



A monthly newsletter of
The Presbyterian Church
of Okemos

Volume 11, Issue 11

December, 2011

Some Thoughts on Faith

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

--12th century Latin hymn

November has been a relatively mild month for us, but the darkness of winter solstice is upon us. The stores try to lure us into their light and warmth even at midnight on holiday weekends, but the darkness penetrates our spirits.

According to scripture, before God created there was nothing, and that nothing was wet and dark. God's first, life-giving word was "light;" yet even so, God only separated the light from the darkness, but did not eradicate that darkness. When God is angry with people, they are plunged into darkness. The plagues that fall upon the Egyptians blot out the sun like a swarm of locusts. Darkness covers the earth on the first Good Friday from noon until 3:00 according to the gospels. And the day of God's judgment is described by conditions where the sun and moon and stars have their light extinguished.

In the New Testament, light stands for revelation and knowledge, while darkness indicates ignorance and evil. Jesus is declared the light of the world in John's Gospel, yet the world does not know him. And in his first letter, John declares that "God is light and in him there is no darkness at all."

The world starts its new year after the sun and its light have started to return, after winter solstice. But the church's new year begins at the darkest time, the first Sunday of Advent, this year, November 27.

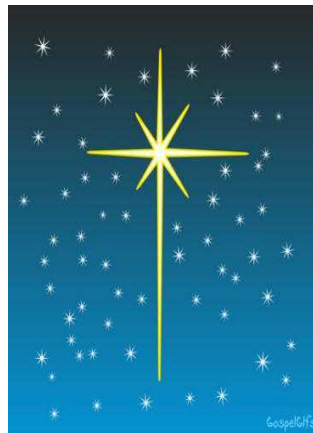
Things are dark and getting darker and that message is found literally in the heavens and metaphorically in the scripture lessons we read and the liturgy we speak and sing. However things appear to our naked eyes, we are invited at Advent to trust that God has planted the seeds of light in the darkness, where those seeds (faith, hope, and love) will sprout and grow, we know not.

Dayspring is a medieval translation of a Latin phrase that refers to dawn, or perhaps to the bright morning star, the last star to disappear when the light of the sun brightens the sky. The prophet Malachi referred to a "Dayspring that shall rise with healing in its wings" on the day of the Lord. The hymn combines this ancient yearning for a king of David's line with the Christian truth that Jesus Christ, in his death and resurrection, has risen, and even when the world is dark, we put our hope in his resurrection light to carry us through these temporal dark days and through all the different kinds of darkness that the world may send our way.

Advent is intended as a time when we acknowledge that God is the Master of time, hope, joy and peace. So much of the way we use this time before Christmas belies the reality that we think Christmas depends upon us and our efforts. We shoulder the responsibility for buying and wrapping presents, preparing the decorations and the food, and we come to believe that a Christmas celebration won't happen unless we make it so. That's why, in the church, Advent preparations start slowly and modestly, with one candle and quiet Advent hymns, and a simple, holy meal of bread and wine. The point of our worship is, as theologian Stanley Hauerwas puts it, is to declare the truth: "God is God and I ain't."

All the trappings of Christmas then, are ways of expressing a radical hospitality. We seek not to dazzle the world with glory, but to offer welcome to the poor and stranger: light and food and warmth and life in the darkest of days, trusting that God will renew all of us in due time, even in this dreary season. We make ourselves vulnerable to one another, as God came down to us, as vulnerable as a newborn child. Even in the dark, the seeds of faith, hope, and love sprout and grow – we know not how – while God continues to give birth to the human and the divine in Christ and in each of us.

See you in church,



Facing Challenges:

- Dolores and Glenn Berkheimer
- Rick Gierman
- Vicki Jerkatis, Angela Boldrey's mother
- Pat Schulze, daughter to Pete & Jean Weinert
- Becky McAdam
- Harriet McDaniel
- San Pi, refugee tutored by Frank Hatfield
- Mark Richardson
- Harry Wasson
- Beth Zinman, friend of the Dorrs, VanKempens, and Hoekstras

Celebrating Joys:

- Larry and Roberta Glaser Carlsen on their marriage in recent months. (329 W Rainbow Dr, Apt 205, Kokomo, IN 46902).
- Birth of Alana Rose; her parents are Keith & Cari Cravotta, proud grandparents and Lou & Linda Cravotta.

The Endowment Committee is accepting applications from members or committees for up to a \$500 grant to be used for a project, piece of equipment, mission work or other appropriate items of lasting value to the Church. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2012, after which the Endowment committee will recommend to the Session the receiver of the grant(s). Contact Rich Martin (Chair), Mike Morgan or Mary Mather for guidelines and application.

Homeowner Application for Rebuilding Together Ingham County

Do you know a low-income homeowner that is disabled or over 60 years of age and could use some home repairs or maintenance? Rebuilding Together Ingham County is taking applications for the 2012 Rebuilding Day to be held April 28, 2012. The new application deadline is January 20, 2012. To receive an application, call 517-214-8356.

The following are the criteria for Eligible Applicants:

- own and reside in an Ingham County home,
- property taxes are up-to-date,
- homeowner's insurance is current,
- income at our below \$1,361 per month for a one-person household or \$1,839 per month for a two-person household,
- homeowner plans to be in their home for at least two years,
- and unable physically and financially to complete the requested repairs.



Questions? Talk to Jan Bernard.

The Berkheimer family sends heartfelt appreciation to their church family for all the prayers, cards, flowers and well wishes. A special thanks to the church youth group for raking our leaves. Dolores is received excellent care at Burcham Hills Center for Health and Rehabilitation and is home now. Our love and sincere thanks to all of you. *Glenn and family*

Dear Church Family,

The love and concern you have surrounded me and my family with has been both healing and supportive! The power of your prayers has sustained us through one trial after another. A thank you seems to be a completely inadequate acknowledgement, yet it is nearly all I can offer.

Therefore, I offer my heartfelt thanks and an ongoing prayer for all of you, to be blessed as you have blessed us, to celebrate life in Christ every day, and that your family may know the kind of love that my family knows, through Okemos Presbyterian Church.

Thank you, *Rick Gierman and Family*

Robe Committee Thanked

The following people were instrumental in purchasing the new choir robes and I, as chairperson of this committee, would like to thank them for their help. Choir members: Emmie McKillips, Gary VanKempen and Terri Grady; and Congregation members: Delores Berkheimer and Jean Halloin.

Session Thanked

The board of the Greater Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists would like to thank the session of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos for allowing them to use this facility for their sixth annual Autumn Pops Concert.

Elsbeth Weidenaar, Co-Dean of GLC-AGO

All Church Caroling

December 18, following the Christian Education Hour. Join us for a light lunch and then go caroling together. Let Biz or Alice know if you can join us.



A Service of the Longest Night

December 18, 4:30pm

Christmastime can be a time of great joy, but also of sadness. Come join us in the sanctuary for a candle lit service of reading scripture, singing, remembering and praying for healing and wholeness.

Intergenerational Advent Event

Sunday, December 11, 2011 *** 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
In Fellowship Hall

The Intergenerational Advent Event is a treasured tradition to many at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos. It is anticipated each year by young and old alike. For those who will be experiencing this for the first time, you have a treat in store!

This is our opportunity to share the Love of Christ with refugee children who recently arrived in our community. They are new to our country and holidays, and they have great need for many of the basic things we take for granted. Also, this year the tree will have gifting tags for children from several families provided to us through Salvation Army. This is our opportunity to provide gifts, to create gifts with our own hands, and at the same time enjoy great fellowship. Come and enjoy a time to celebrate Jesus' birth by modeling His love for others.

The Intergenerational Advent Event is a time for families to decide with their children how to help others instead of focusing on what they want for Christmas. It is a chance for old and young to create gifts

for others from reindeer candy canes to more complicated crafts. It is a chance to chat, sing Christmas carols and listen to those who share their musical talents. We look forward to great fellowship while enjoying the activities and some finger foods. Please sign up to bring finger foods to pass. We also need folks to sign up to bring Christmas cookies for the families and we'll have some as well.

We also have a newer tradition of creating cards and making small gifts for our church shut-ins who cannot be with us that day.

Below are suggestions about the ways you can participate, before and during the event. If you still have questions, talk to Becky Gillespie (for Missions), Jerri Gillett (for Parish Life), or Eunice Creswell/Bettie Senger (for CE/Crafts).

Following worship on December 11, all are invited to participate, including any visitors and guests. We can all be part of the tradition!

The Gifting Tree



As in years past, the **Gifting Tree** will be filled with tags containing gift ideas for the children. To participate in this year's program, please select one or more tags, purchase the noted gifts, wrap them, and return them to church **on or before December 11th**. There will be designated areas within the church for collecting gifts and receipts.

This year the emphasis is again on providing gifts for the children, although we will be making individual and family gifts in crafts. **We have been asked to bring receipts for all gifts because The Salvation Army needs the receipts so they can apply for matching funds from selected federal grants.** That will actually make our contributions even greater, so please do your best to comply with this request.

Remember, December 11 is the date all **Gifting Tree** gifts must be at the church for delivery purposes.

Attention Young Musicians-

Last year, there was a large group around the piano singing Christmas music together and there will be time for that again this year.

We are again recruiting young people to play Christmas carols for the Intergenerational Advent Event on Sunday, December 11. We all enjoy our talented youth who set the mood for this wonderful event. If you are interested in using your musical talents –piano, instrument or voice– please talk to Sandy Detrisac (detrisacsd@comcast.net). Adults are also encouraged and wanted!



Ways to help the families we are serving

Personal Needs - Look for the decorated package before you enter Fellowship Hall. Each Sunday, please drop off personal needs items in this box. On the 11th we'll be dividing the items into family sacks. We like to provide toothbrushes for all family members, and can use tooth paste, sample toiletries you may have from trips, etc.

Basic Household Needs – Refugee families can't use their food stamps for basic household needs ... so many go without. In addition to personal needs, families need toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. See a more complete list in the Gifting Tree area. We'll be making hot chocolate mixes again, so please leave mugs (will need about 40) in the box in Fellowship Hall.

Blankets – Blankets are always an important need for families coming to mid Michigan, so these have been added to the tags on the Gifting Tree. Additional blankets are also helpful.

Adult Education for December

- December 4: Intentional Advent, discussion led by Rev. Alice Townley
- December 11: Intergenerational Advent Event
- December 18: Entering the Bible Stories, discussion led by Rev. Alice Townley and Rev. Rob Carlson
- December 25: Christmas Day, No Class
- January 1: New Year's Day, No Class

Book Club

Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder, led by Ron Dorr following adult education on December 4.

Life Stories

Life Stories Class led by Ron Dorr following the Intergenerational Advent Event on December 18.

Looking ahead to January . . .

***This I Believe* series**

What are your core beliefs? What has been life-giving and sustaining for you? We will spend 3 weeks listening to stories and sharing our own. On January 8 bring a favorite *This I Believe* essay to discuss from the web site: thisibelieve.org, or a book in this series. On January 15, Dr. Amy DeRogitas, MSU professor of religion, will share her own published essay from "This I Believe" about having a child with a disability. By the third week we will be writing our own stories and collecting them to use as a PCO Lenten devotional.

Godly Play: The K—2nd graders will continue working on our "God's Good Gifts" boxes as we do our Advent lessons.

Christmas Pageant

This year, our Christmas pageant is based on a book called, *The Donkey's Dream* written by Barbara Helen Berger. The Pageant will be an interactive pageant -like in years past- but will tell the Christmas Story from a new perspective. If anyone is interested in learning more about the story or helping with any aspect of the pageant please contact Biz Nieuwsma.



Christmas Poinsettias

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The poinsettia, one of the most popular flowers of the Christmas season, symbolizing a miracle at the birth of the Christ child. Native to Central America, the plant was found blooming in the tropical highlands during the short days of winter and was called *euphorbia pulcherrima* or "beautiful fire plant" by the Mexican people. Dr. Joel Poinsett, physician, botanist and the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico saw this beautiful plant in 1828 and was so enchanted that he sent some plants to his own hothouse in South Carolina where he propagated and sent to friends and botanical gardens. In 1836 the name of this plant was changed to *poinsettia pulcherrima* or "poinsettia" in honor of Dr. Poinsett.



An ancient Mexican legend connects the poinsettia with Jesus' birth.

It was tradition at the Christmas festival, for children to present gifts to the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. A brother and sister had nothing to offer as a gift to the baby, so sad in heart and in desperation they gathered up wild weeds and laid them around the manger. A miracle occurred; bright red star-shaped flowers burst forth from the weeds and were the brightest of all the gifts the Christ child received. Every country has its own folklore associated with Christmas. This tale represents the true spirit of Christmas, gifts from the heart.

AS OUR PCO TRADITION CONTINUES we will again decorate the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia plants during the Advent season. Those wishing to purchase a plant in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, or to the glory of God, may sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. There are several sizes, color and cost options. You are welcome to take your plant home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Colors: red, white, pink

Prices: 6" (\$8.00); 7" (\$15.00); 8" (\$21.00)

(Christians Greenhouse will be providing the plants.)

Please leave a check in the envelope made payable to Sally Belloli. The last day for placing your order is Sunday, December 11. thank you for contributing to the beauty of the season and to the glory of our God. Questions? Call Sally (339-1052), or Laurie in the church office (349-9536).

Parish Life News

From Lois Veldman

The Intergenerational Advent Event will be December 11 immediately after church. Are you new to PCO? Find a full description of this event elsewhere in the *Grapevine*. Parish Life will coordinate snacks to keep us sustained while we are crafting and enjoying fellowship. Drop off your favorite finger food to the church kitchen before worship on the 11th, and we will organize and serve your offerings (cheese/crackers, fruit, veggies/dip, cookies etc). Please look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk near the kitchen door for the snacks. Parish Life will provide sandwiches.

Then on December 18, following the service, we will celebrate birthdays of those born in December with cake, punch and coffee. To make sure your name appears on the December cake, please sign the list on the kiosk, and plan to have a look at the beautiful cake before it is cut on Sunday!

Look in Fellowship Hall for Wassail and Cookies after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Stay for a few minutes of fellowship and Christmas cheer after church.

What are your plans for dinner on Christmas

Day? If you are staying in town, consider joining us for dinner on Christmas Day. Bring your family (even aunts, uncles, etc!) and share a meal with others at our church as we offer a potluck Christmas dinner at the church at 1:30 p.m.. So that we can coordinate your contributions to the menu (e.g. potatoes, other vegetable, salad or dessert) please contact me, Lois Veldman Phone: 336 7128 or email: veldman@msu.edu. I will need a pretty firm count for this event for ordering the meat, so please let me know what dish you plan to bring and the number of family coming by December 20. Plan to bring family, and table games for fellowship after the meal.



Just an additional note about the Shrimp Boil and the Chili Cookoff, popular annual events of October and November: The contributions from attendees were AWESOME and plentiful. Many people who came offered their help in many ways and some just stepped up and did it, like filling water pitchers and putting away tables and chairs. The committee, somewhat abbreviated in October and November, noticed, and are grateful for those kindnesses. Thanks to all of you.

Pathfinders – A Christian Coaching Ministry, By Stephanie Nawyn

Pathfinders is a developing program within the Presbyterian Church of Okemos to help congregation members develop the spiritual and social foundational skills for coaching others in a Christian mission. Over the past year we have met once a month to read Biblical texts and books on spiritual practices and Christian coaching, to discuss our spiritual journeys with one another, and to hold one another accountable in an effort to deepen our faith and serve others through coaching. The Session has endorsed this program and Rev. Carlson has been participating with us throughout the year.

This program began as a commitment to discipleship undertaken by the Church Growth and Membership Committee. Rev. Jim Kocher was invited by elders, Jill Schaberg and Ed Mather to lead 12 members of the congregation through a process of study, fellowship, prayer, and Christian encouragement, to deepen their understanding of church membership. (It was then called Presbyterian Disciples for Growth: PDFG). Pathfinders grew out of a desire among some participants to continue to grow as disciples of Christ and to offer this opportunity to others in the church.

What is Christian coaching? Well, it is not yelling at others from the sidelines, or dictating to them what they should do, say, or think. A coach is also not a guru with all the answers to life's problems, or a therapist that provides counseling. A coach is someone who asks questions, listens to the answers, reflects back what they hear, encourages, and holds others accountable. A Christian coach is someone

who helps others realize their potential in Christ, putting their talents to work in their churches, their families, and their communities. By doing this in PCO we aim to strengthen the spiritual foundation of our congregation and expand our lay ministries.

From this past year we have seen many wonderful fruits emerge from our labors. Our church now has an organized program for reaching out to visitors to our Sunday services, led by Marsha Madle and the Church Growth and Membership Committee. When visitors become new members we have a coaching program to bring them into deep interaction with our church, led by Jill Schaberg. Dorinda VanKempen and Tom Schaberg are coaching new elders and deacons to help them better serve our church. Emily Conroy-Krutz and Roy Meland are working on improving the Church School curriculum for middle and high school students and coaching our young people through their transitions into adulthood. And Shawn Grady has committed to assisting any individuals who would like to be coached through a career transition.

Starting in January we will begin another session of Pathfinders, and we welcome anyone who is interested in developing Christian coaching and leadership skills and deepening their faith to join us. Or perhaps you would like to be coached, or would like more information about this program - we welcome your questions and inquiries! You may contact either myself (213-663-5642; sjnowyn@gmail.com) or Tom Schaberg (517-881-9679; tschaberg1@gmail.com), or simply catch us during Fellowship Hour.

by Adam Nicolson; Review by Ron Dorr

God's Secretaries, written by Adam Nicolson in 2003, is the most intellectually satisfying book I have read in years. I read it because May, 2011, was the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. "This is a brilliant book," I wrote when I finished: "so informative, so enlightening, so illuminating." It is a useful history book, detailed comparison of Biblical texts, sobering study of human nature, revealing study in rhetoric, and compelling portrait of a world lost and never to be reclaimed.

The making of the King James Bible took place in a particular historical context. The spring of 1603, when Queen Elizabeth died, looked like a propitious time for James I to become King. Elizabeth represented a decaying old order. James, the troubled youth and King of Scotland, now 36, believed in a reign of peace, harmony, unity, and reconciliation. Religious conflicts between leaders of the Church of England and Puritans who wanted to finish the English Reformation, however, stood in the way. James hoped that a conference, called for January 12, 1604, would reconcile the two sides.

The making of the King James Bible proceeded under specific instructions of the King. A committee of 50-some learned religious men divided into six subcommittees. Three of those subcommittees, involving 7-10 members in each group, would translate the Old Testament, seven members the Apocrypha, another group of seven the New Testament Epistles, and 11 members the rest of the New Testament. The King's instructions stressed continuity not innovation, "divergence held within a singularity," and ambiguity—"a deliberate carrying of multiple meanings within the surface of a single text."

The Translators succeeded in integrating several previous versions of the Bible. Take II Corinthians 1:11, for example. The King James Version is a synthesis of five previous translations: that by William Tyndale in 1526, Thomas Cromwell's

official Great Bible in 1539, the Geneva New Testament in 1557, the complete Geneva Bible in 1560, and the English Bishops' Bible of 1568.

The Translators also improved Tyndale, who has given us so many familiar passages ("salt of the earth," the "powers that be," "eat, drink, and be merry"). Tyndale's version of John 15:12-13 was this: "Thys ys my commaundement, that ye love togedder as I have loved you. Gretter love then this hath no man, then that a man bestowe his lyfe for his frendes." The King James Version is clearer, more memorable, and more authoritative. "This is my Commaundement, that ye loue one another, as I haue loued you. Greater loue hath no man then this, that a man lay downe his life for his friends."

As for ambiguity, the New English Bible translates the reaction to a woman's anointing of Jesus's hair in Mark 14:4 like this: "Why this waste?" Tyndale wrote it: "What neded this waste of oyntment?" In iambic verse, the K. J. V. embraces "the strange ambiguity of making something by wasting it." "Why was this waste of the oyntment made?"

The making of the King James Bible was the work of imperfect men in an imperfect world. One such man was Lancelot Andrewes, "the light of the Christian world" according to William Laud. In 1590, however, Andrewes visited the Separatist, Henry Barrow, who had been imprisoned for three years. The latter asked to go outside. "For close imprisonment," Andrewes said to Barrow, "you are most happie. The solitarie and contemplative life I hold the most blessed life. It is the life I would chuse." "You speak philosophically," Barrow replied, "but not Christianly." At another extreme was the Translator, Richard Thomson, "a debosh'd drunken English Dutcheman." Such touches give immense humanity to this account. They also lead Nicolson to ask: "Was the King James Bible so alive precisely because the Translators weren't entirely good?"

The making of the King James Bible involved "God's secretaries"—those people "who originally wrote the words of the Bible." At a time when ministers preached in 8,000 pulpits in England, parishioners listened eagerly to two-hour sermons—and wanted more, and words were "instruments of government," the "words of the Bible were the ultimate and encom-

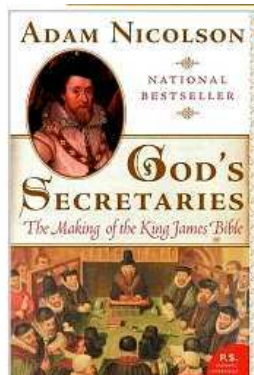
passing truth itself. " Faithfulness to the original languages, accuracy, and clarity were the key.

Those who translated the Bible from 1604 to 1610 added another dimension: love of ceremony, majesty, and richness. Tyndale had begun Genesis like this: "In the beginnyng God created heauen and erth. The erth was voyde and emptye, and darcknesse was vpon the depe, & the spirite of God moued vpon the water." Andrewes begins the

K. J. V. like this: "In the beginning God created the Heauen, and the Earth. And the earth was without forme, and voyd, and darcknesse was vpon the face of the deepe: and the Spirit of God moued vpon the face of the waters." The changes are more rhythmic, the pacing more deliberate, the wording more expressive. "It is as solemn and orderly as the beginning of a steady and majestic march." Beside, the "spirit of God moving on the face of the waters has a mysterious and ghostly humanity to it which neither the modern translations nor Tyndale's blankness can match." The Translators combined richness with exactness.

Words matter. Words can help us understand, realize, and heighten experience. "Consciously poised between the claims of accessibility and beauty, plainness and richness, simplicity and majesty, the people and the King," the Translators did not choose. They absorbed and included. They sought the middle ground. For three centuries, they served English-speaking people well. Without the King James Bible, we could not have had Lincoln's Gettysburg Address or Second Inaugural Address or the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the last century, however, those words, that vision, that philosophy of life, have evaporated for many. To Nicolson, a nonbeliever, the modern translations, though more correct in places, are inadequate, even dreadful. To him, the words of the K. J. V., e. g., in Psalm 77:7-9, "remain alive," providing meaning where little else does. I—a historian, serious reader of the Bible, Christian humanist, and fellow crafter of words—agree.





THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

2258 BENNETT RD

OKEMOS, MI 48864-3233



December



Sunday, December 11

- 10:00am Our worship service on the Third Sunday of Advent will include a Cantata "Follow the Star, Follow the King" by our Chancel Choir and the choir from Williamston United Methodist Church.
- The Annual Intergenerational Advent Event follows the Worship Service.

Sunday, December 18

- 12:30pm all are invited to join in the fun of **Christmas caroling**.
- 4:30pm is our **Service of the Longest Night**, a candlelit service of scripture, song, and prayers for healing.

Saturday, December 24

- 5:00pm is our **Family Christmas Eve** service; including "The Donkey's Dream" played out by our children. Wassail and cookies will be offered after the service.
- 11:00pm is our **Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve** service of Lesson and Carols with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday Morning, December 25

- 10:00am Join us for worship on Christmas Day!
- 1:30pm **Christmas Dinner Potluck**

The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter of

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert T. Carlson, Jr., PASTOR

Rev. Alice Fleming Townley,
ASSOCIATE FOR PARISH LIFE

Biz Nieuwsma,
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES
Laurie Horstman, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OFFICE HOURS





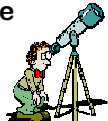
Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00am-2:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-Noon

Phone: 517-349-9536

EMAIL: office@okemospres.org
Website: <http://okemospres.org>



December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:15pm JuBellees 7:30pm Choir	2 1pm Prayer Shawl Group	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 10am Worship 11:20am CE Hour	5 1:05pm OK39ers Lunch at Old Country Buffet 6:45pm Bell Choir rehearsal	6 6:45am Men's Group 10am Conversation & Contemplation	7 7:30pm Parish Life Committee 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	8 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir		
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11:15AM – 1:30PM INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT 	12 6:45pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Church Growth Committee	13 6:45am Men's Group 10am C & C 6:45pm Deacons' potluck & meeting	14 9:15am MOPs 7pm Mission Committee 7:30pm Administration Committee	15 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:15pm Bell choir 7pm Endowment Committee 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal at Williamston U.M.	16 1pm Prayer Shawl Group	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am December Birthdays 11:20am CE Hour 12:30pm Christmas Caroling 4:30pm Service of the Longest Night	19 No Women's Dinner Out 6:45pm Bell Choir rehearsal	20 6:45am Men's Group 	21 GRAPEVINE DEADLINE 7:30pm Session	22 No Adult Bible Study No Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 Christmas Eve 5pm Family Christmas Eve Service 11pm Lessons, Carols & Communion
25 Christmas Day 10am Worship No Christian Education Classes No Women's Connections 1:30pm Christmas Dinner	26	27 6:45am Men's Group	28	29 No Adult Bible Study No Bell choir No Choir Rehearsal	30	31 New Year's Eve 

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR FFB FUN-RAISER IN 2012

It is coming soon
to a Presbyterian Fellowship Hall near you:

The 6th Annual Foundation Fighting Blindness "Fun-Raiser!"

On Saturday, February 4, 2012

In our very own Presbyterian Church of Okemos

From 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Includes plenty of fellowship, crafting, scrapping, eating, laughing,

Reconnections, old & new friends, the raffle,

Wine bottle lights, card-making, yarn skills

Contact Sandy Detrisac 349-0324, detrisacsd@comcast.net, for more information.

We will be sending out email save-the-dates to all those who provided email addresses last year.
You may respond to your email invite (arriving after Thanksgiving) or to this notice (via Sandy D).

Come & be part of the fun!