

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

January 2017

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...



A Few Pennie's Miracles....

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

My mother had been collecting coins in bottles for two years. She used all kinds of containers from a small baby bottle to a strawberry jam bottle. Whenever anyone in our family had spare change in our pockets, she would ask us to just put it in one of those bottles. I had kind of a negative attitude saying, "Mom, all those coin bottles won't even pay for a lunch. Besides it's making our place messy and cluttered." But she didn't let what I said bother her and kept on putting coins in the bottles. Then, one day, she asked me to help her open all those bottles and calculate the money. It was a very annoying job to sort out all the coins and then count them. But when we finished, I was really surprised by the sum of the coins. It was over \$1,000. The amount was not life changing, but it sure was good enough to pay for a really nice lunch.

It is often true that whenever we are in need, we heap up a good amount of time in prayer all at one time, seeking help and guidance from God. However, praying without ceasing has more of an implication of continuance, not of spending a big portion of time. Praying for a short time, but doing it daily would please God more and move His hand more than spending hours in prayer one day, and neglecting it the rest of the month. It will also make an outstanding difference in your Spiritual growth. Why don't you start now? At the end of this year, you will see that your faith will be tremendously grown and strengthened.



Jay Kim

It Takes a Lot of People

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion	Children's Message	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
1/1	P. Simpson	1) K. Toedtli 2) J. Butzine L. Curtiss G. Gatti J. Green	Hannah Weisgerber	L. Curtiss I. Colerick C. Clarke A. Boots	Amy Boots	Marty Jones	Available Prayer Team Members
1/2		Communion Crossroads					
1/8	P.Simpson		Amanda Mittan	Same	Don and Vickie Hughart	Marty Jones	Available Prayer Team Members
1/15	Open		Manda Clarke	Same	Elaine Potmesil		Available Prayer Team Members
1/22	Open		Kim Hielscher	Same	Gayle Redecker		Available Prayer Team Members
1/29	Open		Pat Dobry		Sue Kammerer		Available Prayer Team Members

****Men's Breakfast****

Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, January 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast!



Statement of Receipts - Fin'l Secretary - December 2016

Offerings	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/24	12/25	Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2016
Pledged Offerings	4,851.50	1,738.50	460.00	1,135.00	\$110.00	8,295.00	97,031.37	105,326.37
Un-pledged Offerings	1,038.00	590.00	180.00	590.00	\$410.00	2,808.00	21,743.00	24,551.00
Loose Offerings	31.00	30.00	27.00	209.75	\$35.00	332.75	1,449.42	1,782.17
Total Offerings	\$5,920.50	\$2,358.50	\$667.00	\$1,934.75	\$555.00	\$11,435.75	\$120,223.79	\$131,659.54

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for another successful Christmas Tea. We entertained about 60 ladies. Thank you to Serendipity Circle, Women of Faith and everyone who brought food and helped decorate and serve. Thanks to Helen McConnell for her wonderful story. In case you didn't see the Times-Herald, we filled one-half a page. Great publicity! Happy New Year to all of you!



Pat Howell

Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle

Good Morning Circle will be meeting Wednesday, January 4th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Diane Prella and Diane Foland will be hostesses.

Serendipity Circle.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting Wednesday, January 4th at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Pat Dobry will be hostess.

C.T. Board

C.T. Board will be meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Crossroads. Hostess/Hostesses TBA.

January Birthdays

- 1 Duane Bantam
- 2 Shari Nason
- 2 Mavis McLean
- 4 Dale Lawrence
- 6 Betty Mock
- 7 Roberta Banjoff
- 7 Laurie Boots
- 9 Cody Green
- 12 Belva Krejci
- 13 June Tolstedt
- 14 Jane Krause
- 14 Jessica (Mills) Cooksley
- 14 Jay Herian
- 15 William Nollette
- 16 Sherri Fry
- 16 Carmen Minnick
- 18 Diane Prella
- 20 Jayne Reeh
- 21 Kyle Debus
- 21 Paul Maxwell
- 24 Peggy Sampson
- 28 Richard A. Spencer
- 28 Shirley Watson

January Anniversaries

- 5 LeRoy and Sherri Fry
- 18 Mike and Kay Wallace





Children and Youth News — January 2017

Wow! It's 2017 already! Where did the last year go? Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers over the past year. Thank you for your faithfulness to the children of our congregation.

Thanks to Misty Nollette for teaching the elementary classroom in December. Manda Clarke will be leading the elementary classroom in January. Please note that there WILL BE Sunday School on New Year's morning, Sunday, January 1.

The next activity for the Sunday School children will be the Lenten Secret Pal ministry starting the first Sunday in March. Look for more about this ministry in the February Chimes.

The CYM team will meet next, as part of the Spiritual Formation and Outreach Teams, in the Conference Room on Sunday, January 8, (the second Sunday - instead of the first Sunday), after worship and fellowship. There is always room for more at the table. Feel free to join us.

Barb Kendle, CYM

Bible Studies and Times:

Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)

Sunday—Adult Sunday School —9:00 a.m. (Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World)

Tuesday—Early Morning Bible Study—6:30 a.m. (Escape the Coming Night)

Tuesday—EWG Bible Study—9:00 a.m. (Encounter With God)

Wednesday—Young Family Bible Study—6:30 p.m. (Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)

Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Armor of God)

Thursday—Living Stones—2:00 p.m. (Ten Questions Christians are Asking) **Note: New Meeting Time**



 * A new flower chart has been placed on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We need volunteers to be in charge of
 * making sure there are Sanctuary flowers each week. The Presbyterian Women's Group has purchased a number of
 * seasonal silk arrangements to facilitate this pleasurable part of our worship scene.
 *
 * The person in charge of flowers for a given week will :
 *
 * 1) Choose a dedication for the flowers.
 *
 * 2) Decide to provide personal garden (or roadside) flowers, purchase fresh flowers from one of our local floral
 * shops or choose from the silk arrangements in the Banner Room in the basement.
 *
 * 3) Make sure that the flowers are in place before Worship and remove them following Worship—silk arrange-
 * ments returned to the Banner Room and personal or fresh flowers taken home or shared.
 *
 * If getting flowers from or returned to the Banner Room is difficult for you because of the stairs, please let the office
 * know and someone will be called to assist you.
 *

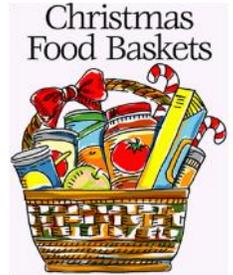
Sanctuary Flowers

This and That . . .

Christmas Food Baskets . . .

A big “Thank You!” to all who came to help put together Christmas Food Baskets on December 20th. We provided for 20 families this year and the wonderful help that we had made everything work smoothly. Thanks also for your generosity in donating toward the Christmas Baskets, whether you donated food or money to purchase food or hats and mittens, the baskets wouldn’t have been nearly as nice without your giving. God bless everyone!

Janet Schlattmann



The Annual Meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday, January 29th following Worship. Because it falls on a 5th Sunday, Gene Gatti will be providing the main dish—beef stew—on behalf of the Outreach Team.



Families are asked to provide a salad or dessert to go along with the stew. Table service will be provided along with water and iced tea. Please plan to attend, as a by-law change will be voted on and a quorum will be necessary.

FROM THE MISSION TEAM

I am so blessed to be a member of this generous church family and work with wonderful, caring teammates. Our Local Hunger Fund that you all, including the children support, tallied \$1,361.77 from October 2016 through November 2017 and we opted to equally disburse to the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, Northwest Community Action and Just Neighbors. Each entity received \$453.92. It makes our hearts happy to share our bounty, as we are mindful of the many passages in Holy Scripture that direct us to do so.

We are also supporting Wycliffe Bible Translators, and Manda and Jaelynn Clarke’s mission trip to Guatemala. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a God-blessed New Year.

Kathie Toedtli, Moderator

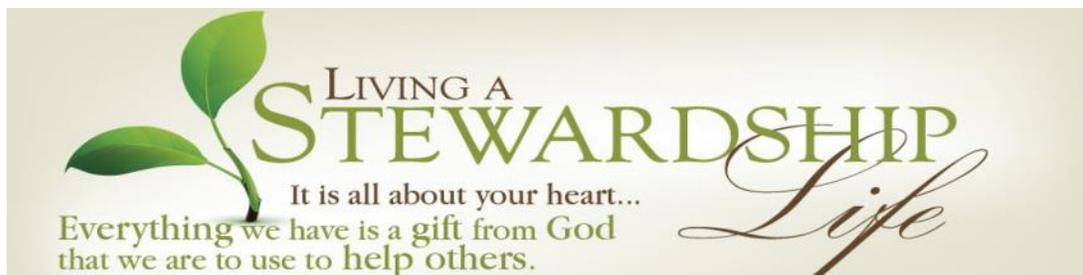


Thomas Aquinas, in his typically methodical way, sets forth three features of gratitude: recognition, expression of thanks, and repayment "at a suitable place and time according to ones means." First, we are to recognize that we have, in fact, been the recipient of a favor, of grace. Then, we must give thanks, and finally we must repay the favor. Aquinas is not thinking in monetary categories, but terms of personal and communal interactions. It is easy enough for us to understand (although not always to practice) what it means to recognize when grace has been offered, and to express our gratitude. But what does it mean to repay a human favor, let alone God's grace?

Aquinas says that "Gratitude regards the favor received according to the intention of the benefactor; who seems deserving of praise, chiefly for having conferred the favor gratis without being bound to do so. Wherefore the beneficiary is under a moral obligation to bestow something gratis in return. Now he does not seem to bestow something gratis, unless he exceeds the quantity of the favor received: because so long as he repays less or an equivalent, he would seem to do nothing gratis, but only to return what he has received. Therefore gratitude always inclines, so far as possible, to pay back something more." (*Summa Theologica*)

Aquinas is not talking about money; that transaction would be repaying a loan not responding to favor/grace. Aquinas is drawing our attention to gratitude as something more than mental acknowledgment and verbal utterance. Gratitude is something we do. Of course it is not possible to respond to God's grace by "exceeding the quantity of God's favor," but it is possible to respond with faith, with trust and loyalty, with our lives. The shape of gratitude to God may be seen in a modern translation of Psalm 143:8 - "Let morning announce your love, for it is you I trust. Show me the right way, I offer you myself."

Gratitude is something we are to practice in human interactions as well. Gratitude in church life should not be seen as a commercial transaction - we give money to the church to "pay" for the services we receive. Rather, because the community of God's people offers itself to us "free of charge," we can offer ourselves within the community and as part of the community's service to others. Gratitude in personal life can be understood not only as responding "in kind" to the grace of others, but to become persons who freely offer grace to others - to family, friends, neighbors, strangers, and anonymous persons far away. To paraphrase Aquinas, "Gratitude always seeks to respond to grace by offering grace, not only as return to the giver, but as a gift to many others.



First Presbyterian Church

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Return Service Requested



January 2017

Thoughts for the Journey—How We Worship...

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IS THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CENTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH. The Westminster Shorter Catechism affirms that our chief end in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” This places the worship of God at the very center of what it means to be God’s people and makes worship the highest expression we can render to our God-given humanity. Christian worship is a corporate act of the people of God where we gather to realize God’s presence and respond with praise to God’s gift of love to us in Jesus Christ.

The next several months this column will focus individual acts of worship that take place each Sunday.

RESPONDING IN GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE

14. **The Affirmation of Faith**—is recited as a corporate affirmation of what we believe and serves to place the contemporary Church in the tradition of Christendom which has endured through the centuries. Each confessional statement that is used is drawn from our denomination’s Book of Confessions.
15. **The Hymn of Faith**—is an affirmation that what we do in response to hearing God’s Word is crucial. This hymn is usually more reflective and meditative, and often is tied to the theme of the morning’s Scripture and sermon.
16. **The Prayers of the People**—are a vital part of our response to God. Prayer is indeed a lifting up of our hearts to the Lord, who invites us to ask, seek and knock. In prayer we approach God in openness of mind and heart to experience God’s power and presence. The prayer of intercession asks for God’s guidance and blessing on all God’s people. It seeks to express the spiritual needs, the longings, and the thanksgiving of the whole body of Christ.

Let’s begin to approach our morning of worship as we enter the Sanctuary—directing our hearts and minds towards our gracious God in order to glorify Him and give ourselves totally to Him in praise and worship.