
The Chimes of First Presbyterian Church

December 2006

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church

The Winter ALPHA Course Begins

In early January the next ALPHA Course begins on Wednesday evenings with the ALPHA Party followed by the ten-week course. Each week a hot meal is provided along with the video tape lesson and group discussion. You are invited to come on this course if you have not yet done so. So many have discovered a fresh blessing on the Course as all the basics of the faith are taught with humor and love by Rev. Nicky Gumbel. New friends are often made as well. And, of course, the great additional blessing is that new members come to the church and its ministry. Is there some one you know who needs to meet Jesus? Is there some one you know who has fallen away from the faith and no longer attends church? Is there some one you know who needs a spiritual renewal? Please begin praying about who you might invite to come on the course. Detailed information will be available through the month of December.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias can still be purchased through the church office, 762-1775, or see the sign-up sheet posted on the office door. There were 30 available @ \$6.50 each. They will be placed in the sanctuary 12/2, and may be picked up 12/17 to be delivered as gifts. If not picked up 12/17, the Deacons will deliver them to shut-ins. Many are still available.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank all of those who have made their financial pledges for next year. We are very pleased that we have had more people making pledges and obviously more money being pledged toward the church than last year. For those who have not turned in their pledges, it is never too late to do so. We look forward to receiving all pledges before the end of the year, so our church budget can be finalized. We all know how much our utility bills seem to be rising, not to mention how the cost of living continues to increase. Your church is no different. May this time of year, when we focus so much on giving, include your church as well!

Annual Reports/Annual Meeting

Yes, it's almost that time again, although you still HAVE time! Committee Chairs are minded to send your annual information to the office by January 10. If you have them in digital format, that would be great, but any way will do. The Annual Meeting will be January 21, 2007. **Thank you.**

Prayer Chain

In order to protect the privacy of our members, the prayer requests have been removed from this online version of the Chimes. If you do not receive the print version and would like access to this information, please email the church office.

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers.

*Dear Church family;
Thank you for all your prayers for me and for my sister, Pat McMann. I could feel the prayers...they kept me strong to do the things I needed to do. They helped her too....I'm sure of it. God called her home, but first he found all the "right" people to help her get there quickly.
Sherri, LeRoy & Jered Fry*

The Christmas Joy Offering

On December 24 we will receive and dedicate the annual Christmas Joy Offering. This major offering supports two great causes. One half is used as supplemental medical support for retired ministers and missionaries and spouses. Many of these men and women served the church in the years before there was a pension or medical plan. They live on Social Security. The supplement makes a huge difference. The other half of the offering supports the many ethnic colleges that our denomination established to help Native Americans and others with higher education. Please consider making a contribution to the cause this year.

Updated address

For Rusty Kendle
SPC Kendle, Russell
1074th CLP
3rd PLT
APO, AE 09381

Presbyterian Women

The next CT Board meeting will be December 13th with hostesses Norma Green and Jacci Irwin. This will be the second Wednesday of the month. Circles will meet on January 3rd with the Good Morning Circle meeting at Donna Zeller's home and Serendipity Circle meeting in the Session Room of the Church with hostess Jacci Irwin. The Circle of Hope will meet January 17th at Lois Osborn's home.

Hiltoppers meets December 8 at noon, for the Christmas Lunch. Vickie Bantam will present *The Christmas Spirit*. Howard and Shirley Watson, Ardis Foster, and Dorothy Parker are hosts.

New Hymnals Dedicated

On November 26th our new hymnal, *The Celebration Hymnal*, was dedicated in morning worship. Present were the Minnick and Tolstedt families to represent Idonna, in whose memory the funds were given. The congregation enjoyed many of the wonderful features of this hymn collection with much yet to come. This hymnal restores many of the older hymns we all love and adds a significant number of newer praise chorus and songs. Again, we thank everyone who contributed to the Memorial Fund for the purchase of this great gift. And we thank Bob Minnick and the whole family for their love and support of this project. Every time we reach for a hymnbook we will have the opportunity to give thanks to God for Idonna's special presence with us for so many years.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR SOMEONE??

How about a Church cookbook? The Presbyterian Women's groups are proud to offer a "treasured collection of recipes" from many of the outstanding cooks of our Church! Even though the cookbooks might not get here before Christmas, we have some beautiful gift certificates you can give in a card that says they will be getting one soon!!! What better keepsake than a Church Cookbook! I bet you will find many recipes included that will bring a memory to mind of a happy time spent with your Church friends and family.

The Cookbooks are **\$15.00** each and the gift certificates may be purchased before & after Church on the following Sundays: December 3, 10, or 17th; or from Jacci Irwin, 2380 CR 59, Alliance 762-3059.

During those same Sundays, we will also be selling our RADA cutlery. There are knives, peelers, spatulas, steak knives, whisks, etc., etc. Come and purchase those Christmas gifts and support your Church while you're at it! REMEMBER, we will be set up in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 3, 10, & 17th.

Sherri Fry

Spiritual Formation

A Big Thank You - I want to thank all of you for participating and supporting our "Fellowship Five – Fun is Coming" soup dinners follow worship service. The Spiritual Formation Committee has been encouraged by your positive response and we will continue to have these lunches as the calendar permits.

We've learned that all of you would like to be included so we're going to have a covered dish dinner next; the SFC will provide ham on

December 3rd and we'd like to have all of you provide the deserts and covered dishes. So, bring what you'd like to have with your ham that Sunday and some extra to share with others.

December 17th we'll have soup again. If you have a soup suggestion or especially a soup recipe already apportioned for an 18-quart roaster, please get a copy to someone on the committee and we'll consider preparing it for everyone. Again, we'll count on others to bring salad, deserts or other covered dishes.

The committee members are: John Sampson, Lois Osborn, Karen Debus, Bob & Donna Zeller, Stephen and Sydney Roosa, Bob & Sue Kammerer, Pat Dobry, Sherri Fry, Laona Perrin, Helen McConnell, Syd White (ex officio), Dick and Diane Foland, Carolyn Krause, Lloyd Howell and Terry Grosz.

Why are we doing this? We're doing this because we want to experience the **JOY** in Christian Fellowship. My Grandmother Taylor taught us grandkids that meant putting **J**esus first, **O**thers second and **Y**ourself last.

Some of the soups have been prepared in the church kitchen the day before. That's been especially fun for me since I'm not much of a cook. I'm pretty good at opening a can of soup and making a sandwich, but preparing three roasters full of chili or that potato cream cheese soup was a challenge filled with anxiety and trepidation. I marveled at the ease and familiarity my partners displayed in the kitchen. I had to learn from Lois Osborn the easiest way to cut up an onion, that the recipe was only a starting point, that Lloyd Howell is the best taster of chili and that he was not afraid to toss in extra spices without the aid of an exact measure, that the way I'd multiplied the recipe for the potato cream cheese soup was incorrect and you couldn't get

all the stuff in one roaster because there was too much broth which led to preparing a 4th roaster that got filled haphazardly by dipping from the other 3 to fill the 4th so in the end none of the 4 were the same, and from Pat Dobry that if you want to blend cream cheese with your broth, you use the kitchenaide blenderthat's what it's for!, that if you crank the heat up too high your soup burns on the edges of the roaster, that if you remove the lid a runny soup will cook down and become thicker....lots of stuff like that.

But, mostly it was the **JOY** of doing something with other Christians that needed to get done because they wanted to use their gifts to serve others. "It was very good."

And, because of your generosity with the free will offering, we now have a "kitty" to draw from to keep these fellowship dinners going.
THANK YOU!

Paul Maxwell

P.S. We're not going to stop putting the basket out!

With Others in Mind

December brings seasonal opportunities to help those with very real needs in the Alliance Community. December 10 is Food Bank Sunday. The canned goods and other items donated to go support *Family Rescue Services* and *Just Neighbors*. In addition the annual *Christmas Basket Project* will take place just before Christmas. For information please call Sherri Fry, moderator of our Presbyterian women's group.

Operation Christmas Child



Thank You Thank You. Due to your generosity we had 50 Shoe Boxes filled with love and joy to Operation Christmas Child. May God Bless You for your gift of love. Laona Perrin

Offering Envelopes

The Offering Envelopes for 2007 are located on the Narthex table. I prepare them following your pledge, if you have requested them (checked the box) on that form. If you forgot to check the box, on your pledge, or if I missed something, please leave me a note. If you did not make a pledge, but still want the Offering Envelopes, again, leave me a note or call the office. (762-1775). We order a certain amount and there are always extras. Elaine Moore

Christmas Baskets

The PW will be packing baskets in December. Donations of money would be helpful to purchase groceries. Also, let us know if you can help deliver boxes around December 20.

Eleanor Gardner

Found: 11/26, one gold earring, leaf, heart, and bangles. Call the office. 762-1775.

Deacon Greeters - December

12/3 Belva Krejci and June Tolstedt
12/10 JoAnn Tolstedt and Becky McKay
12/17 Sherri Fry and Pat Howell
12/24 All available Deacons
12/31 All available Deacons
1/7 All Available Deacons

Communion - Deacons

12/3 JoAnn Tolstedt, Sherri Fry, Belva Krejci, Jacci Irwin, Pat Howell
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
Belva Krejci, Wilma Hutchinson, Don and Vickie Hughart, Jacci Irwin, JoAnn Tolstedt

Off Site

12/3 Good Sam: Sherri Fry (2:15)
12/4 Crossroads: Frank Tolstedt (1:00)

Communion - Elders

Dave McCarty, Sue Kammerer, Frank Tolstedt, Paul Maxwell, Laona Perrin

Flowers - December

Dean and Phyllis Simpson are providing flowers/Christmas greenery during the month of December.

Jack and Marybelle Smaha are providing flowers December 24.

Greeters for December

12/3 Norm and Helen McConnell
12/10 Duane and Vickie Bantam
12/17 Moose and Sheila Walker and Samantha, Layne and Kendall Huss.
12/24 David McCarty
12/24 Christmas Eve Steve and Betty Blakey
12/31 Jayne, Kristina and Leslie Reeh

Liturgists - December

12/3 Pat Dobry
12/10 Jayne Reeh
12/17 Martin Marnett
12/24 Colleen Hood
12/31 Marty Jones

Ushers -December

Paul Maxwell and Thomas Sterkel

Anniversaries - December

24 Jack and Marybelle Smaha

Birthdays - December

2 Phyllis Knoflicek Mildred Colwell
Wally Seiler
3 Insun Colerick Pat Nelson
5 Phoebe Boots
8 Russ/Pete Kendle
9 Baily Hood Linda Johannes
10 Geoffrey Evert
15 Tyler Nepper
16 Floyd Colwell
19 Evelyn Way
20 Jim Irwin
21 Rebecca (Becky) McKay
22 Kristina Reeh Cassandra Foster
23 Tracy Swanson
24 Vic Krause Marvin Toedtli
26 Matt Lyster
27 Brandon Foster James Potmesil
28 Rodney Parker Janet Toedtli
29 LeRoy Fry
30 Mark Colerick

We wish you all a very **Happy Birthday!** I'd like to be so very organized that NO birthday goes by unnoticed, but if yours is not here, and you want it to be noted, please leave me a note, or call.

For Worship

Please prepare yourself for worship in prayer and the Word. Pastor Roosa has begun an Advent sermon series titled "What Christ Brings to Christmas." We often hear "they are taking the Christ out of Christmas." This series addresses the truth that this cannot and will not ever happen.

Dec 3	Jeremiah 1:4-8	<i>The God Who Knows My Name</i>	[Communion]
Dec 10	John 1:1-5	<i>A Stable Center</i>	[Food Bank Sunday]
Dec 17	Revelation 4	<i>The Worthy One</i>	
Dec 24 10:30 ^{am}	Jeremiah 29:11	A Glorious Future	
Dec 24 7 ^{pm}	Luke 2:1-20	Peace in the Midst of Chaos	[Communion/Candle lighting]
Dec 31	Revelation 22	Closing the Door	

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY

The poem following, by Karleen Wickham, is fitting in this season of Advent. The coming Christ was to bring all the poem promises. The Christ who came did not fail. His great work lives today and never shall be put aside.

*Snow quiets the heart,
Down-drifting, soft,
Floating crystals,
Whiteness aloft:
covering gently winter's scars –
sifting into cracks and mars.
Peace quiets the heart,
Down-drifting, soft,
Descending love
From prayer aloft,
covering gently sinful scars –
sifting into broken hearts.*

