

O Come
Let us
Adore
Him



Flushing Presbyterian Church

Rev. Teresa Peterson, Pastor

December 2014 Newsletter

"This Year Will be Different" by Ann Weems, from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Who among us does not have dreams
that this year will be different?

Who among us does not intend to go
peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem,
for who among us likes to cope with the
commercialism of Christmas
which lures us to tinsel not only the tree
but also our hearts?

Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around
and wearing down?

Who among us does not long for:
gifts that give love?
shopping in serenity?
cards and presents sent off early?
long evenings by the fireside with those we love?
(the trimming devoid of any arguing about
who's going to hang what where,
the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling
with the pine scent of the tree,
and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)
and the children! the children cheerfully talking about
giving instead of getting?

Who among us does not yearn for
time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God?
moments of kneeling and bursts of song?
the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?

This year we intend to follow the Star
instead of the crowd.

But, of course, we always do intend the best.
(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)

This year, when we find ourselves off the path again
(and we invariably will!),
let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days,
that of "trying to do Christmas correctly"!

Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord with JOYFUL abandon!

And this year
let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God!
let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams.
let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship.
lets do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God
for all we've seen and heard!

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.
We'll be too busy singing!
This year will be different.



Celebrate the Savior



A congregational meeting was held following the worship service on November 23rd, at which time we elected elders and members of the Nominating and Memorial Committees. The following members were elected:

Elders (two-year terms)

John Dulin - Budget & Finance Team
Karen Howe - Spiritual Growth Team
Natalie Lucas - Community Outreach Team
Loretta Hudson - Member Care Team
Don Rowley - Property Team

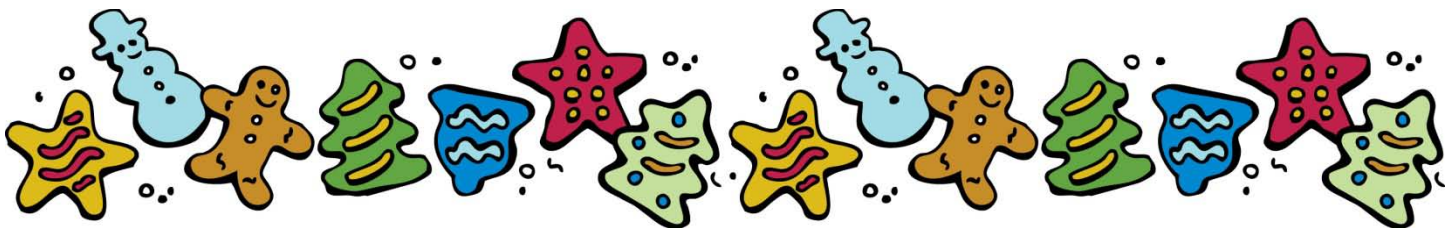
Memorial Committee

Beverly Blair (two-year term)
Barb Hogan (two-year term)
Marian McTaggart (one-year term)
Dennis Sanborn (one-year term)

Nominating Committee (one-year terms)

Dick Barnett
Louise Elleman
Jean Weirauch

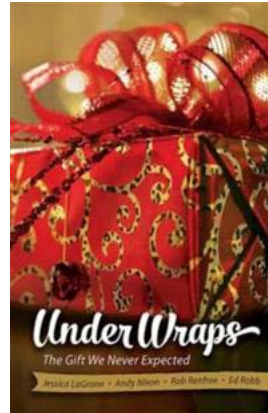
We give thanks to each for their willingness to serve.
All other members are invited and encouraged to join one of the teams as an "at-large member."
Contact the office for meeting times and dates.



**Angel
Tree**



The Angel Tree is up in the narthex in order to provide Christmas gifts to children in need in the Flushing area. If you wish to participate, please select an angel and **sign your name after the appropriate number on the sign-up sheet next to the tree.** All gifts will need to be delivered to the church by **December 14th.** If you would like to participate, but are unable to shop, you may make a donation for a gift. Please indicate "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius.



3 week Advent Study - *Under Wraps*

Join a small group discussion as we focus on four key words that describe a characteristic of God evidenced in the Old Testament and then seen more clearly through Jesus: faithful, dangerous, expectant and jealous. There are two study times available: **Tuesdays at 6:00 PM on December 2, 9 & 16 OR Wednesdays at 11:00 AM on December 3, 10 & 17.** There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Cost of the study book is \$10.00, or you can order your own ebook from Abingdonpress.com or amazon.com.



**GIVE
Blood**

We will be holding a **Blood Drive on Monday, December 1st**, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).



The Flint Concert Band will be performing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **Thursday, December 11th, at 7:00 PM.** This concert has long been a special part of our Advent season. Invite your friends and bring your family. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert. It is a great way to get in the holiday spirit. **If you would be willing to bake cookies for the reception following the concert, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.**

**KEEP
CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS**

A Time For Waiting



Advent Celebration Play

The children are busy preparing for this year's Advent Celebration play titled "A Time for Waiting," which will take place during the regular worship service on **Sunday, December 14th.**

This year's play focuses on a bit of a different part of the story along with involving some of the individuals we don't always hear too much about.

Remaining practices are:

Thursday, December 4th, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 9th, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 13th, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Kids should also be at church by 10:00 am on Sunday, December 14th.

We look forward to sharing this interpretation of the Christmas story with everyone!



December 24th at 9:00 PM, family and friends are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship service. This night we will focus on the Best Gift given with familiar readings and carols of the story of the Christ Child. Special music will be provided by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. The service will conclude with communion and the lighting of candles - celebrating the "light which comes into the darkness" through the birth of Jesus. We hope your family will be a part of this special worship service.



There will be no Adult Sunday School on December 21st, 28th and January 4th.

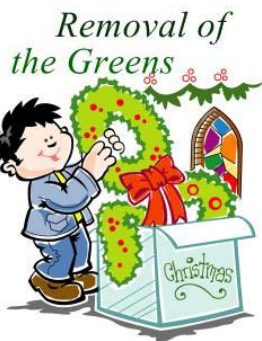
There will be no Youth Sunday School on December 28th or January 4th.

All classes will resume on January 11th.



The Church Office will be closed on December 24, 25, 26 & 31, and January 1.





The Removal of the Greens will take place on Sunday, January 4th after the worship service. All who are willing and able are asked to provide help taking down the decorations and putting them away. The more hands, the lighter the work!! Thanks so much in advance!



The *Believers* Youth Group will be attending Spring Hill Camp February 13-15. The theme for our weekend is "Alive". We will have a great time of worship, fellowship and growing our spirituality, along with meeting new friends. **Please note that a \$20 deposit is due by December 20, 2014** to secure a spot for each youth that plans to attend. If you have any questions please contact Scott or Sandy Tucker.



Good News of

Great Joy



The Christmas Joy offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously.

Thank You!

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2014 Session

Budget & Finance

Bill Churchill, Jr., Chair
Dave Blanton

Community Outreach

Sylvia Keeler, Chair
Maxine Allen

Member Care

Louise Elleman, Chair
Kathie Rhoads

Property Team

Brett Albert, Chair
Don Rowley

Spiritual Growth

Karen Howe, Chair
Scott Smith



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the work of Church World Service - which we appreciate more than ever in these challenging times.

Your compassionate support is helping impoverished communities

- develop clean, reliable water sources
- teach poor farmers sustainable ways to create food security
- provide food, water, shelter and other necessities to families struggling to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, and after natural disasters and civil conflict.

I have seen both the resilience and the resolve of the women, men and children we assist. And I have been deeply moved by the generosity of people like you, who give hope and opportunity to people in need, here in the U.S. and around the world.

Mary God bless you for your kindness.

Rev. John L. McCullough

President and CEO
Church World Service

Dear Members of Flushing Presbyterian Church,

The Board of Directors and staff of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity wish to thank you for your donation.

In the past twenty-four years, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity has made homeownership a reality for over 100 area families. In order to achieve this goal, we need not only a large number of volunteers, but the generosity, commitment and support of the community to provide decent, safe and affordable housing to Genesee County families in need.

Please keep in mind our ReStore for recycling your usable goods. The Habitat ReStore accepts donations of new and used building materials and household items, and is open to the public to purchase merchandise. So remember: *Don't dump it - donate it and deduct it!* If you have items too big to fit in your vehicle, give us a call and we will schedule a time to pick up your usable items. The ReStore is located at 101 Burton Street, Flint, or call 810-766-9089.

Thank you again for your support of our mission to eliminate poverty housing in Genesee County.

Looking Forward,

Margaret Kato

Executive Director, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity



Christmas Floral Decorations

Our sanctuary is traditionally and beautifully decorated for Christmas. You can help with this by purchasing poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of persons dear to you.

Complete the form below, enclose your check for \$15.00 per plant, and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office.

Acknowledgments of contributions will be printed, as you have designated, in the worship bulletin for the Christmas Eve service. Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

IN HONOR OF _____

Relationship (if any) _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Relationship (if any) _____

I would like ____ poinsettias at a cost of \$15.00 each.

(Please indicate color preferred. The florist has been having difficulty getting pink and white poinsettias the last couple years. If they are not available, red will be substituted.)


_____ Red _____ Pink _____ White

YOUR NAME

PHONE NO.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th

This Month's Schedule



December 7

Coffee Hour Hosts: Randy & Julie Socha, Bob & Gail Barnhart

Communion Preparers: Carol & John Dulin

Communion Servers: Bob Chase, Helen Dickenson, Carol & John Dulin

Flowers: John & Luella Daig

Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert

Ushers: Mike & Sylvia Keeler, Kathy Lescelius, Kathy Miller

Lay Leader: Bella B

Acolytes: Lilly & Max S

Acolyte Leader: Michael R

December 14

Coffee Hour Hosts: Fred & Millie Prause, Larry & Carol Brownell

Flowers: Gary & Shirley Albert

Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker

Ushers: Carole Noye, Ginnie Panek, Dan & Flora Radspieler

Lay Leader: Louise Elleman

Acolytes: Kaitlyn & Megan R

Acolyte Leader: Logan H

December 21

Coffee Hour Hosts:

Flowers: Mary Graham

Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha

Ushers: Roy Rhoads, Michael Rowley, Dennis Sanborn, Bill Weiss

Lay Leader: Mike Keeler

Acolytes: Elle B, Marie S

Acolyte Leader: Elyse S

December 24

Communion Preparers:

Communion Servers:

Sound Board Operator:

Ushers:

Acolytes: Elle B, Marie S

Acolyte Leader: Bella B

December 28

Coffee Hour Hosts:

Flowers:

Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker

Ushers: Darla Arn, Dona Ballard, Laura Widman, Mary Ellen Zellers

Lay Leader: Rosie Nicholas

Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S

Acolyte Leader: Logan H



December

- 2 Ray Hagan, Janet (Daig) Tweddle
- 10 Carol Sawatzki
- 12 Tim Stein
- 17 Katy & Robert Churchill
- 18 Ella Carlson
- 23 Robert Churchill
- 26 Mary Graham, Margaret Meehle
- 27 Sherry Bradish
- 29 Larry Brownell, Emilie Wiley
- 30 Rayna Roddie



December 7 - Cookie Decorating

December 14 - Christmas Caroling and Christmas Party

December 21 - Movie Night at Scott & Sandy's

December 28 - No Youth Group



Financial Highlights

Average 2014 Collections	\$3,252
Average October Collections	\$2,801
Average 2013 Collections	\$3,396
Average needed for Budget	\$3,776

Lectioary Readings

December 7: Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 14: Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55;
1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-18

December 21: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55
or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 28: Isa. 61:10 - 62:3; Ps. 148;
Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



The email address for the church office is
flushingpc@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to send an email directly to Pastor
Teresa Peterson, her email address is:
pastorT90@gmail.com



From The Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) ...

During the month of October, The Flushing Christian Outreach Center served 181 households which equals 488 individuals. We had 15 new clients walk through our doors during October. The personal needs item we are requesting for December is razors. We will be closed over the holidays, but you may still make year-end contributions by mailing them to FCOC or online at flushingchristianoutreach.org.

Thanks and God bless,

Terri Szukhent

Chairperson of Faith Network, FCOC



On behalf of the Old Newsboys of Flint, Inc., we would like to thank you for your generous donation.

Serving Genesee County's needy children since 1924, the Old Newsboys' programs are funded entirely through the annual paper sale, fundraisers, and the generous support of people like you.

Your continuing commitment assures that we "*Let No Child Be Forgotten.*"

Sincerely,

Chris Hamilton

Executive Director

ONGOING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Book & Breakfast Club meets at 9:30 AM on the first Friday of the month at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. All are welcome!

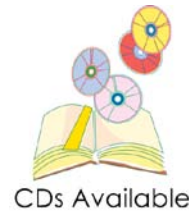


Bread 4 Life is a feeding program that provides weekend food for students that have been identified by the Flushing Schools as needing such assistance. Our church provides a portion of the funds for this project. The program is in need of volunteers to help pack the bags at 5 PM on Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Coutant Street. If you are willing to help, please contact Margaret Meehle at 659-9670.

Card Ministry



Card Ministry...Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You and blank note cards are collected for our on-going card ministry. Please deliver cards to the church office.



CD copies of our worship services are available to those who are unable to attend worship on Sunday. Please contact the church office. You can also listen to the sermon on our website, flushingpres.org.



FCOC (Flushing Christian Outreach Center)
One of the ways we support the Outreach Center is by collecting food and personal care items. The collection basket is located by the kitchen door.



LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) is a group that meets for fellowship among all ladies of the church. Trips are planned for all ages to enjoy.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship/Bible Study...This group meets for breakfast and study at 8:30 AM on Thursdays at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. (September through May) All men are welcome.



Music Opportunities...The Chancel Choir (Vocal choir) has rehearsals at 7:00 PM on Thursdays and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays (September through May). Please contact Marilyn Schmoak for information on these choirs.



The Noisy Offering

The **Noisy Offering** is collected by the children of the congregation on the second Sunday of each month. This offering is part of "Two Coins a Meal" that funds hunger programs.



The **Priscilla Circle** meets at the church at 9:30 AM on the fourth Thursday of each month for fellowship and study. All women are invited to attend.



Perpetual Book Sale...Gently used books can be donated for this sale. Proceeds will be given to local missions. Refer questions to Carol Dulin or the church office.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The **Prayer Shawl Group** meets in the church library at 9:30 AM on the second Thursday of each month. Contact Bev Blair with any questions, or if you would like instructions.



Ronald McDonald House

Aluminum tabs from beverage containers are collected and donated to the *Ronald McDonald House* in Ann Arbor to help support families who stay there while their children are hospitalized at the Children's Hospital.



Opportunities To Serve

Session Teams...All members are invited to serve as “at-large” members on our Session Teams: Spiritual Growth, Community Outreach, Member Care, Property and Budget & Finance. The church office can put you in contact with the team chairperson.



Soup Kitchen...Volunteers work at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Contact Mary Ellen Zellers with any questions.



VG's "Cash for Class" A program that will allow participants to raise money for our church. This program will be tied to their "Yes" card and requires that you link your card to Flushing Presbyterian Church. If you shop at VG's and would like more information, please contact Carole Tucker or the church office.




Youth Group (The “Believers”) is for teens in grades 7 through 12. They meet at 6:00 PM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, study and mission projects. Contact Sandy or Scott Tucker.

Please address questions to the contact person listed or call the church office at 659-5831



DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 PM - Blood Drive 5:00 PM - Girl Scouts	2 6:00 PM - Advent Study 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	3 11:00 AM - Advent Study 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir	4 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 4:30 PM - Advent Celebration Practice	5 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant	6
7 Communion Poinsettia Orders Due 4:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Youth Group	8 1:30 PM - Member Care 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Community Outreach 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	9 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 4:30 PM - Advent Celebration Practice 6:00 PM - Advent Study 6:30 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	10 10:00 AM - Memorial 11:00 AM - Advent Study 6:30 PM - Property 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir	11 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 9:30 AM - Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM - Flint Concert Band Christmas Concert	12	13 10:00 AM - Advent Celebration Practice
14 Noisy Offering Angel Tree Gifts Due 10:30 AM - Advent Celebration Play 6:00 PM - Youth Group	15 Newsletter Deadline 5:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Boy Scout Court of Honor	16 6:00 PM - Advent Study 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	17 11:00 AM - Advent Study 6:45 PM - Session	18 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 1:00 PM - Priscilla Circle 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	19	20 10:00 AM - Peace Corp Volunteer Presentation
21 6:00 PM - Youth Group	22	23 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	24 9:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service	25 	26	27
			-----Church Office Closed-----			
28	29	30	31	1	Sunday Schedule 9:30 AM - Christian Education (All Ages) 10:30 AM - Worship Service 11:30 AM - Fellowship Hour	
			----Church Office Closed----			