

January 2019

## The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 5 Issue 1



### Thoughts from Ian...

Matthew 2: 1, 11-12: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem... On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

I hope you had a great Christmas and received some good gifts. My wife is an excellent gift giver. She often knows just what to get my friends and family. As I was thinking about how much I appreciate her knack of gift giving, I was asking myself, "What makes a good gift?" A good gift fits the person who is receiving it and she is very good at picking up on what that specific person would enjoy. What is a good gift for you might not be a good gift for me. So, being a good gift giver would not only take time but would require some understanding of the person you are giving the gift.

The Magi were excellent gift givers. In Matthew 2, we read that Magi from the east brought Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. We don't know much about the Magi. There were at least 2. We don't know their names but we know they weren't Jews and they studied astronomy. They came from the east and had seen a star as a sign. Their prophetic gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh told of

Jesus' kingly reign, the worship due to Him, and His coming death. Churches who follow the lectionary remember their story on Epiphany, which falls on January 6<sup>th</sup> this year. It is their presence (and presents) that inspired the famous Christmas carol, *We Three Kings of Orient Are*.

Though he had no children of his own, John Henry Hopkins Jr., wrote *We Three Kings* as a children's carol. It was a Christmas gift to his nephews and nieces. It was a song that was both instructive and worshipful. It speaks of the Magi's long journey to find Jesus and the meaning of the gifts they brought. Though the gifts themselves may not have been the most wanted or practical, they show that the Magi knew the significance of Jesus' coming. They were excellent gift givers.

This Christmas, I hope



you had good gift givers in your life, people that know you and understand what you need. Of course, I also hope that you know the best gift giver of all God. He planned the gift of Jesus a long time ago and it is a gift of the most needed thing, forgiveness and adoption into God's family. I hope that you, like the Magi, were able to appreciate the reason for the season and "bow down and worship", Jesus". He is the King of Kings, who will wear the golden crown forever. He is God the Son who is rightly worshiped. He came to die so that our sins may be forgiven.

As the carol reads,

"Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds  
through the earth and skies."



# January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
			Choir at 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:00		
	Pastor Ian and family out of town.					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pastor Dwayne Richardson filling the pulpit			1st Wednesday meal 5:30 Service at 6:15 (Yes, it is)  Choir 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	Chili Cook off	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Communion		Session 7:00	Choir 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Watch for information on the Annual Meeting			Choir 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30		
	28	29	30	31		
		Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall		N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30		

## January Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup> - Dianna Karlstadt	20 <sup>th</sup> - Kristen (Koenig) Gerber
4 <sup>th</sup> - Darwin Cline	22 <sup>nd</sup> - Harry Weibe
10 <sup>th</sup> - Mary VanAtta	23 <sup>rd</sup> - Betty St. John
11 <sup>th</sup> - Kenny Robinson	24 <sup>th</sup> - Scott St. John
16 <sup>th</sup> - Larry Fishbaugh	28 <sup>th</sup> - Bryce Verfaillie

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please get the correct information to the office ASAP. Thanks!

## Session Highlights

At the Dec. 11 Session meeting, elders:

-thanked Darwin Cline and Dave Nice for their service on Session, and welcomed newly-installed elders Larry Fishbaugh and Ken Robinson, who were guests at the meeting

-approved Ian being out of the pulpit on Sunday, Jan. 6 (vacation 12/31-1/6) and on Sunday, Feb. 10 (Mexico mission trip 2/4-9). The mission trip is considered part of Ian's pastorate and he is not expected to use his study or vacation time for that. Ian will arrange for pulpit supply for those 2 dates, or request help from Sue Paulus if necessary.

-okayed the use of the Fellowship Hall by a Paulding Writers' Group on Tuesdays, Jan. 29 - Feb. 26 from 7 - 9 pm. Sue Paulus is the church contact person.

-commended Ian on his first ordination/installation service.

-were reminded of Christmas Eve service on 12/24, which will include communion by intinction. January communion will be served on Jan. 13, since Ian will be on vacation the first Sunday of the month.

-heard that church finances appear to be ending the year 'in the black', and that the Bricks and Boiler Fund will be front and center after the first of the year. Contributions are welcome in any amount at any time!

-agreed to hold a Diaper drive in January for an expectant Drug Court mom, and a collection of \$5 local gift cards for the Drug Court reward basket during Lent.

-began discussion of committee assignments for 2019, and were reminded to prepare committee reports for the Annual Meeting packet.

-learned that our per member asking to the Presbytery and to EPC is fully paid for 2018, and that Pastor Ian, Dan Straley and Bud Koenig 'attended' an EPC webinar about church security.

-approved dates for Community Lenten activities, including lunches in our Fellowship Hall for six weeks beginning March 6; Good Friday service in our sanctuary on Friday, April 19 at noon (Pastor Dwayne speaking); and Easter Sunrise at House of Love on Sunday, April 21 at 7 am (Pastor Ian speaking).

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session

## Rise Up, O Men!

The Women's Board is planning an afternoon at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van

Wert on Sunday, March

24 at 2 pm. The play, *Rise Up, O Men*, is an-

other episode of the Church Basement Ladies series. We have reserved a block of 20 tickets. Cost is \$25 per seat, and this is a co-ed event. We will likely eat in Van Wert after the performance; no plan is in place yet. If you'd like to join the fun, please contact

Barb Searing to reserve your spot. 419-399-3204 or [barb@searingfamily.com](mailto:barb@searingfamily.com)



## Sunday School

For three weeks beginning Sunday the 30th, the class will be watching a movie about John Knox who is considered the founder of Presbyterianism. This will be divided into three parts as the movie is about 90 minutes. Join us on the 30th, January 6th and 13th for a movie, coffee and good conversation. All are invited.



## Wednesday January 9th at 6:15

We are invited by the Lord to spend some time with Him in worship, praise and prayer following our meal. A meditation on the Essentials of Our Faith will be presented by Pastor Ian.

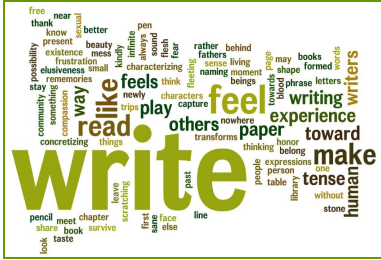
## Newly Forming Writers' Group

If you have thought about writing, but not yet stepped out of your comfort zone, if you write but need a gentle push to continue to do more, if you just think writing sounds like fun, you might be interested in a new Writers' Group that is forming in Paulding. At the request of some wanting to hone their skills, this new group will begin meeting at the end of January. And it might be the place for you. Writers' groups can

provide a safe place to share your stories while learning about the craft. Groups can be a great boost when

you have spent just a little too long working on one piece (mental health for creative writers is an important issue, in fact a little sanity is important for each of us), plus they provide a valuable addition to our own group of friends.

To begin, the group plans to meet for five consecutive Tuesdays (Tuesday January 29 through Tuesday February 26th) in our church fellowship hall from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We will decide at the end of the five weeks what kind of a schedule to keep, it won't continue to be weekly. Those attending the first meeting will discuss what the group wants, and do a couple of "get acquainted" writing exercises. There is no registration, no fee, no age limit (high school and older only, though). Just come with your pen, paper, and ideas. Hope to see you on the 29th!



	A	B	C	D
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17	gloria	gloria	gloria	gloria
18	gloria	gloria	gloria	gloria

**Gloria in Excel sheets**

iFunny.co



It's not too late to donate mittens, scarves, hats, socks, underwear and long pants to the Mitten Tree. These items will be taken to the county schools shortly after they open in January. Thanks to those of you that have brought items in. Someone spent a lot of time crocheting hand made hats. This is so wonderful!

## Warm Fuzzy Tree or Mitten Tree

Whatever we call it, we say Thank you!

## Join the Electronic Giving Movement!!

The holiday season is coming to a close and a new year is on the horizon.

If you are looking for an easy way to increase your tithe next year, we have just the thing!!

Our electronic giving program has continued to grow. It's very simple to get set up on a program tailored specifically for you. You decide the amount and frequency of your donation. The amount can be increased, decreased, or cancelled at any time.

For more information, contact Sue Paulus in the church secretary office.





Please note change of date!  
 Please note change of date!  
 Please note change of date!  
 Please note change of date!

Wednesday January 9th  
 The Paulus 's are planning the meal but if you are willing to add to the dessert menu, the ever famous sign up sheet will appear at the top of the stairs.

## Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

Canned fruit and veggies are always needed.. As are cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and hygiene items, especially tooth-paste, shampoo, deodorant.  
 Thanks!



## Warm Hearts/Warm Homes



Help our less fortunate Paulding neighbors afford their utilities this winter. Contributions will be rolled into one check by the church, and forwarded to the Paulding County office of Northwest Ohio Community Action which will administer the funds to Paulding families for utilities, rent, or emergency services. Checks should be made out to the church, please put Warm Hearts/Warm Homes in the memo line. 100% of these funds will be used in Paulding County.

This has been a project of the Women's Fellowship since 2006.

**This is an important ministry that our family offers to those who are grieving. Please pray about your part. This is the third time the request has been here. I know God is tapping someone's heart. Is it you?**

## An Angel Among Us?

The Women's Board is seeking a **funeral dinner coordinator** for 2019. This is a much-appreciated ministry to families in our church who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Sue Paulus has been our **funeral dinner coordinator** for three years. She has stated that, at the end of 2018, she needs to take a break. The Women's Board is seeking the 'angel' out there who is already thinking about filling that role for 2019.

'Coordinator' may sound like a huge responsibility. It is not quite as heavy as you might imagine because there is an entire funeral dinner plan that has worked smoothly for about 10 years now.

The '**funeral dinner coordinator**' title belongs to the person who is actually 'on the scene' in the kitchen on the day of the meal. She (or he....we do not discriminate!) also does a little shopping for perishables.

The plan includes someone else who talks to the family about how many people they think might be attending the meal and what they would like for the meal.

The plan includes someone else who sets the tables and puts out centerpieces.

The plan includes someone else who calls to line up workers and food donations.

The plan includes someone else who coordinates clean up after the meal is over.

The **funeral dinner coordinator** gets a call from the person who has talked to the family about the menu and the number to be served. The coordinator then makes just 2 phone calls to pass along the information about the numbers and the menu to (1) the food-and-worker caller and (2) the table-setter(s) so they can proceed accordingly.

The hardest part of the **funeral dinner coordinator's** job is that there is no predicting when the need for a funeral meal will arise! And, when the need arises, the meal will happen in the next several days! Acknowledging that no one can be available 365 days a year, the plan includes someone else who is a fall-back person in case the day of the funeral just cannot fit in your calendar.

Please give this your prayerful consideration. If God is tapping you on the shoulder and you have questions, or if you would be open to exploring the idea of volunteering in this way, feel free to ask Barb Searing or Sue Paulus. It would be very much appreciated by the Women's Board, and by families who will need this ministry in the coming year.

Submitted by Barb Searing

## Ecumenical Program

Pictures is Betty St. John reading her presentation at the Ecumenical Program in December. She read her original devotion from our church's 2016 Advent booklet.

It is printed below for your enjoyment.



*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23*

## Senior Night

Pictured is Joe Reineck being escorted across the field by parents Linda and Matt Reineck on a rainy night in late October.



In this Advent season do we get excited about the Baby Jesus, God's only son coming to earth so that our sins can be forgiven? Do we get as excited as we do when a family member is going to have a new baby? This Advent season let's get really excited about Jesus and help ward off circumstances that make people forget what Christmas is all about. Let us help people that don't have enough money, enough food or a sick family member. Let's help them find peace and a sense of calm in their hearts, knowing that God is with us every day, every hour, every minute, every second! All we have to do is ask Him into our hearts.

During difficult times it is hard to find peace but if we keep calling “Jesus, Jesus” He will be with us and answer our prayers. He will give you a calm you never knew existed-a real peace.

Can we step out of our comfort zone and help one person, one family this holiday season? Offer peace through Jesus Christ's love in difficult times? It is so important to let other know we care and-most of all-that God cares. God's promises never fail. He is in control.

Our heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son so that we may know God's love. His love passes all understanding. Amen.

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know.

Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.”

Written by Betty St. John



Pray for the group from First Presbyterian going to work and minister in this orphanage in February.

## Per Member Asking

Each year, our church supports our presbytery (Presbytery of the Midwest) and our denomination (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) in the form of a per member asking. Our church provides for the total requested amount in our annual budget in support of our governing bodies. If members on the active membership list of our church are able/willing to pay their own per member asking, that amount is replaced into our own church's General Fund.

The amount of the per member asking for 2019 is \$36 per person. Of that amount, \$23 goes to the denomination, and \$13 goes to the presbytery. If you use giving envelopes, there is a blue envelope in your box for this purpose. If you don't use envelopes but are willing to pay your share, simply write Per Member Asking on the memo line of your check.

Thank you.

Throughout the month of January our church will be collecting diapers for a drug court participant who is expecting a baby. Diapers and wipes can be left in the hallway by the bulletin board. A variety of diaper sizes is ok. Thank you for your continued support!

During the Lenten season, we will be collecting \$5 gift cards from local businesses for the Drug Court Reward Gift Basket. More details to follow

## More Drug Court News

Thank you to everyone in our congregation who participated in any way with the drug court angel tree project. Shopping, wrapping, donating money and praying for these families blessed 31 children this holiday season.



This beautiful tree was a highlight in our sanctuary this December. It is always a sad day when the decorations are taken down and we put away our Christmas Spirit.





*First Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,  
Paulding OH 45879*

Sunday School 9:00 am  
Praise Music: 10:15  
Worship Service 10:30

## First Presbyterian Church

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[www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com) (new website)

**[firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)**

In Essentials, Unity.  
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.  
In All Things, Charity.

