

FIRST PRESS

Volume 30, Issue 1

January 2011

First Presbyterian Church www.fpclly.org

Dear John,

I enjoy reading many of the daily comics. One that I never miss is **Drabble**, about a wacky dysfunctional family with an odd assortment of characters and (for some reason – [comic relief?]) a talking duck for a pet. At least I think it's a duck.

Anyway, the father is in the barber shop saying, "Hey, what's going on here?" He then continues, "How come the hair on this sheet is so gray?" Then with some vehemence he adds, "My hair's not that gray! I'm not that old!" He concludes by asking the barber, "Whose hair are you cutting back there?" Sometimes what makes a comic good is how effectively it hits the nail right on the head.

This **Drabble** comic came to mind because I purchased my calendar for 2011 this week: an annual ritual that seems to be happening ever more frequently. Maybe you know what I mean. Can 2010 be history already? As my father used to say, "Time waits for no man." His other favorite was, "*tempus fugit*." For the longest time I never believed him. But I do now.

Here's a portion of a prayer that I clipped from somewhere and keep in my nearly tattered Bible. Not bad wisdom as we enter a new year

Lord: Thou knowest better that I myself know, that I am growing older, and will someday be old. Therefore, keep me from the habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and every occasion. Release me from

craving to try and straighten out everyone else's business. Seal my lips on stressing my aches and pains – for they are increasing – and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter.

I do not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others, but help me to endure them with patience. Teach me the glorious lesson that I may, occasionally, be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a saint – some of them are hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected people and places, and give me the grace to tell them so. Amen.

I hope 2011 will be a great year for you, your family, and your church family.

Your friend, Gus

CALLING ALL COFFEE DRINKERS



In February, the Membership/Fellowship Committee would like to start an informal coffee/pastry bar in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall. The coffee bar would be open from approximately 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. on those Sunday mornings when we aren't serving a fellowship breakfast. We envision a simple self-serve operation financed by free-will donations. We hope to organize and train volunteers, from high school age on up, to help set up, clean up, and handle the money. If you are interested in being involved with this project, please contact Connie Messerschmidt at either 384-2571 or messerschmidt.c@lynchburg.edu.

THANK YOU BELL RINGERS!

We appreciate those who volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army outside Krogers from November 29 to December 3. What a great way to ring in the Christmas Spirit!



CONGRATULATIONS EAGLE SCOUT!

David Richards, Troop 1412, received his Eagle Scout Rank on October 6, 2010. The Eagle rank is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve. David's Eagle Scout Court of Honor took place on Saturday, December 4. David is a member of Troop 1412 and a freshman at Jefferson Forest High School. Please congratulate him on this very special honor.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our meetings for the 2010 – 2011 season will be the **second Wednesday of the month.**

- Jan. 12, 2011 Dan Messerschmidt
Topic: World Economics/
China Impact
- Feb. 9, 2011 Judge Sam Johnston
- Mar. 9, 2011 Speaker TBA
- April 13, 2011 “

Schedule: 6:00-6:30 P.M., Social
6:30-7:15 P.M., Dinner
7:15-8:15 P.M., Speaker

Good programs, good food, and fellowship-all for only \$10.00.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alford Family | Morgan, Evan & Johnnie Lu |
| Boswell, Dick & Elaine | Nichols, Homer |
| Clarkson, Bill & Elizabeth | O'Brian, Bobby & Decky |
| Cleland, Jim & Judie | Ore, Donnie & Arline |
| Cobb, Mary Glenn | Overstreet, Kathryn |
| Gayle, Bill & Judy | Perkins, Bill |
| Glenn, Bob & Nancy | Perry Family |
| Hanna, Jack & Motsy | Perry, Mike |
| Hartman Family | Reinhard, Leta |
| Heppner Family | Roos, Dennis & JoAnne |
| Hovda, Russ & Sharon | Shilling, Don & Marcy |
| Jones, Betsy | Stroud, Diane |
| Kittrell Family | Tanner, Trish |
| Kowalski, Gail & Ken | Thornton, Sue |
| Landes Family | Tinsley, Persis |
| Leslie Family | Watkins, Gordon & Marguerite |
| Messerschmidt, Connie | Whitehouse, Frank & Donna |
| | Wiley, Ellen |

**Rivermont Area Churches
Blood Drive Rotation**



During the holiday season blood collection comes to a virtual standstill as we prepare for our individual celebrations. Unfortunately, the need for blood never ceases. Please consider a donation of blood during this critical time.

A blood drive is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 4th at First Christian Church, 3109 Rivermont Avenue, from 12:00 noon-6:00 P.M.**

To schedule a donation contact Mary Lou Long at littlelulu6484@gmail.com or 434-384-5793.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER



The cancellation of FPC worship services and programs due to bad weather will be reported to WSLs (Channel 10), WSET (Channel 13), and our web site [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fp Cly.org)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On **Monday, January 3, 2011**, the Coordinating Team will meet at **10:00 A.M.** in the library.

The Young and Not So Young Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 4, at 9:30 A.M.** in the library.

The Horizons Circle and the Book Circle will meet on **Monday, January 10, at 9:45 A.M.** for light refreshments in the Officer Room.

The Book Circle will meet in the library at 10:00 A.M. The book to be discussed will be *Big Russ and Me* by Tim Russert. Mary Anderson will review the book.

The Evening Circle will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be **January 11, 7:30 P.M.** at the home of Lib Richards, 501 VES Rd., Apt. B105.

MEMBERSHIP/FELLOWSHIP THANKS.....



Heartfelt Thanks

Thanks to all of the wonderful people who have contributed in so many ways to our joyous and successful holiday events. We kicked off the season with our "Bountiful Breakfast" for Thanksgiving, and wrapped up December with the Fellowship Dinner/Children's Christmas Pageant and our Christmas breakfast. A special thanks goes to Sally Leslie and Lee Perry for organizing the outstanding breakfasts and Fellowship Dinners. To all who have made posters, donated food, shopped, cooked, set up and cleaned up, and joined us in celebrating the birth of Jesus throughout this special season of fellowship, our committee says, "Thank you, merry Christmas, and God bless!"

We mourn with you

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY
are extended to
May May Gay
in the death of her mother,
Mary Venetia Smith Bryan
who died on November 23, 2010.

**FINANCIALLY SPEAKING. . .
As of November 30, 2010:**



Income Budgeted to date:	\$785,499
Income Actual to date:	\$763,842
Expenses Budgeted to date:	\$863,888
Expenses Actual to date:	\$811,952

In November, our actual expenses exceeded our actual giving, resulting in a current deficit of about \$48,100. We appreciate the faithful giving from our members and friends, and we hope to return soon to operating in the black.

The Single Adult Fellowship

will get together for lunch on **Sunday, January 9**. We will meet at **Mi Patron**, a Mexican restaurant located at 4119 Boonsboro Road (in the Kroger Shopping Center). Meet by 12:30 P.M.





Rehearsals resume in January

for our music ensembles: new members are always welcome.

Chancel Ringers - Wednesday, January 5 at 5:15 P.M.

Chancel Choir - Thursday, January 6 at 7:15 P.M.

Children's Choir - Tuesday, January 11 at 4:45 P.M.

For more information, contact Ray Weidner at 384-6231.

COFFEE WITH THE PARISH NURSE

Remember 9:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Sip a hot cup of First Pres coffee, while Gail Midkiff informs how to keep warm in extra cold weather, what clothes ward off the chills, what foods stick to the bones and other bits of good nutrition that help to chase the germs away.



THE WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study Group will begin meeting after the holidays on Thursday, January 6 at 9:30 A.M.

We will be finishing our study of Erik Kolbell's *Were You There?* through January. Our next book will be *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Stay warm and we will see you on January 6!

Staying Healthy in Winter

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Americans catch one billion colds each year. Adults average two-to-four colds a year, and women catch more colds than men, possibly because they have more contact with children. People over sixty get fewer colds because of built-in immunity and less contact with children. Older people, however, are more susceptible to flu, which can be dangerous for those with chronic illnesses.

Regardless of age, people are more likely to become sick with colds and flu during fall and winter. Cold weather outside reduces the strength of the immune-system. We're indoors more, increasing our exposure to the viruses that cause colds and flu. Holiday travel increases our exposure to "new" viruses that our bodies have not had an opportunity to build up an immunity.

As always, prevention is the best medicine. The best strategies for prevention of colds and flu involve common-sense actions. The most important one is frequent hand washing with warm water and soap. Dress warmly when you go outside. Also you need a flu shot. While flu shots do not prevent the common cold or all flu viruses, they prevent the most prevalent and severe flu viruses of the season. When you are sick, stay home and rest for at least twenty-four hours after you no longer have a fever. When family members are sick with colds or flu, disinfect common household surfaces such as doorknobs, keyboards, phones, and stair railings several times a day. Studies have shown that cold viruses can live up to three hours on surfaces and flu viruses up to eight hours.

Boost your immune system by practicing good health habits: eat lots of fruits and vegetables, exercise regularly, sleep at least eight hours a night, and manage your stress level. Winter does present more health challenges. But with common-sense care, you can avoid and minimize the spread of colds and flu.

Gail Midkiff
Parish Nurse



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Cobb, Mary Glenn | Milam, Brad | Holston, Brown | Wombwell, Joe |
| James, John | 8 Carrington, Mary Catherine | Moore, Will | 22 Anderson, Mary |
| Leys, Charlie | Keebler, Stephanie | 16 Carrington, Leigh | Ashe, Evelyn |
| Richards, Laura | Pettyjohn, McKenna | Cobb, Laura | Reams, Tucker |
| 2 Richards, Kakie | 9 Poole, Richard | 17 Clark, Elinor Ann | 23 Shank, Chad |
| Tanner, Trish | 10 Basten, David | Harwell, Linda | Wallace, Dave |
| 3 Blankinship, Thompy | Carrico, Liz | Lewis, Royal | 25 Alfieri, Angie |
| 4 Bell, Alfred | Giles, Don | Tinsley, Collin | Hamblen, Mary |
| Cobb, John | Whitehouse, Frank | 18 Dudley, Carrington | 26 Roberson, Sam |
| Hamblen, Dock | 11 Bohnert, Neil | Koroneos, Blake | Thomson, Kelsey |
| Mayo, Katie | 12 Allen, Karen | Marshall, Maryan | 27 Haskins, Meredith |
| Price, Marian | Baldwin, Lacy | 19 Burton, Theresa | Sydnor, Pam |
| Riordan, Lindsay | Craddock, Tess | Gallagher, Rod | 28 Christian, Melanie |
| 5 Gallagher, Trish | Craighill, Susan | 20 Craighill, Marian | Fontana, Meg |
| Sydnor, Kendall | Dugger, McCarron | Semones, Bill | Libbey, Anne |
| 6 Alford, Johnny | Hunt, Lilly | Sydnor, Kit | Lupton, George |
| Capps, Tom | 13 Teague, Jensie | Wescott, Phebe | Nunn, Chal |
| Hanna, Carlton | 14 Craddock, Will | 21 Cross, Haden | 29 Burnett, Kit |
| 7 Alfieri, Joey | Reams, Bobby | Glenn, Nancy | Moore, Jimbo |
| Burger, France | Warrick, Robert | Hobbs, Kitty | Shank, Michael |
| Hunt, Ed | 15 Burnett, Gentry | Mayo, Patrick | 30 Anthony, Laura |
| Johnsen, David | Dwyer, Dave | Tucker, Bill | McBratney, Will |
| | | | Messerschmidt, Connie |

If your name is not here but should be, please call the church at 384-6231

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS IN JANUARY

Peggy & Jensie Teague - 384-8106
Ferrell Nexsen - 384-5271

Thanks to Peggy & Jensie Teague and
Ferrell Nexsen for serving in December.

REMINDER!!

**Various Community Events are
posted on the bulletin board
opposite the Pastor's Office.**

Stop by to read about upcoming events.

Sunday School News . . .

Christian Explorations Class Monthly Report – November

Selected Class Opening Prayer: “Heavenly Father, Thank you for this time to fellowship and time to serve.” Amen.

Current Discussion Book: *have a little faith* by Mitch Albom. A recent discussed paragraph from the chapter Your Faith, My Faith –

That prayer – and the word “one” – were integral to the Reb’s belief. One, as in the singular God. One, as in the Lord’s creation, Adam.

“Ask yourself, ‘Why did God create but one man?’” the Reb said, wagging a finger. “Why, if he meant for there to be faiths bickering with each other, didn’t he create that from the start? He created trees, right? Not one tree, countless trees. Why not the same with man?”

“Because we are all from that one man – and all from that one God. That’s the message.”

Then why, I asked, is the world so fractured?

“Well, you can look at it this way. Would you want the world to all look alike? No. The genius of life is its variety.

“Even in our own faith, we have questions and answers, interpretations, debates. In Christianity, in Catholicism, in other faiths, the same thing – debates, interpretations. That is the beauty. It’s like being a musician. If you find *the* note, and you kept hitting that note all the time, you would go nuts. It’s the blending of the different notes that makes the music.”

The music of what?

“Of believing in something bigger than yourself.”

But what if someone from another faith won’t recognize yours? Or wants you dead for it?

“That is not faith. That is hate” He sighed. “And if you ask me, God sits up there and cries when that happens.”

We will finish this book in December, with January’s selection currently under debate. In February we will have Jim Price in for a four-week bible series. Won’t you join us?

Event Note: The class, along with a few much appreciated volunteers, decorated, prepared and served dinner to 175 church members following the Hanging of the Greens service.

IT’S GOING TO BE AN OLD-FASHIONED COUNTRY BREAKFAST!



9:30-10:00 A.M., Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 16, 2011

If you can help or would like to provide food, please call Sally Leslie at 384-9062 or e-mail at cicver@msn.com. In the middle of winter it will warm you up, body and soul, so don’t miss it!



ANGEL OF THE MONTH

Our January Angel of the Month is our very own Bryant Hare. He has been a member of the Care & Nurture Committee before it was ever a committee. Bryant is a true angel. He is at church before the doors open, visits the homebound, and sends cards for those in need. We all want to thank Bryant for being a true Christian.

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for Hanging of the Greens. The service went very well and couldn't have taken place without our many volunteers. A special thank you to the Christian Explorations Sunday school class for the wonderful dinner following the service.

F.A.I.T.H. Mountain Sunday School

We are in need of a **teacher** for the **games rotation and discovery rotation** in **March**. Please contact Meggan Farwell meggan@fpcly.org if you are interested in teaching. Thanks and remember the children need you!

Thanks to our **December teachers**: John Perry, Claudia Pierpoint, Liza Pittard, and Lindsay Riordan.

We look forward to another great month with our **teachers for January**: Chip Holston, Betsy Rhodes, Jane Sorenson, and Craig Tiller.

Youth News

Confirmation

Don't forget the deadline to sign up for confirmation is January 1. I need your form if you plan on being a part of the class. So far we have eight youths signed-up. Classes will start January 23 at 3:00 P.M.

Mission Trip July 30—August 5

“The Pilgrimage” FPC Youth Mission 2011 in Washington DC

For current 8th – 12th graders

For more information check:

<http://www.thepilgrimage.org/>

- The trip will be six nights and seven days in Washington DC.
- Each day participants will do a service project in the DC area as well as have a time for guided reflection and/or a learning simulation/activity.
- There will be free time each day, and we hope to have one day to do something “fun” in D.C.
- What we do is dependent upon the dates we choose and the interest of the participants.
- We will ride the Amtrak train and subway and be “car free” for the week.

- We need one adult for every five youths.
- We need both male and female chaperones.
- We will also be looking for adults to coordinate our meals and drive up the supplies and groceries early.
- Once our group is set, we will have meetings to plan our week and go over the nuts and bolts and expectations of the trip.
- Scholarships available if needed - contact Meggan Farwell.

What do we need now?

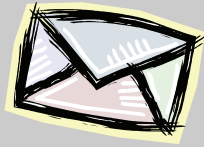
- **The deadline to sign up for the Mission Trip is January 31.**
- **A \$50.00 deposit is needed. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church and turned in to Meggan's mailbox.**

If you have any questions, please contact:
Meggan Farwell, meggan@fpcly.org, 384-6231,
Gary Williams (National and World Missions),
gtwilliams@att.net, 384-6147, or
Chip Holston (Christian Education),
Chip.Holtson@Ferguson.com, 386-5518.

Look for a postcard with January's Youth Events!

**Don't miss the
 Third Sister Stories program!
 January 23, 12:15 P.M.
 Fellowship Hall**

Gather the husbands, the kids, and join together with friends for a luncheon catered by Meriwether-Godsey. Our sisters this year are Susan Foster, Kakie Richards, and Naomi Caldwell. We will begin right after the 11:00 A.M. service. The cost is \$9.00. Friends are welcome. If you haven't attended in the past, don't miss this opportunity to learn something unique. Sign up in the narthex or call the church office. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 19 for meal reservations.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested 2011 Offering Envelopes,
they will be available in the hallway next
Sunday, December 26.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2010 - 2011

Diaconate Chair - Amy Heppner

Clerk of Session - Lee Perry

Budget/Finance	-	Preston Willson
Building	-	Caskie Giles
Care & Nurture	-	Motsy Hanna
Christian Ed.	-	Matt Foster
Community		
Mission	-	Emmet Lifsey
Grounds	-	Johnny Alford
Membership/	-	Connie
Fellowship		Messerschmidt
National/World	-	Joe Clark
Personnel	-	Bobby O'Brian
Ushering/Offering	-	Mary Burger
Witness/Outreach/		
Stewardship	-	Kathy Pumphrey
Worship & Music	-	Judie Cleland

Next Newsletter: February 2011
DEADLINE: Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011

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