

Crossroads

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay

December 2011

Where God's Dream is Alive

Christmas Prayer Baskets



The Mission and Social Concerns Committee would like to invite everyone at First Pres. to participate in our 2011 Christmas Prayer Basket mission with Tank School. As in the past, we have adopted three families this year. The three families are the Angel Family, Star Family, and Baby Jesus Family.

Each family member from our adopted families has completed a Wish List. There are three Christmas trees in



What to give?

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
 - To an opponent, tolerance.
 - To a friend, your heart.
 - To a customer, service.
 - To all men, charity.
 - To every child, a good example.
 - To yourself, respect.
- Oren Arnold

the back of the sanctuary, one for each family. The items from each family's Wish Lists 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 PM THURSDAY DECEMBER 15TH**. The Youth group will be wrapping all gifts on **FRIDAY DECEMBER 16TH**. 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. and M&SC 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!

Pantry Toy Shop

Christmas is just around the corner and the Toy Shop is looking for gently used items from babies through adults. There are many families that use our Pantry and we would like them to have a nice Christmas. If you are able to make donations the items are needed by the end of November for sorting.

Volunteers are needed to help set up on **December 12** and be a Santa helper on **December 13** during the pantry hours of **10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.**. If you are interested sign up on the bulletin board in the church hallway. Thank you!

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The young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14, NRSV

A Note from Pastor Randy

At our last confirmation class we talked about the church calendar. I asked the young people in the class to name their favorite season of the church year. More than one said, "Christmas." Perhaps many of you would say the same. What is the appeal of this season?



Is it the inspiring music? If so, you will be delighted to hear our choir sing the cantata "The Wondrous Story" on Sunday, December 18.

Is it the excitement etched on the faces of children? If so, you will want to be present for the children's Christmas pageant "For the Glory of the King" at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.

Is it the opportunity to meditate on the mystery of God's coming to us in Jesus Christ? If so, you will want to participate in the 9:00 p.m. service of carols and readings on Christmas Eve.

Is it the joy we have in giving to others as well as receiving? If so, you are encouraged to select a gift that will go into a Christmas Prayer Basket for a needy family at Tank

School. You will also have the opportunity to support the denomination's Christmas Joy Offering on December 24.

Is it the stunning beauty of our surroundings? If so, you will want to thank the individuals who decorate our church building and sanctuary with Christmas trees and flowers. You might also decide to order a poinsettia for yourself or someone special.

Christmas is a favorite season for all of these reasons, and more. I pray that you and your family will have a blessed Christmas this year!

Peace,
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.

New Newsletter Editor

Please help in thanking Hailey Gossen for stepping up to be First Presbyterian's new newsletter editor. Hailey is a senior at West De Pere High school. She works at Pizza Hut, is involved in band, and is looking to study journalism in college.

She will do an excellent job putting her own refreshing twist on the newsletter.



Grateful Heart

Thank you First Presbyterian for allowing me to be your newsletter editor for the past three years. As my family and I head for Illinois, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you in this congregation. You are one of the most helpful, caring and loving group of people that I have had the privilege to know. We will miss all of you very much.

If you are new to this church, or haven't been able to attend in a while, I encourage you to come to First Presbyterian and get involved in any way you can. It changes you in so many positive ways that I can only say how much of a grateful heart I have for doing so.

Blessings to all of you,
Jodie Harmsen

Newsletter Deadline!

The deadline is **December 26!** Please submit your articles to **Hailey Gossen** or place them in the newsletter mailbox in the workroom.

Contributors for this issue are Pastor Randy, Linda Cigler, Megan Jurrens, Leah Mott, Dennis Siewert, Deb Shober, and David Wilson.

Church Life

Prayer Circle:

Special Concerns:

Bill Burns, Angel's Touch Assisted Living; **Ralph Rasmussen**, Angel's Touch Assisted Living in DePere; **Alice Ackerboom**, Bornemann Nursing Home; **Dorothy Shell**, Marla Vista; **Louise Anderson**, Woodside Oaks; **Marie Renier**, Marla Vista; **Catherine Parkinson**, at home; **Peggy Wolfe**, Renaissance; **Eileen Warner**, Rebecca Haven Nursing Home; **Marguerite Schader Hall**, Bellevue Retirement Community and **Virginia Turner**, (Brian Hulse's mother) Columbus, Ohio.



New Members!

Congratulations to **Kolawole and Kelechi Omotoso** who joined First Presbyterian on November 20. We are very excited to welcome you into our church family!

Celebration of Baptism:

Yeside Omotoso daughter of Kolawole and Kelechi Omotoso on November 20.

A Season of Giving!

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee sent donations to the following non-profit agencies: SOFT, \$100; JOSHUA, \$150; Habitat for Humanity, \$150; EPH, \$150; St. John's Homeless Shelter, \$150; Freedom House, \$250; Presbyterian Pantry, \$500 and Altrusa House, \$150. They also sent \$350 of the Pentecost Offering to Family and Childcare Resource Center for at-risk children.

Ongoing Concerns:

Dan Larson, Marjorie Holmes, Pat Piaskowski, Kay Cartier, Tracie Varner, Diane Slago and Jim Bouche (friends of Dorothy Shell), **Gerald Van Pay** (brother of Gary Van Pay), **Rose Marie Rhoads** (Linda Van Pay's sister-in-law), **Don Kisela's** parents, **Cheri Housel** (Ginny Amen's niece), **Meredith Ingram, Barbara Batal, Heather (Lasnoski) Brooks, Richard Parkinson, Dayle Rosen, Scotty Herman** (Green Beret), (grandson of Elsie Herman), serving in Afghanistan, **Matt Spang** (Chuck Spang's nephew) serving in Afghanistan.

Known Hospitalized:

Mary Barlament and **Bobbi De Laurelle** in mid November. Both are home and doing well.

Christian Sympathy:

Lisa Olson and her family upon the passing of her grandmother **Margret Hesse**.

New Address:

Bill Burns
Angels Touch Assisted Living
394 Angels Touch Court Rm #7
DePere, WI 54115



Church Leadership Elders

Class of 2012

John Early, Jay Rietz, Dawn Spang, and, Nancy Siewert

Class of 2013

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

Class of 2014

Bruce Deadman, Tammy Escott, Tom Schoffelman and Barry Siewert

Clerk of Session:

Tammy Escott

Deacons

Class of 2012

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

Class of 2013

Deb Shober, Abby Jackson, Judy Knutzen-Nerad, and Amy Wittman

Class of 2014

Gifty Okyere-Berko, Janette Bies, Ruth King, and Lynne Shober

Staff

Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Randy Argall

Director of Christian Education:

Megan Jurrens

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

Finance

2011 - Ministry Budget

August 31, 2011 – Status

Budgeted Giving To Date	\$174,838.40
Received Amount	\$148,966.20
Special Gifts	\$ 10,000.00
Budgeted Expenses To Date	\$238,632.50
Actual Expenses To Date	\$230,339.28
Other Income Budgeted	\$ 19,025.00
Received to Date	\$ 17,208.13
Endowment Budgeted	\$ 35,686.00
Amount Used To Date	\$ 47,500.00
Bequest income Budgeted	\$ 6,000.00
Amount Used to Date:	\$ 6,000.00

2011 Ministry Budget Expenses

\$286,359.00

2011 Ministry Budget Income

\$270,517.00

2011 Ministry Budget Special Note:

Approved Budget has a deficit of \$15,842.00

Special Giving Opportunities

2011 Capital Budget for Special Projects \$10,332.00.

- Carpet Cleaning \$ 132.00
- Sidewalk Repairs \$ 500.00
- Landscaping \$ 3,500.00
- Ski Trip \$ 700.00
(Funded by Christian Education Endowment)
- Personnel & Administration \$ 8,500.00

Highlights from Finance

The Finance Committee reviewed the income Statement & Balance Sheet for October 31, 2011.

We discussed the 2012 Ministry Budget and the results of Pledge Sunday.

The Session approved the recommendation from The Finance Committee for the funding of the replacement of one boiler with two smaller boilers at a cost of \$35,000.

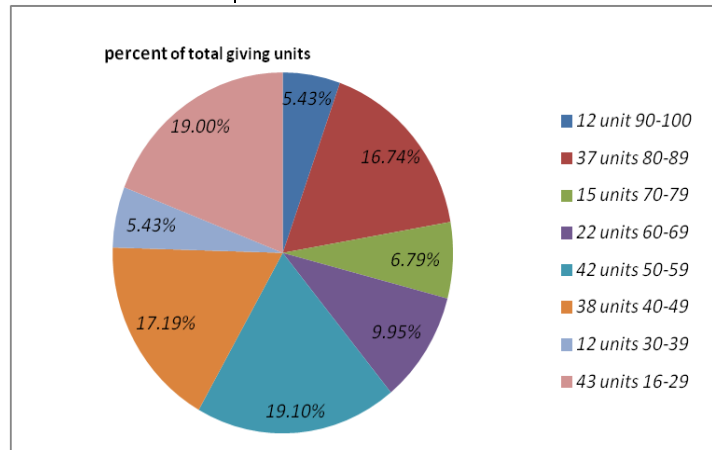
- Use of the remaining balance in the Emergency Cash Reserve Account
- Use the Principal & Interest in the Building Endowment Account (per restrictions in Endowment Charter)
- Use of unrestricted Memorial Accounts
- Remainder of funds needed from Unrestricted Endowment Funds
- Funds received for this project will be directed to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund unless otherwise specified

The Finance Committee believes with the economic climate as it is, this recommendation actually gives First Church an opportunity to invest in itself. The energy dollars saved will also help our Annual Ministry Budget.

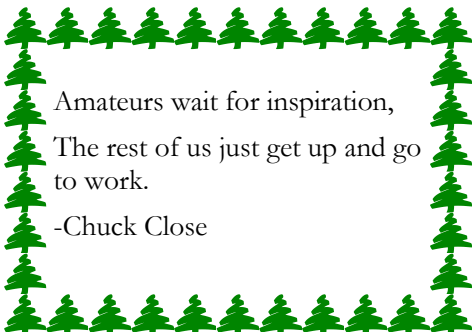
Securing the Future FPC

<u>Number of units in age range</u>	<u>Percent of total giving units</u>
12 unit 90-100	5.43%
37 units 80-89	16.74%
15 units 70-79	6.79%
22 units 60-69	9.95%
42 units 50-59	19.10%
38 units 40-49	17.19%
12 units 30-39	5.43%
<u>43 units 16-29</u>	<u>19.00%</u>
221 total units	100.00%

A giving unit is an individual or a husband and wife assigned an envelope number.



***First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay does have an Endowment Charter whose guidelines are administered by the Finance Committee. Brochures as well as other information are available.



Ministry Cash Flow October, 2011

Beginning Balance	\$1,030.77
Receipts from Offering	\$15,554.20
Perpetual 5% Income	\$8,500.00
Expenses	(\$21,537.42)
Payroll tax and transfer timing differences	<u>\$645.61</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,193.16

Christian Education

Press Folk

Our December Christmas party meeting will be held on Thursday, the **15th**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Room. All members and friends are invited to join with us.

There will be special music, carol singing and Chris Mc Nitt will be telling us about her trip to India. Refreshments will be supplied and if you have a favorite Christmas treat you would like to share bring it along. Have a Blessed Christmas.

Men's Bible Study

Our next meeting will be December **3rd**, in Banner Hall, at **8:00 a.m.** We will be continuing our search into the ministry of "PAUL" 'His Life and Teaching.' In our inductive Bible study we are now seeing how Paul's message is accepted by many but sometimes creates dissention.

We will be studying Chapter 3, 'Poor Yet Rich.'

Paul is relating to the Corinthians how to handle the good times and the rough times. Come and join us in this motivating study.



Photo (from left): Lynaya Spang, Elizabeth Paag, Ken Sann, Robyn Gehri, Devin Wellner, Jake Kabacinski, CJ Olson, Christian Gehri and Megan Jurens.



Fall Presbytery Camp

Lynaya Spang, Elizabeth Paag, Robyn and Christian Gehri, Devin Weller, Jake Kabacinski, CJ Olson, Ken Sann and Megan Jurens attended the 2011 Fall Presbytery Camp from October 27 to 30. 2011 marked the sixth year that Winnebago Presbytery has sent youth to the Wisconsin Lion's Camp in Rosholt Wisconsin. This year the camp was opened up to youth from the Milwaukee Presbytery and boasted a record high attendance of 56 youth and 35 adults.

Throughout the weekend youth and adults participated in numerous activities including a Habitat for Humanity shed build, drum circles, a labyrinth walk, The Amazing Race (camp style!), small focus groups and evening worship led by pastors and youth leaders from around the

Presbytery. The keynote speaker for the weekend was professional story teller Dan LeMonnier who has been touring the world for more than 20 years. Dan's wife Sheri, a world-exhibited Christian artist, helped the youth create personal and group banners.

Plans are already being made for the 2012 Fall Presbytery Camp so if you missed out this year or you want to return you'll have your chance! Camp is open to all youth from sixth to twelfth grade and adult leaders are always needed!

For more information on Dan and Sheri LeMonnier visit their websites at www.banjotales.com and www.sharilemonnier.com.



Christmas Pageant Info

The annual Christmas Pageant group rehearsals will be held on **December 17** from **9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** and **December 23** from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** If you have any questions regarding these times or the pageant please contact **Dawn Spang** or **Mary Steeno**.

Children's Choir will be practicing during the Sunday School hour every Sunday up until the annual **Christmas Pageant** on **December 24** at **5:30 p.m.** Children participating in the program are asked to arrive at church by **4:30 p.m.** to prepare for the performance.



Women's Bible Study

The new women's bible study will be meeting on Sunday, **December 18**. "Becoming a Woman of Prayer" is led by Dawn Spang on the third Sunday of each month. Meetings will start at **5:00 p.m.** Please feel free to bring your own dinner.

Nursery News

Attention Parents! The nursery will be open but unstaffed on **December 24** during the Christmas Eve service and on **Sunday January 1**. Nursery care will be provided on Sunday, **December 25**.

Revised Winter Storm Protocol

Who makes the decision?

The decision to cancel Sunday service and/or classes is made by the Pastor. The Pastor should seek the advice of others, including the Clerk of Session and the chairperson of the Building & Grounds Committee.

What are the criteria for making the cancellation decision?

It is important to note that the cancellation decision is not based on the assumption that Sunday service and/or classes must be held regardless of the weather. Nor is it based on the same standards used by the public schools. It is based on recommendations to the Pastor that take into account the following factors:

- reports on area road conditions
- forecasts of storm continuation
- predicted snow accumulations, temperature and wind chill
- predicted ability of the contracted crew to keep the Church parking lot cleared
- conditions of city streets (are they open enough to allow access to the Church)

How will a cancellation be communicated?

If Sunday service and/or classes are cancelled, the Pastor will:

1. contact the Green Bay TV stations (they prefer email) to request the appropriate announcement. The Pastor will monitor the stations to be sure the announcement appears as requested.



"He's today's greeter."

December Birthdays!

James Hutchins	Beth Ryder
Deb Shober	Payson Valinski
Samantha Phillips	Thongdy Sisavath
Josh Kabacinski	Gary McNitt
Ruby Korver	Anthony Halloran
Ruth King	Cynthia Kordus
John Early	Yeside Omotoso
Eleanor Gauthier	Christina Kordus
Kathyrine Gauthier	Jessica Gauthier
Russell Hansen	Kirke Ryder
Tracie Varner	Ted Schimmel
Kevin Escott	David Nero
Jay Rietz	Barbara Leicht
Randy Cartier	Peggy Wolfe
Pat Piaskowski	Adam Hearley
Kelly Charapata	Thomas Kisela
Debbie Gauthier	Ken Solper
Juanita De Mary	Wyatt Laughrin
Russ Christensen	

2. have the voice mail message at the Church changed to include the cancellation announcement. There is a procedure for doing this from off-site.
3. post a message to the homepage of the church's website.
4. call the Choir Director and Director of Christian Education. These staff members will then contact the choir members and staff/volunteers that have scheduled responsibilities (e.g., organist, pianist, class teachers, etc.).

What if a staff member scheduled to work on Sunday is unable to reach the Church?

If Sunday service and/or classes are NOT cancelled and a staff member scheduled to work on Sunday (e.g., choir

Director, Organist, Nursery Attendant) cannot reach the Church during a winter storm, he/she will telephone the Pastor and Clerk of Session. Additionally, the Choir Director will contact all choir members via telephone or email.

Who decides whether congregation members should try to get to the Church during a winter storm?

The judgment about whether or not to come to Church rests with the individual member. Driving conditions may vary across the wide geographical region in which our members reside. Under no circumstance should anyone who feels it is unsafe attempt the trip. Individuals should take their own local conditions into account as they make their decision.

An Advent Bell for You!

THE BELL

- I KNOW WHO I AM
- I am God's child (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
- I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
- I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
- I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
- I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
- I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
- I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
- I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
- I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
- I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
- I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph.. 3: 12)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
- I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
- I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
- I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

We belong to God!

It's the Gospel!

Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order Poinsettias, the deadline will be December 11th. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary starting December 18. You are welcome to take them home after Christmas morning worship on December 25th.

The poinsettia's are given in honor or memory of loved ones as designated.

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Visit us Online!
www.firstpresgreenbay.org

