



Presbyterian Link



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S
DESK**

As the new year rolls around I am reminded of the passage in Ecclesiastes: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1) We just have to believe that the history of creation is in God's hands. God not only created it all, and set it all a-spinning across the heavens, but he ordered life in perfect harmony with the purpose of glorifying His name.

If things go wrong (from our perspective) perhaps we need to examine the ways we humans have twisted and misused God's creation. We challenge God's created order at almost every turn. God did not give humans wings, but we fly anyhow. By our genius we challenge the laws of gravity and send airplanes aloft with people in them. And most of the time it works. The planes go up and then land safely. I love to fly! I wonder if there isn't in me a little bit of rebellion that loves to defy God's law of gravity. They say that you tell a lot about a person from the dreams he/she has. Well, a recurring dream I have is that I can actually fly... like superman.... I leap into the air and sail to the top of a building. I swoop down and land on my feet. I don't know where this dream comes from. Perhaps my subconscious is challenging God's natural laws. What would happen if, in my dreams, I leapt off a building and went crashing to the ground. Oops! God's laws of gravity win! I am only human.

We look at physical ailments as diseases to be treated and conquered. What if, these diseases were linked to actions we humans take. What if cancer in the brain could be linked to the obsessive use of cell phones? What if fibromyalgia really can be linked to the multitude of pesticides and chemicals that are used to grow our food? We know that there is a direct link between smoking/chewing tobacco and several kinds of cancer. Could it be that God's plan is perfect and we humans in our own wisdom have disrupted that plan?

I've been doing a lot of thinking about this recently. How can we all live healthier and enjoy more of God's created order? Can we grow more of our own food? Could we as a congregation lay out a plan to plant a Church Garden this Spring.... to spend some time together on Saturday mornings planting and cultivating some crops.... using organic fertilizers and natural pesticides... and then harvest the vegetables for our own use and also to have an abundance that we can carry to DAWN. If we continue to purchase our food from producers in California, how much fuel are we burning up just to get our food to us? So we could work on several problems at the same time.

Well, I've rambled on and on. As always, I simply ask that you think about these things. Perhaps this is a time to try something different.... actually, go back and try something that worked for our grandparents. "there is a time for every event under heaven" Is it time to try an "old" approach?
Blessings, Bob Button

**REMINDERS FOR
JANUARY**

- Jan. 1 ~ Office Closed for New Year's Day
- Jan 6 ~ Circle I
- Jan 6 ~ Men's Lunch
- Jan 6 ~ Circle II
- Jan 13 ~ Committee Meeting Night
- Jan 18 ~ Stated Session Meeting
- Jan 26 ~ Link Deadline
- Wednesdays ~ Prayer Fellowship
- Wednesday ~ Second Helping Lunch

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THANKS TO ~

- Jerry Soddors who set up the Nativity Scene outside
- Mary Woodie who made the Advent Wreath
- Stephanie Moehlenkamp who directed the Christmas Program
- Karen Blaesing, Kathy Bogert, and Geraldine Kauffman who decorated the church
- Denise Tucker, Dana Taylor for planning the children's Caroling Night
- Denise Tucker, Dana Taylor, Stephanie Moehlenkamp, Jenny Roark, and Martha Moore for making the Children's Advent Workshop a great success
- Nineteen children who made four crafts, sang Christmas Carols, and decorated cookies.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 21, 2008 MEETING

- Approved a request that Home Communion be administered anytime during the week following the Sunday it is administered during worship, rather than requiring that it be administered on the same Sunday it was administered during worship.
- Approved a motion to move the time of the January, February and March, 2009 Session meetings from 6:00 pm to immediately following worship each third Sunday.
- Approved a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$200 to cover the expenses of the Second Helping Fellowship Dinner.
- Thanked Stephanie Moehlenkamp for her leadership of the children's Christmas program.
- Reviewed the November Financial report.
- Approved minutes of the November 16, 2008 Stated meeting, the November 23, 2008 Congregational meeting, the November 30, 2008 Called meeting, and the December 14, 2008 Called meeting were approved as presented.
- Accepted a report from Elders John Tucker and Rob Gilliam of the annual review of APC's financial condition which showed that everything is in order.
- Accepted a report from Elder Chip Roark reviewing APC's insurance program. Chip's review showed contents' coverage to be inadequate in his opinion, the organ is not covered, and there is no director's and officers coverage.
- Approved a motion to increase contents' coverage for the church building and the manse to \$500,000. Chip will bring the Session more information regarding coverage of the organ and D&O coverage.
- Heard a report from the Clerk reported on the November 20, 2008 Presbytery meeting.
- Appointed Elders Chip Roark and John Tucker to assist Moderator Bob with preparing his first Interim Minister quarterly report.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY 2009

January 1 Thursday

New Year's Day Office Closed

January 4 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School for Adults
 10:00 am Communion/ Worship
 Canned Food Sunday
 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering
 Children's Church & Sunday School for
 4th & 5th Graders

January 6 Tuesday

10:00 am Circle I meets in Parlor
 11:45 am Presbyterian Men meet for lunch at Main
 Street Emporium
 7:00 pm Circle II meets in Parlor

January 7 Wednesday

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study
 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

January 11 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School for Adults
 10:00 am Worship
 Children's Church & Sunday School for
 4th & 5th Graders

January 13 Tuesday

7:00 pm Committee Meeting Night

January 14 Wednesday

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study
 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

January 18 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School for Adults
 10:00 am Worship
 Children's Church & Sunday School for
 4th & 5th Graders

Stated Session Meeting immediately following
 worship

January 21 Wednesday

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study
 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

January 25 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School for Adults
 10:00 am Worship
 Children's Church & Sunday School for
 4th & 5th Graders

January 26 Monday

Link Deadline

January 29 Wednesday

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study
 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	November 2008	YTD
Pledges	\$19,244.00	\$115,949.00
Non-Pledges	\$800.00	\$6,840.00
Plate Offering	\$517.00	\$4,682.89
Total Expenses	\$10,774.58	\$105,219.46



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PRESBYTERIAN LINK

January 2009

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 Caroline Peerman | 15 Ralph & Margaret Liebchen |
| 9 Cecil Wills | 15 Les & Mary Woodie |
| 10 Conner Doss | 20 Mark & Stephanie Moehlenkamp |
| 16 Kathi Bogert | 24 Bob & Beth Steele |
| 22 Joe Mason | 29 Alex & Bev Eubank |



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Editor

Ministry Within the
Congregation Committee

*Previous Links can be found on the
website
www.altapres.org*