

# Presby Pages

## **First Presbyterian Church**

100 Main Street / POB 212

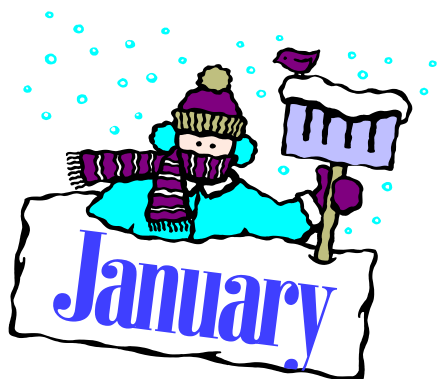
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January 2012

## **HUGH'S VIEWS**

Happy New Year, 2012!

Renewal of baptism took place Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. In the Old Testament, Joshua (the successor to Moses) challenged the people of Israel to re-commit themselves to the sacred covenant with the Lord-God of heaven and earth, Yahweh (Jehovah) – see Joshua 24. In the New Testament, John the Baptizer promoted water baptism as a ritual of preparation for the coming messiah. The messiah is among us, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, the “stronger one” John said would appear and bring a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.

Our church and our faith require our sincere and bold commitment. Especially this year of 2012 demands our very best in every aspect of our discipleship. Let's start right by renewing the promises baptism provides through the gracious salvation God brings to us.

## **GREETINGS FROM ZIMMERMAN CHURCH in Nairobi**

Here is the text of an email we received from our Kenyan Presbyterian partners: Receive Calvary greetings on my own behalf, our session and that of the entire congregation of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Zimmerman, Kenya. You can be sure how excited we are to be associated with you though distance has kept us apart. We are however hopeful that you have retained the continuous zeal in the service of the Lord. As individuals and as a congregation your brothers and sisters in the Lord from this end wish you a blessed Christmas season and a fulfilling new year 2012. [Rev. Ndiritu then expresses his hopes for Bette Van Patten's full recovery soon.] Shalom. Rev Daniel Kamau Ndiritu, Parish minister, PCEA Zimmerman, PO BOX 1568-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Following the December business meeting, PW members went to the Longhorn Restaurant for lunch and enjoyed good food and Christian fellowship. Donations were made to Bloomfield College, \$25.00; Birth Haven, \$35.00; and \$50.00 to Ginny's House, Market Street Mission, Menaul School, Operation Holiday, the Salvation Army, the Seaman's Institute, Spring Point Foundation (formerly Presbyterian Homes) and Vellore Medical School. They also sent \$75.00 to "Faith Goal."

The PW Christmas Cookie and Second Annual Craft Sale in December resulted in approximately \$407.00 to be designated for the church's operating budget. A huge thank you to all who donated and / or purchased cookies for this mission project.

We hope that everyone had a blessed and Merry Christmas and we extend our sincere wishes for good health and happiness in the new year. The next PW meeting will be in early February (the January meeting has already taken place).

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Session has reviewed the candidates for deacons and is excited about these disciples who are stepping up to serve our congregation in this ordained capacity – Keri Cassimore, Bill Larabee (second term) and Jack Lauterhahn.

We are seeking **two more** elder candidates to serve on Session.

If you would like to hear more about this spiritual opportunity to serve Christ and your church, or have a candidate you believe would be excellent, then please contact our elder chairpeople, Holly O'Mahoney or Barbara Costanza. Thanks! We will be electing them soon in a congregational meeting.



### **PER CAPITA**

2012 will be a challenging year for our congregation. We face a few unknowns and obstacles, like the status of the McKelvie Fund long-term, and the lingering effects of the 2007 recession, and the diminishing sense of volunteerism we see in our society and its effects on people's sense of loyalty to institutions like the church, the individualism so strongly present in our American religious experience ("what's in it for me"). We have a **strong and dedicated** core. We are grateful for the core, what the Old Testament prophets called the "remnant."

The denominational cost of being a church includes our **per capita** assessment, which is the same as it has been for several years, **\$29.00 per member**. Please strongly consider making an **extra-mile** gift to your church in order to cover this huge cost we share. Use your per capita envelope in your envelope box or mark your check "per capita." Thank-you!

### **SESSION NEWS**

The elders in December approved the budget for 2012 and it will be reviewed by the congregation at the Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, following second service. Please bring soup or sandwiches to eat and share. We will have Annual Reports available prior to the meeting. The compensation of the pastor will be voted on by the congregation, as we are required to do by our By-Laws and denominational form of government.

The McKelvie Fund lawsuit has been filed and the court has acted to limit the access of the Trustee to the fund itself. A court date is set for mid-February. We will pass along information as we receive it and as events transpire.

The Session is writing a mission statement for the congregation and we welcome your input. Right now, they are framing our ministry and mission around the phrases, Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds.

## FINANCE NEWS

Thanks to all those who submitted prayerfully a pledge for giving to the church. Estimate of giving cards and the stewardship letter are being provided in the entryway to the sanctuary if you would like to pledge but have not yet done so. Making a commitment insures good giving and helps us establish our priorities with the resources God has given us. We commend it to you.

## REGULAR EVENTS

Men's Group Breakfast will be  
Sunday, January 8th, 7:15 am  
at the Mountainside Diner on Route 206 north, Byram.  
All men are welcome to attend.

The next **Nuts and Bolts** men's group will be  
Wednesday, January 11th, noon, MacNeill Room

**Presbyterian Women**  
Tuesday, February 7th,  
10:00 am in the MacNeill Room



## PEOPLE NEWS

Keep in your prayers – **Linda Beck** has been released from PT and is home; **Bette Van Patten** has a doctor's visit in early January and we are expecting her to be released to work again!; **Bud Barry**, who has been experiencing recurring but undiagnosed pain; **Sandi Hoover**, recovering well from the eye surgery; **Marsha Wyckoff**, slow healing from ankle break; **Scott Harris**, he had a procedure in December and another is scheduled soon.

Our thanks to the congregation for giving \$175.00 to the fund for Stanhope police officer Joe Johnson's son, Joey – who is receiving extensive treatment for a rare brain tumor. Keep the prayers coming, too.