

# The Broadcaster

January 2010 ■ A Monthly Publication of The First Presbyterian Church ■ Volume 39, No. 1

First Presbyterian Church  
1702 Iowa Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

563.326.1691  
fpcdavenport.org

## From Darkness to Light: The Journey from Advent to Epiphany

On the surface of things it seems that the Christmas season, which stretches from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Epiphany, ought to be the simplest celebration of the church year. Advent calls us to wait in the darkness of mystery and anticipation and leads us into the promise that justice and peace will reign once and for all, sorrow and suffering will be no more, and the Savior for whom we long will indeed come.

Advent, then, is a time of holy waiting—not only for the anniversary of Jesus' birth, but also for the day when the risen Christ will come again to redeem the world once and for all. Advent calls us to remember why we need this Savior; why we are called to repentance in the midst of our hopeful anticipation; why we long for a world made right. The scripture readings of the Christmas season lead us from promise to fulfillment—from the darkness of the world to the light of Christ. The light of the world, God incarnate, comes to us at Christmas and is made manifest to the whole world at Epiphany. This God-Made-Flesh did not come to save just a few of us, but all of us; God's light shines for everyone.

This progression from darkness to light—from the world's deep need to God's illumining, joyful redemption— finds its climax on Epiphany, January 6, 2010. On this day we remember the star that led the Magi to journey from the east to worship the Christ child. This story shows us that Jesus is the Light of the world and his salvation is for people of all nations.

The Magi remind us of the persistent hunger in all of us to be part of God's work in the world. These three men were not part of the Jewish hierarchy that knew about the coming Messiah from the scriptures; they were Gentiles who studied the stars. They wanted to know what God was doing in the world. Through their study of the night skies, they came to the conclusion that a great Jewish king was to be born. They followed the star, to see the gift that God had prepared for the world.

The full adornment of Christmas needs to be visible all through the year. Let us extend the church's celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ throughout the following months to include acts of mercy, kindness, justice, and generosity. When we engage in ways of being that show God's kingdom come on earth we proclaim the Gospel to everyone in our community, nation, and world. In this season of light, tell the world the Good News of Jesus! *- Article adapted from the PCUSA website*

## January 2010 Taizé Prayer Service

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

The January 8 Taizé service (please note this service will be held on the second Friday of January rather than the first Friday) will include the Christmas message and songs, as well as Taizé music and periods of silence during which one may meditate. Please join fellow worshipers for the first 2010 Taizé service of candlelight and peace. If you wish for additional information, please contact Ruth E. Baker (326-1691 or baker@fpcdavenport.org).

## Thank You for Giving!



**Maddy Bawden helps organize and deliver gifts collected for the Giving Tree project.**

Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to the Giving Tree project sponsored by the Deacons' Outreach and the Children's Christian Education committees. Your response to people in need was a beautiful example of showing Christ's love to our neighbors. Your thoughtful consideration of those children and adults who received the gifts or funds is a beacon of hope and love to people in our city, our refugee family from the Congo, and our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. Thank you for sharing from your heart this Christmas!

- 125 children/65 families through the Prison Ministry (Angel Tree gifts)
- 7 children/3 families in the church neighborhood through referral (Angel Tree gifts)
- 8 men who are homeless through the Humility of Mary Shelter (basic items for Christmas kits)
- 9 members of the Congolese family (gifts)
- 3 families who have supported our Congolese family (fruit baskets)
- 60 Boys and Girls Club members (hats, scarves, and mittens/gloves)



The Rev. Scott Minter

Every new year, I start with gratitude. I believe in gratitude's power to transform our lives. In America people write more lists of entitlement than lists of gratitude. We are more likely to look for signs of what we don't have than what we do.

It helps to remember that everything that we have in life is on loan to us. We don't take our money with us when we die. We don't keep our bodies forever. Our very life is on loan to us. So I offer to you just a few things I am thankful for:

I am thankful for our beautiful Sanctuary that is so large, but which has a very warm and inviting feel to it.

I am thankful that we have a congregation that loves a good laugh. I remember the old phrase, "grief separates, but laughter brings us together."

I am thankful that our people rose to the occasion to help the Deacons financially this year.

I am thankful that our congregation rose to the occasion and helped so many by picking up all the angels from our giving tree.

I am thankful for the music that fills our sanctuary.

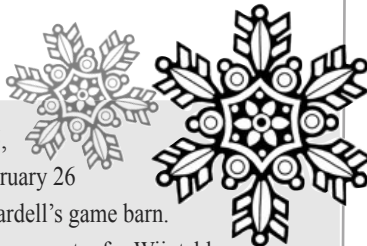
I am thankful for our little *Cherub Choir* that touches us with their innocence. They always make me thank God.

I am thankful that we have so many wonderful members who are so genuine in their love for Christ and his church.

I don't need to go on and on. What I have written are only a few of the things I am thankful for. I hope that my gratitude list spurs you to also write one of your own. Start the year off with gratitude! As author Melodie Beattie says,

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

God Bless!



**Men's Winter Retreat** - Set aside Friday, February 5, from 5:00 - 9:00 PM for our first men's winter retreat. February 26 will be the snow date. This will be a fun evening at the Kardell's game barn. Activities will include a professional golf simulator, darts, computer for Wii, table shuffle board, ping pong, and cards. The evening will conclude on a reflective note. Please set aside this evening to become better acquainted with other men in our church. A \$20 commitment fee will also pay for sandwiches, snacks and beverages. Maps and more information will be coming. Contact Phil Schwister (apschwis@hotmail.com), or Karl Hickerson (hickersonkarl@q.com) for more information.

## Church Officer Training and Installation

Newly elected officers, if you were unable to attend the Officer Training Session held in December a make-up date has been set for Saturday, January 9, from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. If you have not as yet picked up your Book of Order and Book of Confessions, along with the training booklet that will be used for officer training, please do so before Saturday, January 9. These are being held in the church office. Office hours are 8:30 – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Elders and Deacons serving their second or third year may also attend the training session as a refresher course. Please bring your Operations Manual with you to training. Please note the Installation and Ordination of church officers is scheduled for Sunday, January 10, during the 9:00 AM worship service.

## New Member Inquirer's Gathering & Events

Anyone who has considered membership at First Presbyterian Church is invited to attend the next New Member Inquirer's Gathering on Sunday, January 10, at 12:15 PM in the church Parlor. This is an informational meeting that provides a time for perspective members to ask questions about First Presbyterian Church. A light lunch will be served. On Monday, January 18, at 7:00 PM, those who have chosen to become members are invited to Fellowship Hall to meet and be greeted by church Elders and Pastors. Attendance at this event is required for church membership. Sunday, January 24, is New Member Sunday. At that time new members will be welcomed by the Congregation at the 11:00 AM worship service. If you are a member of First Pres and know of someone who may be interested in membership, or if you have any questions about becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church, please contact Karri Mart (563-326-1691, ext. 212 or mart@fpcdavenport.org).

## Technology Operator Volunteers Needed:

Are you a techno savvy person that is eager to help operate the multimedia equipment? If so, you may have what it takes to be a TOV. Yes, a TOV (Technology Operator Volunteer). Prior tech experience is helpful, but not required. Training will be provided and is required. Please contact Diane Pumphrey (563-326-1691, ext. 205 or pumphrey@fpcdavenport.org) for more information or to volunteer to be a TOV.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Service - Monday, January 18, 11:00 AM

The Martin Luther King Jr. worship service, sponsored by P.U.N.C.H. (People, Uniting Neighbors and Churches) will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, January 18 at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. You are invited to worship with our neighboring people of faith, as we join our voices and spirits in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that Dr. King taught and preached. There will be a luncheon following the service at noon, in Fellowship Hall for all who attend. Plan now to join us!



## Adult Christian Education Opportunities - *Learn. Share. Explore.*

### Sunday Morning, Von Maur Hall, 10:05 AM

#### January 10: *Pine Ridge Adult Mission Trip*

Listen to the stories of the seven adults who made a return trip to the Indian Reservation this past summer.

#### January 17: *Rwanda Refugees*

Leticia is serving as a translator for the Selemin family. She is herself a refugee from Rwanda and has her own story to tell. Leticia and her brother, John, will join us on this morning. Please come to learn of their experiences.

#### January 24 & 31: *Old Testament Stories*

We are going to begin a series of five Bible studies on the Old Testament. Five different speakers will lead us in a study of a favorite person or story found in the Old Testament. Discover what these stories meant to the Old Testament listener and what they say to us today. Our five speakers will be Kent Schroder, Bonnie Van Loon, Mark Jones, Penné Duncan, and the Rev. Richard Miller. Look for more details in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

### Monday Morning Bible Study, Fireplace Room, 10:30 AM

*Jesus and the Gospels video and discussion series, 10:30 AM, in the Fireplace Room.* The Gospels are numerous and diverse in the way they portray Jesus. Why so diverse? How to speak of a single Jesus? The approach of the course is literary, and at the same time in the historical context of the development of Christianity with the desire to find the more fascinating Jesus in the gospels. For more information contact Penné Duncan (563-381-2439).

### Wednesday Nights, Fireplace Room, 6:30 PM

#### January 6: *Wednesday Night ACE in recess*

#### January 13: *Creating Sabbath*

Sabbath is not just another day of the week. The Sabbath given to us in the scriptures is a time of rest and renewal honored by all of creation. Come and learn more about creating this sacred space in the midst of everyday life. Presented by Becky David, Director of Spiritual Care, Genesis Medical Center.

#### January 20: *William Ricketts Sanctuary*

This place – the Sanctuary, this most unique person – William Ricketts. Learn about his philosophy and the subjects of his interest – Aboriginal Australians, who spoke of the fundamental connection of all creation. Learn about the native people of Australia, about William Ricketts, about Biblical insight that seems so fleeting in our modern life. We never know where we might be blessed; I've been blessed. Presented by Penné Duncan.

#### January 27: *Davenport's Civil Rights History*

Art Pitz, Professor of History at Augustana College and St. Ambrose University will be summarizing the research that has been carried out on Davenport's Civil Rights history – a very compelling story. He is also the curator of the Civil Rights Exhibit which will open at the Putnam on January 16.

## Service and Learning Trip Opportunities

Would you like the opportunity to worship with pastors José Pilar and Eduardo at their church in Guatemala, and see the work that is being done to save the mountain Granadillas? The next service and learning trip to Guatemala is scheduled from May 25 - June 1, 2010. Contact Jim Keller (563-332-6296) or Craig Foster (563-391-4622) if you are interested. Additional summer trips that are in the planning stages include the Pine Ridge Reservation and West Virginia Appalachian Mountain region. Come to the Sunday, January 10 ACE presentation to learn about last fall's service and learning trip to Pine Ridge.

## Souper Bowl of Caring February 7, 2010

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 7, 2010. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2009, over 13,000 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$10 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$60 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 7.



## Body, Mind, & Spirit...

by Parish Nurse Barb Yankey

With the holidays now over, my husband and I once again vow to wipe clean the slate and promise to live healthier in the year ahead. This yearly practice has been going on for 39 years. Our intentions are noble and of good benefit, but oh so difficult to adhere to. With the national focus on health care reform, I am hoping we can “reform” our personal healthcare in 2010. For a start, I am going to “Walk to Jerusalem” during Lent, and I would love to have you join me!!!

“Walk to Jerusalem” is a church-wide initiative to renew our body and spirit during the Lenten season. Church members will be given the opportunity to improve their physical, emotional and spiritual health by embarking on a symbolic journey to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is roughly 6,234 miles away from First Presbyterian Church if we travel by plane. If we only count the distance on land, our church is 2,434 miles away from Jerusalem. Therefore, our goal is to collectively “walk” 2,434 miles by Easter.

All ages are invited to participate. Whether through prayer or physical activity, everyone can help First Presbyterian Church walk to Jerusalem. The purpose of the “Walk to Jerusalem” is to keep people active in their physical and spiritual lives. You can earn mileage through prayer or various forms of physical activity. Mileage will be collected and computed weekly so we can measure our progress as a congregation. Here are several examples of converting activities into mileage:

Swimming 5 minutes = 1 mile	Aerobics 10 minutes = 1 mile
Running 5 minutes = 1 mile	Yoga 15 minutes = 1 mile
Exercise Equipment 5 minutes = 1 mile	Prayer 20 minutes = 1 mile

More organizational information will follow in early February. Let's all walk together whether individually, as a family, or as a team.

*“Because you are  
So we are too  
Because you are  
We are with you*

*One body one spirit  
One voice & one heart  
Together in Love  
Because you are”*

- Ubuntu Gathering Song

Good Health and Peace be with You

Barb Yankey, Parish Nurse

## Don't Miss Wednesday Night Supper: God is at work here!

We are thankful for the boys and girls who grace the tables of Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings. The Boys and Girls Club members and staff eat dinner here from 5:00 – 5:30 PM every Wednesday night. Won't you join them at the table? Won't you support this new initiative that our Deacons have developed? Won't you be part of something that God is doing in our midst? The menu for January 6 features chicken fingers with dipping sauces, oven potato wedges, potatoes, and corn. Visit the church website each week to view the menu items for WNS at [www.fpcdavenport.org](http://www.fpcdavenport.org).

## PSST (Prayer Shawl Second Tuesday)

By popular demand, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is expanding. An evening gathering is being added to this important ministry of compassion and caring. A prayer shawl is a soft, warm shawl, knitted or crocheted, which is given in time of illness, loss or crisis. Shawls may also be given to celebrate a special occasion. Once completed, the shawl is blessed and given to someone for whom it will become a blessing of love. Karla Jones will host the evening “Friends and Fabrics” fellowship which will include those knitting and crocheting prayer shawls as well as those creating other fabric projects such as quilting, needle point, knitting, etc. The evening meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month with the first meeting on Tuesday, January 12, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The meeting will be at the Jones' home, 3458 Overland Drive, Bettendorf. Please call Karla (563-332-9314), or Barb Yankey (563-383-0657, ext. 222) to RSVP. The daytime prayer shawl group has been meeting the first Monday of the month in the Church Parlor at 1:30 PM. Because Pamela and Barb are not always able to attend this group, we are seeking a member of the congregation to be a “point person” for this meeting if there is an interest in continuing the daytime group. Please call Barb (563-383-0657, ext. 222) with your ideas and suggestions for a meeting during the day. THANK YOU for your continuing support of this ministry!!!

## Women's Retreat Update

Due to the closing of a portion of the Sinsinawa facility, the 2010 Women's Retreat will be April 9-11 at the beautiful Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque, Iowa. We hope everyone will be able to save the date and join us for another weekend of rest and Springtime renewal.

## Body Prayer - January 19, 6:30 PM

The Spirit Journey series on prayer practices resumes January 19 at 6:30 PM with the topic of Body Prayer. Physical prayer helps to move us beyond our intellectual doubts and distractions and into a more intimate and direct conversation with God. A purposeful posture or gesture may enhance the meaning of common prayers and scriptures. Simple body prayer may also be a tool for those times when our minds feel distant from God or when God seems to be silent. God seeks to feed us with strength, wisdom, healing, and joy, intending for that holy flow to be poured out into the physical world so full of needs. You are invited to come and explore techniques for deepening your communication with God in a session that will be appropriate for all ages with no strenuous activity required. Comfortable clothes are recommended. Simple hand outs will be provided and study books will be available for borrowing following the session. The evening's leader will be Marty Bowles Edwards and you may contact her with any questions, 563-332-9272. Upcoming prayer topics include art and sounds as prayer forms, partner prayer, and prayer for others.



**Jesus is Baptized: January 10 – February 14 in the *Promise Land***

Baptism is a gift from God given to us in love. Children and youth will hear the story of Jesus' baptism in a variety of ways so that they might discover and recognize that Jesus was baptized as a sign of belonging, we participate in that same sacrament, and the shell and dove are symbols of baptism. The Spirituality station is especially designed for parents and children to learn together about the meaning and promises of baptism. The Children's Christian Education Committee strongly urges all parents to participate with their children in this class.

**NEW Update for Save the Date for the Spirituality Station!**

- January 10: 4th – 7th grades students and parents
- January 24: 2nd/3rd grades students and parents

**Children's Worship & Wonder: January 10, 17, 24, 31**

During this season of Ordinary Time we will hear stories from Jesus' life and ministry. Children's Worship and Wonder is a time for children to worship God in singing, prayer, hearing a story from scripture, and responding through their work. We meet in the Chapel, and parents pick up their child(ren) at 10:00 AM so they can go to Sunday School or Cherub Choir. Worship and Wonder is for children age 3-4th grade.

**High School Fellowship: Frequently Asked Faith Questions** - Beginning January 10, we'll focus our lesson time around some FAFQs. Questions like "Where is God?" "Why Do I Have To Go To Church?" and "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" HSF is the place where we are free to be ourselves and wrestle with the Big Questions in life... focus your week around fellowship with your friends and figuring out your faith. Come to HSF on Sunday nights from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

**Synod School 2010** - Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary, will be the convocation speaker for Synod School 2010, which will have "Grace Notes" as its theme. The dates are July 25 through July 30. Synod School runs at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Visit [www.lakesandprairies.org/school](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school) for more information.

**Member News** - The congregation of First Presbyterian Church marks the following occasions in the lives of those who make up the First Presbyterian Church community.

**Baptism:** Annie Elizabeth Yingling (daughter of Amy Yingling) – December 20, 2009

**Death:** Thomas A. Miller – December 2, 2009

**December Session Summary:**

At the December meeting the session:

- ▶ approved the changes involved in three employee plan documents, 403(b), that link them into one document, 403(b)(9). This will appear in the employee handbook.
- ▶ received another update on the church's shortfall financial situation.

**Make a Note of it...**

- ▶ The church office will be closed on January 18, 2010, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.
- ▶ The next Church Government and Personnel Open Forum will be on Sunday, February 14.
- ▶ The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 28, at 10:05 AM in the Sanctuary.

**First Church Snow Policy** - When the roads and weather conditions have been declared hazardous, First Church may cancel programs and events. Current and updated information during such an emergency can be obtained by calling the automated church office phone answering system at 563-326-1691, or visiting the church website at [www.fpcdavenport.org](http://www.fpcdavenport.org).

**Direct Mail of Offering Envelopes** - Offering envelopes will now be mailed directly to your home. You will receive enough envelopes for the month plus any special offerings. This is a more economical and efficient method of delivery. For more information, please contact Steve Hawk (563-326-1691).

**Parent and Grandparent Helpers Needed for Wednesday Night**

With the beginning of a new semester, your Youth and Young Adult Committee is excited to begin another semester of growing in faith and having fun on Wednesday nights in Middle School Fellowship and Kirkwood Club. However, we need your help to make the night a success. Please sign up to be a parent helper to Pastor Pamela as she leads the youth and children in devotions, games, and learning about God. Your participation is crucial to the kids' spiritual and social formation in this community of faith. Contact Pastor Pamela ([hoogheem@fpcdavenport.org](mailto:hoogheem@fpcdavenport.org)) to sign up!

**The Broadcaster**

This newsletter is a monthly publication of The First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, IA

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**Office Hours:**

M-F, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**Sunday Worship:**

Services at 9:00 & 11:00 AM.

**Handicapped Services:**

First Church is handicapped accessible via the elevator entrances on the west side of the building.

**Childcare:** Nurseries for infants through four-year-olds are provided in the Folwell Education Center (third floor of the Christian Education Building) during Sunday services from 8:45 AM - 12:15 PM.

**Fellowship:** Enjoy coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall each Sunday between the services. Stop by to say hello and visit, or to pick up some refreshments.

\* Part-time employee



Together,

Morning stars sing;

People shout for joy,

Members contribute  
their per capita  
assessment!

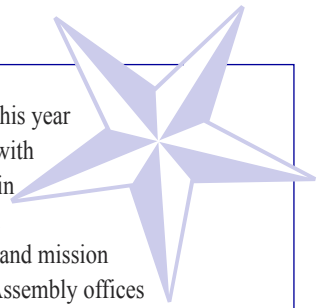
Are you among them?



Each January First Church is assessed a per capita contribution by the Presbytery. This year it is \$28 per person. That means that in order to maintain Presbyterian connections with the higher governing bodies of the denomination and with the other congregations in the East Iowa Presbytery, First Church is obligated to forward to the Presbytery and General Assembly a total of \$37,468. Those dollars help support the administrative and mission operations of the Presbytery, the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly offices in Louisville, KY. The payment to Presbytery comes out of the congregation's 2010 budget.

It would be helpful to the church if each member on the roll gave \$29 to cover his or her membership costs. A member is anyone who has been confirmed or has been welcomed into the congregation by confession of faith, letter of transfer from another congregation, or upon reaffirmation of faith. A contribution of \$29 for each family member who is a church member is necessary for the Session to meet its obligation to the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Use a special Per Capita envelope from the pew racks on a Sunday morning and drop your clearly labeled contribution into the offering plate or bring it to the church office. You will receive credit on your giving statement. Meanwhile, watch the number of stars in the sky multiply on the per capita display in the Sanctuary.



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