



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 52

Issue 1

January 2018

### Dear Beloved in the Lord,

It has been a supremely joyous Advent Season for me and for my family. The sights and sounds of Christmas are all around here at BRPC. The beautiful Cantata prepared by our Parish Associate Rev. Jim Brees was sung beautifully by the choir. The fragrant tree set up in the sanctuary, the popcorn, cookies, meatloaf, Chex mix and chicken served at our "favorite Christmas foods" pot luck, the sound of children (and adults) as they unwrapped the beautiful poinsettias, and the loving tour the children took to see the baby Jesus in the manger brought home the wonder of Christmas. In this holy season we come together in love, joy and hope. We come laughing and singing in this beautiful place that has housed and fed God's people for over a century.

We rejoice but we also grieve. As the year comes to a close many of us look around us and think, "Last year ..." As we remember we often cry. Sadness can envelop us as we still feel the people of our lives near us, yet beyond our sight. Let us not forget. Let us not forget to remember. Those we love are part of us and remembering them does not mean that we are denying the future. It does not mean that we are looking back instead of forward. It means we love!

Let us look forward in love! Let us commit ourselves! Let us commit ourselves to finding one thing to focus our mission and our evangelism on. Let us commit ourselves to that one thing! Let us run and not get weary!

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better. I am here to "prepare the way" for a permanent pastor to lead, guide and love you. This transition time is a spiritual time. It is a time to love and laugh. It is a time to meet and to evaluate ourselves. As I get to know all of you better I will be focusing on 7 different questions:

- Tell me about yourself
- Is there a Biblical story or passage that comes to mind when you think about BRPC? If so, what is it?
- What are the reasons you joined BRPC and what are the reasons you continue to belong?
- What is your role at BRPC and how can I help you actualize your role?
- How has it been for you at BRPC lately?
- What is your hope for this transitional time?
- What are your expectations of me as your Transitional Pastor?

I am looking forward to meeting with all of you! I can't wait!

Your sister and fellow worker in Christ,  
Mary

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

This year the Worship Committee is focusing on the beauty, meaning and spirituality of Communion. Communion is a wonderful experience. It is a time when all Christians celebrate their unity in their one Lord. It is a time of joyous celebration. It is a time of wonder and joy. Each month we will be exploring a different aspect of Communion. This month we will highlight our favorite communion hymns and the memories they bring to mind.

One of my favorite Communion Hymns is the African American Spiritual "Let Us Break Bread".

I first heard this Spiritual "Let Us Break Bread" when I was a senior at Wellesley College. I could not sing on key, but I love music. Since my two best friends – who remain my two best friends even now – were in the Wellesley College Choir, I became the Wellesley College Choir mascot. Every year the Rutgers University Choir and the Wellesley College Choir would have a joint concert. The singing was majestic. The music was magnificent. I was in awe of the beauty of the melded voices. Every meal became a special celebration when the Rutgers choir stood and sang,

"Let us break bread together on our knees, (2x)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me."

With a twinkle in their eyes and a rueful laugh in their voices, they would continue,

"Let us drink wine together on our knees, (2x)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me."

Their voices would swell in unison,

"Let us praise God together on our knees, (2x)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me."

Everyone would join for the last verse,

"Let us praise God together on our knees, (2x)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

The next time I heard this hymn was during the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The beauty of the music and words continues to feed my soul. What is your favorite Communion hymn? What is Your favorite Communion memory? Let us talk about them and rejoice!

Many Blessings,  
Mary

## DEER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

November 29, 2017

### CHURCH VITALITY SURVEY

The Church Vitality Survey is coming to BRP Church.

The Mid-Kentucky Presbytery has been selected as the pilot Presbytery to conduct a survey of our 52 congregations. The survey's purpose is to measure the vitality of the Presbyterian congregations regarding their life and mission.

There are separate surveys for the session and staff and for the congregation to fill out. You will be receiving the surveys in the mail soon and it will take 20 well-spent minutes to complete the forms. They need to be mailed back to the church by January 10, 2018 in a self-addressed stamped envelope provided by the church.

Your responses will be kept confidential and the collective results will be shared at the February 10, 2018 Presbytery Meeting as well as with our church. This information will be a useful means to discern the ways in which the Holy Spirit is moving through our congregations.

*Keith Clements*  
Clerk of Session

Dear Doug,

Many thanks for all you did to lead in arranging for our two congregations to worship and have dinner together. It was a wonderful time shared in two special places along Bardstown Road!

I truly am most grateful to you and the entire BRP family for encouraging us to worship and serve our Lord. ... and to do many good things together.

*Grace & Peace to you all,*  
*David Platt*  
Pastor, Deer Park Baptist Church

### SUNDAY ADULT STUDY—9:30 a.m.

#### Sunday mornings

The Sunday Adult Study (meeting in the Club room) will begin again in the new year. Please come on **January 7th** to help us decide the next book study.

### SING WITH US FOR THE NEW YEAR!

The Chancel Choir are looking for new members. Please contact Jeanie Grosz at 643-7660 if you would like to express yourself in music!



#### 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

Editor, Johanna Fears

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### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jackson Irakoeze	1
Linda White	3
Lars Smith	4
Erika Smith	5
Jeanie Grosz	9
Sean McEuen	9
Peresi Nyolkuru	11
Paul Ray	13
Bunky Mathis	14
Sydney Smith	14
Olivia Wagner	16
Claire Kotheimer	17
Grad Shoemaker	18
Aaron Smith	19
Chris Lieberman	21
Madeline Vanamburgh	21
John Walker	26
Mara Green	27
Connor Hudson	27
Oriverye Ndizeye	27
Mary Mpanje Muyenza	29
Nancy Brock	30
Francisco Ortiz	31

## DECEMBER 19th SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Laura Stone did the opening devotion on the difference between wishing and hoping and that we need to be more hopeful.
- Rev. Mary Nebelsick gave her Moderator's Report about the church activities and home visits she has been involved with. She encouraged committee leaders to focus their discussions and bring their written committee reports to the Session meetings.
- A motion was approved for Rev. Nebelsick to participate in a pulpit exchange with another church on February 11, 2018 to foster community life.
- A Church Vitality Survey sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency will be completed by our session, staff and congregation in early January to discern the vitality of our congregations.
- The church roll of active members was reviewed with the current total of 87 members acknowledging the passing of Betty Eigelbach.
- The November budget showed a \$9,201 deficit of expenses exceeding income but a year to date surplus of \$11,041. There is a chance that a transfer of money from the Restricted Funds account will not be necessary for the fourth quarter.
- New large print hymnals will be purchased thanks to an offer from Jim Brees. The large pulpit bible, recently discovered, will be dedicated at the January 7, 2018 service.
- The Youth have been staying between the church service and the evening Youth group having lunch, tutoring and play activities under Brittany Hesson's supervision. This "All Day Church" program has helped the transportation situation.
- A potluck supper for Peggy Hinds, a follow-up for our discernment process, is tentatively planned for January 28, 2018 for the entire congregation.
- The dedication of the solar panels was held in the club room on December 10, 2017 with Rev. Nebelsick conducting the blessing.
- The church van has been sold.
- Repairs have been made to the steam pipes in the ladies restroom and sub-basement.

*(continued in next column)*

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

- A new custodian, Edward Krieg (Woody), has been hired and he has a background in remodeling and plumbing maintenance. His hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. five days a week.
- Doug Rapp presented the 2018 preliminary operating budget. Proposed income and expenses were reviewed. With the commitment pledges down, several budget alternatives were suggested. The session will review the proposed 2018 budget for final approval at the January meeting.
- Rev. Nebelsick presented an American cross that will be displayed at future session meetings. A hymn was sung to close the meeting.

## NURSERY GIFTS

We want to thank Molly Rusk (and friends) who participated in a "toy swap" recently. She collected the unclaimed toys and brought them all over to us to sort through and keep, donate or toss.

We now have several new items that are already providing tons of fun in the nursery. Thanks, Molly!

CE committee would like to thank all who came together during the Wednesdays of Advent to eat, greet and relax together. It is always a welcome pause during our Christmas Crunch.

This year we finally tried something new with our Non-Progressive Non-Dinner. (Old habits die hard). Our generous hosts for appetizer-happy-hour were Bill and Linda Bowman. It was very nice to not have anyone worrying about preparing food and having to leave early. We could visit and laugh and not feel rushed. Thanks to the Bowmans!

*Jennie Guelda*

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

The flower sign-up sheet to beautify the sanctuary for 2018 is outside Fellowship Hall. Flowers can be donated in memory of someone, or for a celebration. You can provide the flowers, or the church office will order them.



Please sign up! The church office will call or email you when it is your time, to see what flowers you would like and what notice should be in the bulletin.

## LOUISVILLE HOMESCHOOL

Dearest Pastor Nebelsick & the BRP Congregation:

Our fall semester has been a whirlwind of learning, community, and fellowship. I have had the privilege of watching our students grow, learn, and make new bonds with each other inside BRPC.

For many, this is their favorite day of the week and their favorite place to go. My own children would rather be here than the beach! Inside BRPC we have found a loving home. These walls hold and reflect the loving spirit of the BRPC congregation, and our heavenly Father.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your community! We hope to continue to grow with BRPC in the new year. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warmly,  
Jackie Hawkins  
Louisville Home School

## POINSETTIAS AND HEIFER SHARES

In addition to poinsettias (from the KY Hemophilia Society), people at BRP also contribute "animals for the manger." Not a sheep for the Sanctuary, but a sheep that brings hope to villagers in places like Haiti. A gift to Heifer International in honor or memory of a love one is becoming part of our BRP Christmas tradition. Heifer sends livestock around the world as a gift of hope to people in need.

This year the number of poinsettias was 29, and the number of Heifer shares was 21. Thank you to all for your generosity!

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The next Worship ministry team will meet Jan. 11 at 7 pm in the Choir Room--all are welcome as we review lectionary passages and plan worship themes.

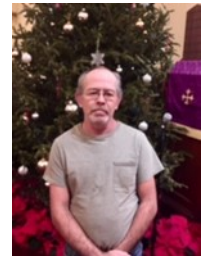
Communion will be served on Jan. 7th. We would like to offer home communion on that Sunday as well. If you are available to take communion to some of our home-bound members, please call **Lester at 502-802-5289**. Thank you.

We still need **turnkeys and ushers for 2018**. Please let Lester Gamble know if you are willing to serve.



## WELCOME TO THE NEW CUSTODIAN

Mr. Edward "Woody" Kreig has joined the staff as our new custodian. He will work Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and extra hours for special projects as needed. He brings light maintenance and floor maintenance skills to the position and looks forward to overseeing the care of the building. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself.



## Year-End Giving

If you would like to make sure your gifts to the church are posted to the calendar year 2017, please be sure to turn in your gift by December 31, 2017 or be sure to date your check and have a postmark by then if you are mailing a check. You can also go on-line and make one-time contributions at [www.brpres.org](http://www.brpres.org)

## Per Capita Apportionment

Per capita is an amount of money per member that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church U.S.A. This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. The amount per member is \$23.67.

There are many examples of how important this funding is for the denomination. It helps the General Assembly, the Presbytery, and the Synod to do their work in helping us share the Gospel in all parts of the earth.

We are asking everyone to pay their share. Make your contribution by designating "Per Capita" on the giver's envelope so it can be recorded for that purpose.

## Giving Pledge for 2018

The Finance committee has put together a preliminary budget for the calendar year 2018. Several people that normally respond have not yet responded with their pledge. If you plan to make a pledge, please contact Doug Rapp or Claire Detlefs or deposit your pledge envelope in the offering plate. We are hoping to finalize the budget in early January. We thank you for your commitment of your time, talents, and dollars for the ministry of BRP church.  
*Doug Rapp*



**FROM BRITTANY HESSON**

**Kids Club**

The January Kids Club will be Wednesday, January 17. We'll meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and a movie night.

All kids in grades kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> are welcome!

**All Day Church – Call for Volunteers**

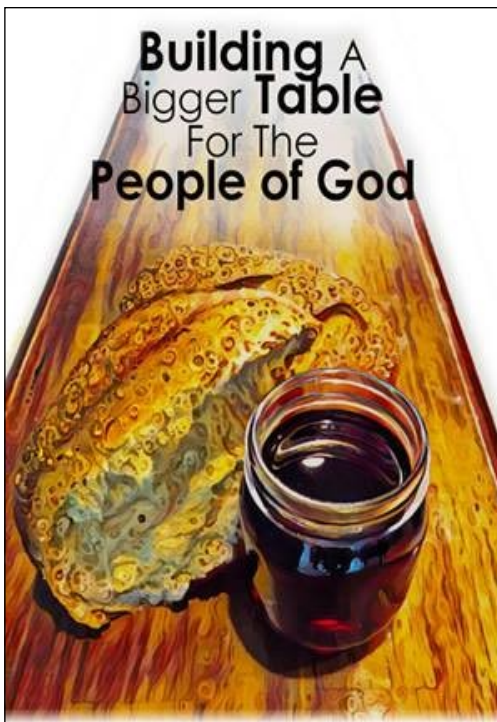
Sometimes it seems like as soon we get home from church, we have to turn around and go back. To help us spend a little less time on the road on Sundays, all youth group students are invited to stay at the church following morning worship service through youth group (12 p.m – 5:00 p.m.). There will be 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) 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. Activities resume on Sunday, January 7.



Jeanie—driving the Youth. Transportation Ministry!



Registration for our **2018 summer Conferences on Worship and Music and Montreat** and Mo-Ranch is **NOW OPEN!!**

This conference is open to musicians, singers, ringers, ministers, educators, artists, adults, youth, children, parents, grandparents...**EVERYONE** is welcome! Join us next summer!

**A CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK ON SUNDAY, JAN. 28TH—tentative**



The session has asked for a congregational potluck. Peggy Hinds has been invited to follow up with the congregation about the discernment process. A potluck will be served. *The date is tentative.*

**SOUPE BOWL OF CARING—February 4th**

Youth of the church will be collecting non-perishable food items and money to go to local missions.



Please bring canned goods with you to worship on Feb. 5th and contribute as you can!

## **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 January 9 at 11 A.M., to study Lesson 5; contact Joe Anne Overstreet for more information.

If you are interested in the Evening Circle, contact Alicia Bloos at 502-496-0345. This Circle is reorganizing with a possible 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**

#### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

Even after the happy sounds of children enjoying summer camp have faded away, things stay busy at Mid-Kentucky Presbytery's camp and conference center. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, hundreds of school children visited camp for the Holidays Around the World program. These classes educate them about Christmas in Germany, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, and Christmas in Mexico, with music, games, crafts, plays, even breaking a piñata! Keep up with camp offerings year round at [www.cedarridgecamp.com](http://www.cedarridgecamp.com). Monetary donations can also be made online. Thank you for your continuing support of OUR camp!

## **HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES NEWS**

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

Thank you to BRPC members who again helped neighbors with Christmas gifts and food. Your generosity provided 4+ families with food baskets and two \$25 value gifts. Whether you bought gifts and food, sorted items for baskets, delivered, or gave a donation, your contribution was much appreciated!

### **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!

## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Hygiene kits prepared locally last April have been pulled into service in the months following recent hurricane damage in parts of our country. As supplies have dwindled, Strathmoor 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.

## **BRPC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE**

**BRP FOOD PANTRY & BUS TICKETS:** Please give **Bus Tickets** and food items to the **BRP food pantry** as you are able. We always need items to give away to those in need who come to the church door: tuna and chicken lunchables, beanie weenies, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, granola bars, etc. All items should be in a single package and not need refrigeration.

Bus tickets can be purchased from Fifth Third Bank at 2000 Bardstown Rd. (a few streets up from BRP).

In addition to needing bus tickets and food, some folks who come to our church door seeking help are inadequately dressed for harsh winter weather. In January, we are seeking hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens which can be given to those who need them. Please place your donations in Fellowship Hall.

## **PROJECT WARM NEWS**

The BRP Team (consisting of Bill Bowman, Keith Clements, and John Elgin) worked on weatherizing two more homes in mid-December, bringing the total number to four for this season. Ask John how easy it is to reach the top of a 13-foot window!

We plan two more outings during the winter months--one in January and one in February. The January workday will be **Saturday, January 13**, and everyone is invited! No prior work experience or skill is necessary! Contact the church office or Bill for more details.



# January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Farmer's Market
<b>7 Communion</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11am Worship Rev. Nebelsick preaching Noon All Day Church	8	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  11 a.m. Day Circle, Club Room  7 p.m. Mission Committee Mtg	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  7pm Congregational Life Mtg  7pm Worship Committee Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Farmer's Market
<b>14</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Nebelsick preaching Noon All Day Church		<b>16</b>  7 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>17</b>  6pm Kids' Club	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  .	<b>20</b> Farmer's Market
<b>21</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Nebelsick Congregational Mtg Noon All Day Church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  9:30 a.m. Staff meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Farmer's Market 8:30-11am
<b>28</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30M Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Noon Potluck Rev. Nebelsick Preaching All Day Church	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



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

Jan. 3, 10,17, 24	7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Jan. 7	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Fellowship time Worship Service with Communion, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
Jan. 7, 14, 21,28	Noon—5pm	All Day Church
Jan. 9	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting, Pastor's Study Day Circle, Club Room Mission Committee Meeting
Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Life Meeting Worship Committee Meeting
Jan. 14	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Fellowship Time Worship Service, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
Jan. 16	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting, Club Room
Jan. 17	6-7:30 p.m.	Kids' Club
Jan. 21	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Fellowship Time Worship Service, Rev. Nebelsick preaching
Jan. 23	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Pastor's Study
Jan. 28	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Noon	Sunday School Fellowship Time Worship Service, Rev. Lieberman preaching (Fifth Sunday Offering) Potluck for Peggy Hinds and Congregation