

# Pres-Bits Newsletter

## The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. – Matthew 2:11

Dear Friends,

It is now “Post-Christmas” time. Gifts have been opened. Meals have been shared. Families are returning to their normal routines. Christmas lights are coming down (eventually). And, the stores aren’t quite as full as they were just a couple of weeks ago.

An interesting phenomenon happens in stores after Christmas. All through December, the lines at the checkout counters grew and grew until Christmas Eve. Then, as stores reopened after Christmas, the long lines at the checkout counters shifted to...the return counter.

Unhappy about that ugly tie you got from your nephew? Return it for something else. That sweater you got from your sister wasn’t quite the right color? Bring it in and exchange it for the perfect gift. Not sure what to do with that “Big Mouth Billy Bass” singing fish? “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” and return it for a gift you actually like.

Returning gifts has become a part of the Christmas tradition it seems. But, to be honest, “returning gifts” at Christmas has *always* been a part of the Christmas tradition.

On that very first Christmas season, sometime after Christ was born, visitors from the east came to pay Jesus homage. With them, they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is a very generous offering. However, according to Reformed Theology, our offerings are always returning a portion of what God has already with us blessed. Everything belongs to our Triune God already. Any gift we may give, is a “return.” So, when the Magi brought these gifts to the infant Jesus, they were in fact “returning gifts” to the one who provided them with the treasure in the first place.

The month of January begins with a season of what the church calls “Epiphany.” Epiphany celebrates the gifts of visitors from the east. This story urges us all to share our resources in gratitude for the gift God gave us in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, his son. Epiphany urges us to “Return Gifts.”

Whenever we put anything in the offering basket, we are returning a gift to the one who provided us with those resources in the first place. Whenever we share our abilities or talents in worship, we are returning a gift to the one who nurtured and blessed us with that ability. Whenever we serve our community in mission, ministry and outreach, we are returning a gift to the one who called us to service.

May God bless you and keep you as you “return gifts” this month.

Blessings in Christ,  
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.*



### January Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Current Elders

<b>David Brunworth</b>	636-239-4102	<a href="mailto:dbrunworth@hotmail.com">dbrunworth@hotmail.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>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>Bruce Wiese</b>	636-432-1057	<a href="mailto:ssswbw@charter.net">ssswbw@charter.net</a>
<b>Jamie Tucker</b>	314-814-2780	<a href="mailto:jmtsrvir09@gmail.com">jmtsrvir09@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mary Ellenberger</b>	636-742-4591	<a href="mailto:maryvet01@yahoo.com">maryvet01@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Kathy Froning</b>	636-239-7995	<a href="mailto:kathyfroning@yahoo.com">kathyfroning@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Lois Kemp</b>	314-630-8379	<a href="mailto:loiskempf@hotmail.com">loiskempf@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Karen Ladd</b>	636-239-5271	<a href="mailto:jladd001@charter.net">jladd001@charter.net</a>
<b>Tim Urban</b>	636-239-2082	<a href="mailto:tim.urban22@yahoo.com">tim.urban22@yahoo.com</a>

## **Worship Assignments for January:**

### **Sound Tech:**

1/3/2016	Allen Vogt
1/10/2016	Ian McCracken
1/17/2016	Joe Hagan
1/24/2016	Tom Ellenberger
1/31/2016	Tim Urban

**Worship Leader:** Janet Aaron

### **Ushers**

Shirley Coulter &  
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

**If changes need to be made to this list, please contact Barbara Schofield.**

### **The Lord's Supper**

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, January 3.

### **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.

### **Thank You**

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas gift. It is very obvious that we have some very generous people in our midst. The monetary donation will certainly help us "recover" from Christmas spending. The gift cards will definitely come in handy for shopping, eating out and for much needed fuel. God bless you all! Pastor Pat, Karen and Alex

### **Silent Auction THANK YOU!**

Many, many thanks to all the people that donated quite a large variety of items to our church's Silent Auction that was held in conjunction with the December 4<sup>th</sup> Variety Show. What a wonderful evening it was! We sold just about everything and made about \$740 for the church! The Mission Committee

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing THANKS!**

THANK YOU, thank you to EVERYONE that signed up to help on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and to all that responded to my last minute appeal to fill in a few slots. We did it and what an amazing day we chose and had!! With it being 70 degrees out, it sure didn't seem like December in Missouri, but it made for an easy bell ringing time. Thank you again! The Mission Committee and Loving Hearts Outreach



## **All-Church Potluck**

The December pot luck was held December 16. The next pot luck will be January 13 at 5:30 p.m. with soup being the main dish. The special speaker will be Dennis Kramme from Emmaus Homes. Please sign up! Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!

## **How To Start the New Year Right**

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a 6-week study of the Christian theologian, pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Sunday, January 3. Come join us at 9:00 a.m. for these 6 Sundays leading up to the Lenten season. Bonhoeffer had much to say about how to be a faithful Christian community. Jocelyn VanBuskirk.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of The Presbyterian Church of Washington will be held following worship on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The full Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> to review in time for the congregational meeting. If you are a committee chair or team leader, plus submit your annual report to the church office by Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Circle of Friends**

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. All women are encouraged to share in this study. Bring your friends to our Circle of Friends.

## **2016 Harvest Table Supper**

Our first Harvest Table Supper for 2016 is coming up soon on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and all the sign-ups are posted in the narthex. We are scheduled to have a breakfast meal and will need 11 volunteers, 12 people to donate bananas and 10 coffee cakes to be baked. We have the aluminum pans in the narthex to take, and if you sign up for baking a coffee cake, YOU get to choose your own recipe! They would like different coffee cakes, so have fun with it. I have some streusel mix of pecans and brown sugar, if anyone would like to have and use them in their recipe. As always, thank you, for your graciousness and generosity! Our next 2016 Harvest Table meals are planned for April 9, August 20, and November 12. Thank you! Gretchen Farrell and the Mission Committee.

## **Confirmation Report**

Last month, members of the confirmation class and their families lit the Advent candles as we made our way toward Christmas. This month, the class will be taking a field trip to visit St Francis Borgia Catholic Church for mass on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for Matt Benedict, Alex Johnson, Destiny Lafferty, Haylee Struckhoff, Danielle Tucker and Olivia Tucker as they continue their confirmation process.

### **Cemetery Fundraising Dinner**

On Sunday, January 31 following worship there will be a fund raising dinner with proceeds going for the cemetery. All the food will be furnished by Anna Mae Boehmer. It will be a ground roast beef dinner.

### **Ordination/Installation**

During worship on Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be installing and ordaining our new class of elders for active duty on session. David Brunworth, Mary Ellenberger, Kathy Froning, Karen Ladd and Barbara Schofield will be installed. And, we will have the honor of ordaining the following members as Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA): Lois Kempf, Jamie Tucker and Tim Urban. These three will also be installed for active duty on session.

### **Martin Luther King Celebration**

The annual Franklin County Martin Luther King celebration will be held Sunday, January 17 at Zion United Church of Christ in Union from 3-6 p.m. with a catered supper at 5:00. Instead of the worship service format of the past, this year an exciting singer-storyteller Gladys Coggsell, will lead the program for people of all ages. This event is sponsored by the Neighbors United and Church Women United. Come, unite with us! - Jocelyn



### **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 **\$603.19** for orders placed in November & December!

Congratulations to Gail Taubel (pictured with Pastor Pat) who won the second \$25 gift certificate to The Creek!

Cards/Certificates will continue to be offered each week through the Presby Scrip Program in the church foyer. Don't forget there are many more merchant's gift cards that can be ordered through the National List. Krispy Kreme & Princess Cruise Line were recently added to the National List. See anyone at the Scrip Table for further information about the program.

### **Food Pantry Items of Month**

The shelves at Loving Hearts Outreach are still 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. January's items are **Pastas with Meat; Toilet Paper**. All through the month of January, 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!



## Change 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 with life sustaining skills. Any big or little coins will be much appreciated. The Mission Committee



## Youth Group

We are having a great time with our Youth Group this year! In December we practiced our Variety Show skit a lot. Wasn't that fun! Many thanks to Laura Conley for her original production. We also had a great time on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, as we had our annual Christmas Party where we played, what else, but reindeer games! We laughed so hard and enjoyed each other's company and good Christmas food. We start up again in 2016 on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, as we finish baking some more Harvest Table desserts. Our other meeting this month is Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Christmas Variety Show



# January Birthdays



1-1	Ron Nagel	1-17	Alisa Conrad
1-9	Carol Ramsey	1-19	Jean Murney
1-10	Shirley Coulter	1-19	Joan Schultz
1-11	Mary Eleanor Farrell	1-24	Susan Benedict
1-15	Jeff Pierce	1-30	Kathy Froning
1-16	Brad Carpenter		



## 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 in January.** 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

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)

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)

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)

Megan Turbeville (cousin of Vivian Marshall)

Rena Middendorf & Family (niece of Kathy Froning)

Patience Young (sister of Jocelyn VanBuskirk)

Samantha Nichols