



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT #114  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901



ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED



**Christmas Tea & Bazaar**  
**Saturday, December 3**  
**Noon to 3:00 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**



# pulse

**December 2011**

First Presbyterian Church  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
518.561.3140  
Pastor  
Rev. Kathy Crighton  
Pulse Editor  
Jennifer Booth

It's Advent! It's the season when we await the birth of Christ, who came to us as a baby so long ago, and also await his coming again at the end of time. It's the beginning of the church year. And it's one of the busiest seasons, not just at the church, but in so many areas of our lives.

You may get this issue just before the Tea & Bazaar on Saturday, December 3. The event has gotten some great publicity this year, including a mention in American Profile, so we may even get some out of town visitors! We are hoping for a great turnout this year.

The children's Christmas pageant will be held during worship on Sunday, December 18 – we will have ONE service at 10:30 a.m. on that day. That afternoon at 4:00 p.m. the choir will present its annual concert of Christmas music, an event to which the community is invited (of course, the community is always welcome at our services!).

On Christmas Eve, a Saturday this year, we will have two services: a "flashlight" service for children and families at 4:00 p.m. (with snacks afterward in the fellowship hall) and a candlelight service featuring the chancel choir at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for this celebration of our Lord's birth. If you have family visiting from out of town, please bring them!

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. We will have one service at 9:30 featuring lessons and carols. You're invited to come and worship in song and story on Christmas morning!

Finally, I'd like to bring a couple of items from the November 28 session meeting to your attention. First, the session concurred with a recommendation from the Worship and Music Council to discontinue the Praise and Worship service at the end of the year. The service has had low attendance for the last several months, and after holding a number of meetings and conversations about its future, it seems that the Holy Spirit is leading this congregation in a different direction at this time in its history. The service has touched many lives over the years, and we give thanks to all who have taken part in the Praise Band and in worship. We thank Lori Ann Amons, the Second Service Music Director, for her work with the band and her witness to Jesus Christ through song. Lori Ann is returning to Las Vegas to be with her daughter and grandson early in the new year.

The Worship and Music Council will be looking at different ways to continue some forms of contemporary or less formal worship from time to time and welcomes your suggestions.

Second, the session concurred with a request from the Building and Grounds Council to postpone for a year the repair work on the exterior of the sanctuary building. You may have heard about a proposal to do extensive replacement of the mortar, that is, the material holding the stones in place. The work does need to be done, but Building and Grounds and the session would like to take some time to begin the process of explaining the work to the congregation and laying the groundwork for the necessary fundraising the project will entail. A number of factors have been converging, and it seemed best to take more time before beginning the work. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Whew! That's a lot! And having said all that...

Richard and I want to wish all of you a most blessed Advent and Christmas season, and a bountiful New Year. You have all made us feel so welcome here, and we thank you.

*Kathy*



## Celebrate Christmas At First Presbyterian



### **Christmas Tea and Bazaar**

Saturday, December 3rd, 12:00 to 3:00 pm

### **Advent Festival**

Tuesday, December 17th 10:30 - 1:30 pm

### **Christmas Pageant**

Sunday, December 18, 10:30 am

### **Candlelight Concert**

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

### **Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 20th, 6:00 pm  
Voss's Home at 38 Hillcrest Avenue

### **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th**

4:00 Children's Service  
7:30 Christmas Eve Service

### **Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th**

9:30 Christmas Day Service (one service only)



## **Free Ways to Help 1st Presbyterian Church Plattsburgh Youth Group Raise Much-Needed Funds**

Every time you shop at any of 700+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits 1st Presbyterian Church Youth Group. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through iGive. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy iGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales. To get started, just create your free iGive account. And when you search the web, do it through iSearchiGive.com where each search means a penny (or more!) for our cause! iGive will donate \$5 to our cause when you make your first purchase within the first 45 days of signing up.

> Start iGiving at: [www.iGive.com/PresbyPlattYouth](http://www.iGive.com/PresbyPlattYouth)

Submitted by Marianne Wilson

---

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Hi Everyone,

The Operation Christmas Child trailer is now sealed and waiting for pickup. Whew....what an exciting collection week. Our area's (4 counties) total shoebox count is 6455! Last year 5094 were collected. God gives the increase! If we could hear every child's thank you in every language and see all the smiles, our hearts would surely melt. Thank you for all of your prayers and hard work over the past year. It is such a blessing to partner with you in sharing the Gospel with children all over the world through Operation Christmas Child.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Rita Alford, Area Co-ordinator of Operation Christmas Child, First Assembly of God

---

Note: First Presbyterian Church collected 28 boxes this year, last year we contributed 40 boxes according to Marianne Wilson.

# Youth Activities

## Church Family Meeting and Caroling Tuesday, December 20th

Our next meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with a bread and soup dinner provided. We will talk while we eat to make sure we end on time to go Christmas Caroling. Why come? This is our chance to get feedback from you about how we are doing as a church family, your needs, suggestions, and share with you in more detail what we are planning and doing. Caroling? The constant feedback we are getting from all ages is more time and opportunities to spend time together, and caroling is a great family tradition all ages can share together in. Families and their children are encouraged to attend together. Babysitting for younger children will be available.

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 PM

Mark your calendars for our Youth Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser event. Each youth, or adult planning on chaperoning, have 10 tickets each to sell for the event. Price is \$8 adults, \$5 (under 6), and \$10 at the door that night. Tickets go on sale in December. See a youth, if you would like tickets to the event. Money raised will be used towards mission trips in 2012.

## Advent Festival Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Dress rehearsal for the pageant is 10:30-12:00pm for all Pageant participants. Lunch and advent party to follow from 12:00 to 1:30pm. Parents, this is an excellent opportunity to get some last minute stuff done without your kids! Pageant on Sunday will be at 10:30 but children need to arrive by 9:00 for final run through.

Submitted by Marianne Wilson

## Christmas Candlelight Concert Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 pm

The Adult Choir is proud to present their annual Christmas Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 18th, 2011 at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. The choir will sing a lovely selection of seasonal anthems which are sure to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Please invite a friend or neighbor to come with you. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the concert.

Won't you take time out from your busy holiday schedule and join us for this performance? You'll be glad you did!

Submitted by Vicki Washburn



## Christmas Caroling



Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling with our church members on Tuesday, December 20th. We will meet at Lake Forest at 7:00 pm. Bring a dozen cookies to share for refreshments afterwards at the Voss's home on 38 Hillcrest Drive from 9:00 to 11:00 pm.

Submitted by Linda Voss



## Tea and Bazaar News

Jan Pauling and Sharon Chaney have been very busy advertising the upcoming Tea & Bazaar! Not only are there posters all over town, it appeared in the national magazine *American Profile*. In addition, we had a wonderful article in the *Press Republican Scene* magazine. With all of this publicity we are sure to have a wonderful turnout.

The men have made their wreaths. Many of our congregation get their wreaths in advance by ordering them. There are also wreaths available the day of the Bazaar. They are truly beautiful and are available in decorated and undecorated.

The church staff are going crazy with the wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen while the women of the church make homemade soups. There will be at least 17 varieties of soups, in addition to the cinnamon buns, biscuits and quiches all sold at the deli.

Men and women have been working on handmade crafts. Jewelry, pottery, knit items and much more will be available for gift or just for you! David McCrea has been busy all year with all kinds of birdhouses, toys, toy chests, etc that are so well made.

There is also the usual white elephant sale. You'll find all kinds of things that are gently used - kitchen items, toys, all kinds of gently used articles.

New this year is the Christmas room. All of the Christmas white elephant items will be located in a separate 'store'. Please if you have any gently used Christmas items you are no longer using, please consider giving them away.

Last, but certainly not least, is the book sale. You know after these busy holidays are over, the days are still going to be short and cold. It is a great time to do some reading in front of the fire. You'll find all kinds of books, again gently used in the book sale."

This truly is an event the community looks forward to. It takes all of us participating in one or another. The best part is that all the proceeds go to mission and there is more need than ever this year.

Submitted by Jennie Booth, Co-Chair, Tea & Bazaar

## Local Mission Christmas Tree Ornament Project

The congregation is once again invited to provide Christmas gifts to children in Clinton County. The Local Mission Council has received a list of wishes/needs from the Department of Social Services for children in families they serve. These gift requests are written on colored ornament tags and hung on the tree in Fellowship Hall. Each ornament represents one gift. The ornament message contains the first name of the recipient, age, gender, requested item description and clothing size, if appropriate. When children receive gifts from us, they are not served by the Christmas Bureau.

Congregation members are encouraged to take an ornament, - both parts, as each ornament will have two duplicate parts tied together. Purchase the item during the week and return the gift, unwrapped, with both parts of the ornament taped to it, to the tree in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, or to the church office no later than noon Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Local Mission Council members will check the gifts against the master list and if there are some gifts that have not been purchased and returned, Council members will purchase them so that all of the requests are filled.

Please DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS. If you wish to donate wrapping paper that will be appreciated by the caseworkers at Social Services.

There is at least one gift item that several members might wish to jointly purchase. If an item of clothing is purchased, please ask the store for and include with the gift, a gift receipt, should an exchange be necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Bunnell or Nancy Olsen.

Submitted by Judy Bunnell

## “Saints Alive! Living Generously” 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your participation in the Commitment Sunday on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Our “Saints Alive! Living Generously” emphasis has affirmed our congregation’s desire to be a growing ministry.

We thank all who have submitted their pledges. As saints alive to a living God, this is one expression of how we intend to live generously toward God and into the mission revealed to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Your support for the great work of our church is greatly appreciated. Pledges have continued to arrive. We need all of your pledges submitted so that we can develop the 2012 Budget. These commitments will enable us to prepare a spending plan or 2012 Budget that reflects God’s generous activity among us.

If you have not yet offered your commitment to your congregation, please submit your pledge by placing it into the offertory plate, or dropping it into the mail or in person at the church office. Prayerfully consider increasing your current pledge so that ALL our programs continue to share Christ abundantly through this congregation’s good works.

In Christian fellowship,  
Stewardship Council

Submitted by Tony Searing, Chair, Stewardship Council

### Story Hour in December

There will be only one Sunday in December, on December 11th, when there will be Story Hour.

More readers are needed. If anyone is interested, please see Marilyn Smith. She will be starting another schedule for January.

Submitted by Marilyn Smith



## Tea & Bazaar Ways You Can Help

- Bake lots of bread, cookies, pies (no cream pies), fudge, etc., etc. Wrap them with cellophane wrap so people can see your delicious goods. Be sure to mark them with any allergy producing ingredients. Bring your baked goods by 10:00 on Saturday morning. If you have questions, please call Kathe Fairweather at 563-2680 or Joy Mazur.
- We need small cookies for the Tea Table. Tiny (1 1/2 inch cookies) cookies or finger food like mini cupcakes are needed. These cookies need to be dropped off by 10:00 Saturday morning, too. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Thompson at 563-3852.
- Make those crafts that you enjoy - jewelry, aprons, Christmas items - what do you make? People like homemade gifts so much more than store bought gifts for Christmas. Drop off your crafts Thursday or Friday by noon so that Janora Stone and Jackie Curilla and their crew have time to organize their displays. Janora can be reached at 561-1230 and Jackie at 561-4518.
- Are you a reader? If you are, you must have books everywhere. Are you really going to read those again or are you going to get the latest best seller? Purge those books and bring them to church the week of the Bazaar. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Fox or Gretchen Barton.
- Everyone has Christmas decorations that they aren’t using anymore. How about dishes or jewelry or paintings, there are so many possibilities for the white elephant sale. We only ask that they be in good condition. We don’t want broken or marred things. One man’s junk is another man’s treasure! These items can be dropped off during the week of the Bazaar. Any questions can be addressed to Karen Merrill at 563-3285.
- **Please note: set-up is on Wednesday.** We are setting up on Wednesday evening, Nov. 30 at 6:00 pm. Many hands make light work!
- Many hands will make light work on breakdown as well! When the Bazaar is over, most workers are exhausted and need to get off their feet. This may be just the job you are looking for. We have to get set up to have Sunday School and coffee hour the next morning.
- Finally, thank you to each and everyone of you that contributes in whatever way to help make this mission fund-raiser a success!

Submitted by Jennie Booth, Co-Chair, Tea & Bazaar



**Gathering the Greens  
November 2011**



### **Dear Friends in Christ,**

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The Stewardship Council offers you the following information and more found at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/about-christmas-joy-offering/> describing the Christmas Joy Offering.

### **Good News of Great Joy**

Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives."

You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering, Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, through gifts to our congregation's offering.

The Stewardship Council wishes you a joyous Christmas Season.

Submitted by Tony Searing, Chair, Stewardship Council

## Christmas Advent Booklets

The Devotional for Advent is available again this year. This year's devotional is based on scripture-based reflections on God's Love. They were not mailed this year. They were handed out in coffee hour. They are available at the church office if you have not received one yet. Our thanks to the committee of Peg and Jack Myers, Ruth Hollis, Scott Wilson, and Sharon Chaney.

Submitted by Jennie Booth

## December 2011 Sermons

### December 4, 2011

Second Sunday in Advent

"Who Will You Be When He Comes?"

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

### December 11, 2011

Third Sunday in Advent

"Who Will You Be Expecting?"

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Advent

One service at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:26-38

### December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve

"Are You Ready for the Unexpected?"

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

### December 25, 2011

Christmas Day

One service at 9:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Submitted by Rev. Kathy Crighton



**Each month  
the youth count the pennies  
collected for the  
Interfaith Food Shelf.  
Our congregation averages  
over \$125 a month  
in donations.**



**One evening in October  
each of the youth created a  
Lego structure that was  
based on a biblical story.  
Here is one of them that  
was based on Solomon at  
the temple.**