

Crossroads

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay

December 2010

Where God's Dream is Alive

“TODAY IN
THE TOWN
OF DAVID
A SAVIOR HAS
BEEN BORN
TO YOU;
HE IS CHRIST
THE LORD.”

LUKE 2:11, NIV

“Sing a Song of Christmas”

The reason for the season! Join us **Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.** to witness the miracle of Jesus' birth through song and play during the annual Children's Pageant. Sure to delight and warm every heart with the story of wonder! Candle lighting will immediately follow the performance.

A Note from Pastor Randy

The worship committee has recruited a special group of worship planners for Advent this year. I want to extend a big thank you to those from the congregation who recently met together with Nancy Siewert, reviewed worship resources, brainstormed ideas, and assumed responsibilities for the Sundays of Advent. The Advent planners include Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges and her children Jordan and Julia, Tom Schoffelman and his son Brandt, Nancy Blashka, and Jo Leicht. We all look forward to experiencing worship with their guidance and vision!

For my part, I plan to do a series of sermons based on the Gospel readings from the lectionary that I am calling **ADVENT AND THE ART OF LIVING**.

Week 1: “The Art of Watchful Living” (November 28)
Matthew 24:36-44

Week 2: “The Art of Living with Fire” (December 5)
Matthew 3:1-12

Week 3: “The Art of Living with Stumbling Blocks”
Matthew 11:2-11 (December 12)

Week 4: “The Art of Living with Dreams”
Matthew 1:18-25 (December 19)

Let us all pray that this will be a wonderful Advent season. See you in church!

Peace to you,
Pastor Randy



Christmas Prayer Baskets

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee would like to invite everyone at First Pres to participate in our 2010 Christmas Prayer Basket mission with Tank School. We have adopted three families this year. The three families are the Angel Family, Star Family, and Baby Jesus Family. Each one of these families needs a First Pres Family Coordinator. There will be sign up sheets for Family Coordinators on the M&SC board at the bottom of the stairs along with an additional copy of the guidelines for each Family Coordinator to take and review.

Each family member from our adopted families will complete a Wish List. There will be three Christmas 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

Christmas Prayer Baskets



box by **3 p.m. THURSDAY DEC 16TH**. The Youth group will be wrapping all gifts on **FRIDAY DEC 17TH**. Additional donations needed include: cleaning supplies, toilet paper, personal hygiene supplies, etc. Each family will also receive a Christmas dinner. On behalf of the First Pres M&SC committee we would like to encourage and thank each of you for reaching out into our community and making your Tank School adopted family's Christmas as special as your own. Share the spirit of this blessed season!

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

Congratulations!

New Baby:

Eli James born on November 3 to Jim and Andrea Solper

New Address:

Holly and Donna Jansen
4039 Ponce de Leon,
Oneida, WI 54155
Phone number is the same

Prayer Circle:

New Concerns:

Olivia Roosa, Granddaughter of Sue and Allen Russell

Special Concerns:

Bill and Evelyn Burns, Bellevue Retirement community; **Ralph Rasmussen**, Angel's Touch Assisted Living in DePere; **Alice Ackerboom**, Bornemann Nursing Home; **Dorothy Shell**, Marla Vista; **Blossom Witt**, Woodside Manor III; **Louise Anderson**, Woodside Oaks; **Marie Renier**, Marla Vista; **Catherine Parkinson**, at home; **Peggy Wolfe**, Renaissance; **Eileen Warner**, Rebecca Haven Nursing Home;

Christian Sympathy:

To Kay Cartier upon the death of her sister, **Char Sloan** of Marietta, Ga., who passed away on Friday, November 12.



Marguerite Schader Hall, Bellevue Retirement Community and **Virginia Turner**, (Brian Hulse' mother) Columbus, Ohio.

Ongoing Concerns:

Dennis Siewert, **Barb Lasnoski**, at home, **Rose Marie Rhoads** (Linda Van Pay's sister), **Chris Belanger** (son of John and Mary Belanger), **Caroline Olsen** (grandmother of Teri Olsen), **Cheri Housel** (Ginny Amen's niece), **Scott Zernicke**, **Meredith Ingram**, **Barbara Batal**, **Heather Lasnoski**, **Richard Parkinson**, **Dayle Rosen**, **John Herman** (Army) and **Scotty Herman** (Green Beret), grandsons of Elsie Herman, serving in Afghanistan.

Newsletter Deadline!

The deadline is **December 20!** Please submit your articles to Jodie Harmsen or place them in the newsletter mailbox in the workroom.

Contributors for this issue are, Dennis Siewert, Nancy Siewert, Deb Shober, Kirke Ryder, David Wilson, Pastor Randy, Leah Mott, Megan Jurens, and Linda Cigler. Thank you!

Stewardship Sunday Results

We had good attendance and an excellent response during our Stewardship Sunday on October 24th, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and fellowship in Banner Hall. The participation in worship and fellowship that day was a sign of the vitality of our congregation – Thank You for being there!

We utilized the Ken Medema Stewardship program “The Offering as Worship” this year, and rather than requesting financial contributions to support the budget, we’ve asked people to grow spiritually by giving a percentage of their income to the Lord’s work through our congregation. As Ken Medema reminds us, “we need to emphasize that our giving to God and God’s giving to us are linked. This is centrally expressed in Christ, around whom we gather in worship and to whom we offer our lives.”

As part of year-round stewardship, many in attendance completed *Commitment Cards* indicating their

anticipated financial contribution to the church in 2011. Based on the cards received to date (Nov. 22), we are behind from our pledges from 2010.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Pledge Cards Returned	105	124
Funds Pledged	\$163,000	\$205,000

If you still have not pledged, we encourage you to return your *Commitment Card* to the church office. If it hasn’t been your recent practice to pledge, we encourage you to begin with any amount that is an expression of your gratitude for God’s abundant blessings. Thank you for your help in bringing our stewardship program to a good conclusion.

Thank you again from the Stewardship Committee.

In Christ’s Love,
Kirke Ryder, Chairperson



Worship is Part of Stewardship

When we are not able to attend worship we not only miss the joy of singing and praising our heavenly Father but we are deprived of fellowship with one another. The writer of James knew the effect this would have on the church when he said; “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...” Heb. 10:25a NIV

This is especially true during Advent. In addition of feeling hope, joy and wonderful expectations can surround us. Join us this Advent season and wrap yourself in the stewardship of Worship!

Ministry Cash Flow September, 2010

Beginning Balance	\$1,700.44
Receipts from Offering	\$16,881.00
Receipts from Perpetual 3%	\$5,500.00
Expenses	(\$22,347.44)
Payroll tax and transfer timing differences	(217.11)
Ending Balance	\$1,516.89

Church Leadership Elders

Class of 2011

Nancy Siewert, Lisa Olson,
Kirke Ryder and Phil Mikulsky

Class of 2012

John Early, Jay Rietz, Dawn Spang,
and Tammy Escott

Class of 2013

Brian Hulse, Kay Davis, Brian Kage,
and Hollister Jansen

Clerk of Session:

Tammy Escott

Deacons

Class of 2011

Carol Mickelson, Lynne Shoher,
And Connie Early

Class of 2012

Ann Argall, Russ Christensen,
Holly Gehri, and Sue Mikulsky

Class of 2013

Susan Rietz, Deb Shoher,
Abby Jackson, and Amy Wittman

Staff

Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Randy Argall

Director of Christian Education:

Megan Jurens

Administrative Assistant:

Leah Mott

Financial Secretary:

Linda Cigler

Music Ministries:

Allan Russell (Choir Director)
Don VerKuilen (Organist)
Jenny Solper (Pianist)
Mary Steeno (Children’s Choir)

Custodian:

Mary Belanger

Committee Meeting Notes - November 8, 2010



The Finance Committee continues to monitor the 2010 Ministry Budget. We have used \$10,800 in addition to the budgeted amount of \$14,000 for the Ministry Budget from Endowment Funds. We will also be recommending taking \$10,000 from emergency cash reserve fund to meet our obligations.

We continue to review the 2011 Ministry Budget and Stewardship Campaign.

2010 - Ministry Budget Year to Date: October 31, 2010 – Status

Budgeted Giving To Date	\$187,597.50
Received Amount	\$157,956.25
Special Gifts	\$ 10,000.00
Budgeted Expenses To Date	\$245,572.50
Actual Expenses To Date	\$229,188.69
Endowment Funds Budgeted	\$ 14,000.00
Amount Used To Date	\$ 24,800.00
Over Budget	\$ 10,800.00

Bequest income Budgeted \$ 12,000.00

2010 Ministry Budget Special Note

Approved Budget has a deficit of \$11,241.00

Special Giving Opportunities

2010 Capital Budget for Special Projects \$10,200.00

To date these projects have been funded through Endowment Funds.

- Computers \$ 2,000.00
- Securing Office \$ 1,500.00
- Yard Equipment \$ 1,200.00
- Carpet Cleaning \$ 1,000.00

Sanctuary Carpet was cleaned at a cost of \$471.96

- Sidewalk Repairs \$ 500.00
- Parking Lot Repairs \$ 3,500.00

This project has been completed at a cost of \$3,230.00

It's Time To Acknowledge You

The Endowment Committee of First Presbyterian Church wants to THANK YOU for your future generosity. We know many of you have provided a future gift to this Church as it has, is and will continue to be an important part of your life.



Estate Planning

Estate planning is a very easy task to procrastinate on but it is a very, very important task. If you do not have an estate plan in place that protects your family and protects your estate from unnecessary taxation or if your estate plan is out-of-date, we urge you to take action and correct this situation.

For Christians, there is an added dimension to estate planning – recognizing that God is the owner of our estate, places us in a responsible position as a steward. It is important that we use our estate assets to their fullest potential during our lifetimes for our personal, family, business and for His glory. As a steward, we must also arrange for the most efficient and effective transfer of our assets at death to individuals or charitable interests who will continue to use them to reflect biblical values.

While almost all of the reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of an estate plan can have devastating impact on an estate. A proper estate plan should accomplish the following:

- Express God's plan of stewardship
- Provide for all financial and guardianship needs for all dependents.
- Transfer the assets God has entrusted you to individual and charitable beneficiaries.
- Transfer your estate in a tax efficient manner with the least possible amount of heartache, cost or delay.

If you have already arranged for such a future gift, thank you. If not, we invite you to consider a bequest or other future gift provision.



Christian Education/Special Interest Groups

Men's Bible Study

The men are continuing their study of "On Who Is God?" written by Mark Driscoll. Last month, chapter three, Nature of God, had us study the shared and unshared attributes of our God. We do not share such attributes as being all powerful, all knowing, and ever present; but we do have a spirit, and can strive for holiness, and be loving and merciful.

On **December 4, at 8:00 a.m.** in Banner Hall, chapter four will have us study Jesus Christ the Incarnation of God. Please plan on joining us if you would like to enjoy fellowship, learning and an enjoyable Christmas breakfast.



Pres Folk Christmas Joy



Our December meeting will be on the **16th**, from **1:00 to 3:00 pm**, in the **Fellowship Room**.

This will be our annual Christmas party, with music performed by Gina Bordini, carol singing led by Pat Piaskowski, laughter and good fellowship.

David Wilson will be our host. If you have a special Christmas salad or treat that you would like to share with everyone please give him a call.

All are welcome, so bring a friend and come and join us for this festive time. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the fellowship bulletin board.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Rehearsals are underway for "Sing a Song of Christmas", this years Christmas Eve Children's Pageant. The children are learning the songs during choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings from **8:45 – 9:00 am in the sanctuary**.

Costumes are being assigned each week until the first Saturday morning rehearsal on **December 18** from **9:30 –11:30 am**. The final rehearsal before the big show will be Thursday, **December 23** from **5:30 –7:00 pm**.

If your child would like to participate but won't be able to make the practices, or if you can help in any way, please contact **Dawn Spang** as soon as possible so that he/she can be included.

The **Christmas Eve** Performance is scheduled for **5:30 – 6:30 pm**. Plan on having your children at church by **4:30 pm**.

Nothing Much

In 1925, the New York World celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday with a now-classic cartoon. Two Kentucky farmers are talking over a picket fence. One asks, "Anything new happen lately?" The other responds, "Nothing much. A new baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's place, but nothing much ever happens around here."

I'm sure there were folks who said the same thing in Bethlehem [on Christmas Eve]. I can picture them, can't you? Standing on the corner, just outside the inn. "Anything new happen around here? Naw, just a baby born down in the stable. Nothing much ever happens around here."

—James A. Harnish



Book Marks

Advent and Christmas books for adults and children will be on display and ready for check out beginning **November 28**, the first Sunday of Advent.

Devotionals, fiction and nonfiction, picture and chapter books, will be available for you.



Catch Your Breath!

Sometimes catching a breath in this busy time of year is easier said than done. Here are some breath prayers for you to try when you need a few moments of quiet and prayer. Stuck in traffic waiting for a train? In a long check out lane? Washing dishes, wrapping presents, raking the last of the leaves, taking out the garbage. These are all great moments to breath deeply and relax into a breath prayer. Even a few moments spent in this kind of prayer can be refreshing and quieting.

Rhythmically repeat the word or phrase, breaking as indicated by the slash (/), inhaling and then exhaling.

Je/sus

The Lord/is my shepherd

I have called you by name/and you are mine /come/Holy Spirit Be still and know/that I am God /Jesus/fill me.

Special Interests

Pantry Food Drive

The Pantry is having a special Christmas food drive until the first of the year. Please bring your non perishable items to church and place them in the boxes in the entry way! Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Confirmation Class of 2010

Congratulations to the eight young adults that professed their faith on Sunday November 7 during worship.

It was very awe inspiring to see such young adults be so confident in their faith. What a wonderful foundation for the rest of their lives!



Nursery Attendant Position

The Personnel and Administration Committee is accepting applications for the position of Nursery Attendant. If you are interested, please see Leah for a copy of the job description and an application.

Snow Shoveler Needed!

Kay Cartier is in need of someone to shovel her sidewalks during the winter months. Kay has been a longtime member and neighbor of First Pres for many years. If anyone is interested please contact **Leah Mott** at **437-8121**.

Click for Cans Contest

Help our local pantries with a "click." Vote for the Green Bay Packers throughout the season in the Chunky "Click for Cans" contest. The winning city receives a major soup donation to local food banks. It is our understanding that in this particular contest, the Packers have never been beaten! Go to <http://clickforcans.com/> to support this cause.

The Confirmands are (Front row):

Hailey Gossen, Abby Jansen, Lauren Olsen, Lisa Escott, and Katie McCormick.

(Back Row): Pastor Randy, Bryan Ryder, Dayton Wellner, and Gian Bordini.

Quote of the Month:

"A person may decide either to accept or reject Christ, but once he or she accepts Christ, it is not for that person to decide whether or not to be a steward, for one becomes a steward when one becomes a Christian."

- Luther Powell

December Birthdays!

James Hutchins

Deb Shober

Samm Phillips

Joshua Kabacinski

Ruth King

John Early

Eleanor Gauthier

Kathyrine Gauthier

Russel Hansen

Tracie Varner

Kevin Escott

Jay Rietz

Randy Cartier

Pat Piaskowski

Kelly Charapata

Debbie Gauthier

Juanita De Mary

Russ Christensen

Beth Ryder

Payson Valinski

Gary McNitt

Anthony Halloran

Cynthia Kordus

Christina Kordus

Jessica Gauthier

Kirke Ryder

Ted Schimmel

David Nero

Barbara Leicht

Peggy Wolfe

Adam Hearley

Thomas Kisela

Ken Solper

Wyatt Laughrin

DECEMBER

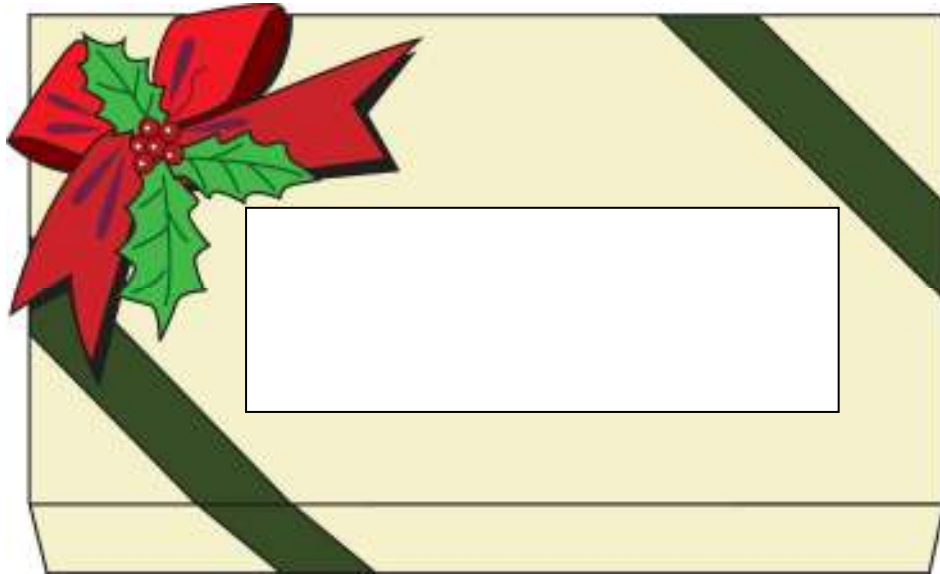
2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm Lectionary Study 7:00 –8:00 pm	2 Stephen Ministers 6:00 – 7:30 pm Nativity Catholic Church	3	4 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 8:00 am – 10:00 am
5 Children's Choir Adult Study 8:45 am Sunday School 9:00 –9:45 am Worship 10:00 am Communion Communion for the homebound 1:15 –4:00 pm	6 Buildings and Grounds 6:30 –8:00 pm	7 Personnel and Administration 9:30 – 12:30 pm The Commoner's 12:15 – 2:00 pm Early Headstart 3:00 – 8:00 pm	8 Mission and Social Concerns 5:30 –7:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm Lectionary Study 7:00 –8:00 pm	9 Esther Circle 1:00 –3:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 – 9:00 pm		
12 Children's Choir Adult Study 8:45 am Sunday School 9:00 –9:45 am Worship 10:00 am 	13 Staff Meeting 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Finance Committee 6:30 – 8:00 pm	14 Food Pantry 10 am – 12:00 pm The Commoner's 12:15 – 2:00 pm Tatters 12:30 – 3:00 pm Early Headstart 3:00 – 8:00 pm Seymour Park Mtg. 5:30 –6:30 pm Church Chix 6:00 – 8:00 pm Christian Education 6:30 – 8:00 pm	15 Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm Lectionary Study 7:00 –8:00 pm	16 Pres Folk 1:00 – 3:00 pm Stephen Ministers 6:30 – 8:00 pm Nativity Catholic Church	17 Youth Group Christmas Gift Wrapping and Lock-In	18 Youth Group Christmas Gift Wrapping and Lock-In Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 –11:30 am
19 Children's Choir & Adult Study 8:45 am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45 am Worship 10:00 am Bible Study "Finding Balance" 5:00 –7:00 pm	20	21 The Commoner's 12:15 – 2:00 pm Early Headstart 3:00 – 8:00 pm	22 Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm Lectionary Study 7:00 –8:00 pm	23 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 – 7:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Pageant 5:30 –6:30 pm	25 
26 NO Sunday School Worship 10:00 am	27	28 Food Pantry 10 am – 12:00 pm The Commoner's 12:15 – 2:00 pm Early Headstart 3:00 – 8:00 pm Session 6:30 – 8:30 pm	29 History and Preservation 9:30 – 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm	30	31 	

First Presbyterian Church
200 S. Ashland Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54303

Phone: 920-437-8121
Fax: 920-437-0720

Visit us Online!
www.firstpresgreenbay.org



A Christmas Message

Christmas holds the mystery
Of how God touched the earth
By giving us the Christ child
In a newborn baby's birth.

Great awe was in young Mary's heart,
And in the shepherds' pace
As they ran quickly to the town
And found that special place.

These humble shepherds knelt before
This tiny newborn king;
And as they did so, they could hear
The lovely angels sing:

"Fear not, for unto you this day,
The Prince of Peace has come
To share God's love throughout the world.
Rejoice now, everyone!"

—Peggy Ferrell

