



Come home  
to God's love

# Our Vision

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn  
January 2012 Newsletter



**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD  
PASTORS WILL PREACH THROUGH THE  
GOSPEL OF MARK IN THE NEW YEAR  
THE ACTION GOSPEL**

## FUN TALENT NIGHT

Come share the fun at our exciting talent night extravaganza! A main dish will be provided for dinner, but bring soup or chili if you like. You can also bring dessert... or just bring yourself.

**Saturday, January 21st  
5:00pm - 7:30pm  
see page 6**



**Young Adult Ministry & CONVERGE**  
See page 7



**Noel Festival**  
(more photos on page 4)

### Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering



**All women are invited!**  
~ Mitchell Hall  
~ 11:00AM  
~ Saturday, Jan. 14th  
See page 10

<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Parish Nurse</b>	<b>5</b>
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### **Adult Sunday Morning Classes**

Jan. 1 No Sunday School on New Year's Day.

Jan 8 – Feb 19 ... 7 week session:

Bible Study – **Old Testament Leaders** – explore the personalities and leadership qualities of some of the great leaders of the Old Testament.

*Led by Bunny Barr*

Couples Class—**One of Us Must Be Crazy, and I'm Pretty Sure It Is You!** This will be a fun discussion class focused on helping couples understand the differences in communication styles. *Led by Jane Dearth*

### **FISH**

FISH begins again on Wednesday, January 11. Dinner at 6pm. Class at 6:45pm

Our adult class this winter will focus on the History of Worship from the early church til today, exploring the various components of worship and how they have changed down through the centuries. This will help us better understand how and why we worship the way we do. *Led by Mark Dearth*

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to Jane Dearth, Tracie Szczechura, Keith Ingram, Mark Dearth for teaching/leading an adult class this fall. You have blessed us with your willingness to help others learn. Hopefully you were equally blessed.

### **Thank You Music Dept.**

Wow December was wonderful and full of terrific music. Thank you to all who participated in the musical offerings of the Advent/Christmas season.

### **Stewardship envelopes for kids**

Parents, let me know if you want envelopes for your child. This is a wonderful way to teach your child about giving to the church.

### **Step By Step in God's Word**

Jan. 1 - Exodus 20:3      Jan 8 - John 15:5      Jan 15 - Matthew 7:7-8  
Jan 22 - John 10:10      Jan 29 - Ephesians 2:8-9

~Ann Bleivik, Educational Coordinator



## Children's Ministry

Happy New Year!

I hope your holiday season was joyful and fun. Most of all, I hope and pray that we all take time to reflect upon and celebrate the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, all year long.



Many thanks to the women of the **Treasure Chest** for hosting the Christmas Shop for our kids in December. Thanks also to the additional volunteers who came down to help with the shopping and wrapping. This has become a greatly anticipated event, much joy was shared. Children looked forward to Christmas even more when they have their own special gifts to give their families.

Mark your calendars for April 21, 1:00-3:00 PM. This will be our fourth annual **Puppet Party!** Stay tuned for more details. We invite any creative, energetic and/or enthusiastic people to help with planning.

~Beckie Dicks, Children's Ministries Director

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### Help Needed

Since we moved to one service, our nursery is flowing with children. We have an adult caregiver and usually a youth helper in the nursery each week. Occasionally, it would be helpful to have another adult present (especially if we have infants). If you would be willing to help in the nursery on a last minute basis (we will come and get you as the service begins), please contact Beckie Dicks or Ann Bleivik. It is such a blessing to need more help in the nursery! Can you come and snuggle an infant?

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### New Year

**A year to be glad in,  
And not to be sad in,  
To gain in, to give in,  
A happy new year.**

**A new year for trying,  
And never for sighing,  
A new year to live in,  
Oh, hold it most dear!**

**~ Author Unknown**



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-ooooh-oooh-oooria' about did me in."

***NOEL Festival! Photos by Pam deVeer***



***Christmas Caroling - 2011***



## Notes from our Parish Nurse

### ***Conquering the 'Winter Blues'***

The holiday season is often thought of as a time of joy, but for some of us winter brings low spirits as the days get shorter. Many experience changes in moods and behavior, feelings of exhaustion, and most of all depression from the lack of sunlight. As daylight starts to diminish at early hours, millions of people suffer from a mild case of winter depression called the winter blues. The winter blues is a bummed-out feeling spawned from unrealistic expectations, unpleasant holiday memories, the inability to be with family, or the confinement of cold weather. This wintertime depression can last for few days or through the whole winter season. In some instances, people can't function normally without seeking medical and psychological help to cope with extreme winter depression known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). If you think you're experiencing the winter blues, here are few suggestions to help you through that wintertime misery.

-Winter brings about colors associated with sadness, blue and gray making your home feel cold, empty, and depressing. **To uplift your spirits think about decorating your home in colors reflecting the sun; the warm colors of red, orange, and yellow.** These colors evoke the images of fire and heat, enhancing feelings of warmth and happiness. (no need to paint wall, pillows and other décor will suffice)

-Another way to beat the wintertime blues is to **get plenty of exercise to improve your mood and reduce stress. Exercising rids feelings of depression by increasing serotonin levels. Studies have shown that one-hour of exercise outside had the same benefits as 2.5 hours of light treatment indoors.**

Briskly walking from place to place, taking a run, skiing, sledding and having a snowball fight have all proven to help sufferers of the blues feel better.

-"You are what you eat" holds true when depression creates an urge to indulge in high-sugar foods that gives temporary liveliness, but eventually decreases energy. **In order to maintain that energy people tend to overeat and gain weight. The best thing to do is to eat healthy.**

-Depression and lack of energy caused by winter blues can lower your immune system, exposing you to colds or flu's. **Before taking an over the counter medicine to help you deal with the blues, consider taking the holistic approach of herbal remedies and aromatherapy to prevent your body's immune system from declining.**

**-Studies have found those suffering from the winter blues experience relief from light therapy. Light plays an important role in our health and the amount of time exposed to it affects our performance...** The shortage of light in the winter is what affects our hormonal balance causing the wintertime blues. That is why it is important to expose ourselves to a good amount of bright light.

**-The use of light boxes is one way to receive a similar effect to the sun's natural light.** When emitting high intensities of light of 2,500 to 10,000 lux (the measurement of illumination) light boxes improves a person's mood and behavior. Before using a light box, please ask your physician or other experts who understand the correct use and amount of light that is recommended.

Some people take medication to cope with the winter blues, others just move closer to the equator so they can enjoy the longer sunny days. But for most of us, winter is hard to escape from and the best thing to do is to take care of ourselves mentally and physically. Keep moving, eat healthy and uplift your spirits, because spring and summer eventually come back.

**Source:** Winter Blues: Seasonal Affective Disorder, What it is and how to cure it. (1993). For the complete article go to: <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/winterblues>

~Chris Mayer, Parish Nurse



## Music Corner

Welcome to 2012! This is a great time to think about joining our music ministry. We are always looking for new members, but if you join right now, you'll get in with all the brand new music for the new year.

Adult Choir rehearses at 7:00pm on Wednesday Nights in the Choir Loft.

Youth Choir rehearses at 3:00pm on Sunday Afternoons in the Choir Loft.

Children's Choir rehearses at 4:00pm on Sunday Afternoons in Room 14.

Children's Handchimes rehearses at 5:00pm on Sunday Afternoons  
in the Handbell Room (3A & 3B)

If you are interested in playing with our Praise Band, please contact Steve Britz or myself.

We'd love to see you in any of these musical ministries!

The Adult Choir is looking forward to performing a major work for Lent/Easter this year. We also look forward to more work with the praise band and other musicians this year. The Children's Choir and Children's Handchimes Choir will be performing regularly throughout the Winter and Spring. Our new Youth Choir will be involved in Lent and Easter and we look forward to adding more members to all of these ensembles. Come join us!

~Marshall Dicks, Director of Music

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### **FUN TALENT NIGHT ~ Saturday Jan. 21st**

Mark your calendar for this exciting event! Everyone is welcome— all ages, all talents. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

**Dinner: 5:00pm** Main dish will be provided. Bring soup or chili if you wish... or a dessert for the 3rd annual Dessert Contest (prizes awarded). Or just bring yourself— it is not necessary to bring food.

**Showtime: after dinner** Acts can be live, videotaped, or something to display (i.e. photography, jewelry, etc.). Acts should be limited to 3 minutes so more people can participate. If you'd like to perform or share your talent, please email Alyssa Husby at [jbhusby@aol.com](mailto:jbhusby@aol.com).

**Remember, that's Saturday, January 21st, 5:00pm!**

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### **Happy New Year from CREW and 412!**

December was full of celebrations of Christ's birth, spending time together as a church family and getting ready for 2012. Thanks to the DeVeer family for the wonderful Christmas party and the organizers of Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Caroling for fun times!

We're going to kick off 2012 with a focus on Faith Questions in CREW. (Pastor Mike is helping me come up with some wild ideas. :-) Do you know God or do you know about Him? How does He speak to you? How do we share in the suffering of Christ and the persecuted Church, His Body? Get ready for challenge, action and God showing up in big ways!

412 will prepare to participate in worship with skits and learning Bible verses that teach simple lessons of how to follow Christ. Of course, we'll still join CREW to Feed the Hungry. There's also rumors of a youth worship band... stay tuned!

Please pray for CREW and 412 as we seek to be and make disciples, growing in Spirit and Truth. God bless you in this new year. ~In Christ, Jonathan

## Musings from Pastor Mike –January 2012

**MINISTRY-** My pastoral duties here at FPC have been such a joy. I have recently given my second Sunday morning sermon during worship and have really enjoyed crafting a service that utilizes the gifts of so many. Randy Bruder designed both worship folder covers, incorporating props that I used to increase the visual message, and Ralph Evangelista enhanced my rather simple photo power point with special effects as well as with music. Thanks to Jonathan and Panera Cares for supplying bread for my missional prayer challenge to the congregation. The music department is doing such great things with so many types of musical styles, as well a unique ancient/future style that is evolving in this church. Thanks to Marshall, the choir, special groups, Tim, the Britz brothers, Mike and John, Jonathan, various members of the Praise Team, and Mark's W&A Committee, I have to admit that worship has been refreshed and revitalized for me in a new way. Praise God for so many positive innovations. Thanks also to Pastor Dave for mentoring me and including me in monthly home communion and hospital/rehabilitation visits.

**CONVERGE-** My duties as a member of the *Converge* team have quite frankly, left me out of breath. I have such a passion for working along-side young adults, and this *Converge* Core team of Christie Smith, Jonathan Mallard, Lewis Britz, and Steven Britz is creative-dynamite. Our meetings are full of participatory activities and different ideas for outreach to the young adults who haven't discovered this exciting program planned just for their age group. Thanks to Randy Bruder again for designing our logo and signage, even with his super busy college classes and duties. Thanks also to super-tech, Brian Mayer for equipping the Student Lounge with sound and visual equipment and to technicians, Chris Masouredis, Dean Young, and Ralph Evangelista. Our *Converge* Band consisting of the Britz brothers, John Semeniuk, and Mike Pierfederici rocks the worship like no one else can. Christie's delicious and hot food is so good that no one can pass up "seconds". Thanks also to my wife Lynn who understands that a 10 hour a week position usually means 30-40 hours per week spent on these ministries. Thanks to DNA for being so supportive with praise and encouragement. Praise God for the 5 member Young Adult Bible study that has come out of *Converge* and meets every Friday morning! We have been hosting just under 20 young adults each week with a base of about 40 who have attended so far. Work schedules and college homework often mean that some attendees can only come on a sporadic basis, while many have attended each *Converge* on a regular basis. The *Converge* Core team sent out Christmas cards to event attendees as well as to all local Young Adults and College student from our church...thanks Nancy DeHamer for gluing all those little sequins to the Christmas trees! Boxes of church-baked cookies will be sent out the second week of January to all the above as well. Keep *Converge* in your prayers as I make a presentation to the Detroit Presbytery about this innovative program in late January. God's love is being felt by all here at FPC ~God's Peace, Mike Hoffman, CLP

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### Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Presbyterian Women's Bible study will begin the new year on Thursday, January 5 (10:00-11:30am) in the North Parlor. We will continue to study the Beatitudes.  
~Lorraine Lamkin

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# 2012

# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
New Year's Day/Communion No Education Hour No Adult Choir 10:00am Worship Service- Sanctuary No Youth Choir No Children's Choir 4:00pm-6:00pm CREW Youth No Children's Handchimes No Sunday Eve. Bible Study	1 <b>CHURCH CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY</b> 8pm-12am Y. Adult Bible Study- YL  <b>DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</b>	2 <b>CE Subcommittees Meet</b> 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 7:00pm Property- Library 7:00pm-9:00pm Worship & Arts- SP 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	3 10:00am Stephens-Currie- R12 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12:00pm <b>ALL Staff- SP</b> 7:00pm-9:00pm Outreach&Missions-SP <b>No Adult Choir</b>
Baptism of the Lord 9:00am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir <b>10:00am Worship Service- Sanctuary</b> <b>11:15am NominatingCommitt- NP</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm Youth Choir 4:00pm-5:00pm Children's Choir 4:00pm-6:00pm CREW Youth- YL 5:00pm-6:00pChildren's Handchimes 7:00pm SunEve.BibleStudy-Bert Ebi's	8 11:30am-2:00pm Garden Club- MH 7:00pm-8:00pm Deacons- R12 7:00pm-9:00pm Greeting Card- <b>R14</b> 7:00pm NAMI- NP 7:30pm-9:00pm BoyScout Troop-YC 8pm-12am Y. Adult Bible Study- YL  <b>Reports due for Annual Congregational Meeting</b>  <b>DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</b>	9 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 9:30am-11:30am Prayers & Squares 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	10 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 6:00pm-6:45pm <b>FISH Kickoff</b> (dinner)MH 6:45pm-8:00pm Classes- MH, NP 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir-Sanct.,Turco
9:00am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir <b>10:00am Worship Service- Sanctuary</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm Youth Choir 4:00pm-5:00pm Children's Choir 4:00pm-6:00pm CREW Youth- YL 5:00pm-6:00pChildren's Handchimes 7:00pm Sun.Eve.Bible Study-Bert Ebi's	15 <b>Birthday of MLK, Jr.</b> 8pm-12am Y. Adult Bible Study- YL  <b>CHURCH CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</b>  <b>DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</b>	16 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 5:30pm-6:30pm Finance- SP 7:00pm <b>SESSION -NP</b> 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	17 10:00am Stephens-Currie- R12 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12:00pm <b>PROGRAM Staff- SP</b> 6:00pm-6:45pm FISH (dinner) MH 6:45pm-8:00pm Classes- MH, NP 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir-Sanct.,Turco
9:00am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir <b>10:00am Worship Service- Sanctuary</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm Youth Choir 4:00pm-5:00pm Children's Choir 4:00pm-6:00pm CREW Youth- YL 5:00pm-6:00pm Children's Handchimes 7:00pm Sun.EveBibleStudy-Bert Ebi's	22 2-4pm Homeschool Class- MH, Kit. <b>3:00pm Presbytery Leadership Workshop Committee Mtg- NP</b> 7:00pm NAMI- NP 7:30pm-9:00pm BoyScoutTroop-YC 8pm-12am Y. Adult Bible Study- YL  <b>DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</b>	23 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 9:30am-11:30am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm-8:00pm Technology- R12 7:30pm-8:30pm InvestmentCommittee-SP 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH  <b>4:00pm Presbytery- Mt. Clemens, First</b>	24 10:00am-1:00pm Keenagers- off site 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 6:00pm-6:45pm FISH (dinner) MH 6:45pm-8:00pm Classes- MH, NP 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir-Sanct.,Turco
9:00am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir <b>10:00amWorshipService-Sanctuary</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm Youth Choir 4:00pm-5:00pm Children's Choir 4:00pm-6:00pm CREW Youth- YL 5:00pm-6:00pChildren's Handchimes 7:00pmSunEveBibleStudy-Bert Ebi's  <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DISTRIBUTED TO CONGREGATION</b>	29 7:30pm-9:00pm BoyScoutTroop-YC 8pm-12am Y. Adult Bible Study- YL  <b>DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</b>	30	

12/23/2011 10:16:00 AM

# 2012

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
4	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors-MH, Kit. 6:00pm-7:00pm Personnel- SP 7:30pm-9:00pm Praise Band- Sanctuary	5	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	6	Chrismon Tree comes down 5am-11am Boy Scout Wood Badge Breakfast- MH, Kit. 9am-11am Rebekah Circle- NP 9am-10:30am DNA- R16 3:30-5pm Hoff.-Szcz. Small grp- MH <b>5:30-10pm Converge- K.,YL,YC,2A</b>
11	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors- MH,Kit. 11:00am C.O.M. (Pastor) offsite 7:30pm-9:00pm Praise Band-Sanctuary	12	6:30pm-9:00pm Game Night  (Set up for PW Women'sGathering)	13	10:00am-12:00pm BEOM Club- NP 11am-3pm PW Women'sGathering- MH, Kit. <b>5:30-10pm Converge- K.,YL,YC, 2A</b>
18	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study-NP 11:00am-3:30pm B.B.Seniors- MH,Kit. 1:00pm-3:00pm LydiaMarthaMary- NP 7:00pm-9:00pm B.ScoutCampingMtg.- MH, Kit. 7:30pm-9:00pm Praise Band-Sanctuary	19		20	9:00am PW Board- NP 9am-10:30am DNA- R16 <b>10am-12pm Later Life Series-R12</b> No Hoff.-Szcz. Small grp. 5:00pm-9:00pm Talent Night- MH <b>5:30-10pm Converge- Downstairs Kit, YL, YC, 2A</b>
25	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors- MH, Kit. 5:30pm-9:00pm Boy Scout Council-MH, Kit., NP, SP 7:30pm-9:00pm Praise Band- Sanctuary	26	6:30pm-9:00pm Game Night	27	<b>5:30-10pm Converge- K.,YL,YC,2A</b>



## Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering Saturday, January 14th

All women are invited to the Winter Gathering on January 14, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in Mitchell Hall. We will share food, fun, and fellowship. There will be a special musical presentation coordinated by Jane Lewy. Childcare will be provided.

We will be collecting items to donate to First Step. First Step offers free services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families. Our own Dorinda Hughes is a member of the First Step Board and former employee. She will be sharing a few words about the program and the new facility. Items we are collecting include baby food, liquid dish soap, body wash, and sippy cups. A full list of items needed by First Step is posted on the PW bulletin board. Feel free to donate any item on the list. Cash donations are always welcome.

A sign up sheet will be in the narthex to make reservations for the gathering. There is no cost for the event. Please consider joining us and supporting First Step. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday January 14.

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**Our Vision** is the monthly newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. Articles are to be turned in to the office or emailed to Jim Barber at [jimb@firstpresdearborn.org](mailto:jimb@firstpresdearborn.org) no later than the **10th** of the month. Please date your articles & **keep them brief - one page or less. Longer articles will result in smaller font. We reserve the right to edit as needed.**

<b>Sunday Bulletin Announcements:</b> Please submit your announcements for the <b>Sunday Bulletin</b> to Vicki no later than noon the Monday prior to the service at <a href="mailto:vickid@firstpresdearborn.org">vickid@firstpresdearborn.org</a> . Please use Microsoft Word format when sending your articles via email. Boxes are also available in the church office for your submissions. ~ Thank you, Vicki Davidson—Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor.
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## Touch of Hope Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering was a great success. Working together made the offering easier and made happy families.

Many people did their part to make the Christmas Offering a success. Bob Szczechura did all the Excel set-up and label work. Jan Cobb and the FPC school children made personal beautiful cards for each of our families.

Volunteers who helped with preparation and the angel adoption process were Bonnie Andrew, Carolyn Buell, Nancy DeHamer, Janet Leslie, Margie Maurer, Charlene Reid, Christie Smith, and Lori Wyatt. Gift sorting was done by Dorinda Hughes, Sue Ingram, Margie Maurer, Wendy Norwood, Erin and Amber Norwood, Charlene Reid, Christie Smith, Sue Sullivan, Tracie and Bob Szczechura, and Jan Witkowski. Food sorting was completed by Jeni Cole and daughter Eleanor, Nancy DeHamer, Janet Leslie, Mike and Margie Maurer, Tom Perkovich, Christie Smith, Sue Sullivan, Anne Witkowski, Jan Witkowski and Lori Wyatt. Wendy Palmer and Lori Mathews did a great job with set-up for sorting on both Sundays.

Generous church members purchased 109 gifts at an approximate total cost of \$2,860. Our families are very appreciative and many thanks go to those who adopted angels.

Thanks to the congregation members who also donated food, personal care items, and paper products to be distributed to the fifteen families. People who donated money toward the Christmas offering are always deeply appreciated.

As always, the sponsors are the heart of this program and without their involvement, time, and commitment throughout the year, Touch of Hope Ministry would not be a reality. The personal contacts and the delivery of food and gifts is a great way to share God's love.

This has been a tough year for many of our families. They are all grateful for the many generous people in our church family who brightened their celebration of Christmas. Touch of Hope continues to appreciate all that has been done by many to support the ministry.

~Margie Maurer



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### Presbytery of Detroit 'Per Capita' Apportionment

For those who wish to pay Per Capita, the per-member rate for 2011 is \$23.10. Please designate by writing "per capita" on your giving envelope or in the memo area of your check.

## Prayer & Wholeness Service



**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PRAYER AND WHOLENESS SERVICES** - Information regarding these services for 2012 will be forthcoming.

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### Thanks from Alan Brailsford

Dear Friends,

You are some of the many people who sent me best wishes for a speedy and full recovery during my recent renewed bout with cancer. Your messages were scotch-taped to my Email Hall of Fame in our dining room. They were a constant reminder of our many long-standing friendships and of the fact that so many of you were plugging for me during the struggle. Things did not seem too bad at the beginning of the treatments but they became pretty bad near the end; I doubt that I would have been able to continue without the many silent voices cheering me on from the walls. So I send my heartfelt thanks to you one and all.

I'm not sure just what treatments I will need from this point on. The doctor says that I am now "Cancer free" which I gather means that the original tumor has been killed and no new tumors have appeared. I guess I will be given several months for my body to recover from the radiation and chemical onslaught before re-taking stock.

I think of you all often. I thank you so much for your good wishes, prayers, commiserations and messages of hope. It is truly a wonderful feeling to count you as my friends.

Love, Alan

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### Thanks from Mary Ann Bassett

Hallmark, American Greeting and other card companies have one thing in common—they touch people's lives—just as you have touched mine. Thank you for taking the time to jot down a note and prayer inside cards I have received. It truly meant a lot. I have read and re-read them all and felt the prayers enclosed. God has been good. Kindness comes in different shapes and sizes. I felt your love and am truly grateful and blessed. Thank you.  
~Mary Ann Bassett

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### Transportation Volunteers

The Deacons are looking to start a list of volunteers who would be willing to help with the transportation of our members, as needed. If you would be willing to help, please contact Nancy Barber at (313) 565-2741. We appreciate your consideration to help us serve our congregation. We currently have a need in the Howard School area.

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### STEPHEN MINISTRY



**Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?** In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Art Hughes (313-383-2589) or Chris Mayer (313-562-1943). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



## Happy New Year from Lima, Peru!

It is hard to imagine that my first 6 months in Peru have already come and gone! In the past few months, I have helped install 2 water filtration systems, hosted many work teams at our homes in the jungle, coast and mountains, made some big developments to the new Scripture Union website, and became a Peruvian resident!

The volunteer teams have returned home and we are helping our Girasoles homes for abandoned boys with the summer school holidays. In addition, I have already started to looking ahead to Summer 2012, scheduling our volunteer teams and am looking forward to the new year with lots of volunteers traveling to our homes!

Don't forget, you can stay current with what I am doing in Peru on my website, [www.katebruder.com/peru](http://www.katebruder.com/peru). There, you can find stories and many photographs about what I am doing with Scripture Union Peru.

Thank you once again for your prayers and support. It is a blessing to be a part of God's work here in Peru.

~Kate Bruder

## *Congratulations, Grandparents and GREAT Grandparents!!*



### Luke David Thormann

Born Aug. 19th

Grandson  
of

Dave & Jan Smith

### Dominic Ray Brown

Born Nov. 24

Great Grandson  
of

John & Bunny Barr

### Kathryn Elise Smith

Born Dec. 11th

Granddaughter  
of

Gene & Sue Smith

# 3 Thank You

## Grateful Thanks to Bert Ebi

A special ‘thank you’ goes out to Bert Ebi for his many years of dedicated service to our church family. Bert has been a mainstay in our financial operations, providing greatly-needed leadership during challenging times. His strong Christian faith and good judgment continue to be a treasure to us all.



**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. *Prov. 9:10***

A proper understanding of life begins with reverential awe for God. Wisdom and spiritual understanding are based on this foundation and grow as we come to know God personally in a redemptive relationship. While unbelievers may make statements about life and truth, their understanding is limited without knowledge of God.

Wisdom comes from God. It begins with a humble reverence for God and then proceeds to knowing God and learning His Word (*Prov. 2:6*). Those who deny God in their pursuit of wisdom are denying both the basis and context of whatever they seek to understand. Ignoring both the origin and purpose of what they study, they learn mechanics without meaning. For example, studying science without God overlooks the realization that everything God created is good (*1 Tim 4:4*; *Gen 1:31*) and purposeful (*Col 1:16*).

The secular mind rejects such issues. It prefers its own way, which often ends in destruction (*Prov. 14:12*). The Psalmist calls such people fools (*Psalm 14:1*; *Prov 1:7*) – not intellectual but moral fools, for they know God exists (*Romans 1:21*) but refuse to acknowledge Him. This ignorance leads some to argue that life is depressing, life lacks purpose, and there are no universal moral standards. That tempts us to decide matters of goodness and truth for ourselves, and like the first couple, reject God (*Genesis 3:5*).

In Romans 1 we learn that God’s wrath is revealed because man suppresses God’s truth (v.18), and that suppression leads to futile thinking and darkened hearts (v.21). These in turn lead to bizarre worship, social/moral decay, and ultimately the public approval of sin (v.32).

By seeking God, we are not only saved and regenerated, but we also get a broader understanding of life and the spiritual help needed to grasp what God wants us to know in His Creation.

~ John Holden

### **Many thanks for NOEL Festival**

We would like to extend a sincere 'thanks' to all who helped make this event such a wonderful evening. From Marshall Dicks, to our musicians, vocalists, and our thespians, the evening was one that will be remembered fondly. Thanks also to those who prepared the wonderful meal, and to the decorating team led by Carolyn Buell. The evening was one of great celebration and fellowship.

Thanks again, and have a wonderful year!

### **Our Costumes need Help!**

Many of our church costumes used during Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter are in bad shape. Some are moldy and some are just falling apart. I'd like to work with a couple of people to go through the costumes and make a list of what we have and what we need. Then I need a couple of people to make some costumes. If you can help with the sorting or the sewing, please see me. Ann

### **Lost & Found**

If you have picked up a black, puffy coat with beige fur, large size, I would like to exchange it for the smaller version that I picked up by mistake. Please contact JoAnn Cashwell at (313) 563-4672.

### **Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am**

**January 1 / - Mike Hoffman, CLP**

**January 8 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**

**January 15 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**

**January 22 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**

**January 29 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**

### **January Birthdays**



- 01/01: Bill Leslie, Jenny Miazga
- 01/02: Robert Morris, Eugene L. Smith
- 01/04: John McFadden
- 01/05: Therese Martin, Ann Phillips, Lori Wyatt, Todd Storrs
- 01/06: Bette Smith, Brian Zirbel
- 01/10: Esther Craley
- 01/11: John Blyth, Elaine Fellows, Kathryn Dobson, Lisa Reiter
- 01/14: Robert Powanda, Jeffrey Hosmer
- 01/16: Jane Gibbs, Richard Armstrong
- 01/17: Margaret Engstrom, Shirley Shimamura, David Martin
- 01/18: Susan Miller
- 01/19: Charlene Verral, Kate Bruder
- 01/21: Whitney Barr, David Carlson
- 01/25: Richard Fisher
- 01/28: John Matthews, Dean Young, Katya Isaacson
- 01/29: Ivan Doverspike, Jillian Drzinski
- 01/30: Margo Martinez, Jane Dearth

### **Congratulations Erin Norwood!**

**Erin Norwood was named to the All-State Girls High School Field Hockey First Team. What a tremendous accomplishment!**

**Congratulations Erin.**

Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn  
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## Our Vision

## Sent with a Prayer

Pastor  
Rev. Dr. David Bleivik

Parish Associate  
Rev. Don Wright

Children's Ministries Director  
Beckie Dicks

Youth Ministries Director  
Jonathan Mallard

Young Adult Coordinator  
Mike Hoffman, CLP

Educational Coordinator  
Ann Bleivik

Director of Music  
F. Marshall Dicks, M.M.

Parish Nurse  
Chris Mayer, R.N.

**Are you praying for Vision?**  
**Pastor Dave**