

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

January 2017

The Office of Public Witness, (OPW) located in Washington, D.C, is “the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).” Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian Church. We have maintained such a ministry in Washington, D.C., since 1946.

As they write on their website, “Reformed theology teaches that because a sovereign God is at work in all the world, the church and Christian citizens should be concerned about public policy.” John Calvin, a Presbyterian forefather of the Reformed faith and Presbyterian Church of the 16th Century, wrote, “Civil magistracy is a calling not only holy and legitimate, but by far the most sacred and honorable in human life.” Calvin saw the holding of public office as a sacred responsibility.

“The Office of Public Witness staff members visit national policy-makers and their staff, write letters, make phone calls and occasionally testify before Congress or facilitate the testimony of church leaders.” Any advocacy done by the OPW must adhere to the social witness policies of the Presbyterian Church. These policies are not determined unilaterally by General Assembly staff, but are approved by members of the Presbyterian Church meeting at the General Assembly. The adoption of a policy involves a long process and receives input from the various members and councils of the Presbyterian Church. In 2005 I was a participant in creating the policy, “Living Into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities,” that was approved by the General Assembly in 2006. These policies are shaped by our understanding of Scripture and the Reformed faith.

You may remember the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, who preached here at Heritage about two years ago. At that time, he was the director of the OPW. At this year’s General Assembly, Dr. Nelson was elected as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Recently, the Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins has accepted the call to direct the OPW.

You can be involved. Sign up to receive updates and alerts from the Office of Public Witness. These alerts provide information on current issues and how they relate to our Reformed understanding of the issues. Included in the alerts are letters that you can edit, or leave them as they are. With a click of a few buttons, your message will be emailed to the various members of Congress who are your representatives. Some of these messages go to the president or other members of the president’s administration. Go to <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/> to find information about the OPW and on how you can sign up to receive the alerts. (Or Google “PCUSA Office of Public Witness.”) You can also sign up for bi-monthly newsletters about the church’s work on various issues.

Nothing binds you to these policies of the Presbyterian Church. You do not have to be in agreement with the policies. In a political climate that is becoming more and more partisan and divisive, I think it is important for us to understand the issues from a Reformed, Christian perspective, and to inform the members of Congress who represent us how our faith shapes our understanding of the issues.

Raymond A. Meester



JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

05 Alexis Hunzeker
 07 Isaiah Guillatt
 10 Karen Griffin-Sieber
 12 Missy Bahr
 14 Barbara Crawford
 15 Miley Smith
 17 Patty Doering
 18 Helen Weber
 19 Randy Smith
 20 Shirley Dively
 20 James Robertson
 21 Liam Sexton
 22 Jane Bitney
 22 Elisabeth Wahlgren
 23 Patty 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.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Greg & Robyn Mason on the birth of their twin girls. All are recovering and doing well!



Congratulations to Robert and Grace & Korth who were married at Heritage Church on Nov. 26th.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our 3 ruling elders who have just completed their 3-year service on session: Jeff Pierce, Jay Weyers, and Denise Lagueux

OUR SYMPATHY

We would like to extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Marion Kanter who passed away on Nov. 12th.



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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
Sameera Al-masaudi*



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

MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!

As 2016 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 grandma, a 3-year-old boy, a 5-year-old boy, and a 6-year-old girl. Gift cards were also donated to the family to help with groceries and other needs.
- Gifts for a church family included toys and gift cards for a loving grandmother and her grandson.
- To date \$223.94 has been given 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.



COFFEE CORNER

Buy Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil in our Coffee Corner.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING HELD DEC. 14TH, 2016

1. Approved the formation of a Finance Team to include Scott Helvie, Dorothy Hill, and Bruce Snyder (ex-officio)
2. Completed the examination of newly elected elders Scott Hunzeker, Sue Nelson and Barb Shaeffer. Scheduled ordination and installation of these elders for January 8, 2017.
3. Approved the request of Ray and Ramona Meester to direct the monies donated in memory of Alveretta Green to the Presbyterian Education Board
4. Approved the 2017 schedule for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper
5. Approved the 2017 budget as proposed by the Finance Team
6. Scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 29, 2017 after worship
7. Approved sending church records prior to 1990 to the Presbyterian Historical Society for preservation and storage

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.

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, January 18

Wednesday, February 15

Wednesday, March 15

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

"FILL THE DRAWERS"

The Mission Committee is asking for help Filling the Drawers with undies, drawers, unmentionables ...whatever you want to call them. We need socks and underwear! These items will be donated to the Lincoln City Mission or to Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. We will be placing the drawers in the church early in January and will collect the items through the entire month. Please help us fill the drawers!

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.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND SYNOD SCHOOL 2017

Synod School will take place at Buena Vista University in Storm lake, IA from July 23-28. Convocation speaker will be J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA). Many of you may remember him from when he preached at Heritage in 2015. 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.

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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**



January 23rd

Items received after

this date may not be included!

Please refer to the online calendar for upcoming events.

Lectionary for January

January 1st-Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalms 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

January 8th-Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalms 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:15-17

January 15th-Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalms 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 22nd-Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalms 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29th-Micah 6:1-8; Psalms 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

SAVE THESE DATES

January 8th-Communion Sunday, Ordination/Installation of new Elders

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)

January 29th-Congregational Meeting at 11:30 AM