



Progress Edition 2010

Second Presbyterian Church
801 Waller Street
Portsmouth, Ohio
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Submitted by Crenda Pickering

There is always something going on at Second Presbyterian Church! Whether we are embarking on a new project or continuing long standing traditions, we are a busy group!

We are happy to have a continuing relationship of good will with our neighbors at Portsmouth Public Schools. This past football season there were tailgating parties held on our grounds by the PHS Athletic Department and Boosters. Portsmouth High's Show Choir earned funds by parking cars in our lot at home football games. The choir returned the favor by donating money to our youth group, who utilized the funds to bake pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone was a winner!

Second Pres participated in the celebration of The Year of the Organ by hosting two recitals featuring Stanley Workman, our director of music, on our Kilgen pipe organ. In addition to concerts by guest organists Jared Johnson and Doug Leightenheimer, special music services included our Annual Passion Lessons and Anthems on Palm Sunday, and Easter and All Saint's Sunday, which were both enhanced with special anthems and hymns accompanied by Brass and Timpani. Workman also conducted our traditional Christmas Cantata, the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. The traditional service, first held on Christmas Eve, 1918, at King's College Chapel, in Cambridge, England, alternates readings from the Holy Scriptures with carols and anthems of the season. Another musical favorite has returned to Second Pres. After a hiatus of several years, the Handbell Choir is back. We are excited to have the Bells ringing out in joy once again!

The annual Fourth of July Picnic is another long-standing tradition. The cost of the meal increases yearly – but not by much! We pay a penny for each



year of our nation's independence. Games, music and traditional picnic fare round out the day. Our annual fall picnic was held at Earl Thomas Conley Park. We invited the congregation at First Pres to join us to hear our guest speaker from Thailand.

God's Pantry, located in the basement of Second Pres, provided food for an average of 7500 meals per month this past year. That's 90,000 meals in the past year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support. Every donation goes directly toward helping those in need of a helping hand.

To continue the fight against hunger, our Outreach Committee has embarked on a new project, Cents-Ability. Our congregation is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal as an expression of thanks for what we have received. Offering cups are available for anyone in the community who wishes to participate. 80% of the monies will go to God's Pantry to help our local families. The remainder will help support the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The offerings may be placed in the collection plate or dropped off at the church office on a quarterly basis. We will collect our first Cents-Ability offering on March 28th.

Our Woman's Association hosted our popular Election Day Luncheon. This traditional meal goes back decades! The return to our menu of hot chicken salad, rolls, green salad and dessert was well received by the community.

The Deacons held a craft fair this year. Local artists and crafters set up booths with everything from embroidery to woodworking to jewelry. There were hourly drawings for prizes. We hope this successful show will become annual event.

Wednesday Dinners for the congregation have returned to Second Pres! Our choirs – the Chancel Choir, Youth Choirs and Bell Choir, initiated the revival of the old custom. The congregation embraced the idea and we meet in the dining room in the basement for dinner and fellowship.

A big part of our time and budget is spent maintaining our physical house of worship. We invite you to look at the refinished oak doors to our sanctuary on Waller Street. There are plans to refinish all doors to the church. What is less visible is the repair work done on our roof. Second Presbyterian Church is listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. Repairing the grand slate roof, as well as any updates or repairs to the building, must be done within the guidelines of retaining the historical structure. This includes expensive copper flashing and the hiring of qualified artisans for our repairs.

We invite you to visit us at Second Presbyterian Church. Whether we are busy with a traditional program or something new, we are never too busy to greet new friends!