

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

December 2017

Bedient Organ Company has told us that our organ is in need of major repair and their estimate is \$120,000. (I hope you were sitting down when you read that!) Some wind chests need repair. The wind chests are part of the system that provide the air to the pipe organs. The expensive part is that we need to replace all of the wiring in the organ. The current wiring is cloth covered, which is no longer in code. There is a lot of wiring to our organ as there is a wire to every pipe (Many of the pipes you do not see.) and to the wind chests, etc.

The original part of our organ was a part of the sanctuary that was built around 1928. This organ was moved to the current sanctuary when it was built in 1958. Then in the early 70s, Gene Bedient, with Bedient Pipe Organ here in Lincoln, enlarged the organ, keeping some of the old parts of the organ, and adding more pipes. That project was one of the first organs that Gene Bedient built. A few years ago the insurance company needed a cost estimate to replace the organ, and we were told it would cost about \$500,000 to build that organ today.

I want to emphasize that I love pipe organs. When I came to Heritage almost twenty-four years ago, I was excited to see that Heritage had a pipe organ! I do not think there is any better instrument to convey God's majesty, to praise God, to express joy and grief, to lament, and to praise God. Organs are a fantastic instrument to "make a joyful noise to the Lord." Beautiful organ music can be very inspirational and moving.

We need to ask some serious questions. Can our small church raise \$120,000 to repair the organ? We have not been able to meet our general budget the last few years. There are other building needs, some of them rather major. For example, the basement walls of the south half of our building, the original structure, need waterproofing, and the interior walls need to be re-plastered. Is spending \$120,000 on organ repairs a good use of money, when there is so much need in the world? (Think of the parable of the Last Judgment found in Matthew 25: 31-46.) I am not saying we should not repair the organ. But, before we do, we need to ask some important questions.

Add to that the fact that there are fewer and fewer organists today. When we were in our last search for an organist, we had only one application. Thankfully, it was a good applicant! The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has dropped its organ program. Fewer people are learning to play the organ. People do not want a part-time job that requires them to work every Sunday!

The other question is what would we do with the organ if we do not repair it? Would it not be a waste to have the organ just "hanging" there and not used for God's glory?

In the meantime, session will be appointing a task force to get other estimates from other organ companies, and to check into other options or alternatives. Please share with any session member your questions or concerns.

Raymond A. Meester

Security

The recent church shootings in the church in Texas has caused us to review our security, especially during Worship times. Beginning with Sunday, December 3, we will lock the side door to the sanctuary, the door that leads to the parking lot, at about 10:25 AM on Sunday mornings. You will need to enter the door at the west end of the building, off of 35th Street. We may also lock some other doors. There will be signs on the doors that will be locked to direct people to an unlocked door.

We may be implementing some other changes, and will keep you posted as we do.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 08 Scott Helvie
- 09 Jennifer Dierks
- 12 Jemma Mason
- 12 Piper Mason
- 14 Priscilla Kliewer
- 16 Barbara Shaeffer
- 17 Bev Traudt
- 19 Sameera Al-masaudi
- 20 Earl Robinett

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 Members **Vivian Jones, Robyn Mason, Jemma Mason, Piper Mason**

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



ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 Jeff & Cindy Pierce
- 27 Richard & Glenice Gibson (53 years)

THANK YOU!

I am so thankful for Pastor Ray and Ramona's visit to me in the hospital, the cards and calls I received, and the prayers lifted up for me. I am so grateful. – Pat Zink

BEST CHOICE



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

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.**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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Circle will meet on December 5 in the Gibson Room at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us in this Bible Study.



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 11, 2017. Please call the Church office (402-477-3401) or Karen Minks (402-304-3934) if you have any questions.

VIST OUR COFFEE CORNER!

An order has been placed with Equal Exchange and should be arriving soon with coffee, peppermint tea, decaf tea, and chocolate minis. Please support small farmers by purchasing these products found in our "Coffee Corner". These make great hostess gifts and stocking stuffers!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Thank you to all who continue to donate items for the Eastridge Food Pantry – it is one of our most important mission projects!

There are lists of needed items available on the table in the Narthex and by the parking lot entrance.



NO FREECYCLE IN DECEMBER

Thanks to all who have been participating in our monthly exchange of clean, useable items you no longer want. Watch for our next FreeCycle which will be scheduled in January. After Christmas is always a good time to sort through items you no longer need as you make space for new items received. Why not share some of these items with your friends at church who might want them? **Remember: You are responsible of picking up any items that you brought that were not taken by others.**

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.

NOCHE DEL TACO



The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the Noche del Taco such a great success – over \$800.00 was raised for various mission committee activities such as the PDA cleanup buckets and the backpack program for Randolph. We would especially like to thank those who:

- gave a free will donation for the tacos
- prepared the food and the DUCS for serving and cleaning up
- donated items for the silent auction
- purchased auction items
- and/or ATE TACOS!



HAT, MITTEN & COAT DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated the many mittens, gloves, and hats for the children of Randolph Elementary School. They will help keep the children warm when the cold weather comes and the snow flies this winter!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2017

- Approved the updated responsibilities of the Mission Committee
- Approved the 2018 Communion Schedule
- Approved the 2018 Budget (with revisions) submitted by the Finance Team
- Scheduled the following congregational meetings: December 3 for the election of Session members and Deacons; January 28 for the annual meeting
- Approved the formation of a team to discuss church security in addition to approval of locking the parking lot door during Worship
- Met with Rev. Leanne Masters, Heritage's liaison to the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, on the process for selecting an interim pastor and the election of a permanent pastor
- Approved the formation of a task group to research options for repairs of the organ

THE GIVING TREE



Check out the Christmas tree images in the narthex to see how you can share the joy of Christmas with a family here in Lincoln and others around the world! Just pick an ornament, purchase the item(s) and then bring it back to the church by Sunday, December 17. Our gift recipients are a neighborhood family needing a little help this holiday season. If you do not have the time or do not like to shop, gift cards will be accepted. 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.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “incredible gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future. 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 an “incredible 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.

RANDOLPH BACKPACK PROGRAM



Nineteen backpacks were delivered to Randolph School for students to take home for the Thanksgiving school break – thank you for donating tuna, pasta, mashed potatoes, granola bars and canned fruit! Next up is the Christmas school break – we need 19 sets of cereal, pudding, can of vegetables, can of soup and a can of fruit. Please bring donations to the church by December 17 for delivery later that week.



HEADS UP SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS!

There will be NO Sunday School on either the 24th or 31st of December.

LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

December 3 – Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 – Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 – Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 31 – Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

SAVE THESE DATES

December 9th – Children’s Program rehearsal at 10:15 AM

December 10th – Children’s Program during Worship, Santa visit & cookies

December 11th – Poinsettia orders due

December 16th – Choir Cantata rehearsal at 10:00 AM

December 17th – Choir Cantata during Worship

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

January 28th – Annual Meeting & Soup Supper

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The Rev. Dr. Raymond Meester, Pastor

www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

Items received after
December 18, 2017
may not be included
in January Herald