

# News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

December 2011 / January 2012

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## UPCOMING WORSHIP/EVENTS



### December 4, 2011 – Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: “How God Prepares the Way”  
Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8  
Rev. Diana Hartman

### December 11, 2011 – Christmas Program Service of Lesson and Carols at 8:00am and 10:30am

### December 18, 2011

Worship Theme: “God’s Plan Revealed”  
Scriptures: Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; Luke 1: 26-38;  
Luke 1: 47-55  
Rev. Bob Garrard

### December 24, 2011 – Christmas Eve Services

Services at 7:00pm and 11:00pm (Candlelight Service)  
Worship Theme: “Joy for a Hurting World”  
Scriptures: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14;  
Luke 2: 1-20



### December 25, 2011 – ONE SERVICE AT 10:30AM

Worship Theme: “The Living Word of God”  
Scriptures: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1-4;  
John 1: 1-14  
Rev. Bob Garrard

### January 1, 2012 – ONE SERVICE AT 10:30AM Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: “A Child of Promise”  
Scriptures: Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4-7;  
Luke 2: 22-40  
Rev. Bob Garrard

### January 8, 2012

#### Return to two worship services

#### Ordination and Installation of Officers

Worship Theme:  
“The Covenantal Waters of Baptism”  
Scriptures: Genesis 1: 1-5; Acts 19: 1-7;  
Mark 1: 4-11  
Rev. Bob Garrard



### January 15, 2012

Worship Theme: “The Life God Gave Us”  
Scriptures: Psalm 139: 1-18;  
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20;  
John 1: 43-51  
Rev. Bob Garrard



### January 22, 2012

Worship Theme: “Repent Now, Time is Short”  
Scriptures: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10;  
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20  
Rev. Diana Hartman

### January 29, 2012 – Confirmation Sunday

Worship Theme: “Spirits, Truth and Love”  
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18: 15-22;  
1 John 4: 1-21; Mark 1: 21-28  
Rev. Bob Garrard

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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you! I know this wish reaches members across the country. When I speak with our brothers and sisters who live out of town, you mention how you read every word of the newsletter. Thank you for doing so. Part of the joy of the holidays is keeping in touch with family and friends we do not often see. We will keep doing our best in Cheyenne to keep the worship services flowing, home fires burning and welcome mat out for you.

Amidst the craziness of this season, this is a good time to stop and remember that Christmas is about the celebration of birth of the Messiah promised to Israel and Judah. When Jesus was born to bring God's salvation, peace, justice to all of humanity God kept his word. I like how Paul wrote about this fulfillment in Titus 3: 4-7. "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." May this powerful and positive message be the core of our celebrations in this season.

As we look back over the past year, we want to thank our elders and deacons who have served this Christian fellowship so well in 2011 "with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." The Elders: Paula Baldeshwiler, George Barnes, Patty Bennett, Lauri Box, Greta Morrow, Eric Wedell, and Ron Williams. The Deacons: Margie George, Joe Dougherty, Phyllis Salzburg, Dorothy Tucker, and Marion Yoder. Marilyn Ham served as Clerk of Session.

As we look toward 2012, we are grateful for the following elders and deacons who will also serve us "with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love."

Blessings,  
Bob Garrard

## Church Officers for 2012, 2013, 2014

### *Session*

#### Class of 2012

Barbara Buell – Buildings and Ground  
Walt George – Worship and Music  
Marilyn Ham – Personnel  
Kathie Lake – Christian Education  
Ken Sherman – Finance  
Jean Marie Seitz – New Life  
Paul Hartman – Missions

#### Class of 2013

Wendy Curran – Personnel  
Diane Nyffler – Worship and Music  
Becky Dougherty – Missions  
Holly Garrard – Christian Education  
Paul Stenback – Finance  
Jim Symmonds – Building and Grounds  
Gwen Vines – New Life

### *Deacons*

#### Class of 2012

Jeanne Bellamy  
Mary Burby  
Deborah Child  
Drew Dilly  
Dallas Lain  
Belinda Smith  
Laura Westby

#### Class of 2013

Charles Daum  
Dorothy Daum  
Shane Howe  
Margaret Mueller  
Charlene Randolph  
Adrienne Sears  
Marjorie Smith

*Session (cont'd)*



**Class of 2014**

Marion Yoder – Building and Grounds  
 Patty Bennett – Finance  
 Laurel Fogg – New Life  
 Jeff Lamm – Personnel  
 Carol Moench – Missions  
 Jen Hayes – Christian Education  
 Phyllis Salzburg – Worship and Music

***Clerk of Session*** – George Barnes

***Congregation Nominating Committee***

Eric Wedell	Fran Frieauf
Vicki Forwood	Naomi Allen

***Deacons (cont'd)*****Class of 2014**

Roberta Trimble  
 Ray Hageman  
 Timi Saville  
 Shirley Clark  
 Patty Young  
 Marty Sears  
 Traci Grimm



Dear Presbyterian Friends,

It is with sadness that we share with you the news that Dr. Silas G. Kessler died on November 15. Attaining the age of 100 in August was a proud moment for him and a happy occasion with family gathered and greetings from many friends and associates. Ruth, at 101 years, was present for that celebration, although her health was in decline. She passed away on September 5 and her service was September 12. Now Silas, who tenderly held her hand each afternoon, has joined her. His service will be November 19 at the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings where he led the congregation for 36 years. He was certainly the epitome of pastor to great and small, near and far. He is lovingly remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. We are grateful for his presence in all our lives.

Sincerely,

Stan and Judy Kessler  
 1107 Round Island Drive  
 Kendallville IN 46755



**CAN YOU HELP? Safehouse needs used kitchen items to help clients moving to their own apartments.** If you are making room for any new kitchen items (pots and pans, utensils, toaster, mixer, blender, dishes, silverware. . .), please consider donating your used things to Safehouse. The abused women and children who are moving to their own apartments will appreciate our help! Just drop off your donation at Safehouse, now located at 714 West Fox Farm Rd.

Rev. J. Todd Jenkins  
First Presbyterian Church  
Fayetteville, Tennessee

'Twas the beginning of Advent and all through the Church  
Our hope was all dying-- we'd given up on the search.  
It wasn't so much that Christ wasn't invited,  
But after 2,000 plus years we were no longer excited.

Oh, we knew what was coming-- no doubt about that.  
And that was the trouble-- it was all "old hat."  
November brought the first of an unending series of pains  
With carefully orchestrated advertising campaigns.

There were gadgets and dolls and all sorts of toys.  
Enough to seduce even the most devout girls and boys.  
Unfortunately, it seemed, no one was completely exempt  
From this seasonal virus that did all of us tempt.

The priests and prophets and certainly the kings  
Were all so consumed with the desire for "things!"  
It was rare, if at all, that you'd hear of the reason  
For the origin of this whole holy-day season.

A baby, it seems, once had been born  
In the mid-east somewhere on that first holy-day morn.  
But what does that mean for folks like us,  
Who've lost ourselves in the hoopla and fuss?

Can we re-learn the art of wondering and waiting,  
Of hoping and praying, and anticipating?  
Can we let go of all the things and the stuff?  
Can we open our hands and our hearts long enough?

Can we open our eyes and open our ears?  
Can we find him again after all of these years?  
Will this year be different from all the rest?  
Will we be able to offer him all of our best?

So many questions, unanswered thus far,  
As wisemen seeking the home of the star.  
Where do we begin-- how do we start  
To make for the child a place in our heart?

Perhaps we begin by letting go  
Of our limits on hope, and of the stuff that we know.  
Let go of the shopping, of the chaos and fuss,  
Let go of the searching, let Christmas find us.  
We open our hearts, our hands and our eyes,



To see the king coming in our own neighbors' cries.  
 We look without seeking what we think we've earned,  
 But rather we're looking for relationships spurned.

With him he brings wholeness and newness of life  
 For brother and sister, for husband and wife.  
 The Christ-child comes not by our skill,  
 But rather he comes by his own Father's will.

We can't make him come with parties and bright trees,  
 But only by getting down on our knees.  
 He'll come if we wait amidst our affliction,  
 Coming in spite of, not by our restriction.

His coming will happen-- of this there's no doubt.  
 The question is whether we'll be in or out.  
 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."  
 Do you have the courage to peer through the lock?

A basket on your porch, a child in your reach.  
 A baby to love, to feed and to teach.  
 He'll grow in wisdom as God's only Son.  
 How far will we follow this radical one?

He'll lead us to challenge the way that things are.  
 He'll lead us to follow a single bright star.  
 But that will come later if we're still around.  
 The question for now: Is the child to be found?

Can we block out commercials, the hype and the malls?  
 Can we find solitude in our holy halls?  
 Can we keep alert, keep hope, stay awake?  
 Can we receive the child for ours and God's sake?

From on high with the caroling host as he sees us,  
 He yearns to read on our lips the prayer: Come Lord Jesus!  
 As Advent begins all these questions make plea.  
 The only true answer: We will see, we will see.



**In Jesus, our Prince of Peace, we have seen God's glory.**

A Prayer for Each of You from Diana Hartman

May your Christmas be filled with the blessings of joy and peace that only God can give.  
 May your New Year be a journey in faith and hope toward a future pregnant with God's holy possibilities.

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.  
 We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son,*

*Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.  
(Eugene H. Peterson, The Message)*

*Lord God, may we live throughout this coming year in the light of your glory, transformed by your love, and as instruments of your peace, through Jesus Christ, who is our glory and our peace we pray. Amen.*



**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



- Dear Church Members,  
I want to thank all of you for the sympathy you expressed by signing the church letter in memory of my sister, Aurora. It is very comforting to me to receive support from so many caring and loving church people. Also, thanks to those who sent cards and notes, which I appreciated very much.

Bruno Rech

- To all my church friends connected by prayer,  
Thank you all, dear hearts, for your prayers and good cheer wishes in the face of my surgery that happened the end of September, and I am here to report that they all worked...in the most mysterious and (as the surgeon said) "serendipitous" ways. Serendipity means: the faculty of making fortunate and unexpected discoveries by accident. I told my surgeon, Dr. Wyatt, that my good fortune and luck was not by "accident" but by prayer and faith made real the night before the surgery when I opened my Bible in search of a verse to claim. It "fell" open (not by accident to Psalm 128: 1-4: "Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall bear the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table, Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord." My Bible's application was: "The psalmist wrote that a good family life is a reward for following God. The values outlined in God's Word include love, service, honesty, integrity, and prayer. These help all relationships and they are especially vital to home life." I claimed that thought and slept like a baby for I wrote beside that verse that my niece Lori had sent a pre-get-well card with prayers and other family and friends had all called, reinforcing me with prayer/love, that I could literally "rest assured" that the surgeon's knife would be in God's hands too, and that "all would be well with me."

Rose Burrows



## A FOREST OF TREES!

Submitted by Kay Barnes

After December 3<sup>rd</sup> when the Mariners decorate the church for Christmas you may feel like you are in a forest when you enter the parlor. First you will find the Angel Tree which will have information about gifts needed for needy children in our community. Near the hall behind the Library you will see a Warmth Tree where we will collect items such as hats or gloves for those in need of warmth in our local community. This tree will remain in the parlor through the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. For information about both of these trees, please see the separate article "Calling All Angels".

Near the Library door will be the Remembrance Tree. Some years ago the Deacons invited families in the congregation to add an ornament to this tree as a symbol of a special event in their lives or just to represent their family. Many families added an ornament at that time putting writing or a tag on it showing the family name and the date. Looking at these ornaments now reminds us of many who have died or moved away but who were a big part of our church in the past. If your family is not represented by an ornament, consider adding one this Christmas season. Hooks for hanging them are on the end of the mantle.

In 1999 a number of stitchers/crafters in the congregation were asked to make ornaments for this tree to represent ministers who had served our church as a head pastor, associate, assistant or as an interim. The project was only partially completed at that time so this year Presbyterian Women have undertaken to provide an ornament for the other 22 ministers not already represented on the tree.

The fourth tree in the parlor, the largest, near the sanctuary doors, is the Chrismon Tree. Chrismons are symbols or monograms which represent Christ, always done in gold or white. The Mariners originally made the large gold ornaments we have been using. This year Presbyterian Women began making a wider variety of symbols using many different techniques. This will be at least a two year project. We plan to prepare a book of pictures telling the meaning of each of the Chrismons and listing those who have worked on both projects.



## CALLING ALL ANGELS!

Submitted by Marion Yoder

If you'd like to help make Christmas brighter for some of Cheyenne's neediest this Christmas, here is your chance. Last year, First Presbyterian felt the Christmas spirit by supporting the Toys for Tots program, donating hats and gloves to the Warmth Tree and buying gifts for about 165 school age children. The need is no less this year, so if you would like to swing into action to help, here's how to do it.

1. Bring a new, UNWRAPPED gift for a child and put it in the TOYS FOR TOTS box in the Parlor. The Marine Corps will pick up and deliver as many boxfuls of toys as we can provide and the box will stay there for several weeks.
2. Pick a toy for a boy or girl from the large Angel Tree in the Parlor, and go shopping. You can get one or more things on the list and you can make a group effort of it if you like. Anything you can do will be appreciated. There'll be a list by the tree where you can leave your name so we know which Angel is responsible for which child.



The schools, Safehouse and the COMEA shelter have all provided individual kids' lists of needs, and the Deacons will make sure the gifts go where they need to go. To do this, we need you to bring back your **wrapped presents, clearly marked with the "Angel" information for each child, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 11**. They can go into the church office and the Deacons will sort and deliver the week of December 12.

If you don't have time to shop, but would still like to help, checks made out to the church by **December 11** will do the job. Just make a notation "Angel Tree" on your check, and the Deacons will do the shopping and wrapping for you. No amount is too small, and any donations will be gratefully accepted.

3. Decorate the smaller Warmth Tree in the Parlor with hats, socks, gloves, scarves or mittens. These items will help keep needy people of all ages warm this winter.

Thank you and a very Merry Christmas 2011.



## Women of First Presbyterian Church

### Christmas Brunch

On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, women in the church are invited to come to a Christmas Brunch from 10 a.m. to noon. We'll enjoy Christmas music, talk about the meaning of the Chrismons which are on the parlor tree, install new officers and sing some of our favorite carols. Hostesses are the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. Come and join us for a time of fellowship, singing and good food! Reservations are not needed. For more information contact Kay Barnes, 778-7445.

Notes: • We will not meet to stitch on mission projects until Saturday, January 21. • Circle meetings may be held at different places in December - please check the bulletins for information.



## Notes & Church News



### **Lifetouch Complimentary Photos**

If you had a picture taken by Lifetouch but did not buy any, the complimentary photo offered you is in the church office for pick up. If you are not able to come to the church, please let us know and we will try to deliver it or mail it to you.

### **College Scholarships**

It's that time again! The Scholarship Committee of the Christian Education Ministry has announced that applications for the two college scholarships offered by First Presbyterian Church are now available. Applications will be mailed to current high school seniors after the first of the year. Other students, including current scholarship holders wishing to reapply, may pick up application packets in the church office. The two scholarships are the General College Scholarship and the Keith Weigner Memorial Healthcare Scholarship; the latter is open to students intending to enter a field of healthcare. All applicants must be members of First Presbyterian Church, and the deadline is March 1, 2012. For further information, please call Maïda Wedell at 635-1983.



## GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!

-Mission Ministry

*"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." (Luke 12:48)*

This is the time of year we have many reminders of how blessed we are if we have good health, a warm, safe place to live, and enough food to eat. For those of us who have enough, the verse offers guidance on whether we should contribute to special offerings such as December's Christmas Joy Offering. The answer is a resounding yes!

Presbyterians across the country have supported the Christmas Joy Offering for almost 80 years, and, as usual, this year's offering will go toward two major projects: helping ministers and church workers during times of need and providing scholarships to minority students who otherwise would not have access to racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). In other words, the church is asking us to help those less fortunate. If we consider that our neighbors are not confined to a small geographical area around Cheyenne, then it is easy to see how the Christmas Joy Offering is an opportunity for those of us to whom much has been given to lend a helping hand.

It is impressive to read about how PC(USA) uses the proceeds from this offering. For example, last year funds helped with 231 housing supplements provided by the Board of Pensions, likely to help Presbyterian Church workers remain in their homes or to assist them in living a modest life. As for helping minority students, figures indicate that 1,644 students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools received financial help last year. That is a good investment because we also know that most students helped in high school end up getting further education. For example, 98% of the graduates of Menaul School in Albuquerque go on to college!



Please give prayerful consideration to making one of your Christmas gifts this year a check to the Christmas Joy Offering! Just note your intent on the memo line of your check or use your special offering envelope or a pew envelope.



**HYSTERICAL  
HISTORICAL  
ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Peggy Williams

This following was taken from the Sunday bulletin of December 7, 1958:

“The ancient Christian symbols above the choir have been installed by the Deacons. The following explanation will help you to understand and appreciate what these symbols mean. Reading from left to right: 1. The Dove—symbol of the Holy Spirit. 2. The twelve apostles. 3. The Peacock—early symbol of the resurrection. 4. The Lily—symbol of immortality. Used from earliest days in the Christian church. 5. Simon, known today as the ‘Big Fisherman’. 6. Thomas. 7. Paul, greatest of all the first century missionaries, and theologian of the young Church. 8. Barnabas, called in scripture ‘A man full of good works and of the Holy Spirit.’ 9. Andrew—the Cross of St. Andrew is a very ancient symbol. 10. The Phoenix—Symbol of Immortal Life. We thank Mr. Frederic Porter, chairman of our board of Deacons for the time he gave in selecting, drawing the plans, and having these symbols installed.”

Don't forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't able to empty the Penny Jar very often but when we do, we usually find \$100.00 or so. We need to continue saving our pennies as this fund goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or just helping with some of our projects, please contact any member of the committee.

Paula Qualls	638-8805	Glen Oslund	638-8884
Mel Qualls	638-8805	Peggy Williams	634-0147
Frances Creech	638-3787	Ralph DeWyke	632-8210

**REMEMBER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AS WE JOURNEY FORWARD MAKING OUR OWN HISTORY.**



## LIVING WATER TRIP CHALLENGE: HAVE A WATER WEEK AND A RICE WEEK!

— Greta Morrow , Mission Ministry Chair

As the time for this newsletter expires at the end of January, our mission travelers will be packing their bags for the February 4-11 well-drilling and health/hygiene education trip to Honduras. The group has been working to raise money, and we continue to receive donations from our wonderful congregation. Thank you for your part in the \$5,502 we have received! Our mission travelers will be representing our church and doing God's work in Honduras, so they truly will be taking a part of us with them, just as group leader Norm Soden told us in an earlier Minute for Mission!

Here's a challenge a pastor in St. Louis, Missouri, came up with when his congregation was preparing to send mission workers on a Living Water International trip. I'm going to try it, and I hope you will too: Simply set aside one week when you pledge to drink only water as your beverage. Then reserve the money you would

have spent on other drinks that week and use it to help with this mission. Later on, select another week and eat only rice for three dinners that week. Again, set aside the money you would have spent on other food and donate that to our mission travelers. Not only does this experience drive home the point that we will be bringing a better future to a village of people who right this minute do not have clean water to drink, but it also reminds us that the villagers in places like Honduras often have only simple foods such as rice for their meals.

The pastor in St. Louis led his congregation in this sacrificial experience during Advent season, just about this time of year. As he explained to his church, the extra beverages and food the congregation went without would help save children who otherwise were going to die from waterborne illnesses that year. Their generosity meant parents would not be mourning their children but would instead be celebrating their health and well-being. During those water and rice weeks, that church of 175 members raised over \$13,000 to help with their present and future Living Water mission trips (McKinley, Seay, and Holder 104-105). Wow!

It would be interesting to hear about the experiences of congregation members who symbolically become part of this mission trip by taking the water/rice challenge. Tell us about it in writing and we will find a place to include some of those comments in the newsletter! In the meantime, thank you for your continued dedication to carrying out God's mission, not only to area residents but also to our "neighbors" who struggle in faraway places!

McKinley, Rick, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder. Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Be Saved? Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2009.



## In The Library

Submitted by the Library Committee

If you want to get into the spirit of Christmas through reading, here are some possibilities:

- A Christmas Book by Elizabeth Goudge - a collection of short stories by her about Christmas [FIC/GOU.CHR]
- The Fireside Book of Christmas Stories - stories from many authors [FIC/MAG.FIR]
- Shepherds Abiding by Jan Karon - one of the Mitford Years novels about Father Tim trying to restore an old nativity scene he found [FIC/KAR.SHE]
- Christmas Candles by Elsie Hobart Carter - plays for boys and girls about St. Nicholas and the Christ Child which could be read to children or acted out [FIC/CAR.CHR]

To prepare for the new year you might like to read Where Will I Find The Time? by Sally McClung. Sally helps you understand how to make the time for: organizing, building your relationship with God, your marriage, family, friends, yourself, work, fun and healing [248.4 McC.WHE]. Women of the Bible by Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda is a one-year devotional study of women in scripture.[220.92 SPA.WOM]

Please note we now have a dictionary and a Roget's Thesaurus on the check out desk for your use. We also greatly appreciate recent donations of good reference books from families in our church.



# Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

Lord, give me a willing heart so that I will always be available whenever someone needs me to pray. And I promise You I will pray. - Evelyn Christenson

Thou art coming to a King,  
Large petitions with thee bring  
For His grace and power are such  
None can ever ask too much. - John Newton

There is nothing too great for God's power and nothing too small for His love. - Corrie ten Boom

Come with large petitions to the King, for:

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Virginia Donaldson	Roshni Joseph	Aaron Rebout
Meryl Adams	Robert Drummond	Rev. Tom Kittleman	Midge Reed
Loretta Adsit	Pat Fairbanks	Jim Kleine	Doris Rogers
Lil Barbour	Irene Forwood	Dr. Robert Lanier	Hannah Rudell
Richard Beauchamp	Adam George	Karen Lemon	Dorothy Rundquist
Betty Brown	Bob Goss	Ronan Louis	Lana, Leann Smith & Ken Smith
Jay Brown	Donna Goss	Bob McGuire	Austin Strietmatter
R.J. Brown	Joan Gray	Vicki Meuli	Todd Swedensky
Rose Burrows	Karen Grover	Carla Nolen	John Townsend
Eric Case	Rennie Grover	Kim Olson	Javen Westby
James Chaney	Bob Hale	Glen Oslund	Allen White
Richard Chatfield	Jim Hamil	Esther Peterson	Margy Will
John Chopich	Marydee Hartsook	Sherry Popham	Harry Williams
Scott Coulson	Ruth Holmes	Bertie Price	Marian Williams
Lorna Crick	Marcy Jacobsen	Mel Qualls	
Carrol DeWyke	Tasha Jones	Mary Alice Radford	

*- If anyone listed on the above list needs to be removed, please let the church office know. -*

Call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you will honor me.

God is always near you and with you; leave Him not alone. - Brother Lawrence

May God, who calls our loved ones home, enfold you with His love and give you comfort:



Myrtle Forney - Loss of Sister	Phyllis O'Connor - Loss of Mother
Jim Harper - Loss of Sister	Bruno Rech - Loss of Sister
Judi Krieger - Loss of Mother	Wanda Seidl - Loss of Brother-In-Law
Marian Urbigkit - Loss of Husband	

# Children's Ministry

## Teaching Children About Prayer



Jesus' disciples were like spiritual children and so we can appropriately learn some pointers from Him. Jesus taught them about prayer by exposure to a good model – Himself.

1. Jesus' disciples observed Jesus pray and sometimes go aside to pray. After one incidence, one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk. 11:1-2). Jesus' prayer life motivated his disciples toward a passion for prayer.

The best way to teach children to pray is to let them see and hear you pray. Jesus didn't simply tack a prayer onto a lesson or sermon. He was devoted to prayer wherein He connected with His Father. Parents have more potential for children to observe this passion in them whereas teachers have limited exposure. Teachers must therefore incorporate their own prayer life as illustrations in the lesson. For example, in a lesson on fear, the teacher may share how he/she was afraid of something last week and asked God for courage.

2. Jesus taught them about prayer by explanation for good understanding --instruction.

Jesus used terminology the disciples could understand in teaching them about prayer ... a friend knocking on a door for help, a father providing what is good for his children. He not only explained how to pray but also how not to pray using negative examples.

Teachers, likewise, must meet children on their level in teaching them about prayer. What is relevant to their lives that will help them understand? The younger the child, the more concrete and obvious the illustration must be for them to understand. As children get older they can learn more abstractly through object lessons. Play is part of a child's life. How can play -- fun and games, be used as a tool?

3. Jesus taught them about prayer using an example of a good pattern --His sample prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

No where do we read that Jesus told His disciples to memorize the exact wording of this sample prayer. He said, "This is *how* you should pray" not "This is *what* you should pray." This prayer has, however, become probably the most memorized prayer. In Matthew 6, just prior to giving the prayer, he warned them that prayer should not be done to be seen by man but to be in touch with the Father (v. 5-6) and that prayer should not be mere words (v. 7-8).

The challenge then, in teaching this prayer to children is to ...

- Make sure to put them in touch with the One to whom they pray and not just learn it to please you the teacher or parent, or to gain a reward for memorization, etc.
- Make sure they understand what it means so they go beyond the rote aspect of learning it to seeing the implications and applications of the concepts found in the prayer.

**Children Ministry's Upcoming Events –**

- December 11- Christmas Program 2<sup>nd</sup> service
- December 13 - Family Advent Night
- December 25 - No Sunday School
- January 1 - No Sunday School



With God's Grace,  
Ashley Braisted  
Children's Ministry Director

## Youth Ministry

The Sr. High Retreat in Casper was the big event for November. Our youth were joined by over 60 other high school students from across the state. This was the biggest retreat in recent history. It was a lot of fun, fellowship, study, worship, and service. The energy at the retreat makes me unbelievably excited for the Jr. High version coming in January.

The highlight of December will be the Christmas Lock-In on the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

A look at what's to come for the youth:

### December

- 10 1 – 2 pm in the Sanctuary Rehearsal for narrators for the Christmas program
- 16 Last Day of School
- 20-21 Christmas Lock-In at the Church
- 24 Christmas Eve Services @ 7 and 11 pm
- 25 Christmas! Celebrate the day that God took human form on Earth.  
*No Sunday School – 10:30 Worship Service Only – No Youth Group*

### January

- 1 New Year's Day! Celebrate the New Year at Youth Group  
*No Sunday School – 10:30 Worship Service Only*
- 2 School Resumes
- 16 No School – Celebrate Racial Equality through Martin Luther King's Work
- 20 No School – Enjoy the day off
- 27-28 Jr. High Retreat in Casper (more information to come)



As always, all (7th – 12th grade) youth are invited to attend Sunday school (9:15 – 10:15) and/or Youth Group (Sundays 6:30 – 8).



Blessings,  
~Heather

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) continues to enjoy fun and fellowship with moms from around Cheyenne. We have had new moms at each meeting this year.

For the November 3 gathering, Jean Blackmer, an author from Colorado, joined us to discuss common sense in mothering. We had a large crowd - 21 moms and 27 kids! We were able to use this topic as an outreach to the community. We had six moms come from the First Baptist Church MOPS. We had wonderful, positive feedback from many moms!

On November 17, Graffiti came to the church to give our moms an opportunity to create a special Christmas decoration. Always a favorite!

At the December 1 meeting, we had a "Round TUIT" night. Moms brought a project they have been trying to get "around to it" for completion at our meeting. Ladies worked on Christmas cards, wrapping and other tasks that can be difficult with preschoolers needing a mom's attention!

We will have our annual Christmas Celebration on December 15 with traditional music and gift making. This has been an excellent year to date. We are thankful for the many moms and children that are touched by this ministry. We have many exciting things planned for 2012!

Recently a mom sent this email - "I have a little story to tell you. When my daughter played house she said she's the mom and all the kids need to go get ready for MOPS, this occurred on a week there was no MOPS. Then Tuesday, when I stayed home sick, she stayed home to take care of me. She prepared a tea party with real cups and plates and real water on the living room floor for all the MOPS moms.

This goes to show what this wonderful, inspirational organization does not only to benefit the mothers who attend, but also the children. What these children learn now is going to stay with them their entire lives. When I tell her it is MOPS night she lights up and is so excited the whole day for MOPS. I truly could not think of how my life would be without all the support and friendships that I have made through MOPS."

On February 5 there will be a special offering for the MOPS ministry. We have been mindful of our expenses for each meeting. We have been so blessed by our congregation's generosity and MOPS fundraising efforts. Please consider MOPS when you plan your donations for the coming year. We sincerely appreciate your past, present, and future support!

Please remember to invite your friends and family to join us on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30. If you'd like more information or would like to know how you can help, please contact Stephanie Prescott at 634-3765.



## Church Camp News

Submitted by Rev. Diana Hartman

During the September 16-17, 2011 meeting of Presbytery the following statement was approved by Presbytery.

*The camping program will not proceed for 2012 until council receives a balanced budget for the program and operations at each campsite and a workable procedure for financial oversight, operation and reporting.*

During the same meeting the lack of members and moderator on the Camp Committee was noted. Craig Frederick accepted the position of moderator and several others, including myself, were nominated and elected to the committee.

Our first meeting was held in Casper September 30-October 1, 2011. At that meeting we addressed six issues and made recommendations to the Presbytery Council (all were approved by Council) as follows:

1. Accounting for 2011 Season Shortfall of approximately \$16,000. We spent Friday evening addressing this issue and by depleting designated funds for camping and with the generous donation that our congregation made through our mission program we were able to cover the shortfall. However, in doing so we recognized that we no longer have designated funds to fall back on for the camping program.
2. Offering a balanced budget for 2012. We spent Saturday considering many options on how we could continue to fund the camping program. Everyone on the committee agrees that the program is vitally important in faith formation in our youth and in the development of future pastors and leadership in the church. In order to continue to offer a camp program in our Presbytery the committee recommended to Council that
  - a) Camp Skyline be "Moth Balled" for the year.
  - b) The Presbytery's programming be extended to 2 months at Camp Story.
  - c) We would offer some variation in the camp program.
  - d) Registration fees for all camps will be increased.
3. Set-up a separate "Camp Scholarship Fund." In the past years, scholarships have been funded out of the camp budget creating some of the shortfall. In addition, although camp scholarships were available for all congregations the total number of campers has not increased. Therefore, Presbytery camp scholarships will be taken out of the regular budget and a separate fund will be set up. Scholarships will be given on a first come first serve bases as funds are available. Donations for the scholarship fund will be accepted from individuals and churches. Changes will be made to the scholarship application process.
4. The Camp Store will be an "on site" venture with its own accounting process.
5. The Camp committee will increase oversight of camp expenditures. The current accounting procedures are adequate but better implementation is needed. A meeting and training will be held between the Camp Committee and the Camp Manager, Program Director, and Presbytery office personnel. All non-budgeted, non-emergency expenses must be pre-authorized by the Camping Committee.
6. The camp registration process will be changed to relieve the Presbytery Office from some of its duty in this matter.

After the budget was determined, the committee then addressed changes to the 2012 Camping Schedule. All camps will be held at Camp Story.

Counselor Training—June 6-9

Middle School Camp—June 10-15 (going into grade 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>)

Juniors—June 17-22 (going into grade 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

Starters—June 24-27 (going into grade 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>)

Sr. High—July 15-20 (going into grade 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

Grandparents/Grandchildren Camp—July 20-22 (any age)

MAD (Music, Art, Drama) Camp—July 22-27 (going into grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)

Special Needs Camp has rented the facility June 29 – July 14

For more information or to discuss your concerns, please contact Diana Hartman at 638-3345.