



Come home
to God's love

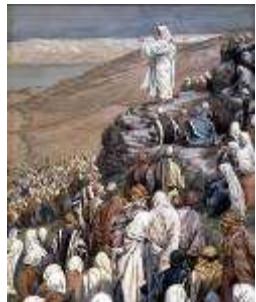
Our Vision

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

December 2013 Newsletter



Celebrate Christmas
Wed, Dec. 25th



Sermon on the Mount
Sermon Series
Starting in January



ADVENT
Children in Worship
See Page 4



NOËL FESTIVAL
Sunday, Dec. 15th at 6pm
See Page 13



Touch of Hope Christmas Offering
Angel Adoptions
See Page 5



Hanging of the Greens
Sunday Dec. 1st
See Page 4

Pray for God to provide for our financial needs.

Please join us for these special Christmas events:

Sun, Dec 8 Children's Shopping ~~~~~ 9am
Christmas Caroling ~~~~~ 4-7pm

Sun, Dec 15 NOËL Festival ~~~~~ 6pm

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

Please bring a friend!





First Pres
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

The adult class during December will focus on “**Journey to Christmas**”, a video series of a few people looking for a relationship with God. They travel to Israel to walk the steps of Jesus’ birth to feel a connection with Him. It is a thought provoking series. Please join us at 9am on Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22.

The Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 29, will feature a Carol Sing. Marshall and Beckie Dicks will lead everyone through some of their favorite Christmas carols. Join them in Mitchell Hall at 9am on Dec. 29th.

Beginning January 5th, the adult class will study the **Sermon on the Mount** this winter and spring. This Beatitudes are the opening of the Sermon on the Mount and we will now move into the rest of the discourse. This Sermon contains the essentials of Jesus’ teachings for his believers. The Beatitudes show us who were to be as Christians. Now the rest of the Sermon on the Mount tells us how to live as Christians. Again, our study will coincide with the worship focus each week. Don’t miss it.

FISH

FISH will meet only once in Dec. on the 4th. This is our craft night. We will make an ornament to give to people as we go caroling. Even if you are not “crafty”, come and have some fun. We need adults to help the children with their craft in addition to making one themselves.

Our caroling night will be Sunday, Dec. 8th. We will meet at the church at 4pm. This insures that we will be able to visit and carol before people get ready for bed.

FISH will then take a break until Wednesday, January 8th.

FISH Guest Teacher

During January and February, our adult FISH class will be led by Rev. Douglas Campbell. Doug grew up in this church til he was about 12 and now resides in Plymouth where he is interim at a Baptist church and his wife is Associate Pastor at First Pres Plymouth.

Doug’s topic will be “**parables in reverse**”, an 8 week series on what the parables of Jesus look like today. Welcome Doug back to First Pres and allow him to lead you into a deeper understanding of Jesus’ parables. See you January 8th. Class begins at 6:45pm following dinner at 6pm.

~Ann Bleivik, Educational Coordinator

Children's Ministry



Christmas is coming! May we all use this holiday season to focus our attention on God's great love for us.

Our annual **Treasure Chest Holiday Boutique** will be held on **Sunday, December 8**. During Sunday school and children's church, our children can shop in a safe, supervised environment for gifts for their loved ones. It's a wonderful time for different generations in the church to share some Christmas joy. We welcome volunteers to help with supervision, wrapping and kids' activities.

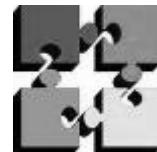
If you would like to donate gently used items for the Treasure Chest to sell at the Boutique, please drop off your donations at church by December 4. Label your donations, so we can be sure they are used for the Christmas Boutique.

On **December 28**, during education hour, we'll be gathering in Mitchell Hall for a family carol-sing. Bring your singing voices!

~Beckie Dicks- Children's Ministries Coordinator

Notes on Stewardship

Stewardship is Like a Puzzle



Stewardship is like a puzzle; connecting with our church family when we gather to worship God:

Connecting with each other on Sunday.

Connecting through a study class.

Connecting through a committee.

Connecting through a project, a prayer group- stepping into an event.

Connecting through volunteerism.

Each of us has a special talent or gift to share. Time, Talent or Treasure, these are the things that bring the puzzle together.

Our church needs You to become a part of the puzzle – so we can continue our faith journey as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ask Him. Serve Him.

Mary Ann Bassett



Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary



Sunday, Dec. 1st, 4-5:30pm

Join us as we decorate our church for the holiday season.



Poinsettias

Deadline for Poinsettia Order Forms:

Monday, December 16th

Poinsettias & Donations to Touch of Hope - To order a poinsettia or make a donation to the Touch of Hope in memory or honor of a loved one, fill out the order form included in the Sunday bulletin and place it with your payment in the basket on the table in the Narthex. **The cost for a poinsettia is \$11 per plant. The deadline is Monday, December 16th.**

Joy to the World!

At the age of forty-five, Isaac Watts penned the now famous words of "Joy to the World."... As a part of his effort to bring New Testament meanings to the Old Testament psalms, he based this hymn on the last half of Psalm 98.

Both the psalm and the hymn look ahead, to Christ coming again to reign.

Source: songsandhymns.org/hymns/detail/joy-to-the-world

Advent Children's Time Series



During Advent, the weekly children's time in worship will focus on a special advent calendar. Don't miss it!



*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bill and Betsy McNab on the birth of their grandson, Marcel Domingos, born October 27th. (7lb, 11oz)



Thank You

"There's no place like home" I said when I came home from my recent Rehab. Then on Sunday, November 3rd as I stepped into church for the first time since surgery, I said "there's no place like home" again.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, and visits. I feel truly blessed and it's true... There is "no place like Home."

*Blessings and love,
Mary Ann Bassett*



Do you use EMAIL? Have you been receiving the email messages about FPC events? If not, we would love to add your email address to our list. The DNA Committee has been sending out limited messages on upcoming events. These messages are great reminders for you and can be easily forwarded to friends. Forwarding is a way for you to invite someone to experience God's love in action. Please email fpcd.events@gmail.com, or call the church at **(313)274-1313** to give us your email address, or permission to use your email address that we have on file.

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 fifteen Touch of Hope families have been struggling. 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 8. If you are unable to attend services on December 8, 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 15. Fifteen of any item listed in the above categories would be appreciated. All donations of any amount are welcome. Please check the expiration dates. Items will be sorted on December 15 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 8 and December 15. 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



Music Corner

December is upon us! A month that musicians either love...or not. We love the music, but get very busy! The reward is knowing that the music we present is presented as ministry. We do hope and pray that the music presented by: the choirs, the band, soloists, handbells, organ...all of it is a blessing to you, your families and your friends as we move through the Season of Advent towards Christmas.

We have lots of opportunities to be involved in the coming month, whether you're a musician or not! Sunday December 1 is **Hanging of the Greens** at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. This is followed by a fellowship dinner. Come and help us decorate the Sanctuary and the Chrismon Tree!

Wednesday, December 4 is our **FISH Craft Night** where we prepare the crafts that we will be distributing on...

Sunday, December 8 at our **Church-wide Caroling**! We will 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!

Sunday, December 15 is our **NOËL Festival**. We hope that you will join us for a wonderful catered dinner and outstanding music by all of our choirs, soloists and instrumentalists! Tickets are on sale now! Patron packages (4 tickets) are available for \$100.00. Adult Tickets are \$10.00, Children ages 5-12 are \$5.00 and Children under 5 are FREE. Please make plans to join us!

Tuesday, December 24 is, of course, **Christmas Eve**! We will have two services on Christmas Eve, our 5:30 Family Service will feature our Children's and Youth Choirs. Our 11:00pm Candlelight Service will feature our Adult Choir and soloists. At both services we will have an opportunity to sing several well-loved Christmas Carols.

Sunday, December 29 during the Sunday School Hour, we will be having a **Carol Sing**. We will meet in Mitchell Hall and sing favorite Christmas Carols and have a fun time of fellowship.

We hope you can join us for some, or all! of these wonderful opportunities during the Advent and Christmas Season! ~In His Service, Marshall

Dear Rev. Bleivik and First Pres Family,

Thank you so so much for the generous \$450 donation and the recently donated food items. As you know, holidays are hardest for our needy families and we try and give them extra help during these times. Your amazing gifts will help us accomplish this! We keep your church in our prayers.

Thank You!!

Love,
Amanda Gillette
Helping Hands
Cherry Hill Presbyterian Food Bank



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.

Musings from Pastor Mike - December 2013



Recently a couple of my friends told me that they were going through a spiritually “dry” season of their lives. I reassured them that most Christians do, often a number of times in their life-times. Sometimes it could be due to a recurring sin in one’s life. If a person has broken fellowship with God, they must repent and ask that their relationship be restored.

Other times it could be a time to re-examine who and what our faith has been placed in. As Francis Chan states in his book, *Forgotten God*, could it be that our lives have become too comfortable? Why would one need the Holy Spirit to lead them if they don’t want to step out in faith into something new, dangerous and potentially encounter failure? (I prefer the word: “experiment”).

Or, could it be, because our lives have become too noisy? Most people multi-task as they work 18 hour days, rarely taking time to recreate and spend time with God. Think about Moses, Paul and even Jesus. All three of them lived lives in which many people drained them and they needed to take time to speak and listen to God. Sometimes it was due to the fact that they were being prepared by God for a leadership position or new ministry which could be a blessing, or a grueling task that promised hardship, sorrow or even death.

One thing is for certain. Whatever God is preparing us for, we need to read his Word, pray, praise, trust, and listen to him. Read Ezekiel 37: 1-14, and re-examine the story of “The Dry Bones”. See how God brings life to his spiritually dead (or “dry”) people!

Hot News: I have successfully entered into an agreement with West Dearborn’s Panera Cares to hold Converge there on Saturday’s from 6-7:30 PM, starting January 4th, 2014. This will get us into the “neighborhood” and help us to continue to grow in size. At no further cost than what we currently spend per week, the employees of Panera Cares will prepare a warm bowl of soup, baguette, and a drink of one’s choice while we spend a year studying Tim Elmore’s *Habitudes* dealing with the aspects of being an effective Christian leader. We will have a short worship followed by my presentation of a brief message/lesson, and then break into groups for discussion of 3 questions. The small groups will then leave and take on an activity that they choose. It may be a social, missional, recreational, or spiritual activity (Jonathan will do an Inductive Bible Study that will knock your socks off!) and one that incorporates the leadership aspect of the week. Call me at 313.213.8319 or email me at pastormike929@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments, or wish to get involved. **May you and your loved ones have a great Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!**

Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study

We continue to meet each Thursday (10:00-11:30a.m.) in the North Parlor. During the month of December our focus will be on the Advent season. Foregoing our current study material, we will be looking at a variety of resources to help us prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ child at Christmas. “Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. ***~Lorraine Lamkin***

2013

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Communion/ 1st Sunday of Advent 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 3-4:30pm 4:12 Youth Group YL, YC No Children's Choir 4:5-30pm Hanging of Greens with Dinner- Sanctuary, MH, K No Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	1 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	2 9am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 12pm Treasure Chest Christmas Lunch- MH, K 7pm Property- Library 7-9pm Worship & Arts- SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	3 10am Stephens-Currie- R12 10am-4pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12pm ALL Staff- SP 6-8pm FISH CRAFT NIGHT- MH 7-9pm Outreach & Missions- SP 7pm-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Tuco
2nd Sunday of Advent Touch of Hope Angel Gift Return & Dedication- MH Children's Shopping -Treasure Chest 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:30am Blood Pressure Screening- Narthex No 4:12 Youth Group No Children's Choir 4-7pm Church Caroling- MH (K) No Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	8 11:30am-2pm Garden Club- MH, K 6:30pm NAMI- NP 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	9 9am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- MH 11:30am-1pm Office Volunteer & Work Crew Luncheon- N&SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	10 10am-4pm Treasure Chest NO FISH 7-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turco
3rd Sunday of Advent Touch of Hope Sorting & Distribution- MH 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary No 4:12 Youth Group No Children's Choir No Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 6-9pm NOEL Festival- MH (K, N&SP) 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	15 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site No Boy Scout Troop <div style="text-align: center;"> Poinsettia Order Deadline  DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN </div>	16 9am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- MH 5:30-6:30pm Finance- SP 6:30pm JOINT SESSION/DEACONS-NP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	17 10am Stephens-Currie- R12 10am-4pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12pm PROGRAM Staff- NO FISH 7-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turco
4th Sunday of Advent 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:30am Blood Pressure Screening- Narthex 3-4:30pm 4:12 Youth Group YL, YC 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Sanct. 5-6pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	22 6:30pm NAMI- NP 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site No Boy Scout Troop DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	23 CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 5:30pm Family Service- Sanctuary 11pm Candlelight Service- Sanctuary	24 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
No Education Hour No Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary No 4:12 Youth Group No Children's Choir No Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	29 No Homeschool Class 7pm Young Adult Bible Study- off site No Boy Scout Troop DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	30 New Years' Eve 9am Men's Fellowship Work 9am Young Adult Bible Study at Panera Cares 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- MH 7:30-9pm AA- MH	31

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	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
4	10am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP	5	6	7 9-10:30am DNA- R16 9am-11am Rebekah Circle- R12 6-10pm Converge- K.,YL, YC, 2A
11	10am-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11am C.O.M. (Pastor) offsite NOEL Festival setup- ALL DAY	12	13 6:30pm-9:00pm Game Night- MH 7pm Praise Rehearsal- Sanct. NOEL Festival setup- ALL DAY	14 10am-2pm NOEL Rehearsal- MH 6-10pm Converge- K.,YL, YC, 2A
18	10-11am POD Cong. Life- SP 10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP	19	20 6:30pm Staff Christmas Party- offsite 7pm Praise Rehearsal- Sanct.	21 9am PW Board- NP 9-10:30am DNA- R16 6-10pm Converge- K.,YL, YC, 2A
25	No PW Bible Study No Boy Scout Council	26	27	28 6-10pm Converge- K.,YL, YC, 2A

Notes from our Parish Nurse

Christmas: Thinking about Whose Birthday It Is

“It’s been over ten years of nothing under the Christmas tree here. Strange, the way children teach men. It was dark, I do remember that. Bedtime. Smoothing back hair, kissing foreheads. A round moon hanging large outside the window, an ornament dangling off stars, decorating the night. I had gifts to wrap. So, pull up the blankets. Prayers. And then, when I’m at the door, one hand on the doorframe, resting in the light of the hallway, I turn to close the door a bit on the dark and he stops me with just one question: **“What does Jesus get for His birthday?”** The words hung... strung me up. I say the words into the black. Um... **A cake? Our love?** I can hear him turn again in the bed, roll over on the pillow. Restless... “But Mom.... **if we get wrapped presents for our birthdays, real sacrifices from people who love us — they gave up other things to give something to us — then why don’t we do that for Jesus’ birthday?** I stand at the door looking into all that light cast down the hallway. Why is the sky blue, why do we blink, how do clouds hold all that water, the children ask me a thousand questions and the world spins dizzy on a million questions I don’t know the answers to and I stand in the dark, the light right there, and I grope for the answer that could change the world... **“Why don’t we give up things so we can give to Jesus for His birthday?”** Is it always this way, that a little child will lead them? He was four or five that year, I can’t remember. I just know that now he’s fifteen and I stepped out into the light and we’ve done all the Christmases since his way, giving away. It’s not at all wrong to do it differently, but just for us... **all the Christmas gifts — gifts for the Christ Child.** I shamefully confess I thought it would somehow make me sad. I am a very slow learner.

How could I have thought that only love under the tree would do anything but make our happiness flourish? The Birthday Child tells us what He wants: **“Give to the least of these and you give to Me.”** So this is how we do it: We pick out gifts from these gift catalogues — Compassion Catalog, Samaritan’s Purse Catalog, Partner’s International Catalog, World Vision Catalog, Gospel for Asia Catalog, and MCC Catalog. It happens after breakfast, each day for the last two weeks of Advent. Selecting one gift for He who is Christmas. They flip pages, deciding on what to give Him today: **“Anyone think we should get a pair of rabbits today?”**... **“I was thinking mosquito nets. Two. I wouldn’t want to die of malaria”**... **“If we buy a seed packet for a family, our gift is tripled! Did you read the story on page 25 about what a difference it makes for an orphan family to have seeds? The little girl said, ‘Life is much better with food’**... **“... Why are you crying Mama?”** **“Oh, just thinking....how life really is much better with food”**... I’m sitting at the table with the kids all bent over The King’s Catalogues, when I finally get what the kids already know: I’d rather fill a child’s tummy than fill my house with anymore things. **Maybe that’s always the only choice we have to make every Christmas: feed our own fickle wishes or feed the real hunger of Christ?** Nothing can be claimed, taken, received, had; everything we have is a gift to us from heaven. All that we have has no other source but the hand of God (Jn 3:27). So “Christian hands never clasp and He doesn’t give us gifts for our gain, because a gift can never stop being a gift — it is always meant to be given. When we pass our gifts on — we are the ones given even more of the source of all gifts — more of **God Himself. Filled. When we give to Christ, He satisfies our own hunger pangs.** For a decade, our family turned the Christmas tree upside down and let gifts all fall into the hands of the poor. Some thought it too strange with no bows under the tree. I really understood, but we couldn’t stop seeing just this, Him hanging on a tree. It’s just the way He’s just spoken to us, that’s all. And then yesterday, my Dad stood in our kitchen, his hand on the counter, his farm coveralls still on, him just driving by, and he said it quiet, **“I think this year — we shouldn’t do gifts as a family.”** He looked up at me. My eyebrows arched. He understood? “I was thinking that this year — maybe we should just all go together — and see if we can help drill a well in Africa.” And that one boy now fifteen, who asked a question that answered everything, he turns to me, his smile lighting the room and all the world. ~**Chris Mayer**

<http://www.aholyexperience.com/2010/11/christmas-its-just-deciding-whose-birthday-it-really-is/>



You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:4)

This passage was directed toward those who believe they are so good they will be saved by obeying God's law. That is impossible because God's standard is holiness (*1 Peter 1:15, 16; Lev. 11:44*) and we are all too sinful (*Romans 3:9-28*). By seeking to obey God's law, we become aware of our sin (*Rom. 3:20*) and seek justification by faith (*Gal 3:24*). When we seek to be saved by our merit, we deny our sin (especially pride) and reject our need for God's grace. That separates us from Christ. We should humbly try to obey God's law because we love Him, but never think we are holy enough to earn salvation.

God's Law is the best path for life, but we fail to live up to it. Because God loves sinners, He revealed a righteousness that comes to us through faith (*Rom. 3:22*). Once we come to Christ by faith, we are no longer under Law (*Gal. 3:25*), for we have become children of God (*Gal. 5:26*), by faith (*John 1:12*), with eternal life, not condemnation (*Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27*).

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... a gift from God, not by works, so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9).

What shall we do? Relax, trust God in Christ, love (*Gal. 5:6*), and get on with our good works (*Eph. 2:10*; *1 Cor. 12*). By grace He has given us eternal life through faith. Follow Him as His disciple, living in His presence, promises, and love. He will transform us into Christ's image (*Rom. 8:29*) and we will enjoy eternal life together forever. Such is the wonder of God's love and grace.

Enjoy the magnificent grace of God – it is the greatest gift we can ever receive!

~John Holden

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. ~Joel DeHamer



'Thank You' for Trunk or Treat

Our annual Trunk or Treat extravaganza was a huge success. We had over 800 trick or treaters with at least 300 accompanying parents. The DNA goals for this event are to increase the church's visibility in the community, to create a climate of trust in the neighborhood, and to let the community know we are part of the community and that we care. In listening to comments as people left, the goals were achieved. Thank you to all who helped make it a successful event.

Sunday Bulletin Announcements: Please submit your announcements for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Vicki no later than noon the Monday prior to the service at vickidfpcd30@gmail.com. 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.

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.**

Noteworthy

- ◆ Ann Bleivik & Jane Mykytenko are interested in building up our costume supply for our upcoming productions. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ann at the church or Jane at 313-657-2776.
- ◆ Jane Lewy-Mykytenko is thinking of starting a music studio. If you are interested in voice or piano lessons for child or adult, please contact Jane @ 313-657-2776.
- ◆ With only two custodians, we do not have custodial support on Fridays. If you require custodial support for a Friday event, you must request it.
- ◆ All volunteers from the 2013 Treasure Chest Rummage Sale are invited to a luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 12:00 Noon. *Many thanks to all for their time and talent!*

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Presbytery of Detroit

Presbyterian Men's 33rd Annual ADVENT BREAKFAST & COMMUNION
with
Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, as guest speaker

Saturday, Dec. 14th (starting with registration at 7:30am)

Park United Presbyterian Church
14 Cortland
Highland Park, MI 48203

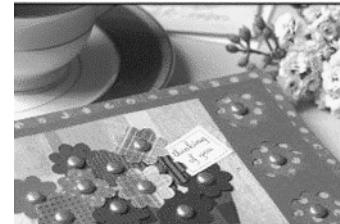


Tickets: \$12 Advanced reservations only by Dec. 5th

**Call Jim Barber at church (313) 274-1313, or Dan Kutt (248) 374-0980
for tickets or information. "Car pool" options are available.**

Card Ministry ~ On Holiday

Card Ministry is taking a December break the first Monday of the month, Dec. 2nd. We will resume Jan. 6th and would welcome new members. Come join us! We'll teach you if you're new to card making.



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!



Sunday, December 15th at 6pm in Mitchell Hall



Our theme this year is Christmas Around the World!
 Dinner begins at 6pm. We will have entertainment during
 dinner and some traditions with the Adult Choir singing
"The Twelve Days of Christmas."

TICKETS ON SALE NOW IN THE NARTHEX!

Patron level: \$100 (includes 4 tickets)

Adult: \$10 each

Children ages 5-12: \$5 each

Children under age 5: FREE!

Children's Christmas Shopping Day at the Treasure Chest

The Treasure Chest will be open on **Sunday, December 8th** for Children's Christmas Shopping during Sunday School and Children's Church. **FREE GIFT WRAPPING!**

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

Please join us 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.

Reply to Listening Groups

Many of you attended a listening group this fall and shared how you had been blessed at FPCD and what you would like to see in the future. Your thoughts and ideas are being reviewed by the appropriate groups and hopefully you will receive feedback from those groups.

Since many of you mentioned that you were blessed by the Hour of Excellence Program and would like to see it return, I thought I would respond through the Newsletter to all of you.

I have talked to people who were involved in the beginning with Hour of Excellence and people who were involved at the end. It was a wonderful program for many years with many excellent speakers. The program ended because it became more difficult to find speakers from the universities who were well versed in the Bible, who were affordable, and who were willing to commit to speaking on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School hour is focused on God's Word. Most speakers today charge a few hundred dollars for an hour of time and do not want to relate their topic to God's Word. We do not have a budget to cover those expenses. If people want to donate to a fund to bring in speakers, we can do that and have occasional speakers on Sunday evenings or Saturdays. Most of the Christian speakers who would be appropriate for Sunday morning are already committed to their own churches. If you know someone who would be willing to speak for a nominal fee, please let the Adult Discipleship Sub-committee know. We still seek to provide excellence in our educational offerings, but are subject to limited resources – both financially and humanly. ~Ann Bleivik



LIBRARY CORNER

Looking for a good book to read?
Check our your church library!

Whether you are looking for a good Christian fiction, a devotional, a Bible Commentary, or a 'how to' on raising children, you can find it in First Presbyterian Church's library. There are also books for children, from infants to teens. Beginning Sunday, December 1, I will be in the library following the 10:00am service to assist you in finding what you are looking for. Beginning in January look for periodic book reviews in the Church newsletter's "Library Corner." ~Julia Casey



NEW ADDRESS!

**Don and Betty King have
moved. Their new address is:**

**15081 Ford Road
PT308
Dearborn, MI 48126**

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."*



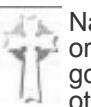
ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON

To all Committees, Staff, and Groups wishing to submit a report for the Annual Congregational Meeting (coming up on Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2014): All electronically formatted reports need to be emailed to Vicki Davidson by Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. Email them to: vickid@pcd30@gmail.com

Winter Addresses

Please notify the church office if you would like your VISION Newsletter and other church mail sent to a different address during the winter months.

New Logo Name Tags



Name tags with our new cross logo can be ordered through the deacons. This is a good way for all of us to get to know each other. To order, please see Bob Missler, Deacon Moderator (313)791-0377.

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, Steven Britz, 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

Lost & Found

Are you missing a scarf or coat? We have quite a few things in Lost & Found in the church office & the Mitchell Hall coat room... we may have your stuff!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am

- December 1 / - Communion, Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 8 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 15 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 22 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik**
- December 29 / -**

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