

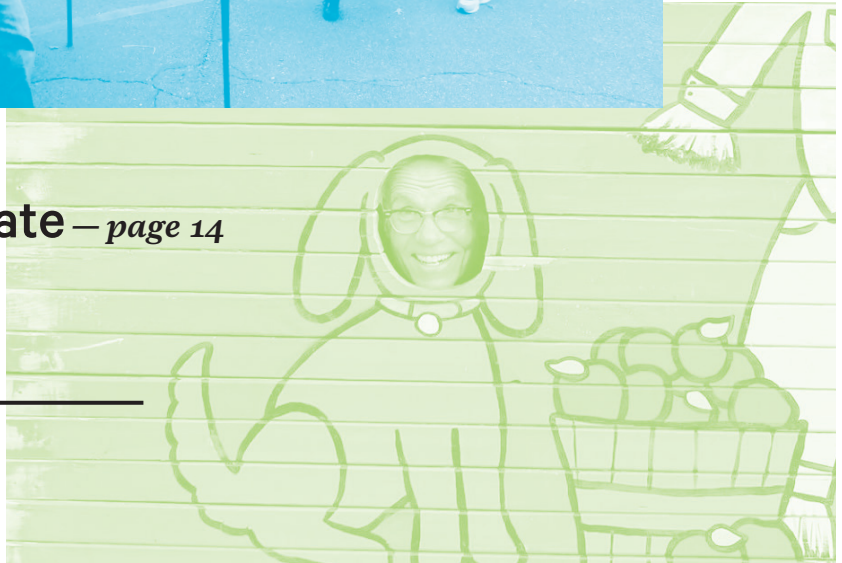
Our Vision

WINTER 2016

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Our Vision is the quarterly publication of
The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

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Our Vision

Winter 2016

Our Vision is the quarterly publication of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. In addition to mailing printed copies, this issue and all previous issues are available digitally on our website at firstpresdearborn.org.

This publication is produced by a team of volunteers from FPCD:

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If you have an article you'd like included in the next issue (Spring 2017), please contact Sue Young by emailing vision@firstpresdearborn.org. The deadline for turning in content to be published in the next issue is February 1st, 2017.

Taking Time to Stop and Smell the “Snow”

I was in Pittsburgh the early part of February of 2010. This was the winter of the famous “snowmageddon” in the Northeast. Though we weren’t in the main thick of it, Pittsburgh was not used to the unusual snowfall it received that year. The storms shut everything down and stopped business in the town. Sounds horrible on paper but being in the midst of it was actually quite fun. With no cars on the roads and businesses shut down everywhere, the pace of life changed. People took some down time to spend together. The main street outside the seminary turned into a winter wonderland of families playing in the snow, building snowmen and sledding. With no one feeling pressured to be anywhere, life was relaxing.

There are times in life when things slow down for us naturally, when we get sick and during bad weather, but we shouldn’t wait for those times to slow down and take life more deliberately. It should be built into a part of our rhythm to slow down and just watch God’s work around us with awe. Who knows what this winter will hold for us but as we celebrate God’s blessing to us in his Son, Jesus, during Advent and Christmas and reflect on how Jesus took time out during his busy life to slow down, let us be mindful to not fill our calendars too full and to leave time to reflect and enjoy this life God has given to us.

Love in Christ,
Rev. Chris Thomas

SYMPATHY NOTE

With sympathy, we pray for the families of those who have gone to be with the Lord:

Helen Pelling

September 9, 2016

Lois Riopelle

October 18, 2016

Jose Brailsford

November 14, 2016

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017, after worship in the sanctuary.

All committees, staff and groups should email their reports to Vicki Davidson at vickid@firstpresdearborn.org **on or before Monday, January 16, 2017 (no exceptions)**. Reports will be available to the congregation starting Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Thank you.

Vicki Davidson, Administrative Assistant

PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL FITNESS

Physical & Spiritual Fitness continues on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am. We meet downstairs in the Youth Center.

THANK YOU

ChristNet

Thank you to all who volunteered for ChristNet at FPCD this November. Your generous contributions of your time, finances, meals, donations and prayers were invaluable and left an indelible testament to God's work in our community. Thank you and stay tuned for some new ideas to push the program to new heights in 2017!

Kevin Watts

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Your church needs a volunteer to occasionally change the marquee message announcing upcoming church events.

If interested, please contact Bob Missler, (313) 791-0377.

PW LAMKIN BIBLE STUDY

PW Lamkin Bible Study continues to meet every Thursday morning from 10:00am to 11:30am in the North Parlor. We continue the PW Horizon's Bible Study, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes." All women are invited! Come and share with one another as we see through various lenses how these different perspectives impact our understanding of who Jesus is! We hope you'll join us!

New Adult Education Opportunities Starting January 8th

Please join us for either of our two new Adult Education opportunities starting in January. Both will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9:00am beginning Sunday, January 8th. All are welcome!

Scripture Speak led by Pastor Mike and Julia Casey

Starting January 8th, this study will complement the Sunday Worship Series on the Book of John—1st, 2nd & 3rd John (The Letters of John).

Four missional activities (one a month) related to our study will be incorporated into the class. Choose multi-intelligence activities or traditional discussion questions...you choose!

North Parlor, Sundays, 9:00–9:50am

Special Topics Class led by Jane Dearth

For our next series, we will be studying a book by John Ortberg called *All the Places to Go...How Will You Know?* Very rarely in the Bible does God command someone to “Stay.” He opens a door and then He invites us to walk through it—into the unknown. And how we choose to respond will ultimately determine the life we will lead and the person we will become. In fact, to fail to embrace the open door is to miss the work God has made for us to do. Come learn with us as we discuss this exciting new study. All are welcome!

Room 16, Sundays, 9:00–9:50am

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Table Talk

We are continuing Pastor Chris Thomas’ Bible studies which expand on the sermon topic from the previous Sunday and participants can ask questions and engage in discussion.

When? Wednesday afternoons from 2:00–3:30pm and Wednesday evenings from 6:45–8:00pm in

Mitchell Hall. An optional potluck meal is offered on Wednesday evenings in Mitchell Hall from 6:00–6:45. We will not be meeting in December, but will resume January 4th.

Please join us for these lively discussions!

Another Great Halloween!



FPCD has so many extraordinary people who answered the call when needed. **A BIG THANK YOU** to those who donated candy, passed out candy and especially to the workers who shopped and delivered pumpkins, corn stalks, cider, donuts and the workers who decorated Mitchell Hall, poured the cider, passed out the donuts and popped the popcorn! We had close to 900 adults and children of all nationalities come through our doors receiving treats and experiencing the Christian LOVE of our congregation.

One group of handicapped children came from Taylor so they could experience a SAFE PLACE to trick or treat. Lots of organization and work was needed to transport their wheelchair bound children. We're sure Jesus was proudly smiling down.

This was written by a participant and it says it best:

"Person after person thanked us for doing this each year. Everyone was welcoming, patient and kind (at least at my table). This year, in particular, made me really feel like we were doing a true service for our local and surrounding communities. I am very, very proud to be part of FPC. I hope everyone involved last night enjoyed themselves and knows what a wonderful thing we did for hundreds of families."





Extra facts:

- We gave out 70 dozen Krispy Kreme donuts. Therefore, we know we had at least 840 children and adults.
- We went through 16 gallons of apple cider.
- The pumpkins will feed the deer and, of course, Wendy's squirrels.
- A wonderful organization called CHAINED will again come to pick up the bales of straw. They will put it to good use keeping outdoor dogs warm this winter.

2016–2017 Book Selections

The Book of the Every Other Month Club meets in the North Parlor from 10:00–11:30am on the second Saturday of September, November, January, March and May for a spirited discussion of a variety of books from a Christian perspective. Meetings and book selections for the remaining program year are:

- Jan. 14th** *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. Newest and highly acclaimed novel by the Pulitzer prize-winning author explores human relationships through the reconnection of a mother and her hospitalized daughter.
- Mar. 11th** *The Abundance: Narrative Essays Old and New* by Annie Dillard. A collection of Dillard's most beloved essays and some lesser known works.
- May 13th** *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. A historical novel about King David, told from the point of view of the prophet Nathan.

One copy of each book has been placed in the church library and will be available to borrow throughout the year for readers who would like to participate but encounter long waiting lists at the local library. All are welcome, so start reading, come join us and bring a friend! If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Janet Witkowski or Bill and Janet Leslie.

FPC KNITTERS

Knit Night

Calling all knitters and those who want to learn. Make a New Year's resolution to join us the fourth Thursday of the month. Winter is a great time for making scarves and other warm things. Come and learn some basic stitches for making a simple

scarf or bring whatever project you are working on. Our first meeting of the new year will be Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7pm. Hope to see you then! If January doesn't fit into your schedule, we will meet next on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12b, 13, ESV

God gave us our transforming salvation when we put our faith in Christ. Here Paul teaches us to work out that salvation with God's help. Like new computer software, our faith must be activated to be useful. How can we activate? We can't by ourselves, but as we yield to the Lord, He works in us and we work it out, fulfilling His plan for us (*Eph. 2:10*), and using the spiritual gifts He gave us (*Rom.12:13; 1 Cor. 12*). Living by faith in God teaches us to trust God in the opportunities and challenges of life. As we obey God, we experience the joy (*Psalms 16:11*) of His presence.

God gives us the desire to align our will with His. When we then seek Him, those two wills come together. God works in us, both to guide our will and to work out His good pleasure. The key is our revised will—will we follow God or let our sin

derail our spirituality. Christ has removed our sin, and with God's help, we can overcome our sinfulness and work with Him to accomplish His good pleasure through us. Then we can enjoy Him and each other forever!

Why fear and trembling? The God of the Universe knows each of us, for we are His children whom He loves deeply; He actually loves us enough to enter our lives, to save us from condemnation, and to call us to be in His family with Him and each other forever. We are significant, and as our salvation works out, God is with us to help us grow and become the person He designed us to be. In our loving humility, we live with God and each other; life then becomes truly worth living, and our blessings are eternal!

John Holden

Greetings from Peru!

I can't believe it is already December and another year is about to come to an end.

Christmas decorations have been out in full force in the stores for a few weeks now and our Girasoles children's homes are getting ready themselves –decorations are being made and menus being prepared. Peruvians traditionally celebrate Christmas starting on the night of the 24th with fireworks at midnight. After 45 minutes of fireworks and celebration in the streets, people pass inside to eat a turkey dinner and then open presents. The party typically goes all night long and Christmas Day is much more low-key by relaxing around the house. Something I have yet to get used to here at Christmas is the fact that it is also the start of summer. It's funny to still see snowflakes and snowmen decorations while wearing sandals and t-shirts and going to the beach!

Christmas is always a difficult time for the children in our homes. It is a holiday that is so focused on

spending time with family that many long to spend it with their own families. Would you please join us in praying for them during this season? Pray that they would find comfort in being surrounded by their Girasoles family and understand the true reason for the season, the birth of our Savior.

Since we will be in Lima for Christmas this year, we are planning on spending the holiday with a few of the older, former Girasoles boys who are now here in Lima continuing their studies. Last year, we made the big dinner, lit our own fireworks and mixed in some of our own American Christmas traditions like sweet potato casserole and watching Charlie Brown Christmas.

The first few months of the new year characteristically are slower months for us without volunteer groups which works out well since our little adventurer will be born in February. We are excited for what is to come and ask if you would continue praying for us as we embark on a journey as first-time parents!

In Christ,
Kate & Billy Greenman + our little adventurer



Post College Young Adults Discussion Group

If you or someone you know is between the ages of 22 and 35 and are looking for a way to connect in at the Church, a group has been meeting at Bailey’s Pub and Grill on Michigan Avenue in West Dearborn on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm. We have been discussing things that live at the intersection of life, culture and faith. Join us in the winter to discuss topics like “Tolerance,” “Judging Others,” and “Jesus, Republican or Democrat?” I hope to see you there!

Love in Christ, Rev. Chris Thomas

CAROLING

First Presbyterian Church Caroling!

Join us on Sunday, December 4th from 4:00–7:00pm.

We will meet in Mitchell Hall and break up into teams to go caroling to church members who can’t get out as often as they’d like. It is a great opportunity to bring some Christmas joy to our shut-ins and have a fun time as well!

Carol Sing—Sunday, Jan. 1st during the Sunday school hour, 9:00am in Mitchell Hall

YOUTH GROUP

As the Youth Ministry continues to build on the things we learned this summer from Joe Daley, please be mindful of the upcoming schedule of events:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Nov. 27th | No Youth Group for Thanksgiving weekend |
| Dec. 4th | No Regular Scheduled Youth Group—Church Christmas Caroling will be held this day at 4pm and the youth are encouraged to join in the fun. Check the website and upcoming Vision and bulletin for details. |
| Dec. 11th | No Youth Group—Youth are invited to attend Noel |
| Dec. 18th | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Dec. 25th | No Youth Group due to Christmas break |
| Jan. 1st | No Youth Group due to Christmas break |
| Jan. 8th | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Jan. 15th | No Youth Group due to MLK Jr. Day Weekend |
| Jan. 22nd | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Jan. 29th | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Feb. 5th | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Feb. 12th | Youth Group: 3:00 to 4:30pm |
| Feb. 19th | No Youth Group due to winter break |
| Feb. 26th | No Youth Group due to winter break |

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “Wondrous Gift of God with Us.”

Half of the offering will raise up leaders from small places that are too often overlooked by the church; the historically Presbyterian racially ethnic schools that were founded to educate emerging leaders from underrepresented groups to have church leadership better reflect the diversity of God’s people. The other half of the Christmas Joy offering honors and supports those leaders who serve and have served us well. Through the assistance program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church that they have served so well.

You can designate Christmas Joy on your regular envelope or use one of the Christmas Joy offering envelopes you can find in the narthex. —Joel DeHamer

What is Per Capita?

Perhaps you noticed that in your pad of offering envelopes the first one is designated “Per Capita.”

Per Capita is a per member amount that congregations pay to their respective Presbyteries. The amount requested by the Presbytery is a combined total of requests from the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly to support their operations and missions.

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian Church through the councils (Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly) to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and, of performing ecclesiastic, legislative and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. Thus, Per Capita is a fundamental way in which nearly 11,000 congregations and councils of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are connected in covenantal relationship and faithfully participate in the work of the wider church (*from the advisory opinion of the General Assembly.*)

For 2017, the Per Capita assessment is \$25.93 per member. Our church’s total portion is \$10,190.49. Each member is encouraged to use the designated envelope to participate directly in the work of the councils of the church.

Converge Update

The Holy Spirit has continued to move in our lives. With the closing of Panera Cares, we were faced with the task of trying to figure out where God would have us go, to be missionally “out in the neighborhood.” It was an immediate suggestion by two of our attendees to have it in the large living space of a four-person apartment in The Fairlane Woods Development (thank-you Deva and Vishwa!).



How awesome (as opposed to awful) this move was, since most of our international students are working on their Master's degrees, as well as the employed young adults actually live in this community and can walk to Converge each Saturday. Even better yet, they can easily bring friends to experience this particular Presbyterian 1,001 New Worshipping Community.



Traditional Indian and American food, prepared by different members of our community started the afternoon gathering, followed by worship, a message and more interactive small group activities and discussion. Harsh, a member of our group from U of M-Ann Arbor recently said, “I love this community of faith. This is how the book of Acts church in the Bible was like; meeting in houses,





eating a meal and being involved in each other's lives all during the week."

So, how are we involved in each other's lives during the week? Just recently, in one week alone, seven of us spent an afternoon and moved a member of Converge from one apartment complex to the Woods. Two other members spent two evenings trimming the bushes of a member of our congregation to earn a little pocket cash. Another member of Converge volunteered to work two late nights at ChristNet. A number of members have one-on-one or group Bible studies during the week. Meals are cooked and shared with members of the group on a regular basis. Rides to the Treasure Chest for household items as well as a dentist visit are given. Eleven of us descended upon Apple Charlie's Cider Mill for an afternoon. The list goes on and on!

Amen!



GrouPeru! 2017

Interested in joining the Peru team this summer? This year's trip is from June 29th to July 12th and the cost is \$1800. We would appreciate your commitment by January 8th. Information brochures and application forms are ready for you to pick up. You will find them posted on the youth bulletin board in the main hallway.

Our next fundraisers will be held January 8, 2017 (Taco luncheon) and February 12, 2017 (Valentine's candy sale). Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



SERMON SCHEDULE

Nov. 27th	The Light Has Come: In the Beginning (John 1:1-5)
Dec. 4th	The Light Has Come: The World Did Not Know Him (John 1:6-13)
Dec. 11th	The Light Has Come: The Word Became Flesh (John 1:14-18)
Dec. 18th	The Light Has Come: Prepping the Way (John 1:19-28)
Dec. 24th	The Real Christmas Story (Luke 2:1-7)
Dec. 25th	Unexpected Guests (Luke 2:8-21)
Jan. 1st	Human God: Baptized of Our Sins (John 1:29-35)
Jan. 8th	Human God: The Band Comes Together (John 1:36-51)
Jan. 15th	Divine Human: Miracle Provider (John 2:1-11)
Jan. 22nd	Divine Human: The Temple of God (John 2:12-25)
Jan. 29th	More Than a Wise Man: God So Loved the World (John 3:1-21)
Feb. 5th	More Than a Wise Man: He Must Increase (John 3:22-36)
Feb. 12th	The Missional Church (Acts 1-2)
Feb. 19th	More Than a Wise Man: Living Water (John 4:1-27)
Feb. 26th	More Than a Wise Man: Savior of the World (John 4:28-42)

Noel Festival

**Sunday, December 11th
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Mitchell Hall**

Join us for a delicious dinner and Christmas Pageant!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW IN THE NARTHEX!

Adult, \$14 donation; Children ages 5-12, \$6 donation;
Children under age 5, FREE; Patron Tickets, \$100



Pictured are Cecilia Lind and her horse HS Majestic (Mikey). Cecilia rides and trains with her trainer Rob Luton, of Luton Riding Academy and Performance Horses in Grosse Ile.

On July 23–30, 2016 Cecilia participated in The Arabian and Half-Arabian Youth National Horse Show held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She competed in both the Hunter and Western Division. Cecilia took two Top Ten Honors in the Western Division with her Half-Arabian horse Havana and she is the Half-Arabian/Anglo Arabian Youth National Champion in the Hunter Pleasure Division.

WINTER BIRTHDAYS

December

1 Michael Watson	11 Steven Britz	16 Robert Putnam	23 Jessica Romeo
2 Susan Williams	11 Elizabeth Knott	16 David Williams	25 Beverly Reiter
5 Marcia Meyer	11 Eric Jones	16 Gary Mayberry	26 Joan Cahow
7 Gregory Fink	13 James M. Jones	17 Stella Doverspike	26 Marilyn Joachim
7 Kaitlin Fink	14 Albert Ebi	18 Vivian Foster	26 David Setterlun
8 W. Robert Buell	14 Carol McFadden	18 Christine Bassett	27 Mary Ellen Mitchell
8 Margaret Richards	14 George Hyma	20 Peggy Hoblack	30 Margaret Blair
8 Marcia Scott	14 Ronald Doan	20 JoAnn Isaacson	31 Jared Hoffman
9 Pauline Fink	14 Abraham Hughes	20 Rebekka Dicks	
9 Robert Miller	15 Bob Brinton	21 Sarah Duggan	
11 Thomas Kopke	15 Alexander Best	23 Duane Schmatz	

January

1 William Leslie	5 Lori Wyatt	17 Margaret Engstrom	28 Katya Isaacson
1 Jenny Miazga	5 Todd Storrs	17 David Martin	29 Ivan Doverspike
2 Robert Morris	11 Kathryn Dobson	18 Susan Miller	29 Jillian Drzinski
2 Eugene Smith	11 Lisa Reiter	19 Kate Greenman	30 Mary Jane Dearth
4 John McFadden	14 Robert Powanda	21 Whitney Barr	31 Dorothy Wright
5 Dolores LaPointe	14 Jeffrey Hosmer	21 David Carlson	
5 Therese Martin	16 Jane Gibbs	25 Richard Fisher	
5 Ann Phillips	16 Richard Armstrong	28 John Matthews	

February

2 William Godfrey	7 Riley Wolter	11 Susan White	18 Lauren Setterlun
2 Deborah Samuel	7 Lorelei Bryson	11 Marie Shearer	20 Susan Nightingale
4 Julia Casey	8 Edward Riopelle	15 Alton Long	22 Elizabeth King
5 Toni Barr	8 Isabel Thormann	16 Janet Witkowski	22 Charles Reid
6 June Schwesinger	9 Valerie Abramowski	17 Deloris Anderson	24 Carole Higgins
6 Evelyn Sadler	11 John Barr	17 Caroline Bristol	28 Delphine Sefcik
7 Bobby Fuller	11 Janet Proctor	18 Paula Doan	28 Sallie Pray

One Another

Showing grace to one another is an opportunity to minister to each other and wash away the negative perceptions our community might have about Christians or the Church. In his book *Vanishing Grace*, Philip Yancy writes that there are twenty nine uses of “one another” in the New Testament that he summarizes to show what true community would look like:

- Love one another
- Show tolerance for one another
- Forgive one another
- Be kind to one another
- Pray for one another
- Speak truth to one another
- Bear one another's burdens
- Build up one another
- Be devoted to one another
- Comfort one another
- Regard one another as more important than yourself
- Care for one another
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds
- Do not speak against one another
- Do not judge one another

We encourage you to keep this list in front of you and let the Spirit help you minister by showing grace to one another and build community through what Christ is doing in each of us.

Chris & Brian Mayer



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Our Vision

SENT WITH A PRAYER

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PASTOR EMERITUS

REV. Don Wright

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Beckie Dicks

MISSIONARY TO U OF M-DEARBORN

Mike Hoffman, CRE

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Jane Lewy Mykytenko

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