



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for December 2017

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!
(Luke 2:14 [NRSV])

Advent and Christmas 2017

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church for our Advent and Christmas activities. May each of you experience the true meaning of this special season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

An Advent devotional, "Let love speak: words and actions to pave the way of the Lord," is available at the Welcome Desk in the atrium and in the office.

December 2 7 p.m.

"Celebrate the Child" presented by Curt Cloninger

Join us Saturday, December 2 at 7 p.m. for a presentation of "Celebrate the Child" by Curt Cloninger. The program is our gift to the community as we begin the Advent season. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A freewill offering will be received. After the program join us in the atrium for a dessert reception. Invite your friends and family. Everyone is welcome!

December 3 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ Services of Worship and Communion
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

December 10 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ Services of Worship
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

December 17 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ Services of Lessons and Carols

Worship will be led by the Calvin, Chancel, and Youth Choirs with orchestra, handbells, and organ. The service, including the reading of nine lessons, carols and anthems, is based on the traditional English services of the same name. Join us for this meaningful addition to your Advent worship life!

December 24 (Christmas Eve) 11:00 a.m.

~ Service of Worship
Message: Rev. Jay Rowland

4:00 p.m.

~ Christmas Eve Worship
Children's Christmas Program

11:00 p.m.

~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

On the eve of Christ's birth, we meet to quietly celebrate the meaning of this event in our lives. Join us for a Christmas Eve service of scripture, song, and candlelight. The candlelight service at 11 p.m. will be preceded by a prelude beginning at 10:30 p.m. Nursery care will be provided at the 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. services only.

December 25 (Christmas)

Pause in the midst of your busy day to celebrate with family and friends the birth of our Lord and savior, for unto you was born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ your Lord. No services will be held at the church.

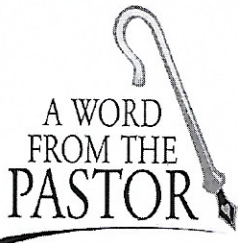
December 31 (New Year's Eve) 11 a.m. only

~ Service of Worship

No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. Child care will be provided.

"Advent" means "coming," and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

~ Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*



December 2017

by Rev. T. J. Parlette

In recent days we have seen even more violence take place in our country. The shooting at a Baptist Church in Texas hits especially close to home because fellow Christians, gathered for Sunday morning worship, were the targets. Our hearts break every time we hear about these random acts of violence. In the world in which we live, there are steps we should take, no matter where we are, to make ourselves as safe as we can be. I don't know that we'll ever be able to stop these kinds of vicious acts – but there are things we can do without living our lives in fear.

First of all, be aware of the people around you. If you are at church and you see someone you don't recognize, introduce yourself and initiate a conversation. If you have suspicions about the person, report it to the church office. We want to be welcoming, but we also want people to be safe.

Second, take a moment the next time you are at church and locate the exits in the areas you tend to frequent. How would you get out if something happened? Our teachers have been trained on emergency evacuation routes, so if you have a child in Sunday School, they will exit with their class. Know *your* exit route.

And lastly, our teachers have been trained using the "Run.Hide.Fight" policy. You may view a training video by doing a google search of Run.Hide.Fight. It is a common sense approach to an active shooter situation. First – get out. Call 911 as soon as you can safely do so. Second – if you can't get out, Hide. Where is the nearest room with a door that locks? Barricade the door if possible. Silence your cell phone. Third – be prepared to fight back if necessary.

Our Buildings and Grounds committee will be talking about this issue at future meetings and may make some security recommendations to the Session. But I hope you will prepare yourself with these simple suggestions so you know what you would do in the event of an emergency.

Peace, T. J.

Run.Hide.Fight.

In response to the shooting at the church in Texas, below is a link to a video produced by the FBI: "Run Hide Fight" dramatizing an active shooter situation to provide instruction about how to survive. Warning: this is a very realistic, disturbing but very effective video. It portrays a gunman shooting people and what it would be like to be caught in this situation. As we struggle to accept the reality of this phenomenon, it's important to be prepared and have a plan. First Presbyterian would follow this process in the event of such an event.

- * Search fbi.gov active shooter resources
- * Search "run hide fight"
- * Click on the video

~ Jay Rowland

Stewardship Alive!

The Perfect Gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In Christmas Is Not Your Birthday (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others." ~ Newsletter/Newsletter 12/2017

Financial Statement / October 2017

General Operating Budget

Balance (9/30/17)	\$ 48,097.72
Receipts (October)	+ 54,223.62
Disbursements (October)	- 58,875.83
Balance (10/31/17)	\$ 43,445.51



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The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith. Deadline for submission of material is the fifteenth of the preceding month.

Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Brian D. Stevens
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kruger
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Margie Schaaf
Child Care Workers	Esther Labron, Margie Schaaf, Taylor Smith
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	Anneliese Opitz, Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

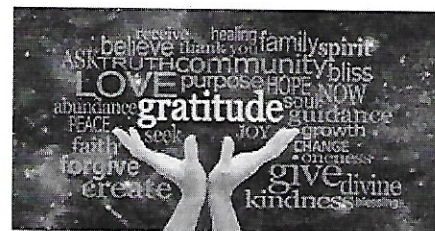
2017 Sharing Tree brings Christmas spirit to many

Our Sharing Tree is up in the atrium. If you would like to purchase an item or items for one of the organizations we are supporting this year please select a gift tag off the tree. Follow the instructions on the back of tag that will let you know whether to wrap the gift or leave it unwrapped and the date it needs to be returned. Also, return the gift with the tag attached so we can drop it off at the charitable organization in time for the holidays.



The organizations we are helping this year include

- * Alternative Learning Center Daycare – sea foam green tags
 - * MedCity Foundation – lavender tags
 - * Family Promise – white tags
 - * Dorothy Day House – red tags
- Thank you for your generosity!
~ Ruth Saling / Social Concerns Committee



Stewardship 2018

For more than 150 years, First Presbyterian Church has been committed to helping all people experience God's love through Jesus Christ.

This commitment has taken many forms, from strong educational and music ministries to aggressive outreach programs benefitting both local needs and missions abroad.

Now it's time to turn our gratitude into action! You can lead the way with a generous financial pledge. By now you have received your envelope with information about this year's stewardship drive. If you haven't made your commitment yet, please mail it to the church as soon as possible or put it in the offering plate Sunday so we can plan next year's programs based on available resources. Thank you!

As of November 19 have received 191 pledges for \$638,182 toward pledge goal of \$728,018.

~ Carol Evans / Stewardship and Finance Committee

Christmas Joy Offering to be received December 17

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "indescribable gift," as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future.

Did you know?

- * The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.
- * The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.
- * The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.

Please join in giving to this very worthwhile cause during Christmas services or if you cannot make it for a service please feel welcome to stop by the church office and drop off your donation.

~ Fabian Luna / Mission Committee

Christmas Eve offering supports Deacons' activities

The offering we receive on Christmas Eve supports the work of the Deacons in the coming year, including flowers for members in the hospital, rides and wheelchair van service to worship and other activities at FPC, parking passes for Mayo parking lots for people visiting members in the hospital, HomeTouch subscription for homebound members, funeral coffees, and gas and food vouchers for assistance requests.

Greeters needed for Sunday services

Be a greeter at a Sunday morning service and welcome members and visitors to worship. To volunteer, please contact Jeff Remfert (j.remfert@gmail.com) or write your name and e-mail address on the Greeter Sign-up Sheet at the Welcome Desk. You will receive an e-mail from SignUpGenius showing a calendar where you can sign up for one or more services. Thank you!

~ Jeff Remfert / Greeter coordinator for Deacons

Help deck the halls with boughs ...



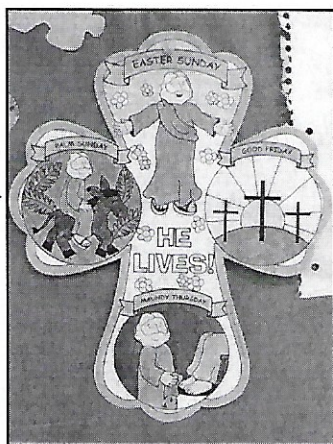
We will be decorating the church halls for Advent on December 2 starting at 9:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are needed.

We have trees to decorate, wreaths to hang, and poinsettias to put out. We will have some light refreshments to keep us going.

If anyone would like to help with the coordination of this activity, please give Bev Lewis a call (288-8959). If you've ever wanted to make changes in the decor of the church, now is your chance.

~ Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

Easter craft project by the children in the KICK program



Deacons support KICK program at Bdecan church

Thank you to the Deacons for sponsoring the Wednesday night KICK program at the

Bdecan Church for February 2017 through January 2018!

The deacons provided funds so the kids that attend can have a warm and nutritious supper each week and make a special craft project. The meal is prepared by church ladies or by Joe, the youth pastor. The kids really appreciate this! Above is a picture of one of the crafts they made for Easter.

Presbytery provides grant money for 2018

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Mission and Ministry Committee accepted a grant request for the KICK program for next year and will provide funding for the meals and craft materials from February 2018 through January 2019.

This program follows up the Bible Story from the previous Sunday's Sunday School lesson and provides an additional opportunity to learn the lesson and discuss it with Joe and the other children.

When Joe started this program in 2013, he had 4 or 5 kids attending. This year he is averaging 20 kids per week. The kids love this program! It is a way for Joe to spread the Word of Our Lord and demonstrate God's love for them and is an excellent way to extend what our Bdecan Bible School Team provides in the summer throughout the entire year.

Funds for warm winter clothing welcomed by Bdecan church

Anticipating a bitterly cold and windy winter, the Mission Committee of First Presbyterian Church sent funds to help provide snow pants, snow boots, shoes and socks and underwear for the children of the Bdecan Church. The grandmothers and mothers of the Church told us that keeping the children warm while they wait for the school bus was their biggest concern heading into cold season. Very few people have cars at Tokio, so the children must wait for the bus in order to go to school.

Thank you to First Presbyterian Church for helping keep these children warm and helping us encourage them to pursue an education.

~ Marylynn Aalderks / Mission Committee

"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

(Helen Keller)

There's a turkey loose in the activity center - can you find it?

At Sitter Service this month the kids made a turkey with colorful feathers on which they wrote things they were thankful for. Check it out – and maybe add a feather of your own.

A special word of thanks goes to **Dee Tiedeman** for creating the turkey and helping the kids put their thoughts on paper.

Sitter Service finishes 2017 with record attendance

Sitter Service was held Friday, November 10, with 16 children attending.....a new record for our Parents Night Out!

Special thanks to **Mark Mueller** for making and bringing "supersized" Lincoln logs made of foam swimming pool "noodles" and hard hats for the children. Everyone enjoyed building and rebuilding a log cabin.

We couldn't have Sitter Service without our crew of dedicated volunteer sitters. Those who worked in November were **Britta Youmans, Dee Tiedemann, Bob Sixta, Phyllis Schmid, Mark Mueller, Allyson Maurer, Otis Laurberg, Gayle Jones, Sarah Edgerton, Diane Grill, Marylynn Aalderks**, and "older sibling helper" **Katie Keller**.

There is no Sitter Service in December. We will resume on January 12 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

~ Gayle Jones / Sitter Service coordinator

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

Happy, Healthy Holidays

'Tis the season to visit family, cook turkeys and fixings, and decorate the house and tree! Here are 5 Tips for safe, healthy, happy holidays.



1) **Decorate safely** - be careful on those ladders! Watch the weight limit, use a helper, and don't get distracted.

2) **Food safety** - if you haven't heard yet, it's unsafe to cook stuffing in the turkey.

Also keep your meat preparation separate from your vegetable preparation space to avoid bacterial cross contamination. Nothing ruins the holidays like food poisoning!

3) **Food health** - While we're at it, make sure salad and veggie are part of your holiday plans! And sorry, green bean casserole and candied yams do NOT count.

4) **Plan ahead for family visits!** Short visits are often the most pleasant. Make sure there is fun time and rest time built into visits. Plan ahead to avoid reacting to that dear but annoying aunt.

5) **It's the season for giving!** Whether that's buying presents for the giving tree here at FPC, inviting some people over who may not have a place to spend the holidays, or serving or donating food at one of our community relief organizations, this is a great time to turn our attention outwards and love our neighbors.

Wishing you all happy, healthy holidays!

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing coordinator




Ministry of Music

Lee Afdahl, Director of Music
Katie Kruger, Director of First Players,
Cherub and Calvin Choirs

Music expresses that which cannot be said
and on which it is impossible to be silent.
(Victor Hugo)

The next Festival of Music concert will be Sunday,
February 11, 2018, not February 28 as listed in the
concert bulletin.

 Singing and ringing schedule for December			
	8:30	11:00	Both
December 3.	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Joyous Praise
December 9.	L&C orchestra rehearses at 10 a.m.		
December 10.	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Alleluia Rngrs
December 16.	Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols Orchestra rehearses at 9:30 a.m. Calvin and Chancel/Youth Choirs and handbells join the orchestra from 10 a.m. to noon		
December 17.	Service of Lessons and Carols at both hours with Calvin and Chancel/Youth Choirs, Jubilate Deo handbells, orchestra		
December 24. Morning	No service at 8:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir at 11 a.m.	Joyous Praise at 11 a.m.
December 24. Afternoon and Evening	Christmas Eve Services of worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. 3 p.m.: All youth and children's choirs and bell choirs warm up 4 p.m.: Service of worship and Children's Pageant with Calvin and Cherub Choirs and Alleluia Ringers 10 p.m.: Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo warm up 10:30 p.m.: Prelude with soloists, ensembles, ringers and choir 11 p.m.: Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo		
NO rehearsals on December 27 or 28			
December 31.	One service of worship at 11 a.m.		
January 7.	Services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.		

Celebrate Advent, donate to the Poinsettia Fund

Help celebrate the Advent season with a \$15 donation to the Poinsettia Fund. The plants will decorate the sanctuary in December and then be delivered by the Deacons to our C.A.R.E. members. To contribute, put your check for \$15 (note for poinsettias on the memo line) in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

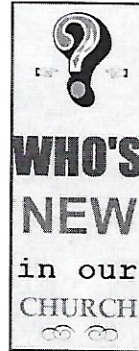
Thank you!

~ Judy Felten / Chancel Guild

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

October 22, 2017
"...getting to know you"

John and Rosemary McKee ~ 121 14th Street NE #801 / Rochester 55906 (John 319-610-2021 or Rosemary 319-610-5269). John and Rosemary are transferring from Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly, Iowa. John, born and raised in Council Bluffs, graduated from Wartburg College. He was a career realtor and land developer until he retired in December 2016. John's hobbies include golfing, fishing, volunteering at Mayo, and watching sporting events. He has already joined one of our usher teams. Rosemary had her own hairdressing business for many years and then worked as a real estate office manager. She enjoys water color painting, knitting, reading, and is interested in the prayer shawl group. Together they have four adult children. They are snowbirds, spending their winters in Florida.



Keith Soderbeck ~ 1115 41st Street NW #103 / Rochester 55901 (651-363-7331). Keith comes to us from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. A carpenter by trade, he also does electrical, plumbing, and HVAC and owned his own company. He is now retired for medical reasons. Keith was born on the east side of St Paul, the youngest of four boys. He loves doing sports with his children and coached baseball and wrestling. Keith says he inherited his father's traits as a loving father and volunteer with his union for Habitat for Humanity. He has also made two mission trips to Jamaica, Kingston, Waterhouse District, in a very poor area with no running water or sanitary and his group changed that. For hobbies Keith paints murals and paintings on canvas. He loves teaching others and helping others in construction projects. He has already joined the Chancel Choir. Keith says about joining FPC: "I walked right to it as God led me to this beautiful church. Then found out my neurologist goes here which is just the way our Lord works."

Tyler and Kathleen Van Buren / 819 Fox Pointe Lane SW / Rochester 55902 (507-316-1690) have been Rochester residents since July 2016, moving here from Sheffield, England. Tyler was born and raised in Rochester, moving on to universities in Wisconsin and then working and living in Wisconsin, Colorado, California and England before returning to Rochester. Tyler is an engineer at Mayo Clinic and Katie is an honorary research fellow in ethnomusicology at the University of Sheffield. Her parents were with ELCA and United Bible Societies in Cameroon and then Africa for many years. Outside of work, you'll find Katie enjoying music, running, and outdoor activities. At FPC she's particularly interested in music and immigration and other outreach activities. They are the parents of **Charmian, Jay, and Asa**, all born in the UK. Tyler's leisure activities include running swimming, water sports and outdoor activities.



Susanna Stone
 Coordinator of Youth
 & Christian Education

Happy December from the youth group!

November was another busy month for the youth. We focused on gratitude and giving thanks. We looked at examples of gratitude in the Bible and found our own ways to express gratitude: through prayer, writing notes, and doing acts of service.

During December we will focus on more service projects. In addition to wrapping presents for children with cancer for the Brighter Tomorrows organization and sending care packages to FPC college students, we will also be creating holiday cards for church CARE members and decorating cookies for the annual Bear Creek Services Cookie Classic. December 21 we will have our traditional white elephant gift exchange and holiday celebration.

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and fun! Note: there will be NO youth group on December 27 or January 3. Youth group will resume in 2018 on January 10.

Special Youth Group Events: save the dates

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for two special outings we will be having with other area Presbyterian youth.

Lock-in and Service Project:

Friday, January 5-Saturday, January 6

We'll have a lock-in in Hayfield at a barn that has a basketball court, arcade, and 50s diner. On the 6th, we'll head up to Eagan for 2 hours of service at Feed My Starving Children.

Snow tubing and Pizza:

Saturday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

We'll start off with two hours of snow tubing at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch followed by lunch at the Stewartville Pizza Ranch.

Registration is required for both special events.
 Contact Susanna if you are interested in attending either youth outing!

FPC members: We need YOU!

Interested in volunteering with the youth of our church? The youth group needs adults to attend youth group as adult mentors, chaperone our special outings, and drive our youth to and from those outings. Please let Susanna know if you are interested in assisting the youth group in any capacity!

Vacation Bible School: Save the Date!
 Calling all FPC families and VBS volunteers:
VBS will be back at FPC in 2018!
 Save the date: VBS will be held **Monday, June 11 through Friday, June 15 from 9 a.m. until noon.**

Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion

Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m. Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!	
Bible Study (South Fireside) <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue their study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: Beyond the Headlines</i> is the theme for the 2017-2018 year. The discussion is led by Al Depman .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	November 29 - December 19 <i>Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph</i> Advent Bible study led by Rev. T. J. Parlette

Your Church Library: Featured Books of the Month

Come visit the church library! There are new books available to help you spiritually prepare for Christmas. Among them:

- * *With Hearts & Hands Uplifted* is a daily Advent devotional published by the PC(USA) with meditations based on familiar songs and hymns of the season.
- * Roger A. Bullard's *Messiah: The Gospel according to Handel's Oratorio* is a wonderful exploration of Handel's glorious work.
- * *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan is an excellent study of the Scriptures, well-written and easy-to-read.
- * *In The Dark Streets Shineth—A 1941 Christmas Eve Story* by David McCullough includes a DVD of the author narrating with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
- * If you're seeking a novel, Richard Paul Evans' *Finding Noel* is worth a look.
- * There's also Christmas poetry—some with lovely illustrations—as well as Tales and Stories, and children's books worth a peek.

Come see the wonderful treasures in your church library.
 ~ Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor

How do I check out a book from the church library?

Locate the book's check-out card in the pocket near the back of the book. Print the date, your name and phone number. Put the completed card(s) in the small, gray recipe card box beside the door nearest the church office (instructions also appear atop this box). The due date is four weeks after check out. Questions? See **Jay Rowland** or **Al Dollerschell**.



News from Presbyterian Women

* Sylvia Swede, facilitator

Circles continue to meet each month. New members are always welcome. Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2017-2018 Bible study is *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ*.

Esther Circle: December 18 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Co-hostesses: **Elizabeth Remfert** and **Alice Kerr**. Devotions: **Alice Kerr**. Program: **Susie McClocklin** and **Elizabeth Remfert**.

Priscilla Circle: December 20 at 10 a.m. in the social hall for a Christmas Brunch. Hostesses: **Jan Hosier**, **Shelley Steger**, and **Becky Will**. Program: Christmas Brunch at 10 a.m. Devotions: **Rev. Parlette**. Project: Mission and Social Concerns Projects.

Ruth Circle: December 16 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Devotions: **Mary Bayrd**. Program: **Mary Huie** (lesson #4 from the Bible Study in Hebrews, Cloud of Witnesses). A Christmas party will follow the Bible Study. Details will be announced later. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. the lounge. Join us Thursday, December 14 for knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** or **Susie McClocklin** if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

Smith-Mathers report poor living conditions in Juba

Nancy Smith-Mather, mission co-worker with her husband, **Shelvis**, in South Africa, writes that she feels overwhelmed by the amount of suffering around them. Recently she visited a displaced persons camp in Juba and reports the conditions in the camp were horrible. Five functioning pit latrines serve for over 7000 people. Ten other latrines were locked up, not useable, overflowing into a pool of waste. There is hunger and no schools for the children.

Yet a grandfather sat reading his Bible under a tarp overhang and a grandmother proclaimed, "Even though we are living in a hard situation here in Juba, God who created us did not leave us." Their faith was sustaining them.

Nancy's request was

"May the larger church body lift them up in prayer, as they requested. Let us labor for their nation to find peace so people can return home and cultivate their land. And in the present time, let us not grow tired of supporting their physical needs."

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Richard and Janice Bennett** who will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary December 1.

Congratulations to **Don and Barbara Cain** who will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary December 6.

Congratulations to **Robert and Susan McClocklin** who will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary December 17.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Hilda Nelson**, who will celebrate her 91st birthday December 4.

Happy Birthday to **Clifford Gastineau**, who will celebrate his 97th birthday December 18.

Happy Birthday to **Lynn Postier**, who will celebrate her 90th birthday December 23.

Deaths

We extend our condolences to **Clifford Gastineau and Dennis and Ann Gastineau** on the death of Cliff's wife and Dennis' mother, Patricia Lou Gastineau, October 25.

Calling all crafters!



The Crafters will meet on Wednesday, December 20 at 3 p.m. in the social hall to make cards for our congregational C.A.R.E. members. Come join us for fellowship and friendship. All supplies are provided.

~ Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator

New elders and deacons invited to Souper Start Supper

Newly elected Deacons and Elders are invited to join the current officers for a Souper Start Supper on Tuesday, January 16, at 5:30 p.m. We will meet in the social hall for a warm meal and fellowship as we welcome our new members. The monthly Session and Board of Deacons meetings will follow the supper. Current elders and deacons will host the meal and provide the food.

~ Jane Murl / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

Annual Reports due January 16

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Reports to the Congregation." This year these reports must be available to the congregation on January 21, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 28. If you are responsible for writing a report on some facet of our church life, please note they are due **Monday, January 15**. The best ones are sent (prior to the deadline) to Carol via e-mail (fpc_carol@hotmail.com) or a Word attachment to an e-mail! Thank you for your help!

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



First Presbyterian Church
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 Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0906

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December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sunday morning schedule 12/3-17 Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m.		Wednesday youth schedule 12/6-20 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:00 p.m. J Praise bells (intergenerational)			2
3 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings	4 FPC@Community Food Response	5 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside	6 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	7 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	8 NO Sitter Service in December	9 10:00 AM Orchestra rehearses for L&C
10 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngrs rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings	11	12 9:30 AM Staff meeting	13 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Kitchen Guild 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	Your will shall decide your destiny. (Charlotte Bronte)		16 9:30 AM Orchestra rehearses for L&C 10:00 AM Chancel/Yth/ Calvin rehearse L&C 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/lounge
17 Lessons & Carols Joy Offering Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) Chancel/Youth/Calvin sing (both) Orchestra (both)	18 1:00 PM Esther Circle/lounge 7:00 PM First Players Winter Concert	19 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	20 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 10:00 AM Priscilla Circle brunch 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	21 Winter begins 6:00 PM Chancel Choir; JDeo HB Christmas Party	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. Worship/Children's Pageant 4 p.m.	25 Church closed	26	27 Mail newsletter NO Wednesday activities	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve Worship 11 a.m. only!	Worship at 11 a.m. Chancel/Youth Choir sings JoyousPraise ring		Christmas Eve Schedule Worship at 4 p.m. Children's Pageant Calvin and Cherub Choirs sing Alleluia Ringers ring			Worship at 11 p.m. Jubilate Deo rings Chancel/Youth Choir sings