

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

January 2018

2018 will be a year of major change for both Heritage and for me as I retire after 40 years of ministry. I was ordained June 11, 1978, and started my first call on July 15, 1978, in Coldwater Kansas. On June 1, 2018 I will have been the pastor at Heritage for 24 years, having started at Heritage on June 1, 1994. I announced earlier that I would retire at the end of June 2018 or possibly before. Because of the General Assembly meeting in June, I have decided to retire on May 31, 2018. Since the last Sunday in May is Memorial Day weekend and the day of Lincoln Public Schools' graduations, I will be preaching my last sermon on Sunday, June 3.

At the November meeting of Homestead Presbytery, I was reelected as the presbytery's stated clerk for another three-year term and will continue in that role. Once I retire from Heritage, I will not be worshiping at Heritage or be involved in any way with Heritage. That is a necessary boundary, which must be respected by any former pastors of churches, and is part of the policies of Homestead Presbytery. The ministry of a church can be hampered by former pastors intruding, or maintaining relationships with members of the church.

Homestead Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) will be working with the session and the church during the transitional time and in seeking new pastoral leadership. A liaison from COM met with the Session on November 21 to provide information. Session had a special meeting on December 19 to continue the conversation with the liaison, and to "get the ball rolling."

Session may hire an interim pastor who would begin shortly after my retirement, depending upon availability. An interim may work for a year or longer as the church seeks new pastoral leadership. An interim is hired by the Session and does not require a vote by the congregation. Interims are trained and their purpose is to help a church make the transition between pastors. Session could simply hire a stated supply, who plays no role in leading the church through a transitional process.

A concern is whether Heritage can afford a full-time, seminary-trained, installed Minister of Word and Sacrament, the official term for pastors in the Presbyterian Church. Heritage has not been able to meet the budget for quite a few years now. The last two years were ended with about a \$30,000 shortfall. It looks like the deficit for 2017 may be even larger. Heritage is using the principal of our endowment funds. If Heritage continues as it has been doing, the endowment funds could be gone in 5 or 6 years.

There are other options for pastoral leadership. A church can share a pastor with another church or hire a part-time Minister of Word and Sacrament. Another option is to hire a commissioned pastor (CP). A CP is not a Minister of Word and Sacrament, but an elder who has been trained and is authorized by the presbytery to pastor a church. A presbytery can authorize a CP to officiate at the sacraments at that particular church. There may be other options. Again, the presbytery will work with Heritage in seeking pastoral leadership..

Session will be keeping you informed as things process.

Raymond A. Meester

The annual congregational meeting has been scheduled by the session for Sunday, January 28. We need your reports for the annual report. If you chair a committee, we need a report from you. Please email them, if possible, to Amber at assistant@HeritagePres.org. Thank you.



JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

05 Alexis Hunzeker
 07 Isaiah Guillatt
 07 Lilah Lowe
 10 Karen Griffin-Sieber
 12 Missy Bahr
 14 Barbara Crawford
 15 Miley Smith
 17 Patricia Doering
 18 Helen Weber
 19 Randy Smith
 20 Shirley Dively
 20 James Robertson
 21 Liam Sexton
 22 Jane Bitney
 22 Elisabeth Wahlgren
 23 Patricia Wahlgren
 27 Phyllis Foreman
 28 DeMari Holt
 28 Sharon Wells
 31 Bruce Hunzeker

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.

HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB Congratulations to new & renewing Heritage Birthday Club Member **Bev Traudt**



Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.



OUR SYMPATHY

We would like to extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Robin Guillatt who passed away on December 1, 2017.

Her funeral was held at Heritage Presbyterian on December 8, 2017.

CONGRATULTIONS!

Congratulations to Amanda Easterly who received her PhD in Agronomy and Horticulture from UNL on December 15, 2017!



BEST CHOICE



Saving Best Choice UPC's is such an easy way to help our youth. We receive 3 cents for each UPC, and it is surprising how quickly that adds up! Thanks to all who continue to save them to help raise funds for our youth. **Only Best Choice UPCs can be redeemed. No other UPCs are accepted**

ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will not meet in January. We look forward to seeing everyone when we resume February.6.

VIST OUR COFFEE CORNER!

The weather is starting to get colder so stop by our Coffee Corner for all your cold weather drink needs. We have a variety of coffee and teas as well as chocolate and olive oil.

PER CAPITA FOR 2018 IS \$40.00 PER MEMBER

Per Capita helps support the regional, national, and global ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Many members contribute their per capita in addition to their general giving. This greatly helps us to meet our budget. Thank you for your partnership in spreading the gospel.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND SYNOD SCHOOL 2018

Synod School will take place at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA from July 22-27. Jason Santos, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s coordinator for Christian formation and national director of UKirk, the denomination's collegiate ministries network, will be convocation speaker. Watch the bulletin board for more info as it becomes available.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

One of our most important mission projects is providing non-perishable food items to the Eastridge Food Pantry. There are lists of needed items available on the table in the Narthex and by the parking lot entrance. Thank you for your continued support!



FREECYCLE JANUARY 21

January is a great time for cleaning out items you no longer use. Perhaps you are you making room for new items you received and would like to share your surplus with your friends at church. If so, FREECYCLE on January 21 is for you! Items may be placed on the table in Fellowship Hall. **Please remember to take any of your remaining items with you when you leave.**

WINTER WEATHER POLICY



Please check:

<http://www.kfornow.com/weather-closings/> or local TV stations to see if Worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather. They will have information by 8:00 AM Sundays.

MISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

As 2017 draws to a close, the Mission Committee is grateful to all those who have supported our many projects throughout the year, including our Christmas projects as we helped spread the joy of the season:

- A wonderful assortment of gifts (clothes, toys, family games) was donated to a neighborhood family of a father, mother, a 7 year old girl, a 4 year old boy, and a 6 month old girl. Gift cards were also donated to the family to help with groceries and other needs. (Special thanks to Heidi Singaas for wrapping many of the gifts!)
- Gift cards for a church family to help a loving grandmother and her grandson.
- \$207.00 has been given as of December 17 to the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four special offerings of our national church. Our donations will be distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs to retired church workers and to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.
- Sixteen backpacks were delivered to Randolph School for students to take home for the Christmas school break – thank you for donating cereal, pudding, cans of vegetables, fruit and soup. A \$5.00 food voucher was also included in each backpack.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to those individuals who contributed to the goody bags for the children. It made Santa's visit a real joy. Also, a big thank you to all who contributed cookies for the social time after the Children's Program. Your generosity was appreciated!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday school on December 31. We will resume on January 7 at 9:15 AM.

ABOUT THE NURSERY

Beginning January 1, 2018, Heritage will no longer have a paid nursery attendant. On the vast majority of Sundays, the only children in the nursery were the children of the nursery attendant. Also, because of the budget deficit of the last number of years, we need to continue cutting the budget. We encourage parents to keep their children in worship, and yet there are those times when parents may feel more comfortable taking their young child to the nursery. We will be recruiting volunteers who are willing to be "on call" during Sunday morning worship services if a parent wants to take their child to the nursery. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Ray.

ANNUAL MEETING



Please plan to attend our annual meeting that will take place on January 28 at 11:30 AM. There will also be a soup supper that night from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Contact the church office if you would like offering envelopes for 2018, weekly and monthly are available. There will also be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

January 7 – Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 14 – 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

January 21 – Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28 – Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

SAVE THESE DATES

January 7th – Communion Sunday, Ordination/Installation of new Elders

January 28th – Annual Meeting & Soup Supper

THE HERALD

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www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

Items received after
January 22, 2017
may not be included
in February Herald