

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

February 2017

What do we mean by “church?” That may seem to be an unusual question since we are a church. Nate Phillips in his book *Do Something Else: The Road Ahead for the Mainline Church*, has a three-part answer to the question: 1) The church is the body of Christ; 2) the church is a missional community; and 3) the church is for the sake of the world.

The church is the body of Christ. The church is the physical manifestation of the body of Christ. The church is the visible presence of Christ in the world. “The church makes Christ known by preaching, teaching, celebrating the sacraments, serving the poor, widows and orphans, and providing fellowship (among other things!).” You and I are the church. Christ’s work in the world is done through the church. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, uses the human body as a metaphor for the church. The church, the body of Christ, is made up of different parts, and all of these parts are needed to perform the ministry of the church. Each member is needed. The church is the feet, hands, mouth and ears doing the work of Christ’s body in the world.

The church is a missional community. The church is NOT a community of consumers. Take worship, for example. Too often people think of worship as an event for which the worshipers “get something.” The congregation is seen as the audience, and the liturgist, choir, musicians, and pastor are the actors. Thus the congregation is being “entertained” by the actors. In this model, the members of the congregation are the consumers. In the missional church, the members of the congregation are the actors, the worship leaders are the prompters, and God is the audience. We are not involved in the body of Christ to get something, but to give something. It is similar to what John F. Kennedy said in his 1961 inaugural speech, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” Likewise, the church is not an institution to serve our needs, but for which we are to serve. It is not enough that we have been justified (made right with God) and sanctified (made holy by God). We have been given a vocation. As Rev. Phillips wrote, “The task of the church, the vocation of all its members working together, is not to simply kick back and enjoy the benefits of the gospel, to relax now that their religious needs are met; rather, it is work for the sake of Jesus Christ, to be visible witnesses of Christ in the world.”

The church is for the sake of the world. “The church is a poor, weak, often oppressed ... community that can only point beyond itself to Christ.” The church is not another social organization, another voluntary society, but exists to serve the world. The focus of the church is not institutional survival, but to serve the world, those who live across the street to the ends of the world. All of the world’s people are our neighbors, and like the Good Samaritan, we are to love our neighbors. The church is God’s enterprise, not our enterprise. The church continues not because of our faithfulness, but God’s faithfulness. That does not mean we are not to be faithful in our service, but the future of the church is not dependent upon our faithfulness. It is God’s church.

We have received word that Marian Kantner included Heritage Church as one of the beneficiaries in her estate. We will keep you informed as we receive more information. We are thankful for her gratitude of God’s goodness expressed in including the church in her estate planning.

Raymond A. Meester



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 02 Benjamin Kendle
- 02 Nancy Weyers
- 07 Tamra Broeder
- 07 Dehnia Bullerdiek
- 09 Crysta Sexton
- 10 George Neill
- 10 Sue Nelson
- 12 Gale Cooper
- 12 Willis Duerksen
- 12 Jim Newman
- 13 Glenice Gibson
- 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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Jay & Nancy Weyers
- 24 Bob & Phyllis Foreman
- 27 Scott & Patrice Gaines

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



Keep saving Best Choice UPCs! 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
Bev Traudt*



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



COFFEE CORNER

Treat your sweet to some Fair Trade Chocolate, which is available for purchase in the Coffee Corner.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet Feb. 7 at 10:00 AM in the Gibson Room. We invite all women to join, even if you have not attended 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.



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.

THANKS FOR "FILLING THE DRAWERS"



The Mission Committee thanks everyone who helped Fill the Drawers . . .with undies, drawers, unmentionables. . .whatever you want to call them. We needed socks and underwear and you gave them to us! These items will be donated to the refugee program of Lutheran Family Services here in Lincoln. Thank you, Heritage!

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 21, 2017

Approved increasing Pastor Ray's contribution to his HRA by \$2500.00 and decreasing his base salary by the same amount. This will result in a financial savings for the church. Began review of the church bylaws, and elected the following officers:

- President of the Corporation: Andrew Singasaas
- Clerk of Session: Karen Griffin Sieber
- Treasurer: Bruce Snyder
- Presbytery Commissioners: Dehnia Bullerdiek, Scott Hunzeker, Kay Schweitzer
- Nominating Committee: Sue Nelson, Barb Shaeffer

WINTER WEATHER POLICY



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

WANTED: FOOD PANTRY WORKERS

The mission committee has volunteered to staff several upcoming food distributions at the Eastridge Food Pantry. We are looking for 3-4 people to assist at 3:00-6:00 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 15
- Wednesday, March 15

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Mission bulletin board in the narthex. Training will be provided by Eastridge volunteers at the beginning of each shift.

PER CAPITA FOR 2017 IS \$39.25 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.

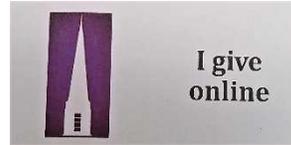
USHERS ARE NEEDED

Ushers are needed for worship on a weekly basis. Please consider volunteering your time. You may sign up with the Head Usher or contact the church office. We appreciate your help!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND SYNOD SCHOOL 2017

Synod School will take place at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA from July 23-28. Leading evening worship will be Cláudio Carvalhaes, a native of Brazil who is currently on faculty at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Course Catalogs should be available sometime in February.

The first 64 "first timers" who register will receive a \$50.00 scholarship. Additional assistance to help cover costs may also be available. Watch the bulletin board for more info as it becomes available.



ONLINE GIVING

If you donate online, you may place an "I give online" card in the offering plate. These cards

are available in the Narthex, or from the Head Usher.

DUC POND (YOUTH GROUP NEWS)



"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring will be collected on Sunday, February 5th, 2017. DUCs will be holding soup pots in the Narthex and at the South Entrance. 100% of donations will be given to Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. Thank you for your support of this Heritage DUCs tradition!



The Annual DUCs youth group Lock-In will be Saturday, February 11th, concluding with worship Sunday, February 12th. Start time for the event

will be announced through email. Youth wanting to participate need to have a signed CURRENT (2017) permission waiver on file. These will be available during Sunday School.

Mark your calendars now & plan ahead! The DUCs Retreat will be at Camp Ashland, March 11th-12th. More information will be coming in February about this event.



The 2nd Annual Chili/Soup Competition will be held following worship on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Bring a crock-pot of your favorite chili or soup. Last year's winner was Jay Weyers, with Lori Helvie in 2nd place. Who will win the Golden Ladle Award in 2017?

Lectionary for February

February 5th-Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12th-Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19th-Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew
5:38-48

February 26th-Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

SAVE THESE DATES

February 5th Sunday School children sing in Worship

February 11th-12th-DUCs Lock-in

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

February 26th-Communion during Worship, 2nd Annual Chili/Soup competition

March 1st-Lent begins-Ash Wednesday

April 29 & 30th-Peacemaking Workshop at First United Methodist Church

THE HERALD

Issued monthly, Issue #2-17

Heritage Presbyterian Church

880 South 35th Street

Lincoln, NE 68510-3499

402-477-3401

The Rev. Dr. Raymond Meester, Pastor

www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**



February 26th, 2017

Items received after

this date may not be included!