

# TIDINGS

# First Presbyterian Church

3401 North Valparaiso Street Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985 <u>www.fpcvalpo.org</u> Fax: (219) 465-6152

Mission Statement: Building Disciples; Growing in Faith; Serving in Christ's Name

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8

So said Jesus to his disciples, and to us as well. And Pastor Mark is off again, doing just this. Or



he will be, as his flight leaves in January. Let me tell you a bit about where he will be going, who he will be meeting, so that you can join me in support of him and the people he meets.

Mark is heading for Beirut, with other board members of The Outreach Foundation (including its Executive Director Rob Weingartner, who preached for us last spring and led the Cuba trip, and Associate Director Marilyn Borst, who also preached for us last spring and will lead the May trip to the Holy Land.) Their larger purpose on this trip is to meet with, stand alongside of, and pray with and offer encouragement to some of the pastors and congregations in Syria. Yes, there are Christians living all over Syria: brothers and sisters in Christ, proclaiming the gospel in word and deed in a war-torn land.

On their way in to Syria, via Tripoli, they will stop near the border to visit a Syrian refugees' school. From there they will travel to Latakia in Syria. On my trip to Lebanon for a women's conference (July 2015) I met Elias who is from this

town, who served as translator for us, and also accompanied us when we sang and worshiped. From that first stop they will travel to Yazedieh

for one night to visit the church there, and then proceed to Mhardeh to visit the church, its pastor and congregation. Pastor Ma'an and his wife, Gwath, are deeply involved in spreading the gos-



Pastor Ma'an Bitar, and his wife, Gwath, of the Mhardeh church

pel to people of all ages. Gwath runs a preschool there for loads of little ones.



Pastor Mofid, on the right next to Marilyn Borst.

The group will travel on to Homs, where Pastor Mofid leads alongside his wife, Micheline. We first met Mofid in our trip to Lebanon in 2014. This town has seen its share of headlines,

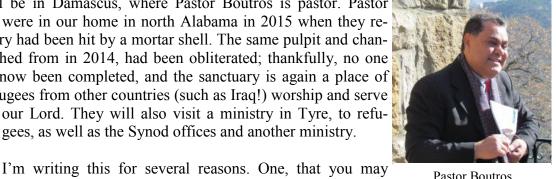
and the work of being a pastor, and dealing with war both personally, and with his congregation, is not easy.

From the fourth town they travel to Fairozeh, where Jacob is pastor. Jacob's sister, Mathilde, has also finished seminary and feels God's call to stay in Syria as well, and bring God's message to her people.

## **Continued from Cover**

Their final stop in Syria will be in Damascus, where Pastor Boutros is pastor. Pastor Boutros and his wife, Wafaa, were in our home in north Alabama in 2015 when they received word that their sanctuary had been hit by a mortar shell. The same pulpit and chancel, where Pastor Mark preached from in 2014, had been obliterated; thankfully, no one was hurt. But rebuilding has now been completed, and the sanctuary is again a place of worship and refuge, where refugees from other countries (such as Iraq!) worship and serve

our Lord. They will also visit a ministry in Tyre, to refugees, as well as the Synod offices and another ministry.



Pastor Boutros

Mark preaching in 2014 in Syria

know and understand a bit more why and where Mark will be, for over two weeks (of vacation!) in January. Two, that you may get a glimpse of the hard work our brothers and sisters in Christ are doing in this difficult and dangerous place which is so closely tied to our roots as believers. And three, I write to ask

you to pray for Mark and the others every day as they journey there, and to pray for these congregations and so many more just like them all over Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and even Pakistan. There are Christians, and yes even Presbyterians in all of these places, seeking to live faithfully right where they are, sharing the gospel in word and deed.

May we stand beside them all in prayer, and with our resources, bringing God's light and hope to so many, and may we learn from them how to persevere in the face of such challenges!

(For more information on The Outreach Foundation, you can read through its website and posted trip blogs at www.theoutreachfoundation.org. The Outreach Foundation has also been named the highest rated charity in the religious activities category by Charity Navigator, which means your dollars are spent very wisely and judiciously when you choose to give.)

I continue serving in Christ,

Pastor Toby

## **Christian Food Pantry**

Any and all kinds of donations are helpful and appreciated. The following items are needed:

- ➤ Bathroom Tissue
- ➤ Canned Fruit
- > Cereals
- > Corn
- Cranberries
- ➤ Green Beans
- ➤ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ➤ Jell-O<sup>®</sup>
- ➤ Mac & Cheese
- ➤ Mixed Vegetables (cans)
- ➤ Peanut Butter

➤ Pork 'n Beans ➤ Rice

- > Saltines
- > Soups
- > Spaghetti
- > Spaghetti Sauce (cans)
- > Tuna

We are pleased to report the results of the first annual October Grub Run thought up and organized by Shawn Benham. A check for an awesome \$2,221 was presented to the pantry directors! The October 22 run was well attended and the refreshments following at First Christian were appreciated. With certifications that aid runners for other such events included. Shawn expects an even larger attendance for the next Grub Run set for October 21, 2017. Any help or participation that came from our sponsoring congregations is greatly appreciated by Shawn, his staff and the food pantry.

—Nan, Anne, Sharon

## Deacons' Doings submitted by Jim Boys

By now the parties are over, the presents have been opened, and the decorations are or will soon be put away. You have survived yet another holiday season. But amidst all the clamor hopefully there was time to celebrate family, friends, and most importantly the birth of our savior and redeemer, Jesus Christ!

Now is the time to reflect on the past year and plan for the coming year, 2017! For the Deacons 2016 was a busy one. We were busy:

Serving our Deacon friends through:

- monthly visitations
- serving communion on Communion Blitz Sunday
- delivering Easter and Christmas flowers
- making and delivering Advent bags
- coordinating transportation for rides (to doctor appointments and church)

#### Other activities included:

- coordinating a Deacon on Call for each Sunday
- monthly writings of "Deacons' Doings" for Tidings
- making and delivering caring cards
- preparing and cleaning up for communion
- coordinating and hosting an annual Christmas Cookie Walk
- hosting two coffee hours

I am in awe at how much we did accomplish in 2016. First, I would like to thank the congregation for their support and prayers. Also, thank you to my fellow Deacons. It truly was a group effort; for many hands do make light work! I would especially like to recognize those who are fulfilling their term of service as Deacons:

- Stacey Buehler
- Rhonda Coffin
- Janet Helsper
- Dan Higgins
- Sharon Kinsey (Moderator)
- Christina Kukler
- Allison Skadberg (Youth Deacon)

Looking forward to 2017, we would like to welcome our new Deacons:

- Julie Golding
- Ron Izynski
- Valarie Smart-Higgins
- Destiny Vargas
- Isabel Gordon (Youth Deacon)
- Trent Olling (Youth Deacon)

My wife, Ginger, and I look forward to moderating this group. With the help of our fellow Deacons, I know that we will continue to serve our church family, especially those in need. But serving others is not solely the work of Deacons; so as you enter this new year remember:

"Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

### **DEACONS**

#### CLASS OF 2017

Mary Brown

Matthew Byerly Rhonda Coffin

Carolyn Hughes

Melissa Klancer

Tanya Parker

Andrea Phillips

#### CLASS OF 2018

Ginger Boys\*

Jim Boys\*

Carla Evans

Kathy Evans

Jason Gordon

Jacki Phillips

Ron Phillips

Mary Jayne Shurr

#### CLASS OF 2019

Julie Golding

Ron Izynski

Valarie Smart-Higgins

Destiny Vargas

### YOUTH DEACONS CLASS OF 2017

Isabel Gordon Trenton Olling

\*denotes Co-moderator

## 2016 Contributions Dated by December 31, 2016

#### **Saints**

As promised last March, our Wednesday, March 1, 2017, SAINTS program will be a discussion led by Pastor Toby of the sanctuary windows. You see them every Sunday when you're in church, but have you ever taken a close look and thought about the significance of each one? Now's your chance to learn about them.

To make your reservation for the noon luncheon, please call the church office (464-4985) by Wednesday, February 22, 2017. If you must cancel, do so no later than Monday, February 27, by notifying the office. Otherwise, except for an emergency, you will be asked to cover the \$9.00 cost of your catered meal. Thanks!

Due to the possible weather related safety concerns, the Saints will not meet in January and February.

## **Christian Sympathies**

We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathies to the following:

To Olga and Ken Koch on the death of their nephew, Bob Swieringa.

To Barbara Rogers on the death of her brother, Allen Wilson.

### **Memorials Received**

We thank you for memorials that we have received in memory of Kate Sawtell.

#### **Heartfelt Thanks**

Heartfelt thanks to the following:

To Zane Cole for sharing his gift of woodworking as he crafted a beautiful platform for the Bible in the sanctuary.

To Gail and Chip Wilkes for the delicious chocolates!

To Cathy and Zane Cole for the wonderful trail mix goodies!

To Ruth Ingraham for the delightful chocolates.

Blessings,

Church Staff

## **First Friday Friends**

Please join us on Friday, January 6, 2017, at

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for First Friday Friends! This is a ministry for elementary-aged kids (K-6).

Dinner and FUN included!! Invite a friend, and be sure to RSVP to Pastor Toby:

tmueller@fpcvalpo.org

### **Prayer & Praise Ministry**

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don't hesitate to call on our 100+ Prayer Warriors through our Prayer & Praise Ministry hotline. Know that your requests can be held in strict confidence for your privacy, or we can also add your request to our Sunday announcements and/or printed Prayer Sheet. God is always listening! To begin the prayer hotline, please contact Pastor Toby Mueller at:

tmueller@fpcvalpo.org or (256) 425-3181

#### Men's Breakfast

Please join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Sunday, January 8, at 8:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room as we celebrate Christian fellowship and a delicious meal!

We hope to see you there - bring a friend!

## SECOND MILE OFFERING AND CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY

January's Second Mile Offering will be received for the Blanket Ministry. You will find envelopes in the slots on the back of the chairs for your convenience.

If you would like to donate items to the food pantry, there is a basket in the entryway for that purpose.

## Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School ("PWNS")

December was an exciting month as we prepared for Christmas with the children. We sang Christmas songs, read Christmas stories, and made many Christmas crafts and ornaments. The children enjoyed making surprise gifts for their families and had fun trying to keep it a secret. Thanks to our wonderful parents, we were able to share cookie plates from our annual "Cookie Walk" with homebound church members and special friends of PWNS.

A big thank you to Marcelle Johnson for providing candy canes again this year for all of our children as a special treat. She is always so kind to think of the children. This year, we used the candy canes to create the "tail" on our Santa Mouse ornaments!

The Pre-K class enjoyed their annual visit from Connie Anderson. Mrs. Anderson brought along her costumes and helped the children perform the Nativity Play. The class was able to take turns being the actors and being the audience. Our students were happy to play the parts they were given and excitedly shared their role with their family members when they were picked up from school that day. Be sure to check out the pictures from our special day outside of our PWNS classrooms. Thank you, Connie, for sharing your day with us! It is always fun to spend time with you.

Thanks to Maggi Alexander for volunteering again to be our special reader at our Barnes and Noble Bookfair. We had a lovely afternoon hearing our church children's choir sing, listening to stories, doing crafts, and raising money to buy books for PWNS and our Mission Ministry Unit. Thanks for your support of the book fair.

Thank you to Paul & Connie Knauff and to an anonymous donor for their generous donations to the PWNS Scholarship Fund. This fund continues to help families who need help with tuition costs to be able to attend preschool.

PWNS registration for the 2017-2018 school year begins in mid-January. Applications will be available in the PWNS mailbox located in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Sheya or Ann.

Sheya Bennett 309-5873

Ann Skadberg 405-7188

## "Christmas Reflections" by Dawn Scarborough

Random acts of kindness are one of my utmost experiences. I heard a story of a granddaughter honoring her grandmother's memory by displaying random acts of kindness to strangers. Her grandmother was the epitome of kindness and all that was good. Every time she was kind to others, her grandmother's legacy lived and thus filled her soul. This story inspired me to do the same. I was in a drive up line waiting to pay and pick up my afternoon pop when I noticed a young lady behind me. She reminded me of the granddaughter's random acts of kindness. When I pulled up to the window to pay for my order, I informed the clerk that I would be paying for the young lady behind me. I could see in my rearview mirror that she seemed to be overjoyed and full of gratitude. It was a gift to me as well.

I have been fortunate enough to experience such kindnesses. Every morning, I stop at a local convenience store to purchase a pop. While waiting in line, I noticed two people in front of me waiting to check out. The woman had a \$6.00 winning lotto ticket. She asked the clerk for six more tickets and to give them to the gentleman behind her who was a man she did not know. The man appeared to be astonished, filled with joy and was inspired to "pay it forward." He looked behind him, and there I stood. He instructed the clerk that he would be paying for my pop today.

Another such experience was when I was in a long line at a local restaurant waiting to place my order. There were two gentlemen in front of me, one of whom sparked a conversation. He introduced himself and radiated kindness. Although I had never met him before, I recognized his name as being a local hero. It was a lively conversation that ended when it was time for them to place their order. At this particular restaurant, you place the order, ask for your toppings and then pay at the end. When it was time for me to pay, I was informed that the gentlemen paid for my order

These were beautiful experiences which filled my soul with joy. There are countless ways to display random acts of kindness: a smile, a "hello," or holding the door for someone. Kindness matters as it makes the life journey experience richer!

		•
	017 - Happy New Year!	_
10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	017 - Church Office is Closed	
8:30 AM	Retired Presbyterian Men	Off-site
5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
5:30 PM	Christian Education Team	Library (relocated)
7:00 PM	Building & Grounds Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, January 03, 2		
8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101
6:15 PM	Worship Team	101
Wednesday, January 0	4, 2017	
10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
3:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	148, 149
3:45 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:15 PM	Building Disciples Team	Workroom
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, January 05,	2017	
9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary
Friday, January 06, 20	17	
5:30 PM	First Friday Friends	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, January 07,	2017	
Sunday, January 08, 20	017	
8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast	Friendship Room
9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
9:45 AM	Tone Chime Choir	141
10:00 AM	Adult Christian Conversation	101
10:00 AM	Sunday School	CE Rooms
10:05 AM	Adult Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:45 AM	Children's Choir	141
11:00 AM	Contemporary Praise Service	Sanctuary
1:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101
6:00 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
Monday, January 09, 2	2017	
11:00 AM	Docket Meeting	Workroom
11:30 AM	Presbyterian Resale Shop Ministry	Off-site
5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
6:00 PM	Stewardship Team	101
6:30 PM	Mission Team (rescheduled date)	101 (relocated)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, January 10, 2017		
8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101
6:30 PM	Moms on the Go!	101
Wednesday, January 11, 20	17	
10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
3:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	148, 149
3:45 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again	155
7:00 PM	Finance Team	Workroom
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
8:00 PM	iEngage Team	101
Thursday, January 12, 2017	7	
9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Friday, January 13, 2017		
Saturday, January 14, 2017	,	
Sunday, January 15, 2017		
9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
9:45 AM	Tone Chime Choir	141
10:00 AM	Adult Christian Conversation	101
10:00 AM	Sunday School	CE Rooms
10:05 AM	Adult Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:45 AM	Children's Choir	141
11:00 AM	Contomporary Proise Compies	
	Contemporary Praise Service	Sanctuary
1:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
1:30 PM 6:00 PM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers	Fellowship Hall 101
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM <b>Monday, January 16, 2017</b>	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group	Fellowship Hall 101 100
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM <b>Monday, January 16, 2017</b> 5:00 PM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith	Fellowship Hall 101 100
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM <b>Monday, January 16, 2017</b> 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith Session	Fellowship Hall 101 100 101 154, 155
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Monday, January 16, 2017 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith	Fellowship Hall 101 100
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Monday, January 16, 2017 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 17, 2017	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith Session Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall 101 100  101 154, 155 Fellowship Hall
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Monday, January 16, 2017 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 17, 2017 8:00 AM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith Session Boy Scouts  M&M Bible Study	Fellowship Hall 101 100  101 154, 155 Fellowship Hall
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Monday, January 16, 2017 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 17, 2017 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith Session Boy Scouts  M&M Bible Study Staff Team Meeting	Fellowship Hall 101 100  101 154, 155 Fellowship Hall  101 Workroom
1:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Monday, January 16, 2017 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 17, 2017 8:00 AM	Cub Scouts The Leftovers Presbys Youth Group  Journeys of Faith Session Boy Scouts  M&M Bible Study	Fellowship Hall 101 100  101 154, 155 Fellowship Hall

7

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Wednesday, January 18, 2017		
10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
10:30 AM	Widows' Group	Friendship Room
3:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	148, 149
3:45 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, January 19, 2017		
9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Friday, January 20, 2017		
Saturday, January 21, 2017		
Sunday, January 22, 2017		
9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
9:45 AM	Tone Chime Choir	141
10:00 AM	Adult Christian Conversation	101
10:00 AM	Sunday School	CE Rooms
10:05 AM	Adult Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:45 AM	Children's Choir	141
11:00 AM	Contemporary Praise Service	Sanctuary
12:00 PM	2:00 PM New Members Luncheon	
1:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101
6:00 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
Monday, January 23, 2017		
5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, January 24, 2017		
8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101
6:30 PM	Moms on the Go!	101

Wednesday, January 25, 2017		
10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
3:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	148, 149
3:45 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, January 26, 2017		
9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
2:00 PM	Pines Village Communion	Off-site
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary
Friday, January 27, 2017		
Saturday, January 28, 2017		
Sunday, January 29, 2017		
9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
9:45 AM	Tone Chime Choir	141
10:00 AM	Sunday School CE Rooms	
10:00 AM	Youth Puppet Program Fellowship	
10:00 AM	Congregational Health Team	Parish Nurse's Office
10:00 AM	Adult Christian Conversation	101
10:05 AM	Adult Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:45 AM	Children's Choir	141
11:00 AM	Contemporary Praise Service	Sanctuary
1:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101
6:00 PM	Presbys Youth Group 100	
Monday, January 30, 2017		
5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	
Tuesday, January 31, 2017		
8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101

Looking ahead: You won't receive a copy of the March Tidings as we are going to be coming out with a new look in April 2017. Articles submitted after February 15, 2017, will be included in the April Tidings. Thank you.

## **Christian Education News**

#### **Connect with Youth Sunday School**

We welcome the new year with an invitation to the congregation! Please think about visiting one of our youth Sunday school classes (preschool through senior high) this winter.

Or you might consider visiting or reading during Story Time in our library with a Sunday school class. The books are pre-selected from our children's collection, and story times take place on pre-arranged Sundays during Sunday school.

Being a classroom helper for a Sunday class (10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.) would be another way to enjoy connecting with our youngsters of different ages.

Please contact Cathy Cole, Christian Education Team Moderator, at 219-462-1698 or <a href="mailto:czcole1@comcast.net">czcole1@comcast.net</a> so that she can arrange for your visit.

#### Our Youth Helped to Light Up December!

Our **Children's Choir** under the direction of Rhonda Clark sang at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair on December 4, to spotlight the fundraiser for PWNS.

On December 11, the children performed a Christmas musical as part of the 11:00 service. The 20+ Sunday school children were well-prepared, sang beautifully and presented the message that Santa wanted the children to be grateful for the greatest gift that they could ever receive... God's gift of Jesus Christ his son. Thank you to Rhonda Clark and the children for this beautiful gift to our congregation! (Rhonda had many, many adults who helped in different ways to carry out the practice on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> and the presentation on December 11<sup>th</sup>; a big Thank You to them.)

The **Presbys** decorated Christmas cookies during their Sunday evening meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastors Mark and Toby have joined in December with Julia and Walker, our college Youth Directors, as the Presbys met for Christian fellowship.

Confirmation Class, which meets every Sunday during the school year, prepares our 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their confirmation in May, Craig Johnson and Bob Marrs are to be thanked for their mission in guiding these young people toward this important event in their Christian lives. They took the opportunity during December to sell 2017 calendars to raise money for a cause that they wish to support! We will stay in touch with this group to learn of the cause that they chose.

### Pastor's Class

The Pastor's Class is at 10:05 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Friendship Room.

January 1 – No Class

January 8, 15 and 22 — Old Testament Overview Led by Pastor Toby Mueller

January 29 – Titus, Chapter 3 Led by Pastor Mark Mueller

# Resale Shop – January 2017 Schedule

Jan. and Feb.: Carolyn Dye - 219-464-8878

Closed on Sundays and Mondays - 462-4281

Tuesdays through Saturdays – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. www.firstpresbyterianresale.com

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

3	4	5	6	7
Torrie Bauer	Sharon and	Janice Reichard	Valerie Dussich	Jackie Bernal
Joan Johnston	Ken Passe	Pam Skaltsas	Julie Pollaro	Bonnie Swarner

Wed

5	<b>+</b>	3	U	/
Torrie Bauer	Sharon and	Janice Reichard	Valerie Dussich	Jackie Bernal
Joan Johnston	Ken Passe	Pam Skaltsas	Julie Pollaro	Bonnie Swarner
Beth Germann	Carol Bonvissuto	Nancy Becker	Sue Durnell	Carolyn and
Karen Huguenard	Della Hutton	Star Ruwersma		Doug Dye
10	11	12	13	14
Marilyn Mohr	Sally Hawke	Betty Richardson	Mary Brown	Barbara Aungst
Nancy Pedersen	Joan Johnston	Rose Ross	Pastor Toby Mueller	Leanne Grant
Carolyn Dye	Karen Kelly	Kim Croarkin	Ruth Eskilson	Pam Skaltsas
Laura Tucker	Carolyn Lelek	Karen Simerlein	Star Ruwersma	Linda Harvey
17	18	19	20	21
Nancy Pedersen	Peggy Caprous	Pat Puffer	Barbara Aungst	Linda Hartlerode
Pam Skaltsas	Mary Jayne Shurr	Betty Richardson	Ruth Eskilson	
Paul Knauff	Carol Bonvissuto	Pat Buckwell	Sue Durnell	Kim Croarkin
Mary Linda Scott	Mary Linda Scott	Judy Kendrick	Karen Simerlein	Karen Simerlein
24	25	26	27	28
Mary Brown	Peggy Caprous	Becky Bluhm	Rose Cummings	Carol Flanagan
Cheryl Keach	Mary Jayne Shurr	Pat Skaltsas	Alexa Olling	Linda Hartlerode
Carolyn and Doug	Karen Kelly	Jim and Ginger	Carol Funkhouser	Karen Simerlein
Dye	Carol McCreery	Boys	Star Ruwersma	
31				
Torrie Bauer				
Joan Johnston				
Karen Huguenard				

Karen Huguenard Pastor Mark Mueller

**Tues** 

HARRIET DRAPIER / MARY CROSBY CIRCLE - NEXT MEETING

Date: March 16, 2017 Janice Reichard **Hostesses:** 

**Dottie Staats** 

Time: 10:00 A.M. **Dottie Staats** Lesson:

PW Resale Shop Ministry

Carolyn Dye Moderator: Pam Skaltsas Treasurer: Secretary: Sue Durnell Historian: Mary Jayne Shurr

## Ministry Roster

If there are any changes, please find a substitute and notify the church office as soon as possible to facilitate bulletin

printing. Thank you for your time and ministry.

#### **USHERS SCHEDULE**

January 1

10:00 a.m. Ron Izynski

> Kim Klancer Vic Klancer

January 8

9:00 a.m. Carolyn Dye

> Doug Dve Larry Wheeler

11:00 a.m. Dan Higgins

Jacki Phillips Ron Phillips

January 15

9:00 a.m. Kathy Joseph

Jerry Kahrs

Betty Richardson **Destiny Vargas** 

11:00 a.m. Sheya Bennett

> Doug Greider Sarah Greider

January 22

9:00 a.m. Beverly Caldwell

> Craig Johnson Trent Olling Victoria Olling

11:00 a.m. Carla Evans

> Kathy Evans Olga Koch

January 29

9:00 a.m. David Goodwin

> Fred Grosick Susan Grosick Phebe Klapp

11:00 a.m. Glen Buford

Leila Buford

Ken Koch

SEXTON: Don Mohr

COMMUNION SET UP, SATURDAY, DEC. 31, 2016

Andrea Phillips

COMMUNION ON JANUARY 1, 2017

PRESENTATION/CLEAN UP:

Andrea Phillips

ELDER ON CALL

1 Doyll Andrews January

Leila Buford 15

29 Rhonda Coffin

DEACON ON CALL

Jim Boys January 8

22 Matthew Byerly

## Per Capita

Please prayerfully consider paying your Per Capita. The more per capita paid by each member, fewer funds will come out of our operating budget. The cost is \$40.00 per member.

FINANCIAL REPORT				
November 2016				
Income Expenses	\$41,331 (37,692)	YTD Income YTD Expenses	\$442,475 (380,576)	
Over/Short	\$3,639		\$61,899	

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VALPARAISO

In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Mark Mueller at (256) 425-3152.

To contact the Prayer Teams for emergency prayer, please contact Pastor Toby Mueller via email at tmueller@fpcvalpo.org or via phone (256) 425-3181.

CHURCH STAFF	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Janice Axmann, Organist	axmann122@comcast.net
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Rhonda Clark, Youth Choir Director	
Christopher S. Ebert, Director of Music	cebert@fpcvalpo.org
Julia Evans, Co-Director of Youth Ministry (Middle School)	julia.evans@valpo.edu
Beverlee Frazee, Business Manager	bfrazee@fpcvalpo.org
Walker Johnson, Co-Director of Youth Ministry (High School)	william.walker.johnson@gmail.com
Pastor Mark Mueller, Pastor/Head of Staff	mmueller@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Toby Mueller, Associate Pastor	tmueller@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Administrative Assistant.	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
Lisa Thomas, Director of Children's Ministries	lthomas@fpcvalpo.org

## Happy Birthday!

	παρρ	y Dirtituay.	
<b>January 1</b> Maggi Alexander Jonathan Parker	<b>January 10</b> Todd Coffin	<b>January 19</b> Jim Knopf	<b>January 30</b> Doug Lang
Rose Ross	January ll	January 20	January 31
<b>January 2</b> Christine Hedman Sebastian Vargas	Owen Crews Ginger Hedrick Deborah Shaw	Stacey Buehler Ethan Luick	Judy Kendrick Donald Mohr
January 3 Beverly Dudek Michael Hedman	<b>January 12</b> Pat Lowe	<b>January 22</b> Elyssa Chubb Olga Koch	
January 5 Mary Brown	January 13 Bianca Baccarossa	<b>January 23</b> Donald Turner	
January 6 Matthew Byerly Judy Hollar	<b>January 16</b> Trevor Fenters Judy Schumacher	January 24 Cristy Simmons	
Connor Walls  January 7	<b>January 17</b> Chloe Hoeksema	January 25 Lynsey Buehler	If we inady
Sharon Harris Sandy Hartlerode Justin Williams	January 18	<b>January 29</b> Bill Baltas Aubree Hughes	missed you day please con

advertently your birthday, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Brad Dirks

Justin Williams

January 9

Ruth Dickey

First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (public) and FPCVALPO (closed)

Aubree Hughes

Marcelle Johnson