

The Courier

A publication of Christ Presbyterian Church

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DECEMBER 2014

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Men of Christ Angel Tree

Help the Men of Christ make Christmas happy for five local area families. Here's the five easy steps:

- 1) Pick a gift tag from the tree in the Narthex
- 2) Buy and wrap the gift
- 3) Add your personal gift tag
- 4) Add the **original** gift tag
- 5) Bring to church by **December 14**

If you would prefer to make a cash donation, place it in an envelope and identify it for the Angel Tree.



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
SERVICE
10:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**



Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14th

The Outreach Commission is hosting a community Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

The **Mount Vernon High School Choir** will be performing this year. Mark your calendar and tell your neighbors and friends to join us on the 14th! Please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share for the reception following the concert.

December Birthdays Remember In Prayers



At Home:

Karen Angellotti
John Long
Karmen Krueger
John Burney
Michelle Grelle

In Hospital,
Nursing Home &
Assisted Living
Centers:

Myrtle Fields
@ Clearwater Commons
Clara Nicholson
@ Mill Run Assisted Living,
Columbus, OH
Ann McFate
@ Berkshire of Castleton
Eleanor Moore
@ Westminster Assisted
Living

Special Offerings

Where does your money go when the "December" Special offerings are received?

Christmas Offering Envelope (found in your box of weekly envelopes). This offering stays within CPC. This is split between the Deacon Fund, the Sick & Needy Fund and the Rev. Irwin Memorial Fund.

Christmas JOY offering is usually collected on Christmas Eve, but can be received anytime. Be sure and indicate that it is for the **JOY** offering. These funds are forwarded to the Presbytery and are used to help families of active and retired church workers. It also is shared with Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges for education.

Mike Schofield 12/2
Carol Fleshood 12/5
Jeanette Abramo 12/6
Becky Floetker 12/7
Victor Grelle 12/7
Vincent Grelle 12/7
Tony DeSimone 12/15
Contessa Bilyou 12/18
Michael Gill 12/23
JoEllen King 12/23
Christie Waggoner 12/23
John Burney 12/24
John Long 12/27
Megan Romero 12/28

December Anniversaries



Dick & Linda Abdon 12/27
Bill & Sandy Robbins 12/27

Prime Timers

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 AM in the Multi Purpose Room.**

Lunch will be prepared by Shirley Cook

Program: Shirley Cook will share her experiences on her recent trip on the Rhine River Cruise in Amsterdam!

Hope to see you all there! —

Everyone is welcome.



KUDOS

Many times folks are working behind the scenes to help make things go smoothly here at CPC. They often go unnoticed — this column will send “Kudos” to these people. If you know of someone that deserves a kudos — send that persons name to office@christpresby.org

Hannah Strebing and her friends from school who came to church on November 19 and brought all the Christmas decorations down from the attic and placed them throughout the church for Hanging of the Greens on Sunday November 23.

Jamie Strebing who again coordinated the efforts of the ‘elves’ in decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Dodie Urias who answered the 7 AM call on November 23 to step in and play the hymns during worship for the ailing Grace Long.

Poinsettia Order Form are available in the bulletin or in the church office.



Order deadline is Monday, December 15th

Price per plant is \$9.50



Today I am thankful for...

People who skip Colts games to climb ladders and hang garland
 People who fluff greenery
 People who make delicious food for all of us (& clean up the kitchen)
 People who assemble and decorate trees
 People who check to be sure the bows and ribbons are just right
 People who put up candles and decorations
 People who hang wreaths in the rain
 People who are helpful and ask what they can do

I am thankful for ALL of YOU!

Thanks to everyone who helped get our church ready for the Christmas season. Mark your calendars now for Jan 11th to help pack it all away!

Jamie Strebing

In Search Of Christmas

Matthew 3:1-3 – In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (NRSV)

I was looking for a Bible that I had bought from the Robert Simpson Company many, many years ago. Although I didn't find my Bible, which I had likely put in a secure place, in my search, I came upon a book with the title, *In search of Christmas*. I had never read this particular book until I salvaged it from a bookshelf in our basement.

As I glanced through it, it brought many things to mind, like all the things that people in today's world use, if they celebrate Christmas, not having any idea why, or what the things might mean. Let's follow the journey in search of Christmas using the Christmas tree, the gifts, and the candles.

The Christmas tree is an evergreen that never changes color. It is a reminder of our God, Whose love for us in Christ is unchanging and everlasting.

As we gather together on Christmas Day around our Christmas tree, we open gifts, given in love. We give because lovingly God first gave salvation to us in Christ — a priceless gift too wonderful for words to describe.

Many people light candles to bring soft light into their homes. But in many Christian homes, purple or blue candles are lit one Sunday at a time during Advent to signify a spirit of self-examination and repentance. The custom has seen many adaptations, and here is one that you may not have heard of. The first candle symbolizes hope, with the prophet's candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. On the second Sunday, the Bethlehem candle is a symbol of faith and reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. A pink candle on the third Sunday signifies joy, with the shepherd's candle reminding us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. The fourth candle, the angels' candle, symbolizes peace, reminding us of the angels' message of peace on earth, goodwill toward men. A fifth, white candle is lit on Christmas Day, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

I pray that these thoughts will bring hope, faith, joy, and peace to those who may see in a new light the wondrous gift that God has given us in Christ. May we all approach this year's celebration in a new and different way as a result of our own personal search for Christmas.

Prayer: Most gracious heavenly Father, we come to You during this Advent season, praying with hope for those who do not know the true meaning of Christmas. We pray that they will find their way in Your true light. In the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer and our only hope, we pray. Amen.

Anne Russell <anbrussell@bell.net>
Brampton, Ontario, Canada
PresbyCan Daily Devotional



November 19, 2014

Christ Presbyterian Church
Attn: Pastor Nancy
7879 N. 700 W.
McCordsville, IN 46055-9587

Fund: 3.6 Christmas Baskets
Donation: \$1,519.00, Check Number 20432
Date Received: 11/18/2014

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Westminster Neighborhood Services' Christmas Basket Program! WNS is a community located on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis who is dedicated to providing our neighbors quality children's programming, basic needs like food and clothing, and supportive services. Our collaboration with the neighborhood, community organizations, businesses, and programming partners works to alleviate poverty, joblessness, illiteracy, and stress.

The Christmas Basket program is always an exciting time at Westminster. Nearly 200 volunteers will gather one Friday afternoon to put together 225 baskets. These baskets comprise of two weeks of groceries, grocery items for Christmas dinner, socks, underwear, winter clothing, and gifts for the children. Not only is the community coming together to provide things to celebrate Christmas, but Westminster also aims to create a society of caring and giving individuals.

Sincerely,

Harriet O'Connor, CFRE
Executive Director
Westminster Neighborhood Services
harriet.oconnor@westmin.org





Cookbooks for Sale

The CPC PW have a
DEAL FOR YOU!

\$8 each or TWO for \$15

Copies are available in the Narthex along with a donation box to leave your payment.

They make
GREAT Christmas gifts!



GREETINGS FROM ROY BILYOU

Hello Church Family,

Chase is on his way home, for Thanksgiving Holiday. He is bringing lots of homework along with dirty laundry. This way, I can keep his laundry up, while he keeps his studies current. When he gets back - he will have no "behind-ness" in his homework, etc. (I made that word up.)

Contessa, Caleb and little Nathan will be joining us for Thanksgiving on the RK Ranch, also.

We talk about our Church Family and how we miss our Sundays and other Church events. Contessa and family should be back for Christmas... so, expect them for Services.

My health, attitude and heart is very thankful for all the Blessings I have received in my life. My Lord, my Children and how I have coped with all the life events (good and bad) thrown in my path. With the Lord and Children's help - I have had more blessing that can be counted. I take nothing for granted... I enjoy life, love and happiness daily.

Church Family - Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday - enjoy the family times together.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

Roy Bilyou

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

What's Christmas without a pageant? So our worship on **Sunday, December 21** will include an **Intergenerational Christmas Pageant**. This part of our worship, (which will occur during the Time with Children) will invite everyone, adults and children, to participate at their comfort level – whether it is wearing a 'costume' or singing Christmas hymns in the pews – as we tell the story Jesus' birth.

During each chapter of the story, presented by our narrators, we'll invite all who want to be Mary, Joseph, animals, shepherds, wise persons and angels, to come and gather around the manger. The appropriate 'costume' for each character will be available on the table in the narthex as you come in that morning for worship. Come early to get the costume for your favorite character before they're all gone! Be advised - these 'costumes' are simple, suitable for every age – a heart-shaped felt necklace for the Marys a small burlap pouch for the Josephs, masks for the animals, candy canes for the shepherds, construction paper crowns for the wise persons, and garland halos for the angels.

***So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
(Luke 2.16)***

December 2014

December 2014							January 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
28	29	30	31										

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30		Dec 1 6:00pm 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting (MP Room) 7:00pm 8:30pm Troop 88 (MP Room)	2 1:00pm 3:00pm Needlecrafters (MP Room) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Unit 7:00pm 9:30pm Cub Scout Holiday Party (MP Room)	3 7:30pm 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	4 10:00am 12:00pm PW Coordinating Team (MP Room) 7:00pm 8:30pm Council Meeting (MP Room) 7:00pm 8:00pm Deacon Meeting (Ed Room)	5	6
7	5:00pm Sarah Circle Party (Shirley Cook's House)	8 6:00pm 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting (MP Room) 7:00pm 8:30pm Troop 88 (MP Room)	9 10:00am 12:00pm Hope Circle (Ellen Gil) 6:00pm 9:00pm Crystal Pointe HOA (MP Room) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scout 7:00pm 8:30pm Stewar	10 7:30pm 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11	12	13 8:30am 10:00am Men of Christ (Church or Lincoln Square) 5:00pm 7:00pm Meyer Family (Private Party) (MP Room)
14	10:00am 11:00am Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary) 6:00pm 7:30pm Community Concert (Sanctuary)	15 6:00pm 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting (MP Room) 7:00pm 8:30pm Troop 88 Court of Honor (MP Room)	16 11:30am 1:30pm Prime Timers (MP Room) 6:30pm 8:00pm Cub Scout Parent Meeting 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Unit	17 7:30pm 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	18	19	20
21	10:00am 11:00am Inter-generational Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28		29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan 1, 15	2	3

12/4/2014 12:31 PM



7879 N 700 W
 McCordsville, IN 46055
 Phone: 317-335-7600
 E-mail: office@christpresby.org

Christ Presbyterian Church wants God to be a vital part of our lives as we reach out to our community and we embrace the following Vision Statement:

We believe that God is calling us to be the open arms, the healing hands, and the loving hearts of the body of Christ in our community.



Do you want to be a part of weekly Service? Sign up sheets for 2015 are in the narthex.

CPC is in need of volunteers for Liturgist, purchasing the sanctuary flowers to honor, remember or show appreciation for someone or set up, serve and clean up coffee fellowship after service.



Like us on Facebook

Newsletter Articles needed



The Courier is only helpful if events and plans are submitted to the church office to be included. If your commission, or group is planning an activity and would like it broadcast to the membership via the newsletter — please submit articles (pictures too if you have them) to office@christpresby.org by the last Monday of the month. **Next deadline is Monday, December 29.**