



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*  
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On Saturday, November 11, I was scrolling through my facebook feed and came across an old seminary friend who had just put up her Christmas tree for the year. Admittedly, she had decorated far earlier than most people do. But I didn't think too much of it. By now it almost seems normal. As soon as Halloween is over, stores set out their Christmas specials. Towns begin to hang their lights. Christmas is a two-month season these days.

What surprised me about my friend's picture was the comment she had written beneath it. Just below the picture of a decorated Christmas tree, she had written: "Yep. We did it! Because why wait if it's something you love?"

Why wait if it's something you love? Yet here we find ourselves in precisely that – a season of **waiting** – Advent. Advent means "coming," and this is a season of waiting for Christ to come.

So why do we wait? We wait because in this hurried season, we need a place where we can quiet our minds and receive peace. We wait because God's gift of love is not an "instant gratification" sort of love. It is a life-transforming love. We wait because God's work in the world is not finished yet – and we long with all creation for a new heaven and new earth.

I hope you will join us for a season of holy waiting, as we look forward to Christ's coming.

In peace,

Melissa McNair-King

*NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, December 11th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying lesson 4 *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with God's Messengers*. Scripture background for this lesson is Genesis 28:10-22; Daniel 3:8-30; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:5-17, 2:8-14 and Hebrews 1:3-14, 13:1-2. We will also be discussing how to disperse our funds. Please think about where you would like our money to go. All are welcome to join us. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship time after the meeting.

On Wednesday, December 13th, PW will provide a craft table for the patrons of Daily Bread to make Christmas ornaments. We have all the materials needed. We do need those willing to come and help. Join us in the Fellowship Hall around 10:30 a.m. Easy directions for each project will be provided.

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From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will not meet on Monday, December 11th, due to some participants performing in the Community Chorus Christmas Concert.



Presbyterian Women –  
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**THE COMMUNITY CHORUS** Christmas program will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10th at 3 p.m.

**WE ARE NOW TAKING** orders for poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. Poinsettias will be \$12.50 each. Please fill out the order form in the church bulletin and give it to the office with your check made out to the church. The deadline to order is December 10th.



**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS** to the church office for the January newsletter no later than Monday, December 18th.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - A Worship Service for the Longest Night:** The Christmas season can be joyful and festive, but for many people it is a time of loneliness and grief. If you or someone you know is having a challenging holiday season, then this worship service is especially for you. Join us at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church for a quiet service of prayer, lament and hope. The service is led by Revs. Terrie Sternberg, Melissa Smith and Melissa McNair-King.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** The youth group will be hosting Caroling to our homebound members on Friday, December 22nd. Anyone is invited to come spread joy with us! Meet at the Manse at 4:30 p.m. - after caroling, we will return to the Manse for dinner together.

**DAILY BREAD** will have their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 22nd.

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on December 22nd, 25th and 26th during Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. This church will receive the offering on December 24th.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be at 7 p.m. and Communion will be served.





## CHECK IT OUT!



Here we are again, that special time of year. We are surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the season. Are you filled with anticipation or dread? The following books from our church library will be on display in the parlor through the month of December. Check them out!

**232.9 HIS** His Story: A Chronological Account of the Life of Jesus from Good News for Modern Man.

**263.9 LUC** Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado - Explores the story and meaning of Christmas for believers, and how it marks the beginning of a hope that endures forever.

**381.1 HAN** Simple Shopping by Sharon Hanby-Robie - From buying groceries and clothes to big-ticket items and gifts, you too can become a savvy shopper. Let this book show you how and help you simplify your shopping so that you store up on both material necessities and spiritual treasures.

**394 HAN** A Heart for the Holidays by Sharon Hanby-Robie - Stop the worry, take a deep breath, and find out how this book can help you set realistic expectations, avoid disappointment and relish these special times.

**640 HAN** Finding the Time by Sharon Hanby-Robie - Time is a precious gift. By showing you how to accept its limitations and embrace your true priorities, this book will help you to slow down, simplify and live a life of purpose.

**814 VAN** Even Unto Bethlehem: The Story of Christmas by Henry Van Dyke.

**CH FIC MAR** Pablo's Christmas by Hugo C. Martin - Young Pablo has become the "man of the house" since his father has gone to America for work. How can he make Christmas a happy time for his family?

**CH FIC MER** The Christmas Box by Eve Merriam - It was very early on Christmas morning. The whole family was awake and eager to see all the presents Santa left under the tree. But under the tree was a long, thin box. That was all. What was Santa thinking?

**FIC KAR** Shepherds Abiding: A Mitford Christmas Story by Jan Karon - Father Tim finds a derelict nativity scene that has suffered the indignities of time and neglect. Can he give the small assembly new life? In trying he begins a small journey of faith that touches everyone around him.

**FIC VAN** The Story of the Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke.

**YA 232.9 HE** He Lived Among Us - Story of Jesus told in graphic novel form along with scriptures.

If there is a book you would like to read from our church library but are unable to get it, give Phyllis Vice a call (980-3106) and she will be happy to get the book to you. To check out a book write your name and the date you are taking the book on the card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the card on the black and white spotted box (the card catalog) on the shelf nearest to the windows.



## *Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!*

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We start off with a family dinner every Wednesday night! Following dinner, the children will have choir. The adults will have Bible study with Melissa McNair-King, centered around the book of Romans.

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous, and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless.

Thank you to those who are serving in December:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cooking Team</b>	<b>Clean-Up Team</b>	<b>Program</b>
December 6	Ron, KD, Pam	Andy, Jessie, KD	Personal Greetings & Final Words (Rom. 16)
December 13	Potluck!	Congregational Life Committee	Children's Christmas Program
December 20	N/A	N/A	N/A
December 27	N/A	N/A	N/A

### **Christmas Dinner!**

Join us for a special dinner and program on Wednesday, December 13. The meat is provided, and you are encouraged to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.

After dinner, we will head to the sanctuary to enjoy a special program from the children of our church.

Wonderful Wednesdays will resume for the new year on Wednesday, January 10.

October 2017

THE CURRENT NEWS ON THE ARNDT'S MISSION IN KENYA:

Keepin' On

Gosh, it's hard to believe so many months have passed since our last newsletter. August, September, and this month have brought both joys and challenges as all do. In early August, we had a prayer gathering with our pastors and church leaders at Kili Springs Camp, in Kimana. We took communion together and spent time praying for Kenya and its leaders as the election took place on August 8th. The election was later annulled by the Supreme Court, so elections are set to go again this Thursday, October 26th. Please pray for Kenya and its leaders as many in the country wait for the results. Many are just hoping the country moves on as there has been much back and forth about whether candidates are actually running or not. Exams for students are at a halt, as well as resolving other issues in the country. A friend of ours, Naomi who is a nurse, has been out of work because there has been a country-wide strike in all public hospitals since June and she is not allowed to go to work.

Soon after, while the elections were happening we enjoyed some time with the Strangs in our home as we awaited the results. Fred Foy taught the class Walk Thru the Bible New Testament and our leaders were so excited to have him back again for another teaching session. They enjoyed the interactive style and have commented about the extensiveness of his teaching in such a short time. There was so much material that was covered!

We've also had some wonderful visits since this last newsletter...our parents came to visit for 10 days! We had a great time being together, showing them the beauty of Kenya, incredible wildlife, and our home and community here in Loitokitok. With their visit, we've officially had ALL of our immediate family here to see us and that is a blessing that is humbling. We are so grateful to God!

We also had John and Anne Wheeler-Waddell, TAP's Member Care staff, come to visit for two days in Loitokitok in early October. It was a gift to show them our lives here and spend time sharing together. Throughout late September and early October, we have journeyed with two close Kenyan families through the deaths of immediate family members. We pray that we are lights of God's continual presence, comfort, and peace through unspeakable pain and loss. Pray for the families of our friends, Peter, and also for the family of Naomi, our neighbor (and her family, Moses, Naomi, Nancy, and Eric).

We are still in a period of discernment about what is next for us. We passed our three year mark of living in Kenya on October 5th of this year. Our work permits expire in May 2018, and after prayer

and discernment and observation of how things are moving along, we feel like our work will be sustainably handed over to local leaders here in Loitokitok by the spring. Please pray with us as we seek to do this. We are asking God for direction and clarity of call for the future, praying and pondering if living and working in Kenya in a different capacity is where he is calling us, or if coming back stateside is where we are being asked to live and work. We covet your prayers as much as is unknown, but we also rest in a faithful God. I think of the words by Oswald Chambers that says, "Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading." Pray that that will be true for us both, that we will continually love and desire to know our good Father who leads us. We can trust him.

We pray this both for you and for us in the days ahead! "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

Each of you are vital to this mission and vision. Thank you for partnering with us!

Surrounded by His grace,  
Audrey & Chase  
[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



**DATE:**

**LAY READERS:**

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**12/3/17**

Ernie Wallace

Bernice Brown

**12/10/17**

Phyllis Vice

Dot Cash

**12/17/17**

Ernie Wallace

Debi Fox

**12/24/17**

Joe Zagraban

Ashley Hale

**12/31/17**

Tom Haller

Lynn King