

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

December 2016

January 2017

Volume 55 No. 5

From the Pastor's Pen

Blessed Advent to each of you. In Simply Wait, Pamela Hawkins writes:

O night of nights, you spread across heaven and touch the earth, surrounding God's people, capturing us in a moment of holy time...Come, draw us in, hold us together while we wait for the birth of the Light of lights, the One who will guide us into the world anew. Amen.

Throughout this Advent and Christmas season I pray you encounter moments of "holy time." These moments stir our imaginations to see the world as enveloped in God's drama of redemption. In celebrating the birth of Christ we affirm that our world, as broken as it is, is not forsaken. We also affirm that our own lives, as imperfect as they are, are not abandoned either. In Emmanuel - God with us - we are claimed by a promise of a holy love that arrived one night in a far off town of Bethlehem and continues to stir, challenge, and comfort us to this day. I look forward to sharing the blessings of the season with you in worship, as we together wait for "the One who will guide us into the world anew."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Pastor Travis.

The sanctuary will be decorated, wreaths hung and joy will fill the air. ***Advent is here!***

Advent the first "season" of the church year begins on November 27th and throughout these weeks until Christmas, we will be telling the story of anticipation through music, readings, lighting the advent candles, and creating the crèche scene with the our own beautiful hand-carved wooden figurines. It is a season of preparation, looking forward to the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with Us.

Each week will have a theme, 1st week ***HOPE***; 2nd week ***PEACE***; 3rd week ***JOY***; and 4th week ***LOVE***; Advent candle lighting by the children of the church at the beginning of the service and there will be ***Time with Children***. Plus more....Come join us, refresh your soul, renew your spirit!

Come to the 'church family' celebration on **Saturday, December 24 at 7:15 p.m.** as we hear the bells ringing, special music filling the Sanctuary and the traditional candle lighting as we share the light of Christ with each other. And there will be music in the lobby as we depart.

There will be a joint Presbyterian worship on **January 1st (Sunday after Christmas) at 10:00 a.m.** at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1501 W. Cleveland Road, South Bend. Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis, who is the Visioning Leader for our Presbytery will be the preacher.

December is the month of the Christmas Joy Offering. The offering will be received on December 18th and Christmas Eve. Fifty percent will be distributed to the Board of Pensions which supports programs that provide support to retired and active church workers, and fifty percent to support Presbyterian higher education programs. Please give generously during this joyous season.



Deacon's Children's Christmas Shopping.....

It's been the history of this congregation (over 40+ years) to shop before Christmas for area school children in need of clothing. We work in conjunction with the Mishawaka School Social Workers who provide the names of families. This year on the first Saturday of December, (December 3rd) we will be shopping at JC Penney's with a family member, starting at 8 am.



In 2016 we held 2 Fund Raisers, (our 2nd Annual) with Port a Pit Chicken in the Spring and Give Back Night with Hacienda of 100 Center in the Fall; along with our stamp sales. All the proceeds that we made go towards this mission to provide gifts of clothing to children. Last year we provided for 50 children; and that is our hope again this year. Please give generously to this fund and help a child have a Merry Christmas. We are always in need of folks to help shop with the families and you can volunteer by calling the church office. We also accept donations all year long!

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School: Giving, sharing, red & green, reindeer, jingle bells, cookies, songs & singing, winter, Jesus and birthdays fill our month. We will be taking a winter break from December 23 to January 9. In January, all things winter will be discussed and why we have winter and other countries are now having summer. As always we thank all who have helped us this fall in class and with the children. We are in need of glitter, yarn and buttons if you have any extras or any craft items. Thank you. Blessings to you and your families, Jayne and Eileen

Book Club: December 18th at 2 p.m. we will meet to discuss *Christmas Angels* by Viola Shipman, the author of *The Charm Bracelet*. *Christmas Angels* is a delightful love story. Kate, a single woman in her 30s, works as a designer/decorator for a large interior landscaping company bedecking and bedazzling St. Louis for the holidays. Her work keeps her from spending the holidays with her family but angels can appear at any time. This novella is only 78 pages long. Please join us for this uplifting holiday story. Please contact Judy Green for more details. mtcgjag@aol.com

Mission delivered 14 Thanksgiving Baskets to Mishawaka families in November.

We are always greeted with smiles and kind words when dropping off the baskets.

A true giving of thanks.

We know that at this time of year so many requests of time and effort on your part is daunting, but every year our church family always helps us to help others.

The committee wants to THANK YOU all who helped. A true giving of thanks.

The gorgeous red wreaths that flank either side of the choir loft were given by Pam and John Martz and Christine and Chuck Wukovits in loving memory of Ida LaBelle and John Heritz.

On November 6th we recognized loved ones who have departed from us,
here is our All Saint's Day list for 2016.

Theresa Healey, Aunt of Chuck & Chris Wukovits Jean Anne Moore, sister of Janet Freeman
Carl Martz, father of John Martz Barbara J. Nay, mother of Dyan Phillips
Bill Walter, church member Robert McClain Turfler, brother of Anna Bowers
Charles Rolf Caylor, former member
John Galasso, husband of cousin to Rose Marie Reif
Timothy James McCurdy, chosen brother of Kathy Sherlock

2016 Memorial Contribution Gifts

Lucille Wallis, summer campership Carl Martz, pedestal for water bowl in sanctuary

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



November

BAKE SALE. WOW! What a sale, a new record, we think. PW would like to thank everyone who supported us through donation of their time and the many goodies sold.

December

Breakfast with Santa. December 10th at 9am. Adults \$5.00, Kids ages 3-10 \$3.00, 2 & under free. Tickets will be available beginning November 12th. Please join us for breakfast and special time with Santa.

Our Bible Study this year is WHO IS JESUS?
By Judy Yates Siker

Elizabeth Circle meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This month is on the **19th at Chris Wukovits home**, and in January Susan May is hosting at the church on the 16th. Ruth Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. But, the December meeting is on the **8th at Teresa Primmer's home**, and in January Lynett Heritz's home on the 19th.

January

Work nights in the basement sale room – Monday, January 9th 6:30 pm -8:30 pm and Saturday, January 14th 10 am-12 pm. We will be sorting the many items that have already been dropped off.

January 16th Annual Kitchen clean-up. Meet in Kitchen at 9:00 a.m.

Malawi Matters– Finished items should be dropped off by Jan. 28th. There are a couple more bags of cut items needing sewing in the small dining room.

Winter Gathering. ***note date change***
January 28th @ 10 am. Carry-in brunch
PWCT meeting will be at 9am

Dr. Joshua Diehl of Logan Center will be the guest speaker for the Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering on January 28th. Dr. Diehl is very knowledgeable regarding autism and all the issues surrounding this disorder that affects so many children. Please join us at 10:00 for this special event. If you know someone who would benefit from Dr. Diehl's presentation, everyone is welcome...female or male. Everyone should be informed about autism, it's causes, and strategies for those affected with it.

Presbyterian Women
2016 – 2017 CALENDAR



- Dec. 10 **Breakfast with Santa.** 9:00 am
Dec 9th set-up in Fellowship Hall
 - Jan. 9 Basement Sale room sorting 6:30p.m.
 - Jan. 14 Basement Sale room sorting 10:00 a.m.
 - Jan. 16 **Kitchen clean-up** 10:00 a.m.
 - Jan. 28 **PW Winter Gathering**
PWCT Meeting @ 9 a.m.
- PWCT MEETINGS No December meeting
Jan 28th 9am, Feb 5th Noon

Prayer Shawls If you have any prayer shawls made, please bring them in and let Judy Sulak know so they can be inventoried. We are in need of adult size shawls.

The Prayer Chain's only requirement is for you to pray for others. We are a faithful group of folk who pray daily for those in need from our congregation or friends of our congregation. Prayer needs will be sent to your email address. If you would like to help with prayers, and would like to be included in our Prayer Chain please contact Pam C., Lynett, or Darlene.

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Canticle Ringers  
In December we have two planned times to ring during service; December 4<sup>th</sup> & Christmas Eve.  
Session 2 will rehearse February 1 thru April 5 with plans to ring on March 5 and April 9.  
Session 3 is May 10 thru 31, bringing on June 4.  
Please consider joining the group.  
See Director Judy Green if you want to join, no music reading experience required. You can contact Judy at 259-2096 or [mtcgiag@aol.com](mailto:mtcgiag@aol.com)



**From Mission:** As years in the past we will once again have our Mitten & Scarf tree, hats too! in Fellowship Hall. All the items collected will go to Battell School to help keep the children warm this winter. Any color, all sizes welcomed.

On January 22nd we will begin collecting items for our "Souper Bowl" donation to the food pantry. At this time of year the food pantry donations are low and the demand is still high for the food and services they provide. We will be collecting any thing non perishable that could be used in soup. This includes, but is not limited to: rice, beans (dried or canned), canned veggies, soup base, bullion cubes, noodles, barley, lentils.

The first week in March we will begin our 3 week collection of new and gently used socks for Broadway Christian Parish. As always this time of year they are in need of all sizes of warm socks for their daily guests to help them stay warm in the winter weather.

**Community Christmas Card** A new look/new style will make our card an ever changing greeting each week. Instead of signing your name to a blank white paper page, we would like to have you share a greeting card to add to the board. Put your wishes, greetings, newsletters; whatever you would send out to family & friends in it and drop it off in box by bulletin board. Your card will be added to create a Christmas Art Card!

Looking to expand your involvement at the church? Worship and Music will be happy to add you to the usher list or Worship Leader list. You can contact Judy Green ([mtcgjag@aol.com](mailto:mtcgjag@aol.com)) or any member of the committee to apply for a job. And thanks.

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

A few weeks ago in worship I announced that Session has decided not to renew Debra Leonard's contract at the beginning of the new year. The Personnel Committee has drafted a revised job description for the office administrator position, and hopes to begin interviewing interested applicants shortly. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Alan Camren or myself. Please take a moment to thank Debra for the good work she has done during a challenging time of transition. I am grateful for her service to the church and wish her Godspeed in all her future endeavors.

Pastor Travis

**ARE the DOORS LOCKED when you leave the church?** Please always check just to be sure.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTING CLUB with Brittany Rice

Hello, Hi, Howdy! On Friday evenings once a month we meet in Fellowship hall from 6pm to 11pm to work on our various projects without the interruptions of phone, family or TV.

Bring any project you would like to work on, we will be happy to share ideas.

A cost of \$5 includes set-up & tear down. Don't forget to bring a drink (and maybe a goodie to share).

Contact me at [scrap.brittany@comcast.net](mailto:scrap.brittany@comcast.net) Hope to see you soon.

**2017 dates** — mark your calendar now...you know you've got projects to finish!

No January-(Winterfest) February 24th March 24th April 21st May 19th  
June 23rd July 28th August 25th September 22nd October 27th and November 17th.

On Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10 members of FPC were awarded Quilts of Valor. Quilts of Valor (QoV) is a nation wide organization of volunteers dedicated to providing quilts for veterans who have been touched by war and committed a period of their lives to defend the United States of America. Quilts of Valor Foundation has awarded nearly 148,000 quilts since it's founding in 2003 by Catherine Roberts whose son was deployed in Iraq.

Our honorees are:

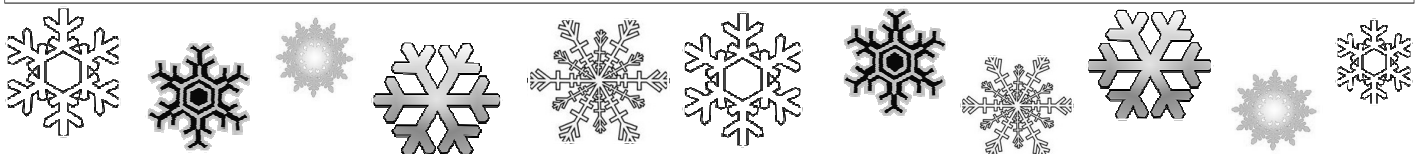
Bill Bellairs- Army, Vietnam  
 Alan Camren- Army, Germany  
 Dan Daly- Marines, Korea  
 Dick Dentino- Army, Pentagon  
 Jerry Kendall- Navy, Bay of Pigs, Cuba  
*(son Gerald, accepted on Jerry's behalf)*  
 Jeffery Krafft – Army, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan  
 Jean Radman- Air Force, medic, Texas  
 James Sneddon – British Forces, WWII, Africa, Italy, Normandy  
 Neil Seufert- Army, Vietnam  
 Chuck Wukovits – Army, Germany

Art Harker, Naval Reserves and Christopher Sulak, Afghanistan, were unable to attend.

Approximately 10,000 sew-ers all over the country are making quilt tops which are then machine quilted and completed for awarding to veterans. There are 5 certified quilt shops in Indiana in the program and one is Erica's Sewing and Craft center on N. Ironwood which is sponsoring the "InTheBend QoV" quilters which meets once a month at the shop to sew quilt tops.

This involvement with QoV began when Darlene Seufert, Lynett Heritz and Pam Camren attended a Presbyterian Women's gathering in April, 2015 where the speaker was the QoV Indiana state coordinator at the time. She explained what QoV was about and ask for volunteers to present quilts to nominated veterans in the northern part of Indiana. We volunteered and to date have awarded nearly 40 quilts to veterans from South Bend to Ft. Wayne. Each presentation is different but ALWAYS welcomed with great thanksgiving for being remembered for their service.

If you would like more information on QoV and how to nominate a veteran or active military service person, contact one of us.



On November 20th during our St. Andrew's Day remembrance a special presentation was made to our own Jim and Chris Sneddon. A square foot piece of land for each of them was purchased from the Castle Dunans in Scotland, forever more making our sweet Sneddons now Laird and Lady Sneddon. Dunans Castle is located in Argyll, and has its own bridge (built in 1815) which boasts gargoyles. The UK's tallest tree, a 160 year old Douglas Fir, is on the grounds. There is sailing and a golf course at the castle and Highland games in August.

The surprise presentation to Jim and Chris came just before Chris' reading of Psalm 23. It went something like this: 'Today we come full circle. For decades we've had our Scots lead us in celebrating our Presbyterian Scottish heritage, now within our celebration we honor our Scottish leaders.'

According to Scottish legend, in 1948, Christine had lost her mother and moved into a new home. James Sneddon was in that neighborhood one day, painting another home, when he knocked on Chris' door to ask if she could "boil water for my tea." She said yes. This was his opening line to start courting Chris, always in his painter clothes, stopping by each day for hot water and some conversation. She was 21, he was 27. But Jim came to America. Because his brother was already a painter at Dodge in Mishawaka, there was a job ready and waiting. Jimmy built the home they live in today and continued his courting by mail until Chris came over. They were invited to First Presbyterian early in the 1950s by Mishawaka High School Principal Walter Thurston. They came to a new neighbors' meeting and have always felt welcomed. Jim painted at Dodge, and Chris worked at the library, always with a kind word to patrons. It was at the library where Walt Johnson approached Chris about starting our St. Andrews Day tradition. For many years, Jimmy led the congregation with his bagpiping and Chris still blesses us with her heartfelt readings, not to mention the shortbreads!"

After Jimmy's retirement from bagpiping, Len Sailor now blesses us with his talents. Many, many thanks to Len for five years of helping us remember, for renewing our spirits, and for the music that always helps our church family rejoice in our Scottish connection.

Laird Jim and Lady Chris will receive in the mail their certificate showing them where their land is, updates on the happening at the castle and information on deeding it to a family member in the future.



Our **Stewardship Commitment Sunday** was October 30. After hearing of the plan the week before, worshipers on the 30th received a pledge card and brought it forward with the morning offering. Twenty-four pledges for \$61,416 were received. This represented an annual increase of \$6,935 in commitment for those 24. Sadly, membership losses over the course of 2016 will offset that amount almost exactly. This has been a familiar story.

The committee is aware of more faithful stewards who weren't present on October 30. With the knowledge and faith that God will provide, we would still be pleased to offer those others the faith step of making a commitment. A card suitable for printing and mailing to the church office is below.

Thanks be to God for the stewards past, present, and future who have given time, talent, and treasure!

| FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2017 Member Pledge Card |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><b>TAKE A STEP FORWARD FOR CHRIST!</b> <i>In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith and in commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to take this step forward in my giving. (check one as appropriate):</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>STEP UP TOWARD TITHING.</b> <i>I will move toward the goal of tithing.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>STEP UP TO TITHING.</b> <i>I will give a tenth of my income to God's work.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>STEP UP BEYOND TITHING.</b> <i>I wish to do more than God's minimum.</i></p> <p><b>MY COMMITMENT FOR 2017 IS \$ _____</b> per <u>week</u> <u>month</u> <u>quarter</u> <u>year</u> (circle one)<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> check if this is an increase over 2016.</p> <p><b>NAME:</b> _____ <b>DATE:</b> _____ 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>This commitment may be changed at any time due to changing circumstances</small></p> |                         |

*An invitation to all St. Joseph County Presbyterian Churches*

First Presbyterian in South Bend has the following events to share.

**ADVENT ORGAN FESTIVAL!**

Wednesdays during Advent, we will be hosting an Advent Organ Festival  
They begin at 12:15 and last approximately 30 minutes.

You are also welcomed to our Messiah Sing Along Sunday the 11th.  
Come and hear the music!

November 30 — Advent Organ Festival — 12:15 pm

December 7 — Advent Organ Festival — 12:15 pm

\*\*\*\*December 11— Messiah Sing Along — 7:00 pm

December 14 — Advent Organ Festival — 12:15 pm

**CHURCH STAFF****Pastor****Rev. Travis Winckler**

pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

**Church Secretary****Debra Leonard**

debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary****Joan Horvath**

joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

**Organist****Justin Appel**

justinmappel@gmail.com

**Custodian****John McLean**

jmmclean52@gmail.com

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor hours: by appointment.

Secretary hours: 9 am to noon Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Thursday

Financial Secretary hours: Mondays &amp; Thursdays 9 - noon

Custodian hours: Monday thru Friday 8am to 1 pm

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fpcmishawaka@gmail.com

OUR ADDRESS; First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

**Church Offices will be closed the week of December 26th .****Newsletter deadline is January 17 at noon for February issue.**Please send information to Sue Rice at [suce@aol.com](mailto:suce@aol.com) or mail/ email the church secretary.**Have a prayer concern?** Share with Pastor Travis by placing a call to the church office. **Prayer cards** are available from an usher every Sunday. [fpcmishawaka.net](http://fpcmishawaka.net), Pastor Travis updates weekly with new devotionals.**Church Officers and Committees****Session:** Angela Bellinger, Alan Camren, Judy Green, John Martz, Ron May, Darlene Seufert**Board of Deacons:** Lynett Heritz; moderator, Tom Camren, Teresa Primmer, Jason Pursehouse, Judy Sulak**Facilities and Operations**John Martz, chair (elder)  
Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,  
Chuck Wukovits**Book Club:** Judy Green**Clerk of Session:** Teresa Primmer**Christian Education:** Darlene Seufert**Finance:** Ron May, Chair**Mission and Evangelism:**

Angela Bellinger, Chair

**Newsletter:** Sue Rice**Nominating:** Darlene Seufert, Chair**Personnel:** Alan Camren, Chair**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz**Presbyterian Women:**

Carole Polk and Lynett Heritz

**PWNS Board:** John Rice, Chair**Scrap Booking:** Brittany Rice**Special Gifts:** Sue Rice, chair**Stewardship:** Ron May, Chair**Treasurer:** John Rice**Worship and Music:**

Judy Green, Chair

**FROM THE MAC**

Our community is in the midst of preparations for the upcoming holiday season. As we go to print several special events have taken place. Turn outs are good, volunteers seem happy, there is a song in the air, and good tidings all around. The reports have been good news to all.

2017 is right around the corner, and the basic needs of some of our neighbors are always a concern. Much good work happens during the Christmas Season, it's the months following the holidays that are a concern of the Mishawaka Alliance of Care.

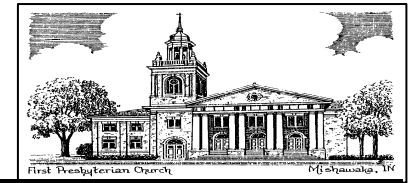
The MAC Board is grateful to those who volunteer on Pantry Days and do the ongoing work of filling the shelves, those who deliver items to fill those shelves and those folks at each of the participating MAC churches who bring donations each week. One item a week from each one of us will (and often does) fill our shopping cart. As we move into the winter months, we take this time to remind you all of the opportunity to share blessings. First Presbyterian Church, as in past years, has always been a strong supporter of ongoing Mission during the holidays, and year round. Thank you.

Dear Friends and Sponsors,

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. Our community has many who are in need, and your willingness to share your time and resources make it possible for MAC Food Pantry to provide food and some essentials to those who have so little. You are all remarkably generous and faithful, and you are greatly appreciated!!!!

Sincerely, Barbara Van Damme





Worship 10 am  
Fellowship at 11 am  
Sermon Talk Back 11:15 am

December 2016 & January 2017

| Sun                                                                                                             | Mon                                                                              | Tue                          | Wed                                        | Thu                                   | Fri           | Sat                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                  |                              |                                            | 1                                     | 2             | 3 8am<br>Deacons<br>Christmas<br>shopping             |
| 4 Advent<br>greeter: Teresa P.<br>ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B.<br>W. Leader: Judy Sulak<br>Special music-Bells<br> | 5<br>                                                                            | 6<br>C. Ringers<br>7 pm      | 7<br>Soul Feast<br>7:30 pm                 | 8<br>Ruth circle 7pm<br>Teresa's home | 9             | 10<br>Breakfast<br>with Santa<br>9am                  |
| 11 Advent<br>greeter: Teresa P.<br>ushers: Carole P. & Bill B.<br>W. Leader: Bruce McClure                      | 12                                                                               | 13<br>C. Ringers<br>7 pm     | 14<br>Soul Feast<br>7:30 pm                | 15<br>                                | 16            | 17                                                    |
| 18 Advent<br>greeter: Bill B.<br>ushers: Michael G. & Judy S<br>W. Leader: Darlene Seufert<br>IOY OFFERING      | 19<br>Elizabeth circle<br>7pm Chris W's<br>home                                  | 20<br>C. Ringers<br>7 pm     | 21<br>the last<br>session of<br>Soul Feast | 22                                    | 23            | 24<br>Bell prelude<br>7:15pm<br>Service<br>7:30pm<br> |
| 25 Christmas<br>greeter: Bill B.<br>ushers: Dick D. & Janet F.<br>W. Leader: Pam Camren<br>                     | 26<br>Office<br>All schools<br>on winter brk                                     | 27<br>closed                 | 28<br>all                                  | 29<br>week                            | 30            | 31<br>                                                |
| January 1                                                                                                       | 2                                                                                | 3                            |                                            |                                       | 6<br>Epiphany |                                                       |
| 8<br>Greeter Janet F.                                                                                           | 9 schools<br>resume                                                              | 10                           |                                            |                                       | 13            | 14                                                    |
| 15<br>Greeter Margret D.                                                                                        | 16 PW clean<br>kitchen 9am<br>Spec Gift 3pm<br>Elizabeth circle<br>at church 7pm | 17<br>Newsletter<br>deadline | 18                                         | 19 Ruth<br>circle at<br>Lynett's 7pm  | 20            | 21                                                    |
| 22<br>Greeter Bill B.                                                                                           | 23                                                                               | 24<br>                       | 25                                         | 26                                    | 27            | 28<br>PW Winter<br>Gather 10am<br>PWCT 9am            |
| 29<br>Greeter Bill B.                                                                                           | 30                                                                               | 31<br>                       |                                            |                                       |               |                                                       |