

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

December 2016

What is it that God wants the church to do? The church is not in the business of institutional survival. If we focus on survival, we are losing focus on the true purpose of the church which is mission. I am not saying churches today can neglect evangelism, church growth, or stewardship.

Heritage's mission statement is to be "**a neighborhood church having an impact on the world.**" What needs are there in our neighborhood? The Mission Committee decided to have a conversation with Randolph Elementary School, which is in our neighborhood. It is only two blocks from our parking lot. On Tuesday, November 15, Pat Zink and Barb Shaeffer, from the Mission Committee, and I went to Randolph and met with the principal and some other staff members. I am ashamed to say that having served this church for twenty-two years, that is the first time I was in Randolph School! We discovered there are many needs among the children and families of that school. With a student enrollment of approximately 463, 61% qualify for reduced cost or free meals. There is a waiting list of students who qualify for and need food from the back-pack program. That information surprised us.

There were many suggestions on how Heritage can help. Randolph needs volunteers to work one-on-one with students during the school day. We could donate to their emergency fund that helps the children and their families. One of the first things the Mission Committee decided to do was to ask Randolph School to connect us with a family that we can "adopt" at Christmas. Heritage has been "adopting" Christmas families for many years. Randolph got back to us within a few days, and we will be helping a grandmother who is raising three grandchildren. There will be more information as to how you can help. We are also assisting one family in our church during the Christmas season.

Randolph is undergoing some major renovations. They will be remodeling their kitchen, and need space to store pots, pans, kitchen utensils, etc., for a few months next spring. I think we have some unused space and, pending Session's approval, we may be helping.

We receive many calls at the church, and people come to the church, requesting help. It is very difficult and time consuming to check to see if they really need help. We want to make sure that we are helping people who truly need the help. I am not saying that those who ask for help do not need help. But I also know that there are people who take advantage of others.

We recognize that there are many other schools in Lincoln where the students and their families need assistance in one way or another. We thought since Randolph is in our neighborhood, and very close, it would be great to work with them. Heritage cannot do everything for everyone, but we can help some.

I am excited by the possibilities. This is a mission in our neighborhood. This is not the only mission of Heritage. Through our donations to the various special offerings and the mission work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we help people not only in our neighborhood, but also those in our nation and around the world.

Raymond A. Meester



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

07 Nancy Regier
 08 Scott Helvie
 08 Brenda Palecek
 14 Priscilla Kliewer
 16 Barbara Shaeffer
 17 Bev Traudt
 19 Sameera Al-masaudi
 20 Earl Robinett
 30 Dawn Bellow



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

26 Jeff & Cindy Pierce
 27 Richard & Glenice Gibson

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

ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS REMINDER TO SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our Cartridges for Kids fundraiser! This fundraiser is ongoing, but the rules of the program have changed slightly. Accepted inkjet cartridge brands are Canon, Dell, HP and Lexmark. However, if you're not sure, just drop them off and we'll sort them. We have to have a minimum shipment before we can send them in, so no funds have been redeemed yet.

BEST CHOICE



We have received \$60.00 for the Youth Fund from the redemption of Best Choice UPC symbols. Keep saving them! Each Best Choice UPC nets 3 cents for our Youth! Since we started collecting the UPC symbols we have raised \$2097.00 Thanks for supporting the DUCs!!

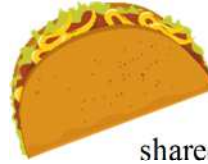
HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

*Congratulations to new
 Heritage Birthday Club Member
 Vivian Jones & Kennedy Hunzeker*

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



Fiesta del Taco & Silent Auction



The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the Fiesta del Taco such a great success. Over \$1200.00 was raised to be shared between the mission committee and the DUC's. We would especially like to thank those who:

- donated food or money for food
- prepared the food and the DUCS for serving and cleaning up
- donated items for the silent auction
- purchased auction items
- and/or ATE TACOS!

COFFEE CORNER



Fair Trade Products sold in our Coffee Corner make great stocking stuffers or hostess gifts. Why not make your own gift basket using the Fair Trade Products?

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



Poinsettias are such a beautiful addition to the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. If you haven't already filled out an order form, we hope you will consider ordering one or more flowers in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. The plants are being provided by Oak Creek Plants & Flowers, and the cost per plant is only \$8.25. Your check for the total number of plants ordered should be made payable to Heritage Presbyterian Church, and indicate that it is for poinsettias. You can either place your order form and check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office. Deadline for ordering is **Monday, December 12, 2016**. Please call the Church office (402-477-3401) or Karen Minks (402-304-3934) if you have any questions.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet on December 6 in the Gibson Room at 10:00 AM. All women are welcome even if you have not come before.

MISSION TRIP

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is busy working on flood recovery in Louisiana. If you would be interested in participating in a mission trip to Louisiana in the spring of 2017, please contact Karen Griffin Sieber or Leanne Miller. All those interested in going will work together to plan and schedule the trip.

HAT & MITTEN DRIVE



Thank you to all who donated mittens, gloves, and hats to the children of Randolph Elementary School. We were able to provide 60 hats, 41 mittens/gloves and 2 scarves. They will help keep the children warm when the cold weather comes and the snow flies this winter. Stay tuned for more Randolph School partnership ideas!

HEART OF HERITAGE DEDICATION



The Heart of Heritage Dedication took place November 6th during Worship Service. Make sure to check it out when entering the church (it's above the sanctuary doors.) It is beautiful!

THE GIVING TREE



Check out the Christmas tree images in the narthex to see how you can share the joy of Christmas with families here in Lincoln or others around the world! Just pick an ornament, purchase the item(s) and then bring it back to the church by Sunday, December 18. Our gift recipients will be a church family and a neighborhood family – both needing a little help this holiday season. If you don't have the time or don't like to shop, gift cards will be accepted. We are also hoping to provide the "fixins" for a holiday meal. World mission ideas are from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog – chickens, seeds, farm tools – all things to assist people around the world better their lives in their own communities.

THANK YOU!

- Many thanks to all the kind people who prayed for me during my 2 months of illness. I am back at work and glad all this is behind me. Thanks! Brent Smith
- Thank you to everyone who supported us and helped with the wedding and lunch. It was a great day and we truly appreciate your support. Frances Beaurivage and Sue Nelson

THE 2016 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



The 2016 Advent Devotional is now available for printing or download. Please visit

<http://homesteadpres.org/documents/2016/11/16HPAdventDevotional.pdf>

or

www.homesteadpres.org

to download your copy. We have several writers who contributed this year.

THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the "wondrous gift" of God with us.

Jesus arrived in a humble stable in small and insignificant Bethlehem, to lead and teach in truth and love, and bring about God's salvation to the world.

What a "wondrous gift" indeed! A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings. The donations from this Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs to retired church workers and to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Mission Committee has set a goal of \$600.00, so please give generously and joyously.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Santa will be visiting Heritage Church on December 18th following the Christmas program. We ask that you consider donating cookies for this event. Thanks!



CALVIN CREST SUMMER CAMP

Summer is still months away, but as you know schedules fill up quickly. Be a hero to your kids or grand kids and carve out a week for them to spend some time outside in a great location. Please visit www.calvincrest.org for more information. There is also a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

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Issued monthly, Issue #12-16

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**



December 19th

Items received after

December 19th may not be included

Please refer to the online calendar for upcoming events.

Lectionary for December:

December 4th- Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11th- Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalms 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18th- Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25th - Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalms 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:14

SAVE THESE DATES

December 12th-Poinsettia orders are due

December 18th- Choir Cantata and Children's program during Worship

December 24th- Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion at 5:30 PM

December 25th-No Sunday School, Worship at 10:30 AM

January 18th, February 15th, and March 15th-Help with food distribution from
3 PM to 6 PM (Sign up on mission bulletin board in January)