

Presbyterian Times
December, 2016

First Presbyterian Church
919 E. Tenth
Rolla, MO 65401
Telephone: 573-364-3852 / Fax: 573-426-5320

A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Recently I have been reading reflections on the Advent hymn, “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*” As I read the reflections, I realized how little I sometimes pay attention to the words of our hymns. As we prepare for the arrival of Christmas and all that means for us and for the world, Advent helps us to remember who we are and where we came from. The season also helps us remember we have somewhere to go, something to look forward to.

The hymn is number 9 in our hymnal. The three verses included in the Presbyterian Hymnal look back on God’s people who were taken into captivity and were overcome with grief. They had no songs to sing, they had no home, and they had no place to worship. And yet, the hymn calls them to worship – to rejoice knowing God will send Emmanuel to bring them out of their darkness.

The second verse is a prayer for Christ to bring cheer and chase away the darkness. As the light of Christ is born into the world, death is destroyed and joy can rest in our hearts. This is hope unlike no other through which we renew our faith. This light also allows us to bear the darkness knowing it will not last, nor is it as overwhelming as it may seem.

The third verse speaks to every generation and prays for peace. As we sing the hymn we plead for God to come and bind all our hearts, to bring peace among individuals and nations, ending division and hate.

These are the prayers of Advent. These are the pleas for Christ to come to the world and make it reflect the hope, joy, peace and love of this season. What a wonderful prayer for Advent and for every day. May Christ come and alleviate pain and suffering, dispel grief and division, end war and heal the nations. May we find the faith to enable us to rejoice as we wait and live into this holy vision.

May Christ be with you all as we prepare the way for Christ to come.

*O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*O Come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and are yourself the King of Peace.*

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

*Pastor Lou Ellen and Brett Hartley
would like to invite you to a*

*Christmas reception on
Sunday December 18 in the fellowship hall
immediately following the service.*

*We would like to wish everyone a very merry
Christmas and share with you some of our favorite
recipes. We look forward to seeing you.*

What can I do?

How can I make a difference?

Where do my faith and my life intersect?

Where do I begin? How do I engage in ministry in my own life?

How can I be a disciple?

How can I take church with me when I leave the building?

**If you ask these questions in one form or another and would like to discuss
your thoughts, concerns, ideas, or questions with others then we invite you
to come to the Sadler lounge on Thursdays at 7:00p.m.**

**We will discuss the concerns we have for our community, nation, and the
world then try to understand how we as individuals and as a congregation
can address those concerns.**

We will study, discuss, read and do.

**Join us on Thursdays beginning December 1 at 7:00 in the Sadler lounge
(right after Fired Up!).**

Presbyterian Women
Melba Read

Cookie Walk and Bazaar is coming soon. Join us on Saturday, December 3, 2016 and shop from 8 am – 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served by Circle V.

The church is the gym of the soul.
Sylvester Stallone, Actor

Presbytery News

At the November 5, 2016 meeting the presbytery approved the per capita rate for 2017 at \$35.00 per member. You may pay it any time after January 1, 2017.

Congregational Meeting
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4th following our worship service for the purpose of electing new officers for 2017.

Our nominations are as follows:

Trustees: Larry Roberts (fulfilling Darryl Alofs' vacant seat), Steve Zap, and Clayton Read.

Deacons: Deanne Jackson, Carlene May, and Cheryl Koederitz

Elders: Joanne Zap, Pam Cottingham and Marcia Brewer

Music and Worship
Jeff Sandquist

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

An Advent Worship Service inspired by the poetry of Christina Rossetti

The Chancel and Bell Choir of First Presbyterian Church will join forces to lead the worship service on Sunday, December 11, at 9:45 a.m. The service will feature a liturgy and music created using the poetry of English poet Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894). Rossetti is considered to be one of the most important female writers of the 19th century. Best known for writing the carol “In the Bleak Mid-Winter,” she also penned a series of poems for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany. Her BBC Poetry biography states: *“Religious themes dominate her work but Rossetti never preaches, instead exploring the tensions between earthly passions and divine love.”* Her poetry for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany have been adapted for this service of worship. Rossetti has long been a favorite of composers, from Gustav Holst, to a myriad of contemporary composers who have set her poetry to music. The service will feature three different settings of “Love Came Down at Christmas” by contemporary Irish

composer Philip Stopford, and American composers Daniel Gawthrop, and Mark Miller. Additional music based on Rossetti's poetry include: "Christmas Hath Darkness," "Before the Paling of the Stars," and "In the Bleak Mid-Winter." The service also includes the recitation of three other Rossetti poems set to music for the Handbell Choir: "A Hymn for Christmas Day," "Epiphany," and "A Christmas Carol for My Godchildren." These recitations will give the listener the opportunity to listen and reflect on Rossetti's poetry.

The Chancel and Handbell Choir will be joined by violinist Jonathan Romanko, narrator JoAnn Anderson, along with several "friends" of the choir for this service. Lorie Francis will be featured accompanying the Chancel Choir on piano, and organ. The service was compiled and created by music director Jeff Sandquist. Please join us at First Presbyterian for this special Advent service as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the King. Love came down, at Christmas.

Worship Committee
Jonathan Kimball

We have begun our new Christian year with Advent, as we celebrate Christ's coming. Here are some important notes for the next month:

- Throughout Advent, we will have special midday prayers on Wednesdays. Please join us in the **chapel on November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21 at 11:30 am** for about a half-hour service.
- The Christmas Cantata is on December 11. The overall theme relates to "Love Came Down at Christmas."
- We will go **caroling to the homebound on December 18**, starting at 6:00 pm.
- Fired Up! services will mostly continue as usual. On **December 22 at 6:30 pm**, instead of the normal service, we will hold a Longest Night service, a service of healing and wholeness, of grief and hope.
- **Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary.**
- We will have a more-or-less normal service on Christmas Day, which is a Sunday. However, it will be held at the **Presbyterian Manor on December 25 at 9:45 am** in their community room (right inside the front door). Please join us for a special time together with our extended Presbyterian family.
- There will be no communion on New Year's Day. Instead, communion will be served on January 8.

Wishing everyone peace and joy as we come into this demanding time of year. I hope that you take advantage of these various opportunities to grow spiritually as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus's birth, and look forward to His reign.

Membership / Fellowship

Bob May, Chair

Sunday Fellowship. Thanks to those providing refreshments for Fellowship Time after Sunday Worship. If you would like to help, please indicate on sheet just outside Church office. As you greet visitors, please invite them to Fellowship Time.

First Friday Night Out. Next dinner is this coming Friday, December 2nd: 6:00 p.m. at Colton's. Please let Lee Bennett (341-2130) know if you can attend.

Coming Events – Mark your Calendar. More information later:

January 22, Sunday Game Night.

February 19, Sunday, Chili Cook-off Contest.

Joy Offering

Frank Jessop

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the "wonderful gift" of God with us. Jesus arrived in a humble stable in small and insignificant Bethlehem, to lead and teach in truth and love, and bring about God's salvation to the world. What a "wonderful gift" indeed.

50% of the Joy Offering goes to racial ethnic education and leadership development; which create opportunities for education and leadership growth at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges; provides assistance for students and future church leaders, and supporting important ministries in Presbyterian related schools and colleges.

50% of the Joy Offering goes to the assistance program for the Board of Pensions; which provides financial assistance to individual and families who have given their lives serving the church, aids church workers with urgent financial and medical needs, and grants to help retired church workers with financial and housing needs.

We will dedicate the Joy Offering Sunday, December 18. If you write a check for the Joy Offering please put in the "For" space at the bottom of the check Joy Offering. Thank you and bless you from the Mission Committee.

Mission

Susan Murray

Susan Murray will be taking a trip to Guatemala in January which will include visits to see the work of ALDEA. ALDEA is not-for-profit that works to reduce chronic childhood malnutrition in Mayan communities.

Susan will be taking a suitcase of items to donate. If you are interested in helping the highest priority is prenatal and children's vitamins (not gummy as they melt). Other

donation items that are helpful include: construction paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons, pens, coloring books with no/few words, and any basic office supplies.

PALS LUNCH
Cheryl Koederitz

Lunch will be Monday, December 5th at 11:45 am at the Locker Room.

Preschool News
Rachel Allison, Director

There's a bit of Preschool news I would like to share with the congregation. First, Carol Jessop is selling greeting cards to benefit the Preschool Scholarship fund. The ordering information is on the staircase landing between the Church and the Preschool. There are several options and they are beautiful! Second, the preschool is collecting pet food and supplies during the month of December to give to the Rolla Animal Shelter. We want to teach our little learners to be givers and good community members! We invite you to contribute to this cause. There is a collection box outside of my office. Our students are very excited to help the puppies and kitties!

The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest.
Guideposts

Circle III
Mary Kwantes

There will be a Circle III meeting at the home of Mary Kwantes, December 4 at 3 pm at 1308 Whitney Lane. You may bring a guest and a snack to share if you wish.

Stewardship News
Barbara Ford, Treasurer

Just a quick reminder regarding giving cards: There's still time to mail or drop yours by the office if you so desire. It always helps when the committee works on financial planning for the coming year.

Financials for October are as follows:

- a) General Fund Balance of \$11,570.36
- b) Payroll Fund Balance of \$5,000
- c) Reserve Fund Balance of \$224,898.60
- d) Renovation Fund Balance of \$1,879.52
- e) September Income of \$17,935.48
- f) September Expense of \$16,492.08
- g) Net increase of income over expenses of \$1,443.40

Although I don't have final figures for November, my running estimate of revenue and expenses indicates that November will not be so positive. It may be necessary to pull money from reserves to get us through to year end. As always my prayers continue and I have faith that God knows what is best for our church.

Even though this time of year can get really busy, it is also a time when I want to thank you for your help and support. Volunteering is a blessing in itself, but even more so when folks offer help and thanks and a pat on the back. So thank you all -- and Merry Christmas.

Midday Prayers
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Join us for Midday prayers December 7, 14, and 21 in the chapel at 11:30 am. We will spend time reading scripture, praying, preparing our hearts to welcome the Christ child. There will be opportunities to offer up our joys and concerns and to share with one another the deep meaning of this season. Please join us.

Christmas Cantata and Luncheon

The Christmas cantata will be presented during our worship service on December 11. As always, our music ministry will lead us as we worship together during this special season. The PW church luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall.

Longest Night Worship Service

This service will be held on Thursday, December 22 at 6:30 pm in the chapel. We recognize the holiday season can be filled with joy as well as grief. The Longest Night service is designed to help those of us who need to open our hearts to the sadness we bear as well as to the comfort and healing we receive from God's Holy Spirit. Please join us for this special service of healing and wholeness.

How well do you know our congregation?

Carol Jessop

Did you know Eleanor Van Horn was born in Alliance, NE, a town in the sand hills of western Nebraska. This is her story: How did my parents who were both from Kentucky and had been living in Chicago end up in western Nebraska? My mother had been diagnosed with tuberculosis and had been advised to move to a dry climate. My dad asked to be assigned to a church in a dry climate and they sent him to Hemingford, NE. (My mother recovered and lived to be 95 years old so I guess it was good advice.) Over the years we lived in several towns in Nebraska. I attended Doane College in Crete, Nebraska and then transferred to Berea College in Kentucky where I could earn my college expenses and graduated with a degree in Sociology. While there I met John Van Horn. Then I graduated and went to work as a Program Director at the YWCA in Nashville, TN. In the meantime, John and I continued our relationship and he invited

me to go home with him for a visit. While there, I sensed an unusual interest in me from his friends. I later learned that he had said at one time that he would marry the first girl he met that could drink him under the table! I guess he didn't find one, probably because drinking was strictly forbidden at Berea College. Anyway, he married me.

During our marriage John worked for an oil exploration company, spent two years in the Army and then got a job with the USGS in Rolla. We have three children, Dan, Bruce, and Susan. We also have three grandchildren, and one great grandson.

John worked for the USGS for thirty years and I taught in the public school in St. James and in Rolla. After retiring, we moved to New Mexico, living there for thirteen years before returning to Rolla.

Rolla is home to me now and First Presbyterian Church is a big part of it.

Presbyterians Cook

Carol Jessop

I found this recipe and thought it looked easy and tasty. I must admit that I have not tried it as my family insists that we have my grandmother's cornbread stuffing, for which there is no recipe just taste, smell and "that's it".

Apple Cranberry Pecan Stuffing

Made on your stovetop, this takes just minutes.

3 cups apple juice
¼ cup margarine
2 small apples, chopped
1 cup dried cranberries
½ cup chopped, toasted pecans
2 packages (6 oz. each) Stove Top Stuffing Mix (Use Chicken flavored)

Bring juice and margarine to a boil in medium saucepan on high heat. Stir in apples, cranberries, and stuffing mix. Cover and remove from heat. Let stand five minutes. Stir in pecans. Makes 16 half cup servings.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager



wishes for December go out to the following people: *John Denbo, Pam Skyles, Brett Hartley, Paden Long, Bill Morgan, Caleb Rose, Dace Murray, Michael Bennett, Bud Pumfrey, Bill Winch, Glenda Knight, Ida Ponzer, Caitlin Bennett, Barbara Ford and Betti Jo Pyatt.*



Go out to Jim Drewniak and

Mariesa Crow-Drewniak.

Upcoming events for the month are listed throughout the newsletter this month. Please have your **Newsletter articles for the January edition in by December 23, 2016** due to the Christmas holiday.

To contact the church by email, please use this email office@rollapresby.org .



and



I pray everyone has a safe, healthy and happy new year with many blessing in 2017.