

Crossroads

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay

December 2009

Where God's Dream is Alive

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

The following scheduled events will fill your hearts with the Christmas miracle. Please join us!

December

- 6 Second Sunday of Advent
Ken Medema Worship Experience and **4 pm** Concert
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent
- 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Bake Sale
- 24 Christmas Eve
Children's Pageant
5:30 –6:30 pm
Candlelight Service
8:00 –9:00 pm
- 25 **Christmas Day**

Look in the newsletter to find more joyous events that are happening right here at First Presbyterian to help everyone enjoy this wonderful season of love, peace, and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ken Medema in Concert

Don't miss this great opportunity to experience Ken Medema in concert on Sunday, December 6, at 4pm. Submerge yourself in the love of the season and see how God's Vision for our World can be shared through the gift of music.

Tickets are only **\$10** each, which makes this a great opportunity to bring friends and family.

Please remember to drop off passengers in your vehicle and park on the streets surrounding the church if able. We



"Then the
glory of the LORD
shall be revealed,
and **all people** shall see it together."
Isaiah 40:5, NRSV

would like to save as much parking for visitors as we can. A coat check will be provided by the youth group in Banner Hall, please use this service as it will help free up space in the pews.

Ken's music will be available for purchase in the Fellowship room following the concert.

Don't wait!

Get your tickets today.

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Ken Medema

Sunday, December 6

10 AM Worship

4 PM Concert*

(*tickets required \$10.00 each)

Seating is first come first served.

Call the church office at 920-437-8121

A Note from Pastor Randy

December brings us to the end of the year and puts me in a reflective mood. At the conclusion of this month I will have served as your pastor for two years. How quickly time flies! My plan coming in was to emphasize the practices of the spiritual life for two years and to preach through the three-year lectionary cycle using primarily the Gospel lessons.

In terms of spirituality, I have led the Session through a book that outlines a more worshipful way of doing our meetings. As a result, our Session Norms and Procedures have been revised. A second book taught us how to use the process of spiritual discernment when making decisions. This process led us to hear God's call to be a missional church. We will continue to explore what this means for us. Finally, as a congregation, we read and discussed books on spirituality during the season of Lent: *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson and *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen.

As for my preaching, I have now spent a year with Matthew and a year with Mark. A new lectionary cycle has just begun that will feature the Gospel of Luke in 2010. Luke is my favorite Gospel and I am excited about studying it again and sharing God's Word with you.



I am also thinking about a Lenten study that will use the practice of *lectio divina* (sacred reading) and take us deeply into one of Luke's unique stories.

December also puts me in a celebrative mood. I enjoy the anticipation of the Advent Season and the joyful announcement of Christ's birth on Christmas. I look forward to the Children's Christmas pageant (5:30 p.m.) and our Candlelight Service (8:00 p.m.) on Christmas Eve. The good news of Christmas is that God is among us in Jesus Christ.

May we continue to discern what God is doing in our world so that we can participate in God's work. If we will do this, 2010 will be a very good year for First Presbyterian Church!

Peace to you,
Pastor Randy

Mission Statement

To fulfill God's plan

To know, love, and **serve** God
To **welcome**, spiritually **enrich**,
and love one another.

Vision Statement

We extend a warm and friendly spiritual environment that encourages and empowers people to **worship and serve God**.

We live and *change with contemporary issues* while *maintaining traditional values, ethics, and Presbyterian practices*.

We are guided and sustained by God as we follow a flexible strategic plan that addresses growth, simplifies and prioritizes our objectives, and facilitates a vibrant ministry.

Through our ministry we:

- ◆ Serve, lead, and live a lifestyle of Christian discipleship.
- ◆ Engage in local, national, and global mission & social concerns.
- ◆ Offer Christian education and fellowship opportunities where *all* feel a sense of belonging.
- ◆ Provide a sanctuary to rest, be restored, and be nourished during these busy and turbulent times.

We are a **community of faith** where *diversity* is celebrated, individual *spirituality* is strengthened, *cooperation* is the common good, and *understanding* and *love* of one another is paramount.

Church Life

Christian Sympathy:

To the family and friends of Charlie Brand who passed away on October 26.

To Hollister and Donna Jansen on the passing of his mother.

Quote of the Month

Dreams are renewable, no matter your age or condition;

There are still untapped possibilities within us.

-Dale Turner

Sunday Schedule
Children's Choir 8:45 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Adult Study 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Christmas Reunion

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18th they were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19th a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was

like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?"

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, which was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his

(Story continues on page 5)

Church Leadership

Elders

Class of 2010

Brian Hulse, Jenny Solper, Jean Maes, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

Class of 2011

Nancy Siewert, Lisa Olson, Kirk Ryder, Phil Mikulsky

Class of 2012

John Early, Jay Rietz, Dawn Spang, Tammy Escott

Clerk of Session:

Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

Deacons

Class of 2010

Judy Exl, Deb Shober, Peg Zenko, Susan Rietz

Class of 2011

Carol Mickelson, Lynne Shober, Connie Early

Class of 2012

Ann Argall, Russ Christensen, Holly Gehri, Sue Mikulsky

Staff

Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Randy Argall

Director of Christian Education:

Megan Jurens

Deacons Prayer Chain:

Peg Zenko

Administrative Assistant:

Leah Mott

Financial Secretary:

Linda Cigler

Music Ministries:

Allan Russell (Choir Director)

Pat Piaskowski (Organist)

Jenny Solper (Pianist)

Mary Steeno (Children's Choir)

Custodian:

Mary Belanger

Finance

Year End Giving Opportunities

The assets and earnings from the Endowment and Special Gifts Program at First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay are kept in six funds:

Mission Fund - Principal and income is used for special and unusual missions and ministries determined by the Mission and Social Concerns Committee and the Session.

Building Fund - Principal and income is used for major renovations or new buildings.

Education Fund - Principal and income used as designated by the Christian Education Committee and the Session.

Restricted Fund - Principal used as specified by the donor, income transferred to the Unrestricted Fund.

Unrestricted Fund - Principal and interest used as approved by the Session consistent with advancing the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church

Perpetual Gift Fund - Principal cannot be used, income transferred to the Unrestricted Fund.

If you have any questions about these funds or other information about other giving opportunities, contact a Finance Committee member.

Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

Committee Meeting Notes

A special gift was received from Hollister & Donna Jansen for the Christian Education Endowment Fund. This type of financial gift will help perpetuate the Christian Education Mission of First Church.

The Finance Committee reviewed the tentative 2010 Ministry Budget and will ask certain questions regarding the budget. The Session and the Finance Committee are committed to using fewer unrestricted endowment funds to balance the budget.

The Ministry Budget Balance Sheet October 2009 was reviewed. The total Ministry Budget for 2009 is \$326,609. Ministry giving at the end of October 2009 is \$145,993.75 which is short \$23,921.25 of the budgeted amount of \$169,915. A special gift of \$10,000 was received this year and \$3,996.79, from previous years expenses not used for pensions, totaling \$13,996.79, has been used for the current Ministry Budget.

November 10, 2009

Our budgeted expenses are down by \$41,026.04. This year, to date (October 31, 2009), we have used \$18,000 of bequeathed funds (\$18,000. budgeted for the year). Unrestricted Endowment Funds, interest or principal was also budgeted (\$71,859.00) to meet our monthly obligations. To Date, October 31, 2009, we have used \$35,000. The Ministry Budget has used a total of \$53,000 of our bequeathed and unrestricted endowment funds interest and principal.

We encourage the use of Scrip Cards for your holiday gift and food purchases. When you see the members of the Scrip Committee, thank them for all their efforts and volunteer hours to this viable mission of First Church.



Ministry Cash Flow Report

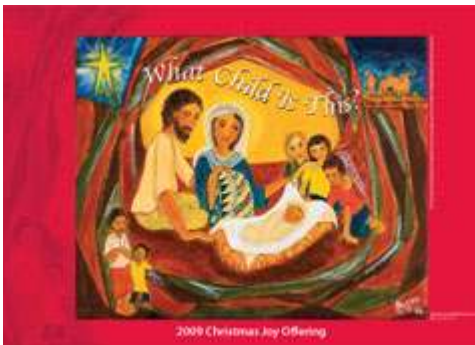
October 2009

Beginning Balance	\$1,058.62
Receipts from Offering	\$14,595.48
Receipts from Endowment Funds	\$7,000.00
Expenses	(\$21,154.72)
Payroll tax and transfer timing differences	\$96.76
Ending Balance	\$1,596.14

Special Scrip for the Holidays

The scrip program is offering specials for the Christmas holidays. Kwik Trip is offering \$10 gas cards, Festival Foods is offering \$15.00 and \$25.00 grocery cards and Woodman's is offering \$25.00 grocery cards. We now have a new vendor, Wine Premiere who is offering a \$25.00 gift card and we receive 5%.

If you are planning on giving gift cards for Christmas, be sure to consider using the scrip program. Thanks for using scrip.



Christian Education

Christmas Pageant

The infamous First Presbyterian children's Christmas pageant will be Thursday, **December 24 at 5:30 pm**. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate.

It is always a delight and great joy to experience this wonderful evening as the Christmas story is retold with the simple loving hearts of the children. Please join us!



Rehearsal Schedule

The children will start to learn the music during their regular choir practice time on Sunday mornings from 8:45 am - 9:00 am. Special rehearsal dates and times are as follows:

Saturday, December 19,
9:30 – 11:30 am (snack)

Tuesday, December 22,
5:30 - 7:00 pm (light dinner)

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Ten Commandment Bible study is taking a break to study "Advent of the Savior" by Cindy Bunch. It is a six week Advent Life Guide study that will start on **Tuesday, November 24th** and end **January 5th** (taking off December 29th). **ANYONE** is welcome to join the group at **11:00 am** in the **Memorial Room!!!!!!**



Men's Bible Study/Breakfast

We will meet **Saturday, December 5, in Banner Hall at 8:00a.m.** The Book of James is our current study. This self proclaimed servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ has much to say about the life we need to live as Christians.

We are using the Fisherman Bible Study Series, 'JAMES, Faith in Action' and we are in study 2 and 3.

Our breakfast will feature Christmas treats.

Come and join us and a Merry Christmas to all.



NO Sunday School
December 27, and January 3
New Year's Kick Off
January 10 at 9:00 am

Fireproof Bible Study

The next gathering for the couple's Fireproof Study will be held on Saturday, **December 12, from 5–7 pm**. As usual, the evening will start with a potluck dinner and followed by the study.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee encourages you to engage in the spiritual discipline of reflection. The end of 2009 is rapidly approaching. For all of us, this is an opportunity to review our pledge in 2009 and to thank God for being able to meet it or to ask God whether we have the means to fulfill it if there is an amount remaining. For some of us, this reflection may also offer a chance to pay per capita (\$27) if this was not done. Others of us may have experienced a

great financial blessing in 2009 and wish to give a special end-of-year gift to the church. May God speak to each of us as we reflect on the past year and our financial stewardship.

A final note: our financial secretary informs us that for bookkeeping purposes the last deposit for the year will be made at noon on December 30th. Any contributions after that time will be deposited in 2010 and credited on your 2010 giving statements.

Christmas Reunion (from pg3)

home again all the 35 years in between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

(True Story by Pastor Rob Reid;
www.inspire21.com)

Behold, I bring you tidings of Great Joy

Groups / Special Interests

December Birthdays!!

Pantry News

The Pantry staff are looking for a few, regular, consistent workers to help the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 10:00-12:00. With the winter season coming, our Pantry staff will be changing. First United Presbyterian Church of De Pere has offered to continue doing the bagging on the Monday before Pantry day. Please pray about helping with this mission!

-The Pantry Staff.

Pres Folk

We will be having a joyous time at our Pres Folk Christmas party on the 17th. There will be music, singing, contests, puzzles and a good time for all. If you have any Christmas treasures that you would like to display for our enjoyment, please bring them along and place them on the display table. Our hostess, Marion Waldron, has planned a very good Christmas treat for us to enjoy.

Plan to mark this on your holiday calendar as a must attend event and ask a friend to join you.

A Merry Christmas to everyone.

Scholarship Bake Sale

The scholarship committee is holding a bake sale after worship on Sunday **December 20** in **Banner Hall**. Bakers are asked to bring a plate of cookies, bars, cakes, pies, breads, etc. All baked goods will sell for **\$10**. What a great time of year to bake and buy some wonderful delights, right in time for Christmas!



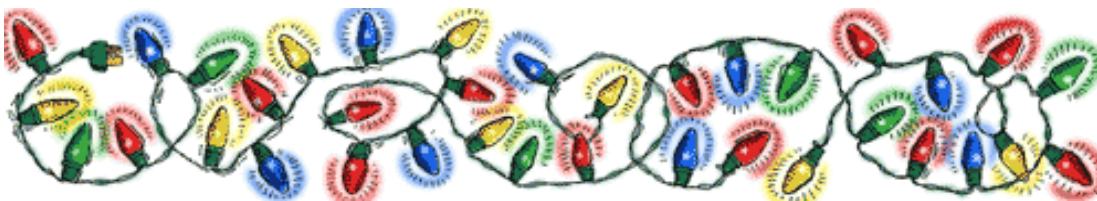
New Church Directories

The new Church Directories from Olan Mills are available for pick up at First Presbyterian. The directories are a great way to familiarize yourself with members of the congregation, staff, and session members.

There is also an insert page to take with you that has some corrections from the first page. Pick yours up today!

Gift of Music

It has been suggested that the worship services during Advent and the Christmas season would be enhanced if the talented members of our church family were invited to provide additional musical selections. If you are willing to provide a vocal or instrumental number for services during this most important time of the year, please call Allan Russell at 468-1461.



Ungabunga Tribe — Lock In

On **Friday, December 18**, the Ungabunga Tribe will gather at First Presbyterian for the "Wrap In Lock In". Presents for the Christmas prayer baskets will be wrapped during these fun hours. Christmas music, delicious food, and of course lots of fun.

Parent's Night Out!

Last minute shopping, or just a quiet dinner without the kids...sound impossible? Not on **December 18 from 6:30 until 9:00 pm**. The youth group will entertain your children for you during their lock in. All you have to do is take advantage of this great opportunity and enjoy!

Newsletter Deadline!

The December deadline is December 16! Please submit your ideas and of course your articles to Jodie Harmsen or place them in the newsletter mailbox in the office workroom.

James Hutchins
Deb Shober
Sammie Phillips
Joshua Kabacinski
Ruth King
Kaitlin Exl
John Early
Eleanor Gauthier
Kathyrine Gauthier
Russell Hansen
Kevin Escott
Jay Rietz
Randy Cartier
Pat Piaskowski
Kelly Charapata
Debbie Gauthier
Juanita De Mary
Russ Christensen
Beth Ryder
Payson Valinski
Gary Mc Nitt
Anthony Halloran
Cynthia Kordus
Christina Kordus
Felicia Young
Jessica Gauthier
Kirke Ryder
Ted Schimmel
David Nero
Barbara Leicht
Peggy Wolfe
Adam Hearley
Thomas Kisela
Ken Solper
Wyatt Laughrin
David Jansch

DECEMBER

2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 –12:30 pm Tatters 12:30 – 3:00 pm	2 Chancel Choir 7: 00 – 8:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 –7:45 pm	3 Stephen Ministers 6:30 – 8:00 pm Nativity Catholic Church	4	5 Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study 8:00 am
6 Second Sunday of Advent Children’s Choir 8:45 am Sunday School /Adult Study 9:00 am Worship with Ken Medema 10:00 am Confirmation Class/ Ken Medema Concert 4 pm – 6 pm	7 Finance Committee 6:30 – 8 pm	8 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 pm Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 –12:30 pm Tatters 12:30 – 3:00 pm Christian Education 6:30 – 8 pm Buildings & Grounds	9 Chancel Choir 7: 00 – 8:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 –7:45 pm	10 Esther Circle 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	11	12 Fireproof Study/ Potluck 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
13 Third Sunday of Advent Children’s Choir 8:45 am Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00am Installation and Ordina- tion of New Officers	14	15 Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 –12:30 pm Tatters/Luncheon 11:30 – 3:00 pm	16 Staff Christmas Party 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Stewardship 5:15 –7:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7: 00 – 8:00 pm	17 Pres Folk Christmas Party 1:00 pm –3:00 pm Stephen Ministers 6:30 – 8:00 pm	18 Youth Group Wrap In Lock In	19 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 am – 11:30 am
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Children’s Choir 8:45 am Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Confirmation Class with Mentors 6:30 –8 :00 pm	21 Mission and Social Concerns 5:00 – 7:00 pm First Day of Winter	22 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 pm Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 –12:30 pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 –7:30 pm Session 6 – 8 pm	23 Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7: 00 – 8:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Pageant 5:30—6:30 Christmas Candle- light Service 8:00 – 9:00 pm	25 Happy Birthday Jesus! Christmas Day/Office is closed	26
27 NO Children’s Choir NO Sunday School Worship 10:00 am	28	29	30 Last Day for financial Giving for 2009 Chancel Choir 7: 00 – 8:00 pm	31	January 1 Happy New Year Office is Closed	

Bible Quiz

Only one of the four gospels has the story of King Herod being fearful when he learned from the wise men that a special baby had been born. The wise men asked, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” Shocked and threat-

ened by their query, Herod pretended to want to pay his respects to the newborn himself. He asked the wise men to return and tell him where the child was. Then he ordered his soldiers to kill every male child age 2 and under. That ancient holocaust is often called the Slaughter of the Innocents, or the Massacre of the Infants.

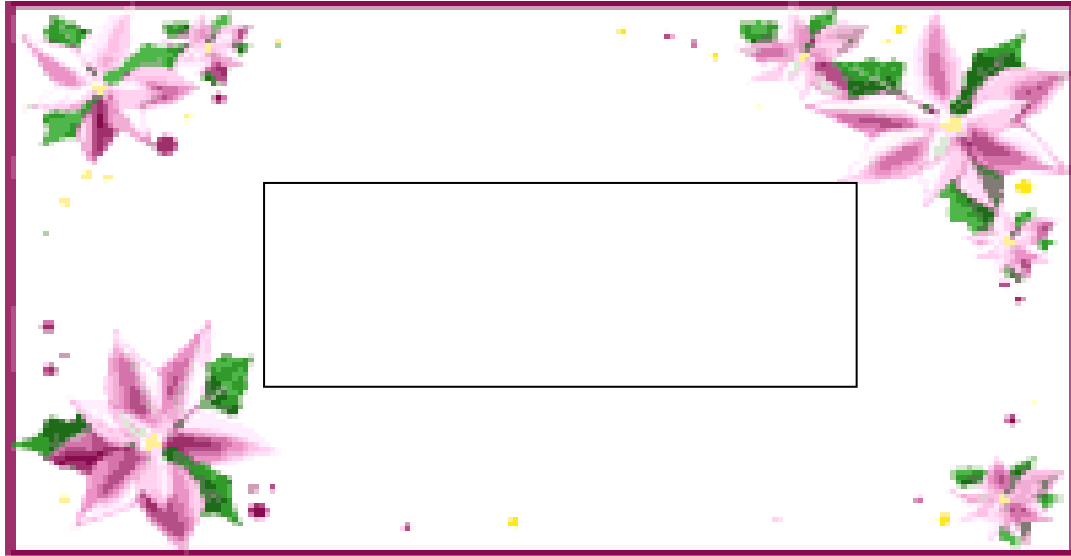
Which gospel contains the shocking story?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



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Visit us Online!
www.firstpresgreenbay.org

Christmas Prayer Baskets

The Mission and Social Concerns committee would like to invite everyone at First Presbyterian to participate in our 2009 Christmas Prayer Basket mission with Tank School. We have adopted three families this year. The “Angel” Family, the “Star” family, and the “Baby Jesus” family. Each one of these families needs a First Presbyterian Family Coordinator. There are sign up sheets for Family Coordinators on the board in the hallway downstairs from the sanctuary. Guidelines for family coordinators are available by the sign up to take and review.

Each family member from our adopted families completed a Wish List. There are three trees in the back of the sanctuary, one for each family. The items from each family’s Wish List are ornaments on their tree. Please pick an item, bring to church, and place in the “Angel”, “Star”, or “Baby Jesus” collection box by **3:00 pm Thursday December 17**. The youth group will be

wrapping all gifts on **Friday, December 18**. Additional donations needed include cleaning supplies, toilet paper, personal hygiene supplies, etc. Each family will also receive a Christmas dinner.

On behalf of the Mission and Social Concerns committee, we would like to encourage and thank each of you for reaching out into our community and making our Tank School adopted family’s Christmas as special as your own. Share the spirit of this blessed season!



“An Ode to Christmas Lights”

Bursting through December nights
That could be long and cold,
Our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
With colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
And from trees both small and tall,
The lights cry out, “We have good news!”
We want to shout to all.

“You’ve seen the darkness earth can hold,
The sorrow, war and fear;
But God has sent his Son for all,
To show his Love is here.

“The darkness can’t put out God’s Light.
Christ’s with us day by day,
Illuminating paths so we
Can follow in his way.”

Light homes and streets and candles.
Make your world shine clear and bright.
God’s love surrounds and blesses us.
Come, celebrate God’s Light!
—Peggy Ferrell