

Celebrating 112+ Years of Ministry 1906-2018

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 2018



The Love and the Joy

Dearly beloved,

Children's smiles and Christmas hymns are whirling around my head this Advent and Christmas season. Maybe it is because Christmas lights are decorating bare branches of the trees. It could be the special foods that are crammed on the store shelves or the Christmas specials playing on TV. But I think it is the happy excited planning that is taking place all over the Church.

Last Sunday a raucous bunch of children crowded into the Choir room to work with Jeanie and Siram on the Christmas play. It is called, "Miracle at the Christmas Café" and stars all our favorites, Isaiah, the prophet, shepherds, angels and everyone else who happens to be at the Christmas Café to hear about the wonderful things that God has in store for all of God's people. I sat there, enjoying the chaotic happiness and listened to the music that melded new tunes and old Christmas favorites. The play begins with a new twist on the event that kick started the Christmas miracle, "It has been announc-ed that Caesar has a plan, that we must all be counted – every woman child and man ..."

Celebration is the order of the day. Soup is on, cookies are being baked, and crafts are being planned for the delicious Bardstown Road Aglow where BRPC welcomes the community into its happy building.

The sanctuary is festooned with garlands and greens and a tall fragrant Christmas tree. The Advent wreath is in place to tell the story of the Advent Season.

Join us as we walk a spiritual Labyrinth walk on the first of our Advent dinners and bake cookies and salt-dough ornaments in the Fellowship Hall on another. We will share these goodies to beloved members of our community and regale them with Christmas carols and delicious treats the following week.

The Worship Services planned for the Advent Season will focus us on God's outpouring love and the many ways that we respond in joy. Dr. Robert Bozeman will invite us to deepen our spiritual lives through spiritual practices. Our children and youth will retell the wondrous story. Our Chancel choir will offer a Cantata of Christmas music that will allow our hearts to soar as we fully experience God's gift of Jesus Christ. Traditional Candlelight Services with lessons and carols will celebrate the wondrous, miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. Our Christmas celebration will be capped off with the always enthusiastic, impromptu Christmas pageant on Christmas Day when God's love and joy is celebrated with bouncy angels and peppy shepherds. So come and celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth with the loving family at BRPC! Your servant in Christ, Mary







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 7.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/1 Bardstown Road Aglow (6 – 9 p.m.)

12/5 & 12 Wednesday Evening Advent Dinners at 6 p.m.

12/9 Children's Musical "Miracle at the Christmas Cafe" In Fellowship Hall

12/16 Service is at Deer Park Baptist Church

12/23 Chancel Choir Cantata during the morning Worship at 11 A.M.; Christmas Joy Offering

12/24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. with communion.

12/25 Morning worship in the Fellowship Hall with the Impromptu Christmas Pageant

	-	
	Evelyn Overstreet	3
	George Dumbaugh	8
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	Bill Bowman	8
	Laura Green	15
	Sarah Collins	16
	Ada Lear	17
	Leo Lear	19
	Robert Kennedy	21
	Kris Bloos	21
	Cathy, Miya & Meiling Moss	23
	Sarah Shafer	23
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STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your stewardship support – estimates of giving are now being collected for 2019. 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 2018. Anything received after that date will be credited as a 2019 donation. Your prayers, financial support, and amazing generosity are truly inspiring and greatly appreciated as we share in ministry through BRPC.

FROM THE THURSDAY PAINTING CLASS

We are a group of pleasant and interesting people who gather every Thursday afternoon from 1-3pm in the club room of BRP and practice our amateur oil painting.

We "critique" each others work and help out with advice and materials. We would love to add you to our group if you too are an amateur oil painter. Come check us out!

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

Transitional Pastor Rev. Mary C. Nebelsick Rev. Jim Brees Pastoral Associate Jeanie Grosz Director of Music Ministries/ Organist Director of Children's and Youth Siram Coalter Ministry **Darrius Duett** Sexton Johanna Fears Office Manager Claire Detlefs Treasurer

Editor, Johanna Fears

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NOVEMBER 20, 2018 SESSION SUMMARY

In her **Moderator's report**, The Rev. Nebelsick challenged the Session to determine how we can share the Joy of the Gospel so that others will want to come, join us and share the joy. Pastoral care is regularly provided to homebound members as well as those in care settings. Food, fellowship, access to power for cell phones and the opportunity to use the washroom are offered to homeless community members several days each week. Explanation of the BRPC Building Use Agreements have been made to the covenant partners who share our facility with no objections offered. In addition to participating in church committee meetings, The Rev. Nebelsick attended the Presbytery Meeting in Danville on 11/3/18. She was elected as the Presbytery representative to the Synod.

By the **Treasurer's report** for October 2019, the Session learned of a year to date surplus of \$4,828 with receipts of \$12,065 and expenses of \$15,809 for the month.

The **Finance Committee** has reviewed the coverage with our insurance company to assure that we have the appropriate amount and types of coverage for the upcoming year. Additionally, the Finance Committee, perhaps with requested outside help, will review the Finance records for the church and report to the Session any problems. If use of the HCM van is undertaken to support the Youth and Children programs, the insurance falls to HCM if we meet restrictions and provide information on possible drivers.

The number of pledging units to date, 14, is insufficient to assure the proposed budget for 2019. The **Stewardship Committee** will undertake an outreach effort for additional pledging units.

The **Personnel Committee** in its meeting on 11/14/18 recommended 3% salary increases for staff in the 2019 budget which was approved unanimously by the Session. A plan was established for evaluation of staff members. Volunteer help in learning aspects of the Treasurers' tasks is being sought so that Claire Detlefs can focus on payroll and taxes. The Session approved the Terms of Call for the Transition Pastor which was recommended by the Personnel Committee. The Terms of Call will be presented for approval to a called Congregational Meeting scheduled for Dec. 9, 2018.

The Session approved a working budget of \$3500 for the work of the **Pastoral Nominating Committee.**

John Elgin, **Building and Grounds** chair, confirmed that the response by contractors resulted in rapid completion of ceiling repair and painting in sanctuary. A special thanks is given to Doug Rapp, John Elgin, LLester Gamble and Darius Duett. The restoration was also accompanied by pew removal/ return and deep cleaning of the carpet.

Due to decline in the attendance of our older youth (14 years and older), the **Christian Education Committee** is reorienting All Day Church to a shorter format for younger children (elementary and middle school). Recent activities included an ofrenda to teach about the Day of the Dead and an Environmental Stewardship challenge that involved earnest efforts to clean up trash along Bardstown Rd. Facebook communication will be utilized to promote upcoming youth events.

The **Congregational Life Committee** has begun work on planned events for 2019 but meanwhile an updated pictorial directory is in progress. The Session approved the purchase of three circular tables to replace worn and unreliable items in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Outreach Committee** is focusing attention on the lead up to Bardstown Road Aglow. Social media outlets and the utilization of Facebook are being used to promote the activities and programs at BRP. The use of Instagram and renewal of the church website are planned.

Heifer International is highlighted in the display case near the Fellowship Hall through December by the **Mission Committee**. The donation to the Nehemiah Project at Buckhorn will be forwarded soon. Alicia Bloos, Mary Nebelsick, and Bill Bowman are planning to execute a Monarch and butterfly way station near the parking lot due to a program sponsored by KY Interfaith Power and Light.

An Offerings Calendar for 2019 has been reviewed by the **Worship and Music Committee.** The Apostles Creed will be utilized in worship during the Advent and Christmas season. Dr. Robert Bozeman will be the guest preacher at worship on 12/2/18. Holiday special services are highlighted on a Advent and Christmas poster available through the church office and posted at community businesses.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Half of the Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church. It helps provide assistance to church workers and their families in need as well as retired church workers and their survivors.

For the PCUSA church workers who experience such challenges, the help of the Assistance Program, made possible by the Offering, is providential. Some grant recipients have likened it to God's "grace in action" and "the peace of Christ."

The other half of your Christmas Joy Offering provides much needed support for racial-ethnic students in higher education. Follow in the tradition of the wise men, and please give this Advent season. The offering will be collected on Sunday December 23.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

Presbyterian Women The 2018-19 Horizons Bible study for Women's Circles is centered on God's Promise: I Am with You by Amy Poling Sutherlun. According to the Presbyterian Women website, the study "takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God's promise of presence...." Study books are available for \$10.

The Morning Circle meets September-May on the second Tuesday of each month in the Club Room. The next meeting is December 11 at 11 A.M. in the Clubroom. Contact Joe Anne Overstreet for more information.

The Evening Circle meets in members' homes on the second Monday of each month. Please contact Alicia Bloos for more information.

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Cedar Ridge Camp

The recent **Autumn Under the Cedars**, the annual fundraising gala for **Cedar Ridge Camp**, the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery camp, retreat, and conference center located right here in Louisville, was a great success, raising \$16,000 to help support the camping program for children and youth. This month, school groups are visiting camp to learn about **Holidays Around the World**, including Hanukah, Chinese New Year, Christmas in Germany, Kwanza, and Christmas in Mexico.

Highlands Community Ministries

HCM has an ongoing need for donations of **personal care items**. Neighbors in need receive emergency food and financial assistance, but personal care items are often low in supply. The following <u>new</u> items are most needed:

Bars of Soap Toothpaste Shampoo Toilet Paper Deodorant Laundry Detergent Shaving Cream + Razors

Donations may be placed in the rear of the sanctuary.

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. We will continue collecting <u>CANNED MEATS AND SOUPS</u>. There is a <u>plastic tote in the back of the sanctuary</u> where you may place the requested items. Please place donations in the tote at any time. Thank you in advance for your continued compassion for others. *<u>The need never dwindles</u>. <u>Please think of your neighbors when you shop for groceries!</u>

(continued in next column)

Over \$23,000 was raised in October at **Empty Bowls**, **HCM's** fundraiser for hunger relief which featured a variety of soups from area restaurants, along with raffles and a silent auction. **Thank you** to all BRP folks who attended or supported the event!

In December BRP will be helping **HCM** provide **Christmas Gifts and Food Baskets** for neighbors in need! We ask you to help as we solicit holiday food items and pantry staples for each of our assigned families as well as two gifts for each family member. We also need people to help sort and pack food and to deliver the baskets to the families. In addition, we welcome financial donations to help with the purchase of perishable foods. Simply write "HCM Christmas baskets" on the memo line of your check. Pick up information and sign up now in Fellowship Hall, and **return items by Sunday, December 16**.

PROJECT WARM NEWS- Dec. 1

The annual Project Warm Blitz was a big success this year, with over 300 homes in Jefferson County made much more comfortable during the winter season thanks to many volunteers. The BRP Team, consisting of Bill Bowman, Keith Clements, Siram Coalter, Kanah Johnson, and Paul Johnson, worked on two houses on a Saturday in early November. The team even went "beyond the call of duty" and helped one homeowner put up her newly-purchased venetian blinds!

As the weather gets colder, more homeowners in the County will be calling Project Warm and asking for assistance. You're invited to join the Team on **Saturday**, **December 1**, when it plans to go out and work on more houses. Just call the church office if you'll be able to volunteer then.

MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 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.

FOOD PANTRY & BUS TICKETS at BRP

Thank you for all the food items and bus tickets donated.

We do need **bus tickets** again.
Please give to the **BRP food pantry**

as you are able so that we can replenish the supplies. We give away non-perishable food items, like: tuna and chicken lunchables, beanie weenies, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, granola bars, etc. Anything in an individual packet is good. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SCHEDULE DECEMBER From Siram Coalter

Saturday, December 1 – Evening: Bardstown Road Aglow Santa's Workshop

The kids and Siram were doing their holiday decorating on Sunday morning, November 25 in the BRP Club Room to get it ready for Bardstown Road Aglow.

On the evening of Saturday December 1, all the children In Youth Group and Kid's Club are invited along with neighborhood visitors to be elves in Santa's Workshop creating holiday crafts or confections.

Sunday December 2

9:30: Sunday School

12:00 Lunch and Play Practice for "Miracle at the Christmas Café"

Sunday, December 9

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 "Miracle at the Christmas Café" By Ruth Elaine Schram and Mark Cabaniss

The Youth have been at work learning the songs and lines for a holiday play about a diner of animals about to be surprised by a visitor speaking of the arrival of a someone very special into the world. Join us for worship as the kids entertain us with something a little different during a Sunday service. 12:00 Making Youth Christmas Cards to share with Homebound members of BRP and BRP who are away at col-

Sunday, December 16

9:30: Sunday School

lege

12:00: Lunch and a Movie: The Grinch

The Youth are invited for a lunch a screening of the holiday movie in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 23

9:30: Sunday School

12:00: No After Church Activity

Sunday, December 30

9:30: Sunday School

12:00 - 4:00: Skating & Pizza Celebration

After all the discussions and hard work at BRP Youth Group this semester, we are celebrating with a trip to Champ's Roller Dome in Lyndon with lunch at Chef's Cut Pizzeria. LLester Gamble will be attending as our chaperone, but all are invited.

DR. ROBERT BOZEMAN

Dr. Bozeman will utilize BRPC as a venue for three classes: The first class is a **"Bones for Life"** class that will meet at 10am on **Tuesday**, **Dec 4 & 11** and will last 60 to 75 minutes in the Fellowship Hall.

The second class is the "Artist's Way Class". It will meet on Tuesday nights in Fellowship Hall. It is a 12 week program that will begin on **January 8th**, 2019 and will meet in the evenings at 7pm.

The third event is the **Candlelit Labyrinth** walk at the **December 5th** Advent Dinner.

BAPTISM ON NOVEMBER 18



The baptism of Claire Coalter's son, Jacob, on Sunday November 18.



UPDATE ON THE CHIN FAMILY

KRM was looking to celebrate our cooperative sponsorship (with both First Presbyterian Shelbyville and First Christian Shelbyville) in supporting Khat Khai and his family of eight in their transition to life in Louisville. We had planned a big day with our official closure meeting, a trip to Eatz restaurant and an afternoon at the zoo. .However, one of the high schoolers is experiencing some mental health issues causing us to postpone our celebration for a while. Hold this family tightly in your prayers. It is difficult for a settled family, much less a family that has just been placed here. It has traumatized them all.

Our financial commitment is ending; however, our friendship will continue to blossom. They have a strong support system with their Zomi Christian church. Such a blessing for all of us. *Jennie*



MUSIC IN DECEMBER AT BRP

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL—Dec. 9

On December 9th the children will help sing "Miracle at the Christmas Café". If you would like to participate, please contact Jeanie at <u>643-7660</u>.

ADULT CANTATA—Dec. 23

On December 23rd the Chancel Choir will sing an adult cantata during Worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE—Dec. 24

Traditional Candlelight services with lessons, carols, and the celebration of communion. Services are at 4 P.M. and 11 P.M.

Christmas Day Celebration Tuesday, December 25 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Our Worship Service includes the traditional "Impromptu Christmas Pageant" with a part for everyone! It's a grassroot, spontaneous, participatory sharing of the nativity story. No auditions. No rehearsals. No hassles. No one's left out. Whoever comes takes a part in reading, singing, acting out the story. It's a lot of fun and for many people, over many years, this is a wonderful part of the holy day celebration. Come help us tell the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas morning in the Sanctuary.

ADVENT DINNERS

You are invited to participate in the dinner programs on 2 Wednesdays during Advent (**December 5 and12 beginning at 6:00 p.m.**) as we gather for a time of spiritual nurture and Community Fellowship. This is a chance to be with others who desire God's presence in the midst of the holiday frenzy.

December 5th will be a catered dinner followed by a Candlelit Labyrinth Walk led by Dr. Robert Bozeman. He has a Labyrinth that he can bring and lay down in Fellowship Hall. Everyone would then walk the Labyrinth one by one. Choir members could go first so that they could get to Choir on time. Other walkers would then follow. Robert would end the program with a concluding message.

December 12th is a catered Advent Dinner with Cookie Baking and Decoration after.

CELEBRATION MARTIN BLAKELEY RETIREMENT- Dec. 16

Martin Blakeley is retiring from work on December 14. He needs the help of family, church family and friends! On Sunday Dec. 16, we will



have a light lunch and fellowship to help Martin start this new chapter in his life. Come help us celebrate!

Day: Sunday Dec 16

Time: 12:30 P.M. (after worship at Deer Park Baptist)

Place: Fellowship Hall

Sue, Aaron and Paul

Please call 548-1156 to let Sue know if you are coming.

IN THANKSGIVING— What we are thankful for

I am ever so happy and thankful with my son, Kanah Henry Johnson, who gives me hope for the future of our forlorn planet, I Love him dearly and he makes me so proud, for he is first and foremost an honorable gentleman and we could use more such as he.

Our Jacqueline will have been gone from this mortal plane four years this 14 December. Appreciate each other while we have each other and smile. *Much Love, Paul*

We are thankful for the life of Jacqueline Fessard Johnson, who passed away on December 14, 2014. She was a beloved wife and mother, a friend, church member and and a Jane Austen aficionado. She presented a special event on Jane Austen and dressed up like a character from her books.

The Session wishes to convey thanks to Doug Rapp, John Elgin, LLester Gamble and Darius Duett for their hours and effort committed to the Sanctuary ceiling restoration project.

We are thankful for the baptism of Claire Coalter's son on November 18.

Thank you from Marlene

Thank you for the birthday cards from everyone in the BRP Day Circle and members of the BRP and CCC congregations. It means so much to me. Love, Marlene

Thank you from Jeanie

I'd like to thank all those who helped me during my recovery from surgery.

There are far too many adjectives to list but loving, kind, caring, and family come to mind when I think of the enormous support I feel from my BRP family.

God certainly surrounded me with so many wonderful witnesses to our faith.

Love. Jeanie Grosz

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8-12 Farmer's Market 8am Project Warm 6-9 Bardstown Road Aglow
9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship Dr. Robert Bozeman preaching Lunch practice for Kid's musical	3	4	5 6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	6	7	8 8-12 Farmer's Market
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Kid's Musical and Worship In Fellowship Hall Rev. Nebelsick preaching	10	11 11am Day Circle 7pm Mission Committee Mtg.	6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	13	14	15 8-12 Farmer's Market
16 11 A.M. Worship at Deer Park Baptist Church 12:30 P.M. Retirement for Martin Blakeley at BRP Items for Christmas baskets due	7pm Worship Committee Mtg	18 Newsletter deadline 7 p.m. Session Meeting	6-7:30 p.m. Advent Dinner and Program 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	20	Poinsettias are delivered to BRP	8-12 Farmer's Market Christmas basket delivery
23 Christmas Joy Offering 9:30 Sunday School; 10:30 Fellowship; 11:00 a.m. Worship; Chancel Choir Cantata Rev. Nebelsick	24 Christmas Eve Communion 4pm and 11 pm BRP Candlelight Service	25Christmas Day 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship w/ Impromptu Christmas Pageant Fellowship Hall	26	27	28	29 8-12 Farmer's Market
30 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Nebelsick preaching	31					





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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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

		1417 WILL TO OTT CALEETIDA WIS			
December 1	8:00 a.m.	Project Warm			
	6-9 p.m.	Bardstown Road Aglow			
December 2	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, Dr. Robert Bozeman preaching			
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch and practice for Kid's musical			
December 5,12	6-7:30 p.m.	Advent Dinner Program			
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal			
December 9	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Children's Musical, Rev. Nebelsick preaching			
	12-5 p.m.	Youth Group			
December 11	11:00 a.m.	Day Circle in the Club Room			
	7:00 p.m.	Mission Committee Meeting			
December 17	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team Meeting			
December 16	11:00 a.m.	Worship at Deer Park Baptist Church			
	12:30 p.m.	Retirement Celebration for Martin Blakeley in Fellowship Hall			
		Items for Christmas baskets due			
December 18	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting			
December 21		Delivery of Poinsettias to BRP			
December 23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Chancel Choir Cantata (Christmas Joy Offering collected)			
December 24	11:00 a.m. (4:00 p.m. and 11 p.m. communion) Christmas Eve Services (Rev. Nebelsick preaching)				
December 25	11:00 a.m.	Impromptu Christmas Pageant, Receive Joy Offering			
December 30	9:30 a.m.	Music and Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, Rev. Nebelsick preaching			
	Deadline for 2018 charitable contributions				