

# Pres-Bits Newsletter

## The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of light and of LIFE! And, as you read the pages of this newsletter or visit our website or Facebook page, you will see that we have a lot of life here at PCW! Just look at our calendar and you will see all the activity that we have scheduled to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Here are just some of the mission projects, fellowship activities, worship services and other events that you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors!

**Sunday, November 29th** - Worship - First Sunday of Advent - Advent Candle Lighters:

Alex Johnson (Confirmation Student) and Family

**Friday, December 4th** - 6:30-8pm - Christmas Variety Show and Silent Auction.

Fun for the whole family!

**Sunday, December 6th** - Worship - Second Sunday of Advent - Advent Candle

Lighters: Matt Benedict and Family (Confirmation Student)

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** - 7pm - "Blue Christmas" Refuge - Support group for those experiencing grief during the holidays.

**Saturday, December 12th** - Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Schnucks and WalMart - Sign up sheet outside of sanctuary.

**Sunday, December 13th** - Worship - Third Sunday of Advent - Advent Candle

Lighters: Danielle and Olivia Tucker and Family (Confirmation Students)

**Wednesday, December 16th** - 5:30pm - Mission Potluck Dinner

**Sunday, December 20th** - Worship - Fourth Sunday of Advent - "Preparing the Way for Jesus" play by the youth and children. Advent Candle Lighters: Destiny Lafferty, Haylee Struckhoff and Family (Confirmation Students)

**Thursday, December 24th** - 11pm - Christmas Eve Worship Service - Christmas Carols, Readers Theater, Candle Lighting and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

This calendar doesn't even include our various mission programs in December like The Giving Tree, Coins for Chickens, Christmas Joy Offering and the Alternative Gift Market.

I know many of you look at this calendar with exhaustion, but I look at it with great pride. Christmas means something to the members of PCW and it shows in our mission, in our worship and in our fellowship!

Merry Christmas to a church of which I am immensely proud!  
Pastor Pat

## Our Church Mission Statement

*Jesus Christ calls us to:*

- *Enliven our spiritual lives by experiencing God among us,*
- *Grow in love for one another as children of God,*
- *Invite all to share in our fellowship,*
- *Demonstrate God's love through service to others.*



## December Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. except Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25, when it will be closed in celebration of the Christmas holiday.

## Current Elders

<b>Karla Becker</b>	636-239-5370	<a href="mailto:twotales@gmail.com">twotales@gmail.com</a>
<b>Luther Bierbaum</b>	636-432-1293	<a href="mailto:emmettis@yahoo.com">emmettis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>David Brunworth</b>	636-239-4102	<a href="mailto:dbrunworth@hotmail.com">dbrunworth@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Bill Kellermann</b>	636-239-7958	<a href="mailto:wckellermann@gmail.com">wckellermann@gmail.com</a>
<b>Joy Kopp</b>	636-432-1800	<a href="mailto:joykopp54@gmail.com">joykopp54@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vivian Marshall</b>	636-667-0013	<a href="mailto:marshv1849@att.net">marshv1849@att.net</a>
<b>Jenny Scheibe</b>	636-239-3765	<a href="mailto:dandjscheibe@att.net">dandjscheibe@att.net</a>
<b>Barbara Schofield</b>	636-390-4123	<a href="mailto:barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com">barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sid Thayer</b>	636-239-7617	<a href="mailto:sidneythayer@yahoo.com">sidneythayer@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Paula Obermark</b>	636-239-5308	<a href="mailto:paulaobermark@gmail.com">paulaobermark@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bruce Wiese</b>	636-432-1057	<a href="mailto:ssswbw@charter.net">ssswbw@charter.net</a>

## Worship Assignments for September:

### Sound Tech:

12/6/2015	Allen Vogt
12/13/2015	Ian McCracken
12/20/2015	Joe Hagan
12/27/2015	Tom Ellenberger

**Worship Leader:** Ian McCracken

### Ushers

Shirley Coulter & Mauri Truesdell  
Roland & Pamela Schwarzen  
Luther Bierbaum & Barb Hagan  
Laura Evans & Jane Bugele

### Greeters

Whip Schultz & Nancy Klingert  
Tim & Gerry Urban  
Don & Jenny Scheibe  
Allen Vogt & Karla Becker

## **The Lord's Supper**

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, December 6.

## **Pastor Pat on Vacation**

Pastor Pat will be taking a vacation following the Christmas Eve service. He will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and in the office on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. For pastoral emergencies, please contact our Parish Associate, Rev. Jocelyn Van Buskirk, who will also be filling the pulpit while Pastor Pat enjoys his time off with Karen and Alex.

## **Harvest Table Thanks!**

November is a big time for gratitude and we would like to offer many thanks to everyone that helped out with the November 7<sup>th</sup> Harvest Table evening as we had 11 members and friends from our church join with a group of people from St. John's Gildehaus and we served 76 people that night! It was a big meal and a fun time. Many more thanks to the people who graciously purchased salad items for that meal. We have four Harvest Table meals planned for 2016 and they are: January 23, April 9, August 20, and November 12. Thank you! Gretchen Farrell and the Mission Committee.



## **Coat Drive Thank You!**

Thank you to all the people that helped with our Warner's Warm-Up Coat Sorting Day on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and for the many coats that were donated and/or purchased. We had lots of fun making a coat mountain and sorting through all the sizes and kinds of coats. Our church collected 45 coats and jackets alone, plus a large cash donation and that all went toward our huge area coat drive which collected 1334 coats that are being donated and split up between nine agencies for many needy people this Winter. Thank you for keeping our friends and neighbors warm this winter!



## **All-Church Potluck**

Pot Luck was held on a very stormy evening of Nov. 11. Turkey and dressing was served to 33 in attendance. The December pot luck will be held December 16 at 5:30 p.m. which is one week later than usual. The special speaker will be Diane Disbro from the Scenic Regional Library. Please sign up! Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!



## **Christmas Caroling**

Christmas caroling is being planned for Sunday, December 13. We will leave from the church about 3:45 and going to our shut-ins and nursing homes. If interested, see Anna Mae Boehmer.



### **The Giving Tree is up!**

This year we have 'adopted' a family of 8 through The Pregnancy Assistance Center. This family is very much in need of assistance and very appreciative of any help. They are recovering from a recent move, and both Mom and Dad are suffering from medical issues. They are barely getting by and the things that are essentials for you and I, such as food, cleaning supplies and basic toiletries are things they are often not able to afford.

We will also be accepting donations of gasoline gift cards (or \$ to buy) to be distributed through the Loving Hearts outreach program in Washington.

The giving tree is located just outside of the sanctuary. To participate, choose an ornament, sign your name and gift number on the sign up sheet, purchase that gift and return the gift (unwrapped with the ornament attached) to the box next to the tree by Sunday, December 6th. If you have any questions please contact Pamela Kellermann 636-239-7958. Thank you for caring and sharing. People working together make good things happen.

### **Adult Sunday School**

The Advent Season began Sunday, November 29th. The adult Sunday School Class started an Advent Study called "The Gift of New Hope." - "connecting the light of the manger with the hope of the returning Christ," says Cokesbury. Prepare yourself for the celebration of Christ's birth by attending this study of the lectionary Bible readings for Advent and Christmas. This is a 5-session study, so the class will continue through Sunday, Dec. 27th. – Jocelyn



### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

Looking for a meaningful time to volunteer during the Christmas season? Please sign-up for our Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Salvation Army Bell Ringing day on our sign-up list on the bulletin board! All funds stay with our local Loving Hearts Outreach and really go far, but we need your help to do this. Sign up with a family member, friend, buddy and dress according to the weather, SMILE and say hello to your neighbors and community! It's a fun way to spend a couple of hours and can do so much for our area. Thank you! The Mission Committee

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers through assistance in their time of need and cultivates racial ethnic education and leadership development. Bulletin inserts and envelopes will be available December 13 and 20. Please be in prayer how you may give.

## **Circle of Friends**

**There are no Circle of Friends meetings in December.** Next meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2016. Circle meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:00 a.m. (but not in December) All women are encouraged to share in this study. Bring your friends to our Circle of Friends.



## **Christmas Eve Worship**

This Christmas, PCW will return to its tradition of holding the Christmas Eve service at 11pm. This will be a very special candlelit service with special music, The Lord's Supper and a readers' theatre drama called "The Birth of Jesus Foretold." Please invite the rest of your family to join our Covenant family for a very special and meaningful Christmas tradition.



## **Christmas Variety Show and Silent Auction**

Invite your family and friends to our second annual Christmas Variety Show and Silent Auction, this Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary. We will have skits, special music and other talents on display. We will also join together for Christmas Carols. Gathering time begins at 6:30pm with refreshments and a time to bid on auction items. The show itself will begin at 7pm. Fun for the whole family!

Silent  
Auction



## **Silent Auction items still needed!**

We are still looking for any and all items for our Silent Auction that will be coming up soon on the same night as the Variety Show, Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. It's a great time for both events, so please donate anything new or gently used, possibly to be combined with other items for baskets, gift cards, baked goods, etc. Please get to Gretchen Farrell or leave in the church office by Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!  
The Mission Committee



## **Tech Team**

Do you have a knack for technology? Are you well-versed in social media and/or web-site updating? If so, please consider joining our "Tech Team." This team will evaluate our existing technology and internet presence, make suggestions for upgrades, maintain web-site, Facebook page, etc. If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact Pastor Pat

## **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a meeting of the Congregation of PCW after worship on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The 2015 Nominating Committee will be presenting their report. The Congregation will elect the new class of ruling elders for Session and the 2016 Nominating Committee.

## **“Blue Christmas” Refuge**

Pastor Pat and Robbin Thayer are hosting a very special small group gathering on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The focus of this small group will be navigating grief and the Holidays. If you have experienced some form of loss in 2015, the first holiday season post-loss can be very challenging. We invite all those grieving this holiday season to this special support group. The group will gather in the library.

## **Presby Scrip Program**

Thank you to all those who have ordered gift cards or certificates through the Presby Scrip Program! The program has received profits of \$396.72 the first 4 weeks of offering the program!



Congratulations to Kathy Froning who won the first \$25 gift certificate to The Creek!

Congratulations to Gail Taubel who won the second \$25 gift certificate to The Creek (picture in the next newsletter!).

**The Scrip Program will take last minute Christmas orders for gift cards/certificates on Sunday, December 20 (as long as we have enough orders to cover the shipping charge). Those orders will be available for pickup at the church on Wednesday, December 23. The church office is closed on December 24 & 25. If you need special delivery please let us know when you place your order.** No orders will be taken on December 27 as the Great Lakes Scrip Center will be closed for the holidays.

Don't forget there are many more merchant's gift cards that can be ordered through the National List. See anyone at the Scrip Table for further information.

## **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET**

Make plans to participate in the Alternative Gift Market, which will be held until Sunday, December 6 in the Narthex after worship.

The Alternative Gift Market is an opportunity to get an early start on your Christmas shopping and at the same time support various life-giving projects from around the world and locally. You will be able to purchase food for the hungry, care for the sick, shelter for the homeless, renewal for our endangered planet and more, in honor of your family, friends, neighbors, teacher and colleagues.

A copy of the order form with prices is included in this issue of Pres-bits. For additional information on each project, shopping catalogs will be available on a table in the foyer. Any questions, call Jean Van Der Kamp at 239-3709.

## **“Preparing the Way for Jesus”**

The youth and children of PCW invite you all to attend worship on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for a special nativity play called “Preparing the Way for Jesus.” Come and see our dynamic young people lead worship!

## Food Pantry Items of Month

You may have heard that the shelves at Loving Hearts Outreach are running low. In an effort to revitalize our sense of mission to this organization, we will be collecting specific items for the food pantry each month. December's food pantry items are **Canned Stews, Rice Mixes, Hamburger Helpers and Spaghetti Sauces**. All through the month of December, you are encouraged to bring these items and place them in the donation box for Loving Hearts. They can also use canned vegetables, canned meats, cereal and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Empty egg cartons can also be used. Thank you for your generosity!



## Coins for Chickens

Are your pockets jingling with lots of extra change? Is your wallet or change purse too bulky? Then drop a few coins into the collection jar for the Change for Chickens and see how far those pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters will go. This program gives hope and help to underprivileged people and really educates them and their families. Any big or little coins will be. The Mission Committee



## Youth Group

We are having a great time with our Youth Group this year! This month, we made cookies for our next Harvest Table supper and recently surprised a member of our congregation with an Act of Random Kindness (ARK) by cleaning out their garage, putting some items together and putting up some Christmas decorations and had lots of fun doing it! Our upcoming Church Youth Group meetings will meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and then on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas Party at the Farrell's house. We continue to meet on our regular schedule of meetings with the first and third Wednesday nights in the Church Youth Group room (Room #10), the first room to the right off of the Fellowship Hall. The first Wednesday of the month we usually do a mission project and on the third Wednesday, we usually have a fun activity(always a surprise!). All Youth from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades are welcome to come have some fun, snacks, a short Bible Lesson and a great time to be with other Christian Youth. Any questions? Just ask any of the YG sponsors: Laura Conley, Gretchen Farrell and Ian McCracken.

## **December Birthdays**



12-2	Bill Stahlhuth	12-22	Alicia Thater
12-6	Michele Zumsteg	12-24	Barbara Schofield
12-10	Janet Aaron	12-25	David Brunworth
12-10	James Jackson	12-30	Tom Kempf
12-14	Karen Gruber	12-31	Steve Henderson
12-15	Jean Weekley		





## **Prayer for Life (PFL) meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.**

Prayer can be the glue that holds individuals, couples, ministry teams, families, and churches together and the fuel that makes them soar. It is the means by which we can all engage in ministry to each other. Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. We study and learn a variety of prayer methods, both as individuals and as a group, to connect people and their needs to God.



## **Bridge**

Please join us on Fridays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to play Bridge. Everyone is welcome to come and play. Bring your friends.



## **Creative Hands Group**

**Our group will NOT meet on December 22 and 29.** Meetings are normally every Tuesday of the month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting is going strong! For information, please contact Barbara Duemler.



## **Warblers**

The Warblers sing at Cedar Crest the last Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. We would love to have more voices come. The only requirement is to make a “joyful noise.” Call Anna Mae Boehmer for more information at 239-3344 or call 314-691-0473

## **Name Tags**

A new name badge signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. Nametags are important to all to all of us, and especially so for new members and visitors. Both lanyard and pin on badges are available. Please sign the sheet or contact Judy Bierbaum at 636-432-1293.





## MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Karla Becker, Janet Aaron, Roni Fowler, Scott McCracken, Laura Fenner, John Anglin, Lisa Conrad, Jim Watson, Confirmation Class, Peggy Otto, Family of Sam Bonney

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

SOUTH POINTE: Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Elaine Dodson, George Peters

CEDAR CREST: June Kleberger, Glenda Nagel, Dorothy Mutert,  
Beth Saunders

PARK PLACE ASSISTED LIVING (O'Fallon) Boots Bonney

MARYMOUNT (Eureka): Joan Schultz

## FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)

Cindy Demitroff (friend of Paul & Lya Struckhoff)

Jim Lebreton (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)

Doug Holtmeier (friend of Karla & Mike Becker)

Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)

Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)

Jeff Pierce (son of Barbara Pierce, brother of Janet Aaron)

Phil Colter (friend of Mauri Truesdell)

Rick Kresse (father-in-law of Mauri Truesdell's daughter)

Becky Lunsford (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

Sarah McGurthy & family (daughter of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)

Mary Bray Wheeler (friend of Barbara Duemler)

Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd)

Paula Pursley (grandmother of Hailey Joyce)

Patti Mathews (sister-in-law of Joe & Barb Hagan)

Taylor Bierbaum (grandson of Judy & Luther)

Dottie Shelton (sister of Shirley Coulter)

Debbie Stone (daughter of Jack & Elsie Truesdell)

LeRoy Riechers (cousin of Karla Becker)

Holly Stoltz-Smith (friend of the church)

Betty Buerk (relative of Schultz, Vogt, Struckhoff)

Jean Kimme (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Barbara Lais Shroyer (daughter of Mary Lais)

Susan Conrad (daughter-in-law to Don & Connie Conrad &  
sister-in-law to Paul & Janet Henderson)

Ray Tucker (father-in-law of Jamie Tucker)

Chris Miller (brother-in-law of Mike Becker)

Dora Lafferty (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

Dianne Symansky (friend of the Duemlers)

Marc Houseman (friend of the congregation)

Carol Perkins (friend of Karen Ladd)

The Middendorf Family (niece of Kathy Froning)