

Presbyterian 'Connection'

December 2013 Volume 20 Issue 12

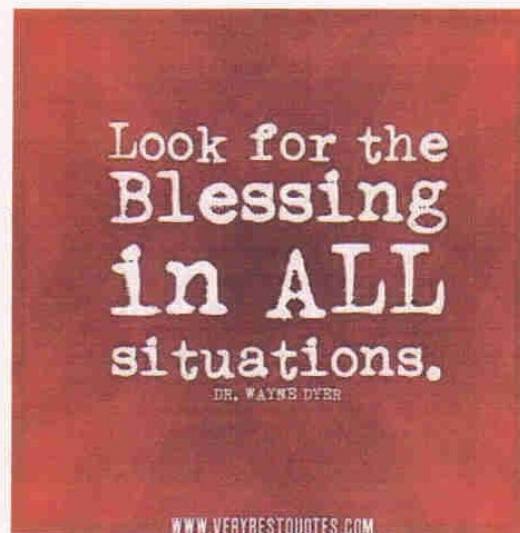
A Word from Dr. Fred

GENTLENESS

In some Bible translations the word translated as “gentleness” in the New International Version that we use in our pews is translated as “meekness”. Unfortunately, too often, the word “meekness” gets misinterpreted as “weakness”. It is just the opposite of weakness. It is a word used in the New Testament (here, The Beatitudes, and other places) to express an attitude of being spiritually strong.

To be gentle in times of human stress takes a powerful will to be like Jesus. It takes having the power and will to forgive as Jesus did on the cross. It possesses all the preceding characteristics, attitudes, Paul used to precede it: compassion, kindness, humility. It, also, expresses an attitude of “tolerance” and knowing when to keep our mouth shut when someone irks us. It is being able to share a breath of fresh air when our tasks get tough and overwhelming. I like a phrase Robert Schuler emphasized many years ago “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”, meaning they move forward with the help of Jesus and don’t throw up their hands in defeat.

Putting on gentleness helps us bring the calm of Jesus to the situation, the calm Jesus brought to the raging sea when the disciples were scared and panicking that their boat was going to sink. Jesus calmly got up and did what he could to bring calm to the stormy sea. So, when times and situations get tough, be calm, be gentle and pray the words of the old hymn, “When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.” You will be filled by the Spirit of the Lord. God bless! Fred





Keep Christ in
Christmas!
Have a
blessed holiday!

ZWANI.COM



BAKED POTATO BASH



We had another great Potato Bash again this year. Thank you all so much for all the hard work & dedication that went into making it so successful.

Fall was sure in the air that Saturday. Our Memorial Hall was so beautifully decorated...hard working ladies and our men getting ready to serve over 100 plus people, who came to enjoy our great food and fellowship at our church.

Again, a big thank you to all of our many volunteers. You all did an outstanding job to make it a success! Great job all!!

Our profit was \$758.70 (Fantastic!)

Jini Sass - Chair

Invite more people to church



Connection Online

If you would like to read the "Connection" newsletter online, go to our website;

<http://www.presbyterianchurchofbullshoals>

Click on the 'Info Center' tab at the top, then on the drop-down menu, click on "Presbyterian Connection", then choose the month of the newsletter you would like to read. The most recent newsletter will be at the top.



Be sure to drop in for coffee, maybe a Danish or cookies and wonderful fellowship on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall!

Our church face book page

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterian.shoals>

Our church email address

presch@suddenlinkmail.com



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

December 1st
1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11-14 & Matthew 24:36-44
COMMUNION



POT LUCK



December 8th
2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 & Matthew 3:1-12
POTLUCK

December 15th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10 & Matthew 11:2-11
BLESSING OF THE FOOD PANTRY



December 22nd
4th Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7 & Matthew 1:18-25



December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:00 p.m.



December 29th
1st Sunday after Christmas Day
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18 & Matthew 2:13-23
MINUTE FOR MISSION



CHURCH USHERS/GREETERS



USHERS & GREETERS

December 1 - Steve Broskovak & Dick Sass
December 8 - Betty Aaron & Irene Bere
December 15 - Sandy Erickson & Ken Hobart
December 22 - Faye Brackett & Sandy Erickson
December 24 - Sandy Erickson & Meg Simons
December 29 - Bob & Gloria Wiles

COMMUNION SERVERS

The Choir

PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR. - 2013

December 1 - First, Paragould
December 8 - Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg
December 15 - Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith
December 22 - Memorial Church, Atkins
December 29 - Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay

Church Custodians
Retired Ministers & Educators
First, Stuttgart
First, Walnut Ridge
One-O-One Church, Gamaliel



PLEASE NOTIFY PAT ERLEWINE IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

BIRTHDAYS

December

December 5 - Lee Powell
December 6 - Shirley Lowe
December 11 - Jewel Riley
December 20 - Bruce Powell



January

January 2 - Dot Pitts
January 9 - Mary Kerr
January 19 - Bob Hobbs
January 19 - Rich Danderson

ANNIVERSARIES

December 30 - Bob & Gloria Wiles



January 10-Frieda & Rich Danderson
January 28-Ray & Pat Erlewine

LIBRARY LINES DECEMBER 2013



A non-fiction book has been donated to the library entitled **BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD** by Christy Bower. It will be on the new book shelves for a few weeks.

We also have some new fiction books:

Emma Raber's Daughter Series by Jerry Eicher:

Book 1 - KATIE OPENS HER HEART

Book 2 - KATIE'S JOURNEY TO LOVE

Book 3 - KATIE'S FOREVER PROMISE

Amish Seasons Series by Marianne Ellis:

Book 1 - SUMMER PROMISE

Book 2 - AUTUMN GRACE

The Miller Family Series by Mary Ellis

Book 4 - AN AMISH FAMILY REUNION

The featured book is: Book 1: KATIE OPENS HER HEART:

"Here is the touching story of an awakening young Amish girl, Katie Raber, who finds she wants more from life than to be known as simply "Emma Raber's daughter."

Emma has refused to remarry since Katie's *daett* died soon after she was born. And in an effort to keep Katie home, Emma has forbidden her from participating in the *rumspringa* tradition.

When widower Jesse Mast calls for *Mamm*'s hand in marriage, Katie hopes to move into a new phase of life and leave the old "Emma Raber's daughter" behind. But Emma is having none of it, and Katie must consider abandoning all hope of ever changing her *mamm*'s bitterness or of ever having popular Ben Yoder notice her. Out of sheer frustration, she begins attending nearby Mennonite youth gatherings.

Sparks fly when Jesse's children object fiercely to the attentions their *daett* is paying to Emma Raber. And widowed Ruth Hochstetler makes her own move for Jesse Mast's hand."

Be sure and check out the Christmas books, tapes and videos on display in the Children's library area for both adults and children.

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.



Faye Brackett, Librarian

MISSION MINUTE
DECEMBER-2013



We will be participating in the Joy Offering again this year, starting with Sun. Dec. 1st - Dec. 22nd. Joy Offering envelopes will be located in the pews. Please read the bulletin board in the narthex for more about the Joy Offering. We will also be doing the Xmas Card tree again this year. All money collected from the tree will go to the food pantry.

Please remember to mark your checks for the food pantry. Instead of purchasing cards to send to our church friends, we write our names on a Christmas ball and put on the Christmas tree. The money saved from purchasing cards will be donated to the food pantry. The tree is located in the narthex.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering: You will be helping families of active and retired church workers and also helping to provide opportunities for education.

The offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges for education.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.

The Mission Committee



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women met at The Village Wheel on Monday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. There were eight ladies who attended.

A big 'Thank you' to our hostesses, Betty Aaron & Mary Kerr. Irene Bere gave the devotion about 'Things children say'. It was a wonderful story.

Amy Johnson gave her report from the last meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Mary Kerr. All reports were approved & will be placed on file.

Betty Aaron gave her last report on Missions, as she will step down for next year. Please read Betty's 'Mission Report' this month to see how busy we have been.

Vicky Bair reported on the progress of the 'Head Start Program'. We hope to make our children happy again this year.

At our next meeting, all our Ladies are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter (16-18oz. size) for our table decorations and then we will give them to the Food Pantry.

We also voted and approved our new officers for 2014.

- Mary Kerr will remain our Moderator & Treasurer.
- Amy Johnson will remain our Vice-Moderator & Secretary.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 2, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at 'The Village Wheel'. We hope everyone will attend and bring a friend. This will be our last meeting until March 2014.

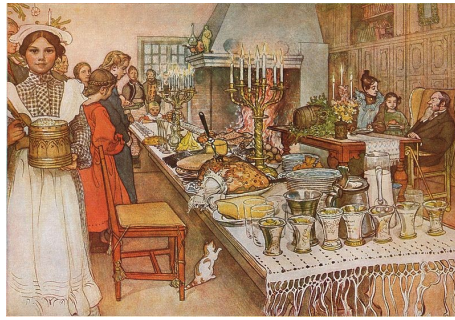
The meeting was closed at 11:00 a.m. with a strong message of 'Love and Forgiveness' from Amy Johnson.



God Bless!

**Mary Kerr
Moderator**

Christmas Historical Events



Christmas Truce.....

During World War I in 1914 and 1915 an unofficial Christmas truce took place, particularly that between British and German troops. The truce began on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1914, when German troops began decorating the area around their trenches in the region of Ypres, Belgium, for Christmas. They began by placing candles on trees, then continued the celebration by singing Christmas carols, most notably *Stille Nacht (Silent Night)*. The British troops in the trenches across from them responded by singing English carols. The two sides shouted Christmas greetings to each other. Soon thereafter, there were calls for visits across the "No man's land" where small gifts were exchanged. The truce also allowed a breathing spell where recently fallen soldiers could be brought back behind their lines by burial parties. Funerals took place as soldiers from both sides mourned the dead together and paid their respects. At one funeral in No Man's Land, soldiers from both sides gathered and read a passage from Psalm 23. The truce occurred in spite of opposition at higher levels of the military command. Earlier in the autumn, a call by Pope Benedict XV for an official truce between the warring governments had been ignored.



Apollo 8 Reading...

On December 24, 1968, in what was the most watched television broadcast to that date, the astronauts Bill Anders, Jim Lovell and Frank Borman of Apollo 8 surprised the world with a reading of the Creation from the Book of Genesis as they orbited the moon. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, an atheist activist, filed a lawsuit under the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The suit was dismissed by the US Supreme Court.

In 1969, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp (Scott # 1371) commemorating the Apollo 8 flight around the moon. The stamp featured a detail of the famous photograph of the Earthrise over the moon (NASA image AS8-14-2383HR) taken by Anders on Christmas Eve, and the words, "In the beginning God..."

P.W. MISSION REPORT 2013

As our year comes to an end, we would like to tell you, with your help this past year, we had a great year for Mission donations!

At each meeting, we collect personal items for the Food Pantry, such as shampoo & soap.

We also collected Best Choice labels, which brought a check for \$60.00 for the Food Panty, as well as collected box tops for books for the Flippin School.

This year we had our annual 'Ice Cream Social' and 'Potato Bash.' We had our 'Christmas in July' sale and the 'City Wide Yard Sale'. Thanks to everyone we collected a total of \$2,520.43.

For our Mission program, money given for missions were:

Baxter Day Care	100.00
Vera Lloyd	200.00
Haiti Foundation	195.00 <i>(1 goat was \$20)</i>
Back Pack Program	500.00
Bull Shoals Food Pantry	800.00
Christmas Clinic	200.00
Flippin School Lunch Program	300.00
Bridge Bash	100.00
Our Kids	100.00
Our Church	200.00
B/S. Theater of Art	<u>50.00</u>
	\$2,745.00

At Christmas time, we also sponsor 20 children in the 'Head Start Program', with a gifts valued at \$30.00 per child.

Gifts donated for the family Christmas boxes have an estimated value of \$500. With all the projects & donations, our total donations this year was \$3,225.00.

The Presbyterian Women would like to say "Thank You" and "God Bless" for everyone's help this past year. We love you all!

Betty Aaron - Missions

“TILL WE SPEAK AGAIN”

Question: I am alone again this holiday season; What have I to be thankful for?

Answer: You woke up looking at the green side of the grass, sat up, and ate breakfast!! We should be thankful all year round, not just during the holidays. We are blessed with warm houses, warm clothes, warm food, warm friends, and warm fuzzy holiday shows on the t.v.

Having no family around during this time does not necessitate the need to be depressed. Stay in touch with them by phone, card or letter, email and such. Friends are as much a part of our lives as family...sometimes better, because we can choose them. So surround yourself with your friends who will also be alone during the holidays. Go places, have meals, have fun... just take your mind off yourself.

There is so much to be thankful for if we just look around. Remember to share with those who are less fortunate than you. This will surprisingly lift your spirits as well as lend a hand to someone in need. God is indeed good.

I do hope this has answered your question.

Luv, Millie aka-Meg

*Thought for the day: Does the light on the Christmas Tree
Shine brighter for you than the light from the manger?
If so, maybe it's time to re-think your priorities!!*



DECEMBER PUZZLE

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2 :1-14 (NIV)



Joseph
Mary
Bethlehem
baby
born

wrapped
clothes
manger
room
inn

shepherds
watch
flocks
angel
appeared

afraid
sign
glory
peace
earth

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:12 (NIV)

RECIPES

~**Cherry Cream Cheese Bake**~

Ingredients

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 8 oz cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tube crescent rolls
- 1/2 stick of butter
- 2 tbsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar



Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Grease an 8 x 8 baking dish.

Take half of the crescent rolls and lay them out on the bottom of the baking dish.

In a medium sized mixing bowl, blend cream cheese until smooth.

Once smooth, add powdered sugar and vanilla and blend.

Once blended, spoon onto the crescent rolls in baking dish and spread evenly.

Top with can of cherry pie filling.

Top with the last half (4 triangles) of the crescent rolls.

Melt butter and pour on top of crescents.

Top with granulated sugar and bake for 25 minutes or until browned.

THIS WE BELIEVE for DECEMBER

"Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;"
"Colossians 3:12"

~MISSION STATEMENT~

"We will be scripture-based to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and spiritually led to guide all people to be active doers of the Word"

Approved by Session on November 16, 2007

CHURCH STAFF

Clerk of Session: Vicky Bair, Church Treasurer: Ken Hobart, Secretary: Christi Partee
Financial Secretary: Dick Sass, Asst. Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller

DEACONS

Class of 2013

Ed Lloyd
Gloria Wiles
Pat Erlewine

Class of 2014

Dot Pitts
Sandy Erickson

Class of 2015

Pam Hobart
Vacant

ELDERS

Class of 2013

Vicky Bair
Jini Sass

Class of 2014

Meg Simons
Vacant

Class of 2015

Ken Hobart
Steve Broskovak

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