



First Presbyterian Church

950 N. Boones Ferry Road

PO Box 333

Woodburn, OR 97071

Happy New Year!

## *January 2015 Newsletter*

First Presbyterian Church of Woodburn

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by fellowship time at 11:30 a.m.

Organist and Music Director: Debra A. Huddleston

Secretary: Laura Harryman

Office phone (503) 981-9121 Office Hours—Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

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# A HAPPY NEW YEAR

# January 2015

S M T W Th F S

				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
Guest Preacher: Ann Bowersox Layreader: Mark Sterling Greeters: Roberta Campbell and Fran Welch <b>SOUP LUNCH</b>				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage  Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.		
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Guest Preacher: William VanNostram Layreader: Betty Soule Greeters: Lucien Klein and Walt Mangerich				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage  Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.		
	18	19	20	21	22	23
Guest Preacher: Dennis Dusek Layreader: Harley Piper Greeters: Irene Scott and Hazel Moore <b>INSTALLATION OF NEW SESSION MEMBERS</b> <b>FOOD BANK SUNDAY</b>			SESSION MEETING 5:30 p.m.	Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage  Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.		
	25	26	27	28	29	30
Guest Preacher: TBA Layreader: Nancy Hankins Greeters: Phila Simmons and Evelyn White				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage  Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.		

## Dec 16th Session Meeting Highlights

- Session agreed to install the new Session members during the January 18, 2015 service, two days before the January 20 Session meeting. The pulpit supply guest that Sunday is the Rev. Dennis Dusek. Nancy Hankins, Sally Klein, and Mark Sterling will be installed. Session committees will be organized at the January meeting. Session needs to elect a president, clerk, treasurer, and two session members to serve on the 2015 nominating committee with one of them to be committee chair.
- Session agreed that we will serve gluten free bread for communion from now on, starting with the communion on January 4, 2015.
- Doug Seely has offered us the pump organ that was in our church building when it was on Garfield Street. We need to get more information. Joanne will look into it.
- Session agreed that the annual meeting of the congregation will be held after a new pastor has been hired, probably in February.
- New pastor: Walt asked session to review the applications received and to call the references. There will be a committee meeting after the service on December 28, 2014.
- Headstart is having monthly parent meetings in the fellowship hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Laura provided a report to Session showing the number of page views that our website received in November. It showed between 0 and 18 page views per day.
- Lois Wengenroth's son has donated Lois's copy of the Bible on CD's. Session directed that the CD's be put in the library and that the congregation be informed.
- In regard to the GAP ministry through Love INC, Sally Klein prepared a suggested list of school supplies. Kim will confer with the school district and Love INC to inform them of what we intend to do and to confirm that we are "doing it right". The congregation will be asked to donate items on the list.
- Walt will be meeting with a roofer. We asked the Iglesia Puerta del Cielo congregation to clean up the debris from the wind storm.
- Nancy Hankins set up and decorated a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Thanksgiving turkey dinner after the service on Sunday, November 23 was well attended, as was the soup lunch on December 7. Christmas decorations were put up after the soup lunch on December 7. The Christmas Cantata was at the time of our service on Sunday, December 21.
- We plan to get a Facebook page going for the church.
- Our Thanksgiving dinner was taken to shut-ins. Johanna continues visitation to members of the congregation
- Joanne Hanson composed and sent out the stewardship letter with a pledge form and return envelope enclosed. Several pledges have been returned.
- Next Meeting Date: January 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

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Excerpted from the Love INC newsletter:

### WHAT IS A "GAP" MINISTRY?

*"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before me for the land..". Ezekiel 22:30*

Love INC serves others through a circle of "gap ministries" located in our partner churches. Within every community there are ministries and agencies that can provide material resources to those in need. However, there are always gaps in the services they provide. The ministries at the Love INC partner churches stand in those gaps and fill the needs that are missing. When the Bed, Bath and Kitchen ministry was being dedicated at the Church of Christ someone asked, "What does "gap" mean?" One of the Elders spoke up and said, "God Always Provides." I like that definition. God does always provide.

Sometimes not exactly how we expected or in the amount we expect, but it is always sufficient and often overflowing in generosity.



## 2015 Community Garden Musing

*This is a section of an article in the November, 2014 issue of *Presbyterians Today* magazine. It is reprinted with permission.*

### Reaching Beyond Barriers

Larry has been faithfully volunteering at Garfield Farm, an urban agricultural project run by the Open Door, a Presbyterian congregation in Pittsburgh, for two and a half years. Though not a Christian, he is committed to Christian values and attends worship at the Open Door. The congregation's lead pastor, B.J. Woodworth, says Larry has told him that while he appreciates Christianity, "he just can't commit (his) life to following one religion." Recently, however, he participated in Communion.

"The Spirit is moving in his life." Woodworth says. And conversations about Christianity between Larry and the pastor continue. (*Note: "Larry" is a pseudonym, used here to ensure privacy.*)

At the Open Door, much of the outreach is centered on the growing number of people who say they are "spiritual but not religious" More than one-third of the 46 million religiously unaffiliated Americans describe themselves this way, according to a 2012 study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

The Open Door seeks to cultivate that interest in spirituality along-side the crops grown at its three-acre Garfield Community Farm. "I think the millennials and gen Xers are suspicious of religion and the institutional church, but they are spiritual and they think what we're doing at our farm is spiritual," Woodworth says.

"In the postmodern context, people are searching and are open to mystery," says Ray Jones, coordinator for evangelism at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. "They don't necessarily believe in a meta-narrative (like the Christian gospel) that can impact all cultures."

Reaching them, Jones says, requires building relationships and helping people see how their individual stories intersect with the gospel story.

Many social progressive non-Christians bring their love of nature to Garfield Farm. Seeds of friendship are sown as people tend vegetables, fruits, berries, herbs, honey, and chickens. Most young adults who volunteer live within five miles of the farm, and several children from the surrounding Garfield neighborhood help with the chores.

The Open Door makes much of what is raised available to the community.

As volunteers work on the farm, the Open Door seeks to connect its spirituality with biblical faith. "Care for the earth is the first commandment given in all of Scripture," Woodworth says. "We build on that and we continue to name Jesus, the Holy spirit, and God the Father—and over time they begin to make the connection.

A number of the farm volunteers attend worship at the Open Door. Every Sunday about 100 people gather in a rented building that sits where Garfield and three other Pittsburgh neighborhoods meet. By giving people permission to be an observer at one level and a participant at another," Woodworth says, the Open Door draws people to faith.

## Happy Birthday!

1—Phila Simmons

17—Mary Harfield

19—Walt Mangerich

21— Betty Soule

*Let Johanna know if you do not see your birthday listed.*

### Announcements

Gluten Free bread will now be served at all communion services. We hope that this will allow those with this food sensitivity to partake.

Lois Wengenroth's family has donated her audio copy of the Bible. It is on CDs. We have placed it in our library, and it is available to borrow.

### Deaths

Norbert Krausche died November 25, 2014; his service was December 1, 2014 at First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. David Morelli officiating.

*"Blessed are they who die in the Lord, they will rest from their labors and their works do follow them"*

Rev. 14:13