

Presbyterians *Today*

MARCH 2004

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Presbyterians
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**TOP 10
FILMS
OF 2003**

*Gandalf from
Lord of the
Rings: The Return
of the King*





What has worked for your congregation? Share your ideas—as well as any problem you would like others to respond to—by sending them to Bright Ideas, *Presbyterians Today*, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202; e-mail: today@pcusa.org.

Tips from "The Bulletin Board Lady"

Xavia Arndt Sheffield, wife of Pastor Dick Sheffield of the Market Street Presbyterian Church in Lima, Ohio, may be more commonly known as "The Bulletin Board Lady." She recently completed her 672nd bulletin board since she started creating them more than seven years ago. She writes about her "hobby," which has become a special ministry:

People would occasionally ask me to do a bulletin board for a specific event or program at the church. I got the idea that the walls needed some kind of decoration or message on them all the time to make them more inviting and interesting, as well as to make sure people knew about what was going on in the church. That "idea" grew to almost a full-time job.

As I embarked on my quest to make the walls "talk," I found there were 29 blank bulletin boards of all sizes in the church halls, not counting the classrooms! They ranged from the large 7 x 8-foot ones in our Fellowship Hall to built-into-the-wall ones to one free-standing and movable divider.

After creating a number of general and Bible-based boards, I turned to others. A "Welcome Board" welcomes people as they come in, and this changes with the seasons and the church schedule. Besides boards for one-time events, I assigned a board to the different organizations and committees. I wound up with boards for children and youth programs, fellowship events, Presbyterian Women, music activities, stewardship and mission, people in the news and community events, recognitions, quotations.

And last but not least, Bible verses. I try to include an appropriate Bible verse on many of the boards, even the programmatic ones. It became almost an obsession with me to make sure everyone knew everything that was going on in the church, knew their Bibles from front to back, and were inspired by all those wonderful quotations came across.

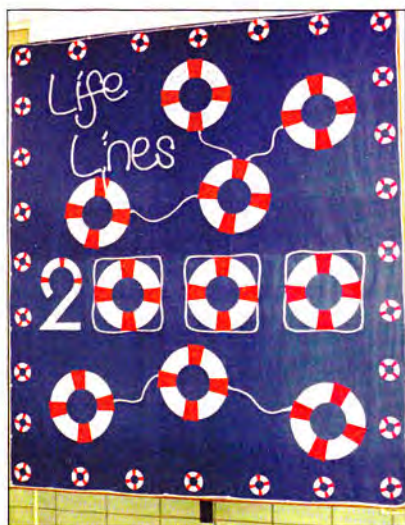
In addition to my own ideas I am always on the lookout for

pictures, brochures, national church materials, clip art. I often use church and other symbols, seasonal motifs, and images and Bible verses suggested by certain events. I had an especially good time around the millennium, coming up with over 50 different ways to use the numbers 2000.

I look at bulletin boards wherever I go and occasionally "borrow" an idea to build on. After six years of doing all the boards myself, I placed one outside each Sunday school classroom so the kids could be creative and help me with them—one of the smartest things I ever did!

If people are somehow lifted up or learn just one new Bible verse, it is all worth it. It has been fun, challenging, and my way of sharing my time and gifts with my church. I would be glad to be contacted for information about ideas, photos, patterns or instructions.

—Xavia Arndt Sheffield
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Hobby-turned-ministry: a sampling of the more than 670 bulletin boards created by "The Bulletin Board Lady"

