



# PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St.

Rev. Steve Elderbrock, *Pastor*

ottawapresby.org

Ottawa, OH 45875-1810

Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

9:30 am Sunday School ♦ 10:45 am Worship

(419) 523.3694

## December 2011



### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Music at 8:30 pm, Worship at 9:00 pm**



Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service on Saturday, December 24. We will gather to hear the Christmas story, to sing carols, light candles, and welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior. Beauty, laughter, joy, tears; this Christmas will be all the more memorable as we celebrate together on Christmas Eve!

### Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25

**Worship at 10:45 am, no Sunday School**



Once again we have the rare opportunity to worship on Christmas Day, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! We will sing favorite carols, reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth, and have a joyous birthday party for our Savior! Please make time in your Christmas Day plans for this special time of worship!

### End of Year Giving

All offerings received by or postmarked December 31 will be credited as a 2011 tax year donation. Donations received or postmarked after December 31 will be credited as a 2012 donation. Please plan your end-of-year giving accordingly! Thanks! Also please feel free to give an extra gift to the church at year end if you feel called to do so. Extra donations are always greatly appreciated!



## Applying Bible Principles

We've come to the last of a 48-month series entitled, "Effective Stewardship: Building on Biblical Principles." We've considered a wide variety of scriptural teachings during the past four years, but in one way or another, they all relate to the premise upon which this program has been built as stated in Psalm 24:1 – "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

You see, if the earth really is the Lord's, and if everything in it belongs to the Lord, then in reality, we are managers and stewards of that which rightfully belongs to Him. We own nothing! God owns it all. He allows us to use what rightfully belongs to Him, but God continues to retain the ownership. We are just managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

This means that whether we are paying our taxes, buying groceries, providing for our families or giving to support the ministry of our church, we are making decisions that involve the resources God has provided for us. And the primary reason God entrusts us with material possessions, especially money, is that we might glorify Him.

Every spending decision, therefore, becomes a spiritual decision as we "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). Yes, it is important to take care of our families and other obligations we have, but what is really important is to give back to God that which He has entrusted to us, that which is rightfully His. As we give voluntarily, quietly, generously and cheerfully according to the measure of

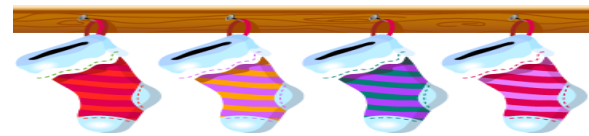
prosperity God has given to us, we glorify Him as we give "willingly" from our hearts (Ex. 25:2).

Don't be confused: The amount we give and the percentage we give are very important. But as we give, let's remember to keep the "main thing" the "main thing." What's of paramount importance is why we give. We give, not only for the glory of God, but also because He first gave to us. We give out of our love for Christ who has redeemed us by dying for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

That's why it's a privilege to be God's manager and God's steward of what belongs to him. That's why it's a privilege to manage God's resources in His behalf. And that's why it's a privilege to give to the work of the Lord here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church.

As we come to the close of this important series, are you using money and possessions as if they belong to you, or are you making spending decisions with the full realization that "God owns it all"?

@ Kenneth L. Williams



### **New Year Reminder**

It's almost that time again.

2011 Annual Report time!! Please get any information that you need submitted for the report to the church office by **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**. Of course, if you have items ready to go before then, I will gladly accept them☺!

Thanks, Andrea



## Prayer Requests

For those with *health concerns*:

For all affected by *natural disasters*,

For those with *employment concerns*,

For *military personnel serving around the world and their families*

*Joy for prayers answered*

### Sunday Scripture Readings

#### December 4 - Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

#### December 11- Advent

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

#### December 18 - Advent

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:39-55

#### December 25 - Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7

John 1:1-14



## Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm

(Putnam Acres)

**December 7:** *No Bible Study*

**December 14:** *Revelation 15:1-16:7*

**December 21:** *Revelation 16:8-21*

**December 28:** *No Bible Study*

## Peacemaking Offering

Individuals from our congregation contributed \$145 to the Peacemaking Offering in October. Fifty percent of this offering goes to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, 25% goes to presbyteries and synods, and 25% is kept by the local congregations to be used for locally determined peacemaking projects.

Our Presbyterian denomination has four special offerings each year. In addition to the Peacemaking Offering, there is the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering at Easter, the Pentecost Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering. We would like to thank those who have chosen to support these special offerings.



## Christmas Gift Idea

Looking for a unique Christmas gift? "*Seams Of Gold, The Life of Agnes Warkentin Rice*" is available at the church for purchase or you may contact Agnes R. at 419.523.1263. Cost is \$15.



**Next Session meeting**

**Thursday, December 15 at 7 pm**

## **The Church Mailbag**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the delicious Halloween gift package! I appreciated it so much! I especially loved all of the popcorn and the toothbrush! ☺  
Thank you for making my week. I love you all and miss you so much!



Best,  
Kate W.

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you all so much for the Halloween goodie package! I was honestly waiting for it to arrive all month, and I was overjoyed when I saw the package slip in my mailbox! My friends and I have enjoyed the treats, and I think they were a bit jealous when I told them who the package was from.

Thanks again! ☺

Love,  
Natalie B.

Dear Ottawa Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for all the great snacks that you put in the Halloween bag.

-Brandon F.



Dear members of the First United PC,  
Please accept this short letter as an inadequate but heartfelt expression of thanks for the generous contribution that you made to help restore our church building. We are blessed by your generosity.

You already know how devastating Hurricane Irene was to our church and we are grateful for your response. Your

generous \$150 contribution is significant in helping our church get back into our sacred space and helping all the organizations that use our church to return as quickly as possible.

We received your generous contribution as a blessing! Thank you again for your gift to our church.

Many blessings,  
Pastor Don  
on behalf of the church family at FPCW

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contribution of \$131 to the Pentecost Offering. Your gift provides vital support to ministries that have a critical impact on the lives of children at risk, youth, and young adults.

At General Assembly level, the Pentecost Offering gives young people opportunities to exercise their faith and develop leadership skills through Presbyterian youth ministries, offers the Young Adult Volunteer program ways to give young people the opportunity to explore church leadership through short-term mission service, and provides support for the church's advocacy ministry on behalf of children who have no voice and no vote.

Many congregations have written that the congregational share of the Pentecost Offering, 40%, has not only enabled them to make a difference in their community, but also has given them a new vision for mission. Thank you for the significant changes you are making in the lives of children at risk in your community.

Thank you again for your gifts to the Pentecost Offering, which will be working throughout the year to bring the transforming love of God to children at risk, youth, and young adults.

Grace & Peace,  
Margaret Hall Boone (Special Offerings)

*Greetings,*

*We are almost totally settled back in. Forwarded mail is catching up with us. We miss all of our friends in 1<sup>st</sup> Pres., but renewing old friendships here in Chandler.*

*Have a blessed Thanksgiving. Hope all is well with you. Have a safe winter.*

*Fondly-Grace & Peace,  
Jerry & Nancy*



### **Food Pantry News**

December is our month to staff the food pantry. Thanksgiving week the food pantry served 125 families. They still need a lot of boxes.

Chas Myers will contact McDonald's and Subway for box pick up. If anyone else knows where they can get boxes, please pick them up and deliver them to Trinity United Methodist Church on Monday morning, Dec. 5.

We need help on the following dates:

**Monday, Dec. 5 - 9:30 am** - to help receive a large donation of food and stock the shelves for distribution.

**Monday, Dec. 5** - we need someone to pick up bread at Aunt Millie's on Robb Ave. in Lima.

**Tuesday, Dec. 6 - 9:15 am to 2:30 pm** - food pantry distribution day.

**Monday, Dec. 19 time TBA** - unload a pick up from West Ohio Food Bank and prepare for distribution. Dave C. will do the pick up.

**Tuesday, Dec. 20 - 9:15 am to 2:30 pm** - food pantry distribution day.

Please let Chas M. know if you can help any or all of these times.



### **Library News**

Vera Jones has donated a series of mystery books about Beatrix Potter and her animal friends.

Beatrix Potter bought and ran a farm in rural Sawrey to have a place to heal after the death of her fiancé. This was unheard of in 1905 in England. Beatrix wins the hearts of the humans and animals in the sleepy village. As foul play finds its way to Sawrey, Beatrix and her friends, (human and animal), work together to solve the mysteries. Susan Wittig Albert has written the stories *The Tale of Hill Top Farm, The Tale of Holly How, and The Tale of Cuckoo Brow Wood.*

Two new Christmas stories have been added to the library.

***Lost December*** by Richard Paul Evans, author of *The Christmas Box*. It is a story about the prodigal son of a business owner.

***The Christmas Note*** by Donna VanLiere, author of *The Christmas Shoes*. It is a story about an unlikely friendship between two women that will change their lives forever.



**“You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day...”**

*Psalm 91:5*

Friends,

It is surely no coincidence that Advent occurs during the darkest time of the year, when the days are shorter and the nights longer. This is the darkest time of year. And with the darkness can come the “terror of the night” spoken of by Psalm 91.

We humans have a basic fear of the dark, of what might be lurking unseen in the night. That is certainly what fuels the popularity of horror films. Yet when I read that line about the “terror of the night,” I also think of nightmares, those unsettling dreams we so often have...especially this time of year when there is more darkness, more time spent dreaming.

When I was a kid, during the end stages of the Cold War, I had recurring and vivid nightmares about nuclear war. Thankfully that threat, at least on a global level, has decreased, as have my nuclear nightmares.

Nowadays my recurring nightmares follow this pattern: It is Sunday morning; I am late for church and don't have any idea what I am preaching on that day. When I stand up to preach, my notes are either gone or have shrunk so small I can't read them; I can't find my bulletin; I fumble and stumble and can't find any words, and people quickly begin to walk out. A pastor's nightmare. I'm sure all professions have their similar terrors.

The good news is we need not fear those “terrors of the night,” those gut-wrenching nightmares or even our equally gut-wrenching daytime anxieties. God is in charge. God is our refuge and our fortress. And in this dark season of Advent, we wait for Jesus, the Light of the World who shines into every dark corner, even the corners of our slumbering minds, and bring tidings of comfort and joy and peace. As Psalm 139 says, *“even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”* Trust in the Lord of Light and rejoice here in this Advent season, despite the terrors of the night and the anxieties of the day. God is good, and our Light has come. No need to fear the dark anymore.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

**OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**150 N. OAK ST.**  
**OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810**  
**(419) 523-3694**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Presbyterian Tidbits** is published once a month by: Ottawa Presbyterian Church, part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rev. Steve Elderbrock is here in the morning Tuesday-Friday; occasional afternoons.

Andrea Morman, secretary, is here Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8am-12pm.

Our website is [ottawapresby.org](http://ottawapresby.org)

**Sunday School-9:30 am, Worship-10:45 am**

The **Prayer Circle** is a group willing to confidentially pray for your joys and concerns.

Please contact **Pastor Steve** (523-3694 or 523-3297).

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ELDERS IN CHARGE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
December 4	Paul Baransy	Schomaeker
December 11	Dee Beckman Servers: Beckman, Doepker, Schroeder	Poinsettias
December 18	Susan Schroeder	Poinsettias
December 25	Andee Parker	Poinsettias

**Session:**

Class of 2011: **Paul Baransy, Arlene Cress, Jane Doepker**

Class of 2012: **Rick Barteck, Susan Schroeder, Jean Setser**

Class of 2013: **Dee Beckman, Andee Parker**