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# New Visions



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January 15, 2012

John Knox Presbyterian Church

Vol. 7, No. 1

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## New Things

Just when we think it's all winding down. Just when we imagine we're coming to an end. Right where we think things are finishing up. That's when God decides to make a fresh start.

It's at the end of the Bible. Revelation, the very last book, chapter 21, the second to last chapter—the one you'll often hear read so hopefully at funerals—

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more... and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who is seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"*

What a beautiful promise this is to all of us who are in grief. But it's not just written for the grieving, it's written for all of us who believe in the possibility of "better". For all of us who are not quite content with "good enough". It's written for everyone who trusts that God has a fresh start ready for us.

In December I preached a sermon about the Christian new year—the beginning of Advent—and how the presence of John the Baptist signaled a new start for all of us. I asked you to each write on a slip of paper an idea for something new you'd like to experience spiritually in the coming year, and I promised I'd consider all our possibilities and pass them on to people who I thought could help make them into realities. While I certainly can't make all your dreams come true, I hope that the church can carry on God's mission and at least make a fresh start in a few areas.

A number of people wanted to learn more about the Bible, or to read the Bible more regularly or more thoroughly. Some of us had specific questions about the Bible and what it means. So let's do this—if you're one of those who want to delve into the Bible this year, watch for an announcement about upcoming Bible programs. I'll be working with our Education folks to open up some new possibilities. In the meantime, pick a book in the Bible and read a few pages every day with this question in mind: "What is God saying to ME through these words?" You don't have to know background or arrive at a once-and-for-all meaning; just listen for God speaking to you.

There were, of course, many other things mentioned among our "new things". The Session will look at them in more detail as appropriate. All of us have noble goals for the coming year, and I will pray for each one of us that we will reach them. In the end, it's not us that make the new things happen, it's God. And God's promise is that we will, "See, I am making all things new!"

*Becky*

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## Our Staff

Rev. Becky Downs  
*Pastor*

Suzanne Anderson  
*Director of  
Music/Organist*

Colette Edwards  
*Office Manager*

Mary Linda Williams  
*Children's Choir*

Ann Sullivan  
*Accompanist*

Maria Estrada  
Yeseñia Gomez  
*Child Care Provider*

Jonna Whatley  
*Newsletter Editor*

### Sunday Schedule

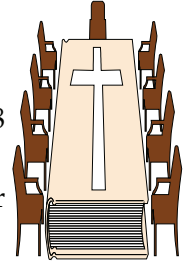
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship 11:45 a.m.

*Childcare Provided*

## Session Notes



- Rev. Downs will take vacation days from December 28 through January 3.
- Repaired the air conditioner in the kitchen and Prayer Room.
- The Westside Homeless Partnership "Closet" will be in Room 2. There will always be a representative from WHP when clients come to chose clothing or other items.
- Asked all committees to clean and clear their assigned spaces.
- Purchased \$200.00 in toys from the auction funds for Memorial Assistance Ministries and Terrace Elementary.
- Gave gift cards to members and others in need from auction funds.
- There were 13 names on the Angel Tree, which totaled 26 "Angels."
- Gave \$200.00 to CanCare from funds raised from the Arts & Crafts Bazaar.
- Gave gifts to a family from Westside Homeless Partnership's "Adopt a Family."
- On January 8, 2012 at a reception following the worship service, the Bazaar committee will present checks to Heifer International, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Reach Unlimited and Westside Homeless Partnership from the Arts & Crafts Bazaar.
- The proposed a fundraiser for seed money for the Bazaar will be "Tour of France" on February 18.
- Reviewed the upcoming "Hanging of the Greens" service on November 27.
- Will host a Staff Appreciation reception following worship on December 11 where we will present bonus checks to the staff.
- Adopted the Budget for 2012 in the amount of \$194,205.
- Called an annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 15 immediately following the worship service.
- Elders will recommend persons to be place on the Inactive Rolls at the January 27, 2012 meeting.

### A MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

**DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS**  
\$ 22,495.  
**MONTHLY NEED**  
\$ 13,617.00

**YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS**  
\$194,308  
**ANNUAL NEED**  
\$183,700

#### SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorials (year-to-date)	\$3,325.00
Joy Offering	541.00
PW Thank Offering	147.00



#### DO YOU NEED CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES?

If you still have envelopes, you can continue using them. The month and day at the top of the envelopes are not use in any way.

If you need new ones, please contact Jo Ann Zumwalt.



## *The People's Song*

As I dragged my after-Christmas-shopping bags today, I thought about how Christmas is definitely *not* over. I took off my red sweater and saw my stack of Christmas music sitting by the piano. Christmas CDs are still in the car and in home CD players, Christmas decorations are everywhere, too. I can't miss the cultural signs anywhere I am still treading.

Hopefully we still are "wearing" the true meaning of Christmas, also. Epiphany will soon be here, signaling the 'end' of the season. That I am not so eager to acknowledge. On January 8 (2012!), the choir will sing *Christmas Joy*. This sweet song uses a lovely Howard Thurman poem. I hope it serves as a reminder to us all that we should still experience Christmas, even if the calendar date is past Christmastide.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky has withdrawn,  
When the kings see their prophesy rightly fulfilled,  
When the princes and shepherds have gone;  
Then the true work of Christmas begins.  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken hearts,  
To feed the hungry,  
To free the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all brothers,  
To make music in the heart.*

Merry Christmas - still - and a wonderful New Year!

*Suzanne*

713-721-1555

[sanderson.jkpc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanderson.jkpc@sbcglobal.net)



### **3rd Annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar**

To paraphrase the line, "It takes a village..." It took a village: all of us at John Knox to make the 3rd Annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar a success. Thanks to you, we raised \$7,641.91. Please come to see the fruits of our labors.

On January 8 at a reception after the worship service, Heifer International, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Reach Unlimited, and Westside Homeless Partnership will receive checks of \$1,500 each. Make plans to be there when these very worthwhile organizations join us.

The 4th Annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar will be on September 29. Mark your calendars now. We are always looking for vendors.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



- Tuesday, January 3. 7:00 p.m.  
Coordinating Team  
Parlor
- Thursday, January 12. 9:30 a.m.  
Day Circle  
Parlor
- Tuesday, January 17. 7:00 p.m.  
Night Circle  
Parlor
- Monday, February 6. 7:00 p.m.  
Coordinating Team  
Parlor
- Thursday, February 9. 9:30 a.m.  
Day Circle  
Parlor
- Monday, February 13. 7:00 p.m.  
Night Circle  
Parlor



We are still collecting "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education."

Another way we can help is to save Ozarka Water bottle labels (must have the word "Ozarka" on the label. These labels are used to buy band instruments for underprivileged schools.

Thank you for your participation and faithfulness in helping others.



## Coordinating Team in 2012

Thanks to the following women who have agreed to serve as officers for 2012. We appreciate their hard work and those of the officers retiring. Please pray for them as we begin a new year with Presbyterian Women.

- Moderator**  
Susan Smith
- Secretary**  
Venetta Godwin
- Historian**  
Shirley Williamson
- Day Circle Coordinator**  
Jonna Whatley
- Assistant Day Circle Coordinator**  
Sue Garwood
- Night Circle Coordinator**  
Mary Lou Crestani
- Missions Coordinator**  
Pat Graber
- Leadership Coordinator**  
Nancy Hekimian
- Prayer Chain Coordinator**  
Sandy Gilcoat



# The Gathering Place News

A Senior Citizen Outreach Program



## Gathering Place Christmas

Early morning showers threatened to damper the Christmas celebration of Gathering Place, but clouds turned to sunshine, and the faithful came ... and came ... and came. What a pleasure it was to have our Fellowship Hall filled with smiling faces! Joy to the World!

The Celebration Singers, under the direction of Ann Sullivan, opened their program with "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" and indeed, it did. With greenery on the table and snacks of peppermints, it looked like Christmas, smelled like Christmas and tasted like Christmas.

It is difficult to single out any individual from this great group, but we certainly want to highlight Jack Krasin on sax and Spike Jensen on drums. Where have you guys been hiding the last several years?

Seriously, it was a wonderful program, and we were blessed to have all of you with us for our Christmas program.

After a closing of "Go Now in Peace" by Clara Jensen and James McElhinney, the volunteers joined the choir in singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas".



## at Gathering Place

Next month we return to our regular schedule, and Gathering Place will meet on the **fourth** Thursday, January 26.

We will celebrate an early Valentine's Day, and The Ivory Touch will entertain. This duo has been here many times in the past and is always welcomed warmly.

Please come and bring your friends. No reservations are ever necessary.



# January 26

## February Birthdays to Celebrate



Michael Freeman

Ida Knieper

Cindy Maiorana

Janet Nemitz

June Pero

Jo Phalen

Jo Ann Porier

Karen Sommars

Catherine Todd

Lorraine Warwick

Howard Wiedemann

Shirley Williamson

**YOUR MERRY CHRISTMAS MAY DEPEND ON WHAT OTHERS DO FOR YOU...BUT YOUR HAPPY NEW YEAR DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO FOR OTHERS.**



**We encourage everyone to find a class and come study God's word together.  
You and your children will be greatly blessed!**

### **Children and Youth**

The K-5th grade class in studying the Bible, following the Revised Common Lectionary Readings (Year B). It is a 2 year study. This fall we learned about Moses, the parable of the talents and John the Baptist. Our class loves arts and crafts too.

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### **Disciples Adult Class**

On December 11 The Disciples Class began a study entitled "God Establishes an Faithful People."

The study this quarter focuses on God's covenant through Abraham. God promised that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed, and that promise was passed on from generation to generation until it was fulfilled in Christ. The lessons for this quarter are taken from Genesis, Exodus, and Galatians .

The unit taken from Paul's letters to the Galatians emphasizes the New Testament interpretation of the law, of justification by faith, and of Christ's disciples as heirs of Abraham's promise.

**Come join us in the Parlor at 9:15 a.m. for fellowship and a spirited conversation based on the Holy Scripture**

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### **Seeker's Adult Class**

The Seeker's Class studying a History of the Christian Church. Join us as we delve into the stories of those brave people who went before us to help establish the Christian Church. Come join us for lively discussions.

**We meet in the Library at 9:15 a.m.**







Tour of France  
Saturday  
February 18  
6:30 p.m.

Invite your friends and neighbors and come to a "Tour of France" on Saturday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per couple. Tickets go on sale soon. You may bring your own wine or wine will be available.

You will not only be treated to a scrumptious French dinner of Coq Au Vin, but you will also be entertained by the Celebration Singers.

The event is the February Saturday Night Out. It is sponsored by the Arts & Crafts Bazaar Committee to help defray expenses for the 2012 Bazaar coming on September 29.

**Mark Your Calendars Now!!**

*ARE YOU ON THE EVE OF  
CHANGE? EMBRACE IT.  
ACCEPT IT. DON'T RESIST  
IT. CHANGE IS NOT ONLY A  
PART OF LIFE, CHANGE IS  
A NECESSARY PART OF  
GOD'S STRATEGY. TO USE  
US TO CHANGE THE  
WORLD, HE ALTERS OUR  
ASSIGNMENTS.*

Max Lucado



**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY  
5**

In 1990 a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired the "Souper Bowl of Caring." This prayer delivered by Brad Smith, a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend when people come together for football and fun, to unify people unify the nation to collect dollars and canned food for the needy? The youth could collect food and money in soup pots and send every dollar to the local charity of their choice.

The youth of Spring Valley liked the idea so much they invited other area churches to participate. At the First Souper Bowl of Caring, 22 churches collected \$5,700. In 2010 15,835 groups raised \$9,583,628. In Houston in 2010 1 492 groups raised \$2151,729 for the local charities of their choice.

You too can participate. On Sunday, February 5, the young people will be outside the church after worship with soup pots. You can contribute money or canned goods for Fairhaven United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

Please remember that more 49.1 million Americans, including 18.7 million children suffer from hunger because they live in households without adequate resources.





# In need of prayer

- Robert Owen  
*Poor health*
- Shirley Howell  
*Poor health*
- Betty Britsch  
*Poor health*
- Ernie Williams  
*Friend of Dick and Jonna Whatley*  
*Cancer*
- Alice Reitz  
*Poor health*
- Bill Altop and wife, Sandra  
*Brother-in-law and*  
*Sister of Janet Nemitz*  
*Parkinson's disease*
- Carol Davis  
*Cancer*
- Jenny Eversole  
*Niece of Howard and Carolyn Hunter*  
*Cancer*
- Kara Burke  
*Niece of Janet Nemitz*  
*Diagnosis of illness*
- Heidi Marie Neukam  
*Great Granddaughter of Janet Nemitz*  
*Medical Problems*
- Hank Williams  
*Cancer*



## A Special February Birthday

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>February 2</b><br>Howard Wiedemann                | <b>February 13</b><br>Mark Downs                  |
| <b>February 5</b><br>Phil Godshalk<br>Karen Sommars  | <b>February 19</b><br>Myra Stewart                |
| <b>February 6</b><br>Shirley Williamson              | <b>February 23</b><br>Kim Howell                  |
| <b>February 7</b><br>Truman Sanchez                  | <b>February 24</b><br>Yasmin Manjarres            |
| <b>February 8</b><br>Suzanne Anderson<br>Andrew Peña | <b>February 26</b><br>Roger Turner                |
| <b>February 9</b><br>Bill Gilcoat<br>Lisa Taylor     | <b>February 27</b><br>Janet Nemitz<br>Alissa Peña |
| <b>February 10</b><br>Lynn Wolff                     | <b>February 28</b><br>Lyla Ordeña                 |



A NEW  
YEAR  
&  
NEW  
OPPORTUNITIES

BEGIN THIS NEW  
YEAR WITH US.  
JOIN US FOR  
FELLOWSHIP,  
WORK  
&  
WORSHIP

# SERVING GOD AS WE SERVE JOHN KNOX

## Elder of the Day

January 8 Sue Garwood  
 January 15 Carol Davis  
 January 22 Walter Rhodes  
 January 29 Jim McGough  
 February 5 Venetta Godwin  
 February 12 Cheri Jantzen  
 February 19 Lynn Wolff  
 February 22 Ken Racine  
 February 26 Dick Whatley

## Officer of the Day

January 8 Jim McGough  
 January 15 Clara Jensen  
 January 22 Nancy McElhinney  
 January 29 Dave Jantzen  
 February 5 Dick Whatley  
 February 12 Sue Garwood  
 February 19 Ken Racine  
 February 22 Pat Graber  
 February 26 Venetta Godwin

## Liturgist

January 8 Jonna Whatley  
 January 15 Dave Jantzen  
 January 22 Pete Colvin  
 January 29 Pat Graber  
 February 5 Sharlene Pruett  
 February 12 Jonna Whatley  
 February 19 Dave Jantzen  
 February 22 Pete Colvin  
 February 26 Pat Graber

## Coffee Servers

January 8 Ken & Leslie Racine  
 January 15 Jan Thomas  
 Blythe Long  
 January 22 Cindy Saldaña  
 Lisa Peña  
 January 29 Lee & Karen  
 Sommars  
 February 5 Terry & Shirley  
 Williamson  
 February 12 Maru Stogner  
 Sue Garwood  
 February 19 Wendell & Jo Ann  
 Zumwalt  
 February 26 Ken & Leslie Racine

## Ushers

January 8 Jim Babb  
 Bill Gilcoat  
 Marion McClinton  
 January 15 Janice Makwakwa  
 Jim Wager  
 Craig Jensen  
 Roger Turner  
 January 22 Dick Whatley  
 Keith Erskine  
 Walter & Peggy  
 Rhodes  
 January 29 Pat Graber  
 Janet Nemitz  
 Terry & Shirley  
 Williamson  
 February 5 Karen Sommars  
 Lynn Wolff  
 Charles & Maru  
 Stogner  
 February 12 Connie Powell  
 Venetta Godwin  
 John & Jeannette  
 Eaton  
 February 19 Ken & Leslie  
 Racine  
 Nancy Holcomb  
 Nancy McElhinney  
 February 22 Doug & Margaret  
 Thornton  
 Carol Davis  
 Vicky James  
 February 26 Pete Colvin  
 Sharlene Pruett  
 Wendell & Jo Ann  
 Zumwalt

## Money Counters

January 8 Wendell & Jo Ann  
 Zumwalt  
 January 15 Connie Powell  
 January 22 Walter Rhodes  
 Hank Williams  
 January 29 Dick Whatley  
 Jim McGough  
 February 5 Jeannette Eaton  
 Jean Goodson  
 February 12 Doug & Margaret  
 Thornton  
 February 19 Terry & Shirley  
 Williamson  
 February 29 Wendell & Jo Ann  
 Zumwalt

## Communion

January 8 Jim Babb  
 Walter Rhodes  
 Lynn Wolff  
 Connie Powell  
 Dave Jantzen  
 choir

## Sound Technician

January 8 Jim Wager  
 January 15 Carol Davis  
 January 22 Lynn Wolff  
 January 29 Shirley Williamson  
 February 5 Wendell Zumwalt  
 February 12 Jim Wager  
 February 19 Carol Davis  
 February 22 Lynn Wolff  
 February 29 Shirley Williamson



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 15, 2012

There will be the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on January 15.

At that time we will receive the reports of the pastor, clerk of session and committees, receive the budget for 2012, elect 3 ruling elders for the Class of 2014 and elect 2 members for the nominating committee for 2013 and 2014.

Please make plans to attend this very important meeting.

# JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  New Year's Day 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Outreach Mtg	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PW Coordinating Mtg	4 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Handbell 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Choir	6 7:00 PM Women for Sorority	6 Epiphany	7
5 Bazaar Reception 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Congregational Care Mtg 12:00 PM Worship Mtg	9 3:00 PM Suzanne Anderson 7:00 PM Celebration Singers	10 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	11 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Handbell 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Choir	12 9:30 AM PW Day Circle 7:00 PM MacGregor Assoc 7:00 PM Women for Sorority	13	14 3:00 PM World for Children
15 Congregational Meeting 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Finance Mtg 12:00 PM Property Mtg	15 7:00 PM PW Night Circle	17	18 9:00 AM ESL Classes 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Handbell 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Choir	19 7:00 PM MacGregor Assoc 7:00 PM Women for Sorority	20	21 10:00 AM Plant & Pray Garden Club
22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	23 9:00 AM ESL Classes 3:00 PM Suzanne Anderson 7:00 PM Celebration Singers	24 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	25 9:00 AM ESL Classes 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Handbell 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Choir	26 10:00 AM Gathering Place 7:00 PM JKPC Session 7:00 PM Women for Sorority	27	28 6:08 PM Saturday Night Out
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	30 9:00 AM ESL Classes	31 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	1 9:00 AM ESL Classes 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Handbell 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Choir	2 7:00 PM Women for Sorority	3	4

# John Knox Presbyterian Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Newsletter Articles are due January 29 for the February newsletter.**



## Tour of France Dinner Saturday, February 18 6:30 p.m.

**\$15.00 per person**  
**\$25.00 for a couple**



For more information contact  
Sue Garwood or the church office.