DID YOU KNOW ... Our Favorite Holiday Traditions?

~My favorite holiday story is the Christmas when I got a tiny pink car and I rode it all round the house in my new Christmas pajamas.~

  – Delaney Fox, age 9

~It is always touching each season when all in attendance at the FPCLG Christmas Eve family service join together to sing “Silent Night” by candlelight. After the service and full of Christmas spirit, the Fox clan will drive around town to look at the beautiful holiday decorations while also singing Christmas songs loudly off-key in the car. (Personally, I love to torture the family with the “Gloria” refrain of “Angels We Have Heard on High.”) Upon arrival home, we celebrate with a traditional Christmas Eve dinner, the kids receive their annual Christmas PJs, and we end the evening with everyone wearing Santa hats as we gather around the tree to listen to my husband read us “The Christmas Story.” The holidays are truly a time to reflect on how blessed we are!!! No physical gifts can ever bring more contentment and happiness than us simply being together celebrating the birth of Jesus. From all of us...Happy holidays to you and yours this and future holiday seasons.~

  – Susan Fox (Ken, Sullivan & Delaney, too!)

~My favorite part of Christmas is decorating the Christmas tree, even if I break a few of the ornaments along the way.~

  – Ella Teegen, age 4

~Matching PJs for the kids (tradition started by Natalie’s Great Aunt when she was a child.~

~Eating under the Christmas tree at Field’s (slight change this year due to Macy’s).~

~Participating in the Christmas Pageant.~

~Attending Christmas Eve service together and singing favorite carols.~

~Eating Kirschbaum’s Christmas Tree coffee cake (provided annually by good friends)~

  – Greg, Natalie, Kevin & Sarah Beglen

~One Dockins family tradition is to share our love of baking with family and friends. We have a holiday treats baking day where each of us participates. Paul’s specialty is Torsetti, a special family recipe; Jordan and Sydney particularly enjoy cutting out the sugar cookies and decorating them; Leann heads up the molasses cookie station. Typically we make about a half dozen various cookies and then deliver cookie plates to friends. It’s a fun day that we all enjoy!! Another holiday tradition that is special to us is that Paul and I purchase a Radko ornament for the kids, wrap it and present it to them on the day that we are decorating the Christmas tree. The kids love it! Each ornament box is marked with the year they received it and then as we place them on the tree we reminisce about that year and why that ornament was selected. By the time they grow up and have their own tree, they will have 20 plus Radko ornaments for their tree. This is a great way for our family to officially kick off the holidays.~

  – The Dockins Family

~For almost half a century, Dorothea Benisek has been sharing with family and friends a traditional (fruitcake-like) loaf which includes chocolate chips, glazed red and green cherries, dates and pecans, but no citrus. She made 40 small loaves in 2005. They are called Bishops Bread and the recipe was obtained from Lee’s first grade teacher.~

  – Lee Benisek

~I like hanging the ornaments on the tree, being with all of my cousins, opening presents and drinking egg nog.~

  – Jane Stockbridge, age 5

~Attending Christmas Eve service together and singing favorite carols.~

See TRADITIONS, page 6
Have you ever noticed how such little words as prepositions can say a mouthful?? If you imagine a square in front of you, then you can get in touch with prepositions (if you’ve forgotten your grade school grammar).

So there’s your imagined square and you see such words as “above, on, beneath, around, within, through,” and “against, beyond, near, along,” and there are a host of other words I haven’t mentioned.

You can use these words, these prepositions, to talk about your relationships with other people. There are people whom you’re “beside,” but others that you are “against” (not happy with). Some people you think of yourself as being “above,” and other people whom you feel “beneath” in dignity or importance, power or privilege. Some people you stay “beyond,” and others you are “near.”

Let’s use these prepositions for the relationships between pastors and people. There are some people who are “beside” their pastors (connected to) and others who are “beyond” their pastors (disconnected). Some people who are “against” their pastors and some who are “with” their pastors. There are some pastors whom you think you’re “above,” and some pastors who make you feel “beneath” them (for all sorts of reasons). I think with the Pastor Nominating Committee working hard to bring a new Senior Pastor here, it might be important for all of us to discuss how we relate to pastoral leadership, and using these prepositions could be an enlightening exercise for all of us.

The truth is that we all have flaws and need to work at our relationships with others, especially those we call our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to understand that pastors cannot minister to people who will not let themselves be ministered to. Pastors cannot make ministry happen when congregants do not participate in doing the work of ministry. Leadership in congregations is earned by trust and cannot be demanded, but people need to be willing to be led! Some churches have too many “chiefs” and some have too many “Indians.” We need a good mixture of both, and also a willingness to be led, ultimately, by the Spirit of God!

Between you and me, when I think about pastors, and churches I’d like to be a member of, I’d rather have a combination of an average pastor (preaching, teaching and ministering) and a congregation that is alive and excited about the Gospel, than some pastor who is a spiritual star in the pulpit trying to wake up a discouraged, burned out, and angry congregation!!!

Prepositions are tiny words, but oh, they can say mouthfuls!

Peace & joy,
Richard

Did You Know ...Our Veterans?

We regret that some of our FPCLG veterans were omitted from the list published in the last issue of Church & Home. We add them here to recognize and honor their service to our country. If there are any other members we still have not included, please e-mail Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com or drop the information off at the church office.


Jack Hansman

H. Bruce McNair: U.S. Army, April 1943–January 1946, Medical Corps, 95th General Hospital, France & Germany. Staff Sergeant.


Church News

We Welcome Our Newest Members

Steve and Julie Knipstein, Max and Zoey
618 North Spring Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526
708.469.7213
Knipstein@comcast.net

(not pictured)
Andrew and Sandra McLean,
Ava, Olivia and Emmerson
717 South Catherine Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525
708.482.0709
amclean1@ameritech.net

We celebrate the baptism of Thomas Michael Replogle, son of David and Christina Replogle, on October 29, 2006.

Help Wanted!

The Personnel Committee is seeking people for the positions listed below. If you are interested or know someone that might be, please contact Kristin Kraai-Keely at 708.482.7568 or kraaikeely@yahoo.com.

Small Group Coordinator: This person will play a support role to the Interim Associate Pastor in working with small group and adult ministry programs. The majority of the Small Group Coordinator’s responsibilities will focus on the program development of youth ministry (Issac Band and TUXIS) and working with the youth volunteers to carry out those programs.

Childcare Providers: For Sunday mornings and evenings as well as special events during the week. The hours will vary week by week depending upon need. Pay is $10 per hour. We are seeking providers who are 21 years and older.

Annual Blood Drive

If you are able, please plan to donate blood on Thursday, December 14, between 2:30 and 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Appointments can be made through your deacon or by calling the church office at 708.354.0771. Questions concerning eligibility can be made confidentially to LifeSource at 847.803.7921. You will receive a “mini” physical prior to donating, and the whole process takes about one hour or less. Supply during the Christmas season is critically low, and demand increases dramatically during this time. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!
Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

Each month as we write our Church & Home submission, the statement we find right on the tip of our tongues is, “The PNC has been busy this month!” But, we recognize that many of you may wonder what exactly our definition of “busy” is, and so we’d like to offer some statistics that might provide you with details about our current tasks.

As of November, 2006:

- Since our installation in February, 2006, your PNC has met as an entire group 21 times. This does not include subcommittee meetings. A total of seven subcommittees have been formed to date.

- So far we have received and reviewed a total of 74 Personal Information Forms (PIFs). PIFs come to us as self-referrals or as computer matches via the Church Leadership Connection in Louisville, Kentucky. Each PIF must be assigned a number, acknowledged, and then given a response.

- Of the 74 PIFs received, we expressed interest in nine applicants, and six of those led to an initial phone conversation. For each phone conversation, dates must be scheduled, interview questions personalized, notes must be taken and later reviewed with the committee as a whole.

- From those six initial phone conversations, we are actively communicating with three applicants. This involves further phone communication, reviewing sermon tapes, and offering information for the candidate to review, such as Annual Reports, Job Description, Strategic Plans, etc.

We want to emphasize that although we have made much progress and are very pleased with the quality of our applicants, the fact that we have made it this far does not mean that our eventual candidate is one of these three. While this may be the case, we must be mindful that this is a four-way process between the PNC, the candidate, the presbyteries, and God. We are actively seeking His guidance for every step we take, and submit ourselves to His timeframe.

We continue to request referrals from you. As you travel for the holidays, please attend a local Presbyterian church or talk with friends and family about potential candidates. Then submit any names you might receive, and we will do the rest. An easy way to contact us is through our committee email: FirstPresPNC@sbcglobal.net.

On behalf of the entire committee, we ask that you continue your prayers for our entire congregation as we seek a new leader, and for this committee as we strive to glorify God in our work together.

In Christ, Your PNC

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our collections for various groups in need. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the young mothers who contributed many beautiful maternity outfits for Firman House.

We will be collecting 2007 calendars all year. Please place them in the box in the west cloister.

The Christmas luncheon of Presbyterian Women will be at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, in Westminster Hall. The program, to begin about 1:30 p.m., will be in the sanctuary. Janet Mensen Reynolds, a mezzo-soprano with the Lyric Opera Chorus, will be singing songs of the season as well as other music. Please call the church office, 708.354.0771, to make your reservation. The cost of the luncheon is $6. Childcare is available upon request.

All women of the church are members of PW and are invited to attend this luncheon and program as well as all other PW events.

Friendship Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at the home of Nancy Fuener. Irene Grether will lead the study of Genesis. Friendship Circle will also meet on Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The Book Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, in the church parlor. Lorana Gleason will lead the discussion of The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Fellowship Circle will meet on Thursday, January 18, at 9:30 a.m. in Westminster Hall. It will be the annual “Brown Bag” meeting. Debra Holmes will lead the study of the Book of Matthew.

Church Women United will hold its annual meeting on Friday, January 19.

The Sewing Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 25, in Westminster Hall.

The PW Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, in Westminster Hall.

PW will meet on Thursday, February 1, at 12:30 p.m. Our own Beth White will talk about teddy bears.

The PW annual retreat will be Saturday, February 3, in Western Springs.
FPCLG to Host Presbytery's Leadership Education

LEAD 2007 = Leadership, Education and Development for Your Whole Church!

Each year, the Presbytery of Chicago hosts an education event for congregational leaders across the presbytery. The 2007 LEAD event will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2007, at First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange. The theme is “Thinking Biblically,” with Rev. Dr. Robert L. Brawley, McGaw Professor of New Testament, McCormick Theological Seminary. Dr. Brawley will preach and present a workshop—one of approximately 30 workshops for elders, deacons, church school teachers, clergy, clerks, church musicians, mission workers, youth workers, and trustees. The cost is $10 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and a simple lunch. Cokesbury’s bookstore will join us, too. LEAD is co-sponsored by Empower Ministry, First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, McCormick Theological Seminary, The Presbyterian Church of Berwyn, and the Worship, Music and the Arts work group.

We will need many hands to support this premier event of the presbytery: greeters, guides, food servers, set-up crew, cleanup crew, even presenters, to name just a few. If you are able to help or if you have ideas on how we can make this the best LEAD event ever, please contact Doreen Sterba-DeZur at 708.485.4205 or dezurb@sbcglobal.net, or Diane Lang at 708.579.9298 or red.slang@sbcglobal.net.

Highlights from the October 2006 Meeting of Your Session

- Approved a motion that worship services on Sunday, December 24, 2006, would take place as follows: 10:00 a.m., regular Sunday morning worship service; 4:00 p.m., children’s and families’ Christmas Eve service; 10:30 p.m., traditional Christmas Eve service.

- Received from our commissioners the report of the October 2006 Presbytery Assembly.

- Approved the calling of a Special Meeting of the session, to be held on Sunday, November 5, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., in the church parlor, for the purpose of receiving new members.

Highlights from the November 2006 Meeting of Your Session

- Met in conjunction with the Board of Deacons and received a report from the deacons on their ministries over the past year and on their plans for the upcoming year.

- Approved Sunday, February 11, 2007, as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Getting to Know…the Library Committee

The Library Committee is a subcommittee of Adult Education, and meets the first Monday of each month from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the church library. Their purpose is to provide Christian literature for both adults and children. Their tasks include shopping for all new purchases (books, magazines, DVDs, tapes and videos); printing and filing catalog cards; making “in memory of” or “in honor of” book plates; writing thank-you notes to those who donate books; shelving books and keeping them in order (over 700 during our summer reading program!); writing book reviews; checking out sermon tapes; changing the bulletin board for programs or seasons; discarding old or unused books that are no longer relevant; and attending Chicago Church Library association meetings. Darlene Aniolowski, moderator, shares that a highlight of being a part of this group is going to the bookstore to buy new books and having lunch together.

In addition, once every other year, the Library Committee holds a book donation sale, during which congregation members may purchase books for our library. In 2007, the sale will be held on May 6 following the morning worship service. The Library Committee also keeps quite busy during the summer, when an average of 30 individuals participates in the Summer Reading Club for Children and Youth, reading books and earning points to redeem for prizes at the end of the summer. The Library Committee welcomes new members at any time. If you are interested, contact Darlene Aniolowski at 708.482.4408.

A Word of Thanks…

I have been deeply touched by the prayers and notes and well wishes from so many of our church family. God bless you, every one!

Cathy Stewart
Church News

TRADITIONS, continued from page 1

~The church I attended as a child was Hungarian. In fact, when my father first went with my mother, the sermons were in Hungarian and he didn't understand a word. When I was a child, the only part of the service still in Hungarian was the “Silent Night” we would sing each Christmas with the lights out and candles lit, as we do at FPCLG. First we would sing it in English, then Hungarian. Also, I remember a long-time member, Shelman, would sing “O Holy Night” each year. After he grew too old to continue, I would sing it. I considered it quite an honor to take over for him.
~Elizabeth loves to take out the silver and set the table. She makes paper place holders where each knife, fork, and spoon should go, painted red and green. Each person has a hand-printed sign where to sit. The silver was Douglas’ parents’, which they received as a wedding present. Elizabeth also takes great pleasure looking at how beautiful the tree is each year. ~Melissa loves coming back from church on Christmas Eve, seeing the beautiful luminaries outside FPCLG. On the way home, we drive through the neighborhoods looking at each decoration, helping Christmas Eve last as long as possible. Last year, Melissa was able to more deeply find the meaning of Christmas as she prepared meals for the Second Baptist program. The FPCLG involvement was just getting off the ground, and Melissa had to prepare a lot of meals around Christmas time. Cooking all that food for children who otherwise might not have a hot meal, and also collecting other daily essentials, helped keep at bay the negative aspects of Christmas - the commercialism and the stress. Truly helping others in need was a great pleasure and a wonderful memory.
~ Douglas Cogan

Celebrating Birthdays

December 1
Alexandra Conn
Laurie Moeckly

December 2
Karen Bylsma
Erin Herbert

December 3
John Greener
Lois Greener
Taylor Jaeger

December 4
Noel Conroy
Louis Dudek
Parrish Jonen
Robert Powers

December 5
Sara Molenda
Mary Kay Rietz
Jane Simpson
Joan Wilson

December 6
Dorothy De Boer
Lynn Kust
Matthew Lloyd

December 7
Tommy Fiedler

December 9
Florence Christensen
Stephanie Hurt

December 10
Terry Coleman
Angela Hall
Erica Hoffman
Sonja Kulsen-Hansen
Lisa Marovec

December 11
Jim Gallery
Kelly Higgins
Sierra Jessup
Leda Rosenthal

December 12
David Beshoar
Christopher Clement
Douglas Cogan
Mathew Fiedler
Michael Molenda

December 13
Keaton Beechler
Lois Carhart
Traeger Penicook
Hannah Walleck

December 15
Michael Walsh

December 16
Ben Bishop

December 21
George and Shirley Rinder – Happy 60th!

December 23
Marion and Lori Neal

December 24
Ted and Caroline Gifford – Happy 56th!

December 28
Jon and Liz Asperger
Chuck and Helen Pollard
Robert and Joan Musil
James and Karen Snavé

December 29
Joseph and Barbara Gurskey
Blake and Lindsay Saunders

December 30
Joseph and Jane Yount

January 2
James and Sue Petru – Happy 20th!

January 3
Scott and Lora Cohn
Alan and Nancy Walse

January 4
Bob and Betty Mc Ginnis

January 21
Bern and Phyllis Guentner

January 29
Jim Walters and Ann Fischer

Celebrating Anniversaries

December 3 Joe and Stephanie Keslar
December 5 William Solar and Sarah Sutton
December 9 Duncan and Marilyn Mathieson
December 12 Brian and Cynthia Sumner
December 14 Mike and Mary Kay Thuma

December 21 George and Shirley Rinder – Happy 60th!

December 23 Marion and Lori Neal
December 24 Ted and Caroline Gifford – Happy 56th!

December 28 Jon and Liz Asperger
Chuck and Helen Pollard
Robert and Joan Musil
James and Karen Snavé

December 29 Joseph and Barbara Gurskey
Blake and Lindsay Saunders

December 30 Joseph and Jane Yount

January 2 James and Sue Petru – Happy 20th!

January 3 Scott and Lora Cohn
Alan and Nancy Walse

January 4 Bob and Betty Mc Ginnis

January 21 Bern and Phyllis Guentner

January 29 Jim Walters and Ann Fischer
Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 19</td>
<td>Louis Comadena, Ashley Nyhart, Sarah Rossiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Ashleigh Hall, Debra Holmes, Jennifer Petterson, Ruth M. Scrivner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Sarah Parkes, Kelly Powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22</td>
<td>Libby Lupfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 23</td>
<td>Jonathan Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Ben Bergstrom, Jo Coleman, Irene Grether, Leigh Hall, John Hohe, Jay Jacobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>James Poore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 26</td>
<td>Nathan Davis, Peter Hill, Derek Simpson, Mark Toyama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 28</td>
<td>Michael Karpinski, Holly Klotz, Carol Metcalf, Marilyn Nash, Ruth Toyama, James Welker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Donna Brockob, Fran Scheef, Richard Wojick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Renee Barton, Kate Fiedler, Liz Pierson, Mary Ann Rank, Robert Sedler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Dakota Gallery, Nancy Knight, Patricia Saffranski, Alexandra Torres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Alexandra Graves, Brandon Hanks, Shelly Hora, Alex Keslar, Dorothy Nemecek, Dan Sheperd, Danny Thuma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Claire Brown, Shirley Rinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Susan Jacobs, Blake Murray, Riely Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Kim Schlott, Clayton Walters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Bill Tackes, Lee Kirk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We celebrate the birth of Naomi Anne Kallemeyn, daughter of Lance and Emily Kallemeyn, on November 13, 2006.
DECEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, December 1
2:45 p.m.  Brownie Troop #1220, Radical Roots
4:00-6:00 p.m.  Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, December 2
8:30 a.m.  Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s
1:00-3:30 p.m.  Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3
2 Cents-a-Meal Sunday
9:00 a.m.  Adult Ed., Room G-9
9:00 a.m.  Searchers & Seekers, Room G-10
9:00 a.m.  Worship/Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.  Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall
11:15 a.m.  Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir room
2:00 p.m.  Girl Scout Troop #1137, 3rd floor
3:00 p.m.  Christmas caroling (IB and TUXIS joining in caroling instead of regular meetings)
3:45 p.m.  Post-caroling pizza party, Fellowship Hall
5:15 p.m.  House of Hope, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.  Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 4
9:30 a.m.  LaGrange Newcomers, Nursery
3:15 p.m.  Girl Scout Troop #1137, Radical Roots
7:00 p.m.  Library Committee, Library

Tuesday, December 5
10:00 a.m.  Prayer Captains, home of Lillian Collins
7:00 p.m.  B Edwards, Westminster Hall

Wednesday, December 6
9:00 a.m.  Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft
10:00 a.m.  Playgroup, Nursery
10:00 a.m.  Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor
10:00 a.m.  Daisy Troop #1278, Radical Roots
1:00 p.m.  Staff Meeting, Parlor
1:00 p.m.  Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall
4:30 p.m.  Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room
5:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class, 3rd floor
7:00 p.m.  Service of Wholeness, Chapel
7:30 p.m.  Committees

Thursday, December 7
11:00 a.m.  Men’s Bible Study, Parlor
12:30 p.m.  Presbyterian Women’s luncheon and program, Westminster Hall
6:00 p.m.  NOW Choir rehearsal (grades 6-12), Choir room
6:45 p.m.  Handbell II rehearsal, Choir loft
7:30 p.m.  Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room

Friday, December 8
2:45 p.m.  Brownie Troop #1220, Radical Roots

Saturday, December 9
8:30 a.m.  Leave for Firman House Christmas Party, FPCLG parking lot
8:30 a.m.  Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s

Sunday, December 10
9:00 a.m.  Adult Ed., Room G-9
9:00 a.m.  Searchers & Seekers, Room G-10
9:00 a.m.  Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room
10:00 a.m.  Worship/Communion, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.  Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall
11:15 a.m.  Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir room
2:30 p.m.  Cinderella, Theatre of Western Springs
4:00 p.m.  IB (6th-8th graders), 3rd floor youth area
4:15 p.m.  Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
5:15 p.m.  House of Hope, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.  Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.  TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area

Monday, December 11
9:30 a.m.  LaGrange Newcomers, Nursery

Tuesday, December 12
1:00 p.m.  Caregivers of Dementia Support Group, Parlor
6:30 p.m.  Presbyterian Women’s Friendship Circle, home of Nancy Fuener

Wednesday, December 13
9:00 a.m.  Women’s Small Group, Westminster Hall
9:00 a.m.  Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft
10:00 a.m.  Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor
11:45 a.m. -1:45 p.m.  OFFICE CLOSED
12:00 p.m.  Staff Christmas luncheon
1:00 p.m.  Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall
4:30 p.m.  Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room
5:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class, 3rd floor
7:00 p.m.  Service of Wholeness, Chapel
7:30 p.m.  Committees

Thursday, December 14
11:00 a.m.  Men’s Bible Study, Parlor
2:00-7:00 p.m.  Deacons’ Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.  NOW Choir rehearsal (grades 6-12), Choir room
6:45 p.m.  Handbell II rehearsal, Choir loft
7:30 p.m.  Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room

Friday, December 15
2:45 p.m.  Brownie Troop #1220, Radical Roots

Saturday, December 16
8:30 a.m.  Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s
12:30 p.m.  Girl Scout Troop #174, Room G-2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, December 17</th>
<th>Sunday, December 24 (continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. Adult Ed., Room G-9</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Worship, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. Searchers &amp; Seekers, Room G-10</td>
<td>NO House of Hope Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir</td>
<td>10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Prelude, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room</td>
<td>11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. Faith Forest School for Preschool-8th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. Faith Forest Curriculum Advisors,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radical Roots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. IB (6th-8th graders), 3rd floor youth area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 p.m. Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m. House of Hope/Communion, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, December 18**

| 8:30 a.m. LaGrange Garden Club, Fellowship Hall |
| 9:30 a.m. LaGrange Newcomers, Nursery |
| 3:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #1137, Radical Roots |
| 7:00 p.m. Mission Night/ Food for Life, Fellowship Hall |

**Tuesday, December 19**

| 10:00 a.m. Leave to serve Food for Life, FPCLG parking lot |

**Wednesday, December 20**

| 9:00 a.m. Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft |
| 10:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery |
| 10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor |
| 10:00 a.m. Daisy Troop #1278, Radical Roots |
| 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor |
| 1:00 p.m. Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall |
| 4:30 p.m. Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room |
| 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, 3rd floor |
| 7:00 p.m. Service of Wholeness, Chapel |
| 7:30 p.m. Deacons’ meeting, Westminster Hall |
| 7:30 p.m. Session meeting, Room G-9 |

**Thursday, December 21**

| 11:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, Parlor |
| 1:00 p.m. Czech Senior Social Hour, Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 p.m. NOW Choir (grades 6-12), Choir room |
| 6:45 p.m. Handbell II rehearsal, Choir loft |
| 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room |

**Saturday, December 23**

| 8:30 a.m. Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s |

**Sunday, December 24**

| 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room |
| 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary |
| 10:15 a.m. Faith Forest Church School for preschool-8th |
| 10:15 a.m. Preschool Church School Class, Room G-2 |
| 11:00 a.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall |
| 4:00 p.m. IB (6th-8th graders), 3rd floor youth area |
| 4:15 p.m. Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall |
| 5:15 p.m. House of Hope, Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 p.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 p.m. TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area |

**Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

| OFFICE CLOSED |

**Wednesday, December 27**

| NO Confirmation class |
| 7:00 p.m. Service of Wholeness, Chapel |

**Saturday, December 30**

| 8:30 a.m. Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s |

**Sunday, December 31**

| 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room |
| 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary |
| 10:15 a.m. Faith Forest K-8th Activity Class, Radical Roots |
| 10:15 a.m. Preschool Church School Class, Room G-2 |
| 11:00 a.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall |
| NO House of Hope Worship |

**Monday, January 1 – New Year’s Day**

| OFFICE CLOSED |

**Tuesday, January 2**

| 10:00 a.m. Prayer Captains, home of Lillian Collins |

**Wednesday, January 3**

| 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor |
| NO Confirmation class |
| 7:00 p.m. Service of Wholeness, Chapel |
| 7:30 p.m. Children’s Ministry Committee, Parlor |
| 8:00 p.m. Moms’ Coffee, Caribou Coffee in LaGrange |

**Saturday, January 6**

| 8:30 a.m. Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s |
| 9:00 a.m. “Unhanging” the Greens |

**Sunday, January 7 — 2 Cents-a-Meal Sunday**

| 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed., Room G-9 |
| 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room |
| 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion, Sanctuary |
| 10:15 a.m. Faith Forest Church School for preschool-8th |
| 11:00 a.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall |
| 11:15 a.m. Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir room |
| 4:00 p.m. IB (6th-8th graders), 3rd floor youth area |
| 4:15 p.m. Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall |
| 5:15 p.m. House of Hope, Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 p.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 p.m. TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area |
### JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, January 8</th>
<th>Wednesday, January 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AARP Board meeting, Westminster Hall</td>
<td>Women's Small Group, Westminster Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Committee, Library</td>
<td>Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, January 9</th>
<th>Thursday, January 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Women’s Friendship Circle, Westminster Hall</td>
<td>Men’s Bible Study, Parlor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, January 10</th>
<th>Friday, January 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft</td>
<td>Deadline for February issue of <em>Church &amp; Home</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup, Nursery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Meeting, Parlor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m. Brownie Troop #1220, Radical Roots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Class, 3rd floor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service of Wholeness, Chapel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, January 11</th>
<th>Saturday, January 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Bible Study, Parlor</td>
<td>Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOW Choir rehearsal (grades 6-12), Choir room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbell II rehearsal, Choir loft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, January 13</th>
<th>Sunday, January 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s</td>
<td>Adult Ed., Room G-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, January 14</th>
<th>Monday, January 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>3:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Ed., Room G-9</td>
<td>Girl Scout Troop #1137, Radical Roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship, Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Forest Church School for preschool-8th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB (6th-8th graders), 3rd floor youth area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Hope, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | Wednesday, January 24 |
| OFFICE CLOSED | 9:00 a.m.         |
| 7:00 p.m. Mission Night/Prepare Food for Life, Fellowship Hall | Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft |
|              | 10:00 a.m.       |
|              | Playgroup, Nursery |
|              | 10:00 a.m.       |
|              | Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor |
|              | 1:00 p.m.        |
|              | Staff Meeting, Parlor |
|              | 1:00 p.m.        |
|              | Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall |
|              | 2:45 p.m. Brownie Troop #1220, Radical Roots |
|              | 4:30 p.m.        |
|              | Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room |
|              | 5:30 p.m.        |
|              | Confirmation Class, 3rd floor |
|              | 7:00 p.m.        |
|              | Service of Wholeness, Chapel |
|              | 7:30 p.m.        |
|              | Session meeting, Room G-9 |

| Tuesday, January 16 | |
|---------------------||
| 8:30 a.m. AARP, Fellowship Hall | |
### JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 25**
- 9:30 a.m. PW Sewing Circle, Westminster Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. PW Board meeting, Westminster Hall
- 6:00 p.m. NOW Choir rehearsal (grades 6-12), Choir room
- 6:45 p.m. Handbell II rehearsal, Choir loft
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room

**Friday, January 26**
- 5:00 p.m. IB leaves for retreat in Bloomington, IL

**Saturday, January 27**
- 8:30 a.m. Women’s breakfast, J.C. George’s
- 9:00 a.m. Czech and Slovak Genealogy Society officers’ meeting, Room G-9
- 1:00 p.m. Czech and Slovak Genealogy Society, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 28**
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed., Room G-9
- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Choir room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

**Sunday, January 28 (continued)**
- 10:15 a.m. Faith Forest Church School for preschool-8th
- 11:00 a.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 a.m. Cherub Choir (preschool-K), Choir room
- NO IB
- 4:15 p.m. Cornerstone music rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
- 5:15 p.m. House of Hope, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Heartbeat Café, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. TUXIS (9th-12th graders), 3rd floor youth area

**Wednesday, January 31**
- 9:00 a.m. Women’s Small Group, Westminster Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Handbell rehearsal, Choir loft
- 10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. Smart Strength Exercise Class, Westminster Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Crusader Choir (grades 1-5), Choir room
- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, 3rd floor
- 7:00 p.m. Service of Wholeness, Chapel

*Italics represent community use of the church building.*

### Congregational Life

#### Time to Pick Up Your Tickets

For those of you who ordered tickets for the December 10 performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella, the tickets can be picked up on December 3 or 10 in Heartbeat Café following the 10 a.m. worship service. If you are unable to pick up the tickets on either of these dates, please call Carla Thorpe at 708.482.4692 to make other arrangements.

#### Heartbeat Café

Beginning December 10, and for two subsequent Sundays (December 17 and 24), we are asking the congregation to provide the food for Heartbeat Café following the 10 a.m. worship service. If you are unable to pick up the tickets on either of these dates, please call Carla Thorpe at 708.482.4692 to make other arrangements. There will be a sign-up sheet in Heartbeat Café to provide us with some indication of how much food to expect each week. All you need to do is bring your food item when you come to church; we will continue to provide beverages, room set-up, serving, and clean-up. Please think about baking or buying an extra batch of holiday treats to share with your church family. With the support of our congregation, we will truly have a “batch” of goodies.

#### Playgroup

Playgroup is a wonderful opportunity for moms or dads who are home with the kids on Wednesday mornings to get together with friends and let the kids play. Join us in the church nursery from 10 a.m.-noon on the following dates:

December 6 and 20, January 10 and 24

Note the change in schedule for January to accommodate Christmas vacation. Feel free to bring a peanut-free snack or lunch!

#### Moms’ Coffee

Moms of all ages are invited to gather for conversation over a cup of coffee, 8:00-10:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. No need to call in advance – just come to Caribou Coffee in LaGrange (34 N. LaGrange Rd.).
Worship, Music & Arts

O Come, All Ye Faithful...

Come with us to spread Christmas cheer as we sing carols to members of our church family who are unable to get out much. We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m., go out to people’s homes to sing our carols (dress warmly), and meet back in Fellowship Hall at 4:45 p.m. to share a pizza dinner. Afterward, all are invited to stay for House of Hope, our contemporary worship service, in Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m. See you there!

Dear Friends:
By Velma Lois Schulz

Your poetry speaks of loving relationships, Which, I am fond of thinking, surely include me. I wish I’d thought to frame such kindly words, For yours are like the lights upon a Christmas tree!

These friendly notes are blessings though the years, Reminding us of joy in sharing some event, We cherish memories and chuckle ear to ear Or simply smile we were so young and innocent!

Now our bodies weaken and our hearing blurs, Each friend’s more precious than she used to be, Facilitating needs reality infers,
We understand and share our current frailties.

So as the years fly by and age has humbled us We pace and place importance on a different scale. The depths of wonder ever grows to challenge us To keep our minds alive, and friends alive, as well!

Baptismal Renewal to Take Place on January 7

January 7 is a special Sunday at FPCLG. Not only is it communion, but it is also Baptismal Renewal Sunday. This is something new at our church and is a time for people to come forward, renew their baptismal vows and receive an anointing with oil and a brief prayer.

This is not a re-baptismal service or a baptism service for those who were never baptized before. It is a special Presbyterian Service which calls for us as disciples of Jesus Christ to recommit ourselves to the vows we took at our baptism. Baptism is the ordination of the laity for ministry! Baptism is the foundation for our identity and ministry as Christians and is central to our worship (thus the baptismal font being so prominent on the platform during our worship services).

On this Sunday, with both communion and Baptismal Renewal, we will have a “show and tell” presentation of the Gospel! Come and be part of this special service at 10 a.m.

Catch the Christmas Spirit at House of Hope in December, as John Salmon presents an exciting three-part series:

- **Christmas: Through the Eyes of a Man**, with music led by Joe Hurt and Lisa McClowry
- **Christmas: Through the Eyes of a Woman**, with special drama featuring Megan Wells and Hope Koon, and solo by Melissa Adamson
- **Christmas: Through the Eyes of a Child**, with music by the children of our church, and a celebration of the sacrament of Communion

House of Hope meets on Sunday evenings in Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m. Childcare and snacks are provided. **Please note that there will be no House of Hope on December 24 or 31.** Join us again as Mary Koon presents the message on January 7.

Mozart was celebrated at the Fall Festival of Music held at FPCLG on Saturday, November 11, 2006.
Putting with a Purpose

On Sunday, November 12, thirteen members of the IB youth group hit the links! Well, sort of…

Upon arriving for their weekly meeting, IB members were greeted by eight challenging miniature golf holes set up throughout the third floor of the education wing (see photos above). The challenges included shooting up ramps, through a down spout, over water and down a flight of stairs in a rolled-up carpet.

Another challenge each youth faced was thinking about how Jesus would want us to golf. Ideas surfacing before we teed-off included encouraging each other when we do well, being compassionate when we make mistakes and providing grace to one another (there were no penalty shots).

Overall, there were a lot of laughs, some fantastic putting and no broken windows.

IB, the youth program for 6th-8th graders, meets most Sunday nights from 4:00–5:15. For our weekly program, please see the fliers posted around the church or contact any of the IB adult leaders: Joanne Donovan, 708.485.5406; Kevin Keely, 708.482.7568; or Paul Monzella, 708.352.6320.

Both young and old came dressed for Halloween at the October 29 meeting of IB.
Children and Youth Ministries

Scholarships Available for Youth

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the Karaba Leadership Award and Scholarship and the Metcalf, Hellerman, and Reid Scholarships. The Karaba Award and Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors, and the purpose of the scholarship is to recognize service to the church, service to the denomination, and other projects formally connected to the ministry of the local church and the church universal. This is a one-time award and scholarship.

The Metcalf, Hellerman, and Reid Scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors and to students who are continuing their higher education. The purpose of these scholarships is to recognize participation and faithfulness to First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange while here and to encourage church attendance, Christian activities, or summer church involvement while in college. Recipients of a 2006 Metcalf, Hellerman, and Reid scholarship may apply to renew their scholarships by completing the 2007 application form.

If a student fulfills the criteria, he or she may apply for one or for both scholarships. Applications are available in the church office or on the church Web site, http://www.fpclg.org. Completed applications must be received in the church office by Wednesday, February 14, 2007. If you have questions about the scholarships, feel free to contact Dan Rusk, moderator of the Youth Ministry Committee, at 708.380.0375.

Catching the Christmas Spirit

As December approaches, we find ourselves getting into the “Christmas Spirit,” that familiar phrase that encapsulates our feelings around the Christmas holidays (think holy-days). What a great time to explore with your children what “Christmas Spirit” means, or maybe more appropriately, we could call it “Christmas Spirituality.”

Now, I must admit, thinking about teaching “spirituality” to your children may sound like a daunting task, intimidating at the very least. But think about this. Have you ever talked with your child about how wondrous nature is? About choosing to do the right thing even when it’s easier to do the wrong one? Maybe you say “grace” before a meal, or bring goods for the food pantry? Or mention God right out loud? Well then, teaching your child about spirituality isn’t so hard after all; you’ve been doing it right along!

The Christmas season offers all kinds of opportunities to develop your child’s spirituality. Together you can demonstrate God’s love (caroling to home-bound members of our church family, helping with Food for Life Mission Night, bringing mittens for the Mitten Tree, attending the Firman House Christmas party, etc.). It’s also a perfect time to talk about Jesus and the Christmas story, or to find a Christmas book in the church library and read it together. Kids learn so much from stories and conversation. Top it off with a moment of silence to listen for God, and a prayer of thanksgiving or request for someone’s comfort in time of need. Voila!

You most surely can help your child catch the true “Christmas Spirit,” which is the best gift of the season. Have a wonderful Holy-Day.

In Christ, Gail Patterson, Coordinator for Children’s Ministries

Mission & Outreach

Decorate the Mitten Trees

Please help us decorate the Mitten Trees with new children’s hats, mittens and scarves! They will be given to the preschool children at the Congress Park Head Start Program during their Christmas party. Bring your warm gifts to the second floor landing in Faith Forest by December 17.

Be One of Santa’s Helpers

On Saturday, December 9, the annual FPCLG/Firman Holiday Party for preschoolers enrolled in Firman Community Services daycare program will be held at their facility. The morning party will include a craft project provided by our church, a children’s program presented by Firman, a visit with Santa for each child (and Polaroid photo to take home), a present for each child (from our Giving Trees), along with fresh fruit and lunch arranged by Firman for everyone.

All crafters, photographers, and Santa’s helpers from our church are invited to share the joy of the season with Firman preschoolers, their families, and the staff. A sign-up sheet is under the Giving Trees in Fellowship Hall. We will meet in our church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. on December 9 to carpool, and will return around 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Suzanne Causton at 708.447.3050.
Gratitude for Gifts Given…

“Thank you for your support which goes a long way in helping to effectively assist those that are less fortunate.”
– Firman Community Services

“Thank you and your congregation for your generous in-kind gifts…Your thoughtfulness helps us to enhance our work of offering shelter, health services, counseling, food, and clothing to those in the vulnerable nighttime communities of Chicago.”
– The Night Ministry

Thank you “…for all that you do. We can never stop appreciating you for all that you do. God keeps His angels in our midst always.”
– Rogers Park Presbyterian Church

“I see every day the misery that can result from having a family member with a mental illness and insufficient resources to treat the condition. Then I look at the difference we can make in those lives, thanks in no small part to your contribution, and it gives me hope for the future.”
– Community Care Option

“Our contribution will help us to continue to provide ill and injured homeless people with the interim housing and supportive services that they need in order to successfully complete their recovery.”
– Interfaith House

“Once again you have shown your generosity and support for Seguin’s mission to support adults and children with disabilities and other special needs to enable them to be productive, valued members of society.”
– Seguin Services

You have our “sincere gratitude for supporting a child for his or her Christian education…The war and economic sanctions have certainly impacted the lives of all children of the area, adding to their fear and insecurity….All of our HCEF-sponsored schools remain open thanks to generous supporters like yourselves…We join you in keeping all of the people of the Holy Land in our prayers at this time. May God continue to bless you, remembering your generosity to these children in need.”
– Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

“Special of the Month” Collection

For people in need of personal and household items not covered by the food stamp program, FPCLG collects a special product each month and delivers the donations to a LaGrange area food pantry for distribution. Below is a list with a different special item highlighted for each month. Please place all donations in the east cloister at FPCLG. Thank you!

- January: Toothbrushes
- February: Toothpaste
- March: Toilet Paper (single rolls)
- April: Dish Detergent
- May: Hand Soap
- June: Personal Deodorant
- July: Laundry Detergent
- August: Facial Tissue
- September: Shampoo
- October: Combs, Hairbrushes
- November: Paper Towels (single rolls)
- December: Disposable Diapers

A Letter from Palestine

The following letter is from Lourd, the seven-year-old child sponsored by our congregation, writing in her second language:

Dear First Presbyterian Church of La Grange

Hello. I hope you’re in good health and you had fun in your summer vacation. I had fun holiday. I did many useful things. I learned some computers programmes and I visited many beautiful places like the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock and the children of Palestine.

I went many times to the swimming pool. Biscuit with my parents and my friends.

Interesting and amazing holiday.

Yours,
Lourd Salameh
Special Announcements

Holiday Greetings from Interfaith Community Partners

At this very special time of the year, the Board of Directors of Interfaith Community Partners (ICP) is extending a warm thank-you to the members, staff and pastors of our eleven coalition churches. ICP is extremely fortunate to have dedicated people at each of the churches and parishes to help us find people to serve, suggest people to become volunteers and generally support our work. Most of ICP’s volunteers are members of one of these congregations, and their time and talents are freely given. ICP has the good fortune to have many wonderful Care Partners with whom we have developed a strong relationship and from whom we have learned much. Best wishes for a joyous and wonder-filled Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Gail Stone, Executive Director

Holiday CD Features Local Choirs

The Chamber Music CD is a beautiful, high-quality collection of 16 Christmas favorites performed by the following area choirs: FPCLG, St. Cletus, St. John of the Cross, Nazareth Academy, First Congregational Church of Western Springs, Lyons Township High School, Hinsdale Center for the Arts Duo, LaGrange Christian Assembly, Kairos and Sisters of St. Joseph. Listen to a selection by visiting http://www.wscci.org/chambermusic.wma to hear a performance by the Lyons Township High School Choir.

The CD will make a great gift for your coworkers, neighbors, hostesses, teachers and everyone else on your gift list this year! Each CD is $15, or $12 each for orders of 10 or more. CDs can be purchased between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry office, 47 S. 6th Ave., LaGrange. You can also place an order via email at donna@wscci.org, or call 708.352.0494.