

THE HERALD



February 2015

One of the basic beliefs that came out of the Protestant Reformation is the “priesthood of all believers.” (The Reformation refers to a time in the church’s history, 1517 until 1648, when Martin Luther, a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, sought to reform the church. Instead, his work, alongside other reformers such as John Calvin, began the Protestant Church.) He did not believe that people should be divided into two classes, the sacred and secular. Luther and other reformers believed that all are priests, that all have direct access to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only and true priest. For example, one did not have to go to a priest to have one’s sins forgiven. The concept of the priesthood of all believers is found in Scripture: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9)

In the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), when we ordain someone we are not placing them higher on a hierarchical ladder. Rather, we are “setting apart” people for particular tasks in the church. We are one of only a few churches that ordain lay people, ordaining pastors, elders, and deacons. A few years ago the PCUSA changed the name of pastors to teaching elders, and the name of elders to ruling elders. This places teaching elders and ruling elders on the same level. Membership in presbyteries synods, and General Assembly are made up of half ruling elders and half teaching elders. According to the Book of Order (constitution) of the PCUSA, “Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation (Matt.20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.” We can think of ruling elders as rulers (measuring sticks) who are to measure the faith of the congregation.

We are all ministers. Your baptism was your “ordination” to ministry. In the PCUSA, ruling elders can be commissioned to pastor churches, and be authorized to baptize, officiate at the Lord’s Table, and officiate at weddings. These “commissioned ruling elders” (CRE) are to be trained by the presbytery for this particular task. Some of the smaller churches in our presbytery, and other presbyteries, are served by CREs.

More than ever I think the church is in need of the ministry of her priesthood of believers. We can no longer depend on professional clergy to do all the work of the church. Pastors cannot be the “professional Christians” for the church members For one thing, fewer and fewer of our churches can afford a full time, classically trained pastor. Many of our seminary graduates are graduating with large educational debts. (To be a pastor, one has to attend 4 years of college, and then 3 years of seminary.) They cannot afford to serve the smaller churches with the smaller salaries. But more importantly, it is not healthy for the pastor or for the church if the pastor is expected to perform as a professional Christian, if the pastor is expected to do all the work.

The church needs you! Heritage Church needs you! God needs you! The church needs you not for institutional survival, but for ministry. Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” God needs you to be laborers.

Our administrative assistant Lil Jurgena will be retiring on January 29. We will soon be looking for a new administrative assistant. In the meantime, please bear with us as we will be using some volunteers and may not be keeping regular office hours until we hire a new assistant. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Ray or a member of the session. We will consider church members.

Raymond Meester



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Benjamin Kendle
- 02 Nancy Weyers
- 07 Tamra Broeder
- 07 Dehnia Bullerdiek
- 07 Jordan Wilson
- 10 George Neill
- 10 Sue Nelson
- 11 Gary Siemers
- 12 Gale Cooper
- 12 Willis Duerksen
- 12 Helen Jones
- 12 Jim Newman
- 13 Glenice Gibson
- 13 Austin Wenzl
- 17 Ramona Meester
- 18 John Jack
- 19 Diane Olsen
- 22 Savanna Newman
- 22 Ken Olsen
- 24 Leah Gibson
- 25 Bob Foreman
- 25 Karen Hartman
- 27 Barbara Bratt-Kennedy



CONGRATULATIONS: To Benjamin Zink & Yoko Iwasaki-Zink, parents of a baby boy, Juntaro Louis, born on 1/19/2015. Proud grandparents are Norm and Pat Zink.

To Jessice Broeder & DeVonte Holt on the birth of their son, DeMari Anton Holt, born January 28, 2015, weighing in at 9 lbs 14 ozs. Proud grandparents are Danny & Tamra Broeder.

THANK YOU'S & NOTES

Thanks to everyone who purchased Village Inn pie cards for Pakistan. \$99.00 was raised which will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Education Board to support a volunteer with the program. Thanks also for the additional donations that various individuals have also made to this program. So far approximately \$1673 has been received.

The Meester Family

Dear Members of Heritage Presbyterian Church:
Thank you so much for the donation of warm clothing items for our students at McPhee. Your generosity and your support of our students is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Elaine Simpson, McPhee Principal



FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Jay and Nancy Weyers
- 27 Scott and Patrice Gaines

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Thank you to **Bev Traudt and Helen Weber** for their contribution to the Birthday Club. To become a member or renew your membership, donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life, but any amount is accepted) are made to our endowment fund. These gifts will be used to help our ministry continue.

Thank you for the Christmas Box. Wonderful goodies and Leanne Miller for delivering it. Sherill Quist

We received a counted cross-stitched Christmas card from Gina who is currently in Pakistan. It is on the Mission Bulletin Board for viewing. "Merry Christmas from Pakistan! God's blessings during the season." Gina

Members and friends of Heritage: Thank you to all those persons who expressed support and well-wishes upon my retirement. This congregation is amazing!

Lil

GAMES AND GROCERIES



The next **Games & Groceries** will be Friday, February 13th! Join us for a potluck soup supper at 5:30 pm. We will then play games until we are "played out". Don't forget your friends and family, your games and your non-perishable food item.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

KFOR Radio and local television stations will be contacted by 8:00 AM on Sunday mornings if worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (P.W.)

BAPTISM: Clint James, son of Terry and Christie Werner, was baptized Sunday, January 25th at Heritage Presbyterian Church. Clint is a grandchild of Larry and Arlene Toombs.

The Heritage Presbyterian Women will meet for their monthly Bible Study and Dessert meeting, Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7:00 PM in the Gibson Room. All ladies are invited to attend. They are currently Studying the book of John.

IN PRAYER

Health Issue: Duane Kennedy; Ray, (Cynthia Smetter's relative); Arlene Toombs; Grandma Jeanne (Robyn Mason's grandmother); Alberta Worth; Cynthia Smetter, Don Stansberry, Marion Kantner.



Prayer requests may be submitted to: the church office, 477-3401, or assistant@HeritagePres.org or contact Marilyn Smith by phone (475-4558). Please update Marilyn or the church office weekly.

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 1: Deuteronomy 18:15-20;

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8: Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23;
Mark 1:29-39

February 15: 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

February 18: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22: Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22;
Mark 1:9-15

SCRIP CARDS: The Mission Committee will be placing a special SCRIP order for Valentine's Day. Please place your order by Monday, February 2nd and cards

will be available on February 8th. Think ahead for Valentine's Day and March birthdays. Got a Spring Break trip planned? Buy restaurant or gas cards from us!! Remember, the church gets a percentage of each card purchased and that will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. You can place your order on line, or fill out the order form on the Mission bulletin board and return to Leanne Miller. Questions, call Leanne at 402-475-2240.



Leanne R. Miller

HERITAGE CHURCH HAD AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD IN 2014!

Over \$11,000.00 was donated to the various mission activities of our congregation and the special offerings of the PC(USA). THANK YOU to all who gave so generously! In 2015 we are going to try to keep track of the volunteer hours of our church, which can be just as important as monetary donations!



We need your help as we work toward our goal of **\$5000.00** for the PresbyBuild home of the Homestead Presbytery!

- Join us for another pancake breakfast before worship on Sunday, February 15. Pancakes will be served from 8:30 – 10:15 am. No reservations or tickets required – free will donations accepted for Habitat for Humanity.
- Adopt-A-Stud – help us decorate a stud with original art, quotes, bible verses, or prayers. The dressed up Stud will be framed into the 2015 Presbytery Build home.
- Buy a log and watch our home go up -- \$30.00 for a small log; \$60.00 for a medium log; or \$120.00 for a large log, roof joist, or a shingle. The logs can even be purchased on a payment plan – once you have completed the “purchase”, please let a member of the mission committee know so that we can acknowledge the purchase by putting your name on the log.

RED HAND CAMPAIGN

UNICEF estimates that as many as 300,000 children under the age of 18 are engaged in armed conflict in various places around the world. This takes place despite international laws which prohibit the use of children as soldiers. As followers of Jesus who welcomed children, Presbyterians have joined people around the world in an effort to change this situation. The mission committee invites you to help send a message to world leaders that children should not be soldiers. Beginning February 1 materials will be available for you to trace and cut out red hands that will be delivered to world leaders with the message: **No child soldiers!**

Prior Synod School)

SYNOD SCHOOL 2015

“A Future With Hope”

Plan Ahead: July 26 – 31, 2015

at Buena Vista University

in Storm Lake, Iowa

Christian fellowship, inspiring worship and song, growth in knowledge and faith, personal and spiritual renewal, fun for families and singles of all ages. Watch for Course Catalogs and registration.



FAIR TRADE (EQUAL EXCHANGE)

Your Valentine would love some Fair Trade Chocolate! Chocolate & other fair traded products are available to purchase in our coffee corner.

Our Mission Committee has pledged to use 75 pounds of Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee by May 31, 2015. Ten cents for every pound purchased will go to the Red Cherry Fund, which provides critical support to farmers as they confront the challenges of climate change in sustainable, innovative ways.

JUNE 7TH – RECOGNIZING MARRIAGES AT HERITAGE (FORMER FAIRHILL OR SECOND PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCHES

Join us for worship as we remember/recognize all who were married at **Heritage Presbyterian Church (or former Fairhill or Second Presbyterian Churches)**

Everyone (not just the married couples) is invited to a reception following worship. Help spread the word & save the date. Details will be updated closer to the event. This event is one of many being planned throughout the year to celebrate our church's 125th anniversary.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Congratulations and thank you to our Volunteers of the Month for the month of January for their service and dedication. They were **Jackie Smith, Bev Traudt, & Jay Weyers**.

A synopsis of some of the things they have done is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Different volunteers will be revealed and honored each month. Their pictures and a brief article about them will be posted on the Volunteer Board. Stop by the board and see who the next honorees are.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our next opportunities to celebrate Holy Communion will be on Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, February 15th, at 10:30 AM, and Ash Wednesday, February 18th. If you would like to bring non-perishable food items for the food pantry, these items will be presented with the offering during this service. Non-perishable food items may be donated anytime, however, and will be presented during services when we celebrate communion.



.....Heritage Worship Team

ALERT: Recently there was an incident at a church in Lincoln where, during the worship hour, a person got into a car during the worship time, stole the car keys, the registration, and a remote garage door opener. The person then went to the worshiper's home, and stole about \$1,000 of currency. Please be sure to lock your doors and secure anything of value.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

The following is a schedule for Sunday School for the next few months. Please mark your calendar:



February 15th: Children Sing/'Hide' Alleluia's
March 29th: Children Sing/Palm Sunday
April 5th: NO Sunday School/Easter
May 10th: Sing/Mother's Day
May 17th: Sunday School Pentecost Party
Last Sunday School until September 2015
Teacher/Student Recognition
Summer: Vacation Bible School (Date not yet determined)
September 13th: Sunday School resumes

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2015

Millions of dollars have been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

The DUCS have collected for this mission before and after worship services over the past few Sundays. You are still invited to make a donation. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference. Checks can be made out to Heritage Church with a note, "Super Bowl of 2015".

This year they are again collecting for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach in Lincoln. Matt Talbot Kitchen serves a hot nutritious lunch and dinner every day of the year. Matt Talbot also provides homeless prevention services such as life skills training, drug & alcohol counseling, case management, and health screenings.

HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 125TH CELEBRATION CALENDAR 2015



Save the Date:

February 22 – Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Director of Public Witness Office for the PC(USA). We are hoping that Dr. Nelson will stay for a potluck and hopefully share some of his experiences, but plans are tentative for that at this time.

March 8: Reception to celebrate our long time members. We need to know how long you have been involved in this church (**Heritage, Fairhill or Second Pres**) – please let us know by calling the office or by posting the information on our board in the narthex.

April : We are still looking for ideas for our April event.

May 17: Heritage Sunday when we will celebrate our past and present ministers

June 7: Wedding Reception to celebrate those persons who have been married in our church

July 18: Block Party/Kiddy Karnival to celebrate our neighborhood

The next meeting of the 125th Celebration committee will be February 15 after worship. Please come and share your ideas as we plan more celebrations!