



Celebrating 117+ Years of Ministry
1906-2023

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church
1722 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40205

**Volume 56
Issue 1**

January 2023

Greetings Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church

Happy New Year to all of you! We had quite the wild path through our Christmas Season with a storm that provided challenges. I think of the entire context of the baby Jesus story in our scripture that was entrenched in challenge after challenge for all involved. His parents had to be on the run almost immediately after his birth for fear of their and the newborn's life. His whole life was a bit of a challenge; both to live it, and for all who followed his Way. I wonder what it would be like for us to remember this when we confront our own challenges as a church, as a community - that we aren't alone in challenges placed in our path as a community of faith. In fact, it is more the norm than the exception.

The first week of January is the final days of the 12-days of Christmas season in to Epiphany, January 6th. We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 8. Epiphany is Greek for 'to reveal' - it is the day that the baby Jesus was revealed to the world. It is like that 'aha' moment that you sometimes feel - where you realize something that is new, or exciting, or exceptional, or different, or changing in some way.

I know we have had a long couple of years with our own challenges through the pandemic, but I have been enjoying some of these 'aha' moments, or little epiphanies. Maybe you have had some in the last month as I have? I have enjoyed the return of gathering. Our Advent dinners were wonderful. We are a community that likes to eat, and I have enjoyed being back around table with all of you! I have had 'aha' moments with the more consistent return of our choir, being reminded how important music is to the culture of our church and community. I have had 'aha' moments when groups of folks have come together to do the 'tasks' of the church - cleaning the kitchen as a group, greening the church, welcoming guests in to our building during the visiting flute choir concert and the Coffee Stop program, and the wonderful conversations and fellowship of our progressive party. These are just a few.

I hope you will join us for worship on January 1 and 8 as I have a special sermon series that involves the concept of epiphany through self-revelation - seeking to stay a tuned to these 'aha' moments in our lives. We have much to look forward to in 2023, and I am blessed to be your pastor as we walk together in to a new year!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Beautiful Music Sunday

THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Advent gatherings and Christmas services at BRPC. The church is blessed to have so many fine singers, musicians and readers; to the members and guests; and to all who gave of their time to make this a very special Advent season.

POINSETTIAS AND HEIFER SHARES 2022

This year the number of poinsettias purchased was 24, and the number of Heifer shares was 25. Thank you all for your generosity!



Christmas Eve Service 2022

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Mark Eldred	Pastor
Rev. Jim Brees	Pastoral Associate
Jeanie Grosz	Director of Music Ministries/ Organist
Sarah Hageman	Director of Children's and Youth Ministry
Corey Bullitt	Sexton
Johanna Fears	Office Manager
Marty Hageman	Treasurer

Editor, Johanna Fears

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda White	3
Erika Smith	5
Jeanie Grosz (will be 70)	9
Paul Ray	13
Sydney Smith	14
Claire Kotheimer	17
Aaron Smith	19
Chris Lieberman	21
Madeline Vanamburgh	21
Oriverye Ndizeye	27
Mary Mpanje Muyenza	29
Francisco Ortiz	31

Highlights of December Session Meeting 2022

- Rev. Eldred said he would get out of the building to do more visits in 2023 and will send his Moderator's Report to the Session tomorrow.
- Communion dates are set for Christmas Eve December 24 and January 8 (Epiphany) 2023.
- The Presentation Budget Report for 2023 and the Preliminary Budget Review and Information that included commentary prepared by Doug Rapp were reviewed.
- The 2023 Annual Budget cannot be finalized for approval until all committee budget sheets are submitted. Upon approval by the Session the 2023 Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2023 and will be included in the 2023 Annual Report.
- The 2023 staff salary increases of 5% were approved at the October Session meeting.
- The Personnel Committee will set a process for the determination of future staff salary increases based on the criteria of performance and COLA percentage.
- The Session approved changing the floor of the investment policy from \$550,000 to \$750,000 with a distribution rate of 15% based on the three-year average balance. It was requested to show the investment balance on the statements.
- The electrical service costs are high for the use of the electrical vehicle charging stations and a QR Code sign will be installed for users to make a contribution with their iPhones.
- A Called Meeting of the Session may be required to finalize the budget requests and committee expenses before the next Stated Session Meeting.
- Donations totaling \$116.00 for Highland Community Ministries was received from the Coterie CoffeeStop Concert.
- An energy audit will be done in January to examine ways to cut costs and maintain our Green Church Certification. The team will include LLester Gamble, Bill Bowman, Clare Lewis, Doug Rapp, and Rev. Mark Eldred. They will be using a checklist to follow provided by PCUSA.
- The AA Group's request to use Fellowship Hall for their Friday night meetings will be reviewed at the January Session meeting. Prior to that there will be a meeting with the group to set a precedent of space limitations and people to contact.
- Maddie Vanamburgh's confirmation project will be a town hall meeting of LGBTQ+ issues sometime after church.
- Prayers were expressed for Jeanie's surgery on December 23 and Paul Johnson's surgery on December 21.
- A \$200 donation from our Peacemaking Offering was given to support Changing Guns into Plowshares sponsored by Douglass Blvd. Christian Church.
- The Bread for the World Farm Bill is coming before congress regarding food related issues in Third World Countries. Support will be requested in January and February.

- Letters thanking those who pledged were sent by the Stewardship Committee.
- The next Stand-in-Solidarity will be January 9, 2023.

STAND IN SOLIDARITY

At about 35 degrees, we were all bundled up! Kathy and Bob's grandson Gus toughed it out with us.



PROGRESSIVE PARTY

About 25 people attended the Progressive Party on Dec. 10. A special thank you to Keith Clements for hosting and Lorena Stierle for opening her home for the appetizer portion of the party, and to Jonathan and Cheri Baize for opening their home for the dessert portion. A great time was had by all - great food, great conversations and good music. It was very nice to be back together again!



PROGRESSIVE PARTY



THE VOCAL GROUP FKA COTERIE COFFEESTOP

A fun filled gathering was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 11, with musicians starting in the sanctuary with sacred music, then moving to Fellowship Hall for coffee and desserts and more fun holiday music - and even a couple sing-a-longs. Music was provided by Anne Campbell, Mark Eldred, Jeanie Grosz, Michelle Harbison, Gillian Hollis, Mark Morrison, Daniel Rapp, Brian Shaw and Christy Thompson. A special thanks to everyone who brought desserts, helped set up and clean up. It was a fun evening with donations going to Highland Community Ministries.



ADVENT DINNER



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

SAVE THE DATE! HCM's *A Taste of the Highlands* Mardi Gras will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 5:30-7:30 P.M., presented by Elijah Craig Bourbon, offering a special cocktail and a Heaven Hill Distillery VIP Tasting! See next month's newsletter for details and ticket info.

Christmas Drive: Many thanks to all who donated throw blankets and grocery gift cards for the HCM Christmas. Because of your generosity many families had a brighter Christmas.

Check out all that HCM offers, including childcare; senior activities; art, yoga, and tai chi classes; rental event spaces; and all Highlands Youth Recreation sports, at hcmlouisville.org.

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Work Help Needed! We are helping Fourth Presbyterian Church renovate and update some of the rustic cabins and do other work around the cabin area. Work is usually done on Sunday afternoons. Workers of all skill levels are welcome. If you'd like to get involved, contact Alicia Bloos, aliciabloos@gmail.com or 502-496-0345.

Calvin Chapel Memorial Bricks: There is still time to honor or memorialize loved ones at the Calvin Chapel by buying bricks. As part of the chapel construction project, an entrance patio will be paved with commemorative bricks. You may choose either a 4"x 8" standard brick or an 8"x 8" deluxe brick, with an option to include graphics.

Order bricks through the **Memorial Brick campaign** online at cedaridgecamp.com, or pick up an order form in the church sanctuary and mail it back to camp. Don't miss your chance to remember a camp leader, a beloved minister, a camp buddy, or a special experience at Cedar Ridge! Questions? Contact Alicia Bloos.

Facilitators are always needed to lead activities for school, church, and other groups. Activities include Archery, Canoeing, Fishing, Hiking, Team Building, Native American Lore, Settlers' Toys, Orienteering, Trekking Through the Trees, Bug Safari, Crime Scene Investigation, Low Ropes and High Ropes courses, and Ziplining. Training is provided, and there is compensation. Interested? Contact Alainna Brummert, Program Director, at alainna@cedaridgecamp.com.



BRP FRONT DOOR MINISTRY

Many come to the church door in need. Please consider:

Donating **money** to purchase **TARC Partner Passes**, discounted passes for the elderly, disabled, and those on assistance. The need has multiplied, but the budget is small!

You may write a check to BRPres with "TARC passes" on the memo line.

Tuna and chicken lunchables are needed!

We have enough socks, hats, scarves.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

THE FLUTE CHOIR



January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday 11am Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	2 Church Offices closed	3	4 6pm Personnel Mtg	5	6 Epiphany	7 Farmer's Market
8 Communion 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	9 10am Congregational Life Mtg	10	11 7 p.m. Mission Committee Mtg	12	13	14 Farmer's Market
15 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	16 Church offices closed MLK Jr Day 7pm Worship Committee Mtg	17 7 p.m. Session Meeting	18	19	20	21 Farmer's Market
22 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred Preaching	23 Newsletter deadline	24	25	26	27	28 Farmer's Market
29 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred Preaching	30	31				



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

