



Celebrating 111+ Years of Ministry

1906-2017

We are a church of ordinary people caring for one another  
as we respond to God's call for a just and sustainable world.

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church

1722 Bardstown Road

Louisville, KY 40205

Volume 51

Issue 12

December

2017

Dear Beloved in the Lord,

Merry Christmas! This is truly a season of great joy and blessed hope!

It is warm for December. The sun is shining. The beautiful Christmas Decorations are up. Bardstown Road is aglow with the excitement, love and laughter of the Christmas season. It is the season of holy days, the season of lights, the season of love and the season of open doors. Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church is truly a Church of Open Doors.

In the Gospel of John 14:2 Jesus assures his disciples, "In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you?" Wherever there are many rooms there are many doors! Whenever these doors are open the light and love of Christ streams out into the world. This streaming love invites us all to come and see the wonders and joys that Christ brings.

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church celebrates the love of Christ's light throughout the year. Our Church always welcomes the community to find a home in our spacious building. We host Covenant Community Church, Interfaith Power and Light, Louisville Homeschool, AA, NA, the Highland Community Ministries Painting Circle, the Deer Park Association, the Farmer's Market and anyone else who would like to walk through our 13 outside doors.

Once we enter one of our outside doors our innumerable inside doors welcome everyone to our lovely house of worship. We rejoice with prayer and thanksgiving in our beautiful Sanctuary. Our choir sings joyful praises in the Choir Room, our youth celebrate with joy in the Youth Room, our Ladies' Circle gathers in the Club Room and our Session and Committees meet the Club Room and Fellowship Hall.

In everything we do and everything we are we are true to BRPC's evocative logo. There we see the Light of Love streaming from the empty cross of the resurrected Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit out into the world. Christ's Light shines out into the darkness through our many doors. The Light of Love streams out onto Bardstown Road and into our hearts as we proclaim the joy of Christ's birth to the world.





**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY - ANIMALS FOR THE WORLD**

At BRP, people enjoy contributing and decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias as part of our Christmas celebration. And, in addition to flowers, people contribute “animals for the manger.” Not a sheep for the Sanctuary, but maybe a goat that brings hope to villagers in Haiti. A gift to Heifer International in honor or memory of a love one is becoming part of our BRP tradition. Heifer sends livestock around the world as a gift of hope to people in need. Order forms will either be in the bulletin or in the rear of the Sanctuary. The deadline for Poinsettia/Heifer orders is December 10.

**BLESSING OF THE SOLAR PANELS**

The blessing of the new BRP solar panels will be on **Sunday December 10** after worship. Please join us for this special event!  
*Bill Bowman and Tim Darst*



**STEWARDSHIP**

**Thank you for your stewardship support – estimates of giving are now being collected for 2018. Pledge cards are in the Sanctuary.**

**END OF YEAR GIVING:** A reminder that all charitable contributions must be postmarked (or delivered to the church office) by December 31st to be credited as a donation in 2017. Anything received after that date will be credited as a 2018 donation. Your prayers, financial support, and amazing generosity are truly inspiring and greatly appreciated as we share in ministry through BRPC.

**CHILDREN’S LEADERSHIP IN WORSHIP**

On **December 10th** the children will sing in worship.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** 11:00 a.m. Worship

With the Impromptu Christmas Pageant

**ADULT CANTATA**

On December 17th the Chancel Choir will sing in worship. The Cantata, arranged by Rev. Jim Brees, is **“Come, Lord Jesus”**

<b>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</b>	David Ntabazonki	1
	Jane Tanner	1
	Garrett FitzGerald	2
	Joseph Winnenberg	2
	Evelyn Overstreet	3
	Sarah Macway	5
	George Dumbaugh	8
	Bill Bowman	8
	Mary Tanner	10
	Gregory Pope	13
	Laura Green	15
	Sarah Collins	16
	Ada Lear	17
	Hannah Green	18
	Leo Lear	19
	Robert Kennedy	21
	Kris Bloos	21
	Jessica Green	23
	Cathy, Miya & Meiling Moss	23
	Sarah Shafer	23
Ian Johnson	26	
Karen Martin	28	
Joan Horton	28	

**Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff**

*Rev. Mary Nebelsick	Transitional Pastor
Rev. Jim Brees	Pastoral Associate
*Jeanie Grosz	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
*Brittany Hesson	Children’s & Youth Minister
*Johanna Fears	Office Manager
Claire Detlefs	Treasurer
Brad Harris	Web Master Emeritus

(\* compensated)

Editor, Johanna Fears

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## NOVEMBER 21, 2017 SESSION SUMMARY

- Rev. Mary Nebelsick called the meeting to order as our Interim Pastor for the first time.
- A letter of resignation from Laura Stone for serving as Clerk of Session was submitted due to increased duties for caring for her husband. Laura will continue to serve on the Session until her term is over. Keith Clements agreed to be Clerk of Session..
- A letter of resignation as Ruling Elder was received from Daniel Rapp due to his work schedule.
- Jeanie Grosz gave the opening devotion on the Attitude of Thankfulness.
- Rev. Nebelsick reported on the analogy of BRP Church as the Church of the Open Doors, showing the use of our building by Covenant Community Partners and Community Partners. She told how she has been involved with our four ministry priorities during her first weeks and contacting members and groups with cards and visits.
- Rev. Nebelsick found a pulpit bible donated by the Anderson family in 1956; it was approved to move the bible to the pulpit in the sanctuary. Several archival documents, including past session minutes will be relocated to the Pastor's study which was also approved by session.
- A reimbursement for transportation costs as a gesture to drivers who pick up the youth was discussed.
- The Progressive Dinner will be an open house at the home of the Bowman's on Dec. 9. It will be earlier, during daylight hours, and will include only appetizers.
- The conversation meetings with BRP Church and Covenant Community Church are ongoing with supporting each other and finding ways for CCC to have more presence in our church, including sharing both sides of the exterior sign and designating more space for their use. An Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to examine the space needs of Louisville Home School and CCC.
- A special ceremony to dedicate the installation of our solar panels is planned with media coverage.
- There will not be a Thanksgiving offering since materials could not be ordered in time. A donation of \$150 will be made from the Mission budget or the Jubilee Fund for the offering.
- Christmas baskets will be prepared for 3 or 4 families through Highland Community Ministries and delivered on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Home School will help with the Christmas baskets.
- The solar panels cost the church \$5,000 and a request will be made to donate to defray the cost. They are connected to the electric panel on floor 2 and ½ and have a 15 year payback.
- Because our membership rolls need to be reviewed the end of the year, a list of active and participant members were distributed. These names will be reviewed and updated. Lin Block-Coalter will check on those who haven't pledged yet and Rev. Nebelsick will email those who have not attended recently.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

- Jeanie Grosz reported for the Worship Committee that the Passing of the Peace will be done earlier in the service and there will be a chiming at 10:55 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to remind people to come to the sanctuary. Families have been invited to light the Advent candles. The joint worship and luncheon with Deer Park Baptist church on Sunday Nov. 19 was a success.
- Keith Clements reported on the Presbytery meeting on Nov. 18 at Peace Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery voted unanimously to concur with an overture from Hudson River Presbytery and sponsored by BRP and Crescent Hill churches, calling on PCUSA Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation to divest their stock in fossil fuel companies. A survey proposed by Mid-Kentucky Presbytery to measure the vitality of Presbyterian congregations was distributed to each church to have their session/staff and worshippers complete.
- A motion was made to terminate the Interim Nominating Committee with gratitude.

## CONGRATULATIONS ERNIE ROMANS!

You are invited to a celebration for December graduates Thursday, December 7 at 11:30 a.m. in the Caldwell Chapel at LPTS.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADVENT PROGRAMS Waiting and Preparing

On the first three Wednesday nights in Advent (December 6, 13, 20) there will be a simple dinner and program beginning at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The first Advent Dinner was Nov. 29. Please let us know if you are coming (451-8305) so we can plan for the right amount of food.

**BARDSTOWN ROAD AGLOW was on  
Saturday December 2nd from 6-9 p.m.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES**

For 2017-18 Women's Circles, the study is focusing on "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews." The Morning Circle meets September-May on the second Tuesday of each month in the Club Room. The next meeting will be December 13 at 11 A.M., to study Lesson 4; contact Joe Anne Overstreet for more information.

If you are interested in the Evening Circle, contact Alicia Bloos as soon as possible at 502-496-0345. This Circle is reorganizing and members are considering a change in meeting day, which will depend on those interested.

Please feel welcome to join either group. Let Joe Anne or Alicia know your desire to participate, so we may order a study book (\$10) for you. We hope you'll join us!

## **MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **CEDAR RIDGE CAMP**

#### ***LIFE IS SWEETER UNDER THE CEDARS***

In honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cedar Ridge Camp, the camp and conference center of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, donations are being sought to plant 60 new cedar trees. Can you contribute \$150 for one new tree? Or any amount? More info available from Alicia Bloos or visit the camp website, [www.cedarridgecamp.com](http://www.cedarridgecamp.com).  
**Thank you for your continuing support of OUR camp!**

### **HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES NEWS**

#### **CHRISTMAS FOOD AND GIFT BASKETS**

BRP will again be helping neighbors with Christmas gifts and food. We will be helping approximately 12 people (4+ families) with food baskets and two \$25 value gifts. Check the table and tree in Fellowship Hall beginning December 4 to sign up to help, or tell Alicia Bloos now, 502-496-0345, that you'd like to be involved, buying gifts and food, sorting items for baskets, and/or delivering on December 23.

#### **FIRST-SUNDAY-OF-THE-MONTH FOOD DRIVE**

Each month, Mission Committee collects specific food items for the HCM food pantry. You may contribute at any time during the month prior. Thank you to all who have donated already. There is a plastic tote in the back of the sanctuary where you may place the requested items, **canned meats and soups**. Please place donations in the tote at any time. Thank you in advance for your continued compassion for others. \*Donations have dropped in recent months, but the need never dwindles. Please think of your neighbors when you shop for groceries!

## **MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00pm in the Club Room. We are a very involved congregation, and would welcome new members to our group to help us discern and respond faithfully to the many needs around us.

## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Hygiene kits prepared locally last April have been pulled into service in the days following recent hurricane damage in parts of our country. Strathmore Presbyterian Church will again sponsor kit assembly April 21, 2018. In the meantime, check out Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org) for how you can help right now! Our mission committee is beginning to consider a trip to assist in Puerto Rico; tell Peggie Elgin if you might be interested in participating or helping with fundraising.

## **POWER FROM THE SUN!**

Eight brand-new solar panels are now producing electricity on top of the roof of BRP's church building! In early November, our installers squeezed the eight glass panels up through a trap door on the third floor to get to the roof. There, the panels were installed to face the south for maximum sun exposure. A day or two later, an electrician came to hook up the panels to our electrical panel, and then the electricity produced started to impact our electricity usage.

We won't see any dramatic reduction in our costs for electricity, but it's exciting to know that we are one of the few churches in Louisville to have our own solar panels! You may recall that Tim Darst of Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light gave a Minute for Mission a couple of months ago, where he explained that KIPL was giving a grant to BRP to cover \$2,000 of the cost, reducing our expense from \$7,000 to \$5,000. With that reduction in cost, we expect the panels to "pay for themselves" in about 15 years.

Watch the Newsletter and Sunday bulletins for the next step in this saga--we will hold a "blessing" of the panels on a Sunday afternoon. And, no, we won't be asking any members of the congregation to meet up on the roof for the blessing!



*Solar Panels*







*Solar Panels*

**PROJECT WARM– December 16**

The BRP Team of six people participated in the Project Warm "Blitz" on Saturday, November 11. We weatherized two houses, among the over 300 houses across the city that were addressed the first two weekends of November. BRP team members were Bill Bowman, Chris Clements, Keith Clements, Ryan Clements, John Elgin, and Becky Johnson.

The next Saturday workday will be the morning of **December 16**. Anyone can volunteer, and no special skills are needed. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin or call the office for more information.



*Nov. 19  
Shared service  
with Deer Park  
and lunch at  
BRP*



**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE**

**Kids Club**

The December Kids Club will be Wednesday, December 20. We'll meet in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. to prepare dinner to serve at the BRP Advent Program. Wear pajamas!! All kids in grades kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> are welcome!

**NEW PROGRAM – All Day Church!**

Sometimes it seems like as soon we get home from church, we have to turn around and go back. To help us spend a little less time on the road on Sundays, all youth group students are invited to stay at the church following morning worship service through youth group (12 p.m – 5:00 p.m.). There will be space for homework, post-service naps, and lunch. Any adults interested in helping with this new program (homework help, serving lunch, chaperoning, etc), please see Brittany Hesson. All Day Church (ADC) starts on Sunday, December 3 and will occur any Sunday that there is afternoon youth group.

**Youth Group**

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to youth group at 3:45 p.m. on Sundays up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Our December activity schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 3 – Bible Lesson with Avery Smith (CCC Seminary Intern)
- Dec 10 – Advent Project
- Dec. 17 – Service Season
- Dec 24 – No Youth Group – Special BRP Worship Service at 4 p.m.
- Dec. 31 – No Youth Group – See you in 2018!

**Transportation Ministry**

Volunteers are needed to help transport BRP members and friends to and from church, especially on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary with all time slots to be filled. A list of willing transporters will be distributed to the whole congregation. 24-hour notice is requested for all transportation needs. Please see Brittany Hesson with any questions.

**Advent Program**

You are invited to “-RING” in the season with BRP each Wednesday night of the Advent season. We will share dinner and have a brief activity or program, but most of all, enjoy some time together in this busy time of year.

- November 29 – PREPARING (Pizza dinner and Hanging of the Greens)
- December 6 – CARING (catered meal and time for fellowship)
- December 13 – SHARING (potluck meal and time to share holiday traditions/recipes)
- December 20 – DARING (meal provided by Kids Club. All are invited to wear pajamas (Be daring!))

All Advent programs begin with dinner at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## LIFE'S A BEACH... Becky Johnson

I have a confession to make and it's one I hesitate to share. Knowing that we live in a supportive religious community, I feel it's time I trust enough to release my secret...I nag my family about recycling.

There have been times when I have even dug into the garbage can in the kitchen to fish out can lids or plastic containers to rinse off and recycle. Although my family does try to live up to my recycling standards, the bar is high, they fall short, and I inevitably nag. What I've been told in the past by others is to simply live by example and they will follow. I find that is not the case. Try as I may, repeated fussing seems to be the only option I have and it's not a pleasant one for any of us. So when I read an environmental study from World Economic Forum recently it shocked me and gave me a new incentive for encouraging my family.

How many of us love going to the beach in the summer to enjoy swimming in the ocean and watching the sea waves as they crest upon the shore? Well according to the study "At least 8 million tons of plastics leak into the ocean each year— which is equivalent to dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean per minute." One garbage truck full every minute! The study went on to state that by the year 2030 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish if we do not change.

Let's stop right there and reimagine that beach vacation. You are swimming in the ocean and you have to maneuver around the plastic containers floating around you. Maybe you are resting on the beach watching as the waves crest onto the sand leaving more and more plastic as it retreats. Not a pretty thought.

Our seafood is being contaminated. Fish are eating and dying from these plastics. They are being caught with plastic permeated insides. What are we thinking as a society? How can we continually endanger our own food source? What can we do? There are many changes we can implement to make a difference.

Use less plastic!

Use refillable water bottles.

Recycle what plastic you can!

Use wax paper for wrapping sandwiches and covering left overs.

Reuse those plastic liners to store food. (Cereal box liners make great freezer bags!)

Long term and sustainable changes must be investigated. There has to be innovation that produces affordable and renewable storage for food. An online discussion recently about the plastics dilemma sought input for new ideas. One thought was to start a plastics refund program similar to the old glass bottle return offering money for plastic container returns. It's a beginning, but I think what we really need is to start before the plastic even goes on the shelves. We need better containers and storage for everyday products in our stores.

*(continued in next column)*

How about a bamboo product for our juice boxes or cereal boxes? It grows quickly and is biodegradable. What ideas do you have? Share them with those in the pews who are part of those "...striving for a just and sustainable world".

*Becky Johnson*

World Economic Forum study: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_New\\_Plastics\\_Economy.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_New_Plastics_Economy.pdf)

## INTRODUCING THE NON-PROGRESSIVE DINNER –Dec. 9 from 5-7 p.m.

The Congregational Care committee suggested and the Session approved a new format for the annual BRP progressive dinner. This year, for a change, we will all be together in one place for a "BRP Christmas Open House".

From 5-7 pm on December 9th everyone will gather at the home of Bill and Linda Bowman for appetizers and sweets, good conversation and maybe some singing. Please bring your favorite appetizer sweets just as you would for the appetizer portion of the progressive dinner. Some "heavier" finger food will be provided by our hosts.

This was suggested for several reasons:

- We all enjoy being together
  - Some people, who in the past haven't attended due to driving around at night, will come
  - You can drop in for a few minutes and then go on your way, or stay the full time or even later
- You can feel free to make dinner plans with others, both church friends and others. You could even invite them to come with you

This is an experiment. It doesn't mean we will do this forever. So feedback afterwards is more than welcome.

Let's see how this goes...

Congregational Care Committee...



# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8-12 Farmer's Market  6-9 Bardstown Road Aglow
<b>3</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship Brittany Hesson Preaching 3:45 p.m. Youth Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program  7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8-12 Farmer's Market
<b>10</b> 9:30 Music and Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Kid's singing 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Nebelsick preaching 3:45 Youth Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting  11am Day Circle  7pm Mission Committee Mtg.	<b>13</b> 6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program  7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7pm Worship Committee Mtg	<b>15</b> Poinsettias are delivered to BRP	<b>16</b> 8-12 Farmer's Market
<b>17</b> 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship with Adult Cantata Rev. Nebelsick Preaching	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Newsletter deadline  7 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>20</b> 6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program w/ Kids' Club?  7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8-12 Farmer's Market  <i>Christmas basket delivery</i>
<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> Communion 11am 4pm and 11 pm BRP (CCC at 5:30 p.m.) Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship w/ Impromptu Christmas Pageant	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8-12 Farmer's Market
<b>31</b> Christmas Joy Offering 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Nebelsick preaching						



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PLACE  
 STAMP  
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For those with phones or devices with scan readers, you can scan the image above and it will open the BRP website. For others, the web page is at [www.brpres.org](http://www.brpres.org)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

December 2	6-9 p.m.	Bardstown Road Aglow
December 3	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, Brittany Hesson preaching
	3:45 p.m.	Youth Group
December 6,13,20	6-7:30 p.m.	Advent Dinner Program
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
December 9	5-7:00 p.m.	Non-Progressive Dinner at the Bowmans'
December 10	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Children's Leadership, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
	3:45 p.m.	Youth Group
December 12	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Day Circle in the Club Room
	7:00 p.m.	Mission Committee Meeting
December 14	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team Meeting
December 17	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship time
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Adult Cantata, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
December 19	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
December 20	6-7:00 p.m.	Kid's Club at Advent Dinner Program
December 24	11:00 a.m. (4:00 p.m. and 11 p.m. communion)	Christmas Eve Services (Rev. Nebelsick preaching)
December 25	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Impromptu Christmas Pageant, Receive Joy Offering
December 31	9:30 a.m.	Music and Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, receive Joy offering, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
		Deadline for 2017 charitable contributions