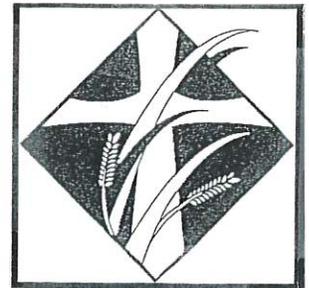




February, 2026

The Prairie Press



Volume 18, No. 6

New, Returning Leaders Accept RPPC Ministries

A group of members who have accepted leadership roles at our church was presented to the congregation during Worship on Jan. 4. They were Ordained and Installed, respectively.

“Ordination” is the ceremony used for first-time Elders or Deacons. “Installation” is the ceremony used for previously ordained individuals who are returning to a formal ministry position.

Ordained as Elders were Sandi Fogle and Pat Rozeboom, while Katie Blija was Installed as an Elder (via Zoom.)

Ordained as Deacons were Russ Antos and Eileen Howarth, while Theresa Huber and Chris Stried were Installed.

Preceding the ceremony, Rev. Bruce thanked Elders Bob Fulton and Jeri Torpy and Deacon Char Behling for their service. They are leaving their positions (Jeri had been Clerk of Session) due to the rule that an Elder or a Deacon can serve only two three-year terms consecutively, although

they are allowed to return after one year.

These individuals were recommended by the Nominating Committee and formally accepted by the members of Rock Prairie at a special congregational meeting in December.

According to the Presbyterian Book of Order, “The Ministry of Deacon, as set forth in Scripture, is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.

“Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, brotherly or sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry.”

Likewise, the position of Elder is characterized by the following:

“As there were in the Old Testament times elders for the governance of the people, so the New **(Continued on page 7)**

\$2,287 Donated To Christmas Joy Offering

by Bob Fulton,
Missions Chair

The Christmas Joy Offering, a Presbyterian Church USA program to provide financial help to retired clergy and Presbyterian students affiliated with the church, is a four-week fund drive prior to Christmas each year.

We got off to a slow start this year with the blizzard conditions on Nov. 30 cancelling Worship, but faithful RPC donors came through again in the following weeks.

I want to thank all the people who agreed to provide a “Moment For Mission” during Worship services in December (whether they were able to or not): Rick Faber, Marti Everts, Barb Hass, Russ Antos, and Sharon Krohn.

With a late donation after the

(Continued on page 8)



Newly-Ordained or Installed leaders of our church were welcomed to their roles during Worship on Jan. 4 by Rev. Bruce and Clerk of Session Jeri Torpy.

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The Beginning Of Lent, Leading Up To Easter

by Rev. Bruce

In February, we begin the Christian season of Lent, which lasts from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, through Easter, April 5.

Throughout Lent, Christians are encouraged to spiritually prepare for Easter through personal reflection, prayer, fasting, and repentance, symbolizing Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, as He prepared for His earthly ministry.

We will host the Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm at RPPC, with Rev. Lee Meissner preaching.

The service will include the imposition of ashes that signify our mortality and a call to turn towards God on our faith journey.

We will worship on Maundy Thursday at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Janesville. I will be preaching at 7 pm.

Traditionally, some denominations encourage giving something up by developing a discipline of self-sacrifice and self-control.

It is a practice of giving up something you enjoy: a luxury, a treat, or eating meat on Fridays.

Welcome to our Wisconsin tradition of a weekly Friday fish fry!

Other traditions encourage deepening of our spiritual life through starting a new spiritual discipline to focus our communication with God through daily reading and prayer or increased giving to support ministries or using your time and talents to serve a mission project in our community.

The goal is to prepare our hearts for Easter.

In the early church, new members joined on Easter through Baptism. Lent was a time of spiritual growth and preparation by moving from the darkness of sin to the light of Christ's resurrection.

We can remember and renew our baptismal vows by learning to live a more Christ-like life. In essence, Lent is a spiritual journey of emptying and refocusing, turning away from self-centeredness and towards God's abundant life, culminating in the celebration of Easter.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Bruce

Pastor's Schedule

Rev. Bruce will observe the Sabbath on Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Preaching Schedule

Feb. 1—4th Sunday After Epiphany— Annual Meeting

Micah 6:1-8; **1 Corinthians 1:18-31; *Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 15.

“Consider Your Call”

Feb. 8—5th Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12];
**Corinthians 1:1-12, [13-16];
*Matthew 5:13-20; Psalm 112:1-9,
[10].

“Performance or Proclamation?”

Feb. 15—Last Sunday After Epiphany— Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18; **2 Peter 1:16-21; *Matthew 17:1-9; Psalm 2, or Psalm 99.

“Myth or Mystery?”

Feb. 18, 7pm— Ash Wednesday— Rev. Lee Meissner Preaching (RPPC Hosting First Presbyterian)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; or Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6-10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; Psalm 103, or 103:8-14.

Feb. 22—First Sunday In Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11; *Psalm 32; *John 6:1-15.

“Lessons In Love”

Presbyterian Per Capita— We're In This Together

PC(USA) per capita is an annual, per-member financial contribution from the congregation that collectively funds the shared administrative, legislative, and mission costs of the broader Presbyterian Church (USA).

Per capita is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of moving the church forward in the 21st century.

It's a way for members to equitably share expenses for governance, support ministries like candidate preparation, and maintain connectional work of God's church, near and far.

One Body With Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the

(Continued on page 5)

How To Contact Us

The Prairie Press is a publication of the congregation of the Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church.

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I want to extend a warm thank you to all those who took the time to share and send birthday wishes/cards on my most recent "BIG" birthday on Jan. 4.

My heartfelt love and appreciation to Bruce, Sylvia, and the choir for the very special and TOTAL SURPRISE choral benediction, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," my favorite hymn!

Altogether, it was a most wonderful birthday.

In Christian love,
Krista

Dear Editor:

A big thank you to Brandon Crandall for his wonderful presentation of "The Little Drummer Boy" during the Kids' Kirk on Jan. 4.

Thanks, also, to our congregation for their generous donations of diapers for the Pregnancy Helpline.

Sincerely,
Gail Wolfe

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your generous recent donation of \$500. Your support is the heartbeat of HealthNet's mission to provide quality healthcare to uninsured and underinsured individuals in our community.

Because of your generosity, we are able to offer a range of vital services, including medical care, dental care, mental health counseling, and access to prescription medications—all at low to no-cost to those who otherwise might go without.

Every service we provide is a step toward creating a healthier and stronger Rock County. Thank you very much for your continued support.

The HealthNet
Board of Directors

Put Christ Back In Christianity

Love God ** Love Your Neighbor As You Do Yourself
** Whoever Is Without Sin Cast The First Stone ** Treat Others The Way You Want To Be Treated ** Feed The Hungry ** Don't Return Evil For Evil ** Visit Those In Prison ** Clothe The Naked ** House The Homeless ** Welcome The Foreigner ** Care For The Sick ** Love One Another As I Have Loved You



Pregnancy Helpline Director Gina Dummer thanks the congregation for the donated diapers on Jan. 6. (See more on pages 10-11.)

Letter Policy

The PRAIRIE PRESS welcomes letters from our members and friends.

We will print them all, as space permits.

Send or email or drop off your letter to the Church office,

attn: **The PRAIRIE PRESS**

Dear God, I thank you for this day. I thank you for your abundant grace and love in my life. I pray that you will help me to be able to extend that love to others. I want to be able to make others smile. I want to be able to make others happy. I want to be able to contribute to the reason why someone's life is better. Fill me with love for others so I can do these things for them. Fill my heart with joy so I can be able to extend that joy to others. Help me to be a blessing to others. Thank you for answered prayers.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

The requested items for the Food Pantry Cart for February are spaghetti and sauce.

Let's fill up the cart and help our less fortunate and struggling neighbors as we show God's love by sharing our own blessings.



February 2026

February 2026

March 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Feb 1 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule 11:45am Annual 12:00pm Potluck Lunch	2 3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	3 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Legacy Fund Meeting 6:30pm Christian Ed Committee Meeting	4 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	7 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant
8 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule 11:45am Fellowship 12:00pm Faith	9 3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	10 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting	11 6:30pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting	12 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant 10:30am Prairie Pals	14 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant
15 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Faith	16 4:00pm Elder Training	17 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meets	18 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant 6:00pm PJ Party (Olympics Theme)	21 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant
22 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am New Members Received 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule	23 4:00pm Elder Training	24 9:30am Bible Study	25 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	28 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 2)

members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.—1 Corinthians 12:12

Per Capita is an expense similar to paying for our utilities or internet. This covers the cost of being a part of a larger, interconnected denomination that provides services and functions for every member.

This dollar amount per active member of a congregation supports the work of our presbytery, synod, and General Assembly (which will meet in Milwaukee this summer.)

Together, as the Body of Christ, we share the costs for national and regional church bodies to operate, govern, and coordinate mission, rather than shifting all costs to individual members or fees.

Per Capita emphasizes the “connectional” nature of our church, ensuring all parts contribute to the whole body of Christ,

even if they’re far apart.

Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund—part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

In Milwaukee Presbytery, our per capita is **\$43.42 per active member**, to support Christ’s work in the larger church. A blue per capita envelope is provided in giving-envelope boxes, on the table by the offering plate, and in the pew racks.

I encourage everyone to support our denomination by paying your Per Capita as a gift payable to Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church. Your voluntary gift for Per Capita will be sent to support the work of

our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Your support will keep us connected to share God’s mission across the world.

Thank You For Giving To The Lord

As we enter February, may we remember that the Lord loves us always. We demonstrate our love for God by serving our neighbors.

We give thanks to the expressions of love and grace shared with our faith community and beyond. We give thanks for the gifts shared in Christ’s name by the church mice who . . .

- Undecorated the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall;
- Served at and assisted with Vonnie Dorr’s funeral service;
- Braved the cold and snow to attend Worship;
- Donated and brought diapers and canned soup and stew;
- Shoveled snow and salted walkways;
- Served Communion in Worship and visited homebound members;
- Created beautiful new bulletin boards;

(Continued on page 8)

Lenten Series: Looking For Love

Lent provides Christians a time to reflect and reassess our meaning and purpose.

Maybe you can remember the popular song, “Looking For Love In All The Wrong Places,” the classic country hit by Johnny Lee that was the theme of the 1980 film “Urban Cowboy.”

This can also be a theme in our relationships when we seek connection in places or people not based on our faith in Christ.

Through the stories of Jesus, we will explore the essence of God’s unconditional love. Jesus’ demonstration of the true meaning of love as the Lord intended for us.

The Scriptures offer many images of God’s love, grace, for-

givenness, righteousness, and healing.

And it is not always in the “usual” places. God’s gift of love is more than a good feeling and satisfaction. We’ll move through stories of Jesus to discover the “All we need is love”!

God’s love can fill our void and bring us to a place of deep love and grace.

Join Rev. Bruce for a deeper study of each week’s theme on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 and Thursday evenings at 4. We will have a light meal and study.

There will be a sign up for people to bring the meal to share each week.

(Continued on page 7)

February Birthdays

- Feb. 12 Allison Oliver**
Feb. 13 Thrya Fosmoen
Feb. 14 Sonya Sauer
Feb. 18 Kristin Paul
Feb. 19 Kathy Peterson



by Bo Plank

The Legacy Fund is the formal name of the endowment fund of our church.

The Fund was launched in 2017 to establish a long-term financial asset to sustain and grow the life, ministry, and mission of the Church for current and future generations.

In quarter 4 of 2025, members and non-members of the congregation contributed \$4,910 to the Legacy Fund. As of Dec. 1, the Fund's total assets stood at \$121,903, comprised of

- \$4,126 in checking;
- \$38,622 in certificates of deposit;
- and \$79,155 in mutual funds.

Overall, investment income totaled \$7,928 for the calendar year 2025.

We wish to acknowledge those members of the congregation who made gifts or bequests to the Fund in 2025: Bill Albright, Char Behling, Kathy and Brandon Crandall, Marti and Will Everts, Mary Ann and Rich Greene, and Margaret Henke.

Other donors included Eileen Howarth, Scott Hudson, Judy Jaggard, Sharon Janes, Krista and Bruce Jones, Marge Knauer, Sandy and Chuck Kohls, Sharon Krohn, and Cynthia Kuter.

In addition, Randy Leyes, Jan and Earl Marquis, Lindi and Bob Paull, Virginia Pavek, Marge and Jerry Peterson, and Elaine and Bo Plank.

Finally, Joanne and Bernie

Shields, Jeri and John Torpy, Allison Vittone, Kay and Tom Ward, Georgia Waterman, and Gail and Tom Wolfe.

In addition, several non-members also contributed to the Fund in memory of Pete Blija, Margaret Henke, Dean Howarth, Dorothy McNall, Arthur Nesbitt, and Virgie Venable.

We thank you for your gifts, and we encourage all to consider the Legacy Fund as part of your stewardship for 2026.

Ways To Contribute

Support the Legacy Fund through these options:

- **Cash Contributions:** Gifts of any amount are welcome at any time. Please make checks payable to "RPPC Legacy Fund."
- **A Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD):** Through your IRA (if you are 70.5 years of age or older.)
- **Through Your Will:** Make a bequest in your will or estate planning documents.
- **Life Insurance:** Designate "Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church Legacy" as a full or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- **Real Estate and Securities:** Transfer ownership of real estate, securities, or other appreciated assets to "Rock Prairie Presbyterian church Legacy Fund."

Contributing to the Legacy Fund is a meaningful way to express your faith and commitment to the church's mission. Your donation helps ensure the church's work continues to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support!

Note: Always consult a qualified tax advisor to ensure compliance with regulations and to maximize applicable tax benefits.

Twin Oaks Offers Help To Homeless

by Julie Engebretson

Looking for a way to help our area sisters and brothers who are down on their luck?

Read on.

Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless is a 12-bed facility located on Hwy 14 in Darien. Some of the rooms are for singles, some for families, and one that is wheelchair accessible.

Clients have a 60-day limit of stay, during which a caseworker assists them in resolving their crisis and finding them stable housing.

Workshops are provided on topics like Rent Smart, budgeting, and, in the spring, gardening.

I met with Jim Stahl, the shelter manager, in 2024 and again recently. When I talked to him earlier, he told me of the goal of moving to a larger facility, located closer to public transportation.

Unfortunately, he said, the plan has faced setbacks involving community resistance and zoning requirements.

Now the focus is on needed maintenance of the existing Twin Oaks building and possibly expanding on the current site since the zoning is already in place.

The bright spot about this information is that they applied for and received a grant which will help with the maintenance.

Currently, there are 101 households on their wait list, which translates to a four or five-month wait.

Think about that . . . Not a wait for a new sofa to come, not a wait for something you ordered to be delivered to your porch.

That means a months-long wait for a place to get out of the weather, take a shower, and sleep in a bed!

(Continued on page 8)

New Elders, Deacons . . . (Continued from page 1)

Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in the discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people and being compassionate in spirit.

"Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit.

"Ruling Elders are so-named not because they 'lord it over' the congregation but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.

"Ruling Elders, along with Teaching Elders (ministers), exercise leadership, governance, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have a responsibility for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.

"When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the Session."

The Session meets monthly, usu-

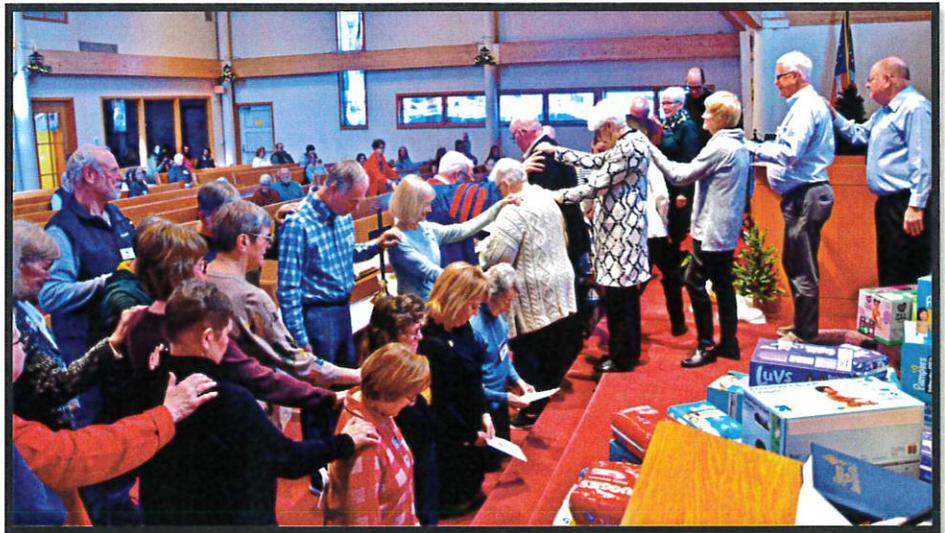
ally on the (third Tuesday of the month), although that day is subject to change when each new Session becomes organized.

Elders, who usually head up one of the standing committees, schedule meetings for their committee during the month and report back to the Session about their activities, needs, and recommendations.

The Deacons meet as the need arises.

Sharon Krohn will assume the position of Clerk of Session, taking over from Jeri Torpy.

Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee were Kathy Crandall, Marge Peterson, Chris Stried, Jeri Torpy, and Lori VanderJagt.



Newly-installed Elders and Deacons are welcomed by other present and former church leaders during a "Hands Across the Prairie" ceremony during Worship on Jan. 4.

Lenten Series . . . (Continued from page 5)

Wednesday, Feb. 25, and Thursday, Feb. 26—"Lessons of Love: Exploring The Wrong Places That Tempt Us"

—Matthew 4:1-11.

"Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting . . . rend your hearts and not your clothing."

—Joel 2:12-13

Why English Is Hard To Learn

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*.

But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.

One fowl is a *goose*, but two are called *geese*.

Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*;

But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.

The plural of *man* is always *men*;

But the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,

And I give you *book*, would a pair of them be a *beek*?

If one is a *tooth*, and a whole set are *teeth*,

Why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*,

Should the plural of *kiss* be called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also *brethren*,

But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.

Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;

But imagine the feminine . . . *she*, *shis*, and *shim*!

Missions Update . . . (Continued from page 1)

Annual Report filed, we brought in \$2,287.50, which is up considerably from 2024.

When we each do a little, it adds up to be a lot!

NAMI

We also focused on the final two months of 2025 on supporting the efforts of the Rock Branch of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness.)

As a result, we made our first cash donation to this organization in some time.

During the fund drive, Executive Director Lynsey Stevens gave us an informative Minute For Mission on the work her organization does for people in need of help.

Bob Fulton presented a check for \$920 to Lynsey at her office on

North Crosby St. recently (picture below.)

Thank you to all who supported this local effort despite the fact that it overlapped our Christmas Joy Offering.



NAMI Director Lynsey Stevens accepts a check from Missions Chair Bob Fulton.

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 5)

- Defrosted the kitchen freezer;
- Agreed to serve on committees in 2026;
- Completed and submitted their Annual Reports;
- Prepare for and teach our Sunday School classes;
- Serve as ushers or greeters on Sunday mornings.

We give thanks for those who live their faith with actions and service to Christ Jesus.

Faith Exploration and Membership

In February, Rev. Bruce will lead a Faith Exploration class. The two-part series will be on Feb. 8 and 15 following Worship.

On the first Sunday, we will explore themes of "Being a Christian" and examine our Presbyterian foundations.

On the second Sunday, we will explore more about Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church and the responsibility of membership.

Anyone can attend to learn and explore our shared Christian faith at RPPC. If you are interested in membership, Rev. Bruce expects participation both Sundays, although other arrangements can be made if these don't work for you.

Those who are interested in membership will be asked to meet with the Session on Sunday, Feb. 22, before Worship. Invitations will be sent to individuals who desire to make a commitment during Worship.

Rev. Bruce invites anyone interested in the Faith Exploration to meet one on one over a light meal or light refreshment.

Contact him at (609) 205-7428 or rev.rppc@gmail.com to set up a time.

Twin Oaks . . . (Continued from page 6)

So how can we help, you may ask. We can certainly pray for the staff and their clients.

We can also purchase items and place them in the Mission In Mo-

Many of us are in the throes of "undecorating" our homes of all the Christmas decorations. So this is the perfect time to purge those items we don't want to keep.

Don't wait until next October!

Bring your gently-used Christmas décor into church now. This will give us a jump start on getting everything priced at our leisure.

We're looking forward to seeing all the recycled Santa items we will be able to sell at next year's Bazaar.

We like to think ahead of time—please help us!

tion collection center in the Fellowship Hall. Items needed now include silverware, bathroom plungers, used DVD players and the cords to go with them, new pillows, shelf-stable milk, canned pastas, lunch snacks, hy-



giene items, gas cards, and gift cards.

We will be collecting items for Twin Oaks Shelter during the month of February and delivering them the first week of March.

Thank you for being a part of Mission In Motion!

The Making Of The 'Missions In Motion' Cart

by Bob Fulton

For a number of years, we have been working on creating a more attractive way to collect mission items in the Fellowship Hall area.

While shopping carts are great for moving large items, like diaper boxes and Easter baskets, smaller household items and toiletries could be stored in a less noticeable way.

Our Missions Committee decided that a 6 foot by 4 foot by 2 foot rolling cart could meet our needs. We ordered some black insert bins to fit in the openings and had the cart built to our specifications.

Deciding to whether to rely on volunteer labor or hire the work done required some time, but finally it sort of fell into place.

Brian Barlass offered to donate some rough-sawn red oak boards he had in his barn for the project.

ton should contact the Greg and got busy. Hughes' carpentry business in Asked to complete the project



The members of the Brian Barlass Family pose with the beautiful new "Missions In Motion" cart.



Brian Barlass (left) and furniture builder Mike Striegl sort red oak boards in the Barlass barn.

by the end of the year, Mike delivered his work of art to the church on Dec. 23.

We hope you will appreciate (and fill!) this heirloom piece of furniture that is both beautiful and useful.

**To those I have wronged,
I ask forgiveness.**

**To those I may have helped,
I wish I did more.**

**To those I neglected to help,
I ask for understanding.**

**To those who helped me,
I sincerely thank you so much.**

Then, in the December 2024 meeting of the Session, Margie Joiner made a motion to use Memorial Fund money for construction costs.

It was suggested that Bob Ful-

Milton, and Greg suggested that Mike Striegel, a recent retiree, might be interested in the job.

In September, Mike selected the lumber he would need from the Barlass barn—a dozen boards—

'Baby Shower' Collects Children's Needed Items

by Jean Van Acker

The adults and youngsters of Rock Prairie Church have once again worked together to produce a successful "Diaper Drive For Jesus"!

During Worship on Jan. 6, the children, who were gathered in the Sanctuary for Kids' Kirk, started looking for the packages of diapers that had been hidden under pews and behind chairs in the room.

With great enthusiasm, they carried the packages of diapers to the front. It made quite an impressive

pile!

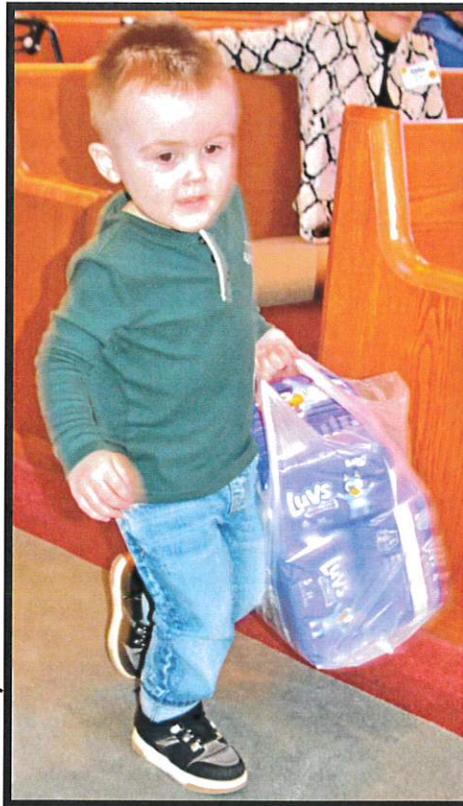
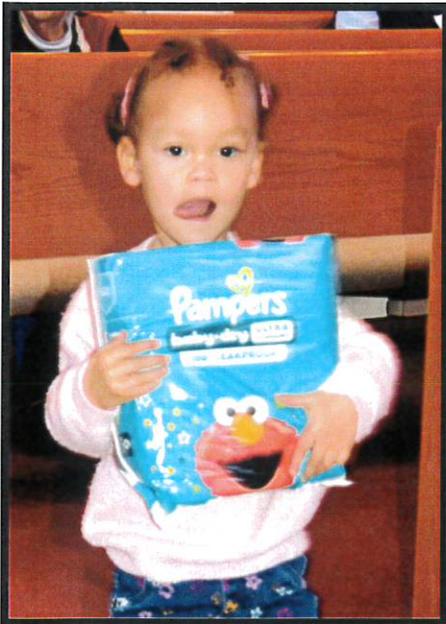
Gina Dummer, Director of the Pregnancy Helpline in Milton, accepted the diaper donations and spoke to the congregation about her work (see photo on page 3.)

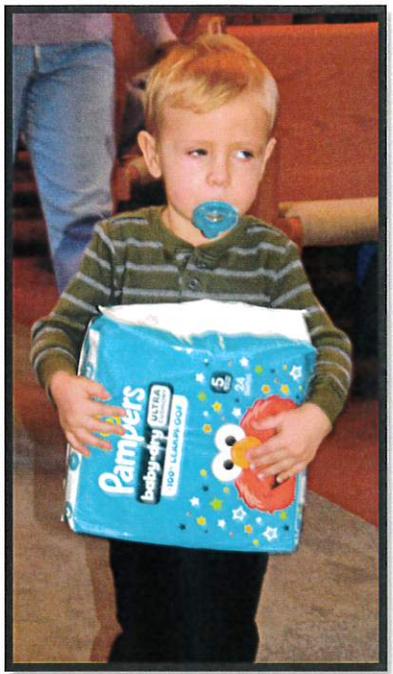
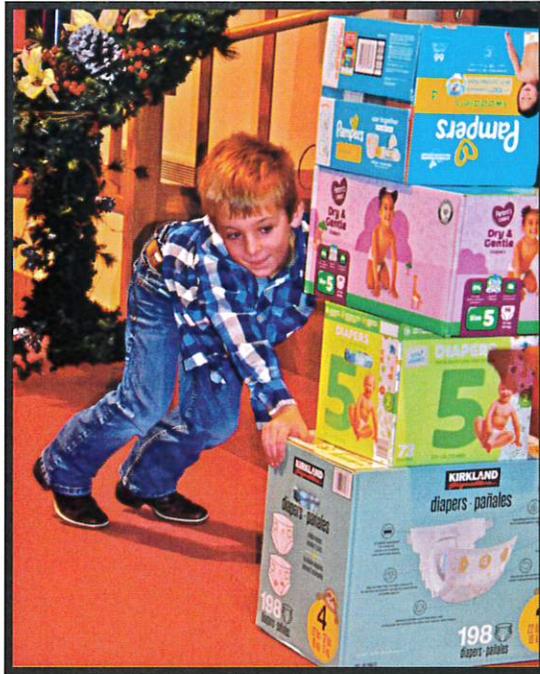
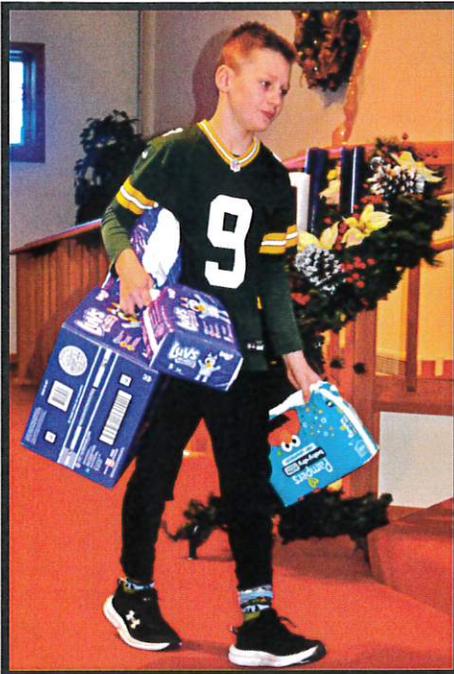
A quick count before Gina took the diapers away (thank you, Gina) put the total of diapers at 3,195.

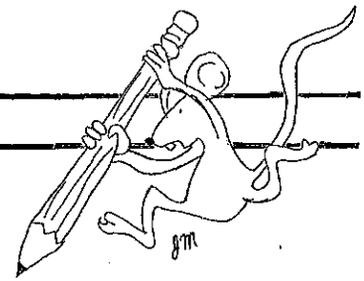
Since there were also some cash donations that day, there's more to the story.

On Jan. 11, those cash donations were transformed into more diapers—to make our total for this year over 4,300 "Diapers For Jesus."

Nice job, Rock Prairie!







The Church Mouse

Dear Friends,

A new year is dawning!

It is a blessing . . . ours to use, not abuse.

Here are some things for you to think about that might help you get off to a good start:

GOOD ADVICE

(Part 2 of 3)

- 9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
- 10. We don't change God's message—His message changes us.
- 11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
- 12. When God ordains, He sustains.
- 13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
- 14. Plan ahead—it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
- 16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

* * * * *

Stay warm!

—The Church Mouse

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