

The Cherokee Chat

A weekly publication from Cherokee Presbytery, 183 West Main Street, Suite A, Cartersville, GA 30120 – www.cherokeepresbytery.org

January 4, 2012 – Issue two hundred forty-five

The IRS will maintain standard deduction for driving

for business at 55.5 cents in 2012, the same as the **rate that was increased** in the middle of this year. In the first six months of this year, the rate was 51 cents. You can use the standard deduction allowed by the IRS or can calculate the actual costs of using your vehicle. An independent study is done each year to determine the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile for business, medical, moving and charitable purposes. This year's study was done by Runzheimer International. Taxpayers also will be allowed to deduct 23 cents per mile in 2012 for trips for medical purposes or to relocate for a job. That is down a half-cent from 2011. For those driving for charitable organizations, the 2012 rate will be 14 cents a mile.

2012 IRS mileage rates

Purpose	Rate July-Dec. 2011	Rate Jan. 1, 2012
Business	55.5 cents	55.5 cents
Medical/moving	23.5 cents	23 cents
Charitable	14 cents	14 cents

Minimum Salary Guidelines to remain same for 2012

The Committee on Ministry set the 2012 recommended minimum salary guidelines for ministers in Cherokee Presbytery the same as for 2011: Base Salary \$24,500, Housing \$11,350 and Utilities \$3500. Under benefits, one-half of self-employment tax is unchanged and pension and medical dues are increased to 32.25%. Professional expenses are unchanged: at least \$3500 auto expense and \$800 education and books. The one-page form will be posted on the presbytery website and can be emailed on request. A recommendation for approval will come before presbytery on February 28.

It's Official: Parkway Church and its pastors Bill Ford and Cido Araujo were dismissed by Cherokee Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Southeast, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, effective December 31, 2011. Parkway has made a gift to Cherokee Presbytery in the amount of \$22,400 which, by vote of presbytery, has been sent to Tri-Presbytery New Church Development.

Career Transition Ministry is Monday, January 9

The theme for this session is *No Fear, Just Faith*, with inspirational speaker Heidi Isom leading the program. Come at 6:30 p.m. for personal resume, interviewing, networking, and career assessment help and at 7:00 p.m. for the presentation. The location is The Warehouse, 1stst Presbyterian Church of Marietta. All this for free along with refreshments and prize giveaways.

A Live 90-minute Webinar for church leaders about the adoption of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order will be held Friday, January 6 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$29.95. Contact Jana Blazek at 800-446-6008 x 758 or jblazek@pres-outlook.org. An archived version will also be available if the date doesn't suite you.

Don't forget to replace your smoke alarm battery.

The Cedartown church can tell you for sure that it's important. Their advent wreath became a burning bush while no one was there and the alarm summoned help. No serious damage was done – mostly smoke. We are thankful for the happy ending.

Please pray for:

- ~ Rev. Roger Martin and Julie Martin, in the death of their son, Mac Martin, on December 17, in Rome, GA.
- ~ Rev. Ken Waddell's dad Ron Waddell, who had heart surgery on December 9 at Oklahoma Heart Hospital
- ~ The family of Jerome Coleman Jr., Kennesaw State University student and basketball player, who died December 19. There will be a special memorial hosted by *The Journey* at 8:00 p.m. on January 9.
- ~ The family of Jan Boehm, who passed away on Tuesday, January 3 at Presbyterian Village. Jan was the mission chair for Presbyterian Women in the presbytery.

One Church, Many Locations, Following Christ Together

January 8, 2012 – *Cherokee Presbytery church of the week:* Beersheba Presbyterian Church is located in Chattooga County in Summerville at 9977 Highway 337 and was organized in 1852. The Reverend Ken Terrell is Temporary Pastor. Ann Maddux is Clerk of Session. Active membership is 75. Beersheba is in a parish covenant with Summerville Presbyterian Church.

January 15, 2012 – *Prayers for Immigrant Ministries in Cherokee Presbytery:* Kenyan American Community Church NCD, Presbyterian Church of Ghana NCD, God's Will Love Church Pre-NCD, New Vision Presbyterian Church Pre-NCD, East African Student Fellowship, Marietta Presbyterian Church Fellowship, Zion Korean Presbyterian Church Fellowship.

Presbytery Calendar:

- January 7, 9:30 – Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
- January 7, 10:00 – Spiritual Development Team
- January 9, 10:00 – New Church Development Commission
- January 9, 1:00 p.m. – Worship Team
- January 9, 1:00 p.m. – Presbyterian Answer to Hunger
- January 9, 6:00 p.m. – Euharlee Committee
- January 11, 11:00 – Nominating Committee
- January 12, 7:00 p.m. – Committee on Ministry (6:00 BBQ)
- January 23, 11:30 a.m. – Ministry Support Team
- January 23-27 – Interim Pastor Training, Calvin Center
- February 14, 12:30 – Women Clergy Luncheon

If you would like your name removed from the mailing list for this publication, please contact the presbytery office: 770-382-6280.