



COURIER

bpattersonpresbychurch@yahoo.com

www.firstpresbyterianwaverly.com

740-947-2905

December 2014

Parson's Perspective

What would the message of Christmas be without music? The musical message of Jesus birth inspires many throughout the world. Music became one of the greatest tributes to Christmas, and Christmas music includes some of the noblest compositions of the great musicians. Music was an early feature of the Christmas season and its celebrations. The earliest chants, litanies, and hymns were Latin works intended for use during the church liturgy, rather than popular songs.

In 129 CE, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas Hymn, "Canon of Christmas Day," was written in 760 CE, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church (reprinted later in the *Courier*). Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write "Christmas carols." However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the regular folk couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. St. Francis of Assisi, was one of the church's gentlest but most crucial reformers. In the 13th century, Francis tried to break the Christmas celebration from its tedious husk, mostly by making the birth of Christ into a live theatrical event. He organized nativity pageants featuring real hay, real animals, and, for the first time, real music: Deviating from tradition, he allowed for narrative songs in audiences' native languages, turning Christmas music into an opportunity for mainstream creativity. Martin Luther was a strong backer of the new, folkier Christmas music, which dovetailed with his new and folksy thinking about Christianity, but certain of his disciples were not.

One of the most popular types of carols services are carols by candlelight services. At this service, the church is only lit by candlelight and it feels very Christmassy! Carols by candlelight services are held in countries all over the world. Here at our Christmas Eve service, when we sing "Silent Night" by candlelight we can almost picture the atmosphere that the shepherds experienced the first Christmas.

Pastor Bob

Advent and Christmas Greetings from Pastor Rick, Pastor Bob, Barbara Patterson, Karen Henderson, Pat Penrose, the Session Ruling Elders and the Deacons.

Special Points

Of Interest

- Pastor's Perspective page 1
- This Month, December Birthdays, Anniversaries and Counters—Page 2
- Stewardship Update. Adult Class, Christmas Finger Food Luncheon—Page 3
- Verbalizing Our Faith—Page 4
- Waverly First Presbyterian Church Media Connection, December Scriptures Texts—Page 5
- Canon of Christmas Day, PW Advent Dinner, PIE Classes for 2015—Page 6
- Members in Ministry, Worship Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Flowers & Coffee Hour Hosts—Page 7
- Amen Corner—Page 8
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This Month in the Church

Wednesday, December 3 - 6:00 p.m.
Church-Wide Potluck Dinner and Program sponsored by the Presbyterian Women-Table service and beverage will be provided.

Sunday, December 7 - 9:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
Adult Class "The Messiah: An Adult Advent Study" Leader: Gareth Baker

Thursday, December 11 - 10:00 a.m.
Assembling Cookie Boxes for the Shut-Ins
3:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m. Adult Class - "The Messiah: An Adult Advent Study" - Leader: Gareth Baker

3:00 p.m. Tuba Christmas

Monday, December 15— 7:00 p.m.
Session Meeting

Thursday, December 18 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

**Saturday, December 20 - 10:00 a.m.-
12:00 noon** - Special Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday Of Advent
9:30 a.m. Adult Class "The Messiah-An Adult Advent Study" - Leader: Gareth Baker
Christmas Joy Offering (Special Envelopes are in your Offering Boxes or on the desk in the sanctuary by the door
The Annual Christmas Finger Food Luncheon following the worship service (See special article in this newsletter) Small Sandwiches and beverages will be provided Please bring other finger foods to go with the Sandwiches.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. Special Brass Music
7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Church Closed

Friday, December 26 - Church Closed

Sunday, December 28 - No Adult Class
10:45 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, December 31—New Year's Eve

December Birthdays:

- December 1 - Ruth Karner
Chiara Twells
- 9 - Joyce Alderson
- 11 - Kathy Will
- 12 - Ed Dodge
- 14 - Wanda Stratton
- 18 - Max Russell
- 25 - Rosann Severding



December Wedding Anniversaries:

- December 18 - Patty and Earl Todt
- 25 - Jean and Mack Earnhardt
- 27 - Patty and Ralph Strickland
Paula and Richard Hays
- 28 - Angie and Andrew Hays

December Counters:

- December 7 - Bob Neely and Mike Milam
- 14 - Kay Weir and Jim Clark
- 21 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward
- 28 - David Bell and Anne Young

Stewardship Update

On September 28th, we received the Peacemaking Offering. Donations continued over the next several weeks, and the final amount of the offering was \$1115. Of this amount, half is used in world wide peace initiatives and half remains locally in our church, presbytery, and synod.

Our stewardship campaign over the past month has yielded 42 pledges for a total of \$147,488. It is not too late to make a pledge or a personal commitment for giving in 2015. The budget committee has already begun to meet to determine next year's budget. Your giving will determine the activities and programs we can undertake.

Among the many Advent and holiday activities in the church, the Christmas Joy offering will be received on December 21st. This offering provides support for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges and also financial support for current and retired church workers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Thank you for your support, the Stewardship Committee

During the four Sundays of Advent which began on Nov. 30 the Adult Bible Class will be studying: "The Messiah: An Adult Advent Study". We will be dealing with the four phrases that describe Jesus from Isaiah 9:2-7 which are Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. A participant's handout will be distributed a week before each lesson. The class will be seated at tables in order to be able to write when needed. Everyone should bring a Bible and a pen or pencil. It will be a discussion type of lesson. Gary Baker will lead the class. Walter Brueggemann is one of the writers of this curriculum which comes through "The Thoughtful Christian" group and is the Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles. Gary and Evelyn Baker and Rick Hays and others have heard him in person.



The Annual
Christmas Finger Food Luncheon
December 21, 2014
A Tradition for Many Years at First Presbyterian
"Follow the Star"

Following the morning worship service that day you are invited to enjoy a finger food buffet. Small sandwiches, and beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Please bring something to share. Examples may be dishes of relishes, deviled eggs, barbecued meatballs, stuffed mushrooms, fruit, nuts, snack crackers, cheese, muffins and many kinds of items for dessert will be welcome. Plan now to stay and wish your church family Christmas blessings. Bring a friend.

VERBALIZING OUR FAITH

One of the observations gleaned from the NEW BEGINNINGS small groups was that the members of our congregation "need to become more comfortable verbally articulating what we believe."

Probably each one of us realizes the truth of that statement on a personal level!

The Evangelism Committee thinks we might be helped by first verbalizing our faith IN WRITING. Then we have a basis from which to speak.

Once a month in the *COURIER* a member will be asked (or may volunteer!) to write a statement of his/her faith. The Evangelism Committee will coordinate this.

This month Betty Sumey shares her faith.

To tell about my faith for someone else's understanding is not easy.

One of my friends once said of herself, "I'm a dirty, rotten sinner saved by grace." I looked at her in disbelief. She was a lovely woman, a Christian believer. How could she describe herself in those terms? Then, I realized that she described all of us.

If we are aware of our humanness, we know we cannot by ourselves achieve God's perfect way for our lives. What a burden to keep our goals of perfection, our missed opportunities, our selfishness always in our minds. Guilt! Always having these sins of self, we fail. How can we have courage to go on with our lives, knowing before we begin we will come up short of being acceptable, not to mention being perfect?

It has been arranged! God, because He loves us, has made the ultimate sacrifice of His sinless son, Jesus, to make us acceptable to Him. When we repent, we are forgiven and so we have the courage to begin again and again.

Since God loves us so much, can we help but respond by loving one another, forgiving one another, trying again? Yes, even failing again?

There is joy in learning about Jesus by reading and studying and worship. Any good relationship must have communication: prayer.

My name is Betty Sumey and Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

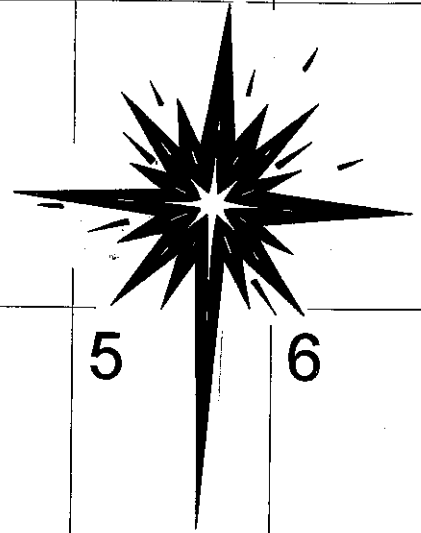
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

December 2014



1

Barbara on vacation Dec. 1-5

2

3 8 a.m. S. Tugg.

6 p.m. Advent Potluck Dinner & Program Choir following

4

5

6

7 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class

10:45 a.m. Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

8

9

10

8 a.m. Sleeve-Tuggers

7 p.m. Choir

11

10:00 a.m. PW Assemble cookies for shut-ins 3:30 p.m. Worship Mtg.

12

13

14 9:30 Adult Class

10:45 a.m. Worship

3:00 p.m. Tuba Christmas

15

Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.

Articles for Jan. Courier"

16

17

8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers

7 p.m. Choir

18

10:30 a.m. Communion at Bristol Health Care

19

20

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Special Choir Rehearsal

21 9:30 a.m. Adult Class

10:45 a.m. Worship and Finger Food Luncheon following

Christmas Joy Offering

22

23

24 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers

7 p.m. Brass Music

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service No Choir

25

Christmas Day Church Closed



26

Church Closed

27

28

No Adult Class

10:45 a.m. Worship

29

30

31

8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers

No Choir

New Year's Eve



Waverly First Presbyterian Social Media Connection

Whenever you may need to miss a worship service, there is a way to catch the sermon. Or if you do not get the *Courier* there is a way to read it. Also, there are pictures and information about our church that is available from your home. Of course, this availability of information is as close as your computer.

The address for the church webpage is www.firstpresbyterianwaverly.com. Take a look at the webpage and see what is there. The sermon is posted each Sunday and the *Courier* is uploaded when it is published each month. If there is more information that you would like to see, the church staff will added it if possible. If you would like some more information there other media sources.

Facebook has information about events at our church. You can go to *Facebook* and search for *First Presbyterian Church of Waverly Ohio* and the church page will come up. If select *like*, then you will get regular updates on your *Facebook* page.

Another opportunity for information is Pastor Rick's blog. Each Sunday, he posts the sermon on his blog. The address is <http://pastorrickhays.blogspot.com/>. There is an opportunity to make a comment about Pastor Rick's sermon on his blog, if you like.

Be sure and stay connected. Of course there are additional ways to connect, for example you can email the pastors or the church. Or if these new modern methods are uncomfortable there is always the telephone, of all things. There is even the postal service if you are not in a hurry or you would like to simply send a friendly note.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, December 2014

December 7	Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a ; Mark 1:1-8 Pastor Rick: "A Hope for Righteousness"
December 14	Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ; John 1:6-8, 19-28 Pastor Rick: "Make a List, Check It Twice"
December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent The Chancel Choir: Christmas Story in Scripture and Song Advent Luncheon
December 24	Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-20; John 1:5, 9, 10 Pastor Bob: "The Light Shines in the Darkness"
December 28	First Sunday after Christmas Isaiah 61:10-62:3 ; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 Pastor Rick: "I Won't Keep Silent"



Canon of Christmas Day

Written by Cosmos of Jerusalem in 760 A.D.
Translated by J. M. Neale

"Christ is born, tell forth His fame,
Christ from heaven! His love proclaim.
Christ on earth! Exalt His name;
Sing to the Lord, O world, with exultation,
Break forth in glad thanksgiving every nation.
For He hath triumphed gloriously."

"Man in God's own image made;
Man by Satan's wiles betrayed;
Man on whom corruption preyed;
Shut out from hope of life and of salvation.
To-day Christ maketh him a new creation
For He hath triumphed gloriously."

"For the Maker, when the foe
Wrought His creature death and woe
Bowed the heavens, came below;
And in the Virgin's womb His dwelling making,
Became true man, our very nature taking,
For He hath triumphed gloriously."

PW ADVENT DINNER AND PROGRAM

Please join us for a potluck dinner and Christmas program on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 P.M. The Presbyterian Women are sponsoring this and invite all to attend. Following will be a delightful program of special music, singing and Bible readings. Bring something delicious to eat. Beverage and table service will be provided.

Sign up now for the 2015 Partners in Education (PIE) Classes for Church Leaders on Saturday, January 10 Hilliard Presbyterian Church and Waverly First PC

- **Hilliard Presbyterian Church, 9:30 am - 3 pm**
 - Church Officer Training for Elders and Deacons
 - Advanced Officer Training
 - Faith Development beyond Sunday School
 - The Belhar Confession
 - Interpreting General Assembly Decisions

- **Waverly First Presbyterian Church, 9:30 am - 1 pm**
 - Church Officer Training for Elders and Deacons
 - Clerk Training
 - Pathmarks to Flourishing Congregations
 - Educational Resource Display for Congregations

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 19, 20142014

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Audrey Tysen

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
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Karen Henderson	Juliet Getty	David Bell
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Paula Hays	Betsy Hall	Robert Neely
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Audrey Tysen	Ann Oyer	Irene Noble
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Kay Weir	Dick Roberts	Glenn Noble
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Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Don Kerry	Kitty Neely	Evelyn Baker
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Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Kella Rosa & Anika Estela Hare — Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church — Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 45690

Barratt Banta -311

Jeanne Barron-105

Maryanna Cassady-14

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-103

Tom Frank-308

Virginia Hartwell-102

Dorothy Headley-5-A

Agnes Nash-2

Ben Lane-118

The Gardens

Betty and David Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixon, Oscar Marsh, Marlene and John Voorhes

Other Places

Kitty McCollam and Max Russell

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

December 7 - Elaine Zingg

14 - Otto Zingg

21 - Juliet Getty

28 - Rosanne Severding

DECEMBER GREETERS:

December 7 - Evelyn and Gary Baker

14 - Elinor Hodder and
Elaine Zingg

21 - Juliet and Alexander
Getty

28 - Betty and Ivan Sumey

DECEMBER USHERS:

December 7 - Bob and Kitty Neely,
David Bell

14 - Lois Hardy, Marian
Odell, Wanda Stratton

21 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry
Sergay, Ivan Sumey

28 - Ralph Strickland,
Dimitry Sergay

Ushers are needed to help on Sundays.
If you would be able to help, please call
Barbara in the Church Office 947-2905.

DECEMBER FLOWERS:

December 7 -

14 -

21 - Poinsettias

28 -

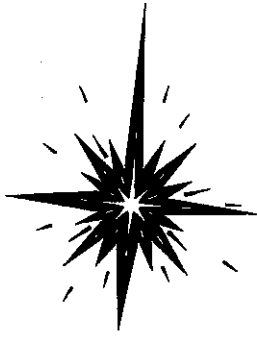
DECEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

December 7 -

14 - Patty & Ralph
Strickland

21 -

28 -



Address Service Requested

WAVERLY, OHIO 45690

211 SCHMITT DR.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amen Corner

A father and his son were looking at a Nativity scene in a London gallery. It was Titian's world-famous painting of the scene at Bethlehem. The boy asked: "Dad, why is the baby lying in such a cruddy cradle in a pile of straw?"

"Well, son," explained the father, "they were poor and they couldn't afford anything better."

Said the boy: "Then how come they could afford to have their picture painted by such an expensive artist?"

—Msgr. Arthur Tonne
Jokes Priests Can Tell

From "Holy Humor"
by Cal and Rose Samra

A mother discovered her five-year-old daughter drawing with her crayons on some paper. "What are you drawing?" she asked.

"A picture of God," the little girl said.

The mother replied: "No one knows what God looks like."

"They will when I get through," the girl said.

—via Catherine Hall
Pittsburgh, PA