

# THE MEDINA PRESS-BYTERIAN

A newsletter of Medina Presbyterian Church  
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Iss.1

## *New Friends, Brothers and Sisters, Fellow Followers of Jesus*

(and anyone else who might happen to stumble across this):

It's so good to be here! I can't tell you how excited Melissa and I were to be here with you on December 18 and on Christmas Eve. It was such a joy to meet so many of you, beginning in November at the Candlelight Walk living nativity and in worship the next day. Both of us have felt like we've come into a gathering of old friends. Thank you for the warm welcome you've extended.



(And, by the way, it was a nice extra to be able to share in the congregation's Silver Anniversary Christmas celebration.)

So, now it's January. At most churches, it's a "down month," with people sort of hibernating until Lent. But if we believe God has called us together (I do, and I hope you do, too.), then He's called us together to *do* something. So we better get to work figuring out what that "something" is.

It probably makes sense for me to share my vision of the purpose of the church – not just our congregation, but the one church of Jesus Christ in the world. My understanding is that the purpose of the church is *to glorify God by making disciples and meeting human need*. I think when you look at the history of the Church, beginning with the earliest days recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the faithful followers of Jesus have always been doing those things.

Making disciples, of course, means helping people who are outside the faith come to know God in Jesus. But it also means committing ourselves to deepening our own faith and our understanding of the things of God. A growing church is growing in two ways: It's growing in numbers, but also growing on the inside – those who are already there are growing in their discipleship.

And meeting human need? Obviously there's a lot of need out there to meet. And this congregation clearly has a firm foundation of service to build upon. I often think about something I once heard from Bill Hybels, the pastor of the Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois. He said that the surest sign of the followers of Jesus is that their hearts break for the same things that break the heart of God.

(continued)

Of course, Jesus also said there's one other mark of his followers: That we love one another. Let's all resolve to guard our hearts – and maybe more importantly, our lips – so that everything that happens among us reflects the love of Christ. In a world full of anger and gossip and bitterness, real Christian love stands out. People hunger for it.

I don't claim to have all the answers. (Sorry if that's a disappointment.) But I'm pretty sure I know the question. *What is God doing here in Medina?* The rock star Bono once said, "Don't ask God to bless what you're doing. Find out what God is doing and join in. That work's already blessed."

So let's make that our highest priority in 2012, this bright, shiny new year God has given us to do his will in. Let's pray that God will show us what he's doing – in the community, in the world, and in each of our lives. And let's roll up our sleeves and join in.

Grace and Peace,  
*Henry*

### **Thank you for your generosity**

The children of the families from Head Start who were recipients of the Christmas gifts given with love and generosity by the congregation of MPC want to say thank you!

Many of these children wouldn't have had a gift waiting for them under the tree if it wasn't for the "secret Santa" that took their name from the sanctuary window.

THANK YOU!

### **Received via email from the Shipleys:**

*Dear Friends at Medina Presbyterian Church,*

*We join in thanking you for the privilege of sharing with all of you at MPC in fellowship and service over the past seven months.*

*You made us welcome from the start and were most supportive. Your complimentary and appreciative words were a source of great encouragement.*

*In addition, your farewell reception and most generous gifts were a treat we will always remember. We can only thank you for granting us the privilege and honor of getting to know you and serving our Lord with you.*

*Most sincerely,  
Marylin and Richard Shipley*

### **To the Chancel Choir –**

I want to thank all of the chancel choir members for their continued support and dedication to the choir. The Cantata sounded inspirational and I hope that everyone enjoyed it. I also want to thank our "guest" singers: Maggie March, Shanon Skilskyj, Barb Steinmetz, Pam Stec and Graham Stec. It was nice to have the extra singers! We would love to have you sing every Sunday!

Chancel Choir will continue their rehearsal night starting **Wednesday, January 4, at 7:00 PM.** Please enter through the back parking lot door. . . the one behind the organ.

Psalm 105:2 says, "Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts."

Connie Baxter, Choir Director

## And a special mid-year thank you

We don't tell them often enough! *THANK YOU* to all of our Sunday School teachers! "This service you perform is... overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." [II Corinthians 9:12]

Our Sunday School staff:

**K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade** – Betty Hanna, Karen Jenkins and Sandra Thompson

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** – Linda Dodds and Nan Steinmetz

**Middle School** – Rosemary Balsinger, Matthew Dodds and Maggie March

**High School** – Wendy Calhoun, Dave Thompson and Susan Vlcek

**Adults** – Denver Jenkins

**Kids Own Worship** – Will Hiteshue, Paul Lotarskik, Maggie March (double duty) and Karen Jenkins

**Newborns and Toddlers** – Christina Baxter and Michelle March

From the Christian Ed Committee

## Elementary Youth on the go

The Elementary Youth Group has some plans in the works for this month. On **January 8<sup>th</sup>** they will be heading to a roller rink for some skating.

And on **January 29<sup>th</sup>** they will be breaking out the sunscreen and sunglasses for their annual Beach Party! The kids *and* their leaders look forward to this party each year. Ah, yes, sand and surf in January!

## Junior Highs serving the community

The Junior High Youth Group was busy last month gathering up toiletries to donate to Faith Church in Lakewood to be distributed at their community meal. Through your generosity the kids were able to collect a lot of items for this project.

The person in charge of the toiletries was very grateful for our donation. He distributes them very fairly at four different church community meals. These items are in such demand that sometimes arguments break out so he tries very hard to keep things fair.

I was very proud of our youth that day as they worked very hard. Each teen was assigned a different area. **Tobi Kohl** was working with the food line and handing out food. I was dishing out spaghetti and **Megan Stalker, Julia Dodds, Caroline Calhoun** and **Sam Jenkins** were helping serve salad, milk and desserts. Everyone helped to clean up and do dishes at the end of the meal. We received quite a few compliments from the people who organize this meal.

The group talked about the scripture in Luke 6:31 which says, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" as well as Romans 13:8 "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman fulfilled the law." By helping to serve at the community meal we were fulfilling what these verses require.

Our plan for January 29th is to have some fun and head to Kendall Cliffs for some wall climbing. Details will be emailed as we get closer to the date.

Connie Baxter, Youth Leader

## Thinking about summer yet?

It is not too early to begin thinking about Vacation Bible School! Carri Metcalf has graciously volunteered to lead this summer's VBS (after a very successful 2011 campaign). The curriculum has already been selected – the kids are sure to have a "**blast**." More information will follow.



If you are parents, keep a look out for our save the date cards to secure your kids a spot in this exciting time of fellowship and fun! We also need volunteers and donors (a list of needed items will be coming the next few months). The more volunteers the better. You can contact Carri for additional information.

## Christian Ed has scheduled a meeting

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> after worship, the Christian Ed Committee will be meeting to firm up some plans. Topics will include finalizing a date for VBS, upcoming Sunday School projects, Senior High projects, Mission Trip, Youth Sunday, to name just a few.

Denver Jenkins, Chair of CE, runs a tight meeting so we will plan on covering all of this and more in 60 minutes or less! All are welcome to attend.

Dave Thompson, Sunday School  
Superintendent

## Leading the Children's Message

The CE Committee is looking for some volunteers to assist during worship by giving the Children's Message. You can use your own ideas or use the previous week's *Kids Own Worship* message to remind the children of what they learned. The schedule so far is:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Dave Thompson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Denver Jenkins
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Pastor Pearce
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – OUR VOLUNTEER/YOU!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Dave or Denver

Give it some thought. Working with the kids is always fun... and can be very meaningful for everyone.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Dale Cartwright
- 5 Mike English  
Jennifer Hiteshue
- 11 Stephen Shurtleff
- 13 Petra Kohl
- 15 Tom Lear  
Paul Pallini
- 16 Nancy Mitchell  
Terry Walrath
- 22 Anita Stalker
- 24 Gary Calhoun
- 25 Gerry Wiles
- 28 Alexandra Stec
- 30 Pam Stec



## Senior Highs have plans for the New Year!

### Sunday, Jan 8: Movie and Munchies!

Meet at the Vlceks at 5PM. We'll discuss summer mission opportunities before diving into good food and a good flick. There will be viewing space for as many friends as your car will safely hold!

**Friday, Jan 20-Saturday, Jan 21: New Beginnings Retreat** Time to set the course for our new year and to enjoy some play time! Meet at the church at 6PM with your games, music, movies, munchies – and maybe a toothbrush. We'll be out and about, so bring your woolies to stay warm! Details in the Sr. High room

### NEXT MONTH:

### Friday, February 10: Annual

**Sweethearts Dinner** This is our time to serve you – literally! You will enjoy every moment and every bite of this special evening! Tickets available after worship or by contacting Susan Vlcek @330.461.0491.

**Friday, Feb 24-Saturday, Feb 25: 30-Hour Famine** An annual tradition since the turn of the century! Details next month and in the Sunday bulletin!

# *Medina Presbyterian Church Calendar*

## JANUARY 2012



- SUNDAY, 1/1:** **HAPPY NEW YEAR! WORSHIP AT OUR REGULAR TIME 10:15 AM/  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS DAY**
- Tuesday, 1/3:** Medina compassionate Friends meets/7:30 PM/parlor  
Boy Scout troop meets
- Wednesday, 1/4:** Medina Needlework Guild meets/fellowship Hall/6:30 PM  
**MPC Chancel Choir rehearsal/7PM/sanctuary**
- Thursday, 1/5:** **Session meets/parlor/7PM**  
Cub Scout parent meeting/Fellowship Hall and 1 classroom/6PM
- Saturday, 1/7:** Medina Spinners and Weavers “*Rock Day*” in fellowship hall/8AM-4PM
- Sunday, 1/8:** **Elementary Youth Group skating party/6-7:30 PM**
- Monday, 1/9:** Bear Den meeting/6PM
- Tuesday, 1/10:** Boy Scout troop meeting/7PM
- Wednesday, 1/11:** **Chancel Choir rehearsal/7PM**
- Thursday, 1/12:** **Board of Deacons meets/parlor/7PM**
- Monday, 1/16:** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED/ Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday
- Tuesday, 1/17:** Medina Spinners and Weavers meet/fellowship hall/7PM  
Boy Scout troop meets/7PM
- Wednesday, 1/18:** **Chancel Choir rehearsal/7PM**
- Thursday, 1/19:** Cub Scout Pack meeting/6:30 PM
- Saturday, 1/21:** Cub Scout activity in fellowship hall/9AM-4PM
- Sunday, 1/22:** **Junior High group goes wall climbing/Mrs. Baxter has details**
- Tuesday, 1/24:** Boy Scout troop meeting/7PM
- Wednesday, 1/25:** **Chancel Choir rehearsal/7PM**  
**Prime Timers noon lunch date/Alexandri’s Restaurant on Rt 18**
- Thursday, 1/26:** **Presbyterian Women meet/parlor/7PM**  
Bear Den meeting/fellowship hall/6PM
- Friday, 1/27:** Bridge Club/fellowship hall/9am-3pm
- Sunday, 1/29:** **Elementary Youth Group BEACH PARTY!/6-7:30 PM**
- Tuesday, 1/31:** Boy Scout troop meeting/7PM