

The Valley Herald

Volume 15, Issue 12

Christ Presbyterian Church

December 2007

Our Mission Statement

Christ Presbyterian Church focuses on a Bible-centered personal faith in Jesus Christ; shares the Christian faith in the community through participation in community and church-based programs; and strives to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives.

A Thank You Note

I just wanted to say "Thank You" on behalf of our CPC Stewardship Team as well as from myself.

To date, we have 22 pledges, totaling \$62,800. Our prayer goal was \$75,000, an increase from 2006.

Some people may be surprised to learn that among the gifts of prophecy and teaching, mentioned in the Bible, there is another gift that's just as valid.

Most of us are probably more familiar with the various spiritual gifts. But, did you know that the gift of giving is specifically noted in Romans 12? It's right in there with all the other great gifts:

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12:6-8 NAS

It takes all of us working together, attending church (joyfully) each Sunday, and using our individual gifts.

Although the Bible indicates that each of us have various gifts, giving seems to be one that all of us have. And you've shown it!

Of course, I have to put in a commercial plug. If you haven't turned in a pledge, we could still use your help. And don't forget to offer your gifts of service for the work of our Lord's church, too.

Along with my personal thanks, I offer to you these words from our Savior:

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Luke 6:38

Two things I note. These words come after Jesus who came to be born in a manger, and were spoken while He was on His journey to take our cross. Luke's words seem to say that if we give we will receive ... and it will be according to the "your (our) standard of measure."

At this Holy time, I'm feeling like we receive more than we could ever give.

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Bill

Our Prayers & Praises:



- Prayers and thanks for Steve Burt, Nancy McCauley, Al Copley and Bobbie Zellmer for successful surgeries and recoveries.
- Prayers for people in the Malibu fire area.
- Prayers for Howard Frazier's friend who is facing cancer and praise on becoming a great grandpa, again.
- Prayers for Pastor Bill, who is facing cancer.
- Prayers for Pann, who was facing dental surgery and for her recovery.
- Praise and thanks for Tom Hollis' birthday last month.
- Prayers for Sunday School teachers still needed at our church.
- Prayers and thanks for Landon and his great accomplishments on becoming an Eagle Scout.

Happy Birthday Wishes:

- Jan White — Dec. 4
- C.J. Wymar — Dec. 13
- Holly Ceideburg — Dec. 18



Happy Anniversary to:

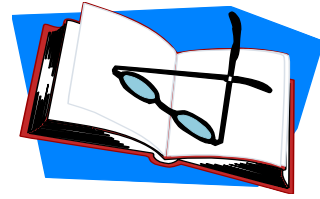
- Jan & Alan Jones — Dec. 7
- Byron & Judi Waite — Dec. 12



Keep Your Cards Coming!

Nancy Pierce is running low on birthday and get well cards that are sent to church members and are normally signed by everyone after church. Please pick up a box soon to add to her supply!

She also wants to let the congregation know that she has sent out about 50 Christmas cards from our church to Walter Reed Medical Center for our wounded soldiers. Thanks Nancy!



Adult Bible Study and Fellowship Opportunities

- **Mondays, 10 a.m.** — Women's Bible Study Annual Christmas Brunch is Monday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Karp home. The group resumes its regular study on Jan. 14, reading "*Written in Stone - the Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis*" (Chap. 7).
- **Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.**, come and sing with the choir and learn new music of the season! (*Special Christmas & January Schedule: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12; Sunday, 12/9 after church; Saturday, 12/15 ~10 a.m.; Thursdays at 7 p.m. on 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, and 1/23*)
- **Saturdays, 8 a.m.**, a Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Group alternates between going out to breakfast and meeting at Pastor Bill's house. See details on page 5. Call Pastor Bill at 265-6320 or email him at billy-baltz@charter.net for directions.
- **Saturday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m.**, WOW goes to lunch at Danny's in the Ironwood Center, Minden. This group is for widow and widowers, but it's also for anyone who is alone and would like to join us.

Meetings & Other

- **Deacons** - 2nd Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
- **Session** - 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Food Ministry Sunday** - 4th Sunday Donations go to the Carson Valley Food Closet to help those in need here in our own community.

The Annual "Hanging of the Greens" is December 2nd

Immediately following our worship service on December 2nd, we will decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the Advent/Christmas season.



Please join in making our church a warm and inviting place to celebrate the coming of the greatest gift of all time, Jesus Christ.

Help will be needed to hang the greens, put up and decorate the tree and much more, so let's all stay and help make our church home festive.

One Small Child

The annual choir cantata is based on this touching and powerful contemporary Christmas carol by David Meece.

On Sunday, December 16, the choir will present 'One Small Child' by Benjamin Harlan, that brings together some of the most beloved contemporary worship songs with favorite carols for an unforgettable Christmas celebration.

Narrators are **Kaye Vibe**, **Steve Burt** and **John Karp** with additional monologues by **Jan Jones**, **George LaMonica** and **Mark Wynar**. The cantata concludes with the congregation joining the choir in familiar carols.

Invite your friends and neighbors to this special musical worship service. Your homework is to read the text to hymn 280 - perhaps, during the prelude on a early Advent Sunday.

Guest Soloist:

Also of special note, the White's daughter, Deborah, will sing solos on Sunday, Dec. 23, and Christmas Eve.

Guest Preachers:

Bob Stover will preach Dec. 2 and the Parlees / Pat Hardy on Dec. 30.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Each year we look forward to the beauty that poinsettia plants bring to our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

If you would like to purchase a plant and take it home after our Christmas Eve service, please see Carole Karp.



Plants have been ordered and will be delivered to the church for you. Each plant is \$8.00. Please write your checks to the church and mark them "Poinsettia."

Sunday School & Worship Assistants

Sunday School volunteers are *always* needed. If you are willing to help, look for the sign-up sheet in the Social Area of the Church.

My thanks all those who have volunteered this past year. We may not have many children attending but it is important that we have lessons for those who do attend. Our volunteers are a blessing.

Also, thank you to all those who have volunteered to be Worship Assistants. If anyone would like to take part in the worship service, contact Carole Karp at 782-3230.

What is the Meaning of Advent?

Advent is the first season of the Christian year. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "arrival." Advent is the season of the church year when we celebrate the first arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and prepare in anticipation for His promised "second arrival."

One way we celebrate and prepare is through the lighting of the Advent Candles at each Sunday service and on Christmas Eve. There are many different traditions about the Advent Candles and their meaning. The following is our approach to the Advent Candles:

- **The Hope Candle** is the first candle, on November 27th. It reminds us of the universal hope of humanity for a savior and how in the baby born in Bethlehem, God answered our hopes.
- **The Joy Candle** is the second candle, on December 4th. We light this candle and remember the faithfulness and joy of Joseph and Mary, who trusted God's plan for them.
- **The Love Candle** is the third candle, on December 11th. As we light this candle, we remember the love Mary and Joseph had for their newborn son, and that God has for all God's children—so much love that he sent Jesus into the world to bring us life.
- The fourth candle is **the Peace Candle**, on December 18th. Through prayer and communication with our Lord and Savior, we open ourselves to the influence of the Power which has revealed itself in Love.

- **The Promise Fulfilled Candle** is lit on Christmas Eve, December 24th. It reminds us of the proclamation of the angel that the birth of Christ brings great joy to all the world. We also rejoice in the Good News that in Christ, God has come to be with us.

May you experience
all the blessings of
this Advent Season.



Advent Candle Lighters

1st Sunday of Advent - December 2, 2007

Chuck & Maryann Convis

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 9, 2007

Alan, Jan and Katie Jones

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 16, 2007

Steve & Sabrina Burt

4th Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2007

Kathy Reed & Tina Kanow

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2007

Mark, Deborah, Curtis, Landon & Kendra

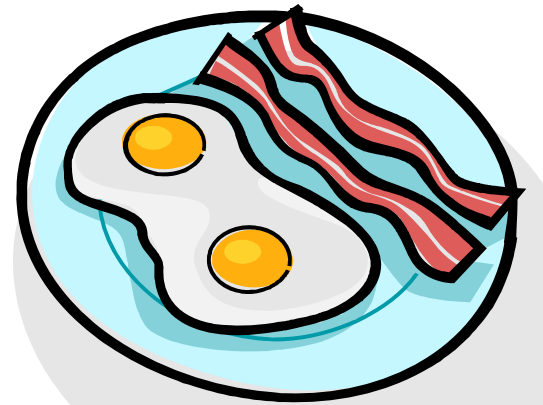
Saturday Men's Breakfasts

We're just getting started with a study of the Gospel of John. We meet at **Pastor Bill's house** on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 8:00 a.m. On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, we meet at **Katie's restaurant** in the Carson Valley Inn at 8:00 a.m.

Our hope is to be visible in the community and to discuss the future of our church and how we can make it better.

You may have already noticed some improvements in signage, tidying up of the parking area, as well as new tile in one bathroom. A special thanks to **Bill Rodman, George Lamonica, Gale Maynor, Mel Hogan** and **Jim White**.

We need all of you men to join us!



The Village Presbyterian Church Women's Christmas Tea and Bazaar

All Ladies are Cordially Invited to an Afternoon Tea and Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 1st

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars

and Invite a Friend

There are special treasures

plus

wonderful goodies to begin our Christmas Season

Location is 736 McCourry Blvd., Incline Village, Nevada

See Charlene Rodman for directions or car pooling



Invite a Friend and Be a Friend!

This is the challenge for each of us as we enter into Advent and Christmas.

Our worship services during the Christmas season are wonderful times to invite friends to worship. We have so many special worship opportunities with a special Christmas Cantata during our worship service on December 16th. Our choir will be featured with Rev. Pat Hardy as the narrator. Don't miss this special Sunday.

And, of course, there is our traditional



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th.

People are more open to that kind of invitation during Christmas and Easter than any other time of year. Be praying for who you might ask to come with you and then ask them. Obviously this is the "Invite a Friend" part of the challenge, but the "Be a Friend" part is to treat everyone who comes through the doors of our church as a friend.

Think of them and treat them as if they were that special person you invited.

Session Highlights from the November Meeting

Session met on Tuesday, Nov. 13th. Three Ruling Elders were present - one excused. Rev. Bill Baltz was the Moderator. Charlene Rodman was a guest.

Motions: The following motions were made, seconded, and passed during the meeting:

1. Howard Frazier's application for CPC membership.
2. Christmas Joy Offerings on Dec. 16th and 23rd.
3. The visiting Parlees (missionaries) to present the sermon on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007. (Rev. Pat Hardy will conduct the worship service)

Other Discussion Topics:

1. **2008 Nevada Presbytery Meeting.** Pastor Bill reported that, contrary to previous information provided, CPC will not be the host church at the September 2008 Presbytery Meeting at the Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe. We may, however, be asked to help out.
2. **CPC Photo Directory.** CLP Bob Vibe has offered to pay for the binders to be used.
3. **Deacons.** The Deacons reported that they will be addressing the following areas:


- Organizing meals for recuperating members.
- Organizing a hospital visitation team - headed up by Pastor Bill.
- Creating a visitor's package (e.g., coffee cup, home baked goods, copy of current *Valley Herald*).

4. **New Elder and Deacon Candidates.** The Congregational Nominating Committee has voted for a slate of potential new church officers (4 Elders & 2 Deacons). They will be recommended to our CPC members at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 9th.
5. **Worship Service Improvements.** The Worship Committee is in the process of implementing recommendations made at the All Church Planning Meeting (October 27th).
6. **Stewardship.** Several individuals/families have submitted pledge cards but more are needed to reach the target of \$75,000.
7. **Publicity.** CPC will be advertised in the new Record Courier "Today" (free) newspaper.

Session meets again on Tuesday, Dec. 11th at CPC. Visitors are welcome to attend.

— Submitted by: John Karp, Clerk of Session

DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Ladies' Christmas Tea @ Incline Village Pres.
2 "Hanging of the Greens" after church	3	4	5 7 p.m. — Choir Practice	6	7 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study	8
9 Choir Practice after church	10	11	12 7 p.m. — Choir Practice	13	14 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study	15 10 a.m. — Choir Practice 11:30 a.m. — WOW Lunch
16 Christmas Cantata with Narration	17	18	19	20 7 p.m. — Choir Practice	21 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study	22
23	24 7 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25	26	27 7 p.m. — Choir Practice	28 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study	29
30	31	 <p>Advent has begun! Remember, you can pick up a free Advent Study Guide on the table outside the Sanctuary to use this month and prepare for our Savior and King!</p>				

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Christ Presbyterian Church
1436 Industrial Way
Gardnerville, NV 89410



⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

— *Luke 2:8-11*

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1436 Industrial Way
Units A & C
Gardnerville, NV 89410
782-3781

Sundays at 9:00 a.m
Worship Service
& Children's Sunday School