

MPC News

December 2014-January 2015

Entryway to a Sacred Christmas

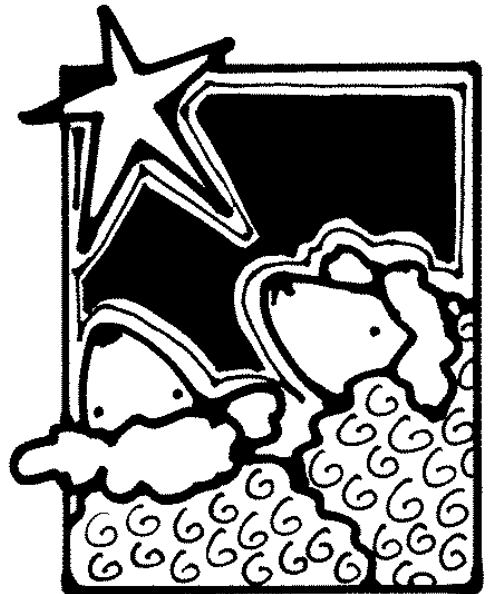
If you've ever wanted to be counter culture, Advent is your chance. Walking through the season of Advent as a special time of prayer, reflection and thoughtful action is a way of making space in our hearts for the birth of the Christ child. Taking time for Advent is counter culture because it goes against what we hear from the voices of consumerism and Empire, voices that tell us that love, joy and peace are commodities to be bought and sold. Our Christmas celebrations are more meaningful when we mindfully prepare to hear that good news of great joy again for the first time.

For many of us, life is full, and the days are short. When is there time for reflection? In line at the grocery store? Stopped at a red light? When you can't get back to sleep? I try take time for devotional reading when I first get up in the morning. Some people make time for prayer before going to sleep. Your church community can't give you extra time for spiritual practice, but we can equip you with a simple devotional guide for the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. *Entryway to a Sacred Christmas* offers weekly readings, questions and activities for you and your loved ones to consider this holiday season. This devotional also includes lists of resources for those who want to read more.

Advent is there to help us see what matters most to us. May you enjoy many small moments of reflection amidst your Christmas preparations. And let this be a source of hope and renewal in a busy season.

Grace be with you!

-Pastor Katie



Worship, Teaching and Community

Sunday, December 7

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Communion Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee**
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Middle School Youth Group**
- ◆ 7 p.m. **High School Youth Group**

Sunday, December 14

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship, Christmas pageant**
- ◆ 2:30 p.m. **Caroling with Youth and Deacons**

Sunday, December 21

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christmas Boxes distribution**
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Middle School Youth Group**
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. **High School Youth Group**

Sunday, December 28

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship**

Sunday, January 4

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Communion Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee**
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Middle School Youth Group**
- ◆ 7 p.m. **High School Youth Group**

Sunday, January 11

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee**
- ◆ 6 p.m. **Chili Cookoff**

Sunday, January 18

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee**
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Middle School Youth Group**
- ◆ 7 p.m. **High School Youth Group**

Sunday, January 25

- ◆ 10 a.m. **Worship**
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. **Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee**
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Combined Youth Group @ Moreland Presbyterian**

Good
news
of
great
Joy

Christian Enrichment

Sunday School Upstairs, age 3 – 5th grade

Dec. 7: Pageant Rehearsal with Kevin Lambert

Dec. 14: Christmas Caroling, meet at MPC 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 21: Christmas Boxes distribution!

Dec. 28: No classroom Sunday School

Jan. 4: Bible Story, DVD and Discussion

Jan. 11: Lesson from *Seasons of the Spirit*

Jan. 18: Lesson from *Seasons of the Spirit*

Jan. 25: Service Project (TBD)



Adults, Schmidt Hall

Dec. 7: “Entryway to a Sacred Christmas” – article review and videos

Dec. 14: Christmas Caroling, meet at MPC 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 21: Christmas Boxes distribution!

Dec. 28: No meeting

Jan. 4: Pastor, author, and activist Brian McLaren shares his thoughts on prayer. DVD and discussion.

Jan. 11: “Eating with Jesus” DVD. Sara Miles, former journalist, former atheist, now Director of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Food Pantry in San Francisco which feeds hundreds of homeless every Friday; author of *Take This Bread*.

Jan. 18: “What’s Behind Our Sacraments, Baptism and Communion, Part II” Continuing our discussion with The Rev. John Hasenjaeger.

Jan. 25: “Presbyterians and Same-Sex Marriage - What the National Church has Done and Implications for the Local Church” with Aric Clark, a Presbyterian pastor and past consultant to the General Assembly. Aric spoke here last fall on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Advent Schedule at a glance

December 1, 9 p.m. Concert at the Grotto with MPC music director Kevin Lambert and the MHCC choir



December 7, Pageant rehearsal 11:15 a.m.

December 12, 7 p.m. Organ Recital with David Wills

December 14, 9 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal; 10 a.m. Pageant in worship; 2:30 p.m. Caroling with Youth and Deacons

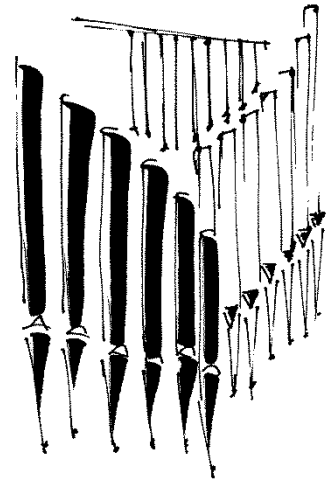
December 20, 9 a.m. Christmas Boxes work day

December 21, 9 a.m. Christmas Boxes distribution

December 24, Christmas Eve services at 3:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Organ Recital

On Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., David Wills will offer a program of organ music, to relax and center yourself as we enter a holiday season sometimes more stressful than peaceful. Please invite any music-loving friends. Free will donations go to the organ fund.



Caroling

Join Youth & Deacons for as we go caroling to MPC and community members home for the holidays. Meet at MPC 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14. Contact Doug Vitro for more information, youth@milwaukiepres.org.

Entryway to a Sacred Christmas: 2014 Advent Devotional

Pick up your copy of the 2014 Advent devotional, *Entryway to a Sacred Christmas*, in the narthex beginning Nov. 30.

The quiet, reflective Season of Advent that Christians observe each year coincides – and contrasts in many ways – with the frenzied, consumption-focused preparations for a secular Christmas. This contrast makes Christians countercultural in the face of prevailing commercial values and pressures.

In these seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will contemplate the many “isms” of Empire. We are encouraged to place ourselves in a very different position – squarely beside God and others among God’s people who yearn for justice and peace to be present in all relationships between God, people, and creation.



Christmas Pageant

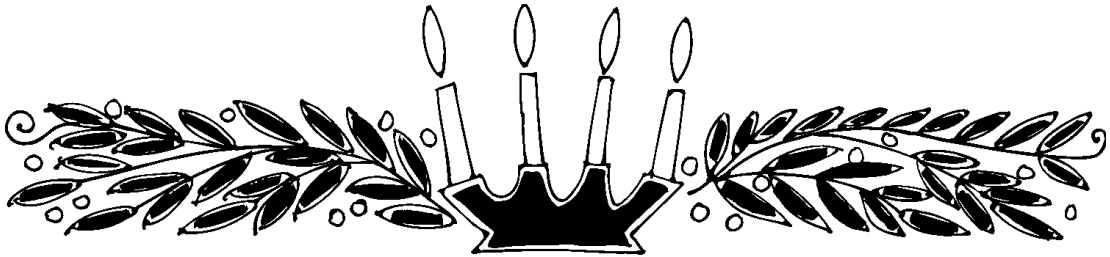
This year’s Christmas Pageant will be shared during worship on Sunday, December 14th. Join us for our retelling of the birth of Jesus, including congregational hymns led by an all-youth bell choir.

— Music Director, Kevin Lambert

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship! Dec. 24th.

Family Service at 3:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.



New Member Class

What does belonging mean to you? What would it look like for you to become a member of MPC? What is a Presbyterian? Bring your questions to the new member class on Sun., Jan. 11 at noon. Snacks and child care provided. Contact Pastor Katie Pate to sign up, pastor@milwaukiepres.org.

Not-Just Prayer Shawls Ministry

Next Gathering: 7 p.m. Jan. 27 in Schmidt Hall

(We're taking a break for December)

Do you knit or crochet or quilt? Would you like to learn? Through this group we have an opportunity to offer tangible signs of love, support, and prayers to those who may need comfort and care. Together we will create gifts of lovingly crafted shawls, lap robes and baby blankets and have time to share in fellowship with one another. Contact Marilyn Barnes (503.659.9837)

or Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland (503.558.1209) with questions or if you would like to request a prayer shawl to give.



Christmas Boxes



Plans are under way for this year's Christmas Boxes giving. Our goal is to provide for 45 families in the Milwaukie area. They will each receive boxes full of nutritious food, Christmas dinner, and gifts. You can help us reach that goal by donating food, gifts and cash.

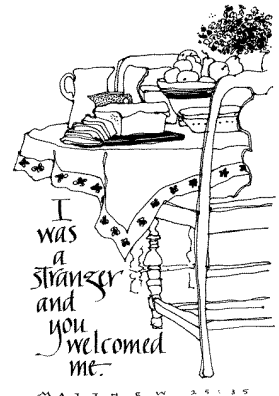
If you would like to adopt a family to purchase gifts for please choose a family tag from the tree in the Narthex and register for that family on the signup sheet. You may partner up with other church members, extended family, friends or folks from your office to adopt a family.

We still need volunteers for our Dec. 20 work day. We meet at the church at 9 a.m. and spend the morning setting up tables and sorting food. Then we break for lunch and a shopping list is developed including perishable foods and any other foods needed to round out the boxes. In the afternoon we head to the store for a major shopping trip. Back at the church we unload and finish preparations for the next day. This year we will be loading the boxes on Sunday Dec. 21 at 9 a.m., so plan to come early for church and help us fill the boxes. Then following church service at 11 a.m. the boxes will be available for check out to deliver to families. A signup sheet for folks willing to deliver will be in the Narthex. If you would like to help out or have questions, please let Kelley Gutman at 503.944.9811.

Sheltering Our Neighbors

S.O.N. network utilizes churches to temporarily house people when shelters are full. MPC is has made itself available to families in the program Jan. 19-31.

We will need volunteers ready to provide meals, hosting in the evening, overnight stays, laundry, potentially transportation and help setting up for the family. Contact Linda Marquam for more details 503.829.6464 or bljmarq@molalla.net



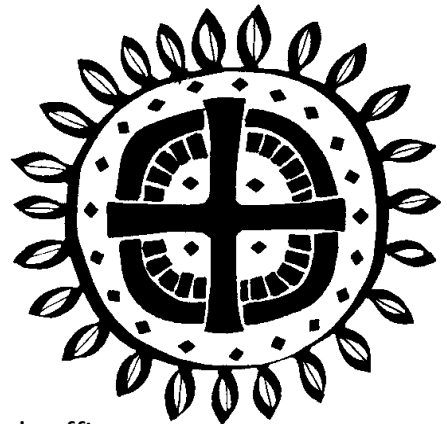
Session Update, November 2014

- ◆ Session voted to purchase a total of 200 Mity-Lite chairs to take advantage of a free shipping offer.
- ◆ Session voted to grant \$400 to the Outdoor Sanctuary Fund for upkeep in 2014-2015. The Men's Group offered to supply the additional \$100 needed.
- ◆ Session received a report from Treasurer Jill Winegar that plate offering is significantly down since June.
- ◆ Session committees are seeking team members to help lead ministries.
- ◆ Session received a report from Outreach that the Backpack Buddies campaign was extremely successful, providing 600 breakfasts for local kids in need.
- ◆ Session completed a first reading of new ACT procedures for providing emergency aid to people who come to the church for help.

Session Thanks

At the close of each meeting, elders make a list of people and groups they are grateful for and to:

- ◆ Ruth Battin for making such a tremendous difference in our church
- ◆ Nathan and Claire Hobson, for painting the pastor's office
- ◆ Pat Carter, Marlene Caldwell, Marilyn Barnes and all of the volunteers who made the Craft Fair such a success
- ◆ All of the volunteers who participated in the Charles Loftus-Cole Work Day at the Oregon Food Bank



Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. This offering also provides assistance for retired spouses of those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church. This special offering will be gathered on Dec. 21.

Youth News

Caroling On December 14th we will be doing some caroling around town. Dress warmly. Everyone's invited to join the Youth to see the lights on Peacock Lane or going for dessert afterwards.

High School Ski/Tubing Trip Feb. 6 – 8 all high school youth are invited to go on a retreat on Mt. Hood to do some skiing, snowboarding, tubing, and to connect with other youth in the area. Cost TBD.

Combined Youth Group with Moreland Presbyterian On Jan. 25 we will be doing a joint youth night with Moreland's youth groups. The event will be at Moreland. If you have questions or need directions contact Doug, youth@milwaukiepres.org.

Chili Cook Off Jan. 11 the youth will be kicking off the new year with a chili cook off. Details will be announced in church. If you are interested in participating, contact Doug Vitro, youth@milwaukiepres.org. All proceeds will go to fund youth mission opportunities.

— Youth Ministry Director, Doug Vitro



Chili Cook-off Sunday, Jan. 11th

Save the date and prepare your spices! Come for a time of good food, and warm fellowship. Please bring your own place settings, including bowls, drinkware and silverware. All proceeds will go to fund youth mission opportunities. If you are interested in participating contact Doug Vitro, youth@milwaukiepres.org.

2014 Busy Hands Craft Fair a Success!

This year saw 26 tables of high-quality, handmade crafts (many of them by MPC crafters), another tasty luncheon of homemade soups and pies, and crepes made by MPC youth, with the help of Doug and Pastor Katie. Seventeen raffle baskets in all their glittering array filled one entire side of the Narthex, attracting the admiring attention of our visitors, and half-hourly door-prize drawings added to the suspense and general liveliness throughout the day.

All-around thanks to Marlene Caldwell and Marilyn Barnes who arranged for and then organized the vendors; to Nancy Killian, Joyce Gamble and Cynthia DeVore for creating the popular, cozy bistro-like cafe and making truly gourmet soups; and to Rusty Garrison for setting up the large sign in front of the church, coordinating the Scout Troop and Venture Crew raffle baskets, serving as Master of Ceremonies, and for generally smoothing the way for us. A special thanks to our Greeters, Jone MacCulloch, Carolee Neighorn, Donna Duncan, Jane Loftus, Nancy Kinnaman, Andi Coover and Pat Jones, who welcomed our visitors throughout the day.

The number and variety of beautiful raffle baskets this year was astonishing! Tom Mott and the Men's Breakfast Group, Julie Bauder and Friends, Scout Troop #376 and Venture Crew #376, Cherie Kennedy and the R.E.A.D.

Book Group (2 baskets!), the Women's Book Group, Claire Hobson and Finance Committee, and many others, including Bob and Judy Hood (who assembled three baskets!) We want to thank Patti Kline particularly for donating one of her exquisite, hand-pieced quilts.

Vendors were pleased with sales, and MPC's proceeds, at just under \$1,000 (up \$300. from last year) will be added to this year's Christmas Box fund.

A final thank you to all of you, who assembled baskets, baked pies and came out to enjoy our Busy Hands Craft Fair!



—Pat Carter, Craft Fair

Giving Update, 2014-2015

As of 10/31/2014	Actual to date	Budget to date	Annual Budget
General Fund Income:	\$75,898.07	\$71,344.00	\$217,040.00
Carryover 2013-14:	\$8,395.00	\$8,395.00	\$8,395.00
Expenses:	\$74,134.04	\$80,552.00	\$241,640.00
Difference:	\$10,159.03	\$813.00	\$(16,205.00)
Surplus/(Deficit)			
Transfers from Savings:			
From Contingency Fund:	\$0	\$5,400.00	\$16,205.00
Outreach and Community Ministries:			
From General Fund:	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000.00
Restricted Funds:			\$1,000.00
Endowment Earnings Grant:	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
Special Offerings:	\$740.00		\$3,000.00
Total Budget:	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$20,000.00

There's still time to donate to MPC for this tax year! Contributions postmarked or received before Jan. 1 will count towards the 2014 tax year. If you need to catch up on your pledge or would like to make an additional donation to the Church, the end of the year is a perfect time to do it! Help us end the year in the black!

Elders	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Vision</u>
	Claire Hobson	Linda Marquam	Mark Neher
	<u>Property</u>	<u>Grounds</u>	<u>Youth</u>
	Dave DeVore	Rusty Garrison	Christopher Jenkins
Deacons	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>	<u>Worship</u>
	Madeline Davis	Marci Hartson	Kelley Gutman
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	Andi Coover	Kim Adams	Wayne Sabin
Lynette Hall	Carolee Neighorn	Sarah Carver	
Pat Jones	Richard Nelson	Tom Muti	
Bill Marquam	Mary Surface	Phyllis Zimmerman	

Email or drop a note in the church office to be added to the MPC mailing list,
or to receive our weekly enews.

The deadline for the February newsletter is January 15.

Send submissions to office@milwaukiepres.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December</h1> <h2>2014</h2>	1	2	3 Noon Finance Committee	4 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. Program Staff meeting	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee, Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. MS Youth Group 7:00 p.m. HS Youth Group	8	9 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's 7 p.m. Session and Deacons	10 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	11 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting	12	13
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship, Christmas Pageant 2:30 p.m. Caroling with Youth and Deacons	15	16 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's	17 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	18 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. All-Staff meeting	19	20 9 a.m. Christmas Boxes Work Party
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship, Christmas Joy offering 11:15 a.m. Christmas Boxes distribution 5:30 p.m. MS Youth Group 7:00 p.m. HS Youth Group	22	23 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's	24 Christmas Eve 3:30 p.m. Worship 11 p.m. Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 First Sunday after Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship	29 Office Closed	30 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's Office Closed	31 Office Closed	Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. You can also find our church calendar online at www.milwaukiepres.org/calendar		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<h1>January</h1> <h2>2015</h2>			Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. You can also find our church calendar online at www.milwaukiepres.org/calendar		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3
			4 Second Sunday after Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee Noon Personnel Committee 5:30 p.m. MS Youth Group 7:00 p.m. HS Youth Group	5	6 Epiphany 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's	7 Noon Finance Committee 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	8 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. Program Staff meeting
11 Baptism of the Lord 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee Noon New Member Class 6 p.m. Chili Cookoff	12	13 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's 7 p.m. Session	14 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	15 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. All-Staff meeting Newsletter Deadline	16	17	
18 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee Noon Outreach Committee 5:30 p.m. MS Youth Group 7:00 p.m. HS Youth Group	19	20 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	21 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	22 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting	23	24	
25 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Vision Committee 5:30 p.m. Combined Youth Group @ Moreland Pres.	26	27	28 5 p.m. Worship Committee	29 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting	30	31	