

the Lamplighter

monthly newsletter of Franklin Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

What is in store for you in 2017? Fearful about your health, family, marriage or career? Depressed by the world situation, so much hunger, wars and the threats of wars and terrorism? Anxious about what's going on here in our country? The factionalism, unemployment and discouragement?

So many problems. So much worry. But Jesus says: "Fear not, little flock". Remember, as we begin this new year, God is at work in the world, though at times it may seem his kingdom may fail, nevertheless it shall conquer. The battle is raging, but the victory is assured. This year? Next year? In any of our lifetimes? No matter what may assail you this year, "it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Yes, don't forget, God's love manifested in Christ is a strong foundation for this New Year. 2017. Bring it on! God is our strength and salvation.

Peace,

Pastor Jeff Otto

In this issue

- FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
- LIVING WATERS UPDATE
- NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- YOUTH CORNER
- JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS
- JANUARY CALENDAR
- LOOKING AHEAD
- STEWARDSHIP CORNER

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The Season of Epiphany

January 6th begins the Epiphany Season of the church. That day we celebrate God's revelation to the wise men that the Messiah had been born.

Throughout this season we look at the ways, and to whom, God revealed himself through Jesus. His birth as a human, his baptism in the muddy Jordan next to common sinners, his selection of fishermen and tax collectors as his disciples, his victory over superstition and demonism, his compassionate help for the sick, and his triumph over human hatred and death, tell us a lot about God.

God accepts all kinds of people, forgives all kinds of sins, and helps us survive all kinds of threats and pain, even death.

The church is the only community that teaches that revelation of God. Only in the family of the church are people bound by their promises before God to accept each other, forgive each other, and help each other.

Of course, unchurched people can exhibit acceptance and forgiveness, and truth be told, churches don't always do this.

But we are the community commanded and committed to share the revelation of God.

Let us use this season of Epiphany to share the good news in our communities. Many may "believe in God", but they haven't yet had the opportunity to experience his acceptance, forgiveness and support in action. Let's help them to do so. **How?**

1. Leave this insert in your car or truck.
2. When you see a place for sale or rent, write down the address and the date.
3. When you notice it has been sold or rented, stop and welcome them to the community.
4. Also bring it to your pastor's attention soon.

Blessings,
Pastor Jeff Otto

Living Waters for the World

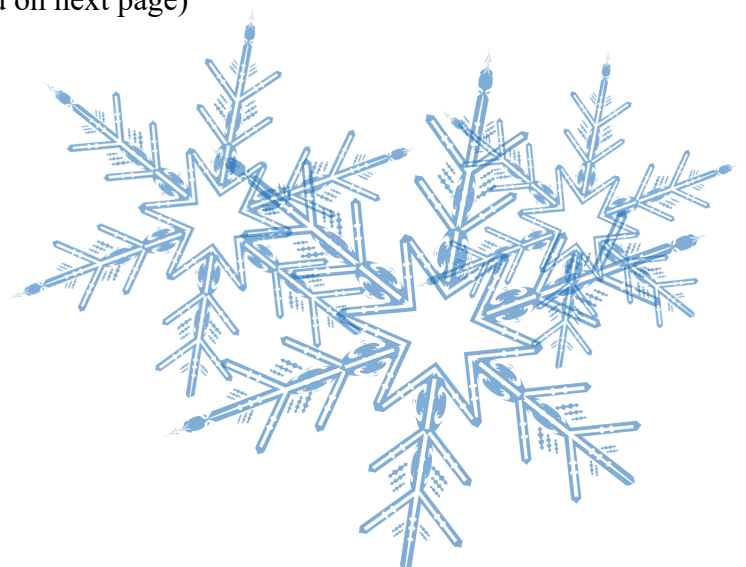
The FPC Living Waters team traveled to Guatemala in November to work with our partners Iglesia el Shaddai in Chiac, Guatemala. On November 13 Deb Thompson, Prentice Knight, Larry and Caren Gibson, and Donna Houston left bright and early (3:30 am) to catch their 7 am flight to Guatemala City. In six large boxes and one very large duffle bag they took the LWW water purification system and supplies needed for health education classes – all purchased with the generous donations of FPC and the Franklin Rotary Club.

The team was privileged to work with ICC (in country coordinator) Pablo Perez Silieazar and ICT (in country technician) Jhonny Rodriquez who acted as translators and technical support for the team. Prentice and Larry, with Jhonny's assistance and translation, helped our four system operators in Chiac install the water purification system in their beautiful water building. Even our driver – Luis – knew about the system and jumped in to help!

Caren and Donna were fortunate to have six dedicated, enthusiastic, and creative volunteers from the village. Caren and Donna, with translator and helper Pablo, taught the health education lessons every morning. The ladies (and one baby) worked every afternoon with about thirty ladies from the village to practice teaching the health lessons. They will continue to teach the lessons to groups in the community.

Deb worked countless hours before the trip, planning and communicating with our partners. She took care of our team, making sure that we had everything that we needed. Without all this work ahead of time the trip would not have been so successful. She also worked with ICD (in country director) Omar Marroquin to help the pastor and the system manager understand and carry out the business plan they developed in partnership.

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Living Waters for the World

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On the fourth day, after all of the “parts” were put together successfully and all the lessons were taught, the team joined together with the community at the Iglesia El Shaddai water building for a celebration – a party. We prayed, sang, and toasted with the delicious water produced with the Living Water system which previously sat in our FPC Cornerstone building. A miracle? Perhaps.

As we worked, laughed, ate, and worshipped together, our team thankfully developed a warm friendship with our partners. We look forward to visiting with them again next year. We will get to see how successfully they are managing their new water system and how much healthier their community is as a result of having this clean water available. Hopefully we will also visit with another place for another installation at a future time.

The amazing part about this is that the members of Iglesia El Shaddai, Chiac, built this building – to specifications – *and* dug a well for their water source – on faith before they ever even met people from FPC. They built it on faith that they would find a partner and be able to provide something that was not previously available, pure, drinkable water at an affordable price for their village.

Special thanks to Linda Knight, Mickey Roark (for the use of her van), Bob Thompson, Dick Timmerman who transported us to and from the airport.

The FPC Living Waters of the World team would like to thank everyone at FPC for their continued financial support and especially the prayers that made this trip possible. Blessings to you all!

Ruling Elders Serving on Session

Donna Houston
Becky Stubbs
Meredith Halcomb
Anna Smith
Caren Gibson
Barry Hain
CJ Hall

Emma Jean Kirby
Prentice Knight

Deacons:

Woon Yen Prall
Marcella Davis
Mary Frances Page





Living Waters for the World Guatemala Trip IN PICTURES



Chiac children



Educators and Pastor Mingo



Living Waters for the World

More Pictures!



The purification system operators with FPC's
Larry Gibson and Prentice Knight.



Lunch: Day One



News & Announcements

Christmas Joy

Offering total:

\$250.00

Advent Conspiracy

2016 total:

\$1,060.00

Living Waters of the

World \$675.00

Good

Samaritan:\$205.00

Simpson County

Literacy: \$50.00

Franklin-Simpson

Boys & Girls Club:

\$130.00

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothes, I was in prison and you came to me.” ~

Matthew 25:35-36

On the first Sunday of each month, we partake of the Lord's Supper together in worship. On each first Sunday, we also bring our gifts of canned goods and pantry items for the Good Samaritan food pantry. These items are placed in the red bin at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to all who have given over these past months and years, and thank you to all who will continue to give in the future! Let us find nourishment at God's table each month, that we may be sent out to nourish God's world.

The White Christmas Offering total for 2016 was \$945.00. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to brighten the holidays for over 30 families in our community.

Also, thanks to everyone who helped pack and deliver the boxes. Your help and continued support is greatly appreciated!



benevolence Update

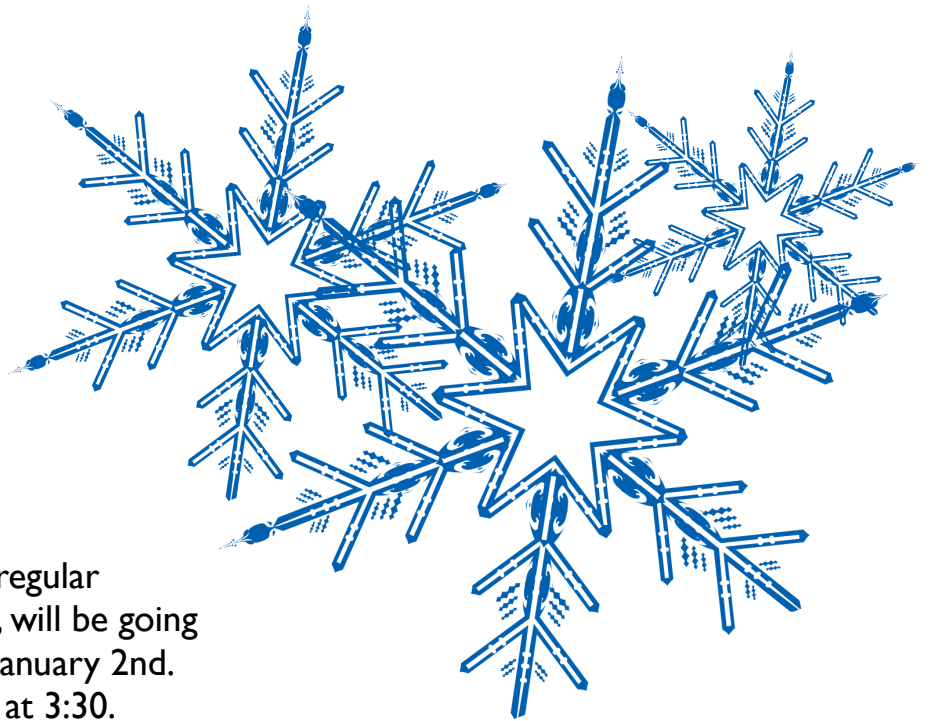
Thanks to the interest income from FPC's investments and generous donations from the congregation, the Pastor's Benevolence fund has paid out over \$1,946 in 2016 to help people with rent, utilities, food, etc. The balance of the fund is \$1,812.09.

Reminder:

**Good
Samaritan
Food Pantry**



Youth Corner



The FPC Youth Group, in lieu of the regular Christmas party at the Cornerstone, will be going on an ice skating outing on Monday January 2nd. Everyone should meet at the church at 3:30. Following ice skating, dinner will be at Cici's Pizza. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped \$5 gift for the secret friend gift exchange! All the youth are welcome to attend!



*All elementary -
aged
students:*
join us for "Jesus and
Me" (J.A.M.) on the
1st and 3rd Wednes-
days of the month.
Dinner is provided with
the youth group.

The Youth Group
meets on the
1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the
month from 6-7 p.m.
at the Cornerstone.

Supper is provided
and the meeting
opens and closes
with prayer. After a
spiritual practice or
scripture study, we
will discuss upcoming
mission projects/
activities and play
some games.

Andrew Garret is the
Youth Group leader.

2017 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

January

Sunday, January 1

First Sunday after Christmas

Morning: Pss. 98; 150

Evening: Pss. 99; 8

Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12

Heb. 2:10–18

Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 145

Evening: Pss. 9; 29

Gen. 12:1–7

Heb. 11:1–12

John 6:35–42, 48–51

Tuesday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 146

Evening: Pss. 107; 15

Gen. 28:10–22

Heb. 11:13–22

John 10:7–17

Wednesday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 93; 97

Exod. 3:1–5

Heb. 11:23–31

John 14:6–14

Thursday, January 5

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 96; 110

Josh. 1:1–9

Heb. 11:32–12:2

John 15:1–16

Friday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 148

Evening: Pss. 100; 67

Isa. 52:7–10

Rev. 21:22–27

Matt. 12:14–21

Saturday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 149

Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114

Isa. 52:3–6

Rev. 2:1–7

John 2:1–11

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150

Evening: Ps. 29

Isa. 40:1–11

Heb. 1:1–12

John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

Monday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Isa. 40:12–24

Eph. 1:1–14

Mark 1:1–13

Tuesday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Isa. 40:25–31

Eph. 1:15–23

Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 47:1–11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Isa. 41:1–16

Eph. 2:1–10

Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, January 12

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Isa. 41:17–29

Eph. 2:11–22

Mark 2:1–12

Friday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 51; 148

Evening: Pss. 142; 65

Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17

Eph. 3:1–13

Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 104; 149

Evening: Pss. 138; 98

Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13

Eph. 3:14–21

Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday, January 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Morning: Pss. 19; 150

Evening: Pss. 81; 113

Isa. 43:14–44:5

Heb. 6:17–7:10

John 4:27–42

Monday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 135; 145

Evening: Pss. 97; 112

Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23

Eph. 4:1–16

Mark 3:7–19a

Tuesday, January 17
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Isa. 44:9–20
Eph. 4:17–32
Mark 3:19b–35

Wednesday, January 18
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Isa. 44:24–45:7
Eph. 5:1–14
Mark 4:1–20

Thursday, January 19
Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Isa. 45:5–17
Eph. 5:15–33
Mark 4:21–34

Friday, January 20
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Isa. 45:18–25
Eph. 6:1–9
Mark 4:35–41

Saturday, January 21
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Isa. 46:1–13
Eph. 6:10–24
Mark 5:1–20

Sunday, January 22
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Isa. 47:1–15
Heb. 10:19–31
John 5:2–18

Monday, January 23
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Isa. 48:1–11
Gal. 1:1–17
Mark 5:21–43

Tuesday, January 24
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Isa. 48:12–21 (22)
Gal. 1:18–2:10
Mark 6:1–13

Wednesday, January 25
Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Isa. 49:1–12
Gal. 2:11–21
Mark 6:13–29

Thursday, January 26
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26)
Gal. 3:1–14
Mark 6:30–46

Friday, January 27
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Isa. 50:1–11
Gal. 3:15–22
Mark 6:47–56

Saturday, January 28
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Isa. 51:1–8
Gal. 3:23–29
Mark 7:1–23

Sunday, January 29
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Isa. 51:9–16
Heb. 11:8–16
John 7:14–31

Monday, January 30
Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Isa. 51:17–23
Gal. 4:1–11
Mark 7:24–37

Tuesday, January 31
Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Isa. 52:1–12
Gal. 4:12–20
Mark 8:1–10

February

Wednesday, February 1
Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Isa. 52:13–53:12
Gal. 4:21–31
Mark 8:11–26

Thursday, February 2
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Isa. 54:1–10 (11–17)
Gal. 5:1–15
Mark 8:27–9:1

Friday, February 3
Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Isa. 55:1–13
Gal. 5:16–24
Mark 9:2–13

Saturday, February 4
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Isa. 56:1–8
Gal. 5:25–6:10
Mark 9:14–29

Sunday, February 5
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Isa. 57:1–13
Heb. 12:1–6
John 7:37–46

LECTOR/USHER SCHEDULE

- **Sunday, January 1**
LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: ANNA SMITH/JANE RAHM
- **Sunday, January 8**
LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: ANNA SMITH/JANE RAHM
- **Sunday, January 15**
LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: ANNA SMITH/JANE RAHM
- **Sunday, January 22**
LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: ANNA SMITH/JANE RAHM
- **Sunday, January 29**
LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: ANNA SMITH/JANE RAHM

WEEKLY EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Handbells:** Wednesdays, 5-6:00 pm
- **Choir:** Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm
- **AA Meetings:** M, T, R, & F @ 7:30 pm; W @ 6:00pm; M, Sat. @ 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 9** Fellowship Meeting 3 p.m.
- Jan. 22** Session Meeting after worship

JANUARY 2017

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|-----|
| 1 Communion | 2 Youth Holiday Outing <i>Andrew Garrett</i> | 3 | 4 Handbells Resume | 5 | 6 <i>Joe Shumaker</i> | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Donna Houston | 10 <i>Will Rahm</i> | 11 | 12 <i>Wilson Webb</i> | 13 <i>Nicola Prall</i> | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <i>Beth Gibson</i> | 17 <i>Pat Chai</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Ada Stubbs</i> | 20 <i>Terry Joiner</i> <i>Alec Gibson</i> | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 <i>Danny Joiner</i> | 25 | 26 <i>Barbara Keith</i> | 27 <i>Dan Ware</i> | 28 |
| 29 5th Sunday Potluck | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

*Birthdays in italics

JANUARY

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Prentice Knight

ELDER HELPER: Caren Gibson

FRIEND OF THE MONTH: Debbie Wyatt

Looking Ahead

FEBRUARY

Friend of the Month: Pat Markell

Feb. 4 Room In The Inn @ FPC

Feb. 5 Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 18 Room In The Inn @ FPC

MARCH

Mar. 1 Ash Wednesday

Mar. 4 Room In The Inn @ FPC

Mar. 5 First Sunday in Lent

Mar. 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday

9:00am-2:30pm

LUNCH: A half hour between
11:30pm-12:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeffrey Otto

Interim Pastor

Candice Mendoza

Pastoral

Administrative Assistant

Carolle Tracy, **Music Director**

Donna Houston, **Organist**

Shirley Crutcher, **Nursery**



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Stewardship Corner

December Average Attendance: 60

| | |
|---------|----|
| Dec. 4 | 54 |
| Dec 11 | 77 |
| Dec. 18 | 61 |
| Dec. 25 | 39 |

December Average Offering: \$2,532.08

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Dec. 4 | \$3,416.00 |
| Dec 11 | \$3,087.00 |
| Dec. 18 | \$2,117.00 |
| Dec. 25 | \$1,463.06 |

Average Weekly Income Needed for Budget: \$2,355.77

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher: Prentice Knight

Time: Sunday, 9:30am-10:30am

9:30-9:45 — Coffee & Fellowship

9:45-10:30 — Class Time

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School

Time: 9:45am

TODDLERS

(ages 5 and under) are welcome in the nursery (ground floor of education wing) from 9:30am until worship finishes.

ADULT CHOIR

Wednesday, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Upstairs, education wing

"Serve The Lord With Gladness; Come Before His Presence With Singing!" Psalm 100 (It's Biblical!!)

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Downstairs, education wing

NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you considering joining FPC as a new member? Do you know someone who has been attending recently who might like to join? If you have interest in participating in new members classes, please contact the church office or Pastor Otto!

Have an item you would like to add to the Lamplighter?

Please submit it to the office no later than the 20th of the month!



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