



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

January 2012

January 8 – A Super Exciting Day!

On Sunday, January 8 during worship, we will celebrate **Epiphany Sunday**. Come and enjoy this year's Christmas/Epiphany **Children's program: "A Super Christmas,"** with appearances by a number of "super" guests. Also that day we will **install** our two newly elected "super" elders, **Karl Hirzel** and **Nick Mitchell**. We hope you will be able to join us for fun, laughter, and fellowship as we celebrate Epiphany and begin a new year together as a church family.



Annual Congregational Meeting



On **Sunday, January 22**, immediately following worship, we will have our annual congregational meeting for the purpose of reflecting on the year just past, and looking ahead to the new year together as a congregation. The only official "business" planned for this meeting will be to review the 2011 Annual Report and answer any questions that may arise about it. So this is your chance (not your only chance, of course) to ask questions!

Offering Envelopes



The offering envelopes are on the back pew in the church sanctuary. If anyone wants offering envelopes for 2012 and did not receive them, please notify the church office or call the financial secretary, Janie Font (419-538-6356). Some people have asked how much the church pays for offering envelopes – the 2012 offering envelopes cost just \$2.24 per box, and the Session budgets the cost in the Stewardship Budget.

Per Capita

If you are a member of Ottawa Presbyterian and would like to make a special contribution to cover the cost of your per capita payment to the denomination (assessed based on our annual membership), the per capita assessment (per member) in 2011 was \$27.58, and in 2012 will be \$27.71.





Applying Bible Principles

When he was president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Gordon MacDonald said, “One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us.”

We own nothing. We have been given material means to use, but not to own. All that we have belongs to God. He is our Source according to Psalm 62:5. We are only managers and stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

Because all that we have belongs to God, and because He gives us the ability to obtain wealth, every spending decision is in reality a spiritual decision. According to First Corinthians 10:31, our constant goal must be to glorify God in all of life, including how we use His resources.

Stephen Olford wrote this: “... man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.’ We are to glorify God by our worshipful praise (Psalm 50:23). We are to glorify Him by our consistent fruitbearing (John 15:8). We are to glorify Him by our spiritual unity (Rom. 15:6). We are to glorify Him by our entire dedication (1 Cor. 6:20). And we are to glorify him by our good works (Matt. 5:16). In this last category is included the matter of giving. Only in this way can we provide for ‘honest things in the sight of the Lord.’ The glory of God should motivate us to give and to give our best.”

If our goals and ambitions are truly set on spiritual things, if our emphasis in life is to glorify God, we will use the funds He has “loaned” to us on a temporary basis to glorify Him. We will put His money and possessions to good use by giving to His work and by storing up “treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:19-21).

There are two key questions to be asked concerning money and possessions: First, are you glorifying God in how you are using the money and possessions He has entrusted to you? And second, are you viewing these things as yours or as His?

@ Kenneth L. Williams



New Year Reminders

1. It’s that time. 2011 Annual Report time!! Please get any information that you need submitted for the report to the church office by **Monday, January 9th**. Of course, if you have items ready to go before then, I will gladly accept them☺
2. I will also be updating the church directory in January. If you have any changes you would like to make, please get that information to me by **Monday, January 16th**.
Thanks, Andrea



Dear Church Family,
Thanks again for your generous end-of-the-year card and gift which I received on December 18th after worship. It is much appreciated! Best wishes to each of you for the new year ahead!
Peace,
Pastor Steve

**Next Session meeting
Thursday, January 19 at 7 pm**



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*,

And Joy for *prayers answered*

Sunday Scripture Readings

January 1

TBD

January 8

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

January 15

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

January 22

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

January 29

Psalms 111

Corinthians 8:1-13

New Financial Officers

On November 1, Janie Font became the church's new financial secretary and Dave Crawfis became the church's new treasurer. The functions of these two offices are different. All money coming in to the church is recorded and deposited by the financial secretary, and all bills for the church are paid by the church treasurer.

The church's financial reports reflect both the income received by the financial secretary and the bills paid by the treasurer. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to ask either Janie or Dave. We appreciate their willingness to serve the church in these capacities.

Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 6 pm
(Putnam Acres)

January 4: *Revelation 17:1-18*

January 11: *Revelation 18:1-24*

January 18: *Revelation 19:1-21*

January 25: *Revelation 20:1-15*

Dear Church Members,

Thanks so much for the Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated! Have a safe and wonderful holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to you all!!!!

-Andrea



Dear Church Board,

The members of the Putnam Pet Pals wish to thank the Church Board for the donation from the Jeanne Sewell estate. Putnam Pet Pals was organized to provide loving care and homes for abused, strayed and homeless dogs of Putnam County. By working with the Dog Warden and the Commissioners a start was made to greatly improve conditions for the dogs of the County. The Dog Shelter is now clean, the dogs are fed regularly, and well-cared for. The shelter dogs are now being made available for adoption instead of being euthanized.

Now the goal of Putnam Pet Pals is to foster homeless dogs, seeing that they get veterinary care and are neutered or spayed. These dogs are well-fed and get lots of love until loving and caring homes are found for them. The funding of this program is through donations as there is no other source of income. The gift which was made to the Putnam Pet Pals will enable us to carry on with the work of caring for those animals that have been lost among today's many activities.

Again, the organization thanks you for the donation so that they are able to carry on with their work for the dogs.

**Sincerely and gratefully,
Putnam Pet Pals**

Dear Friends,

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a clear mission. Because of and through God's abundant love and grace for all Creation, the Church of Jesus Christ is called to undertake the responsibility of participating in God's activity in the world – a world where there

is much joy and sorrow, health and pain, courage and doubt, clarity and confusion.

Your recent gift in support of the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) makes it possible to be a visible presence of God's redeeming love for all people. As partners in Christ, we covenant with you to use it to display the promise of God's continuing presence in the world through the new humanity revealed in Jesus Christ.

Your generosity is a true witness to the community of faith, to shared hope in the Resurrection, and to the commitment that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will continue to participate in God's mission in the world.

Thank you again. May Christ's peace and abiding love be with you this day and every day.

Gratefully,

Karen L. Schmidt (Deputy of Executive Director for Communications & Funds Development)

Just want to thank you so much for thinking of me at this difficult time. The items will greatly appreciated.

Thanks again, Carol D

God Bless You,

Thank you very much for the Christmas Box.

Jim & LaDonna B.

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the Halloween package full of goodies. I really enjoyed it and



so did my roommates. It was nice to have some snacks to munch on while studying. I miss everyone and can't wait to see them over the holidays.

Love, Allison K.

**“Do not put your trust in princes,
In human beings, who cannot save...
Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the Lord their God.”**

Psalm 146:3, 5

Friends,

As we enter another Presidential election year, I am reminded of my firm belief in not just the right but the obligation to vote. Perhaps because I recall, as a boy, those times I would accompany my Mom to the polling station at Jefferson Elementary school, where I would watch her enter the huge voting booth and close the curtain and disappear for a few minutes while she cast her vote. It made an impression on me, so when I became old enough to vote, I made sure I did. And have done so ever since - no matter where I have been living, I have voted in every election (off-year, primaries, you name it) since I turned 18 (although I miss those old-fashioned voting booths with the curtains and the wall of levers to be pulled).

I am also a bit of a political junkie...I will admit it. I look forward to Presidential election years, to all the “ Sturm und Drang ” of the nomination process – the debates, the polls, the jockeying for position, the speeches and promises and flip-flopping and gaffes. I relish it all as a fascinating spectator sport – it helps get me through the long winter until baseball begins again. I love watching election returns come in (and comparing the actual results to the predictions of the pundits).

But even with all my interest in the election process and results, I long ago gave up any illusion that such things mean too much in the grand scheme of things. High hopes of great change during each election cycle are almost always quickly dashed in the reality of governing. After all, the President is human. The Congress is full of human beings. That’s why we shouldn’t invest our hope too heavily in any of them. Instead, we put our hope, our trust, and our faith in God.

So please vote, and be informed about the issues and the candidates. Work for them, campaign for them. But do not put too much hope in them. Instead, put your hope where it belongs: in God. God alone.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

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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

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).

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
January 1	Jean Setser	TBD
January 8	Dee Beckman	Andee Parker
January 15	Susan Schroeder Servers: Barteck, Hirzel, Schroeder	Riepenhoff
January 22	Nick Mitchell	Siewert
January 29	Rick Barteck	Beckman

Session:

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

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

Class of 2014: **Karl Hirzel, Nick Mitchell**