



# ADVENTURE

## NEWS

Faithful Shepherd Presbyterian Church

2530 S. 165th Ave., Omaha, NE 68130

Rev. Vickie Kintzel, Interim Pastor Phone 330-2683 On the web at 'www.fspresby.org'

Vol.26 No.2

January 2012

John & Marian Lord, Editors

## January Highlights



### Tuesdays

- Men's Prayer Group 6:45 a.m.

### Wednesdays

- Adult Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

### Thursdays

- Faithful Quilters Group 7:00 p.m.

### Sundays

- Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Except January 1)
- Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Except January 1)

### Sunday, January 1

- No Sunday School
- Worship 10:00 a.m.

### Tuesday, January 10

- Retirees' Luncheon, Olive Garden 11:30 a.m.

### Thursday, January 12

- Agape Latte 10:00 a.m.

### Thursday, January 19

- Book Club 10:00 a.m.

### Saturday, January 21

- Blood Drive 7:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### Sunday, January 22

- Meet the new Pastor Spaghetti Dinner 12:15 p.m.

### Thursday, January 26

- Potpourri 10:30 a.m.

### Friday, January 27

- Serve at Siena/Francis House 4:00 p.m.

See enclosed calendar for more.

## Welcome Vickie



Meet the  
New Pastor

### Sunday, January 22

There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, January 22, after the second worship service, to welcome Vickie Kintzel as our Interim Pastor.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids.

## Annual Congregational Meeting



### Sunday, February 12

The annual meeting of the congregation to receive reports and elect officers will be after the second worship service on February 12.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Bill Neuman, is currently seeking nominees for the offices of elder and deacon, and for next year's nominating committee. If you feel God telling you to serve FSPC in one of those positions, please contact the committee.



# Session Update

By Beth Weiss, Clerk of Session

Here are a few updates from the December 19th Session meeting:

- We welcome Reverend Vickie Kintzel to our church as our new interim minister and look forward to the guidance and spiritual leadership she brings to our congregation.
- An official "all-congregation" welcome luncheon for Reverend Kinzel is planned for Sunday, January 22, following the 11 a.m. service. Spaghetti will be served.
- The annual congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, February 12 following the 11 a.m. service.
- We look forward to 2012 and the new opportunities it represents in the life of our church.

## Per Capita

Part of the work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is paid for by the "per capita" apportionment for every active member in each congregation.

The Per Capita for 2012 is \$41.24 per church member. Some people like to pay their own per capita. If you are one of those people, your payment of this amount is very appreciated, as we maintain the connections with Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly in a time when the church at all levels is in transition.

## ATTENDANCE

The average Sunday morning worship attendance on the first three Sundays in December was 119. Christmas Eve attendance was 173.

Bible Quiz Answers: C

## Who's Who

**Session** members for 2011 /2012: Sue Anderson, Sunny Andrews, Jim Carruthers, Steve Drager, Debbie Hart, John Lord, Bill Neuman, Frank Possinger, Jeff Sinley, Ken Thomson, Todd Walkenhorst, and Beth Weiss.

**Board of Deacons** members for 2011/2012: Sara Andrews, Lloydette Carruthers, Angie Champion, Jean Evans, Patti Greene, Jon Hart, Dan Kusmierski, and Betty Whittington.

## "Quote of the Month"

*New Year's Eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another 12 months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights.*

—Hamilton Wright Mabie



# Pastor's Pen – January 2012

Dear Saints:

With the apostle Paul, I greet you in the name of our shared Savior, Jesus Christ. What a joy it is to be among you, to begin to learn names and discover personalities, and with the Session to start making plans for 2012 and beyond.

From at least as far back as the ancient philosopher Heraclitus, it has been recognized that the change is inevitable. Per Isaac Asimov in 2004: "The only constant is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be."

For us as people of faith, while change is constant we have another constant – the assurance of the unchanging nature and love of the one God, known best to us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. From the very beginning of creation, to First ("Old") Testament stories such as Job and the entire New Testament, we are shown again and again that God is with us in all circumstances of life. That is the constant to which we cling in times of change that threatens to overwhelm us, as well as in times when boredom sets in and life grows stale.

Still, transitions are hard for most of us. There is little enough in our lives that we can count on, and so we grip some things tightly to us and resist efforts to get us to "relax, already!" It's understandable – I do it myself, and likely so do you. In our shared life of faith, we can both help one another recognize when we are clinging too tightly and also allow others to choose for themselves what is too important to let go.

You have just come through several months of intense transition, following the departure of the Seamans last July. Their friendship and leadership have been vitally important in the recent past of this congregation, and they are missed – each and every one of them. Grieving for what has been and is no more is a part of the transition between pastoral leadership in most congregations.

At the same time, there may also be some excitement, even some relief, that aspects of your shared life of faith will be reviewed and then either affirmed or changed. In a church as elsewhere, patterns of behavior need to be looked at from time to time with a willingness to make changes for the sake of the relationship.

Think back five years ago: is there anything about your job, your life, your family relationships, your friendships, etc. that is exactly like it was then? I would be very surprised if the answer is yes. And if none of us is exactly as we were (thanks be to God!) how can we think our church can stay the same?

In our time together (the initial contract is for one year, as is typical in our denomination) we will seek to affirm what is working well and to be honest with God and one another about what is not working so well (or not at all). There will be many "holy conversations" as we are intentional about speaking the truth in love. We will worship together, read and respond to God's Word in the Bible together in old and new ways (see below), fellowship and serve others, and more. It's going to be a great journey, I'm sure!

You will find elsewhere in this issue an introductory article based on an on-line interview by Danisha Hurst. We Presbyterians find it vitally important to regularly come together (meaning face-to-face in the room).

However, we are still learning how to be "face-to-face" without being physically in the same space. The interview and an initiative that I began this morning on the Faithful Shepherd page on Facebook, are steps toward that goal. I encourage those who use Facebook regularly to "friend" your church and to take part in the conversations begun there. And if there is another social media outlet that you believe we should use also, please contact me.

Serving God Together!  
Pastor Vickie Kintzel

# Finance Report



Operating gifts outpaced operating expenses in by \$2,839 in November. For the year, operating gifts are now \$14,216 below operating expenses.

	November '11	2011 Totals
Operating Gifts	\$15,996	\$208,776
Operating Expenses	\$13,157	\$222,992

Any gifts given to the church that are designated for “building fund” are now considered restricted gifts and deposited into a restricted account to be applied toward principal on our bank mortgage.

To set up or manage Electronic Fund Transfers for periodic (weekly, monthly, etc.) giving, please contact the church office (402-330-2683) or Bill Neuman (402-991-2894).

On behalf of Faithful Shepherd, Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity.

Bill Neuman  
Finance Director

# Deacons News



Thank you to those who donated hats, mittens, scarves, gloves & socks for children in the Omaha area. Please continue to contribute, as really cold weather is bound to arrive at some point. Take advantage of clearance sales and stock up on items as we are still collecting for the tree.

Thank you to those who collected ConAgra UPC codes. The codes were turned in for a cash donation. Each \$1 provided enough food for 8 meals for a hungry child.

Thank you to those who donated gifts for needy children through Project Wee Care. 25 children had a merrier Christmas because of your generosity.

Thank you!

# Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do “what is evil in the sight of the Lord,” God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge’s leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper — until they start doing “what is evil in the sight of the Lord” all over again.

Who was not one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar



# Directory Updates

**Note:** These updates apply to the directory dated October 2011. If your family hasn't picked up a copy yet, please do so. They are on the table next to the front doors of the Family Life Center.

**E-mail Changes:**

Guthrie-Wegner, Kathy Lea

[prosperitylane@hotmail.com](mailto:prosperitylane@hotmail.com)

# Update on the Bealers

There was a New Year's card in my box from Fred Bealer saying that Maria is now home (as of Dec. 28th) and prospects for a full recovery are good.

# Epiphany Star Gifts

The wise men ("magi") who traveled great distances to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child were responding to the gift first given to them by God in the vision and awareness that they should seek the Christ.

As we remember this receive-and-give model, we are invited to receive a star-gift from God through this congregation. Stars will be distributed in the worship offering plates on January 8 (the Sunday closest to Epiphany on January 6) (further details provided in worship).

The stars each have a word that reflects something of the Christian faith (mercy, honesty, peacefulness, delight, obedience, and so forth). The star is to be taken home and placed somewhere it will be seen regularly: the bathroom mirror, the refrigerator, the flap of a briefcase, on the toy box lid, at the front door.

Throughout the year, we will periodically have a chance to share with one another the impact of "our" word - how it is that God is speaking to us and through us in the light of that one word in 2012.

A basket of stars will be available for selection by (or delivery to) those who are unable to be in worship here on January 8. Please take part in this opportunity to receive an unusual and personal gift, and see where it might lead you!

# A New Year's Blessing



May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

# Staff Gifts



Thanks to everyone who donated for our staff. We thank you for your generosity and support of the staff throughout the year.

# Pastor Furnishings

Our interim pastor has found and moved into an apartment. THANK YOU to those who helped provide for her basic needs. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Family Life Center for items she still needs. Again, thank you! (It is good stewardship and means less moving expenses for the church to pay.)

# Meet Our New Interim Pastor

Our new Interim Pastor, Vickie Kintzel, has been busy settling into her new temporary residence. We appreciate the time she took recently to answer a few questions so that we can get to know her better. ...Danisha Hurst

**Where did you attend seminary?** I graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary, a PC(USA) institution. I did further studies toward a master's in religious education, but God had other plans and here I am in parish transition ministry.

**When were you ordained?** September 9, 1994, in my "home church" in Cedar Rapids, IA. I was then installed the next week in my first position as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Normal, IL.

**Prior to joining us, where did you serve?** I was at FPC Normal for a decade, then have been interim pastor in Berthoud CO, Rock Island IL, Laramie WY, and Longmont CO for varying lengths of time.

**Can you tell us a little about your family?** Jay and I will have been married for 40 years in May 2012. (How can that be?!?) His job keeps him in Colorado, where he will maintain the house and keep up the grandparenting duties (as he did when I served in Laramie). He hopes to get to Omaha from time to time, in between my trips home to Colorado. We talk by phone regularly and plan to start using "Skype" as well.

Our son Jason, daughter-in-law Emily and four grandchildren live in Longmont CO. Samantha is age 5, and her triplet siblings (Madison, Heidi and David) were two years as of October 22. Our daughter Anjanette lives in Belleville, IL (east of St. Louis) with her husband, Troy. Presently they share their home with his daughter and her husband and 3-year-old son.

My mom and three of my five younger siblings live in south-central Iowa (where I grew up), and I look forward to being closer to them.

**What are some activities you enjoy in Colorado?** My Colorado free time has mostly been spent with grandkids, gardening, reading/watching videos (I especially like British comedy and docu-dramas) and some occasional work with water colors.

**"The Cost of Christmas" was your topic on Christmas**

**morning. Now that this special time has passed, what's your advice for keeping the spirit and joy of Christmas active in our lives all year long?** In general I believe we need to be more intentional about celebrating the myriad gifts we receive from day to day, often almost without recognizing the gift whether from God or another who cares about us. Among the joys and challenges of being a Christian community is recognizing and sharing with one another both the joys and pains of our lives, so that we can indeed pray for one another regularly. We will look at spiritual gifts and disciplines in the coming months, with the goal being to recognize and encourage them in one another and give God increasing praise year-round.

**This is a hard question given you're still meeting members of the church. But what are some of your goals for our congregation?** It will indeed take a bit of time to get to know the people and personality of the congregation. My goals as your interim pastor include spending a lot of time hearing stories of how Faithful Shepherd has gotten to 2012 (more celebrating and also honest sharing are called for here). I will ask lots and lots of questions, with the intent of encouraging personal and group reflection about why things are done (or not done) in a particular way and/or by a particular person. My pastoral purpose is to help the congregation prepare for the future that God intends. While I have education and experience to guide the process, there is work to be done by each and every person involved in order for that to happen.

Much of my work will be focused on helping the congregation reflect and articulate the answers to some basic questions: Who are we as a congregation (identity)? Who are our neighbors and what do they know about us (context)? What is God calling us to be and to do in the next phase of our ministry (mission)? (And if there is anyone who is uneasy about the group answers to any of the above, the follow-up is: What am I personally willing to do about it?)

**Do you have any prayer requests?** I ask for prayers for strength and for clear insight as I begin this ministry alongside the congregation. While I have lived away from home before (it's somewhat inherent in interim ministry) this is farther afield than in the past, and there are now four little people with a particular claim on my heartstrings that used to be four miles from my front door. I also request prayers for this Presbytery in a time of transition as well, for that will also have some impact on our work here. I began praying for Faithful Shepherd before I arrived, and my prayers will take on more focus as I get to know you and to be known and trusted by you.

In all things, to God be the glory as we serve together in and through Faithful Shepherd Presbyterian Church!

# Joys



## Birthdays

We wish a happy January birthday to Jennifer Greene (1/4), Ken Thomson (1/5), Cassandra Wegner (1/7), Mary Cleaveland (1/10), Danisha Hurst (1/10), J.J. Nasr (1/10), Jack Smith (1/10), Paul DeCelie (1/11), Jeff Sinley (1/15), Jean Evans (1/18), Clara Beatty (1/20), Bernie Cherney (1/20), Sheila Kusmierski (1/21), Patrick McManigal (1/21), Pati Guida (1/22), Brenda Jones (1/23), Vickie Zach (1/26), Brenden Jones (1/28).

Ed. Note: If we have missed anyone, please let us know.



## Anniversaries

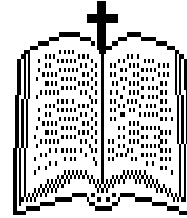
Happy January wedding anniversary wishes to Mark Wingert & Glenda Bahr (1/1), and Trever & Julie Wagner (1/11).



## Guests

Recent guests in worship include Larry & Betty Smith; Paul & Patricia Kraynik; Sean Hession; Tony & Kim Kohl; Mike & Maggie Sowl; Valerie Enholm; Ena Nikalas; Ron & Bonnie Halleen; Harold & Darline Fratt; Sean & Lucy Nissen; Bob Eppler; Jim Hurst; Michael Walker; Dorothy Walker; George Dudley; Jean Hurst; Betty Divoky; and Cassie & Jordan Brewer.

# January Worship Schedule



## Sunday, January 1: First Sunday After Christmas

Sermon Title: *Family Tree Branches*

Please read Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 and Luke 2:22-40.

## Sunday, January 8: First Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon Title: *Paying it Forward*

Please read Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11.

## Sunday, January 15: Second Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon Title: *Call and Response*

Please read 1 Samuel 3:1-20 and John 1:43-51.

## Sunday, January 22: Third Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon Title: *A To-Do About What To Do*

Please read Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Mark 1:14-20.

## Sunday, January 29: Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon Title: *Used-to Thanks*

Please read Psalm 111 and Mark 1:21-28.

## Sunday, February 5: Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon Title: *Overlooked and Overpowered*

Please read Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39.



Friday, January 6, 2012

# Faithful Shepherd

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>2</b> Office Closed 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Staff 3:00 pm Adult SS Coordinators 7:00 pm Faithful Quilters	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS 11:00 am Worship	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group 11:30 am Retiree's Lunch	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Staff 10:00 am Agape Latte 7:00 pm Faithful Quilters	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Bridge Group	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS 11:00 am Worship	<b>16</b> —Office Closed <b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b> 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Deacons	<b>17</b> 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Staff 10:00 am Book Club 7:00 pm Faithful Quilters	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm English Country Dance	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Blood Drive
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS 11:00 am Worship 12:15 Dinner	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Worship	<b>24</b> 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group 7:00 pm Bldg/Grds/ Finance 7:30 pm Hospitality	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Staff 10:30 am Potpourri 7:00 pm Faithful Quilters	<b>27</b> 4:00 pm Carpool to serve at Siena Francis House	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS 11:00 am Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group				2530 S 165th Avenue Omaha, NE 68130 (402) 330-2683 www.fspresby.com

# NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



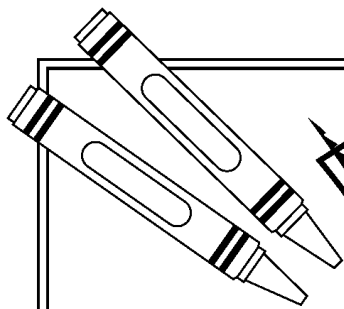
Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

## What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

## What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.
















# PUZZLE

## A caring disciple

In **Acts 9**, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoa tinm			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

*Faithful Shepherd Presbyterian Church*  
www.fspresby.org  
2530 S. 165th Ave  
Omaha, NE 68130

## **What *Not* to Take Into the New Year**

- Self-help books — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview mirror — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel — Instead of judging others, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)

—Gregg McCaslin

*See You in Church*