

My Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The Pastor Nominating Committee is now in high gear reading resumes and having initial contacts with potential candidates for the pastorate. Whom will God be calling? How will you personally and as a congregation know that the person to be presented by the PNC will be your next pastor? It is a matter of how the Holy Spirit is dealing with each person on the PNC, the potential candidate, and with each member of the congregation. The calling is not just for the person to be pastor, but also to every person in this family of faith. Yes, each and every man, woman, and child is given a calling from the Holy Spirit to make the ministry in First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice work. It is a team relationship of vocation.

Now there is a work I would like to have all reflect upon – Vocation. It is the calling of God for each person of faith. Each has his or her unique gifts of the Holy Spirit to use in that vocation – calling of the Holy Spirit. That vocation – job or service -- is how one serves the church or how one serves Jesus Christ as a disciple. What is it that God is calling you to do?

We are in the season of Epiphany – the time of revealing Who Jesus Christ is. Major events of Epiphany include the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the call of all of the disciples. It is a season when one's vocation can be discovered and studied. One can test the Spirit to see if what he or she is doing is of God or not. One of the symbols of Epiphany is the Light – a lit candle which reflects the presence of the Spirit in one's life and ministry. The color of Epiphany is green – like the growth of a new plant that matures into a lush green bush. The light of Epiphany shines on what God is calling each of us to do for His Church and in our life of faith. The green of Epiphany is the growth each of us has in her or her own faith and how we are developing our vocation – service for God.

As a congregation, there are some evident vocational moments – the election, ordination, and installation of new elders as well as the evident call of a new pastor. I will be reflecting on what our vocation is from God as a congregation and what each person may discern as his or her vocation of service as a disciple. It is an exciting time of discovery and reconfirmation of who we are and Who we serve. The sermon series for January will be entitled, "God Calling!" I look forward to sharing these thoughts and invite all to prayerfully think of how each respond to God's call as a disciple and in the prayerful consideration of whoever the PNC will present as a candidate for the pastorate of First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Meanwhile, I pray all have had a very Merry Christmas and that 2018 will be productive and filled with discovery of what God has in store for all the faith family at First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice.

Yours in faith, Pastor John J. Duling, Interim Pastor

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It is the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice to know Christ, to make Christ known and to exhibit Christ's love through worship, education and service



Attendance in November 11/5—53; 11/12—69; 11/19—58; 11/26—55

Pastor Duling will be on vacation December 28 to January 8. Guest preacher for December 31 and January 7 will be Rev Jerry Albright the Executive Director of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

Stewardship update: So far, we are about \$70,000 short of the projected budget for 2018, more pledges may come in before the end of the year.

Warren's Table will be served by First Church on January 2. Volunteers are needed to help serve call the church office if you can help.

The Nominating committee is still looking to fill one spot for the Session.

The kids did an excellent job on the Christmas Program. About \$200 was made from the soup luncheon, for future youth mission trips.

The Christmas Program on December 17 went well a thank you goes out to Erin Blake for all her work and to all those who participated.

The next stated meeting is January 15 at 6:30pm with committees meeting at 6:00pm.

Suzanne Byler, Clerk of Session



Shirley Mitschler, Carol Straub, Donna Knoche, Keith Knoche, Bob Hancock, Josh Johnson, Charlotte Carney, Phyllis Engelman, Mary Hancock, Diane Mayer, Marie Kerl, Dennis Prebyl, Henry Kerl, Cindy Ahlstrand, Mary Mullen, Dorothy Appleget, Willard Engelman, Dorothy Rockemann, Ruth Jensen (hospice), and William Cook III.

Also: Lori Eckert, Pat Morris, Steve Arneal, Jake Frana, Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens, Timothy Briskey (Jane Beavers' brother), Richard Crom, Carol Koslofsky (Fran Martin's sister), Skylar Nicola, Mike Willet, Elmer Cook, Linnel Rials, Earl & Vera Lyons, Shannon Fanning (Ardyth Orwen's son-in-law) Judy Knispel, Cathy Carel, Stan Martin (Gene Martin's brother), Nancy Chalupa, Jon Lucas Warren, Hope Johns (Maxine Arneal's great granddaughter) and Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake's sister).



PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday School resumes at 9:15 a.m. January 7 with a Super Sunday in Fellowship Hall.



Westminster Guild

Westminster Guild cancelled their December meeting due to serving a funeral luncheon, illness of a couple of members, and a questionable weather forecast for the evening.

The group will set a date to resume and it will be announced in the weekly e-mail and bulletin.



| Gwen Cooper | 8 |
|-----------------|----|
| Ruth Gebhard | 8 |
| Emily Thavenet | 11 |
| Ann Brown | 21 |
| Avis Brinkman | 22 |
| Aaron Whitmore | 24 |
| Karen Schlueter | 25 |
| Lance Brinkman | 27 |
| Denise Cook | 28 |
| Frank Mitschler | 30 |

The Presbyterian Women met Dec. 7th, 2017 at the PEO Home for the Christmas Tea.

Meaningful Christmas ornaments were shared with the group.

Maxine Arneal accompanied the ladies with Christmas carols.

The next meeting will be January 18th in the church parlor. All women and guests are welcome.



The PW Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, to discuss *Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick.

GREETERS & OFFERTORY COLLECTION

January 7: Jerry & Ardys Milke

January 14: Gene & Fran Martin

January 21 : Brad Thober, Jeanette Thober

January 28:



Pastor John is on vacation through January 7. If you have a pastoral emergency please call the church office.

First Church will serve Warren's Table Tuesday, January 2, at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. If you plan to help, please let the office know at 223-3933.

De-Hanging of the Greens will be Monday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed. There will be no meal provided so the work can be done quickly.

Westminster Guild meeting date will be announced via weekly e-mail and the bulletin.

The PW Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, in the parlor.

PW will meet Thursday, January 18, at 9:30 a.m.

New address: Kiel and Betsy Mick - 200 South 20th Street, Beatrice.

Micheal and Misty McGinty - 408 North 10th Street, Beatrice.

Bob Hancock fell and broke his hip. He and Mary are at Good Samaritan for now.

The family of Harry Milke would like to thank you for the prayers, words of comfort and concern, beautiful cards and other expressions of caring that mean so much to us. First Presbyterian Church is a wonderful church of wonderful people. We are blessed to be part of this ministry. *Jerry and Ardys Milke and Family*

Thank you to the musicians, readers, and bakers for participating in the *Ceremony of Lessons and Carols* on December 17th. We had a wonderful afternoon of music and fellowship and your help was greatly appreciated! *Erin Blake*

2018 Coffee Fellowship and Flower calendars are posted in the hallway. Please take a moment to volunteer for one of these ministries.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY - JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY



Congratulations!



Exciting News from members who have moved! LaRaesha and I are happy to announce the arrival of our son, Kamden Rae. Born on December 21st at 6:20 p.m. He weighed 9lbs. 2 oz. and measured 21 inches. Mom and baby are doing great. Thank you for sharing in this joyous news with us.

> Sincerely, The Kugel Family Damon, LaRaesha and Dawson