

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, West Plains, Missouri



Dec. '12/Jan. '13

From the Pastor

May I wish you a very good Christmas and New Year!

As I mail my Christmas cards, I pray for each person and family affiliated with our congregation. So many life stages represented, so many family styles, so many careers and situations! Yet we are bound together in the love of Christ—and by the love of Christ. May this be a time of welcoming God even more in our lives, and letting the Spirit mold us so that we say “Yes” to birthing God into the world like Mary.

This coming year’s “theme” for me is *faith formation*, both in my own life and in my sermons. I’m going to be taking a week in early January to do a retreat for my own growth and to develop this theme in upcoming sermon outlines. I’ve also been asked to lead a workshop on this topic at the presbytery event, “Equipping the Saints,” in late February.

“Formation” is an ancient Christian word describing how faith is “formed” in us by spiritual practices, like reading and serving and prayer. Christian Education can teach us basic facts about the faith, church history, and doctrine and can help us learn to think about faith. But only living the faith with God’s help can form us into the Christ-followers we long to be.

Please note all the opportunities for both education and formation available in our congregation. And thank you to those who have accepted nomination to leadership positions for 2013; I hope to see you all there at the meeting where we’ll elect them on Dec. 9.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Becky

ing Dec. 9. Please read them now and be ready to vote.

Beginning in January...

we welcome Terrie Pearsall as Worship Accompanist for our Sunday morning services. Since the retirements of Linda Wade, organist and music director, and Karyn Vaughan, pianist, at the end of July, we have

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Church Leadership

Pastor

Rev. Becky Kiser

Session (2012)

Craig Albin
Cynthia Dyer
Jack Garrett
Elizabeth Grisham
Sylvia Hershenson
Ruth Hones
Robin Morgan
Bo Pace
Cary Stewart

D (2012)

Judy Bowles
Kay Garrett
Georgette Kerr
Mitchell
Sunie Pace
Mindy Padgett
Beth Schmitt
Carol Silvey
Mary Smith

December Birthdays

Kathy Morrison 12/2
Beau Bowles 12/4
Michael Walsh 12/9
Kathleen Aid 12/10
Jacob Garrett 12/11
Pat Walsh 12/11
Linda Wade 12/12
Judy Bowles 12/14
John Coleman 12/14
Amy Barry 12/15
Becky Conner 12/18
Rhylea Givens 12/18
John Grisham 12/21
Jourdan de los Santos 12/25
Julie Padgett Maupin 12/27

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Finances at a Glance Sept.-Oct. 2012 (Avg. Att.: 47)
Budgeted need: \$24,259
Income: \$24,815
(Offering/\$21,755; Other/\$3,060)
Expenses: \$24,672

If you have an item to be included in the newsletter, please email the church office or call.
Your ideas are welcome. Thanks to *The Ozark Horse Trader* for printing.



Sunday School Choices

(A nursery for under age 7 is available 9-11 am Sundays.)

9-9:45 am

Adult Bible Study

Leaders:

Craig Albin/Jay Padgett
*Meets in Fellowship Hall.
Studying I and II Samuel.*

Pre-school

Heather Fisher/
Christena Coleman
Meets downstairs.

Younger Elementary

(K-Gr. 3) Tammy Hathcock/
Teresa Skinner
Meets upstairs.

Older Elementary/ Middle School

(Grades 4-7) Erika Garrett
Meets upstairs.

Middle/High School (Grades 8-12)

John Grisham/Bo Pace
Meets upstairs.

Note: Children in the musical show Dec. 16 will have practice during Sunday School times on Dec. 2 and 9.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Continued from page 1)

Tom Stock 12/28
Wally Jimmo 12/31

December Anniversary

R. Jack and Kay Garrett 12/27

January Birthdays

Keaton Morgan 1/4
Janina West 1/10
Lexi Brauer 1/13
Sylvia Hershenson 1/18
Kelsey Watkins 1/19
Owen Fisher 1/20
Marge Heinecke 1/27

You're Invited

Go to Mtn. View for 'Financial Peace'

A video series by David Ramsey called "Financial Peace University" comes to First Presbyterian church in Mtn. View in early 2013. A preview of the nine-part series will be offered **Sat., Dec. 8, at 6 p.m.**, says Diane Cooke, pastor. The series will begin Jan. 5 for nine Saturdays, 6-8 p.m.

Jill Foval-Crouch, daughter of Tom and Jane Foval, long-time friends of our congregation, will lead the series. She grew up in Mtn. View, now lives in Springfield, and has presented "Financial Peace" 16 times over the past six years.

"Dave teaches about how each of us relates to money," she said. "He has a passion to teach people what God is asking us to do through His Word when it comes to dealing with money. Dave's focus is to give people information in order to empower them to make their own educated decisions concerning their finances."

Diane invites everyone from West Plains...single, married, young, old, and in-between. "So many across the nation have been blessed by this program," she said. "We are grateful to Jill for offering it in our area."

Visit daveramsey.com to learn more about his seminars.



Remali (l) and Uston de los Santos rang bells for the Salvation Army outside JC Penney's on Nov. 17 with their grandmother, Elizabeth Mitchell. Fifteen others from our church took turns at the kettle to raise money to help people locally.

The Joy Gift...

helps those who have served the church all their lives. Read the bulletin inserts throughout Advent to learn more. This special offering will be collected Dec. 23.

Prayer concerns: The nation; our troops; all war-torn parts of the world; Joyce Bell; Louise Callahan.

Congratulations to Kelsey Watkins and Cody Givens on their marriage Nov. 24. Nick and Beth Schmitt are parents of the bride.

Welcome to Akhil Shah, born Nov. 14 in Tacoma, WA, to Mackenzie Morgan and Niral Shah. Grandparents are Chuck and Robin Morgan. Robin reports that the whole family is fine.

December '12/January '13

Shading = Worship Service at 1st Pres. Sun. morning: 10 am. Sunday School for all ages: 9 am. A nursery is provided.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|------------------|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Westminster Guild Brunch/Auction 10 am at Ozark Café  |
| 2 Advent 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 Choir 5 pm | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Advent 2 <u>Congregational Mtg.</u> | 10 | 11 | 12 Choir 5 pm | 13 West. Guild 1 pm Session 6 pm | 14 | 15 Special Practice for Children's Musical & Pizza Party, time TBA |
| 16 Advent 3 Children's Musical | 17 | 18 | 19 Choir 5 pm | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Advent 4 JOY offering collected | 24 Candlelight Communion 5 pm  | 25  | 26 Choir 5 pm | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | 1 January | 2 Choir 5 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Potluck* Epiphany | 7 | 8 | 9 Choir 5 pm | 10 Westminster Guild 1 pm | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Communion  | 14 Deacons 5 pm | 15 | 16 Choir 5 pm | 17 Session 6 pm | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Choir 5 pm | 24 | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Choir 5 pm | 31 | | |

All women, gather at The Ozark Café, Sat., Dec. 1, 10 am, for our annual Christmas brunch, hosted by the Westminster Guild. Bring a "white elephant" item to be auctioned. Proceeds will buy gifts for residents of West Vue who might otherwise be forgotten at Christmas.

Our Christmas children's musical, "A Christmas Carol," will be during Worship on Dec. 16. A final practice (with pizza!) will be held Sat., Dec. 15, time TBA. To the congregation: Be prepared to give a dollar or lose change when the kids sing "Give it up for Jesus!"

Pastor Becky will take some time off after Christmas. Thanks to Fr. Bob Williams, who will fill in Dec. 30 and Jan. 6.

***On Epiphany, Jan. 6,** we'll celebrate with a potluck lunch right after Morning Worship. Stay and eat, then help take down and pack up the decorations that enhanced our enjoyment of Christmas at the church. Be sure to dress casually that day; the more who help, the faster the job will be done.

New *These Days* booklets begin Jan. 1 with daily devotionals. Pick up your copy in Fellowship Hall in the last half of December.

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
—"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*



1st Presbyterian Church
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A time to celebrate the birth of our Lord— Join us...

- *Every Sunday in December as we prepare for Christmas with word and song.*
- *Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. for our traditional candlelight communion.*

Accompanist

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been without a regular accompanist. Pastor Becky filled in during the fall, and Karyn returned to play in the Christmas season.

Terrie has been accompanist at First United Methodist Church for many years. She has also played often for productions by the high school and others. She will continue to play for the Methodists, adding our services and choir practices. Welcome!

Go to www.firstpreswp for news & pictures of church events. Use your smart phone to scan our Q. R.



code to go there in a flash.

Sending Christmas Cards?

Go online to pcusa.org/specialofferings and order cards that support Presbyterian missions worldwide.

Joy to the World

Keep the standard greeting, or create your own customized version.



100%
of proceeds go to
ministries supported by
Special Offerings

More designs available online.