



THE VISITOR

DECEMBER 2024

The newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

In this edition

Sounds of the Season

Chancel Choir prepares for a Christmas Cantata

Bell Sunday is December 22nd

The Bell Choir will lead the congregation and you are encouraged to bring a bell to worship to ring!

News Briefs

Brief news items for things happening for the month of December

Thanksgiving Fundraiser for the Food Pantry

The annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot sponsored by the Kargers

Exceeding Expectations

A reflection for the seasons of Advent and Christmas

Sounds of the Season

Lynda Karger

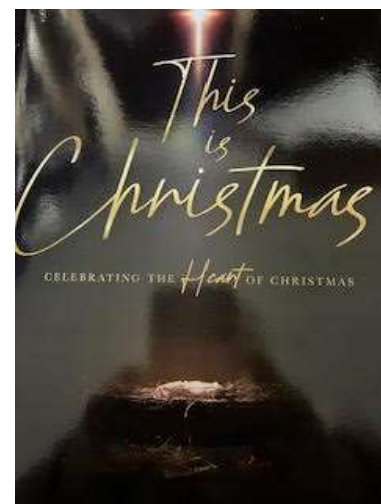
Chancel Choir Director

As we prepared for coming Advent season and Christmas, the walls of the Presbyterian Church in Kane have been alive with music. The Bell Choir, The Chancel Choir and Sharon Bond have been busy at work preparing for the upcoming Christmas season.

I remember as a child the anticipation of waiting, decorating the tree with tinsel strand by strand and getting so tired of it we would fling it in bunches....much to my mother's chagrin (we thought it looked beautiful). So it is with practicing the Cantata "This is Christmas". We work piece to piece to get it just right and then hopefully we bunch it all together to bring it to a meaningful worship experience for all.

"This is Christmas" by Mary McDonald is told through familiar music, carols, and inspirational melodies. Through narration and song, the story moves us along from Mary to the shepherds, the birth, and to the quiet manger. All the while drawing us to the Child, the King, which is the heart of Christmas.

Christmas is season of joy, and for those of us who celebrate the birth of Christ it's the season of Love! We hope that you will join us on Christmas Eve at 8:00 PM as we retell the story, hear the good news, light the candles, sing familiar hymns, for this is great news: THIS is Christmas.



Bell Sunday Is December 22nd

Betsey Davis

Bell Choir Director

Advent begins in darkness and is a season of growing light. Anticipation is also growing for the birth of the Christ Child. Bell Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Advent, December 22, is a time that some of the joyous anticipation breaks out with the ringing of bells. Bring a bell, any kind, with you to church to ring on the last hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High". As we sing the hymn, we ring our bells on the 2nd and 3rd verses. The Adult Handbell Choir will be presenting an anthem that will get you ready to ring with JOY! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

News Briefs....

Advent Devotional Materials Many like to journey through the season of Advent with a calendar or devotions specific for the season. The Spiritual Formation committee is again providing Advent materials from *A Sanctified Art*. A table is setup in the Narthex with these materials. Please stop by for a devotional or calendar.

Christmas Poinsettias If you would like to have a poinsettia as part of the decorations in the church for Christmas Eve, please pick up a form (on the table in the narthex) complete it (please write legibly) and return it to the church office no later than Friday, December 20th so that your information can be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Once again this year we are asking you to purchase your own poinsettia and bring it to the church on Saturday, December 21st by 11:00 am. The Worship committee, and any who would like to join them, will be decorating the church with the poinsettias at 11:00 am on Saturday.



Adopt An Angel The congregation will again participate in the community Adopt an Angel program. A display is located in the Narthex with gift requests and instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Humphrey.

Salvation Army Red Kettle The Presbyterian Church will be ringing bells at Save-A Lot on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, and we still have spots to fill. Invite a friend to come with you and sign up for an hour or two.



Blue Christmas Service This time of the year can be difficult for many people. A service of healing and wholeness, sponsored by the Kane Area Ministerial Association, will be held on Friday, December 20th at 7:00 pm at the East Kane Methodist Church. A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.



Saturday, December 14th St. Callistus is holding their Winterfest Bazaar from 10am to 2 pm. There will be a bake sale, and basket raffle. Homemade baked goods are for sale and/or you can stop by for lunch.

God So Loved The World

The story of Jesus Christ is this:

The people of this earth waited for a Messiah...a Savior...and only God would send a little baby king.

The child grew and began to question things as they were, and the man moved through his days and through this world, questioning the system of kings and priests and marketplace.

He was called the New Creation, the New Covenant, the Son of God who brought to all who listened, who saw, who understood, change and new life.

But kings and corporations and churches of this world work very hard to keep things as they are out into forever AMEN.

And so they killed him: he who said, Love one another, he who said, Feed my sheep, for they didn't want to share their bread and their wine.

Now the story should have ended there except that the story has always been that our God is the God of covenant.

The Good News is that in spite of our faithlessness God is faithful and Jesus Christ was resurrected, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believed might have everlasting Life.

Listen, you who have ears to hear.

Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers.

Feed his sheep...Love one another, and claim new life in his name.

Written by Ann Weems in her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem, Poetry for Advent and Christmas*

Thanksgiving Day Fundraiser for the Food Pantry

John Cleland
Contributor

Cold, snow, and slushy footing was no deterrent to the forty-seven runners and walkers who participated in Lynda and Ned Karger's traditional Thanksgiving day 5k Turkey Trot.

There is no entry fee for the event, but each participant is asked to make a cash contribution or donate a food item to benefit the Kane Food Pantry. Held every year for the past fourteen years, the Kargers' event has raised over \$4600 in cash contributions and resulted in 1400 food items for the Kane food pantry. This year's event raised over \$600 and 100 food items.

A special part of this year's event was sale of tee shirts bearing a logo designed by one of the Kargers' grandchildren. "For the runners and walkers there are no prizes, and no awards. For all of us it is just fun," Lynda said. "It is a joy for Ned and me to be able to do this."



Runners and walkers gather for a pre-race photograph.
Photo Credit: John Cleland

Exceeding Expectations

Carol Sharp
Contributor

The dominant theme in the book of Jeremiah is judgment. Jerusalem was one of the few capital cities which was not captured and destroyed by the Assyrians. Jeremiah warned the people of Judah, they still had a chance to survive, but they needed to change their ways. The people of Judah did not heed the prophet's warnings and they continued in their wicked ways. God's judgment came through the Babylonian siege and destruction of Jerusalem. In the middle of the book of Jeremiah, just as the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, are advancing on the Jerusalem and the city is doomed. Jeremiah speaks of a coming restoration. Chapters 30-33 are referred to as the "book of consolation" for they speak of restoration in the midst of death, destruction and exile.

Babylon conquered Judah and Jerusalem. David's city and Solomon's temple were destroyed. For 400 years David and his descendants ruled Judah and with the destruction of Jerusalem, the dynasty was brought to an end. In the midst of all of this, Jeremiah's words promise a return to normal daily life and the promise of another branch will spring up from the root of Jesse, David's father, restoring the Davidic monarchy. These unexpected words of hope must have seemed incredible and beyond the expectations of what was possible. It took generations for the exiles to return to Jerusalem. It took about 500 years for a new king to appear. Yet, in the birth of Jesus, God not only kept God's promise, but God exceeded human expectations. This was no ordinary king; it was God incarnate.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas celebrate the work of God which exceeds human expectations - the coming of God into our world, the giving of God's self for our salvation, the coming of God's reign when God's righteousness will be fulfilled and all that is wrong with this world will be righted. This year has been exhausting for most of us. We are tired and we are weary. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are an opportunity to think about our faith, to ponder what it means to trust God above all else, and to stretch our imagination to consider how God is at work in ways that exceed our expectations.

The 2024 Leadership Team of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

Session
John Cleland Marie Larson
Lori Fiscus Peggy Luck
Curt Hartman Kal Lyons
Lynda Karger Dale McLaughlin

Clerk of Session: Matt Gayley

Mutual Ministry
John Cleland
Jim Coppersmith
Jody Larson
Sue Zook-Wilson

Pastor: Rev. Carol Sharp

THE VISITOR is the newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane.

Coordinating Editor: Julie Cleland

Contributors: John Cleland, Julie Cleland, Betsey Davis, Lori Fiscus, Lynda Karger, Marie Larson, Dale McLaughlin, Carol Sharp, Sue Zook-Wilson