



# First Presbyterian News December 2011 and January 2012

## OH LORD, HOW SHALL WE MEET YOU?

*“O Lord, how shall we meet you,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
Our hope, our heart’s delight!  
O Kindle, Lord most holy,  
A lamp within our breasts,  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.”*

This is a marvelous 17<sup>th</sup> century text written by Paul Gerhardt and set to music written by Melchior Teschner, and is an Advent hymn in our Presbyterian hymnal. It sums up our feelings at this time of year so well, as we begin our quiet Advent waiting for the wondrous birth of the Christ child.

The commercialism of the secular Christmas celebration is so raucous and begins so early these days – even before Thanksgiving – that it is difficult for Christians to set aside even a few hours every week to sit quietly in God’s presence in prayer. How shall we meet the Lord our Savior this year? How shall we welcome him aright?

I encourage you to use an Advent devotional . . . there are so many available on-line these days . . . read Scripture daily and let it into your heart. Find a half an hour every day to sit expectantly, waiting for God to fill your heart and spirit with peace and joy.

As a congregation, we have every reason to look forward to Advent and Christmas this year with anticipation and optimism. Our Missional Journey of transformation together has been going well. We have had very good participation at all of the planned events. Our leadership met on Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> to arrive at a consensus on four Key Result Areas drawn after a great deal of discussion from our Guiding Vision. We shall be a community of: God-centered worship, Christian witness, learning and caring. On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will gather after our Congregational Meeting for a meal together and use these Key Result Areas in our discussion during the Conference on the Future.

Oh Lord, how shall we meet you?

Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you during this joyous season,

Pastor Mary Ann Banning

Worship is at 9:30 am every Sunday with a short fellowship to follow.


Sunday School Classes begin at 10:45 am.

In observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas day the church office will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. In observance of New Year’s day the office will close at noon on the 30<sup>th</sup> and be closed January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Office will reopen January 3 from 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm Mondays through Fridays.



**ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICES**

11/27/11	First Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 64: 1-9; I Cor. 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37
12/4/11	Second Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8 Communion
12/11/11	Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; I Thess. 5: 16-24; Luke 1: 26-8 Congregational Meeting – Pastor’s Terms of Call
12/18/11	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20 Children’s Program at 10: 45 a.m. Christmas Caroling to homebound, 2:00 p.m.
12/24/11	Christmas Eve	Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols Bell Prelude, Brass Group after worship
12/25/11	Christmas Day	Informal worship in Memorial Lounge, Christmas Carols, Prayers, and Meditation
1/1/12	New Year’s Day	Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3; Gal. 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40
1/8/12	Epiphany Observance	Isaiah 60: 1-6; Eph. 3: 1-12; Matt. 2: 1-12 Communion, Ordination and Installation of Officers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Dec. 4	Ethan DeMaegd Bob Sloan Dick Dentino	Communion
Dec. 11	Carole Polk Bill Bellairs Neil Seufert	Advent
Dec. 18	Jeff Wiseman Michael Green Jack Bruner	Advent
Dec. 25	Nora Wiseman Dan Bruner	

*December Birthdays:*  
Charlotte Phillips 9th  
Austin Howard 11th

I would like to thank my church family from FPC Mishawaka for all of the cards and prayers for healing while I was recovering from my two accidents. I also wanted to say thank you for the meals that the ladies prepared and brought to us. Our family feels very blessed to be a part of this faith community! Blessings, Dyan Phillips

Wayne and Cheryl Priddy are happy to announce the birth a of grandson, Andrew Irwin Petersen. Born October 22nd, weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz and 21 inches long. Welcome, Blessing!

This year, as years in the past, the **Advent~Christmas card** will be at the top of stairs in the lobby. Please take time to send wishes and regards to your church family as we celebrate this most wonderful time of year.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BAKE SALE**  
**Saturday, December 3, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Once again it is time to mark your calendars for the CANDY CANE LANE BAKE SALE to be held Saturday, December 3rd. Start making your list of teachers, mailmen, coaches, neighbors, co-workers and family members that you will want to "wow" with freshly baked items.

There will be: Christmas Cookies, Cheesecakes, Pies, Cakes, Breads, Noodles, Cheese Balls, Soup Mixes, Candy, Peanut Brittle and much more.

All proceeds benefit Presbyterian Women's Mission works.

It is never too early to start thinking about Christmas gifts and the **Presbyterian Women's Jubilee Cookbook** makes a great gift for family, friends and co-workers. All the recipes come from church members and many are potluck favorites. The book itself is worth the cost as it doubles as a cook-book stand and it is a three ring binder so you can add your own recipes. Now is the time to buy **ONLY \$10.00 each**. Contact the church office or Carole Polk to purchase a book. We even have gift-wrapped books!

**The Scrapbook Club** will be meeting on Friday, December 9th from 6 pm to 11 pm. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. The crop is FREE this month and includes drinks and a small snack. Remember, all are welcome and you may bring any type of project(s) on which you would like some time to work. There will be no meeting in January. May the blessings of Christ surround you and yours this Christmas and New Year. Brittany

In the mood for some Christmas music? **Priscilla Weaver** will be singing for a fellow graduate student's choral conducting recital, Friday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of South Bend.

The program is Advent-themed.

No tickets necessary.

**DEACONS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PROJECT 2011**

There are families in our town who need help providing warm clothing and a special Christmas experience for their children this year. By participating in the annual Deacons' Christmas Shopping Project, you can be part of the help that First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka, has been offering to such families for decades. By partnering with School City of Mishawaka and our local J. C. Penney's store, FPC will make a real difference for approximately 50 local children this Christmas season, and beyond.

***Church members are needed to help parents shop.***

Meet with the deacons at the catalog entrance of Penney's at the UP mall. Please sign-up at Clipboard Corner, on the Ritual of Friendship Pad, or call Susan May 259-1141.

Saturday, December 10, from 8:00-10:00 am.

***Donations are needed to cover clothing costs for 50 children.***

Envelopes can be found in the pews and were attached to your November newsletter.

Checks should be made out to FPC (memo: Deacons' Fund.)

## Holiday Progressive Dinner December 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

We will be having our annual Holiday Progressive Dinner on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. It will be held in our beautiful, historical church again this year. Appetizers will be served in the Christian Education Lobby. Main dish will be served in the small dining room, followed by dessert and carols in Memorial Lounge. This is always such a wonderful event. Don't miss it! It is a great way to celebrate the season with your church family. Please sign up on the clipboard or call the church office for reservations. As always, family and friends are welcome.

**Book Club, is meeting December 11 at 4:00 pm, at Jean Bruner's home. Beth Davis will be the discussion leader for this month's book, *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo. An astonishing story of a little boy's trip to heaven and back. Come join us for an uplifting afternoon.**

## Children's Christmas Program: Sunday, December 18

~ ~ "The True Gifts of Christmas" ~ ~

*Sunday, December 18 will be a very special day at FPC - - lots of wonderful things going on!*

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented by our church school classes for elementary and for youth. Together, they will recreate the Nativity Story in "The True Gifts of Christmas." Carols for all to sing, a bit of humor, the holy story of Jesus' birth, costumes and commotion await! The program will begin right after fellowship time in Fellowship Hall, at about 10:45. (No adult class is scheduled for that day.)

Leaders Beth Davis, Mary Ann Dentino, Priscilla Weaver and Susan May would appreciate some other helpers as well. If you are available, please contact one of these women.

### Family and Friends Sunday

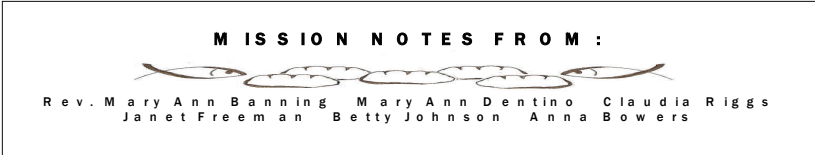
**On December 18, our congregation will be hosting a wonderful event that involves all of us. It is Family and Friends Sunday. This is your perfect chance to invite someone you know to worship with us. We all know someone, whether it is a family or friend, that is not affiliated with a congregation on a regular basis. As much as we love our church and congregation, we MUST grow to survive. Most new members visit a church because of a personal invitation from a friend or relative. This will be a very special worship, as it will be the Children's Program as well. We will be having a special Fellowship Time, complete with a chocolate fountain and Christmas goodies. We have so much to offer. Share our warm and wonderful congregation with someone else. Your church needs you to make the effort. Let's have the pews full on December 18th!**

Church Growth and Outreach

## ALL- CHURCH CAROLING

Everyone is invited to come caroling to the homebound members of our church family. Bring your kids, your neighbors, your relatives, your school buddies, anybody who likes to join in on the good old Christmas carols and enjoys bringing cheer to others. The Board of Deacons will provide a light supper when carolers return to the church around 3:30. This tradition is a truly meaningful gift to all who sing and all who listen. Don't miss it.

**When? Sunday, December 18. Meet in the CE lobby promptly at 2:00 pm.**



**NEWS FROM THE "MAC"**

Numbers from the Albright Food Pantry continue to fluctuate as does the US economy and the number of homeless, jobless people in the Mishawaka.

There appears to be a misconception that these problems do not exist in our community. Ask those who volunteer at the Pantry and you will get a different story. There truly is a need to do our best to aid these folks until they are able to find a solution, thereby becoming self-sufficient once again.

A breakdown of statistics looks like this: So far this year a total of 2752 households have been served; of those 369 are new ones; (total of 9183 people) 962 over the age of 60.

Churches that are members of MAC use a variety of methods to collect food (and money) in an attempt to keep Pantry shelves filled. Sometimes volunteers worry on Tuesdays and Fridays there will not be enough food available but when the doors open; however, clients are welcomed in to share what is there. Volunteers are pretty savvy shoppers and scour store ads to get the most for the money in the checkbook. Government commodities are coming less and less. Donations from "People Gotta Eat" have been delayed until early January.

Talks are underway to work more closely with what was once known as The Bridge on, 312 Lincolnway West. As these talks progress more and more specifics will be forthcoming.

The Mission Committee will be meeting soon with newly-elected Session elder, Wayne Priddy to brainstorm for ideas on collecting items for the grocery cart.

The number of volunteers for the Albright Food Pantry has increased. Dick Dentino and Ethan DeMaegd are delivering collected food items to the Pantry. Carole Polk has joined Sue Rice working during pantry hours.

**Good News of Great Joy**

For most of 2011, the human family, all of God's children, have endured a seemingly endless series of devastations: earthquakes, tsunamis, drug wars, tornadoes, suicide bombings, floods, and assorted uprisings. Scripture tells us that we as Christians are the body of Christ, individual members functioning separately but together for the well-being of the whole. We as Presbyterians call ourselves a connectional church because we are intentional about sticking together.

One dramatic way in which we "connect" is by giving generously to special offerings such as the Christmas Joy Offering. Our money given this season helps ministers of PC (USA) and their families in times of unusual need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. It also provides scholarship assistance to hundreds of minority students unable to access educational benefits of our six racial ethnic schools and colleges. What we do now will assure that our congregation will indeed share the joy of Christmas with those who are servants of God now and in the past, as well as those who have promise to become like servants in the future.

It also will assure that we continue to stay connected. Thanks again for your support.



Mission Committee

A special **Thank You to Len Sailor** our bagpiper for St. Andrew's day along with Jim and Chris Sneddon, the spirit and voice for this moving service.

*Till I wi Him a dweller be, Forever and forwever. Amen*

## UPCOMING SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

Your Christian Education Committee of Session is excited to announce the debut of a **new Adult Bible Study curriculum from the P. C./USA entitled *Feasting on the Word***. Join us for a creative, interesting, in-depth exploration of one of the Sunday lectionary Scripture readings every Sunday morning from the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27 2011 through Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012. The classes will be taught by various members of our congregation and by Pastor Mary Ann Banning.

If there is sufficient interest, we would also like to offer a second option for adults on Sunday morning, which is a study of the **new book written by Rob Bell, *Love Wins*** (cost in hardback, \$22.95) Please e-mail or call Kathy in the church office if you would **like** to sign up for this book study, which would begin in January, 2012.

Our Sunday morning Lenten Adult Study will be of **Henri Nouwen's book *With Open Hands***. That will begin on Sunday, Feb. 26 and conclude on Sunday, Mar. 25, 2012 (five weeks). There will be no Sunday School for either adults or children on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Betty Favorite, Christian Education Elder

## THE LORD'S DAY -- SUNDAY WORSHIP

From its beginning, the Christian community has gathered on the first day of the week to hear the Scriptures read and proclaimed and to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The first day has special significance, since it marks the day Christ rose from the grave.

For early Christians, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was an event to remember and celebrate. The resurrection authenticated Jesus' ministry, defeated the power of death, and gave assurance of eternal life. Recognizing the importance of the resurrection, the New Testament community called the day of the week on which Christ rose "the Lord's day" (Rev. 1: 10). It was the day to celebrate the resurrection.

The Lord's Day, the first day of the week, is therefore the very pivot of the church's calendar. In the ancient story of Creation, this day marked the beginning of creation. On the first day, God spoke light into being, separating light from darkness. In Christ's resurrection,

## DECEASED SAINTS SINCE NOVEMBER 1, 2010

<i>Ruth Straughn</i> March 6, 2011	<i>Helen M. Castleman</i> July 1, 2011
<i>John W. Fink</i> April 1, 2011	<i>Roberta Fisher</i> August 2, 2011
<i>Raymond C. DeMaegd</i> April 2, 2011	<i>M. Elizabeth Rexson</i> August 22, 2011
<i>Leonard Pickley</i> May 1, 2011	<i>Trai Sean Rhodes</i> August 28, 2011
<i>Max Straughn</i> May 30, 2011	<i>Gail MacLean</i> September 16, 2011
<i>Ruth E. Starke</i> September 17, 2011	

### *Memorials for 2011*

*Geneva Center Campers* *Lucile Wallis*

*Ear Buds and receivers* *Harold Morey*

*Sound System Improvements* *Debra Camren, Bernice Childress, John Fink, Catherine Hacker, Evelyn Hudson, Donald Quig, and in honor of Marion Dare's 100th birthday*



**The PRAYER PAGE*****“Do not be afraid!”****~ prepared by Susan May ~*

*“Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news!”* So said the angel who appeared to the shepherds on that first Christmas Eve, two millennia ago. *“Fear not; I am with you,”* said Jesus himself, just before he disappeared from his disciples’ presence, only 30-some years later.

Fear is natural. No one knows this better than our Creator. We are given fear for self-protection in a dangerous world. But sometimes fear, instead of serving life, paralyzes us, stunts our faith, crushes our hopes, and undermines our convictions. God knows this, too. The great, glad news of Christmas is that we are released from this crippling, “knot in the pit of my stomach” kind of fear. It doesn’t have the last word!

*“There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still.”* These words were spoken by Corrie Ten Boom’s sister just before she died in a Nazi concentration camp. Later Corrie would affirm, *“God has no problems, only plans.”* God is singing this loving, life-giving message continually. *“Hear me, Dear Child. I am your peace, your shelter, your protector, your savior. I am your life, your purpose, your breath. Because I AM who I am, you can trust me when I say, ‘Do not be afraid. Fear not, Dear One. I will never leave you.’”*

+ + +

***Dear Lord,***

***May we sing with renewed meaning the Advent hymn: “Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free. From our sins and fears release us. Let us find our rest in thee.”***

***When fear is choking us, help us to wrap ourselves up in Gabriel’s waiting wings, breathe deeply and listen for your beautiful song: “Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news!” “I am with you.” When fear threatens to plunge us into doubt or despair, help us to utter prayers of trust and to listen with ears of faith for your message of reassurance. Help us to reach for and cling to you, and not withdraw in fear.***

***When we are in the presence of others’ fear, help us to step forward and say with confidence and love, “God is with you. God is right here. Do not be afraid. Jesus understands perfectly what you are feeling. Do not be afraid. I will stay with you awhile.”***

***May we know your peace, and share your peace, and BE your Christmas peace in this world. Amen.***

~ ~ ~

***Do not be afraid of tomorrow.******God is already there.***

**First Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School:** December is always a special time of year as the children prepare for the baby Jesus. Through art, stories and church the children travel a journey in celebration of the baby, ending the year with a birthday party for Jesus. In January they continue the journey with the three wise men, and stories of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP** Presbyterian Women will take over the responsibility of asking folks to host Sunday Morning Fellowship starting in 2012. The PW Board is asking that Sunday Morning Fellowship be kept simple (donut holes, cookies) in order that children and adults can get to Sunday School classes on time. Those hosting will only be asked to make coffee, tea and provide a simple snack. Coffee, tea and juice will be available in the kitchen. More formal fellowships will still be provided by special groups for special occasions such as St. Andrew’s Day and Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Sunday. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Education Lobby.

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK**

*Lectionary for Sundays  
Scripture Reference  
January 2012*

**1st Sunday after Christmas—January 1, 2012**

Isa. 61:10—62:3  
Ps. 148  
Gal. 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

**Epiphany of the Lord—January 6**

Isa. 60:1-6  
Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14  
Eph. 3:1-12  
Matt. 2:1-12

**Baptism of the Lord—January 8**

Gen. 1:1-5  
Ps. 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany—January 15**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Cor. 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany—January 22**

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Ps. 62:5-12  
1 Cor. 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

**4th Sunday after Epiphany—January 29**

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Deut. 18:15-20  
Ps. 111  
1 Cor. 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

*January Birthdays:*

Justin Tschida 19th Mia Rice 24th  
Shelby Frick 31st

**Next Newsletter deadline is January 17 at noon.**

Mail information to church or email Sue at [fpcnewseditor@fpcmishawaka.org](mailto:fpcnewseditor@fpcmishawaka.org) or Church Secretary Kathy at [kathy@fpcmishawaka.org](mailto:kathy@fpcmishawaka.org). Thank-you.

**And the journey continues . . . .**

A big THANK YOU to the 20 church leaders who took us on the next leg of our missional journey. On November 12 members of all 3 boards spent two hours after church in Westminister Hall. They looked at the input from the Conference on the Present and focused on the Guiding Vision. The result was the identifying of 4 key areas that the congregation will discuss and expand on in January when the Conference on the Future will be held. Those 4 areas are important in the life of our church. It is crucial, therefore, that the congregation be involved in setting goals related to those areas. The Conference on the Future, January 22, will be your opportunity to do that. More information will be forthcoming.

The Missional Journey Coordination Team,  
Greg, Susan, Janet, Mary Ann and Alan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Jan. 1	Ethan DeMaegd Bob Sloan Dick Dentino	Shayna Frick
Jan. 8	Carole Polk Bill Bellairs Neil Seufert	Communion
Jan. 15	Michael Green Jack Bruner Roger Krafft	Chris Krafft
Jan. 22	Dan Bruner Dave Tschida Justin Tschida	Victoria Green
Jan. 29	Nora Wiseman Jim Bonham Naomi Bishop	Roger DeLoof

**Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering  
January 21st at 10:00 a.m.**

\*Note change of date

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Rick Graves, Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church and member of the **Help with Love** Ministry Board, will be our guest speaker at the PW Winter Gathering. The carry-in brunch will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the presentation and a chance to ask questions.

This event is open to all of the women of the church. Please join us for fellowship and the opportunity to find out more about how you can be part of this local community mission.

Carole Polk and Nora Wiseman, PW Moderators