September 1.
- Mom's Day out dated of 9/15, 10/13, and 11/10 from 10:00 am to 12:30 and 12/11 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm for the Outreach Committee.
- The purchase of a television, DVD and wall mount for the youth room.

Naomi Burkhammer, Clerk

Children's Ministry Opportunities

The education committee is very excited about the fall program for children. The church school year will begin on September 13. The children will gather in the back of the fellowship hall for music time before proceeding to their classrooms for Bible stories and crafts. Activities for September will encompass the theme that God is the Creator of the whole world. Sue Davis will be leading the youngest children, and Stacey McMullen will teach the preschool class. Leah Trippett returns as the teacher in the elementary (grades 1-5) classroom. Each of these teachers is in need of an assistant to help with crafts and clean-up. If you are interested in assisting any of these women, please speak with them before our kick-off Sunday. Kids Klub will resume on October 4. We will meet (3 PM) at Dollar Tree at Meadowbrook Mall to shop for the Shoebox Ministry. We will then travel to the church to place the purchased items in plastic boxes to be delivered to the collection church in Bridgeport. We will conclude with food and fellowship. More information will follow closer to the date. Kids Klub is open to all children and friends aged 5 through 5th grade. Put this date on your calendar now.

An Invitation from the Associated Businesses of Bridgeport

Dear Youth Pastors and Friends of the ABB,

The Associated Businesses of Bridgeport will be having their 2nd Fellowship of Christian Athletes Picnic. This family event will be on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Bridgeport City Park. If it rains, the event will be at the Old Town Center (Main Street/across from Almost Heaven Desserts) The ABB will provide picnic food (hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, dessert) for the Bridgeport High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Bridgeport Ministerial youth groups and their parents.

The ABB is pleased to announce that this year's speaker will be WVU basketball player Wellington Smith. He will share his testimony and some WVU basketball stories. Last year, 150 people attended the picnic and heard Tito Gonzales, a WVU football player gave us a wonderful inspirational talk.

The ABB would love to have your youth group at this free/worthwhile event. Please R.S.V.P. by September 3. My phone number is 677-5877.

God bless,

Bradley Ford President of the ABB

CAREGIVERS and AGING PARENTS/FAMILY MEMBERS SUPPORT GROUP

Whether you are providing the care yourself in your home for your parent (s) or running them to grocery stores and keeping up with medical appointments, you are providing support in some form or another for a parent or family member. We would like to get together to share experiences and helpful hints. We have our next meeting on Sunday night, September 20 at 7 pm in the Lounge. Come join us.

Congregational Life Committee

Having to be away from home and family for an extended period of time is not an enjoyable experience. Being away from home and potentially in harm's way ups the downers exponentially. But that's the situation in which several of our young folks find themselves. Urlin Mathews with the Army in Iraq, Angie Burton (Pastor Robin's daughter-in-law) on board ship with the Navy in the Middle East, and Ken Aucremanne with the Navy in California. In an attempt to ease the strain and provide some Hugs From Home for each of these dedicated Americans the Congregational Life Committee has assembled and packed a Care Package each for Urlin and Angie and special notes for Ken. The packages contain everything from soup to nuts. Each was asked what items they missed and wanted the most, and these desires were met "to a T" barring items too large for the boxes which are size-regulated by the Post Office. All kinds of personal items were packed, along with unusual things such as duct tape, freeze pops, finishing nails and Wonderful West Virginia magazines. Since Ken is still in the U.S. and can get items easily, the Committee has provided the Congregation with note paper and envelopes and asked the folks to write personal notes and enclose Gift Cards from national chain stores in the area. A table just on the left as one enters the main Church door displays pictures of these young people, and the note box for Ken is there for your encouraged use along with the packed boxes for Urlin and Angie. Please return your notes to the table and they will all be mailed together on August 31.

Our young folks will need and enjoy our continuing support and love, so additional packages and notes will be forthcoming on a periodic basis. Watch for future announcements.

On a more local note, the Committee is sponsoring an event in September which is a must-attend item for those afflicted members. For the duffers, the Committee has arranged a Golf Outing at Bridgeport Country Club for September 20. Tee off time is 2:00 PM and the cost is \$45.00 including cart. Please add your John Henry to the list posted on the Church bulletin board so the total number will be known. Questions? Call Carl Friebe at 304-842-2009.

The Colors of Prayer and Colors of the World

Bridgeport Presbyterian Women Fall Kick Off Retreat Saturday September 19, 2009

You are cordially invited to a special day of fellowship, worship, prayer, mission activities, lunch, and much more. This is a day to spend in activity with fellow sisters in Christ. The day begins at 9am with a light brunch and Worship in the sanctuary. Activities will continue throughout the day, including a prayer workshop conducted by Rev. Robin Ray entitled The Color of Prayer. To give our day some international flavor and inspire us to start work on Women's Sunday, lunch is Chinese take-out! It is \$6 per person with any remaining money going to support PW mission projects. So please RSVP so that we can get an accurate count for lunch and all other activities.

We will also be working on Women's Sunday during the retreat. Women's Sunday is October 4th and is right around the corner. The theme is Women of the World. Let's celebrate the amazing gifts God has given to all the diverse women of the BPC and around the world! Come and be a part of this special retreat day and don't be shy about bringing friends.

Questions? Contact Anna Winans or any member of the PWCT.

When? The fun starts at 9am
Where? The Fellowship Hall of the BPC
What? \$6 for lunch

Mothers Day Out

Dates: Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

Reservations for the September 15 session are due to Betty Jo Jones (842-2669) or Sue Davis (842-6532) by Sunday, September 13.

Due to scheduling changes, Mom's Day Out will move to Tuesdays this fall. The dates are September 15, October 13, and November 10. The fun begins at 10 AM. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers enjoy playing, creating crafts and hearing Bible stories under the supervision of caring adults. Lunch is provided, and activities conclude at 12:30 PM. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate in this program as well.

To give Mom and Dad some time to shop for Christmas or just some time to relax together, we will sponsor a Parent's Night Out on Friday, December 11. The fun begins at 6 PM with dinner provided for the children aged infant through 10 years. Activities include playtime, crafts, stories, snacks and movies. The evening concludes at 9:30 PM.

For your information, the adults who are providing the child care have been screened through background checks processed through the WV Presbytery office.

Fellowship Hall

Several years ago, we decided to update and expand our crowded and aging kitchen and fellowship hall. We initiated a highly successful pledge drive to raise funds to start that reconstruction. That drive netted approximately half of the expected costs and those pledges were completed a year or so ago. The construction gave us a beautiful and spacious kitchen and activity area but left us with a currently unfunded debt of \$45,000. Accounting practices prohibit payments beyond the continuing interest from our over-burdened General Fund so the debt is not being reduced. You can help by adding something to your weekly gift and designating that amount for the Building Fund. Your Weekly Offering envelopes have a space marked Building Fund or you can write Building Fund (amount) on your check.

Golf Outing

Sponsored By Congregational Life Committee

BRIDGEPORT COUNTRY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 20, 2009
2:00 PM
\$45 INCLUDING CART

Sign up on Church Bulletin Board

Children's Health Pantry Christmas in July

Thanks to all who donated to Christmas in July for the Children's Health Pantry. The monetary donations totaled \$2,455 and the product donations totaled \$120. This generous response helps considerably with the financial need of the pantry. The number of children helped this year by the pantry has increased over previous years. In July, 101 basic health care kits were provided. This number includes age appropriate personal care kits for 74 children, 16 boxes of household cleaning supplies and eleven 11 lice eradication kits. For the year, we have provided a total of 680 kits for children who need help.

Again, thanks to all for the generous support.

Thank You

September Anniversaries

- 4 Linda & Steve Williams
- 11 Jody & Richard Tetrick
- 14 Alison & Patrick
- 24 Lori & Doug Gray

September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Adam Gray | 19 Billy Pulice |
| 2 Jean Pote | 20 Tammy Hamner |
| 3 Craig Liebig | 21 Ryan Nicewarner |
| 6 Beth Armentrout | 24 Tyler Faris |
| 6 Dan McCaugherty | 27 Linda Burns |
| 9 Nathaniel Frederick | 29 Kim Thompson |
| 18 Erma Reel | |



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

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|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Pastor | Robin Ray | 842-3332 |
| Clerk of Session | Naomi Burkhammer | 842-2819 |
| Treasurer | Nancy Aucremanne | 842-4659 |
| Director of Music | Lynne Davis | 842-2211 |
| Organist | Beth Armentrout | 745-4881 |
| Presbyterian Women | Anna Winans | 838-2707 |
| Janitorial Support | Sharon Salate | 842-2211 |
| Church Secretary | Janice Oldaker | 842-2211 |



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