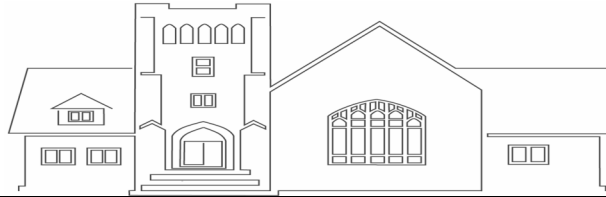


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790

*“The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa is to share the love of God and grow the body of Christ through joyful worship and fellowship; devoted prayer and study; and humble service in our community and world.”*

# THE MESSENGER



DECEMBER, 2013

## Message from Pastor Linda

December – the days get shorter and the dark lasts longer. The temperature continues to drop. Reminders about packing winter survival gear in cars are on the news; instructions about finding out if worship has been cancelled due to severe weather are elsewhere in this newsletter. Shopping gets more frantic and more expensive.

So what's new?

Everything! We are beginning a new church year! We are retelling the old and familiar - but always open for new insights and understandings - story of the coming of God Incarnate (in the flesh) to live among us! We are being given the opportunity to take a new look at this Messiah and how we can open our hearts, minds, and lives to welcome the Son of God / Son of Man! God is reaching out to each of us in supremely loving and human form – it's up to us to decide if we will respond with newly reaffirmed thanksgiving and love and faith.

I'm looking forward to experiencing Advent from a new perspective this year. I have the blessing of planning worship services, deeply studying the scriptures that prophesied the coming of the Messiah and the stories of His birth. It continues to be an amazing, humbling journey for me – but I'm inviting and encouraging you to join me along the road to Bethlehem.

If you aren't lighting the candles on the Advent wreath and sharing the readings at the beginning of worship, you can share in these moments with your entire church family. On two of the four Sundays of Advent, we are anticipating very special Christmas gifts of music by some of our youth. On December 15, we will all be encouraged to take an "out-of-the-pew" active role in participating in the All-Church Christmas Pageant. You won't need to worry about having lines to say, but our goal is to have as many Marys and Josephs and animals and shepherds and angels and wise persons and stars as we can fit on the steps. **Age will not be a factor!** Please come and be ready to join in worshipping the babe in the manger. On Christmas Eve, many members of our church family will give us the gift of their voices as we read and sing our way through the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Of course, also take time at home to celebrate. The Advent book should be in your hands by now – use the thoughts shared by the authors to reflect on what it means for your life to say, "Here Comes the Son!" If you have an Advent wreath or nativity scene or other display to help you center and focus your thoughts and prayers, take time to quiet your heart and allow the peace and joy of God's love to fill your spirit. As you sing along with the Christmas carols (out loud or in your head), listen to the story being told by the words and think about how you fit into that story. (Did you notice how none of those suggestions involve buying presents or worrying about fixing fancy food?)

May all of you be filled with the love of God as we give thanks for the love God has for us, demonstrated through the birth, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Glory be to God!

Four of our members went to join all the other Saints during the month of November. Our heartfelt and Christian sympathy go out to their families.

Maxine Swanger died October 28 at her home at Park Centre. Services were at our church on Friday, November 1 with Pastor Linda Curtis-Stolper officiating. Burial was at Newton Union Cemetery. Those left to honor Maxine's memory are her son Eric (Gloria Ramirez) of Arizona, her brother Jerry (Arleen) of Hubbard, her sister Peggy (Dale) Gardner of Newton and several nephews and nieces.

Dorothy Eaton died November 4 at Park Centre. She was remembered at a memorial service at our church on November 11 with Pastor Linda officiating. Dorothy's cremains were buried at Newton Union cemetery. Honoring Dorothy's memory are her two sons Wayne (Jeri) of Arkansas and Dennis, her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Helen Kreager died November 5 at Skiff Medical Center. Helen's funeral was held on November 9 at Pence-Reese funeral home with Pastor Linda officiating. Interment was at Newton Union cemetery. Those left to honor Helen's memory are her son Michael (Pricilla) of Indiana and daughter Willa (Steve) Tomlin of Newton, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and brother Dale (Peggy) Gardner.

Joyce Nicholson died November 6 at Park Centre. Services were held at our church on November 13 with Pastor Linda officiating. Joyce was buried at Newton Union cemetery. Honoring her memory is her husband, Jack; two daughters, Janell (John) McClellan of Minnesota, and Janet Groen of Nebraska; her three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



*Pray for:*

- ✦ Roger Harmelink is now at home, and continues therapy at Skiff. It was good to see him in church and he attended the November Session meeting.
- ✦ Elsie Nelson's 12 year old granddaughter, Paige, is still in the hospital as the doctors continue to run tests.
- ✦ Those who are facing their first Thanksgiving without a loved one.
- ✦ The many people who lost their homes and/or loved ones in the tornadoes in Illinois.
- ✦ All who are suffering as a result of the typhoon in the Philippines.

Congratulations to Sean Stolper and Jenni Styles on their recent engagement and upcoming wedding.

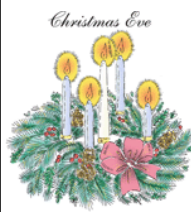
Sean lives and works in Ames at a small engineering firm called ETREMA Products, Inc.

Jenni is currently finishing her Masters degree at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. She will be moving to Iowa after she graduates in late May. They are currently looking for a house, possibly in Ankeny.

Sean and Jenni will be getting married on January 11. Linda and Dave will be assuming the role of parents of the groom and hosting Jen's parents, Phil and Angela Styles, who are flying to Iowa for the wedding from their home in Wales.



## Christmas Eve Service



Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7:30 p.m. on December 24. There will be only one service. There will be special music by the chancel choir, as well as a message from Pastor Linda and the service will close with the Silent Night to candle light. We hope you can join us.

A huge thank you goes out to Linda Campbell and her crew for preparing, serving and doing the clean-up work for 3 funeral luncheons. A lot of time, talents, and effort goes into doing this. We also want to offer our thanks to those members who furnished cookies or bars for use at the luncheons. We have received many compliments from family members and others who were in attendance.



*Funeral Meals*

From the Deacons  
 In November, the Deacons continued to make their visits. Among the visits were Dorothy Eaton and Joyce Nicholson. Cards were sent to a number of people in the congregation, including Maxine Swanger and Helen Kreager. Sadly, these ladies entered eternal life after our board meeting, and we celebrate the time they shared with this church family.

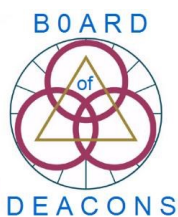
As individuals, the Deacons donated items for Bingo games at Careage where one of our visitees resides.

In addition to \$200 from the Deacon fund, the November communion offering was donated to Salvation Army for Thanksgiving meals. The Deacons also gave \$100 to the Iowa Food Bank for the Backpack Buddies Program which is utilized in the Newton Community Schools.

The December communion offering will be presented to the Salvation Army to help with Christmas needs. Thank you for giving generously.

A new Moderator will be elected in December. Dave Stolper will continue as our secretary.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator



## Nominating Committee

Virginia Bennett and Gary Parsons, Co-Chairs

Preceding church on November 24, a congregational meeting was held to elect new officers for the church. Elders elected were Gary Parsons, for a 1-year term, Linda Kirchhoff, for a 2-year term, and Sandy Smit, Norm Grimm, and Jonnie Carpenter for 3-year terms.

Elected for a 3-year term as Deacon were Sandy Cheney, Sara Hopkins, Nancy Mott and Jeanette Shannon. Those elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2014 were Mickey Van Baale, Joan Tyler and George Wilkening.

Installation will be held on Sunday, January 5 and the yearly retreat for Elders and Deacons will be on January 11. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for your hard work and thank you to the members listed above who have answered the call to serve our congregation.

Did you know the church has a library? If you do, have you been wondering where it is? When the new carpet was laid in Fellowship Hall, the bookshelves and books had to be moved. They were moved to the former Pre-K Sunday School room, which is between the Nursery and the restrooms. It was decided this was a perfect place to have the library.

Next came the question about a librarian who would get the books back on the shelves and maintain the library. Suzanne Funk has agreed to fill this position.

A thank you goes to Gary Parsons, Steve Hopkins and Linda Kirchhoff who met on Saturday morning, November 2 to reposition the book shelves and make the room more workable for the Deacons, who meet in the room for their monthly meetings.

The following week, Suzanne, with the help of her sister, Sandy, tackled the task of going through the boxed up books, sorting them, clearing out outdated ones, and getting the rest on the shelves.

Be sure to visit the library, and feel free to check out a book or two. Thanks to all who brought our library back.

## Worship & Music Committee

Kim DeGraff, Chairperson

If you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate our church, they are now available and the cost will be \$9.00 each this year. Please call the church office to order yours by Wednesday of each week, up until December 18.

If you wish to purchase in memory of a loved one or to honor someone, please provide this information to Jenny when you place your order. You may choose to pick up your poinsettia anytime after Christmas Eve service, or feel free to leave them. Any left will continue to be displayed through Epiphany (January 5)

The Annual Christmas Walk will be December 8 starting at 3:00 p.m. Watch the bulletins and weekly Church Happenings for where the walk will start.

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:30 on December 24. There will only be only one service. Having an additional, later service, as was sometimes done in the past, will be evaluated again next year.

## Choir Takes a Road Trip

Anna Wade Hilpiper, daughter of Dana Hashman, attends the First Presbyterian church in Brooklyn and had asked if our choir could come and sing at their church some Sunday. November 17 was the date that worked out between the two churches. Most members of the choir car pooled to Brooklyn and performed two numbers, along with the Introit and Benediction response during the worship service.

Following church, the congregation at Brooklyn provided a wonderful soup luncheon. We thought there might be one or two choices and were surprised to see a half dozen.

Thanks to Larry Anderson and Rev. John Reynolds for working out the details and the choir members who were able to go.

On Halloween afternoon we took part in the Trunk or Treat activity for the second year. It was great fun! We had four cars this year: Cathy Rickers, John Taylor, Marilyn McCallister and Cathy Peterson, and myself. We decorated the trunks or backs of our vehicles and wore costumes ourselves. When the kids started coming from the downtown and hospital activities we gave away candy. It was all gone by around 6:00. We were set up in our parking lot with trunks open to the alley. The Methodists had around eight cars and a free drink table in their parking lot. It was a lot of fun seeing the kids with their varied costumes and sensing their excitement (and being able to contribute to that somewhat). I hope we get a chance to do it next year and maybe we can have more trunks than the Methodists. We have learned a lot about it the last two years.

From a PCUSA survey: The median age in the PCUSA is 63 years for members, 62 for ruling elders, 55 for pastors, and 57 for specialized ministers. The age distribution of members is older than that of the comparable U.S. population.

Remember: Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

I wanted to mention that not only are we enjoying having our new sign but it has already brought some visitors to the church. I am aware of two different out of town "groups" that have visited our church because they were in Newton on a Sunday morning, saw our sign, noted the worship hour and attended. That is one of the results we want to see as a result of the sign.

Gary Parsons, Chair

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

## Building and Grounds

Roger Harmelink, Chair

A bid to repair and update the front door, with a new sweep, closers and plates to hold the closers came in at \$595.99. The committee agreed to accept the bid.

The parking lot repainting will most likely take place in the spring as the weather may be too cold for proper application this year.

The committee decided to hire the painting of the kitchen and names of people to contact were mentioned. Bids will be obtained and then a decision will be made.

Linda Campbell received a very reasonable bid on the removal of the 2 European Hornbeams and has accepted. The trees will be removed very soon.

The elevator was not working Sunday, November 17. O'Keefe came on Monday and determined that there had been a power outage and the battery back-up for the programming of the elevator failed because of a bent pin in the battery connection

## Emergency Closure of the Church

With winter weather approaching, we have reviewed and updated our policies at First Presbyterian. In the event of severe weather, any changes to scheduled activities at the church will be communicated to KCOB Radio. They have assured us such information will be sent out over all 3 of their stations (1280 AM, 95.9 FM and KRTI 106.7 FM which covers Grinnell, Marshalltown, parts of Des Moines, etc.) In addition we have established an account with KCCI Television and WHO Radio. When severe weather occurs, check these sources. If First Presbyterian is not mentioned on any of these, then there is no change in our plans. However, if you have any doubts, please err on the side of caution and be safe!

The Session

## Recap of Presbytery Meeting

By Mickey Van Baale

The meeting was held on November 12 at First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa. The meeting was actually hosted by all 3 Presbyterian churches in Ottumwa, First, East End and Westminster. Linda Anderson and I attended.

Highlights of the meeting were:

- \* A great worship service with the sermon given by Bruce Whearty, who was a missionary in the South Pacific.
- \* Heard a presentation on Generosity (Stewardship) by David Crittenden from the Synod. He spoke on taking a more modern look and attitude on giving.
- \* Received a report from the Board of Pension on changes. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, Catamaran, the nation's fourth largest pharmacy benefit manager, will replace Express Scripts as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Board of Pensions' Prescription Drug Program service provider.
- \* Honored 14 people through the Older Adult Ministries with the "Faithful Through the Years" recognition.
- \* Approved the expense part of the 2014 budget. The income section will be presented at the February meeting.
- \* Recognized three Teaching Elders to be Honorably Retired. They were Rev. Hans Cornelder, Rev. Betty Sandy and Rev. Lynn Williams.
- \* Elected Ruling Elder Nancy Lister-Settle from Dallas Center as the 2014 Presbytery Moderator and Teaching Elder Shamaine Chambers King of Windsor Heights as Vice Moderator. Also elected members of several committees, including the new Task Forces. Mickey Van Baale was elected to the new Congregational Challenge Task Force. The Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders to be General Assembly Commissioners at the General Assembly meeting in June, 2014 at Detroit, Michigan were also elected.
- \* The Social Ministries Task Force has changed its name to Compassion, Peace and Justice Task Force, with a new logo. The task force presented the Neighbor Award to Teaching Elder Jim Howland of Winterset and his congregation.
- \* Meeting ended with the passing of the gavel from Presbytery Moderator Jim Howland to newly elected Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle. Nancy gave the closing prayer.



The Presbytery of Des Moines

Partnering with congregations & clergy to minister in a changing world.

## Church Life Activities

Randy Camp, Chair

The Thanksgiving Feast was enjoyed on Sunday, November 24, by 84 people. The tables were loaded with fine food, starting with turkey, proceeding through the hot side dishes, the fruit and vegetable salads, breads, and ending with desserts – pies, cakes, and cookies. Following dinner, communion was held, led by Pastor Linda Curtis-Stolper, with candle lighting, readings, singing “We Gather Together”, taking the elements, and prayer. The elements were on the communion table and blessed during the service and then brought downstairs before dinner. It was a wonderful time, with good food and fellowship, followed by a meaningful communion.

Your Church Life Committee:  
 Kay Parsons, Dan Ritter, Randy Camp, Nancy Mott,  
 Janie Moles, and Diane Moles



## A Service of Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 29 to enjoy singing all of our favorite Christmas carols. This is always such a special service when we are able to enjoy each other’s fellowship and share our favorite hymns of the season. The service will start at our regular time of 10:25 a.m. with announcements. Refreshments will be enjoyed following the service. Hope you will be able to join us

*Service of*  
**CAROLS**

## Sermon Schedule for December, 2013

- December 1: “The Day is Near” - Isaiah 2:1-5
- December 8: “Prepare the Way” - Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matt. 3:1-12
- December 15: Youth Christmas Program
- December 22: “A Sign of the Lord” - Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matt. 1:18-25
- December 29: A Service of Carols

## Budget and Finance Corner

Bill Shields, Chairperson

Pledges for the month of October were \$9,135. This was \$2,615 below budget for the month. Other regular giving for the month was \$1210, significantly above budget for the month, as we have been experiencing all year. Investment income was recorded. This included \$971 in dividends and interest as well as \$4362 in unrealized gains in the market value of our account.. Total expenses were \$3,424 below budget for the month.

Year-to-date pledges are \$8,251 below budget. Expenses are \$17,006 under budget.

We received \$535 from the Duling family following the death of John’s father. The Deacon fund made \$100 contribution to the Crop Walk. Water tanks, at a cost of \$2,0047.80, were purchased for Muñoces. Contributions of \$387 were collected for the Rural Harvest offering.



**“Is your 2013 pledge up to date?”**

## Mission Committee

By Linda Erickson, Chair

### January Delegation to El Salvador.

A delegation of six is planning a week in El Salvador January 21-28, 2014. Members of the delegation will visit with the families and leadership groups in our partner community of Muñoces as well as offer some "mini classes" to students and adults. Time will also be dedicated to learning more about the history and current situation in the country. Representing First Presbyterian, Newton will be: Brian Anderson, Larry Anderson, Linda Erickson, Warren Erickson, Anders Hopkins, and Isaac Mathison-Bowie. As plans are developed there will be opportunities for the whole congregation to support the mission and you can look forward to a report upon their return.

### Christmas Opportunities!

The Mission Committee would like to invite the congregation to support five different projects during Advent.

1. Each Sunday during Advent there will be a display of gift items in Fellowship Hall in support of our partnership in Muñoces, El Salvador. Do some of your Christmas shopping at First Presbyterian by buying El Salvador crafts, Gifts-in-a-Jar, or Don Justo coffee before or after church.
2. Through the Mission Coalition we are asked to buy gifts for Progress Industries clients who may not have family to remember them at Christmas. Names of clients and suggested gifts will be available in the narthex. Choose your client early and beat the rush!
3. As has become our tradition, Angel Tree gifts will also be available in the narthex in support of the Salvation Army's efforts to make sure all children in this area have a gift to open at Christmas. You can choose a child from the angel tree and return the unwrapped gift by the deadline to help brighten a child's Christmas this year.
4. The Christmas Joy offering will be collected during Advent. Information and envelopes will be available in December so save a few dollars for this worthy special offering of our national church.
5. On Saturday, December 7, First Presbyterian is being asked to ring bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign from 10 AM to 8 PM. Sign up for an hour or two and you will have the spirit of Christmas ringing in your heart...and your head!

Details about these projects will be available soon.

Spread the joy this Christmas by participating in all of these opportunities and don't be surprised if joy comes right back to you!

### Wednesday Night Dinners Continue.

The Mission Committee has decided that First Presbyterian will continue to participate in preparing, serving, and cleaning up after a free meal at the Methodist Church on Wednesday nights. Several churches are working together to accomplish this task and we will be teamed up with another church to serve a meal one Wednesday each month. As of press time the church with which we will work and the decision of which Wednesday of the month we will serve has not been determined. When we have that information we will be in need of volunteers to help prepare the meal, serve, and clean up. When asked, please consider helping out with this worthy project in the coming year.

### Graduation Cards Are A Big Success!

Many of you participated in a project to send a card and a small gift to the students who completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year in Muñoces. Katherine Pater, our mission co-worker in El Salvador, took the cards with her when she returned after her recent itineration in Iowa and they were delivered to the school in time for the last day of school. Katherine reports that the students were pleased and amazed to receive the cards from Newton and that all plan to go on to the middle school in El Tablon. "Muchas gracias" to all who participated in this project!

## Highlights from Session

Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

- Received a report from Buildings & Grounds recapping numerous projects in need of attention
- Recognized the great work being done on our "new" library by Suzanne Funk & Sandy Cheney
- Heard The Christmas Church Walk will be December 8 starting at 3 p.m.
- Confirmed election of officers will be 11/24 **BEFORE** church
- Approved updated Corporate By-Laws and set congregation approval vote for during the Annual Meeting in January
- Approved the Advent Bazaar as a fund raiser for El Salvador

## PNC Update

It is difficult to give a full report since so much of what we are doing at this point is confidential. However, we feel as if we have covered a lot of territory, have made great progress and we are excited about where we are at this time.

In the meantime we need to support Pastor Linda who is doing a wonderful job especially considering the challenges of the past few weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to reread the eye opening article "The Secret Pain of Pastors" that Mickey reprinted in the November Messenger. Sometimes we don't realize what pastors go through and it doesn't hurt to be reminded of it once in awhile as we think of Pastor Linda as well as the new pastor that God has chosen for us.

Gary Parsons, chair and Larry Anderson, Ann Cutts, Steve Hopkins, Linda Kirchhoff, Kelly Koenen, and Joan Tyler

## Church Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014, along with the normal Friday. An additional day may be added, so watch the bulletin and Church Happenings for updates.

First Presbyterian Church  
220 N 2nd Ave E  
641-792-2790

Email: [new1pres@iowatelecom.net](mailto:new1pres@iowatelecom.net)  
(this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr.)

Website: [www.newton1stpresbyterian.org](http://www.newton1stpresbyterian.org)

Church Office Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

### Pastor Linda's Schedule:

**Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Monday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday: Out of Office**

**Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Friday: as needed**

**Saturday: as needed**

*(Hours may vary from week to week based on her need to be at the church for meetings, etc.)*

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## Christian Nurture

Virginia Bennett, Chair

Activities for children pre-school through grade 6 during church: Since Little Church has been replaced by Kids Action Hour, children in this age group have nothing specific planned for them during the worship hour. Discussions are being held on possibilities that can be offered.

Kids Action Hour: The current lessons have been on the life of Moses. It was fun having the children sing in church on November 17. We also have worked on preparing the ten shoeboxes of underwear and school supplies for shipment to needy children overseas. Instructors for this session have been Jen Norvell and Stephanie Critchfield.

Lessons for Kids Action Hour for the month of December will be on the life of Christ particularly his birthday. Instructors will include Kelly Koenen and Virginia Bennett.

The committee decided that it is important to move the supplies for Kids Action Hour from the lower level of the church to the second floor where instruction is actually being held. Kelly Koenen and her daughter, Shae, spent two full days accomplishing this task, for which we thank them most sincerely!

WOW: Activities for the fall semester concluded on November 20. A smaller attendance than usual may be attributed to beginning WOW at 4:30 pm instead of the usual 5:00 pm. More discussion about this will follow with our colleagues at First Lutheran prior to beginning WOW again during spring semester.

Christmas Pageant: The committee decided on quite an interesting departure from our usual presentation. This year it will be called the *All-Church Christmas Pageant*. Specifics of the new plan are top secret. Everyone is urged to make a special effort to be in church on Sunday, December 15!



It is such a blessing to be in this position at this time! I am awed and humbled by the opportunities I have been given to serve with and for so many of our church family. I am also deeply thankful for the care and support and prayers so many of you extended during a very busy couple of weeks in November. Your love and concern have been an important part of the blessing.

As we enter Advent, I am rested and looking forward to whatever blessings are yet to come. One request - take care of yourselves! Let's not have a repeat run any time soon! Thanks!

Pastor Linda

## Compañeros Update

Linda Anderson, First Presbyterian Representative

The Fiesta FUNRaiser was held on October 12 at the Des Moines Area Intentional Eucharistic Center. This body of Christ is a partner in our Compañeros group that sustains the El Salvador Mission. Preliminary reports indicate that between \$3200 and \$3500 was made at this event. Special thanks goes to Dana Hashman and Julie Fisher for the wonderful handmade items they donated for the silent auction.

### Don Justo coffee:

Mocha flavor coffee will be here in three weeks. The cocoa is blended in as it is ground so this particular flavor will not be available in whole bean. Maurice and Betty Dyer of the Compañeros group will bag the Mocha for the first month or two until bags make it to El Salvador. Orders have already been placed for 30 pounds of the mocha flavored coffee. Ceramic and plastic Don Justo mugs should be available for sale before Christmas, though the cost has not been established yet.

### Sustaining members:

Compañeros is now encouraging people to become sustaining members. This means that you can have your donations come out of an account on an automatic and monthly basis. If you are interested in this, contact Linda Anderson and she can get you the forms. We have 10 donors who are supporting the El Salvador mission in this way. We are currently getting \$220/month from sustaining members.

# december **2013 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>1 Dick Means</b> 4:45 pm Personnel 7:00 pm Christian Nurture		<b>3 Warren Jontz</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm Membership 6:00 pm Spanish Plus 7:00 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 4:30 pm Missions	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Steve Roese</b> 9:00 am Spanish Plus	
<b>8 Len Woythaler Cal Fisher</b> 8:30 am Deacons 3:00 pm Christmas Walk	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Building & Grounds 6:00 pm Worship & Music	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Joan Tyler</b> 5:30 pm Membership 6:00 pm Spanish Plus Budget & Finance 7:00 pm Choir	<b>12 Caitlin Mellick</b> 10:00 am Park Centre Nursing Worship 10:45 am Park Centre Library Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Spanish Plus	
<b>15</b> 10:30 a.m. - Christmas Pagaent	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. Session Meal 7:00 p.m. Session	<b>18 Randy Ferguson</b> 6:00 pm Spanish Plus 7:00 pm Choir	<b>19 Amy Doerring</b> 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group	<b>20 Wade Van Baale Noel Burton Wendell Wendt</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Spanish Plus	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 Christmas Eve Service			<b>26 Kyle Schnell</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Linda Kirchhoff</b> 9:00 am Spanish Plus
<b>29 Chloe Gearhart</b>	<b>30 Toni Peska</b>	<b>31 Betty Lou Johnson Ed Mount Kent Brown</b>	9:00 am Adult S. S. 9:15 am Kid's Action Hour 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Announcements 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship				



# December



# Volunteers

December	1	8	15	22	29	Jan 5
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Gary Parsons	Youth	Gary Haynes	Kim Miller	Barb Taylor	Gary Parsons
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Randy Camp</i>	Linda Erickson	Dixie Zegers	Diane Moles	Gary Haynes	George Wilkening	
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Doug Cutts Wilma Manning	Elsie Nelson Pat Mitchell	
Ushers <i>Office</i>	The Ventling Family Roger Harmelink	Gary & Kay Parsons	Larry & Shari DeCook Barb Gallaher	John & Barb Taylor Terry & Cathy Rickers	Tom & Nancy Mott	John & Barb Taylor
Audio <i>Les Gause</i>	Les Gause	Les Gause	Les Gause	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Candlelighter <i>Office</i>	Advent Scott & Kim DeGraff	Advent	Advent	Advent	Jordan Norvell	Emily Miller
Counters <i>Bill Shields</i>	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield	Dave Boyd	Bill Shields Dan Ritter	Jonnie Carpenter Gary Haynes	Dave Stolper Bill Shields
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook	George Wilkening	Barb Taylor
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	Joyce Moen	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor
Communion Set up <i>Kim DeGraff</i>	Roger Harmelink Linda Kirchhoff					Steve Hopkins

First Presbyterian Church  
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Return Service Requested

## Lectionary —

### December, 2013

#### **December 1—1st Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 2:1-5; *Ps. 122*; Rom. 13:11-14  
Matt. 24:36-44

#### **December 8—2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 11:1-10; *Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19*  
Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

#### **December 15—3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 35:1-10; *Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55*;  
James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

#### **December 22—4th Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 7:10-16; *Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19*  
Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

#### **December 29—1st Sunday after Christmas**

Isa. 63:7-9; *Ps. 148*; Heb. 2:10-18  
Matt. 2:13-23

### January, 2014

#### **January 5—2nd Sunday after Christmas**

Jer. 31:7-14; *Ps. 147:12-20*; Eph. 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

#### **January 12—Baptism of the Lord**

Isa. 42:1-9; *Ps. 29*; Acts 10:34-43  
Matt. 3:13-17

#### **January 19—2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa. 49:1-7; *Ps. 40:1-11*; 1 Cor. 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

#### **January 26—3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa. 9:1-4; *Ps. 27:1, 4-9*; 1 Cor. 1:10-18  
Matt. 4:12-23

## The Secret Pain of Pastors

by Philip Wagner, Church Leaders

(This is part two of the article we featured last month.)

### How Christians and church members can help:

#### 1. Pray for your pastor.

Pray for guidance, protection, healthy friends, their marriage, and family. Pray for inspiration, anointing, the leadership team, unity, and clarity.

#### 2. Protect your pastor.

As best as you can, don't allow or participate in gossip and criticism. How can you serve and problem solve to prevent overload?

#### 3. Encourage your pastor.

Thank them for their work and ministry. Thank them for their sacrifice. Tell them a specific time in which you or someone you know experienced a life change in their church. Honor them to others. Let your pastors know you are praying for them. According to the Barna report—the profession of “Pastor” is near the bottom of a survey of the most-respected professions, just above “car salesman.”

#### To Pastors.

Don't give up, pastor! Persistence is powerful.

Keep on. Really! Your work, your labor of love, and your sacrifice matters.

I realize the last thing a pastor needs is another sermon. But these verses have helped me. Hold on to God's Word with your life.

*So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. Hebrews 10:35-36 NLT*

*So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time, we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Gal. 6:9 NLT*

Be careful of the comparison trap.

Looking at other ministries can be inspiring. Comparing yourself to other churches can be destructive and discouraging.

Make new pastor friends. Expose yourself to new influences, new leaders, churches, or ministries that are doing some things differently.

Discover some fresh views and ideas. Sometimes, it just takes one or two new ideas that can change momentum around.

Pastors that are struggling or are no longer in ministry may have unresolved hurts. I encourage you to find healing. Seek counseling; find a local Celebrate Recovery group; equip yourself with resources on healing (some examples are *Safe People* or *Boundaries*) and share your secrets with safe people. Remember you're only as sick as your secrets.

When we get a new Pastor, we will all need to remember the problems they face, as stated in the November issue of the Messenger. And, as is stated in this article, there are things we can do to help the person chosen as our next Pastor adapt to our church and city.