

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
 1130 Highview Dr  
 Fairborn, OH 45324  
 firstpresbyterianfairborn.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 FAIRBORN, OH  
 PERMIT 15

The Newsletter  
 of the  
 First  
 Presbyterian  
 Church  
 of  
 Fairborn, OH

1130 Highview Dr  
 Fairborn, OH 45324

The  
 "Friendliest Church  
 in Town"

Worship:  
 10:15 am  
 Adult Bible Study:  
 8:45 am

Office Hours:  
 Mon: Closed  
 Tue - Fri:  
 10 am - 4 pm

Phone:  
 (937) 878-3954  
 Fax:  
 (937) 878-3399

Pastor:  
 The Rev.  
 Thomas L. Harmon

Congregational  
 Activities Coordinator  
 and  
 Director of Music:  
 Denise Lo Cicéro

Parish Associate:  
 Rev. Marcy Bain

Organist:  
 Jeff Firestone

Director of  
 Chancel Ringers:  
 Iris Berry

Financial Secretary:  
 Carolyn McMillan

Church Secretary:  
 Shelia Yux

Sexton:  
 Ron Gross



# LIFELINE

## The Shepherds and The Wise Men



Christmas decorations have been up for weeks and the ubiquitous Christmas music is finding its ways onto our car radios, and into shopping malls and grocery stores. We are here, the time of anticipating Christmas coming. In the church, of course, we are celebrating our Advent season, which is quite different than the society en masse. I am also realizing that I usually give some kind of harangue about consumerism and how our economy has created an entirely different Christmas culture than what we have classically celebrated within the church. However, this year, I think *connection* is an important part of what we do celebrate in our anticipation of the coming of Christ.


One important part of our Christmas story is that the birth of the Christ child was not in secret. The Lord directed the "wise men" in Matthew's gospel and shepherds in Luke's gospel to this event to share in the wonderful work that God is doing in the world. We tend to bring these elements into one narrative so that everyone gets to be at the crèche. These figures adorn our nativity scenes so that the notable magi and the lowly goat herders come together for an event that changes the world past, present, and future. My question is why does God have these figures witness this event at all? Jesus could have gone about his life without the mention of these figures. He could have still taught, healed, preformed miracles, died, and be resurrected without these visits.

Yet, God has them come to the Christ, the child who is called Emmanuel, God with us.

These characters that add such color to the nativity story are drawn out of the overwhelming need to see this child who is the Christ and be connected to him. Their very presence is a witness to us of the human need to be with God. They direct us as followers to the place of communing with Christ. It is at the heart of our humanity that we need to be connected to both God and each other. We are a connected people. "No man is an island, entire of itself" according to poet theologian John Donne. So despite how many times we hear that our lives are all up to us individually, we must remember that by being made in the image of God, God calls us to be with others generally, and particularly within our life of faith.

We are all in this together, as Christians, like the wise men and shepherds, we are called to the good news that comes from the person Jesus. We are called, as they were with other people, in a similar way to how we come to church on a Sunday morning for worship. We are a group of individuals, who may not know each other outside of our congregation, but because of our congregation we find friendship, fellowship, and family as brothers and sisters united in Christ. So welcome others into this grand communion of Christ's during the Christmas season, bringing more shepherds and more wise men to the manger. —Pastor Tom

Deadline for Feb. Lifeline: noon, Wednesday, Jan. 25



### Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Form and payment due by Sunday, December 18*


In Memory of ( )      In Honor of ( )      Celebrating ( )

---

Given by

---

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin



# ~THANK YOU~

Dear Church Family,

Pastor Tom's service for Tom was special. He would've loved Jeff's *Amazing Grace* on the accordion. Denise and the choir's music was so beautiful. Thank you for the Caring Committee's planning and the delicious food delivered to our home. Our family has been blessed by your prayers, concern and support. — Pat Biggs

I just want to thank all of those members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church who participated in the Dayton Dragons baseball game church outings over the past several years. Your support and assistance are greatly appreciated. For the most part, we experienced good weather and definitely good fellowship. Many of you attended every year, and I thank you. Mrs. Julie Purdy will be organizing the Dayton Dragon outing in 2012 and I hope that you will give her the support you have given me these past years. I hope to see you at the games.

Sincerely, Marge Gehring.

To all my dear friends of the First Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for all your good wishes, cards and calls. I am always overwhelmed at the kindness and love I feel at FPC.

The flowers and cake were greatly appreciated also, donated by my dear daughter. Hope you all enjoyed the cake. I did!

I am so blessed to be celebrating my 92nd birthday and also to know all of you!

Thanks again for your precious friendship.

Sincerely in Christ, Gladys Rivenbark

A BIG THANK YOU: Thanks to all of you who kept things running smoothly, while I was recently on vacation with Jean-Luc's family in France. That includes those who led rehearsals and directed the choir (Ann Bryant, Shelda Cox, and Emily Haynes) with Jeff Firestone at the organ one of the Sundays I was away and Dottie Anderson on the other; and Iris Berry, who is the librarian for the Chancel Choir, will sub whenever needed, and of course directs the Chancel Ringers. Also, Art Lewis and Shelda Cox taught some excellent and stimulating classes on both Thursdays and Sundays. Diane Sondergelt took care of restocking and tidying our Welcome Center. Finally, thank to the four elders who led our opening Session study for November: Barb Bush, John Haynes, Joyce Hazlett, and Marc Maquelier. I appreciate each and every one of you, and thank you for continuing to share your talents with the congregation in my absence!

—Denise Lo Cicéro

## A YEAR WITH THE BIBLE:

The Inreach Ministry Team will purchase the 2012 edition of this 6" x 3½" treasure trove of bible readings designed to walk you through each day of the calendar year. For those who are not already reading scripture for the guidance, support, comfort, encouragement and challenge which the Word of God presents, this is a helpful way to build this important element of Christianity into daily life. If you'd like a copy, please use the sign-up board in the narthex, where you can also see the 2011 edition.

## THANK YOU—GOAL EXCEEDED!!

At the 'Back to School' luncheon, we kicked off the sale of Elder-Beerman (E-B) Community Day Coupon Booklets with the goal of selling 200 booklets to = \$1,000 to support Fairborn Primary School (FPS) projects. On Saturday, November 12, at the Community Day sale, we tallied our sales to report to Ms. Sutton, E-B's coordinator. I'm delighted to announce that we sold 231 booklets exceeding our goal by 31. The 231 sale total = \$1,157. We are awaiting feedback to see if we also qualified for a portion of the "Bonus: money, adding another \$233 for a grand total of \$1,380.89

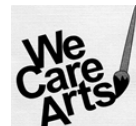
Thanks to everyone for helping make this fund raising event a success. You bought, you sold to family and friends, you worked 2-hour shifts at E-B's mall store and you encouraged me when sales were slow. Space here limits listing all who helped make this a success; however, the 30% off coupons drew enough ladies to the store before 10:00 on Saturday to hold a First Presbyterian Women's meeting and the men who sold the most booklets were Ken Brown, Ken Gadd, Tom Harmon and Ray Wylam. Sales are not my area of expertise but with a dedicated "sales staff" like the members in this congregation you make me look good. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Alice Gibson, Project Coordinator.

Dear Friends in Christ;

On behalf of We Care Arts, Inc, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. Since our organization began, our mission has been to Change Disabilities into Possibilities in our community.

Over the years we have spread our services to Greene, Montgomery, and Miami Counties. To continue our work, this year we are serving more in the Greene County/Beavercreek area. We are starting a Saturday class for those individuals with Autism. This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you.

Again we thank you for your support and helping us succeed in our mission.



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR 10:15 am Holy Communion FISH Donations	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00am Bible study—Roushs 10:30 am Operations team (BR)	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm Hope Circle— Lounge 7:30 pm Chancel Choir—Sanc	<b>5</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study—Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	<b>6</b> 9	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45 am Adult Bible Class 10:15 am Worship Blood Pressure Screening	<b>9</b> 11:00 am St Vincent Cooks 6:00 pm St Vincent serves	<b>10</b> 7:00 am Bible study—Roushs	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Faith Circle (Lge) 10:30 am Admin Committee (BR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir—Sanc	<b>12</b> 11:00 pm Bible Study—Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	<b>13</b> 9:30 am United Chimes (MR)	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:45 am Adult Bible Class 10:15 am Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00am Bible study—Roushs	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers—(MR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir—Sanc	<b>19</b> 11:00 pm Bible Study—Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	<b>20</b> 9:30 am United Chimes (MR)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:45 am Adult Bible Class 10:15 am Worship Guest speaker from Presbytery Disaster Assistance	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00am Bible study—Roushs 6:00 pm Inreach team (BR) 7:00 pm Session	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers—(MR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir—Sanc	<b>26</b> 11:00 pm Bible Study—Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	<b>27</b> 9:30 am United Chimes (MR)	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45 am Adult Bible Class 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00am Bible study—Roushs	<b>A HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>			



# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Please note the dates the office is closed this month.				1 10:00 am Bible Study at Summit 1:00 pm Bible Study -Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	2 10:30 am United Chimes (MR)	3
	4 8:45 am Bible Study 10:15 am Holy Communion FISH donations	5	6 7:00 am Bible Study (Roush's)	7 11:30 am Ladies Christmas—Roushs 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers (MR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)	8 1:00 pm Bible Study -Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	2 10:30 am United Chimes (MR) 10:30 am Operations team (BR)
11 8:45 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship Blood Pressure screening 11:30 am Outreach Team (BR)	12 11:00 St Vincent Cooks 6:00 Pm St Vincent Servers	6 7:00 am Bible Study (Roush's)	14 10:00 am Faith Circle (Lge) 10:30 am Admin Committee (BR) 10:30 am Robe Committee (BR) 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers (MR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)	15 1:00 pm Bible Study -Lounge 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	16 10:30 am United Chimes (MR)	17
18 8:45 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship Deadline for Poinsettia orders	19	6 7:00 am Bible Study (Roush's) 7:00 pm Session (BR)	21 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers (MR) 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)	22 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	23 Office Closed	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 10:15 am Christmas Worship 	26	27 7:00 am Bible Study (Roush's)	28 (NO REHEARSALS)	29 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study—Reno home	30 Office Closed	31



You are invited to share in the decoration of the Sanctuary with poinsettias. Please use the form on the back of this *Lifeline*. After Christmas, members of the Board of Deacons will deliver the flowers to church members who are unable to leave their homes. It is suggested that gifts be at least \$10, but may be any amount one wishes. Checks must be received by Sunday, Dec 18, and should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, marked "Christmas Poinsettias."

### "CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES"

Mark your calendars now and plan to worship with the FPC family on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec 24, at 7:00 pm and on Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec 25, at 10:15 am. Both services will feature the carols of the season; and the Christmas Eve service will, of course, include our traditional candle-lighting festivities. On Christmas morning, we will be singing 10 carols (including some that you don't get to sing very often) as a part of a Lessons and Carols worship service in which the entire congregation will participate. We hope to see you and any house guests you may have in worship!

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 2011	
November Receipts	\$ 21, 114.00
November Expenditures	\$ 26,161.47
Difference	(\$ 5, 047.47)
Year to Date	
Fiscal Year 2011	
Receipts	\$279,566.46
Expenditures	\$275,543.82
Difference	\$ 3,972.64

Through November receipts are about \$8,000 less than they were at this time last year. December is normally a strong giving month. We invite you to review your annual giving commitment so we can end the year in a strong fiscal position.

### CHANGES TO THE YEAR-END CALENDAR

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, Dec 28 and the choir will be taking a well-deserved Sunday off and sitting in the congregation on Jan 1, 2012. There will also be **NO adult Sunday morning class** on Sunday, Jan 1. Thanks for making those notes on your calendars.



**18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Sue and Robert Williams are inviting the church to their home on Saturday, Dec 10, for their annual Christmas party. As usual, it starts at 6:00 p.m., it's a carry-in, and all adults (and young adults) are invited. RSVPs are not necessary.

## Memorial Gifts

Gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of Rev. Robert Bates and Rev. Ted Harsh have been received from Gladys Sherman. Additional gifts in Malcolm Sponenbergh's memory were sent by Harold & Shirley Hale and Bruce & Marilyn Soper. Max & Evelyn Fueger and Bryan Lawson remembered David Musick.

In memory of Tom Biggs, gifts have been received from: Gene & Dottie Anderson, Cheryl Batchelor, Frank & Donna Boensch, Bob & Margaret Carlson, Woody & Harriet Ensor, Max & Evelyn Fueger, Dale & Yvonne Gehring, Harold & Shirley Hale, Rena Leatherman, Dennis & Susan Murphy, Anna Roselli, Gladys Sherman, Warren & Darla Thompson, Jackie Woods and Ray Wylam. Art & Eloween Lewis's gift was placed into the Choir Robe Fund, as they requested.

A gift in memory of 'all the Saints' was received from Dan & Jane Bigelow.

## Prayer Concerns

Dolores Calhoun, Armin & Phyllis Mesker, Luella Nisonger, Leslie Oliver, Andy & Angie Reno, Jan & Earl Sharp, Norm Willoughby.

**Friends of the Church:** Anne Bach, Kelly Cox, Mark & Carmen Egolf, Ken Gentry, Brian Hellwig, Denise Herring, Pam Kelly, Jeff Johnson, Valerie McCasland, Phyllis Parli, David Potter II, Aaron Rayburn, Anne Slanker, Cindy Gehring Tobin, Debbie Toth, John & Kelli Yegerlehner.





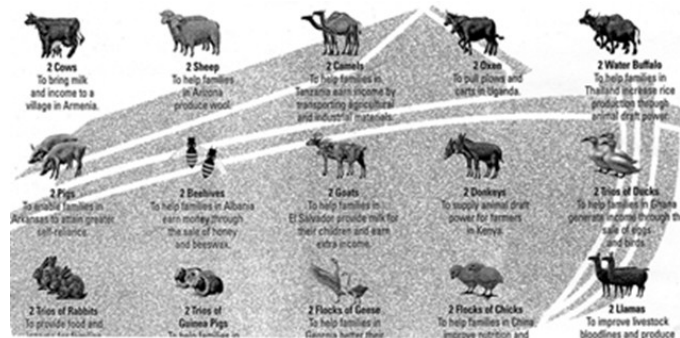
# ~Birthdays~

## Happy Birthday to you !

- Dec**
- 1 Allison Siegel
  - 6 Amber Farkas
  - 7 Casey Murphy
  - 8 Wendell Dobyns  
Becky Frick
  - 10 Anna Roselli  
Janet Swaim
  - 11 Julie Purdy  
Dennis Murphy
  - 12 Sondra Snyder  
Denny Burchette
  - 13 Shirley Schroer
  - 16 Eloween Lewis  
Gary Snyder
  - 18 Robert McMillan
  - 20 Jeffrey Moore
  - 21 Shirley Hale
  - 23 Holly Barton
  - 24 Carolyn McMillan
  - 25 Carol Murphy
  - 27 Ann Bryant  
Kathryn Moore
  - 28 Edith Carlson
  - 31 Bill McMillan  
Harold Worley
- Jan**
- 1 John Takerer
  - 3 Sean Choi  
Jan Sharp
  - 5 Warren Thompson
  - 7 Lloyd Bryant  
Troy Oliver  
Paula Saunders  
Elizabeth Studebaker
  - 8 Harold Hale
  - 10 Floyd Reed  
Joyce Wofford
  - 11 Tom Swaim
  - 15 Gordon Roberts
  - 20 Luane Code
  - 21 Shelia Yux
  - 22 Pamela Lundell
  - 24 Pauline Dobyns
  - 25 Kevin Nelson
  - 26 Evelyn Fueger  
Jeremy Parker  
Milly Parr
  - 27 Bill Arnold
  - 28 Lauren Masquelier

## HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

A gift to *Heifer International* is an extraordinary opportunity for you to change the world two by two.



We are working on a gift of an ark to Heifer. Your children, grandchildren and great grand children love to receive a gift of an animal donation to Heifer. Make your check to FPC and mark your donation to *Heifer*.

## CROP WALK WRAP UP



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT-CWS

We had good results again this year for our CROP Walk. First, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the walk. With what you donated, someone in the world will eat and someone in the world will have clean water. Thank you so much. A special thanks to Alice Gibson for manning the Water Stop and Dee Hendrix for donating cookies.

Churches and organizations participating collected a total of \$6, 262 (this number will go up as outstanding pledges come in) and 25% goes to Fairborn FISH.

Participating this year were: First Presbyterian (we came in 1st place), Mary Help of Christians, First Baptist, St Luke UMC, Wright State, Kohls, NLA, Light of Christ, Greenmond Oak Park.

Our CROP Walkers this year were: Marlene and Ray Acus; Dana and Justin Adrian; Shelda Cox; Brian and Luanne Code; Mary Ellen Hill; Vicki Priaulx; and Elizabeth, Tony and Todd Studebaker.

*Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men.*

## FAIRBORN PRIMARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

October and November were busy months for our congregation as we helped the 1,700 children at the school. (By the way, I just heard this is possibly the largest primary school in the nation --- awesome!) We have a wonderful, dedicated staff to work with who always find ways to do what is best for the children. Likewise, we have a church who is so responsive and dedicated to these children to fill the revealed needs. We are blessed!

Our program of volunteers who are reading with students and helping the teachers with other student needs is rolling along under the direction of Jackie Woods. We have just become aware that at the Wrightview Kindergarten building several NEW volunteers are needed to help the little ones learn their alphabet. If you have one hour to spare a week, please call Jackie Woods at 879-2760. If you have an occasional conflict and can't be there some weeks.....that's OK. Just know anytime you have will help jump start a disadvantaged child to learn his or her letters. Parking is close and walking is minimal. We hope you can open your heart to help a "little one" ..... you will be richly rewarded.

The Hope Circle sponsored a luncheon and day of making fleece blankets for the children at FPS in early November. The 13 blankets we made will be given to needy children at the school "Literacy Night" on Dec 8. It was a day of fun and laughter as we made the blankets to warm the children. Many thanks to all who helped by donating time and money for this effort organized by Susan Murphy.

Ardene Roberts and her faithful volunteers are keeping the Boutique of new and gently used children's clothing in good order at the school. We are taking the wonderful new coats we purchased last year to the school now for distribution, and we will be keeping our eyes out for coat sales for next year. Please tell friends and family we always need donations of used jeans sizes 6x to 12 for our boutique, also fleece long pants with an elastic waist, sizes 6x to 8 are in great demand. We appreciate these volunteers and your previous and continued support of our boutique. Please see Ardene for further questions regarding donations. Donations can be left in the church office or given to Ardene or Marlene.

Bless Alice Gibson for her dedicated volunteerism in our library at the school. We have only one librarian for all of our schools and Alice's weekly help is much needed. She loves doing it too!

We sponsored The Dayton Philharmonic Brass Quintet's visit to the school for the third graders in December and because of our sponsorship, The Volunteers of the DPO will be offering a program in March to the second graders on "How and Orchestra is Formed and How Audiences Should Act." We are enhancing the lives of the children in many ways.

We have been donating food items and assistance in packing the Snack Packs for distribution to the school children in need of food on the weekends at FPS. Your contributions are used to make bulk purchases by Dana Adrian, and then taken to Fairborn St. Luke's United Methodist Church for packaging on Wednesday nights. An average of 220 Snak Pax have been donated each week. So far, additional packers have not been needed, but your monetary contributions are always helpful. You can contribute by making your checks out to First Presbyterian Church designated for *The Snak Pax Program*. Hunger is a tremendous problem in our community. Thank you, Dana, for spearheading our efforts!

What a super fund raiser we just concluded! Our Elder - Beerman Community Days goal to sell 200 books was met and exceeded. Alice Gibson is so dedicated, organized and now just plain exhausted after the book sales. Thanks, Alice, for your leadership to make this goal a reality. God bless you all and may you know you are keeping Christ in Christmas.

## FAIRBORN COMMUNITY CENTER CHRISTMAS FAMILY SPONSORSHIP



The Board of Deacons is sponsoring four families who need assistance this Christmas. A Christmas tree is in the narthex with gift tag ornaments showing individuals' names, ages, and Christmas wishes. If you would like to participate in this project, please take a tag, purchase the gift, and return the wrapped gift (with the original tag attached) to the church by Sunday, Dec 18. Members of the Board of Deacons will deliver the gifts the week of Dec 19. If you prefer, monetary donations are also accepted. Please designate your check to the church *Christmas Family Project*. If you have any questions, contact Donna Downing, (879-2196).