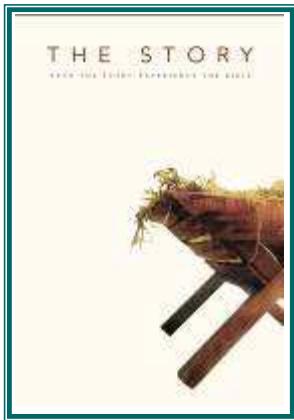




Our Vision

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
December 2012 Newsletter



"The Story"

This journey takes us to the manger, where we behold the "Lord of Glory", "God with us."

Please join us on our journey:

Sundays—9am,
Mitchell Hall

Wed. Evenings—6:45pm,
S.Parlor



Gift Dedication - Sun. Dec. 9th
See page 6

Presbyterian Men's 31st Annual ADVENT BREAKFAST & COMMUNION

Saturday, Dec. 15th

with

Chuch Gaidica as guest speaker

See page 12



Please join us for these special Christmas events:

Sun, Dec 9 Children's Shopping ~~~~~~ 9am
Christmas Caroling ~~~~~~ 4-7pm

Sat, Dec 15 NOEL Festival ~~~~~~ 6pm

Mon, Dec 24 Family Christmas Eve Service ~ 5:30pm
Candlelight Christmas Service~ ~ 11pm

Please bring a friend!





Sunday School

Our adult Sunday morning class, The Story, continues. We are having a good time and learning a lot about God's Upper Story and how our Lower Stories can fit into the Upper Story. Don't forget, if you can't make it to class Sunday morning, you can join The Story Class on Wednesday evening at 6:45.

We continue our journey through the Old Testament as we see the kingdom expanded, then divided, then destroyed. These will be important lessons for all of us. See you Sundays at 9am.

FISH

We only have one FISH night in December, our craft night. On December 5th, we will make our craft project to give our caroling recipients on Sunday, Dec. 9th.

FISH will take a break until Wednesday, January 9, 2013. We will have 2 adult classes, including The Story, that will run throughout the winter.

Christie Smith and Nancy DeHamer have been providing us with wonderful dinners. Thanks ladies. Enjoy your break. See you in January.

Women's Retreat

About 40 women joined the fun on Saturday, November 19th. Using the story of Sarah we saw how we can trust and obey God and then bask in His presence. The afternoon was filled with music, movement, crab cakes, key chains, and paraffin hand treatments.

Thank you to Ann Philips, Jane Dearth, Jane Lewy, Nancy DeHamer, Jan Cobb for all your help. A special thank you to Nancy DeHamer for all the food at the retreat. It wasn't just delicious, it was fabulous, cute, and very thematic. Your food made us smile and our stomachs said "Feed me more!" Thanks Nancy.



Step by Step in God's Word

Here are our verses for December.

Dec. 2	2 Chron. 31:21	Dec. 23	Eph. 5:1-2
Dec. 9	2 Thess. 3:10	Dec. 30	Psalm 106:1
Dec. 16	2 Corinth. 5:17	Jan. 6	1 Corinth. 10:13



~Ann Bleivik, Educational Coordinator

Children's Ministry

Children's Shopping Day- December 9th is our annual Treasure Chest shopping day. During Sunday School and Children's Church, the Treasure Chest will open a shopping boutique so our kids can, in a safe environment and at minimal cost, get gifts for their loved ones. It's a wonderful chance for fun and inter-generational friendship. The Treasure Chest is a thrift shop that operates in the basement of the church, as a service to our community and church. This is a relatively new, yet beloved tradition with our kids. If you have items you'd like to donate for this event, please bring them to the Christian Education office.



Church-Wide Caroling- Come share your Christmas Joy with other members of our church family! On December 9, from 4-7 PM, our church will be caroling to members of the congregation that have a hard time making it out to church. It's a great chance for your family to reach out and serve together.

Family Movie Night- We're working on planning a *Sound of Music* family movie night and sing-along on Friday, December 28th. Stay tuned for more details!

"The Story" Artwork- Remember that as we work through The Story in church and Sunday School, several of our bulletin covers are being designed by members of the congregation. If your child is artistically inclined and would like to design a bulletin cover, please talk to Ann or me.

Beckie Dicks- Children's Ministries Coordinator

A Word From Pastor Dave

Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 b

We have come a long way in the last few years. God has truly blessed us as a church. We have sought to give ourselves away in a host of ministries. I want to thank all of you who were led to make a faith promise for the year ahead. God will honor that.

We are behind in our 2012 budget. If God has blessed you in a special way, you might consider giving a little extra so we can catch up. Thank you for considering this. Whatever you give or do not give, remember your being a part of us is a gift in itself.

Lord bless! Pastor Dave

Musings from Pastor Mike

Joplin Mission Trip



Six of us involved in Converge Young Adults Ministry recently took a nine day disaster relief trip to Joplin, Missouri through the Hands-on-Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Detroit. Richard DeGrand, Ralph Evangelista, Chris Masouerdis, Brienna Blake, Jonathan Mallard, and I teamed up with 7 other Detroit area Presbyterians to help rebuild in a town that had been devastated by an F-5 tornado 18 months ago.

Traveling down, our FPC-D group had no idea exactly how God and the *Rebuild Joplin* organization would work through us. Hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Joplin, we were housed in the Youth Building owned by the church. We were assigned “Bob’s” house and spent the week dry-walling the interior, mudding the joints, and sanding, sanding, and sanding. By the time we finished, the house was shaping up and ready for the next group to come and finish preparing the walls for paint. Bob and his niece came by three times during the week to check on our progress. They were near tears as they toured the house and met and talked with each of us individually. We spent the evenings getting to know our team members and visiting the town and its shops and coffee houses. Back at our home base we provided our own food and cooked in teams. On “our” night, we made a fabulous dinner of macaroni and cheese w/ tuna and green peas, two kinds of chili, and Richie’s famous garlic bread. What a feast we all had! Each day we took turns leading devotions and learned much as we shared and discussed what Scripture says on a number of topics.

The most remarkable part of the trip was the spiritual growth our Converge team had. Two members of the team really did not want to lead devotions, but after they did, they were so excited about the effect the Holy Spirit had through them on others that both signed up to be a part of the Converge Bible study that is held on Wednesdays during FISH. Two other members of the team made a commitment to live a life that would be honorable and pleasing to God. Another member and I had a great 2 hour “walking” discussion about leadership, emotions, and mentoring. I am so blessed to be able to be a part of Converge Young Adult Ministry and see God working on young hearts!

We are already looking into going on *a disaster relief trip on the east coast* after the effects of Hurricane Sandy in late April and early May, 2013. Pray and discern if God is calling you to be a part of this trip physically or in the form of making a donation. Since our church van is 20 years old and not as dependable as it once was, we are renting a new van at the cost of approximately \$800 each time we embark on a mission such as this. Keep us in prayer and make your donations out to: The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn with Converge Disaster Relief on the memo line. Thanks and God’s Peace.

–Pastor Mike

Reflection on Stewardship



Over the years, we have shared how Stewardship has many facets, and each year we have focused on a different aspect. This year we wanted to feature some of the less obvious activities within the church. We featured several of these activities in this year's Stewardship brochure and plan to feature a different committee or activities in each month's *Vision*.

To this end, our first *Vision* activity feature is Men's Fellowship / Property Committee:

We are blessed to have such a great facility that supports the numerous ministries, missions and activities of our church. The Property Committee supports all of these activities as a group of volunteers who meet throughout the year to coordinate the maintenance, improvement and use of our facilities.

The Property Committee is grateful to Men's Fellowship who meet weekly to tackle many chores and tasks required to maintain the church property that would be hard and costly to hire out. Their efforts represent a considerable cost savings to the church, and they welcome anyone to come and join them on Tuesdays to lend a hand.

The Property Committee supports all the ministries at FPC through our activities, and invites those interested in helping to:

Join the Property Committee

Join in Men's Fellowship activities on Tuesdays

Participate in the spring and fall grounds cleanups

Volunteer to help in projects related to the building and grounds

If you are interested in getting involved with either Men's Fellowship or the Property Committee, please contact Dave Young at 313/277-1219 or Vic Todor at 313/336-2772.

Douglas Stormzand—Stewardship Committee

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



In 1865, Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an Episcopal clergyman, visited Bethlehem. His visit inspired him to write a poem in 1867. A year later, Lewis Redner, Brooks' organist at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, created the music on Christmas Eve; it was first sung the next day by their children's choir. May we reflect on the miracle of Jesus' birth as we sing this beloved Christmas carol this holiday season.

Sources: About.com; cyberhymnal.org



Music Corner

Well, here we are in December! What a great month of music and music-making!

Music Corner **Christmas Programs-** As we move through the great penitential and preparatory season of Advent in anticipation of, and eventually culminating in the celebration of Christmas, there will be great anthems, caroling, Advent Candle Blessings, the NOËL Festival and, of course, Christmas Eve. Aside from our normally scheduled Sundays, here's the schedule:

Sunday, December 9	Church-wide Caroling	4-7pm
Saturday, December 15	NOËL Festival	6pm
Monday, December 24	Family Christmas Eve Service	5:30pm
	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	11:00pm

Noel Festival- NOËL Tickets are on sale now! Ticket sales will close on Wednesday, December 12. Please mark your calendars! We'd love to see you at this great night of food, fellowship, and fun!

Anthems- We will have some great anthems during the month of December, connecting with both *The Story* and with the Advent and Christmas Seasons. The children's and youth choirs will be singing advent candle blessings throughout the season as well.

Christmas Eve Services- We look forward to our Christmas Eve services. The early service will feature music by our Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and some children soloists. Our Candlelight service will feature music by our Adult Choir and our wonderful organ and organist.

We hope to see you at some (or all!) of our Christmas festivities this year.

In Christ, ~ Marshall Dicks, Director of Music

Touch of Hope Christmas Offering

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and a time to be grateful for God's blessings and love.

Many of our fourteen Touch of Hope families have been struggling while trying to maintain a positive outlook. As a congregation we can help brighten their holiday season and show them God's goodness.

Gifts will be collected and dedicated on Sunday December 9. If you are unable to attend services on December 9, please drop your gift off at the church office before that date. Thank you to those who adopted angels for our Touch of Hope family members.

Non-perishable food, personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies will be collected on December 16. Fourteen of any item listed in the above categories would be appreciated. All donations of any amount are welcome. Please check the expiration dates. These items will be sorted on December 16 and picked up and delivered on that day.

Help will be needed to sort gifts and donated food, personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies. This will mean sorting on both December 6 and December 16. Please consider donating time on those Sundays. Many hands make light work. If you have questions please contact Margie Johnston-Maurer at 313 563-9520. All volunteer help and donations of gifts, supplies and monetary donations are appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

~Margie Johnston-Maurer



Treasure Chest News



Now that the rummage sale is over, the Treasure Chest ladies are busy getting ready for the new items coming in every day. We are rearranging, cleaning, and generally sprucing up the shop. We are looking forward to seeing our old friends and new shoppers. Our prices cannot be beat and we have lovely one-of-a-kind items which we are sure will endear themselves to our shoppers. We are also looking forward to the children's Christmas shopping extravaganza. Check the church calendar for this fun event. We are located in the lower level at the end of the hall by the Sanctuary ~Olimpia Todor

♪3 Thank You ♪

A heart-felt thanks to all those who helped with the Women's Retreat, the Galleria craft show, and the Cookie Walk. Your dedicated hard work and attention to detail resulted in very special events for our church family.

Thanks again for all that you do!

REMINDER—Annual Reports Due Soon. All Committees and Staff submitting a report for the Annual Congregational Meeting taking place on Sunday, February 3, 2013, must have reports turned in to Vicki Davidson **by Monday, January 7, 2013**. Reports submitted after January 7, 2013, will not be included in the Annual Report.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will be on Christmas break for 2 weeks in December. We will not meet on December 27 or January 3, 2013. Class will resume on Thursday, January 10, 2013 (10:00-11:30a.m.) in the North Parlor. We will be continuing our study of the "General Epistles" of the New Testament, focusing on 1 and 2 Peter; 1-3 John and Jude. Our group extends Christmas blessings to our Family of Faith. May you experience Joy, Peace and Happiness in the New Year!! ~Lorraine Lamkin

Emergency Contact Forms

Emergency Contact Forms are now available in the Narthex. If you would like the church to have contact information on file for you in the event of an emergency, we encourage you to fill out the form and turn it in to Vicki Davidson, Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor.

~Thank You.

2012

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Communion/1st Sunday of Advent 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4-6pm CREW Youth- YL 4-7pm Hanging of the Greens w/dinner- Sanctuary, MH, K 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary 6-7:30pm 4:12 Group YL, YC 6-7:30pm Daisy Mtg. - R12, R16 7pm Sunday Eve. Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	2 DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS 7:00pm-9:00pm Greeting Card- R14 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site 7:30pm-9:00pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	3 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 12-2pm T. Chest Xmas Lunch- MH, Kit. 7:00pm Property- Library 7:00pm-9:00pm Worship & Arts- SP 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	4 10:00am Stephens-Currie- R12 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12:00pm ALL Staff- SP 6-8pm FISH Craft Night- MH 6:45-8:15pm Confirmation Class- R16 7:00pm-9:00pm Outreach & Missions- SP 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turc
2nd Sunday of Advent 9am-12pm T. of Hope Angel Gift Return & Dedication- MH 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service. Sanctuary 10am Baptism of Leah Behrens No Children's Choir 4-6pm CREW Youth- YL 4-7pm Church Caroling (MH) No Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 6-7:30pm 4:12 Group YL, YC 7pm Sunday Eve. Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	9 11:30am-2:00pm Garden Club- MH 7:00pm NAMI- NP 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site 7:30pm-9:00pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN DEADLINE FOR VISION	10 11:30am-1pm Office Volunteer & Work Crew Luncheon- N&SP 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	11 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 6:45-8:15pm Confirmation Class- R16 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turc
3rd Sunday of Advent New Members Rcvd 9am-2pm T. of Hope Sorting & Distr. 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 10am Baptism of Jack Evenhouse 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4-6pm CREW Youth- YL 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary 6-7:30pm 4:12 Group YL, YC 6-7:30pm Daisy Mtg. - R12, R16 7pm Sunday Eve. Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	16 No Boy Scout Troop 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TEPPANYAKI GRILL – 6:30PM DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	17 9:00am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 5:30pm-6:30pm Finance- SP 6:30pm-8:00pm Session/Deacons- NP 7:30pm-9:00pm AA- MH	18 10:00am Stephens-Currie- R12 10:00am-4:00pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12:00pm PROGRAM Staff- SP 6:45-8:15pm Confirmation Class @ Mrs. Young's house 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turc
4th Sunday of Advent 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary No CREW Youth 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary 6-7:30pm 4:12 Group YL, YC 7pm Sunday Eve. Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	23 CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH CLOSES AT NOON 5:30pm Family Service- Sanctuary 11pm Candlelight Service- Sanctuary DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	24 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH CLOSED	25 No Keenagers Treasure Chest closed No Confirmation Class 7:00pm-9:00pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turc
9am Education Hour No Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary No Youth Choir No Children's Choir 4-6pm CREW Youth- YL No Children's Handchimes 6-7:30pm 4:12 Group YL, YC No Daisy Mtg. No Sunday Eve. Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	30 New Year's Eve CHURCH CLOSES AT NOON DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	31	

11/20/2012 8:53:00 AM

2012

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
5	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors- MH, Kit. 6:00pm-7:00pm Personnel- SP 7-9pm Converge Band- YL	6 2pm Young Adult Bible Study- YL	7 9am-10:30am DNA- R16 6-10pm Converge- K., YL, YC, 2A	1 Set up Communion Chrismon Tree goes up 9am-11am Rebekah Circle- MH or R12 3:30-5pm Hoff.-Szcz. Small grp- MH 6-10pm Converge- K., YL, YC, 2A
12	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors- MH, Kit. 11:00am C.O.M. (Pastor) offsite 7-9pm Converge Band- YL	13 2pm Young Adult Bible Study- YL 6:30pm-9:00pm Game Night	14 No Hoff.-Szcz. Small grp 6-9pm NOEL FESTIVAL- MH, K No Converge	15
19	10:00am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11:00am-3:30pm B. B. Seniors- MH, Kit. 1:00pm-3:00pm Lydia Martha Mary- NP 7-9pm Converge Band- YL	20 2pm Young Adult Bible Study- YL	21 9am-10:30am DNA- R16 6-10pm Converge- K., YL, YC, 2A	22
26	No PW Bible Study No B. B. Seniors No Boy Scout Council 7-9pm Converge Band- YL	27 2pm Young Adult Bible Study- YL 6-9:30pm Family Movie Night & Sing-A-Long- MH	28 6-10pm Converge- K., YL, YC, 2A	29

Notes from our Parish Nurse

Advent and Christmas Reflections



Life Is an Advent Season CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."



Meanings of Christmas Fr. Andrew Greeley, Woman's Day, 12-22-81

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. **But** we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..."



**<http://www.appleseeds.org/Christmas-quotes.htm>

PRAYERS AND SQUARES ANNOUNCEMENT

Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry is retiring after six plus years of outreach by wrapping those needing our prayers in a quilt. Our quilt group had decreased in numbers due to various factors, including illness, moves from the area, etc., and as we were not able to replace our numbers, it seemed time to move on to other areas of service.

We have many memories to recall of the times we met and enjoyed the fellowship of working together as we put our various talents to use creating quilts. Over the years, many prayer quilts have given comfort to those experiencing a difficult time. Quilts were tied with a prayer by the congregation and given to our new babies at their baptism. In addition, quilts went with our youth group to Peru, were given to pastors who served at First Presbyterian Church, and recently, a therapy quilt was completed with squares made by the children at First Step Domestic Abuse Center.

Many faithful members have contributed to the success of this ministry. Our thanks go to them and to the congregation for their prayers, encouragement, and support through the years. Thanks to Lori and Wendy for always being there to assist when needed. Any remaining material and supplies were given to several churches and organizations to be used for sewing and quilt projects.

Our prayers will continue for those in need and we will ask God to guide us as we continue to seek ways to serve Him each day.

If you are **KEEN** and
over 50 years of age,
YOU ARE A
Keenager

Join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month for Christian Fellowship and Information as we go for lunch, or meet in Mitchell Hall. Check the Keenager bulletin board for details and sign-up sheet.

Sunday Bulletin Announcements: Please submit your announcements for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Vicki no later than noon the Monday prior to the service at vickid@firstpresdearborn.org. Please use Microsoft Word format when sending your articles via email. There is also a bin in the front office of the church for your submissions. ~ Thank you, Vicki Davidson—Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor.

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 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.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Presbytery of Detroit

Presbyterian Men's 32nd Annual ADVENT BREAKFAST & COMMUNION

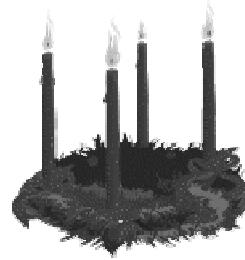
With
WDIV weatherman, Chuck Gaidica as guest speaker

Saturday, Dec. 15th (starting with reservations at 7:30am)

Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church
16 Lakeshore Drive
Gross Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Tickets: \$12

Advanced reservations only by Dec. 6th



Call Jim Barber at church (313) 274-1313, or Dan Kutt (248) 374-0980
for tickets or information.

From Grief to New Hope ~ Grief is a journey...that doesn't have to be taken alone.



GriefShare series to start on Mondays, November 26-January 28, 2013 from 7-9pm at Allen Park Presbyterian Church. Join us for 13 lessons, put into an 8-weeks series. These lessons will guide you through what to expect during the 1st year of your grief journey (and beyond) and allow you to share with others who are grieving the loss of a loved one too. For more information go to griefshare.org or call Norma Bentley @ 313-928-7452.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, life can be filled with painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside, but full of pain on the inside and the joy you long for seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Art Hughes (313) 383-2589 or Chris Mayer (313) 562-1943. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



YOU'RE
INVITED!

**SOAR (Singles Outreach
and Renewal) has a
new location!**

WHAT:

Food & Fellowship

WHEN:

Every Tues. 6-7:30pm

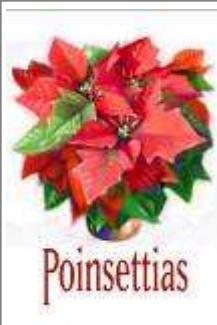
WHERE:

Panera Bread
26580 Ford Rd.
Dearborn Heights 48127



Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 4-7pm



**Deadline for
Poinsettia Order Forms:
Monday, December 3rd**

Noël, a Christmas Festival

First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
600 N. Brady
Dearborn

Saturday
December 15, 2012
6:00pm

Three Course Dinner
Musicians
Christmas Pageant

Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children 5-12,
Children under 5—FREE
Patron Tickets—\$100
313-274-1313

TICKETS ON SALE

Disaster Relief Efforts after Hurricane Sandy



PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

I am sure you are aware of the terrible devastation left in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. If you would like to contribute to the disaster relief efforts, please write "Hurricane Sandy" on the "Other" line on your regular offering envelope for the amount you want to contribute, or you can place your contribution in the designated offering plate in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generous support.

~ Joel DeHamer, Outreach & Mission Committee Chair



To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. 15:22b

Some people use religious activity to make peace with God when they have disappointed Him. Here, Samuel offers a better way when he rebukes Saul for offering sacrifices in lieu of obeying God's orders. Sacrifices and religious practices without obedience displease God, (*Isa 1:11ff; 66:2-4, Jer 6:20*).

Obedience is always greater than sacrifice. In sacrifices and other religious activities, we give some stuff and perform a ritual, but when we obey God, we subordinate our own will to live under His will. Obedience preserves our integrity when, in the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (*Matt 6:10*). Obedience shows our love for Jesus -- He taught that those who love Him will obey Him and be blessed (*John 14:15, 21, 23*); those who do not love Him will not obey Him (*John 14:24*). Obedience is the test of our profession. Christian worship must be "in spirit and in truth" (*John 4:24*).

What does God command? Repent (*Acts 17:10*) and believe the good news (*Mark 1:15*). Love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul, and love our neighbor as our self (*Matt 22:37 – 40*). Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (*Micah 6:8*). Care for the less fortunate (*Matt 25:40*). Make disciples (*Matt 28:18 – 20*). Fast as in *Isaiah 58*. Don't forget the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Where to start? Without faith, it is impossible to please God (*Hebrews 11:6*). With faith we can bear much fruit if we abide in Christ obediently (*John 15:5*). If we yield to His call and obey, we will be blessed! "No good thing will He withhold from them who walk uprightly" (*Psalm 84:11b*).

~John Holden

NEED A LIFT? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Not just to church. If you or someone you know needs a ride to an appointment, the store, Sunday service or a church event, your FPC family would like to help. Contact Nancy Barber at (313)565-2741, Bob Missler at (313)791-0377, or call the church at (313)274-1313. Also, if you are free to occasionally help with driving, we'd like to hear from you too. ~Bob Missler, Deacon Moderator.

Matthew 25:40... "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."



December



- 12/01: Michael Watson
- 12/02: Susan Williams
- 12/05: Marcia Meyer
- 12/07: Noreen Macdonald, Gregory Fink, Kaitlin Fink
- 12/08: Robert Buell, Margaret Richards, Marcia Scott
- 12/09: Pauline Fink, Robert C. Miller, Lochlan Cole
- 12/10: David Monroe
- 12/11: Tom Kopke, Edward Beers, Elizabeth Saylor, Eric Jones
- 12/12: Danielle LaFata
- 12/13: James M. Jones
- 12/14: Bert Ebi, Carol McFadden, George Hyma, Ronald Doan, Sara Nagy, Abraham Hughes
- 12/15: Robert Brinton
- 12/16: Robert Putnam, David Williams, Gary Mayberry
- 12/17: Stella Doverspike
- 12/18: Vivian Foster
- 12/20: Peggy Hoblack, Beckie Dicks, JoAnn Isaacson
- 12/21: Sarah Duggan
- 12/23: Duane Schmatz, Jessica Romeo
- 12/25: Beverly Reiter
- 12/26: Joan Cahow, Marilyn Joachim, David Setterlun
- 12/27: Mary Ellen Mitchell
- 12/29: David Reid
- 12/30: Margaret Blair
- 12/31: Jared Hoffman

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy offering will be taken from now until the end of the year. 50% of the Christmas Joy offering supports the Board of Pensions for pastors, missionaries, other people in ministry, and their families. The other 50% supports the following Presbyterian racial and ethnic schools: Barber-Scotia College, Cook Native American Ministries, Knoxville College, Menaul School, Presbyterian Pan American School, and Stillman College. Thank-you for supporting the Christmas Joy offering.

CHANCEL COMMITTEE: We are in need of 2-3 people to take one month a year and call people who would like flowers in the chancel on Sunday morning in honor of, or in memory of a loved one. If you are interested, please call Mary Currie at 313-565-4129. ALSO, if you would like flowers in memory of your loved one and you haven't done so in the past, please call Mary.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am

- December 2 / - Communion, Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 9 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 16 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 23 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 30 / - Mike Hoffman, CLP**

Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
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firstpresdearborn.org

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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