

# *THE LEAVEN*

*First Presbyterian Church*

*Leavenworth, Kansas*

*December 2014*

*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Noon to 4 p.m.*

## **PRESBYTERIAN THANK OFFERING BEING RECEIVED**

**NOVEMBER 30**

The 2014 Thank Offering theme scripture passage is Hebrews 10:19-25 in which we are called to provoke one another to different results. Presbyterian women provoke one another to love and to do good deeds. This annual fall offering supports 30 mission projects. Some provide scholarships to girls beginning a journey of healing. Others provide transitional housing for children and adults suffering from domestic abuse. Safe drinking water is made possible in foreign countries. May the offering this year provoke everyone it touches to love and do good deeds to the glory of God. **Please mark your check “Thank Offering”** and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

## **BACKPACK CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**

It is time again for the Backpack Buddies Cookie sale at the Christmas Market. The Christmas Market is Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Riverfront Community Center. Last year Backpack Buddies raised \$1,500 at the Christmas sale, and since we are feeding more kids this year (655+ each week), we hope to do better!



We want as many cookies as we can get from First Presbyterian Church; our goal would be 24 dozen. Please place the cookies in a disposable container and label the kind of cookies on the container. Any flavor of cookie is appreciated. Christmas Cookies would be great and Oatmeal raisin cookies are the most asked for, but I am guessing that your grandma's favorite cookie would be asked for next year!

Please bring the cookies to the church before Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and I will deliver them to the Christmas Market. Or bring them by our house at 2800 Maple Ave . Or call me at: 913-991-7942 and I will come pick them up.

On Saturday, go to the Christmas Market at Riverfront Community Center and buy cookies!!!

Carl Johnson

# CHRISTMAS CANTATA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

What Sweeter Music A Festival of Carols on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at during worship.. The Chancel Choir and Brass Choir led by Bob Cowen, present this Cantata. Bring a friend to worship and take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate The Story.

## POINSETTIA

Poinsettia this year price will be \$10 and they need to be ordered no later than December 7th.



## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

*(Plants are \$10 each. Form and check are to be placed in offering plate or church office.)*

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS DECEMBER 7**

*Plants will be in the sanctuary Sunday, Dec. 21 and Christmas Eve.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I will take my plant home.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Give my plant to someone to enjoy*

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submit form and check marked "Poinsettia"

## DECEMBER BELL RINGING

Be sure to sign up for bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Dillons for the following dates:-

1. Saturday, Dec 6th from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
2. Wednesday Dec 10th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
3. Friday Dec.19th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
4. Thursday Dec. 11th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm



If anyone wants to ring more, there are a lot of available spaces at K-Mart. A sign-up sheet will be available on the bulletin board.

## ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Wrapped gifts will be collected at the church 11/30/14 to 12/12/14. Please be sure to attach the angel sticker to the wrapped gift so they can be delivered. A special thank you to the Men's Group for volunteering to deliver the gifts on the afternoon of December 14, 2014. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Linda Huggins at 913-684-0756.



# THE MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

This year the Memorial Tree is in the sanctuary for us to enjoy and to remember. The Memorial Tree bears ornaments in memory of deceased loved ones. There are ornaments are symbolic of an individual's hobby or way in which they are remembered. If you would like to add an ornament to the tree you are asked to attach a small tag with your name and indicating who the ornament is in memory of. Having the tree in the sanctuary this year enables our loved one to be a part of our Advent and Christmas observance in a visible way.

## REVISED USHER POSITION JOINED BY NEW GREETERS

Beginning December 7, we will have Greeters positioned at the East and West entryways twenty minutes before the service begins. Additionally, Ushers will be available throughout the entire worship service. An orientation was held to explain the changes in these service opportunities on November 10. If you would like to serve in either of these capacities please contact the church office.

## PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER

The sign up sheet is posted for the Progressive Dinner which will be held Saturday, December 13 beginning at 5PM. The hosts/hostesses are Barb & Steve Finch-Appetizers, Carl & Linda Johnson-Main Course and Sally Graham-Dessert.

There will be **NO pot luck** in December due to the Progressive Dinner.

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS

Nov. 30	Tom and Becky Stovall
Dec. 7	John Graham
Dec. 14	Dan and Liz Williams
Dec. 21	The Finch Family
Dec. 24	The Allen Family



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 24 – 7 PM TO BE CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

We will welcome the birth of the Christ Child in a unique way this year. Prior to gathering at the Lord's Table for Communion, lighting candles and singing "Silent Night", we will share in The Gospel of Christmas in Word and Song. A creation of our Music Director, Karen Engebretson, we will recall the story of this amazing night through Scripture, solo music and congregational singing as Karen and the Pastor gather us for a special event of storytelling.



Christmas Eve the annual Joy Offering will be taken. This special Offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions which helps active and retired church workers who have unexpected expenses they cannot meet. Half of the offering is for education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

## **JOYS, CONCERN AND CELEBRATION CARDS IN THE PEWS DECEMBER 14**

If you have information to share during the worship service, complete a card at the beginning of the service. Ushers will collect the cards during the service, before the Ritual of Friendship to give to the pastor or worship leader. This provides better documentation of our joys and concerns as well as ease in sharing the information during the service.



## **COMMUNITY CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 3:00 PM “A Little Jazz for Christmas” (with Bob Cowan and The Kicks Big Band)**

### **WEB-SITE**

fpc-lvks.org website is up and running. Church members need to register with an ID and password by going to lower right hand corner to create an account. Call Tom Stovall with any questions.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND INSTALLATION CONGREGATION MEETING**

**THE ELECTION OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND 2015 CONGREGATIONAL  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AFTER WORSHIP, SUNDAY, DECEMBER  
14 AS PART OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.**

Report booklets are available at both entryways.

# **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

## **COMMITMENT OF TIME, TALENT & RESOURCES UPDATE**

As of November 30, 32 pledges have been received totaling \$112,300. Within the congregation there are approximately 80 potential family pledging units. The Proposed 2015 budget distributed to the congregation is \$220,651. The Stewardship Committee will meet on December 2 to review pledges received to date.

Several individuals have indicated new ways in which they intend to use their time and talents to serve the church. We rejoice in this new commitment.

If you have not submitted your Time, Talent and Resource Commitment for 2015, you may do so at any time through the Sunday morning offering plate, e-mailing the church office or sending the form through snail mail.

## **NEW SIGNAGE ON MAIN FLOOR**

New Room Designation signs have been posted identifying the following: Offices, Living Room, Nursery, Classroom, Restrooms (Men's and Women).

**Be sure to look at signs designating the restrooms as they have been switched!**

A new, large main directory sign is being framed and will be hung in the West entryway the first part of December. We thank John Graham for his framing skill!

## **REFURBISHED STACKABLE CHAIR CUSHIONS**

It doesn't take long before coffee, tea, chocolate and other items stain chair cushions. Merna Roe and her trusty sewing machine have worked diligently to make new covers for the soiled chairs. On Friday, November 21 a group of individuals met at the church to affix the new covers on the chairs.

## **RE-DEDICATION OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

If you missed the worship service on November 23 rededicating the windows, the dedication portion of the service and accompanying harp music can be viewed on the church website. All of the music was from the funeral service for Linda Schroeder in whose memory the windows were rededicated.

Funds for the refurbishment came from Linda's Memorial Fund and from the Schroeder family. Creative Stained Glass in Kansas City did the refurbishment and Don Bearden oversaw the project.

## **BACKPACK MEALS**

This year Backpack Buddies provides over 655 weekend meals to elementary students in Leavenworth who would otherwise not have enough food for the weekend –the need is great and rising. December is the month that First Presbyterian Church packs the bags for students at Henry Leavenworth Elementary School. Since we will not have a pot luck dinner in December, the

Monday Morning Men's group will begin packing the bags at 8:00 am, Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. *We would welcome any hardy souls who would like to also get up early Monday mornings and help us – the more the merrier.* And it is such a good cause!

## **NOVEMBER STATED SESSION MEETING – November 13**

The following business was conducted at the meeting:

- Set December 2 as a meeting of the Stewardship Committee to review pledges received
- Reviewed the agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting
- Voted to have the chair lift repaired for \$1,243 from Memorial Funds
- Arrangements were announced for snow removal on Sundays. The person who does the Methodist Church lots will do our lot for \$50-75 which is a considerable saving from last year.
- Rev. Don Wilson will preach on December 28 and be available for Emergency Pastoral care while the pastor is away through December 31.
- Voted to reaffirm support for the Community Concerts organized by Music Director, Karen Engebretson
- Voted to change service agreement for HVAC unit from Trotter and Morton to Besel effective 1/1/15
- Reviewed on second reading the church's wedding policy and voted to retain the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman as reflected in the Book of Order's Directory of Worship, W-4.9001
- Reviewed list of persons to contact concerning their membership and being moved to the inactive roll. Responses to be reviewed at the December meeting.

## **HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY VOTES ON AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER AT NOVEMBER 22 MEETING**

Over the summer, 7 amendments to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) were presented to Presbyteries for their vote. This information was made available to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church and opportunities to attend Listening Sessions to discuss the amendments were made available to session members. All of the amendments passed and the vote will be submitted to the General Assembly for their review in June 2015. A majority of Presbyteries must pass an amendment in order to change the Book of Order. As a reminder, the amendments were as follows:

A) The Confession of Belfar, B) Renunciation of Jurisdiction by a former teaching elder (clergy) (C) [composed of 2 amendments) Reevaluating the process by which ordination exams are written, administered and graded, (D) a mandate that all councils have and implement a Sexual Misconduct and Child Protection Policy, (E) Determine a minimum composition of a Presbytery, (F) Adopt an interreligious stance (respect dialogue with other religious traditions), (G) Amending the definition of marriage from “ between a man and a woman” to “two people”.



# **First Presbyterian Church Leavenworth, KS Snow Policy**

The Snow Policy for the First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, KS will be as follows:

**In the event of heavy snow or other event the decision to cancel church services/activities will be determined in the following manner: The Pastor and the Clerk of Session will confer and will confer with Building and Grounds. If these three deem it wise to cancel services/activities a polling of a sampling of Session members make a decision as to the advisability of canceling that day's church activities. Once a decision is made the following television stations in Kansas City, NBC, ABC, CBS, and FOX, will be notified to carry the announcement of the canceling of activities.**

**Additionally, an attempt will be made to send an e-mail to the congregation.**

## **From the Deacons NEED A RIDE TO OR FROM CHURCH?**

The deacons maintain an account with the Veterans and Yellow Cab Company that can help you get to church or get home from church. All you have to do is call the company at (913) 682-7200, tell them to bring you to 407 Walnut, and charge it to the First Presbyterian Deacons. If one of us can't give you a ride home, just call them again.



## **YOUR TURN FOR TREATS? CHECK OUT THE LIST!**

Here is the schedule for providing treats for DECEMBER:

**December 7** – Choir and Bell Choir **December 14** – Congregation A-F

**December 21** – Congregation G-P **December 28** – Congregation Q-Z **Jan.4** – Deacons

## **December Anniversaries**

14-Darrell and Margie Holland

20-Dwaine and Kathie Wagner

24-Howard and Carolyn Anderson

27-Jim and Kum Cha Williams

## **December Birthdays**

1-Lois Chapman

2-Jim Roe

11-Audrey Anderson

16-Leif Sanford

22-Francesca Avery

30-Carol Beall

30-Jon LeBar

31-Dwaine Wagner



## HEARING HELP AVAILABLE

Just a reminder that the church is equipped with an oval window audio induction loop assistive listening system. You will need to please switch your hearing aid to "T" (TELEPHONE) or request assistance.

**PRAYER CONCERNS** – Roger Frazer, Jack Fulton, Marilyn Ferbert, Judy Jahn,  
Howard Walker, Eugenia Cloud, Taylor Dearing, Jim Miller, Gayle Zillman,



Bob Ketter, Ellen Carter, Judy Fulton, Bill Kendall, Barbara Fillucco, Sally Graham,  
Becky Stovall, Mark Mathison, Emily Brown, Ivan Worrrell.

## Leavenworth Assistance Center

The Leavenworth Assistance Center has asked for the following as so many families are needing help at this time: hats (dark colors for boys), gloves (for boys), socks (3-5 years or 6-12 years), underwear (Boys 2T,3T,4T, or 6,8,10,12,14,16), and diapers, size 3,4,5). There are lots of needs at this time of year. Help if you can. There will be a bin at church for them.

## HOMELESS SHELTER

This community has been working for some time to organize a homeless shelter. Welcome Central has found a place - to be called the Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope. They also have many needs: twin bed sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels - (clean but not necessarily new). They really need volunteers who can stay all night - once every other week or so. This is asking a lot - but the cause is important. It's just too cold now for anyone to sleep in a car or outside. Call Sister Vickie if you can consider volunteering. Take any donated items to Welcome Central on Delaware between 3rd and 4th St.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY, THE FRIDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

### DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1	4-8:30 PM	Music Lessons
	6:45-9:45 PM	Cody Choraliers
Dec. 2	6:00 PM	Stewardship Committee Meeting, Room #8
Dec. 3	Noon -7 PM	Music Lessons
Dec. 4	8:15-3:15PM	Classical Conversations Classes
	3:30-6 PM	Music Lessons, Room #3
	6:00 PM	Deacon Meeting
Dec. 5	10:00 AM	PWC
Dec. 7	10:30 AM	Christmas Cantata Service
		Angels on Tree
Dec. 8	4-8:30 PM	Music Lessons



Dec. 9	6:45-9:45 PM 9:30 AM 4:30-8:30 PM 6:30 PM	Cody Choraliers Circle 3 at the home of Barb Finch ESL Christmas Party Circle 5
Dec. 10	Noon – 7 PM	Music Lessons
Dec. 11	8:15-3:15PM 3:30-6 PM 6:00 PM	Classical Conversations Classes Music Lessons, Room #3 Session Meeting
Dec. 13	5 PM	Progressive Meal starting with appetizers at the home of Steve and Barb Finch
Dec. 14	10:30 AM 11:30 AM  3:00 PM 5:-8:30 PM	Communion Election of Officers Annual Congregation Meeting All Angel Tree Gifts Returned Community Concert Compassionate Friends
Dec. 15	4-8:30 PM 6:45-9:45 PM	Music Lessons Cody Choraliers
Dec. 17	Noon – 7 PM	Music Lessons
Dec. 18	3:30 – 6 PM	Music Lessons
Dec. 19	6:30 PM	Amateur Radio Testing
Dec. 21	2:30 PM	Circle 2, Kathie Wagner’s Home
Dec. 22	4-8:30 PM 6:45-9:45 PM	Music Lessons Cody Choraliers
Dec. 23	6:00 PM	Renovation/Capital Campaign Committee Meeting
Dec. 24		Church Office Closed
Dec. 25	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service Church Office Closed
Dec. 26		Church Office Closed Articles for The Leaven Due
Dec. 29	4-8:30 PM 6:45-9:45 PM	Music Lessons Cody Choraliers

## **EUGENIA’S THOUGHTS**

Christmas soon will be here and we all will be joyous. But for whom are we celebrating? Let’s never forget it is our Lord’s birthday, and our best gift is our Lord.

## **CHAIR LIFT**

Chair lift is now operational thanks to the memorial fund.

<b>Memorials were received in memory of Bernice Buchanan.</b>
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