



from under

The Redbud Tree

*First Presbyterian Church
Mountain Home, Arkansas*

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January

Issue 262

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family and Friends,

You may notice that after Christmas, in the first two weeks of January, I won't be around very much. In fact, I won't be around at all. I have been accepted into the Doctor of Ministry Program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, TX, and will be attending classes there.

No, I won't be leaving the church permanently! The program I am enrolling in is designed for Pastors who are currently serving churches and want to further their education. It involves being on the seminary campus for two weeks in January and two weeks in June. Then, there is lots of studying, reading and writing in between. In fact, I was assigned six books to read and five papers to write before I even begin in January.

I am excited about pursuing this program because it engages the church, too. I will be assigned projects to do which will involve the congregation and even the community. We can explore together issues we feel are important to and for our congregation and have lots of fun doing it!

The program is expensive. It costs about \$5,000 per year to attend. This includes travel, books, tuition and room and board while I am there. I am using some of my Continuing Education funds from the church and have also received two grants which will help offset the costs. While I still need a little more funding to complete the financial piece of the program, hopefully that will all work out. As I said above, I will be absent from the church for two weeks in January and June. This will go on for three years because that is the length of the program. I am grateful to the Session for approving this study for me and also agreeing to two additional weeks of study leave per year for the time necessary to be away from the church. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that since my daughter lives in the Austin area, I hope to see her some while I am in school. However, classes and study will have to come first - we'll see how it all works out!

We are fortunate to have a great staff and lots of volunteers to fill in for me while I am gone. Helen, Carolyn and Connie (our new secretary) will do a great job of "holding down the fort". Gary Adler will be preaching on the two Sundays I am gone. Being able to preach when I am away gives Gary the practice he needs to prepare for becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor. And it helps our Worship Committee in their search for preachers to fill the pulpit. Marilyn will carry on as church organist and choir director and Amy will continue to keep our church building spotless. We will have plenty of Deacons to check on folks who are sick, and I hope that you will watch out for one another while I am away. This will be a great new year for First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Home - God bless you as you move ahead to 2012!

Your Pastor,

Nancy,



FYI: "The Upper Room" devotional booklets are now located in both the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for these books, but donations are appreciated. Please remember to make a note on the Flower Calendar in the Narthex if you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary during 2012. You should sign up at least two weeks in advance of your chosen date.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE



January 2012

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Dee Crapnell | 18 - Chuck & Cheryl Munson Beall |
| 2 - Judy Faust | 28 - Fred & Norma Iffland |
| 2 - Susan Kearns | 31 - Ed & Lillian Euers |
| 4 - Gale Newman | |
| 7 - Howard Stromberg | |
| 8 - Neil Foster | |
| 9 - Rev. Duane Farris | |
| 12 - Frank Gladson | * Betty Benson |
| 15 - Lowayne Wedge | 20975 George Hunt Circle |
| 18 - Betty Benson* | Unite #614 |
| 20 - Amy Kellem | Waukesha, WI 53186 |
| 21 - Helen Harding | |
| 27 - Chuck Beall | |
| 28 - Connie McLaurin | |
| 31 - Robert James | |

In Case of Inclement Weather: The weather here can change at a moment's notice so please call the office during the week when icy weather arrives. For the safety of your staff, if Mountain Home schools close the office will either be closed or will open late depending on the severity of the conditions.

The Special Person for the Month of January is Gary Adler

Gary was born in Rockford, Illinois and then grew up in the small town of Round Lake. After high school he entered college at Dickenson State in North Dakota. His main course was playing football! Then he met Sharon and they were married. Gary was employed at the Ball Corporation in Mundelein, Illinois where they made glass mason canning jars. Later he worked for International Harvester in Libertyville. Gary joined the Round Lake Fire Department and was a paramedic/firefighter. He earned a Bachelor's degree and then a Master's degree and became the Fire Marshall. He also took training and became a certified Scuba Diving Instructor.

Gary and Sharon have one son that lives in Harrison. They have three (3) grandchildren.

Gary and Sharon moved to Gassville in 1988 and tried to live the Great American Dream by purchasing a home and a gasoline station. The business lasted about two (2) years and became impossible to carry on. Sharon became employed at North Arkansas Glass Company and Gary worked for Ace Hardware. Eventually he went to work for Meeks Building Center where he is still employed.

Gary enjoys woodworking, gardening and canning his home grown vegetables.

Gary has been training for the past eighteen (18) months in Sallisaw, Oklahoma to become a Certified Lay Pastor. He has completed his training and is waiting now for his certificates. Gary does an outstanding job every Sunday at our church with his "Time with Young Christians" program.

Gary is our fearless leader in the Evangelism and Outreach committee!



I want to thank all my church friends for all the cards and prayers you sent to me upon the death of my son. I never expected to bury a child before they bury me – but, I guess God knows best. May God Bless all of you! Evalyn McGill

Cards – Prayers – More cards and more prayers. I feel so blessed and grateful to have such a wonderful church family. A bit spoiled too! Thank you. So glad that God led me to Mountain Home. It has been a great blessing for me and my children.

Love always,
Nancy Cummings

To my church family:

At my recent ear surgery, I want to thank you for the well wishes, prayers and phone calls. My hearing is not too good, and regretfully, I can no longer sing in the choir, and I really miss that. God bless you and yours. See you in church. Lucy Hewitt

Dear church family and friends,

On behalf of the Don Farris family and Jerry Farris family, let me express our heart-felt thanks for condolences, hugs, cards, phone calls, and many other blessings in the loss of my brother Don and son Jerry. God bless you.

Duane



Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday, January 18th at noon there will be a potluck luncheon at the church. Please bring a dish to share. And, please note the day and time as it is a bit different from the usual. Wayne Faust and a couple of fellow musicians will bring some easy listening music for our enjoyment. E & O Committee.

Help needed soon! To take care of Best Choice labels. Not a hard job – one you can do while watching TV, listening to tapes. We average between \$90.00 and \$160.00 per year. "Every little bit helps!" Call or stop by my house and I will explain. I will do it as long as I can but, I need someone to take over when I can't do it any more. PLEASE!

Nancy Cummings/425-3986

The Worship Committee will be taking down the Advent decorations on Wednesday, January 4th, after Bible Study. We welcome any folks who can come help us!!



January, 2012

Church Office Hours
9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon Through Thur.

Pastor
Reverend Nancy Taylor

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Mountain Home, AR 72653

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Website: www.fpcmh.net

Secretaries
Helen Harding , Carolyn Saul & Connie McLaurin
Sunday school 9:00 AM Worship 10: 00 AM

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

