

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

515 E. Kimball Ave.
Hemet, CA 92543
951-658-7153

“A Place Where
Life And Faith
Become One”

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First Word

January 1st, 2009

Dear Friends,

Happy new year and happy birthday! Yes, First Presbyterian Church is now 100 years old as of December 27, 1908. We will have a big birthday celebration on February 8 with former pastor,

Dr. Don Owens, returning to preach and share stories along with some former staff and members. Make sure to mark your calendars to be there whether you're new to our church or a long time member.

Next month you'll be receiving an excellent booklet on the history of our church complete with pictures compiled by James Nuoffer. What you'll notice in the booklet is how this church changed and adapted in its 100 years as our city evolved. FPC was a little, small town church for most of its first 50 years in an agricultural community. Its building was nicknamed the “brown church” for many years until they painted it and then it was called “the white church”. It sat on the site of our present sanctuary.

In the early 1960's Hemet began to change with the construction of Art Linkletter's Sierra Dawn Estates. Seniors from around the country began to call Hemet home. FPC adjusted and built a campus and a program that would accommodate the newly arrived seniors. Our Fellowship Hall and education wing were built in 1961 to replace the white church. That began a whole cycle of expansion that eventually included construction of the sanctuary in 1974, the Family Center in 1984, with a membership that topped 1300. It was then a big church in a small city.

In the 1990's our city changed again with an influx of young families, many of whom were demographically different from that of our church. The church went through a downsizing returning it to its 1956 size of 400 members as it made adjustments to the latest change in our community.

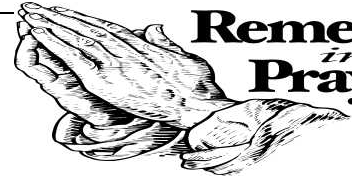
Given that history, I am confident of this, that whatever changes have to be made to reach those presently living here with the good news of Jesus Christ, this church will make them. That is who we are and God has always blessed that effort. It's fun to be a part of such a heritage. The best part of our story is yet to be told.

Pastor Larry

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff
Director of Music
Accompanist
Activities Director
Office Manager
Volunteer Coordinator
Custodian

Dr. Larry Thorson
M. E. VanOstenbridge
Joe Smayda
"Coach" Mel Carter
Kitty Vollmer
Lynn Browning
Javier Gamon



**Remember
in
Prayer**

Please be in prayer for **Alec Boatman, Del Brunson, Joan Bush, Jonathan Carter, Edith Clark, Robert Close, Vera Cole, Homer Erickson, Verna Hahn, Ruby Johnson, Bob Latta, Joann Marshall, James Nuoffer, Dorothy Weaver, Dorothy Wiley and Bill Wilson** who are recovering from surgery, illness, or accident. Also pray for the families of the late **Eleanor Johnson** and **Dottie Dougherty** who have gone home to the Lord.

PARTNERS IN MISSION

Dr. John & Dianne Fowler
Rev. John & Gwen Haspels
Habitat for Humanity
Valley Restart

Turkey
Ethiopia
San Jacinto Valley
San Jacinto Valley

**PASTORAL COUNSELING &
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Dr. Martha Thorson 951-259-8573
Wed. - Fri. 9 am - 4 pm

ASSOCIATE PASTOR EMERITUS

Dr. Gerald Lyman

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Rev. Jim Karcher

OFFICE HOURS


9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday - Friday

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(Kitty Vollmer)
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(Lynn Browning & Volunteers)

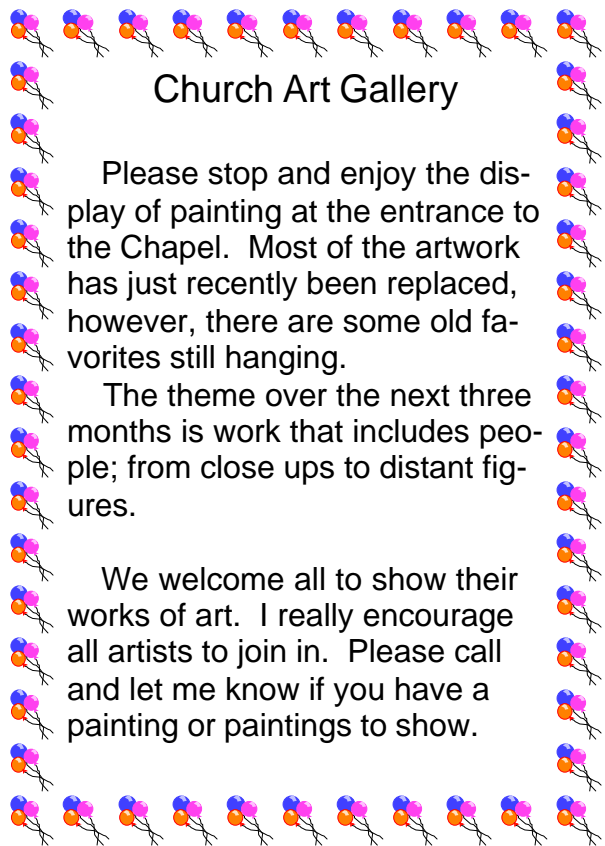
January 1, 2009
FIRST WORD

Published monthly
First Presbyterian Church
515 E. Kimball Ave.
Hemet, CA 92543



Thank You for Helping

Thank you to all those who help each month getting this newsletter to you: **Vera Cole, Jack & Bonnie Hansen, Dorothy Hull, Bernice Irwin, Leo & Barbara Reed and Buzz Sprague.**



Church Art Gallery

Please stop and enjoy the display of painting at the entrance to the Chapel. Most of the artwork has just recently been replaced, however, there are some old favorites still hanging.

The theme over the next three months is work that includes people; from close ups to distant figures.

We welcome all to show their works of art. I really encourage all artists to join in. Please call and let me know if you have a painting or paintings to show.

LIBRARY NEWS

No new books. Christmas has taken its' toll on my time too. But, in our library we have 333 novels, 69 biography and 2,623 non-fiction books on all aspects of Christian history and Christian living. I'm sure you will find something you would like to read or study in your church library.

The New Year is a gift from God. Wishing you a year filled with enriching days, happy hours and meaningful minutes.

Bernice Cole

Sack Lunch Program for the Homeless and Needy

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come blessed of my father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world. For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink”....Matthew 25:34-35

The Church in partnership with the Berean Fellowship Baptist Church has started a sack lunch program. The lunches will be given out at the double doors of the Family Center Gym on Tuesdays , Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. We hope to be able to open on other days as the program develops. .

As in the past, the foods needed are: Pop top cans of Vienna sausage and/or pork and beans, individual packets of applesauce or other fruit or pudding, individual packets of crackers and cheese/peanut butter, drink packets, nutrition bars, and napkins and spoons. Those who would rather may provide money so the food can be purchased. It is hoped that a number of people will pledge a certain amount each month, even \$5.00 a month would do so much if enough people will get involved.

The contact for this Lord's work is: Shirley Jouglard, 652-7212

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

MUSIC NOTES

We have just come out of the beautiful advent season and offer many thanks to the Chancel Choir, Pastor Larry, Pastor Jim, and all of the lesson readers, our Accompanist, Joe Smayda, and our wonderful sound technicians, my husband, Ron, and Josh Menck for the incredible performance of "Festival of Carols."

In addition, a special thanks to Jerilee Crossman and all of the ladies of the Presbyterian Women Circles who provided refreshments and baked those yummy cookies (I know I ate way too many myself). The fellowship time was so fun! A joyful time was had by all!!

The ending anthem in the Christmas program was entitled "The Work of Christmas begins". The words are:

When the song of the angels is stilled, and the voices of the night are silent;
when the shepherds return to their sheep, the work of Christmas begins.
When the star in the heavens is dim, and the ringing of the bells is fading;
when the kings travel back to their lands, the work of Christmas begins:

When the Bethlehem inn has no guests, and the sleepers of the town awaken;
when the manger is home to beast, the work of Christmas begins.

To feed the hungry, to find the lost, to free the prisoner, to heal the broken,
when all wars cease, when love is spoken, the work of Christmas begins to live.

I felt this was most fitting to end the concert because as beautiful as the music around the manger is, the Christmas story really doesn't end there— it begins there.

It has been an incredible year. The men and women of the Chancel Choir are some of the finest people I have ever worked with. If you would like to join us, choir rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, January 7, 2009! We hope to see many new faces!!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Director of Music for this great church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Mary Ellen Van Ostenbridge

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Sunday afternoon games meet at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room the first Sunday of every month. If you enjoy playing board or card games come and join us for a good time. Light refreshments will be served. Call Joan Nehez at 929-5160 for further information.

Seniors meet for breakfast the fourth Tuesday of the month, 9:00 am, at J&M's (near Henry's) For information call Emma Lou at 766-0634

PW Project

- * P.W. Projects will continue collecting
- * pull tabs along with used postage
- * stamps, box tops for education labels,
- * Campbell's labels, and eye glasses.
- * Please place these items in the small
- * basket provided in the Narthex.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are due in January. Please e-mail your items to the office at secretary@hemetpresbyterian.org. Articles to be sent in by Outgoing Ministry Moderators, PW Moderator, and Deacon Moderator.

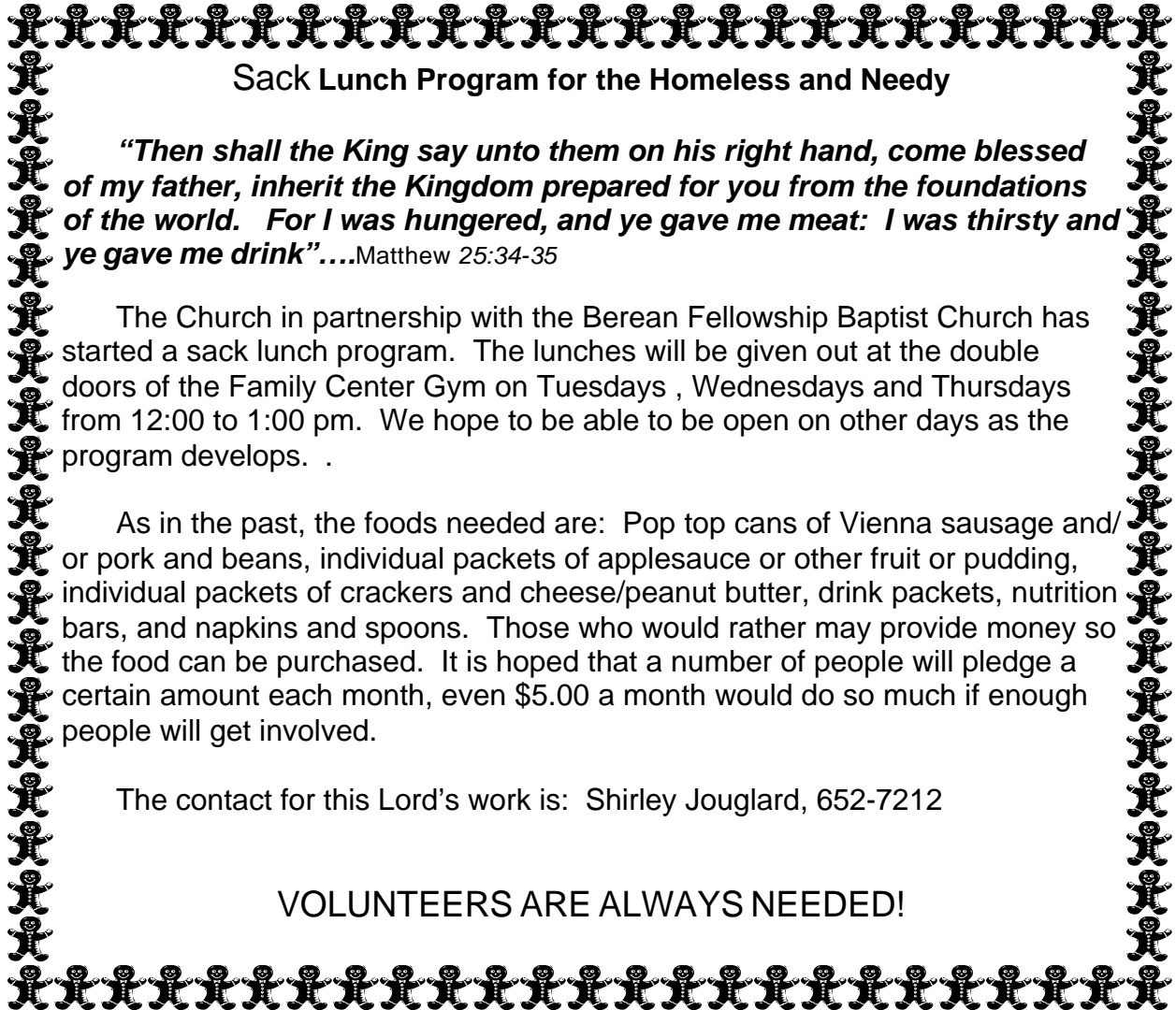


Clerk's Corner

There have been two called Session Meetings in the past month to receive 9 new members who are already actively involved in our church activities. Dec. 4th, Session and Deacons met for dinner and a combined meeting to discuss items of mutual interest. In 2009 each member-family will be assigned a specific Deacon. Devotional books were presented to officers whose terms were completed. Income and expenses for 2008 will be printed in next months "First Word". As I retire from the position of Clerk, I thank all of you who have made serving a privilege and pleasure.

New Members:

- | | |
|---|---|
| "Nene" Blade
225 W. Fruitvale Ave.
Hemet 92543
583-7837 | Peter DeBruyn
781 Bermuda Dr.
Hemet 92545
282-3875 |
| Joyce Carver
1221 Agape
San Jacinto 92581
765-6789 | "Sue" Howard
5001 W. Florida
#707
Hemet 92545
652-1415 |
| Antonio & Kristin Martin
2770 W. Devonshire Ave.
#H-14
Hemet 92545
282-3875 | Yvonne Rains
1250 S. Cawston Ave.
Apt. D-1
Hemet 92545
385-0146 |
| Richard Tetteh
359 S. Franklin St.
Hemet 92543 | Clifton Tobias
1849 Faulknor Ave.
San Jacinto 92583
654-1326 |



Sack Lunch Program for the Homeless and Needy

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