



Presbyterian Parables

December 2017

First Presbyterian
Church
Lexington, Nebraska

Volume 17,
Issue 12

MATINS SERVICE

-OUR **MATINS SERVICE** will take place on Sunday, December 17, during our regular worship hour at 10:00 a.m. Invite friends and family to attend and enjoy the choirs, children's nativity, and carols. **Following Matins there will be a light lunch. Faith Team will provide bread, members of the congregation with last names beginning with A-M please bring sandwich fillings. Those with names beginning with N-Z please bring desserts.**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There will be **one** Christmas Eve Candlelight service this year, as Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. The Candlelight Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 24th. Come and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Invite friends and family to come and enjoy the candlelight, carols and worship.



LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT

-THE **LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CHOIR** will perform it's Christmas concert this Friday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Lexington Middle School Auditorium.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

- December 3rd — Travis and Shoshana Patocka
- December 10th — Brent and Connie Smets
- December 17th — LOGOS Youth
- December 24th — Curt & Holly Rickertsen and family
- December 24th-5:00 Candle Light Service,
Cody & Brandy Popken and family



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church shall be held December 10th, 2017, immediately following our worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be the election of Elders, Deacons and Members-At-Large for the Congregation's Nominating Committee.



Inside this issue:

<i>Birthday Club</i>	4
<i>Book Report</i>	6
<i>Church Calendar</i>	8
<i>Committee Schedule</i>	2
<i>Library News</i>	6
<i>LOGOS information</i>	4
<i>Mission Opportunities</i>	5
<i>Pastor Polly's Page</i>	3
<i>Service Committee</i>	5
<i>Serving this month</i>	4
<i>Session notes</i>	7
<i>Sympathy and Prayers</i>	3
<i>Thank You Notes</i>	4
<i>Women's Groups</i>	4



First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 160

801 N. Lincoln

Lexington NE 68850

(308)324-5507

Fax: (308)324-5508

Email: fpclex@centurylink.net

Website:

www.lexpresbyterian.com

Facebook page:

First Presbyterian Church of Lexington

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship

10:00 a.m. - Worship/nursery provided

11:00 a.m. - Coffee

Church Staff

Teaching Elder: Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams

Hostess: Linda Anthony

Financial Secretary: Julie Rickertsen

Office Manager: Alice Screws

Joy Ringers Director, Chancel Choir

Director, and Music Coordinator: Holly Rickertsen

Ruling Elders

Dale Biehl	Linda Lauby
Karla Denker	Steve Luther
Ed Heusinkvelt	Mary Reed
Paula Kearney	Beth Rogers
Da'Lacy Lans	

Clerk of Session: Gene Nansel

Deacons

Dorothy Bremer	Rhea Musil
Vicki Davis	Tom Musil
Marlene DeLap	Carol Nelson
Jonelle Lans	Lisa Pebley
LaDonna McClure	Pat Sherman
Larry Moomey	Carol Stock

Serving in December

Head Ushers: Fred and Andrea Nisley (except Dec. 24)
Tom and Rhea Musil (Dec. 24, 5pm service)

Greeters: Jeannie & Kristina Burns

Offering Counters: Fred Nisley and
a Properties Volunteer

Lay Leaders:

December 3 — Sharon Steinberger
 December 10 — Judy Biehl
 December 17 — Anne Grubb
 December 24, 10am — Diane Yeutter
 December 24, 5pm — Judy Biehl
 December 31 — Linda Lauby

***** Lay Leaders:** If you switch Sundays with another Lay Leader, please let the church office know by Thursday noon of that week so that the Lay Leader can be listed correctly in the Sunday bulletin.

Nursery Volunteers:

December 3 — Jordan Lans
 December 10 — Isabella Carlson
 December 17 — Abbie Owens
 December 24 — Isabella Carlson
 December 31 — Jordan Lans

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Giving Team — December 4, 7:00 p.m.
 Faith Team — December 5, 6:15 p.m.
 Properties Team — December 18, 7:00 p.m.
 Welcoming Team — December 19, 6:15 p.m. at Teps
 Personnel Team — December 19, 5:45 p.m.
Session — **December 19 7:30 p.m.**

CONGRATULATIONS



-CONGRATULATIONS to Kristin (Steinberger) and Russ Psota who were married in our church on Saturday, October 28th. Kristin is the daughter of Larry and Sharon Steinberger, Russ is the son of Kirk and the late Janet Psota.



Dear Friends,

As I write this article, Thanksgiving is past, Black Friday sales have turned into Cyber Monday specials. In some way, I am already tired of the season because of the pressures the world puts on us to have a perfect holiday. So this Christmas Season, I am determined to focus on joy -- the joy of the season, the joy of family and friends, joy of the birth of Jesus.

Some of this was brought on by reading from a homily written by Pope Francis in December of 2013 about the joy of Jesus. Pope Francis wrote:

We always think of Jesus when He preaches, when He heals, when He travels, walks along the street, even during the Last Supper. But we aren't used to thinking about Jesus smiling, joyful. Jesus was full of joy, full of joy. In that intimacy with His Father: 'I rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and I praised the Father.' It is precisely the internal mystery of Jesus, that relationship with the Father in the Spirit. It is His internal joy, the interior joy that He gives to us.

The world tells us that the joy of Christmas is found in happy children, Jolly Old St. Nick, perfectly decorated homes, and finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list. The true joy of Christmas is found in a baby born in Bethlehem. In Isaiah 9:6 we read, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This child born for us, this son given to us is our Savior! He is the true reason for joy during this Christmas season!

On Christmas eve, we will sing *Silent Night, Holy Night* as we pass the light of Christ to one another. Before we leave to go to homes that night, we will sing the first verse of *Joy to the World*. My charge to you during this month of December is to not wait until Christmas eve to proclaim the true joy of the season.

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

Grace & peace,

Pastor Polly

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with the Mullin family on the death of Wanda Mullin on November 15.



-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Pat Sherman and the Sherman family on the death of Pat's husband, Bob Sherman, on November 15.

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Mary Reed and Sarah Taylor on the death of their mother, Marcia Morgan on November 17.



Birthday Club

BIRTHDAY CLUB

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB! In your birthday month contribute \$1.00 (or 10 cents or a quarter, etc.) for each year of your life so far. The thousands of dollars contributed each year go to the Endowment Fund. The fund generates interest which is divided between Physical Facilities and Outreach Fund. If you would like to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes in the pews, or you can write "Birthday Club" on your check. Joining the birthday club in October: Rose Marie Sherman, in November: Alisa Margritz, Greta Rickertsen, Harlow Rickertsen and Sara Rickertsen

WOMEN'S GROUPS



SOUTHSIDE BIBLE STUDY meets most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the church library. We will be studying the Holy Spirit. All are welcome to come and join us for lively conversation, snacks and fellowship.

MARTHA CIRCLE will meet in January, 2018, date and hostess to be determined.

FAITH CIRCLE will not meet again until April, 2018.

LOGOS

LOGOS continues the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays of most months: 4:00 p.m. for Kindergarten through 5th graders, and 6:00 p.m. for 6th through 12th graders, with supper for both groups at 6:00 p.m. The theme for this year is *Learn and Serve*. This year we will visit various countries during our LOGOS season. The month of December we will be visiting Germany. **There will be NO LOGOS on December 20, 27, or January 3. LOGOS will resume on January 10, 2018.**



Marlene DeLap is in charge of table decorations for the month of December.

Dessert makers are needed for 3 Wednesdays of each month. Please sign up on the board in the narthex or contact Linda Anthony if you can help provide a dessert.

THANK YOU



THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone who helped cook, set up, serve and clean up for the Stewardship Dinner on Sunday, November 19th. Your help is very much appreciated!

-DEAR CHURCH FAMILY, Amanda and I thank you, good and faithful servants, from the bottom of our hearts for the countless number of kindnesses and love you have shown us beginning with all the cards I received while in Omaha. The visits, calls and flowers by the deacons were so appreciated. We were blessed with transportation and food brought to us. All of your prayers, words of caring and encouragement will remain with us always. Penny and Amanda Knapp



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Once every six weeks we spend a week helping folks get a good hot noon meal, delivered with a friendly face and a smile! Thank you Dick and Liz Sanderman, Tom and Rhea Musil, Larry and Sharon Steinberger, and Lorin Bremer, for helping deliver meals to our shut-in residents. If you are willing or able to volunteer, please Contact Sharon Steinberger at 324-2060. Next delivery date will be January 15-19, 2018.



LOOSE OFFERINGS

Loose Offerings during the month of December go to the Christmas Joy offering.

The Noisy Buckets offerings will go along with the Sunday School Mission Project to be determined.



GROCERY CART

The grocery cart is always in the narthex ready for your non-perishable food items for the Lexington Food Pantry. The Lexington Food Pantry serves many people in need. The local Food Pantry shelves are always in need of donations at this time of the year with Christmas coming up!



UP NEXT: SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A

Co-Chairs: Tempie Roberts 324-4191
 Elsie Barrett 324-6044
 Janice Lans 324-5147
 Betty Nelson 324-4133

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Linda Barton | (contact Dorothy W.) | Sally Margritz | 324-2730 |
| Tracy Biehl | 324-2125 | Julie Kearney Mohnsen | 746-0461 |
| Linda Blackman | 308-455-3140 | Chris Mueller | 324-2250 |
| Sharon Booth | 324-6949 | Boni Muzzey | 746-5882 |
| Brenda Colvin | 324-5389 | Amy Biehl-Owens | 325-0400 |
| Kay Denker | 324-4393 | Julie Rickertsen | 324-2825 |
| Nancy Evans | 324-6056 | Dorothy Woodside | 324-4721 |
| Loretta Falkinburg | 324-5140 | * Jan Blevins | 746-3065 |
| Teri Gould | 746-4376 | * Geraldine Jorn | 324-3749 |
| Donna Holbein | 324-3387 | * Lois Karr | 746-7701 |
| Mickey Hundley | 785-2359 | | |
| Katie Kearney | 324-3867 | | |
| Paula Kearney | 325-7062 | | |



NEW IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

CHRISTMAS - There is an amazing number of Christmas books in the library from children's beautifully illustrated books to a wide variety of biblical information, fiction, inspirational and devotional adult books. This is your library that you have contributed to through the years. Take the time to browse through these wonderful books, check them out, and "soak up" the color, pleasure and knowledge that they offer. May they be an inspiration and a blessing to you. Merry Christmas!

NEW BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY—*Heaven Changes Everything* by Todd and Sonja Burpo. This is a follow up to *Heaven Is For Real* and tells us what has taken place since the first book.

CHILDREN— *Jesus, The Very Best Christmas Gift Of All* by Cathi Trzeciak

FICTION— *Reclaimed* by Jennifer Rodewald



BOOK REPORT

FACING DEATH AND THE LIFE AFTER

By Billy Graham

a book report by Jo Sherman

Billy Graham has celebrated his 99th year of living. As well as being an author, and an evangelist, he also has been the pastor to twelve consecutive presidents! He started in 1950 with Harry Truman and worked with each president to Barack Obama.

His reason for writing this book—"Unfortunately, no one knows the day or the hour of his death, which is why it is best, in the words of the scout motto, to 'be prepared'.

It is my prayer that this book may be a source of support and blessing for every reader, and that each of us will have the comfort of God's love as we face the issues discussed here. For those who do not know Christ, I pray they will meet Him in these pages."

He mentions how most people think about death. "By nature, the human mind does not want to deal with distasteful facts. We want to forget the unpleasant or painful and concentrate on the 'positive'. We persuade ourselves that sudden death happens to others, not to us. But that is not always so ... George Bernard Shaw wryly wrote, 'The statistics on death are quite impressive. One out of one people die.'"

He writes about denying death, "We cover our awkwardness around the subject by speaking of the deceased as if they did not die. 'He departed this life,' we say. 'He passed away,' or 'He's gone up yonder.' The fact that the body is now in the ground and the soul of the deceased has departed is more than we like to admit."

He tells us that we should face reality, "If we are in a battle with this enemy called Death, I believe we should learn about it, in order to know how to confront the dying experience."

He writes about the promises of Heaven. "On earth we tend to think of ourselves. But in heaven things will be different. We will experience the truth of the catechism, 'Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.' In heaven God, not man, will be at the center of everything. And His glory will be dominant."

He sums up the description of heaven by telling us, "Like Abraham, we can be 'looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God'. (Hebrews 11:10)

Rev. Graham concludes that, "We cannot begin to understand the riddle of death without the guiding knowledge of the Word of God."



Notes To The October 24, 2017 Session Meeting

Communion: October 1, 2017-----66

Membership remained at: 269

Current balances for January through October 2017:

Balance brought forward 01/01/17	\$	8,800.86
Receipts		147,208.52
Disbursements		171,093.92
Transfers to general fund		24,150.00
Transfers to money market		0.00
Balance as of 10/21/17		9,065.46
Balance of money market fund 09/30/17	\$	37,531.93

Personnel Committee: Recommend to Session that Pastor Polly be approved for leave Sunday, November 5th. Polly will be traveling to Louisville for training at PCUSA headquarters.

Faith Team: Approve moving Communion from November 5th to November 12th because of Pastor Polly's leave.

Session approved all of the recommendations.

The next Regular Session Meeting is set for November 28, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.



December 2017

Monthly Planner



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>Nov 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>Jan 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				1	2
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4																																																																																					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																				
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																				
28	29	30	31																																																																																							
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/ Communion 11:00 AM Coffee	4 7:00 PM Giving Team at Steve Luther's	5 11:30 AM Knitting 6:15 PM Faith Team at Linda Lauby's	6 4:30 PM LOGOS K-5 6:00 PM LOGOS 6-12 6:45 PM Joy Ringers Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir practice	7	8 7:00 PM Community Choir Christmas Concert - Lex Middle School 	9																																																																																				
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee 2:00 PM Community Choir Concert - Middle School 	11	12 11:30 AM Knitting	13 4:30 PM LOGOS K-5 6:00 PM LOGOS 6-12 6:45 PM Joy Ringers Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir practice	14	15	16																																																																																				
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP/ MATINS 11:00 AM Coffee 	18 7:00 PM Properties Team	19 11:30 AM Knitting 6:00 PM Personnel Team 6:15 PM Welcoming Team 7:30 PM Session	20 No Wednesday Activities	21	22	23																																																																																				
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 Merry Christmas! 	26 Church Office Closed	27 No Wednesday Activities Church Office closes at 11:30 a.m.	28 Church Office closes at 11:30 a.m.	29 Church Office closes at 11:30 a.m.	30																																																																																				
31 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee	January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office Closed																																																																																									