

AS WE WISELY TRAVEL THIS NEW YEAR TOGETHER

You will receive this Newsletter as you ring in 2012. Have you wondered what the New Year might bring you, your family, your friends, your church, and your world? What would it take for you to be ready for anything that comes your way?

As a pastor's family we only once lived in a manse. We were told that the home we were living in on Serpent Lake had a 4000 gallon fuel oil tank. The owner, who had gifted the home to the church, was a bit overly concerned about the Cold War, so wanted to be reassured that he would have fuel to survive a world conflict. We were told when we moved there in July that the church did not intend to keep that tank topped off for its pastors. Well, in the middle of a sub-freezing night that first winter, we awoke shivering. The drum was empty. At midnight the Building and Grounds Chair called in the oil truck, which pumped 200 smelly gallons into a pipe in our yard!

When you consider it, the prior owner was fearful of anything the world might bring. On the other hand, the frugal church ended up fuel-less in the storm. For our family that had never depended on fuel oil, it was a survival lesson in being a true up-north Minnesotan! And a reminder how we needed each other.

In early January, the season of Epiphany, Christians consider the wise ones who traveled from the East following the star of Bethlehem. Their entourage came with three gifts for Jesus, but they also came with a wealth of wisdom, leadership and risky courage. These travelers needed to worship Jesus as much as his family needed to be informed of the threatening plans of King Herod. The wise ones epitomize our call to be present, worshipping, aware, working together and generous towards God in the challenges and joys of the New Year before us!

Congregational Meeting



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

A potluck will be held directly after the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29th. Plates, utensils, beverages, etc. will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex. Hope to see you there!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	p. 2
Calendar of Events	p. 3
Worship Schedule	p. 4

MORE POINTS OF INTEREST

Foodpack program	p.5
Returning military	p. 5
Women of GPC Lunch	p. 6
Cristhian Gaspar	p. 7

From the Pastor



IN THE INTERIM

"Won't you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too." The Servant Song, by John Bell, The Iona Community

The word "Interim" is commonly understood as indicating an in between time. Somewhere between start and finish, though not close to either end point. As a congregation you have experienced the periods of founding, establishing an identity, local and mission, your first interim, a second pastorate, celebrating your first ¼ century, and now your second interim. In the midst of obvious transition and the anxieties that rise up in that period, the good news is we are right on course!

The initial portion of an interim is similar to the experience of someone new coming into this community of faith. We are in what I would call the Time of Welcoming. My task has been to be as involved in the life-stream of the church and community, while getting myself and my belongings settled in as your pastor. I have found Chester's, the south and north Target, and toured underground Mayo! Knowing I am part of a living, breathing community means I now see and experience the landmarks that guide and provide sustenance for the longer journey. In my first 3 months I am seeing these signposts of healthy church life:

- * Genuine honor given children and youth
- * Deep commitment to study and share faith in today's world
- * So many willing to actively use their gifts in ministry
- * Warm welcome given at every worship service and event
- * A caring people who use compassion in times of joy or grief
- * Devoted and sensitive problem solvers

On January 21st, at our session retreat, I will begin working with the Session to lay out the next steps in the interim process, which links who we are with what Christ would have us become.

Thank you for your warm welcome to our shared journey of faith! It is good to be traveling with you,

Pastor Teresa

Getting to Know Your Resilient Servant Leaders at CPC

Our deep gratitude to our outgoing class of 2011 Elders and Deacons who have served us so faithfully and so well:

Margaret Nelson-Archives Chair
Amanda Ross-Christian Education Chair
Mary Alice Richardson-Mission Committee Chair
Penny Murray-Deacon

Our thanks to our continuing and new* leaders for 2012:

CLERK OF SESSION: Peggy McCarty*

ELDERS:

Mary Jensen- Worship Chair
Amy Anderson- Personnel Chair
Guy Vig- Finance Chair
Aaron Simms- Fellowship Chair
Mark Pillers- Bldg and Grounds Chair
Shannon Bennett*- Christian Education Chair
Linda Overton*- Member at large
Ronda Marshall*- Mission Chair

DEACONS:

Gwen Riggin- Chair Jean Abels
Jeanette Hallbeck Lois Nicholson
Jeff Swinbank Bill Webbles

**BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR
OUR CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING SUNDAY
JANUARY 29TH FOLLOWING
THE MORNING WORSHIP**

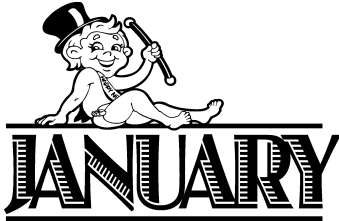
JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship (No Sunday School today)	2 Office Closed 7:30pm Aikido	3 5:30pm Membership 7:00pm Mission	4 6:30am Prayer Group at Madonna Towers 7:00pm Choir Practice	5 7:30pm Aikido	6	7 9:00am Aikido 11:00am Women of the Church luncheon at Red Lobster
8 9:30am Worship/Communion/Channel One 10:45am Sunday School	9 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 7:30pm Aikido	10	11 6:30am Prayer Group at Madonna Towers 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 7:30pm Aikido	13 7:00pm A.S. Support Group in Great Room	14 9:00am Aikido 9:30 Presbytery 5-9:00pm Great Room in use
15 9:30am Worship/Noisy Can 10:45am Sunday School 6:00pm Movie Night	16 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship 7:30pm Aikido	17 5:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Cub Scouts	18 6:30am Prayer Group at Madonna Towers 5:30pm food backpacks 7:00pm Choir Practice	19 7:30pm Aikido	20	21 9:00am Aikido 9am - noon Session Retreat
22 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 5:00pm Book Group	23 7:30pm Aikido	24 7:00pm Session	25 6:30am Prayer Group at Madonna Towers 5:30pm food backpacks	26 7:30pm Aikido	27	28 9:00am Aikido
29 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School Congregational Meeting & Potluck	30	31				

CHANNEL ONE SUNDAYS

The second Sunday of every month is Channel One Sunday at CPC. Please be generous toward your neighbors who are in need by bringing your canned/dry goods to the church on or before January 8. In November, CPC donated 35.5 pounds of food.

January pantry needs: Meats, fish and protein -- canned tuna, ham or chicken, beef stew, chili, peanut butter, canned/dried beans. You can also leave a cash donation in the basket in the Narthex.



Worship Schedule

Date	Liturgists	Worship Assistants	Greeter	Nursery Attendant (s)	Library Attendant
1-1	Doug Marker	Penny Murray Ron Murray Darlene Lucas	Rebeca Harkess	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Margaret Nelson
1-8	Amy Anderson	Powell Family	Ellen Warner	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Judi Berg
1-15	Linda Overton	Connie Holst Mark Pillers Peggy Pillers	Marita Heller	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Judy Kereakos
1-22	Jane Burgstaler	Simms Family	Amy Ward	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Kara Vig
1-29	Paul Harkess	Jeff Swinbank Dave Anderson Amy Anderson	Bill Webbles	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Margaret Nelson

GIVING REPORT

November 2011 Weekly Average	\$2,526.00
Year to Date Average 2011	\$3,174.88
Budgeted Weekly for 2011	\$3,461.54
Total Per Capita to be paid '11	\$4,142.56
Special Offerings	
Thank Offering	\$ 635.00
Peace Offering	\$ 837.00
USA Disaster Relief	\$ 774.25
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,166.00

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

3 Katie Marker
6 Carol Roede
8 Amanda Ross
9 Peter Marshall
9 Mary Meyer
11 Will Anderson
11 Ann Hesley
11 Dalton Simms
15 Lyal Powell
17 Dave Copeland
17 Joan Willaman
19 Susan Olson
19 Malinda Young
25 Lori Hill
26 Marita Heller
27 Andrew Fischer
29 MariLynn Johnson
29 Bill Webbles
31 Ed Burgstaler
31 Ronda Marshall
31 Mary Alice Richardson



(No anniversaries this month)



UPDATE ON CHANNEL ONE FOODPACK PROGRAM



Channel One Foodpack Program

CPC has been participating in another “hands-on” mission project being coordinated by Channel One and involving many area churches and all of the elementary schools in Rochester. CPC has been matched with Longfellow School, with whom we coordinate the delivery and distribution of 13 backpacks that provide 33 kids with food for the weekend. The packs contain “kid-friendly” snacks, fruit, bread, cereal and micro-waveable meals to supplement their weekend food supply. Teachers at various schools were reporting that many of their low-income students were not eating between school lunch on Friday and school breakfast or lunch on Monday. This program was started in an effort to alleviate that problem.

We have been blessed with a core group of “packers” who take turns picking up the food at Channel One and the backpacks at Longfellow, packing the food on Wednesdays at CPC and then delivering the full packs to Longfellow so they can go home with students each Friday. Our biggest challenge so far has been finding creative ways to fit food for 4 kids into one pack that can be hefted by a first grader!

Longfellow follows a year-round schedule taking three week breaks for every 9 weeks of classes. This is a big commitment for our congregation to provide this service. We appreciate all of our “trained” volunteers and are always looking for new “packers” to join our group. You are welcome to pack every week or occasionally as schedules allow. Let Denise know if you would like to be added to our list.

Scott Carpenter at Channel One sent these statistics recently to the area churches involved in packing foodpacks:

“We are serving 1,176 kids per weekend or 4,704 meals per weekend or 18,816 per month or 200,000 plus meals per year. You are all so much a part of this program and the feeding of all these kids. You are all making a huge difference in children’s lives.”

CPC HOSTING A PRESBYTERY WORKSHOP ABOUT RETURNING MILITARY PERSONNEL



**They
Served our
Country**

Amy Blumenshine, a nationally recognized speaker and writer on the concerns of returning military personnel and their families, will be the keynote speaker for a morning workshop at Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester on February 25, 2012. Although daily news stories report on the injuries and trauma experienced by veterans, most Americans are feeling little personal impact of our present wars. Many veterans and their families are paying a high price physically, spiritually, and mentally. For them, war is a “disability machine.”

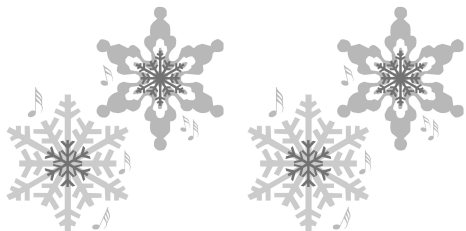
Where is the church in this picture? Do we have a role? Are there ways we can reach out? Can we be a force for justice and healing?

BOOK GROUP

We will be discussing "The Oasis" by Petru Popescu at our meeting on Jan. 22 at 5 pm in the church library. From review by Dr. David P. Stern. "This unique, powerful book tells the story of love during the European Holocaust. The "Oasis" is the Nazi concentration camp at Muhldorf, a outlier of the infamous Dachau camp near Munich. Blanka was a prisoner, Mirek an electrician employed in defusing unexploded bombs; Mirek was attracted to Blanka and helped her survive. This book reads like a novel, but is the true story of survival and love, written by their son-in-law. Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex showing all the books we will be reading through May. We welcome all readers for one or more of these discussions.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Our yearly luncheon will be held SATURDAY, January 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the new Red Lobster restaurant at the Apache Mall. At the luncheon, we collect items for Crisis Nursery here in Rochester which serves children in need. Sign up in the Narthex if you plan to come or call Nancy Massaro at 287-6514 to register. The deadline to register is Jan. 5th.



PER CAPITA REMINDER

If you are a member here at CPC and have not paid your Per Capita, please think about contributing your Per Capita before the end of 2011. CPC will remit Per Capita for every active member to pay our share of the costs of running our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Blue envelopes are available on the table in the narthex for your Per Capita donation, or you can write 'Per Capita' in the memo section on your donation check. Thanks!

--- your Finance committee.

THANKS FOR BELL RINGING

Thanks to all of you who rang bells this year. You helped the Salvation Army meet the needs of many in our community. There were 11 adults, Evan and Tommy Powell, 4 Sunday School youth, an elf, a penguin and a cat enthusiastically raising money for this local mission. All who rang the bells and spread the Christmas spirit had fun. Next December, be sure to sign up to ring bells.

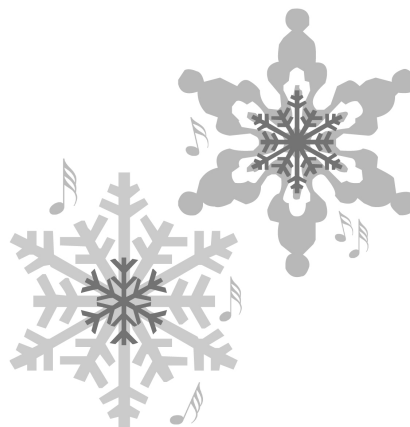
THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Adopt-a-Family. We provided a wonderful Christmas to a single 30 year old mother who works fulltime and has a 9 year old daughter, a 6 year old daughter and 2 year old twin boys; a 71 year old man who lives in adult foster care; and a 58 year old man who has challenges and lives in a nursing home. You have made their Christmas very special.

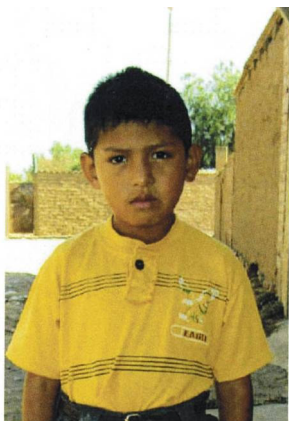


Samaritan's Purse informed us that our 69 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child went to India this year.

Thank you all for supporting this powerful mission project.



PRAY THAT HE WILL KNOW THE LORD AND GROW STRONG IN HIM



CPC is entering its second year of sponsoring a child through Compassion International as a whole church project. Cristhian Gaspar lives in the mountainous community of Villa Candelaria, Bolivia, home to approximately 5000 residents. Typical houses are constructed of cement floors, adobe walls and tin roofs. The most commonly spoken languages are Quechua and Aymara. Cristhian lives with his Grandmother, Angela and his Aunt Celia. He is in first grade, plays soccer and loves small animals, especially cats. Our monthly support of \$38 goes to help pay Cristhian's school and medical needs as well as Bible teaching, recreational activities and nutritious food.

Our "noisy collection" also provides funds for birthday and Christmas gifts for Cristhian and others in the Villa Candelaria Student Center. His aunt wrote that last year he received new trousers and a new pair of shoes for Christmas for which he was very grateful. Our youth at CPC were disappointed to learn that we cannot send gifts to Cristhian directly as packages do not get to the intended receiver in his country and the staff at the school try to distribute funds equally amongst the students so all are able to receive gifts even if they do not currently have a sponsor and so one child does not receive more than others.

CPC does receive notes from Cristhian's family periodically during the year and they are posted on the youth bulletin board in the narthex for all to read. It is interesting to see the letter written in Cristhian's language and then translated into English!

A monthly sponsorship schedule for 2012 is on the clipboard shelf in the narthex if you would like to join with others at CPC in providing support for Cristhian and his family. Thank you to all the families and committees who supported Cristhian in 2011. This is a great opportunity to honor someone's birthday or special occasion and help someone in need. We have committed to supporting Cristhian until he has graduated from high school. With our help, he will receive the care and education needed to support himself in the future.



MOVIE NIGHT

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee will be the first movie of 2012. This will be shown on January 15 at 6:00 p. m. This 2 hour DVD will begin with the Sioux victory over Gen. Custer at Little Big Horn and end with the Wounded Knee massacre of the Sioux in South Dakota. Three powerful men are the main characters, Charles Eastman as the young, Dartmouth-educated Sioux doctor, Sitting Bull as the Lakota chief who tries to protect his people, their land and culture, and Senator Henry Dawes as a man in charge of the government policy on Indian affairs. This will be a most interesting perspective on how the Native Americans were unfairly treated by our ancestors. There will be a lively discussion after the movie is shown. As usual, popcorn and beverages will be provided.



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Place
 stamp
 here

"Open Hearted—Open Minded"



Come Be Our Guest!

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. (September - May)

Nursery is provided during Worship
 and Sunday School.



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Deadline for Copy for

February 2012 Newsletter:

January 16, 2011

Editor reserves the right to
 edit for content and space.

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Judy Kereakos

Laurie Priniski

Secretary:

Cara Pederson

A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne		
___ rohmtae		
___ srgbape		
___ rbieda		
___ pehtshred		
___ rdhaenica		
___ fadoo		

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh	
___ dchilnero	
___ drove	
___ acehtr	
___ sarcos	
___ nusoaatim	

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas