

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church
125 South Poplar Street, Bucyrus, OH 44820
December 2011



John's Corner

It can be difficult reading or watching the news these days.

Day in and day out it seems we are bombarded with the by-products of sin in our headlines: sexual scandals, corporate corruption, terrorism, violent crime, a staggering global economy, war, political ineptitude, and the list appears to keep growing. We have people worrying their jobs, worrying about money, worrying about the end of the Mayan calendar in 2012, worrying about the weight they'll have to lose after the holidays, and worrying about getting the best deal this black Friday. Our world can feel steeped in fear and anxiety. We can feel abandoned, and hope appears at times so very distant.

But Advent's great news is this:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from
the Father, full of grace and truth.

God intentionally broke into human history in a new way through the glorious incarnation of his Son. Christ was the fulfillment of countless prophecies that speak of an active, loving, healing, and redemption-oriented God. This is our God who delivers us from enslavement to sin and damnation through our Savior. This is our God who through Christ says do not fear, but know that I am with you always, to the end of the age. This is our God who says my Word IS truth and will never lead us astray. This is our God who seeks to make us aware that his sovereign control is constantly at work in the continuum of human existence. And this is our God who will transform us by his Holy Spirit and our faith in his Son from our sin's death-dealing consequences. We know this from God's promise to Ezekiel (33:11) when he said:

...I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the
wicked turn from his way and live;

In our love of Christ we both live and find that safe harbor from fear. Christ is THE answer to the problems this world faces. If we want the world turned around then we need more bold, obedient Christians. We need to embrace the fulness of this truth in ourselves so we may share this great news with others. I'm sure you can think of a number of folks who could use hope and relief from fear and worry. Bring them to church this Christmas and let them experience the safe harbor they've been missing in their lives: Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, truly "God with us."

That's news the world REALLY needs.

To Christ's glory, John

Session Meeting

Session will meet on **Thursday, December 15th, @ 7:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Please have committee reports to the church office by noon on **Friday, December 9th.**

Deacon's Meeting

The next Deacon's Meetings will be held on **Wednesday, December 7th @ 8:00 PM.**

Worship & Arts Committee

The Worship and Arts Committee will meet on **Wednesday, December 14th @ 8:00 PM.**

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will not meet during the months of December, January and February.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group meets each **Friday @ 9:30 AM at the home of Angela Collene.**

Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men's Group meets each **Friday morning at The Pelican @ 7:00 AM.** All men of FPC are invited to attend.

Gamma Delta

Gamma Delta will meet on **Tuesday, December 13th, @ 5:00 PM**, in Fellowship Hall. A potluck meal will be enjoyed and Christmas gifts for needy families will be wrapped. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Gamma Delta meeting in January or February.

First Presbyterian Youth Group

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, December 4th, from 4:00 – 5:30 PM**, at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew at 419-617-8249 or Erin at 616-443-0028. See you there! *Matthew & Erin Eichhorn*

Faith Community Nurse

We are meant to be God's light. *"The Savior – yes the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" Luke 2:11*



2011 Pledges

As 2011 draws to a close so does our financial year at First Pres. If you have any questions about your pledge balance, please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Jan Fulton, at 419/562-8147 (home) or 419/561-0263 (cell).

Red Cross Blood Mobile

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on **Tuesday, December 6th from 1:00 – 7:00 PM.** Everyone is invited to donate blood; no appointment is necessary.



December Soup Kitchen

We will be preparing food for the Soup Kitchen @ Assembly of God. (562-8183 – Rebon's). The December menu will be Chicken Casserole and Coleslaw. **Food should be in the kitchen by church time on Sunday, December 25th.** A sign-up sheet is at back of the sanctuary. Thank you to all who participate!



Prep Time: **Sunday, December 26th, @ 2:00 PM**

Serve Time: **Tuesday, December 27th, @ 4:30 PM**

Ingredients needed:

- 4-64 oz. bags chicken breasts or thighs (boneless/skinless and precooked)
- 6-26 oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- 6-bags of frozen California mix (broccoli, cauliflower & carrots)
- 6 boxes of chicken or sage stuffing
- 8 bags of Dole coleslaw
- 2 jars (32 oz.) Miracle Whip salad dressing
- 1 gal. milk
- 4 lb. Sugar

Thank You

Your love and prayers for Glynnis for nearly four years gave her much needed strength to continue her fight. She was valiant to the end of her sweet life. The very beautiful basket of flowers is much appreciated and I hope you all know how much I love you! Thanks you so much. *Faith Cory*

Thank you so much for the patience, kindness and thoughtfulness shown to our mother, Mary Kiess, since she has been in assisted living this past year and a half. The occasional visits, flowers, etc., are appreciated very much. Also, thanks for being attentive to our aunt, Jean Black. With sincere thanks, Mary's children - *Connie, Candy, Kim, Jill and Jeff*

Author of Life Book Club

The book club will be meeting on **Thursday, December 1st @ 6:30 PM.** Contact Dorothy Watts or Diane Kaple if you would like a book. They have been reserved from the library.



December Birthdays

- 3 Tim Mutchler, Sharon Northrop
- 5 Toby Butterfield
- 9 Brooke Walters, Erin Eichhorn
- 10 Bryan Black, Curtis Inscho, Paige Smith (Blicke's granddaughter), Greg White
- 13 Jennifer Arnold, Trina Collene
- 15 Meredith Dostal, Tami Robinson
- 18 Rob Neff
- 19 Tyler Goldfuss, Victoria Hoerig, Dave Rios
- 20 Jim Gabriel
- 21 Diane Kaple, Sandy Laipply, Stacie Schimpf
- 25 Chet Johnston, Janet Kohls
- 26 Tena Eyster
- 27 Maya Collene
- 28 Mary Kiess
- 29 Emily Goldfuss
- 30 Winnie Manring
- 31 Bob Hubble, Kevin Kohls



December Anniversaries

- 5 Jason and Erin Ross
- 15 Al & Diana Williams (no cards per request)
- 24 Lloyd and Bev Agee
- 26 Steve and Deb Hoover
- 28 Al and Michelle Bacon

Worship Assistants, December

Liturgists:

- 4 Bob Thompson
- 11 Tom Britton
- 18 Matt Eichhorn
- 25 Tami Robinson

Children's Time:

- 4 Jennifer Arnold
- 11 Deb Hablitzel
- 18 Kathy Byrne

Duty Elder: Carol Griffith

Deacon of the Month: Barb Dolch

Ushers & Greeters:

- 4 Carol Griffith, Enid Thomas, Ed & Barb Dolch
- 11 Carol Griffith, Enid Thomas, Ed & Barb Dolch
- 18 Carol Griffith, Enid Thomas, Jared & Brooke Young
- 25 Carol Griffith, Enid Thomas, Dorothy Watts, Duane Watts

Movie Night

Movie night will be held on **Sunday, December 11th, @ 6:30 PM.** The feature will be "The Star of Bethlehem." Please join us for fun, fellowship, and popcorn!



Children's Musical
Directed by Diane Kaple
& Jamie Greenick

"Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior"

By Ed Kee

"Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior" is a children's musical about one of the most familiar parts of the Christmas story.

On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, lowly shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn't get much company out there. People had been passing through for several days as the census was underway, but they hardly spoke at all as they walked by on their way to Bethlehem. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! They may have been at the bottom of the social ladder in Bethlehem, but God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story- what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men. Join us **December 24th, @ 7:00 PM.**

MCI Christmas Theatrical with Music

"The First Father of Christmas"

In some cultures, Santa Claus is known as "Father Christmas." And of course, at Christmas, we recall the gift of the Father in Heaven sending His Son to us. But did you know that there was another father that first Christmas? Joseph, the husband of Mary, stood as Jesus' foster father and with her, raised the child to know and to love God. Today's world could learn much about fatherhood studying the life of Joseph. Performance dates are **Dec. 12th – Dec. 15th, @ 1:00 & 7:00 PM.** Please call Enid Thomas (419-562-9916) by **Thursday, December 8th** for reservations.

Presbyterian Doll Note Cards

We have a supply of note cards that would make a nice gift or stocking stuffer for Christmas. Each packet contains 5 different poses of our beautiful dolls at a cost of \$8.75. Any profit from the sales goes toward mission works either local or where there is a need.

Tour Tales

2011 had some great opportunities to show our beautiful church, our collection of dolls and their history, and the Noah mural in the nursery to a wonderful variety of guests. Our most recent was Nov. 17th with 117 school children as visitors. Feedback from the children, the chaperones, the bus drivers, and the Visitor's Bureau was excellent. Jennifer and I, along with our assistant, Mr. Ed, have thoroughly enjoyed being the front line person who greet, usher, present, and hear all the comments that come to us following these visits. In 2012, we plan to share some of these comments and visits in the newsletter with all of you. Have a blessed Christmas.

The Presbyterian Tour Guides,
Jennifer Arnold, Barbara Dolch, Ed Dolch

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

We will be purchasing our poinsettias from **Norton's Flowers** this year in order to support our local business community. The poinsettias are grown in a 6 1/2" pot with 4-7 blooms per pot. Each poinsettia is **\$11.00** and will come with a gold pot cover. **Poinsettias will be RED and WHITE this year.** The plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24th. Any poinsettias left after the service will be given to our shut-ins. Please provide payment with your order and make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church. Also, please fill out one form for each poinsettia ordered (extra forms are available at the back of the church). **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.**

_____ # of Red Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

_____ # of White Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

Your name:

In memory of:

--or--

In honor of:

Library Books

We have the complete Mitford series of books by Jan Karon available in our church library. Four of the books have been out on loan for some time. Please check your book shelves at home for: "At Home in Mitford", "A Light in the Window", "These High Green Hills" and "Light from Heaven".



We will be decorating for Advent on **Saturday, December 3rd, @ 9:00 AM.** Our big project is the Chrismon Tree; however there are many other decorating tasks for all ages. Please consider joining us. We usually finish in two hours, and the camaraderie is a treat. Let Al or Jan Fulton know if you can help.

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First Presbyterian Church

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Bucyrus, OH 44820

Phone: 419-562-0861 ~ Fax: 419-562-4609

Website: www.firstpresbucyrus.org

Email: info@firstpresbucyrus.org

Sunday School and Adult Ed: 9:00 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

The Lord's Supper: First Sunday of the month

Our church is **wheelchair-accessible**.

We also provide **large-print bulletins and air-conditioning**.

Submissions for *The Presbyterian*
are due the 23rd of each month.



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