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Being the Church Right Where You Are

Brightening Others' Lives During the Holidays

A daughter taking time off work to help her sick mother or a single parent trying to take care of their children often doesn't have enough money for "extras." These are the folks who come to Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing Center (VIFCC) for help - especially during the holidays. Our church is reaching out to care.



This year PCW in conjunction with three other churches provided 157 families like these with Thanksgiving dinners. Children's Sunday School joined in by raising money for over ten boxes. Families also worked together on *Be the Church Sunday* to decorate the Thanksgiving Boxes.

Now the *Christmas Sharing Trees* are up with the goal of collecting gifts for another 150 people. Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing Center's Executive Director, Barb Campbell, explained the blessing these can be:

"A client's daughter, 5 or 6 years old, had asked for a Barbie doll. A granddaughter of one of PCW's members picked her card from the Sharing Tree and went to the store to buy a Barbie. When the youngster unwrapped her gift, you would have thought that someone had given her \$1,000,000. She was so excited that she couldn't stop jumping up and down!"

This story touched Barb especially because her own daughter has 10 or more Barbies. It's hard to realize that some have so little. So please stop by one of the two Sharing Trees either at the church's front entrance or in the Gathering Room. 150 cards with names from VIFCC will be hanging on the trees. Please take a card, follow the instructions, and bring in a gift by Dec. 10th to make a child's or adult's life a little happier as they remember Christ's birth.



An Invitation to Return to Llanfair

"Our Llanfair Living Center Nursing residents experienced a wonderful treat at our Sunday morning service October 9th when your choir came to worship with us.

We appreciated that you shared with us in your "Be the Church" Sunday, and would love to have you come again!"

Chaplain Jan Ledford

from Pastor Ed

The morning I headed out to Cambodia, I was praying about the 12 days ahead of me, and a passage came to mind for me...

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

This passage is one that I have heard many times before, but it spoke in a new way to me during this time. God has told us what is expected of us and what makes up a life that we are called to live - justice, mercy, and humility. I prayed for those three things as I headed to Cambodia, as I know from past experiences that mission times are often more about what we bring home (not souvenirs but instead life changes) than what we bring to. Every mission experience has radically changed me in some new way, and I know something similar will happen during these two weeks.



These same things - justice, mercy, and humility - are very much at the core of what my prayer is for us as PCW as we complete 2011 and move into 2012. These three concepts are all outward looking - justice for our neighbor, mercy for those around us, and humility in recognizing our need for God. Eugene Peterson's *The Message* reflects this perspective in his translation of Micah 6:8.

But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It's simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

As we close one year and begin another, we can look back and see the things that we have been working on inwardly here at PCW (and some we continue to work on), but it is my prayer for us all in 2012 that our focus will primarily shift outward in how we can continue to do what is fair and just for our neighbors, how we can be compassionate and loyal in love, and how we can continue to take God seriously in our lives as we rely upon God for all we are.



We will be closing 2011 exploring the ADVENTure that is this approaching holy season. We will be looking at familiar Advent passages in new ways in worship and in discipleship. I invite you to jump into this ADVENTure with both feet, as I know the Spirit will be speaking. We will have an experiential worship area upstairs through most of December, multi-generational, multi-sensory education with children and adults during the Sunday School time, wonderful music and community times, times of offering through the Sharing Tree, and of course, deep times of worship leading to Christmas.

The ADVENTure, however, is not about coming to a destination at the end of Advent but instead beginning a journey into the wonder that is Christ. Throughout 2012 we will be digging into Scripture in life-changing ways. This will include an exploration of the whole of Scripture called "*The Story*" as well as other journeys in understanding how God is active in our lives and in the world. This will be an exciting year as we all open ourselves to how God has spoken throughout history and continues to speak today.

As we journey together, may those three words from Micah continue to speak in and through our lives - justice, mercy, and humility. God is speaking. Let's listen.



Grace & Peace, Ed

from Pastor David

“Who are you?” said the Caterpillar.

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly, ‘I--I hardly know, Sir, just at present--at least I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.’ ‘What do you mean by that?’ said the Caterpillar, sternly. ‘Explain yourself!’ ‘I can’t explain myself, I’m afraid, Sir,’ said Alice, “because I’m not myself, you see.” (*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*)



That sounds disturbingly like some of my days. I wake up in the morning and feel as though I know what my day is going to be. In other words, I have a plan for the day and, at least while I am eating breakfast, have that appreciated enthusiasm to get done what “I” want to get done. But then... “I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.”

Okay, now I am about to say something really profound. Something I am sure none of you have ever heard before. Here it is: Change is inevitable!! Some of you are no doubt saying, “Oh my goodness, that explains everything.” Well, maybe not. We all know that nothing remains the same. We are in the Fall season of the year. The leaves have dropped off the trees, our grass has stopped growing, and the furnace is running instead of the air conditioning. Change is a constant.

The question is whether we see change as a bad thing or an adventure. Do we see change as an amazing adventure where the Holy Spirit is continually transforming you and me? Or do we see change as a time where we have to rake leaves, stuff them in trash bags we had to pay for, and drag them to the curb for garbage pickup? Do we see change as an adventure like seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time? Or do we see change as the time when we have to double up on our allergy medication because of the increase in Fall allergens?

All right, sure; I am generalizing, and not all change is a friend knocking on our door with warm chocolate chip cookies. Disease and the distress associated with it are unwanted collateral damage of change. But as Christians we are offered an adventure in change that is independent of life circumstances. This adventure is a spiritual one that affects every aspect of our daily lives. The “movie trailer” for this adventure is seen in 2 Corinthians 3:16-18:



“Whenever, though, they (you) turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they (you) are—face-to-face! They (you) suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We’re free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.” (*The Message*)

Our acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior opens a door to an adventure that will take a lifetime to complete. A lifetime of change into the Ambassadors and Servants of others that God has created us to be. In this season of Advent, please look for the adventure that is already unfolding in your life.

Your pastor and partner, Daz



Welcome Our New Members



Kelly Marty Vegh



Sue Ellis



Jacqueline Marconet

Kelly Marty Vegh was baptized here at PCW. Her parents are Barbara and Terry Marty. She graduated from Miami University in Oxford with a major in elementary education and has three young children, the youngest still a babe in arms. Kelly is very busy caring for them and also working as a realtor with Keller Williams. Still she is interested in volunteering with PCW in activities where her children can be involved. Although Kelly already knows quite a few members of our community, please introduce yourself or continue to build your existing relationship.

Sue Ellis and her husband Scott moved to Glendale in September, 2011. They have two daughters, Brittany and Chantelle, one of whom plans to be married at PCW. They enjoy watching football and playing and watching tennis. These interests are consistent with Sue's degree in physical education, earned at McMaster University in Canada, where she was born and raised. Sue has taught both elementary and junior high students. Antiquing is another sport Sue would enjoy sharing with like-minded members. She is a positive enthusiastic individual, and her interests in feeding and sheltering (building homes) the homeless will be most welcomed by the Mission Team. She is interested in learning about the many volunteer opportunities at PCW and joins our church community by Letter of Transfer. Scott intends to join the next New Members Group.

Jacqueline Marconet (Jackie) has been led to PCW by her daughter Kristen Van Fossen, son-in-law Jeff Van Fossen and grandchildren Alex, Zach and Clay. She has felt drawn to faith and to the fellowship at PCW. This very active woman and her husband helped with major work on the Victorian home Kristen and Jeff purchased on Burns and Wyoming Avenues. She and husband Bob have been married for 47 years and live in Glendale. She loves Scottish Terriers and activities with her grandchildren. Her smiling face and stylish clothing (plus she might be sitting beside her family) will help you pick her out in the crowd at either the 9 or 11 o'clock service. On Wednesday late afternoon you have a good chance of finding her helping with food prep for those delicious dinners we all so enjoy. We welcome Jackie through Reaffirmation of Faith.

(continued on p. 5)

Christmas for Lighthouse Boys

Super Second Saturday of Service Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - Noon

Help bring Christmas to the boys at Lighthouse Youth Services. Take them personalized stockings, decorate their house for Christmas, and make Christmas cards with them for their families.

If you would like to go or have Christmas decorations to donate, please contact Bill Morley or sign up in the Gathering Area.

Financial Update

Through the end of September 2011 pledge income has exceeded last year's figures by \$48,978. In September alone pledged receipts were higher than September of last year by \$21,244.

Income year-to-date at the end of September was minus \$81,261, \$26,653 better than budget and \$44,529 higher than 2010.

If pledged income reaches our budgeted pledge total by the end of the year, we will be close to breaking even for 2011.

Amy Hilsinger Elliott and Thomas Elliott, like Kelly Marty Vegh, are graduates of Miami University in Oxford. Amy followed her bachelor's degree with a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati in Art History. Amy edits "Wyoming Living" as well as working at the Konabistro in Oxford. Amy and Tom own and manage it and students there recommend it as a "go to" experience. Amy and Tom's children, Janey (age 13), Annie (age 10) and Sam (age 7) have a very busy mom who writes (freelance), reads, and loves family activities. Tom was born and raised in St. Charles, Illinois, and remains a Cubs fan. He describes Amy as fantastic and their children as great. Tom is taking some time to explore the opportunities at PCW, and Amy is already helping with the children's ministry. They are joining through Reaffirmation of Faith.



Amy Hilsinger-Elliott

Glenn Lewis is a new member but also a well-known face to many of us. Barbara Lewis, a faithful leader in our Adult Education class, is Glenn's wife. Glenn is retired from Procter & Gamble and came to us via the Quaker faith. He knows his vegetation, but his greatest interest is in his wife. She is a very special lady. Glenn is gentle and knowledgeable, and it is a pleasure to officially welcome him as a member of PCW. He comes by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Thomas Elliott

In our next *Crossroads* we will introduce you to those who attended a second New Members class held on Sat., Nov. 19th, for those who were not able to attend first time around during the daytime. They are

- Linda Rumpf
- Scott Ellis
- Fritz Naeve
- Larry Moll
- Vivian Moll
- Stephen Heilman
- Cheryl Heilman



Glenn Lewis

All of our new members were introduced on November 20th at the 11 a.m. service. Please welcome them warmly into our church family.

What Do You Know About... The Painting in the Parlor?

There are a number of items in the church that were gifts from parishioners. The history/background of some of these is vague or confusing, so we are asking you to let us know what you remember about the circumstances of these gifts.

If you know anything about this painting in our Parlor, please contact Sherry Sheffield at 821-5866 or leave a written note in her mailbox in the office.



Copy of The Shepherdess
in the Parlor



The Shepherdess, 1866
Johann Baptist Hofner

*December 7th Super
Wednesday Christmas
Dinner*

*Candied Pork Loin
and All the
Holiday Fixings
Wed., Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.*



Start the Season Off Right with a Christmas Concert

A tradition for over 15 years, our annual Advent-Christmas Concert has a few changes this year. First of all, we are moving the concert to a Wednesday evening, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. following a dinner in our Great Room at 5:30 p.m.

The second change is the addition of our Children's Choir, directed by Angela Carota. They will be bringing some special music and joining the choir and soloists for our annual finale of "Night of Silence" with the harp as we surround the audience while singing "Silent Night."

Our harpist, Kim Cooper, has been with us for nearly all of our Advent concerts and will join us again this year as we present several portions of Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with the women of the choir. Our choir men will present two Christmas Spirituals, "See That Babe in the Lowly Manger" and "Mary Had a Baby."

We will also include one of our World Choir Game selections, the tender Scottish carol "Baloo, Lammy" arranged by Norman Luboff. There will also be wonderful soloists and Janet Mangels at the organ presenting the beautiful music of the season.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the dinner and the concert this year to start your Advent and Christmas season with joy and peace.

Let me be the first to wish you all peace, love and a Merry Christmas! ~ **from Bill Seale**

Parents' Night Out!

Fri., Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Jr. Highs will entertain children at PCW on Friday, Dec. 2nd from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a holiday Parents' Night Out. Games, movies, and a light snack will highlight the evening. This fundraiser supports the Jr. High's summer mission trip, so donations are welcome! Parents can drop off their children beginning at 6:30 p.m. Parents need to sign up for this evening by Sunday, November 27th. Sign up in the Gathering Area, call Stephanie Togneri at 821-8735 x 108, or email: stephanie@pcwyoming.org for more details.



Lads & Lassies Has Reason To Celebrate!

We want you to be the first to know that Lads & Lassies Community Preschool has once again earned a 3-Star Rating from the State of Ohio's Step Up To Quality Program!

Three stars is the top honor, and only the best preschool programs in Ohio receive this prestigious award. Thank you for your continued support! ~ **from Stacey Akers and the LLPS Staff**



Sunday School News

Making Change for a Change: The Sunday School Change for a Change projects are in full swing this year. Each month the children choose a project that helps others in our community or around the world. They collect their change and bring it to Sunday School, where it begins to add up! The children are learning how their change does make a change in other lives.

The Children Embraced the Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes in October and November. They set a goal of raising enough funds to purchase six boxes (one for each classroom). Each Sunday they charted their progress towards this goal. In addition to giving their own offerings, the 7th and 8th Grade Classes held a bake sale on Nov. 6th and donated the proceeds to the boxes. As of November 8th, preschoolers through 8th Graders had raised enough for ten boxes!

Our Sunday School children are reaching out to spread God's blessings as they walk on their journey of faith!



Preschoolers Light Up Wyoming

Our church will be illuminated on Dec. 13th with a hundred luminaries. The Junior Woman's Club of Wyoming donates bags and candles to all the churches in Wyoming. Our preschool teachers fold down the tops of the bags, our children fill the bags with the sand, and our Jr. Highs place the candles and set them up and light the bags on Dec. 13th. It truly is a cooperative effort, and as the luminaries brighten the corner we hope the beauty of it brings you great joy.

Jr. High Happenings in December

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 2nd, 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Come take part in our first fundraiser for the summer mission trip! We will be babysitting kids while their parents go out. If you plan to go on the mission trip, we need your help. Parent helpers needed, too.



Luminaries & Ice Skating

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 5 to 9 p.m.

It's a Jr. High tradition to put out the PCW's luminaries for Light Up Wyoming. Then they'll go downtown to Fountain Square for ice skating and some Graeter's ice cream! Bring \$10. Drivers needed.

Senior High

Christmas Caroling

Dec. 10, 6:30 pm

Senior Highs will go caroling in the neighborhood, then come back to church for hot chocolate afterwards.

Perfect North Ski Trip, Jr. & Sr. High

Sat., Jan. 7th, 1 to 10 p.m.



Invite your friends to join us for a lot of fun at Perfect North! Meet at the church.

Men's Retreat: A Kingdom Victory!

Save the date for the 2012 PCW Men's Retreat on Feb. 24-26 at Bartel's farm. Football is the theme. We will study the game tapes and coaches' talks, and hit the practice field preparing for a Kingdom team victory!

2012 is the year to man up and bring it for this high-stakes game. There will be high-speed action, electrifying moves, driving passion, and bone-rattling transformations!

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Wyoming, Ohio 45215

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An ADVENTure is Coming to The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

Coming Nov. 27th - ADVENTure Sunday School! Depart on a four-week journey that will take you to the point where the Christmas story begins. Bible study, discussion, and activities will create lasting memories as you “**Search for the Christ!**” At tables of 8-10 in the Great Room, we will

- *watch* and look to the Scriptures for direction and wisdom
- *prepare* our hearts and lives for the ADVENTure
- *meet guides* who will lead us on a search that will transform and inspire
- *discover* the amazing possibilities this journey will bring

Coming Dec. 7 - 6:30 p.m. Christmas Concert! 5:30 p.m. Dinner

Coming Dec. 11th - An Experiential Christmas! Come and explore a hands-on prayer and worship experience that will open your hearts and minds to the ADVENTure of the season. Stop by the Parlor for a time of reflection and renewal to focus on the true meaning of the holidays as you await the celebration of our Lord's birth. This experience is self-led and appropriate for all ages!

Coming on Christmas Eve! 5:30 p.m. Service (Children's Pageant); 11 p.m. Candlelight Service

Coming on Christmas Day! Single Service at 11 a.m.