

# Pacific Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan, Temporary Supply Pastor  
January, 2012 Newsletter

## PASTOR'S NOTES

Friends,

Sometimes I wonder at this point of a new year what God's hopes are for this year. Do you think God is listening to us as we make our "resolutions" about losing some excess pounds, or stopping smoking, or finally cleaning out the basement, or conquering some other hurdle that has eluded us – but this year we are finally going to do it! We have a bad habit, I think, of assuming God thinks like us, rather than the opposite, which is that we are to try and think like, or discern how God thinks and try to make that our own. It's a daunting task, for certain, but one that is not impossible. Not impossible because God chooses to reveal Godself to us, and desires that we know and do what God wills. God created and planned for our good. It will indeed be a blessed New Year if we can make our resolution to seek that good and that will. May the Holy Child of Bethlehem continue to lead you into the year that God intends, and may the joy of Christmas bless you with hope and peace.

Grace and peace

Pastor Carol



### **Presbyterian Women**

Meeting to plan for the year:  
Thursday, Jan. 12 at noon in the Service Building starting with a covered-dish lunch. All women are welcome.

Save the date: **Friday, Feb. 10** for the winter gathering of the West Cluster to be held at First Presbyterian Church in Union. Registration starts at 9:30. Activities include a speaker, worship with communion and lunch.

## **Special Worship Services and Activities**

January 8 – Epiphany and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, undecorate following worship, Pastor Carol's Open House

January 15 – Baptism of the Lord, with Reaffirmation of Baptism;  
Ordination/Installation of new officers

January 22 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

February 5 – Communion, Souper Bowl

## SOUPEL BOWL

February 5, 2012

Begun in 1992 in Columbia, SC, by a PCUSA youth Pastor

and his youth group, to remember and help those "without even a cup of soup" on the day of the food-and-drink-laden day of the football Super Bowl. This event has grown to include thousands of congregations across the nation and multi-denominations. Millions of dollars and lots of cans of soup and other foods are donated each year in this one-day drive, still led by young people. All the monies and food collected stay with the local food pantry, in our case, Agape House. Let's make this year's collection in Pacific the biggest ever!



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

*From a poem by Minnie Louise Harkins*

## **Book Club**

For January 23, we will read *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. Note that this is a change from the usual date. Meeting will be held at Helene's house.

## **Notices...**

- Please plan to stay after worship on Jan. 8 to help "undecorate" the church.
- Annual reports: Moderators of committees and heads of organizations, please summarize the past year for the annual report. Have your report in the office by Feb. 1.
- Church web page:  
[www.pacificpresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.pacificpresbyterianchurch.com)  
Check the church web site for calendar information, photos and more. Refer newcomers to it – along with your invitation to come to church with you!

## **PER CAPITA**

As a connectional church, the Presbyterian Church, USA, set up the *per capita* assessment as a way for each active member to share in the cost of participating and maintaining the ecclesiastical functions of the denomination. It pays for record-keeping, communication, coordinating mission, holding our General Assemblies, etc. The amount for each member this year is \$27.25, with the majority of that retained by our Presbytery, and lesser amounts going to Synod and General Assembly. The Session of each congregation is required to pay this amount, and it is very helpful when members reimburse the church for their share. There is a blue envelope in your offering boxes for you to use, or if you prefer, just write "per capita" on the memo line on your check.

## **Clerk's Corner**

**At their December 13, meeting Session:**

- **Met with the Board of Deacons and reviewed their yearly report.**
- **Session and Deacons took part in an exercise provided by the Presbytery Design Team to consider the purpose of the church and the respective roles of congregations and presbyteries. This included an overview of several parts of the Foundations and Government divisions of the new Book of Order.**
- **Reviewed plans for the required officer training scheduled for January 14, and officer ordination and installation on January 15.**
- **Authorized the clerk to submit our 2012 mission commitment form to the Presbytery and decided to continue paying our per capita on a quarterly basis**
- **Approved renewing our church's membership in the Chamber of Commerce**
- **Authorized the clerk to sign the contract for continued use of our Service Building as a polling place**
- **Heard the Church Life Committee's plans for worship services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day**
- **Approved the schedule for the serving of Communion for 2012 and approved home communion for shut-ins in 2012**
- **Heard the Presbytery Report. Two congregations in Granite City are uniting, and the Presbytery celebrated the history of 12<sup>th</sup> Street Presbyterian Church in Alton, IL and Southampton Presbyterian Church as they are being dissolved. Stephanie Knopf, a recent visiting preacher for us, was installed as the Presbytery Moderator for 2012.**
- **Reauthorized our involvement with Dinner with Us for another Year.**
- **Elected Church Treasurer, Clerk of Session and Commissioner to Presbytery for 2012**
- **Discussed what to do about holding Sunday worship services in case bad weather makes travel difficult. It was decided that only as a last resort would worship be cancelled. Those able to come to a Sunday service would participate in a service even if the pastor could not get to Pacific.**
- **Thanked the elders who are completing their terms on the Session.**