



Focus

For Members & Friends of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

December 2011

Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings

聖誕快樂 Shèng Dàn Kuài Lè! Which is "Merry Christmas" in Mandarin Chinese. 新年快樂 Xīn Nián Kuài Lè! Which is "Happy New Year" in Mandarin Chinese. 恭喜發財 Gōng Xǐ Fā Cái! Which is "Congratulations and Prosperity" in Mandarin Chinese and is a common Chinese new year greeting.

Our cultural emphasis for Advent, Christmas and New Year's this year is Chinese culture. During this emphasis time we will learn about China, Hong Kong and Taiwan through minutes for mission. We will also have red candles in our Advent wreath, Chinese decorations, and Chinese foods for our fellowship time following morning worship. You'll want to come every week as we learn more about the world's largest population and economy, and how the people live, as well as how they do and don't observe Christmas, and especially about their New Year's celebrations, which is the big annual celebration in China.

And every week during Advent come to church ten minutes early for our new Christmas carol sing-a-long when we'll sing your favorites in preparation for morning worship.

Also during Advent will be our annual children's Christmas pageant on December 11. You can read more about it elsewhere in this month's *Focus*. I'm sure our little ones and other participants will be as cute as ever, along with sharing another meaningful Christmas message with us.

And this time for the first time in a number of years our choir will present a Christmas cantata on December 18. We've been rehearsing the music since September and you won't want to miss this beautiful addition to our Christmas preparations.

Our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service will be on December 24, as well as our traditional Lessons and Carols and Bell service, this year on December 25. This year we're inviting you to vote for your favorite Christmas carols to be sung during the Lessons and Carols and Bell service.

See you in church and serving in our Madison/Middleton area community!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Marilyn

December Worship Messages

December 4, 2011 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - "Finding our New Beginnings" - Mark 1:1-8 - Communion

December 11, 2011 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - "Christmas Hide & Seek"
Children's Christmas Pageant - "Joining God's Mission" - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

December 18, 2011 - 4th Sunday of Advent - "Follow the Star, Follow the King"
Christmas Cantata

December 24, 2011 - Christmas Eve - "Imagining the World God Intends" - Isaiah 9:2-7

December 25, 2011 - Christmas Day - Lessons and Carols and Bells Service

Liturgists for December

Dec. 4	Otty Schaefer
Dec. 11	Tom Jones
Dec. 18	Sandy Weigt
Dec. 24	Mike Holland
Dec. 25	Wendy Weber

Nursery Available

Children at Dale Heights are always welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in Sunday worship. The nursery is available when parents have a need to take their children out of church for whatever reason, but it is not staffed.

Advent/Christmas/New Year's Chinese Cultural Emphasis

Beginning Sunday, November 27 – the first Sunday of Advent – we began learning about Chinese culture – not only mainland China, but also Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Christmas Eve Fellowship



Please bring cookies or bars ready to serve on plates for our gathering in the concourse after the evening service

Ushers for December

Dec. 4	Communion Servers
Dec. 11	Janice Krall & Rick Shannon
Dec. 18	Keith Chan & Sandy Weigt
Dec. 24	The Lembcke Family
Dec. 25	Tom Jones & Rick Geiger

Advent Candlelighters

Dec. 4	Bill and Lenore Mercer
Dec. 11	Kim Chan and the children
Dec. 18	Choir
Dec. 24	Bill and Marcia Holman

Called Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Officers and Approve New Terms of Call for Pastor Marilyn Sunday, December 4

The Session has called a congregational meeting following morning worship Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. to elect two Ruling Elders to the Session class of 2014, three members of the congregation to the 2012 Nominating Committee, and to approve new terms of call for Pastor Marilyn.

Pastor Marilyn will be on Vacation

December 25- 31

Happy Birthday!

December 2 Ruby Meyer
December 13 Vreni Straubhaar
December 18 Jamie Klump
December 22 Ray Miller
December 25 Dick Corey
December 27 Lois Meyer
December 28 Marian Todd
December 29 Caroline Pope

Happy Anniversary!

December 16 Otty & Larry Schaefer

Choir News

The choir has been very busy this year preparing a Christmas cantata, titled "Follow the Star, Follow the King" which will be performed during worship on December 18th. Please join us in this joyous performance!

December New Beginnings

The December New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, December 20th at 11:30 at Olive Garden, 7017 Mineral Point Rd. Please call or e-mail Mary Towne at 831-6635 or marytowne@chorus.net for reservations. Thank you.

Question: "What evidences have you seen of God at work in your life this week?"

New Advent Wednesday Lunch & Learn Study!

We have begun a new four-week study for Advent titled *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break* by James W. Moore.

As we light the candles on our Advent wreath we will reflect on the unbreakable gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that God has given us.

Join us when and as you are able at 11:45 a.m. Wednesdays!

Church Women United

The December Church Women United Forum is December 2nd at Meadow Grove Community Church, 4815 Cottage Grove Road. The topic is Ecumenical Housing. The speaker is Carla Fears, Executive Director. Gathering for coffee and refreshments is at 9:00 am, the presentation starts at 10:00 am.

Elma Metzloff, CWU Key Woman

Thank YOU!

Thank you to all those who have served Dale Heights in 2011 by teaching Sunday School, ushering, serving Communion, serving on committees, singing in the choir, and many more activities!

Chinese Culture Display

Since we are celebrating Chinese culture this Advent season, if you have any Chinese artifacts you would be willing to display in the Concourse on Dec. 11, please let Marcia Holman know so we can have adequate table space available.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

The children's Christmas pageant, titled "Christmas Hide and Seek" will take place during worship on December 11th. Rehearsals (including a short lesson on Advent) will continue to be held from 9:15 to 9:45 am on December 4th. Please contact Kim Chan if you are interested in having your child/ren participate, or if you have any questions.

Synopsis: This pageant is about children who overhear their grandma say that Christmas is lost. They decide to try to find where Christmas is. They ask their mom, a charity box, a present, Joseph, and their grandma if they know where Christmas is. In the end, they discover Christmas is in their hearts. During this season of advent, we hope that you too will discover Christmas in your heart.

Advent/Christmas Music

During Advent, we will be having a Christmas carol sing-along time before worship, starting at 9:50am. Please join us!

The Carol portion of our Lessons and Carols service on December 25th will be decided by ballot. Ballots will be in bulletins December 4th and 11th, so vote for your favorite Christmas carol to be sung on Christmas morning!

**Lessons and Carols,
and Bell Sunday,
December 25**



Please bring a bell to ring with joy for our Savior's birth!

Dale Heights Web Site

Check out our church web site for the latest news: www.daleheightspc.org
Pastor Marilyn's weekly sermons are posted on the website every Sunday afternoon.

Transformation Team Report

Your Transformational Team met shortly after the Conference on the Present and we sorted through the Post-It notes and individual sheets collected at the Conference. What a tremendous amount of information! Thank you for your thoughtful participation. The information showed that some strengths and trends crossed "categories". We are condensing the ideas into short statements and will share them with the congregation soon.

Your team went to another workshop on Saturday, November 12. We shared ideas with two other congregations present and looked ahead. We have reminisced about the past, looked carefully at the present and now we will be looking toward the future. Exciting times ahead. Hang on for the ride.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. So we do have a plan in place for getting the word out if worship is cancelled.

When Pastor Marilyn has to cancel worship, she will do the following: send an email, put a cancellation notice on the website, and change the answering machine by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation.

If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your e-mail, check the website or call the church. **Above all, play it safe.**

Inquiring Into Membership Conversations

Persons interested in becoming members of Dale Heights are invited to make an appointment with Pastor Marilyn at a mutually convenient time throughout the month.



Christmas Joy Offering

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for ...

Fifty percent of undesignated receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council

Property & Finance Meeting Highlights – November 8, 2011

- Gardens: Refer to session the Jane Kuzma, Landscape Architect, plan for the Todd Memorial Garden, along with the estimated cost for plants (add'l costs for mulch, soil, trellis, rain barrels, and labor if necessary); hold off on ordering top soil until next spring so thistle control can be done before soil is spread. No more outside work days are scheduled this fall.
- Painting/redecorating task force on office entrance indoor sign has asked for modifications on two designs for further consideration.
- Sound system repair/improvement: information gathered is being given to Session.
- Audit: three years (2009, 2010, 2011) audit has been completed. Church financial records were found to be well-organized and assembled with only minor errors and discrepancies. A big thank you to Gerry Klump for doing the audits.
- Heating and AC: the fall season appointment is scheduled.
- Security: ADT security is installed, complete with manual, at just under \$4000.
- University Ave reconstruction: the main gas line is going in this month. As part of this, there will be a new line to the church and our meter now will be outside.
- Heat tape for roof has been laid out on office entrance and back entrance; will be hooked up at a future date.
- Chimney has been painted with epoxy for the winter. Further action will be needed.
- Stewardship campaign: some pledge cards have already come in.
- Entrances: wooden doors which were not closing properly have been repaired. For entrances in general, the "no weapons or firearms" signs have been obtained and will be mounted soon.
- Financial Status: As of October 31, 2011, net year-to-date income is -\$3992 below net budgeted income figure—situation usually picks up in December. Gas and Electric expenses are more in balance now (\$259 over budget) and snow plowing expenses are now \$224 under budget.
- Next meeting: Tuesday December 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.

2012 Financial Pledges to Dale Heights

It's not too late to return your 2012 giving commitment card but please do so soon, so that it can be included as we prepare for managing our financial resources in relation to our mission for the coming year.

Thank you again for all that you do to make ministry through our congregation possible.

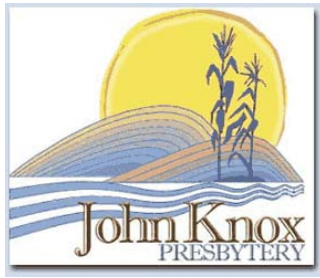
Session Meeting Highlights – November 9, 2011

- During the Clerk's report, approved the minutes of the September 20, 2011 stated Session meeting; and received an old and new *Book of Order* comparison chart for Sessions as information
- During the Property & Finance Committee report received a brief report on the October monthly and year-to-date financials; approved the 2008, 2009 and 2010 audit reports; approved the 2012 University Avenue Reconstruction Offer to be signed by Corporation President Roy Lembcke; shared information on the Todd memorial gardens plans; heard an update on replacing the sanctuary sound system; and received an update on church redecorating plans, including plans for office entry welcome signage
- Received the monthly Pastor's report, during which agreed to make one Sunday in the spring a celebration of the church's 55th anniversary
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report learned that the children's Christmas pageant rehearsals have begun, and heard an update on the Wednesday Lunch & Learn class
- During the Personnel Committee report approved Music Director Maggie Rogers' request to rollover her 2011 continuing education funds into the 2012 amount for her to attend a conference; approved Pastor Marilyn's annual review; learned Maggie Rogers and Custodian Rick Geiger's reviews will be scheduled soon; and approved a 2012 three percent pay raise for all church employees
- During the Transformation Team report heard that the "Conference on the Present" was October 23, that the information gathered in the conference was reviewed by the team October 26; that the next team training is November 12; and that the next team meeting is November 30
- During the Outreach & Mission Committee report learned that the date to receive a special offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be November 20; heard a report that nine participants from our church raised \$1,255 for CROP Walk; and that the Pres House supper October 23 was well attended
- During the Worship & Music Committee report learned that there will be another Concourse service November 13; that Bill King will be the guest preacher for November 20; that the Choir continues rehearsing a Christmas cantata for December 18; that this year for the Lessons & Carols service the congregation will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite carols; that ten minutes before worship during Advent the congregation is invited to come early for a weekly Christmas carol sing-a-long; and that this year's Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cultural emphasis will be China
- Approved calling a congregational meeting following worship December 4 to elect class of 2014 Ruling Elders and 2012 Nominating Committee members from the congregation, and to vote upon proposed new terms of call for Pastor Marilyn to begin January 1, 2012
- Set the next Session meeting for December 20, 2011 with Barb Fleishman leading devotions

Worship and Music Committee Meeting Highlights – November 6, 2011

- Learned that the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany preparations include:
 - >Christmas carol sing-a-longs starting at 9:50 beginning Nov. 27th
 - >The choir will perform a Christmas cantata on December 18.
 - >The congregation will vote for Christmas carols to be sung on December 25. Ballots will be in the bulletin.
 - >A study of Chinese culture with information about Taiwan on Nov. 27 and Hong Kong on Dec. 4. Paintings by the Chinese artist He Qi will be printed on our bulletins from Advent through New Years. Kim volunteered to bring one Chinese food item each Sunday. Chinese fans will be put up in place of wreaths. The congregation is encouraged to bring Chinese objects to be displayed with those from the Worship & Music Committee--date to be determined.
 - >Poinsettia sign up sheet posted in the Concourse on Nov. 20; order to be made to Brand's Blooms on Nov. 29 with delivery on Dec. 2.
- Learned that Janet Jones has retired from the choir. The choir had a potluck for her on October 27. Our thanks to Janet for her many years of service in the choir.
- Heard that in January there will be a "Fill the Robes" Sunday.
- Maggie thanked June Zeeh for filling in for her on October 9 and 30. She will also sub for her on November 27. Tom Jones will be asked to sub for her on January 15.
- Maggie expressed concern about the talking among the congregation before church starts. One option is to start the prelude at 10:00 after the service starts. During Advent the prelude could start after the singalongs with a pause between.
- Heard that Stewardship emphasis Sundays are November 6 and 13. Pledges will be dedicated on November 13 with the service in the Concourse. Harold will sing the pledge song written by Gerry Klump.
- Pastor Marilyn shared information from her study leave class on creative worship. She handed out worship plans which she has made up for Advent through Epiphany and the beginnings of Lent and Easter planning charts.
- Bonnie Savonne volunteered to set up communion on Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 Home communion is planned for December.
- Liturgists have been scheduled through November. Youth will do the reader/candlelighting on December 11.
- A tentative 2012 usher schedule was distributed to the committee members..

Next meeting date: January 22, 2012



John Knox Presbytery Meeting Highlights

Here are some highlights from the November 15 Meeting:

- Hosted Kim Coulter, Director of Communications, Des Moines Presbytery, for a Nite Before workshop titled “Social Media – Connecting as a Church,” and for a shorter workshop during the Committee on Ministry report titled “Social Media: Cautions and Boundaries.” Among her insights with regards to posting church and parishioners’ information to websites and on social media were to ask three questions: is it a “right to know,” a “need to know,” or a “want to know?”
- Heard a Guide One Insurance report by Lee Agency Representative Angie Sink that due to its excellent claims history the Presbytery had received a \$13,000 bonus, which the Presbytery decided to share with its churches by paying their Guide One umbrella policies this year.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Kathleen Owens about her service on the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations and other ecumenical organizations she has been or is currently involved with, and an invitation to make use of her knowledge and experience.
- Participated in an Equipping the Saints time led by the Rev. Galen Smith of the Transformation Outfitters.
- During worship led by the Rev. Kristin Frederich received the annual Necrology Report and celebrated the Lord’s Supper.
- Received the Committee on Ministry report, during which noted that the Deborah’s Daughters event for clergywomen has been changed from November 17, 2011 to January 11, 2012 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison, Wisconsin; encouraged presbyters to note the joys and concerns from the various church triennial reports; approved enrolling the Rev. Stephen Minnema as an Active Member upon receipt of his credentials; approved a call for the Rev. Hui David Tark and dismissing him to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky; approved under the new Form of Government maintaining three Teaching Elder Rolls: Validated, Member-at-Large, and Honorably Retired, and that the Presbytery Clerk keep a record of Teaching Elders excluded by judicial action; approved receiving for a first reading a proposed replacement of the Presbytery’s By-Laws, Section V.C.; and received as information for feedback a draft proposal for the Presbytery’s pastoral categories.
- Received the Moderator, Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, and Stated Clerk’s reports. During the Stated Clerk’s Report approved the Administrative Commission reports for the installation of the Rev. Grant VanderVelden as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Waukon, IA and for the ordinations of the Revs. Blake Severson and Scott Anderson; and approved the 2011 report on the review of Session minutes.
- Received the Presbytery Council report, during which approved the continuation of insurance coverage with Guide One, with Lee Agency, Inc., Muscatine, IA as the agent; and elected Teaching Elders Gretchen Lord Anderson and Scott Anderson, and Ruling Elders Tom Cafilisch and Sally Lorenz to the class of 2014 Presbytery Nominating Committee.
- Elected all candidates proposed in the Nominating Committee report, including Ruling Elder Bonnie Sue Lewis as 2012 Moderator of Presbytery and Teaching Elder Clara Thompson as 2012 Vice Moderator; Teaching Elders Shirley Funk and Sandra Nuernberg, Ruling Elders Allen Hanson and Carol Iverson as Commissioners to the 2012 General Assembly, and Evangeline Smith as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 2012 General Assembly.
- Received the Committee on Preparation for Ministry report, during which approved Teaching Elders Tim Gerarden and Sandra Nuernberg as the Presbytery’s 2012 ordination exam readers.
- During the announcements it was noted that there are still openings to participate in the Presbytery’s upcoming mission trip to Alabama.
- The next meeting will be February 18, 2012.

Read through the Bible in 1 Year!

Each month we are offering daily Bible reading suggestions which when you follow the guideline by this time next year you will have read the entire Bible!

Some Tips for reading through the Bible:

READ...the passage for the day, listening closely for what God is saying.

EXPLORE...what the Bible has to say by asking questions.

ACT...on the truth by finding one thing you can DO.

PRAY... the verses you have just read back to God

The Story of Jesus

Dec-1 Galatians 1-3

Dec-2 Galatians 4-6

Dec-3 Ephesians 1-3

Dec-4 Ephesians 4-6

Dec-5 Philippians 1-4

Dec-6 Colossians 1-4

Dec-7 I Thessalonians 1-5

Dec-8 II Thessalonians 1-3

Dec-9 I Timothy 1-6

Dec-10 II Timothy 1-4

Dec-11 Titus 1-Philemon 1

Jesus Finished God's Plan

Dec-12 Hebrews 1-4

Dec-13 Hebrews 5-7

Dec-14 Hebrews 8-10

Dec-15 Hebrews 11-13

Dec-16 James 1-5

Dec-17 I Peter 1-2

Dec-18 I Peter 3-5

Dec-19 II Peter 1-3

Dec-20 I John 1-3

Dec-21 I John 4-5

Dec-22 II John 1-Jude 1



A Vision for the Church

Dec-23 Revelation 1-2

Dec-24 Revelation 3-5

Dec-25 Revelation 6-8

Dec-26 Revelation 9-11

Dec-27 Revelation 12-13

Dec-28 Revelation 14-16

Dec-29 Revelation 17-18

Dec-30 Revelation 19-20

Dec-31 Revelation 21-22

December 2011

				1 Pastor Marilyn to COM in Baraboo Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	2	3
4 2 nd Sunday of Advent & Chinese Cultural Emphasis; Communion; Called Congregational Meeting; Home Communion	5	6 SMART Recovery 7:00pm	7 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am	8 Pastor Marilyn to COM in Muscada Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	9	10 Men's Breakfast, 8:00am
11 3 rd Sunday of Advent & Chinese Cultural Emphasis; Children's Christmas Pageant	12	13 SMART Recovery 7:00pm Property & Finance 7:00pm	14 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am	15 Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	16	17
18 4 th Sunday of Advent & Chinese Cultural Emphasis; Christmas Cantata	19	20 SMART Recovery 7:00pm Session 7:00pm	21 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am Bosom Buddies, 6:45pm	22 Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm
25 Merry Christmas! Lessons & Carols & Bell Service Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	26 Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	27 SMART Recovery 7:00pm Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	28 Church Office Closed; NO Lunch & Learn Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	29 NO Choir Rehearsal Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	30 Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	31 New Year's Eve Pastor Marilyn on Vacation

Community Activities Held At Dale Heights

Madison Sah-lang (Agape) Church

We are the nesting site for this evangelical church belonging to Presbyterian Church in America.

Furniture Loan for International Students:

Call Madison Friends of International Students office at 238-1046 for an appointment.

Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group:

Third Wednesday of the month, 6:45 p.m. in the lounge.

Wisconsin Tibetan Association:

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

SMART Recovery Self-Help for Addiction and Alcohol Abuse

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the lounge

Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts:

There is a Girl Scouts and a Cub Scouts troops meeting at various times.

Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association:

There are various committees meeting at various times.

Dale Heights Mission Statement:

Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace.

*We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus
and by serving those in need in our community and world.*

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

5501 University Ave.

Madison, WI 53705 233-0134

daleheights@sbcglobal.net

www.daleheightspc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m.

Christian Education

for all ages

September-May

10:00 a.m.

Worship

Child care provided

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship