



# The Bell

January, 2019

## Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

I am writing this article for the Bell a couple of days before Christmas. The waiting is almost over.

I remember as a child that Christmas took forever to come. It started already in Thanksgiving with the stores stocking up for Christmas. We started getting Christmas cards in the mail, bringing back memories of times with family. Then there were the commercials with all the toys that advertisers thought we should have. Then going to the department store and telling Santa which one of those toys we wanted so badly. Then going out to the tree farm to pick out the perfect Christmas tree and taking it home and setting it up. My dad cut off the last inch of the trunk so the tree absorbed water and lasted the longest. We would decorate the tree and make strings of popcorn and cranberries. There was a lot of shopping for sisters, brothers, friends and Mom and Dad. The bottom line is that that through all the excitement it took forever for Christmas to finally come.

Today as I'm writing the waiting the anticipation is still there, but it's quite different. The celebration and joy of Christmas overcomes me just as it did before. The music is moving, touching with hearts of gold, reminding me of the great joy, for Christ has come and is present in all that happens.

But this time there are two advents, two periods of waiting. Certainly, the anticipation of Christmas is front and center, but in the background is the anticipation of my leaving. These mixed emotions have made it difficult for me to write.

I guess I need to think more in terms of not just Christmas, but Epiphany as well. For me this year the celebration of the birth of Jesus takes place during the days of December with the shortest days of light. And for me Christmas brings all the things that the advent wreath talks about; hope, peace, joy and love.

However, I have to say that Epiphany is the season that I most look forward to this year. When I think of Epiphany, I think of the God moments in my life. Epiphany really means the revelation of Christ. The season I look forward to is those times when Christ will especially be near to me in my life.

Things will be different for me as they will be for you, and for FPC. There are certainly a lot of unknowns that we are both facing. I know that I will miss designing worship services, worship, preaching, practicing and singing in the choir, fellowship after worship and on Wednesdays and especially being part of the congregation that cares so much for the community, (Well I guess most everything). I know I will look back with thanksgiving, thanksgiving for being invited into your lives as your pastor, and for the joy and friendship this has brought me.

Though there are many unknowns, the one thing I do know is that Epiphany happens all the time, it (continued on the following page)

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is what makes the unknown not just hope-filled but actually exciting. I wonder what the new year will bring. I wonder what God has in store for me and for you this coming year. In moments like these a song always comes to my mind. This time it is a song from the season of Epiphany. "What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright"...

"What star is this, with beams so Bright, More lovely than the noon day light?  
'Tis sent to announce a new born king, glad tidings of our God to bring".

May God bring glad tidings to you and a wonder-filled new year, full of Epiphanies.

Blessings,

Pastor Karel

## **CONGREGATION ELECTS LEADERS, APPROVES BY-LAW CHANGES, CONFIRMS DISSOLUTION OF PASTOR'S CALL**

At the annual congregational meeting held on December 16, new leaders were elected as follows:

Nominated for Elder were Jon Beighley and Larry Annett. They will join Elders Erik Anderson, Lynda Butek, Kevin Litten, and Mitch Mandelert on Session.

Nominated for Deacons were Anne Welke, Barbara Meredith and Chuck Norseng. They join Deacons Corine Boos, Elizabeth Cripe, Margi Kohl, Kathi Mandelert and Mary Jo Reemtsma.

Gwen Bauman was nominated to serve a second term on the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees. She joins Vance Kohl, Chuck Norseng and Gary Reich.

Don Babbitt was nominated to serve on the Financial Review Team along with Kevin Litten and Carmi Simonson.

These new leaders will assume their roles following their installation/ordination early in January.

Changes to the church by-laws involved reducing the number of Session members to between five and seven and the number of Deacons to eight.

These changes seemed appropriate due to the reduced size of our membership.

In addition to the election, the dissolution of the pastor's call was confirmed.

Because of the resignation of Pastor Karel and the necessity to hire a new called pastor, the 2019 budget was not presented at this meeting and will be deferred until the decision concerning our new minister and his terms of call have been made.

## **WHERE ARE WE GOING AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?**

Lynda Butek- Clerk of Session

By now you have had time to absorb and reflect on Pastor Karel's resignation and all it means to our church. There is no doubt his resignation means a lot of work for our entire congregation in the months to come but we are ready and able to do that work. The tasks ahead will certainly involve the Session and Deacons but the work will be more than those 14 people can do alone. Rest assured that you will undoubtedly be asked to assist them in keeping our church going.

We have already begun to formulate plans for our future. The Session will be meeting with a member of the Committee on Ministry (COM) on January 7 to make some important decisions about our future. They have to decide if they will follow the recommendation of the Presbytery to hire an interim pastor to handle the day-to-day activities of the church after Karel leaves.

If they do decide to seek an interim pastor, they will have to form an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to find and hire that person for a specific length of time - probably no more than nine to 12 months.

They will also have to decide on the terms of the interim pastor's call and ultimately what they will recommend to the entire congregation concerning the called-pastor's terms of call. This task is made more difficult because our income for 2019 is unknown. We do know we have received some pledges but in the past, unplanned giving or contributions have exceeded those pledges. While that is wonderful, it doesn't help Session and your finance team determine our income for the coming year. Since the pastor's term of call has to be based, at least in part, on our income, you can see that we are somewhat flying blind.

Early in January, the COM will meet and appoint a moderator for our church who will lead Session meetings. This moderator will not necessarily preach on Sunday but will conduct the monthly Session meetings as required by the Book of Order.

We have already lined up pulpit supply for the Sundays in February after Pastor Karel leaves and for all of March. We will welcome to the pulpit our own Erik Anderson, Rev. Mark Schwinn who is the hospice chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital and retired Methodist minister Rev. Richard Estrom-Fuller, who has preached from our pulpit in the past.

Still further in the future, with the help of the Presbytery, we will have to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to seek a new called-pastor for our congregation. This committee will be nominated by the current Nominating Committee with your help and guidance. The PNC is a committee representative of and elected by the entire congregation. You will hear more about the PNC in coming months.

You will be hearing more from me too in the future because it is important that you know what is going on and have input on our future. If you have any comments or questions, please let me know.

# JANUARY IS CARELINK MONTH

SUBMITTED BY BARB SHORREL, MISSION TEAM LEADER

“CARELINK is a non-profit agency sponsored and supported by several churches in the Chippewa area. Its purpose is to provide a central location at First Presbyterian Church for the distribution of \$25 gas cards for emergency needs, such as doctor appointments, getting to job interviews, visiting sick relatives, etc.” as reported at the December Mission Coalition meeting by Michelle Flint, Carelink Coordinator. The Mission Coalition is promoting this non-profit to help raise funds for its continued operation during the month of January. The Mission Team and the Session will be helping in this effort. As of Tuesday, December 18, Carelink had no money left to buy cards to give out. See below for our fund-raising plan.

## THE CARELINK TREE:

- **YOU WILL SEE THAT WE STILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SANCTUARY THIS JANUARY.**
- **ON THIS TREE WILL BE ENVELOPES WITH DOLLAR AMOUNTS FROM \$1 TO \$40.**
- **YOU MAY CHOOSE TO FILL ANY OF THESE ENVELOPES YOURSELF, OR YOU MAY JOIN WITH FRIENDS TO FILL ONE OF THE LARGER AMOUNTS. (TWO FRIENDS DONATE \$10 EACH AND USE THE \$20 ENVELOPE.)**
- **PUT THE COMPLETED ENVELOPE IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR IN THE ADMIN’S (TIFFANY) MAIL SLOT.**
- **IF WE FILL ALL OF THE ENVELOPES, WE WILL RAISE \$820 FOR CARELINK.**
- **BE SURE TO MAKE OUT ANY CHECKS TO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. IN THE MEMO WRITE, “CARELINK.”**

\*\*FYI: We collected \$168.50 on Noisy Sunday. This collection went to the account at CCF Bank in Lake Hallie for Girl Scout Troop 3055.\*\*

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Congratulations to those people celebrating January birthdays:

January 10	Gwen Bauman, Erika Cooley
January 12	Sara Abendroth
January 15	Richard Rosenow
January 25	Jon Beighley
January 28	Deborah McDougall

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GIEDDS**

Jan and Gerry Giedd are celebrating the birth of their first great-grandson.

Griffin Alexander was born in California but will soon join the family vacationing in Florida. In addition to Griffin, Jan and Gerry have eight grandsons.

## **THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EXPLAINED**

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love.

Four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five golden rings, called the Torah, or law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a laying stand for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a swimming represent the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophesy, Healing, Teaching, Exhortation, Contributions, Leadership, Mercy.

Eight maids a milking are the eight Beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control.

Ten Lords a leaping are the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.

Submitted by Bonnie Gullickson

## **NEW HANDS AT THE ORGAN**

With the departure of Barbara Sandford, our long-time first and third Sunday musician, Sherry Friedel, our choir director, has stepped up to play the organ and piano on those Sundays. She will continue to direct the choir as well.

Judy Brist will continue to play for Wednesday night choir rehearsals and on the second and fourth Sundays. Carling McLaughlin will still be able to fill in on Sundays as necessary. More music to come.

## **CLEARWATER FOREST ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH AND PROGRAMS**

The Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center Board of Directors introduces Rob Rathsack as the new Director of Outreach and Programs.

Rob comes to Clearwater with 17 years of experience as the former Camp Director of YMCA Camp Nan A Bo Sho, YMCA of the Fox Cities, WI. His emphasis on staff development and desire to build their leadership skills, his passion for working with children and youth, his laughter, questions, thoughtfulness and self-awareness, his extensive experience with the technical side of running a camp (including a strong understanding the American Camp Association accreditation process, high ropes maintenance, programming trends), as well as his experience in funds development all led him to stand out to the search committee.

Rob will begin his work as Director of Outreach and Programs on January 1, 2019 He joins Tami Jacobs, Director of Operations and Guest Relations and Lance Bauman, Director of Buildings and Facilities to complete our Leadership Team.

### **A LITTLE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE?**

By Lynda Butek

It was Christmas Eve several years ago and we were preparing for our annual Christmas Eve service in the church.

For those of you who don't know it, I prepare the communion elements which includes cutting up the bread to serve. I typically do this at home just before leaving for church so the bread doesn't have time to dry out. The juice is stored at the church so that's no problem.

That Christmas Eve we had many more people attending our service than usual. That was wonderful of course, but it did pose a problem. I knew how much bread I had prepared and I knew we didn't have enough to go around. I told the choir not to take any bread but we would still be short.

Then I had what I thought was a brilliant idea! I would run over to Gordy's and buy more bread, cut it up and sneak it into the sanctuary.

I dashed out of the sanctuary and I must have had a look of concern on my face because Corine Boos followed me out into the Narthex. When I told her my problem and my potential fix for it, she said Gordy's closed early on Christmas Eve so I couldn't do what I had planned. DARN! Now what? Corine suggested we check out the church kitchen to see if by chance there was something we could use.

We opened the refrigerator and what to our wondering eyes should appear but an unopened loaf of bread.

Remember, we don't usually have bread in the refrigerator but we did that night. So don't tell me that the Lord wasn't looking out for us because I know He was.

I don't want to impose on Him so now I bring extra bread whenever we have communion to be sure we don't run out again.

Thank you, Lord.

# January Schedules

## January 2 – Wednesday

No Meal

## January 6 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 1  
Led by Margi Kohl and Anne Welke

Communion will be Served

Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl

Flower Provider –

## January 9 – Wednesday

Lasagna or Surprise by Team 5 –  
Presbyterian Men

## January 13 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 2  
Led by Lynda Butek and Mary Jo Reemtsma

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Provider –

## January 16 – Wednesday

Barbeques by Team 6 – Anne Welke  
and Bonnie Gullickson

## January 20 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 3  
Led by Corine Boos

Welcome Desk –

Flower Provider –

## January 23 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 7 – Ryan and Sara  
Reemtsma

## January 27 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 4

Welcome Desk – Anne Welke

Flower Provider –

## January 30 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 8 – The Teskes

The complete new Hospitality Schedule  
will be available in your February Bell.