

Focus

December 2012

www.daleheightspc.org

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor: Rev. Marilyn Gamm

Transformation Coach:
Clara Thompson

Music Director/
Administrative Assistant:
Maggie Rogers

Financial Secretary:

Dick Corey

Custodian: Rick Geiger

Calendar

• If you receive the Focus electronically, you can access the calendar separately by clicking on the appropriate link (i.e. "May Calendar") on the Newsletter page of the website. The calendar page will still be available in paper form.

Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings

It's not yet Thanksgiving as I'm writing this month's *Musings* but in the commercial retail world the Christmas season is off and running. And I have to honestly admit that this year at least I don't mind because it's such a refreshing change from the political ads that have bombarded us continually the past two years. And seeing the Christmas ads and hearing the holiday music is helping me get into looking ahead to our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany plans for December.

All four Sundays of Advent are in December this year, and we'll kick off the season hearing the first minute for mission on our Eastern European cultural emphasis from June Zeeh talking about Romania. On the second Sunday we'll hear from Janice Krall about Slovenia. After that we hope to hear about Russia and Turkey. You'll want to be sure to attend December 16 when we'll have a cultural artifacts display in the Concourse, and if you have items to contribute to that display, please let Marcia Holman know for her planning. One or more Sundays we'll enjoy special foods from the region during our after worship fellowship time as well.

You'll want to note that Christmas Eve is on a Monday this year, and we'll have our traditional candlelight service at 7:00 p.m. that evening. You'll also want to note that our annual Lessons & Carols service is Sunday morning, December 30. Marcia Holmen is recruiting readers for it, so please help her out.

Looking backward for a minute, if you weren't in worship November 11 you'll want to see Gale Oakes for a post card from our Transformation journey Vision Retreat last spring that she had printed and gave to each of us. And looking ahead, we have tentative plans for a Conference on the Future on January 20, 2013. Also, the final version of our Guiding Vision Statement is posted on the Vision Wall in the Concourse, and has been and will be used occasionally in worship. It's primary purpose is to serve as Dale Heights' 'North Star" in the coming years for navigating the mission God has placed before us.

See you in church, and in mission and ministry in our community!

Shalom in Christ Jesus—Marilyn

Focus

Liturgists for December

December 2 Otty Schaefer Dec 2 Marcia Holman, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber December 9 Rick Shannon Dec 9 Joan Hicks, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer December 16 Jamie Klump Dec 16 Vreni Straubhaar, Janice Krall, Rick Shannon December 23 Bonnie Savonne Dec 23 Rick Geiger, Mike Holland, Tom Jones December 24 Marcia Holman Dec 24 December 30 Dec 30 Keith Chan, Kim Chan, Janet Jones Dick Corey

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.

Inquiring Into Membership Conversations

Ushers for December

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.

December New Beginnings

The December New Beginnings
Lunch will be Tuesday, December
18th at 11:30 at Sofra Family
Bistro, 7457 Elmwood Ave,
Middleton. Please call or e-mail
Mary Towne at 831-6635 or
marytown@chorus.net for
reservations. Thank you.

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

Church Women United

The Church Women United December Forum will be held on December 1 at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Gathering and coffee begin at 9:00am, welcome and announcements start at 9:30. The program, featuring the Wisconsin Children's Choir, will begin at 10:00am. The November World Community Day was enjoyable and inspirational! Also, if you'd still like to participate in ARC providing books to incarcerated women, please see me any Sunday.

Ellie Metzloff, CWU Key Woman

Advent-Epiphany Cultural Emphasis

Our annual Advent/Christmas/ Epiphany cultural emphasis will be Eastern European countries.

We'll hear about these countries on different Sundays during worship, will have opportunities to sample traditional foods during fellowship time, and will view native artifacts in the Concourse Sunday, December 16.

If you have artifacts from Romania, Slovenia, Turkey or Russia, please let Marcia Holman know so we can ensure adequate table space.

Advent Candlelighters

Dec 2: Jane Williams & Wendy Weber

Dec 9: Barb Fleishman & Rick Geiger

Dec 16: Joan Hicks & Bonnie Savonne

Dec 23: Bill and Lenore Mercer

Dec 24: Bill and Marcia Holman

Called Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 9

The Session has called a congregational meeting following morning worship Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m. to elect two Ruling Elders to the Session class of 2015, and three members of the congregation to the 2013 Nominating Committee.

It's a Baby Shower for Ndaziona Ndafooka-Holland
Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. at 238 Rondalph Drive,
Madison

RSVP to Elizabeth Holland

Please see Edi or Kim Chan or Jamie Klump by Sunday, December 2 to contribute to a gift from Dale Heights Ndaz is expecting a baby girl, due on February 14, 2013

Outreach Committee Highlights, 11/4/12

- Thank-yous received from many local organizations for donations.
- Remaining funds will be distributed: \$137 to Pres House, \$100 to MOM, \$300 to PDA, with \$100 left over.
 - CROP Walk was held October 21, with Dale Heights raising \$901.
 - SERRV Fair Trade Pop-up Shop in December.
 - Potluck program dates in 2013 discussed.
 - Assigned dates for Christmas Joy Offering Minutes for Mission.
 - Discussion of website.
 - Next meeting in January/February, date TBD.

Upcoming New Wednesday Lunch & Learn Studies

Our new Advent Lunch & Learn study will be *When God Comes Down* by James A Harnish and will begin this Wednesday, November 28.

Then beginning in January, our new Lunch & Learn study will be *The Life of Prayer: Mind, Body, and Soul* by Allan Hugh Cole, Jr. This is contingent upon our backorder of these books being fulfilled.

Join us when and as you are able – we begin gathering for fellowship at 11:45 a.m., with class beginning at 12 Noon, Wednesdays!

Christmas Eve Fellowship

Please bring cookies or bars ready to serve

on plates for our gathering in the concourse after the evening service.

December Birthdays

December 2 Ruby Meyer

December 13 Vreni Straubhaar

December 18 Jamie Klump (1989)

December 22 Ray Miller

December 25 Dick Corey

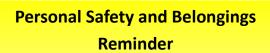
December 27 Lois Meyer

December 28 Marian Todd

December 29 Caroline Pope

December Anniversary

December 16 Otty & Larry
Schaefer



For your personal safety, whenever you are working alone in the church, or during the week after your group has gathered, please ensure that the building doors are locked.

Please do not ever leave your wallets, purses, or other valuable personal belongings unattended in or around the church. In late May a Sah-lang Church member's wallet was stolen from her purse while she was teaching Sunday School.

Pastor Marilyn will be on Vacation December 25- 31

Sunday, December 30 Lessons & Carols Service

Music News

Choir rehearsals continue on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. We're still looking for some more women's voices to join us!

"Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

-Henry Van Dyke



MOM Needs:

Cereal
Pasta
Spaghetti sauce
Peanut butter
Fruit juice
Jelly
Cooking oil
Sugar
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Diapers (4,5,6)

December Worship Messages

Sunday, December 2—1st Sunday of Advent Worship with Communion—"When God Comes Among Us: Elizabeth and Zechariah" - Luke 1:5-80—Communion

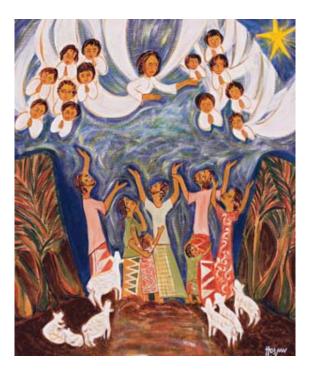
Sunday, December 9—2nd Sunday of Advent Worship—"When God Comes Among Us: Joseph" - Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 16—3rd Sunday of Advent Worship—"When God Comes Among Us: Mary"—Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 23—4th Sunday of Advent Worship—"When God Comes Among Us: The Innkeeper" - Luke 2:1-7

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.—Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship—"When God Comes Among Us: Jesus" - Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 30—Lessons & Carols Worship



2012 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 congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10) to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Worship Committee Highlights

- Tom Jones will fill in for Maggie Rogers on November 18th as she is taking her last vacation day.
- Pulpit supply for November 25 is Sam Buffat.
- Learned that the 2013 financial pledge dedication will occur during the Thanksgiving communion service on November 18th.
- A called congregational meeting will be held December 9th to elect church officers.
- Heard that the 4 Sundays of Advent will include Minutes for Mission on the Christmas Joy Offering by the
 Outreach Committee. Communion will be held December 2nd, with the Hanging of the Greens following
 worship.
- The Christmas Joy Offering will be dedicated at the Christmas Eve candlelight service, December 24th at 7:00pm.
- Discussed our cultural emphasis for Advent/Christmas, which will be Eastern European countries. Romania and Bulgaria on December 2nd; Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia on the 9th, and a country TBA on the 16th. On the 16th, cultural artifacts from/about these countries may be brought for display.
- Heard that 2013 tentatively scheduled events include: January 13, church officer ordination/installation;
 January 20, Conference on the Future; February 3, Souper Bowl; February 13, Ash Wednesday; February 17th, first Sunday in Lent; March 28, Maundy Thursday; March 31, Easter.
- Learned that another Concourse service may be scheduled in April, borrowing Sah-lang's sound system this time.
- Next meeting will be January 13th.

Transformation Coordinating Team Update

The final revised draft Guiding Vision Statement is below. It is also posted along with the previous versions on the Vision Wall in the Concourse, and was used in worship in November. The Transformation Team and Session have affirmed it, and it will now serve as Dale Heights' "North Star" for navigating our continued Transformation journey seeking God's mission for our congregation at this point and time in our life and ministry.



The Transformation Team is also pleased to welcome new members Joan Hicks and Jennifer Jones, who along with Gale Oakes of the Transformation Team comprised the Vision Panel who wrote our new Guiding Vision Statement.

Dale Heights Guiding Vision Statement

4th and FINAL draft: November 1, 2012

"You are the salt of the earth; . . . You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:13-14

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF SALT AND LIGHT

We believe God calls us to be bold in action, resist despair, advocate for those whose voices go unheard, seek peaceful resolution rather than escalation of conflict, challenge our culture of materialism with one of contentment and creativity, counter the culture of arrogance with one of humility, and to speak into our culture the truths of Jesus Christ. We trust in God's faithfulness, and trust that as a church we are in company with a God that never sleeps.

This faithful God gathers us together in a wide variety of worship opportunities in which we experience and offer reconciliation and hope in a world that desperately yearns for both. We are a place for all to rest when weary, to come and be transformed to our very roots, to learn faith, love and hope, and to radiate these gifts. We are an open-minded and caring church, called to be salt and light in the world through serving people's essential needs, among them food, fellowship and spiritual connection as we continue our tradition of outreach mission projects. We feel called to be a church in and for the neighborhood, an intimate and diverse place where "everybody knows your name."

Jesus commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength—and our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore we claim God's loving acceptance of all as a cornerstone on which we build. All are equal and equally welcomed at Christ's banquet and at our tables. Recognizing Christ with outstretched arms, we seek to stretch our own arms out to the world, embracing all.

We believe that in prayer we encounter an awesome, living God. We pray with the expectation that prayer will move aside all that stands between us and God. Our prayers equip us to live in harmony with one another and with the earth; to accept all, forgive all and live in hope. We believe that through praying and acting we are shining God's light, making a difference in the world. We are called to be as salt, enhancing the lives of others without being noticed for our own sake. Through our prayerful actions, we are God's loving hands on earth.

As a people of salt and light, we are a gathered and sent community seeking to be faithful witnesses through prayer and action. We look to break the bonds of despair. We say to hopelessness—"begone!"— we are following One who carries hope like a glorious banner for all to see. In a world of doubt and fear we choose to trust and hope.

Session Highlights

November 18, 2012

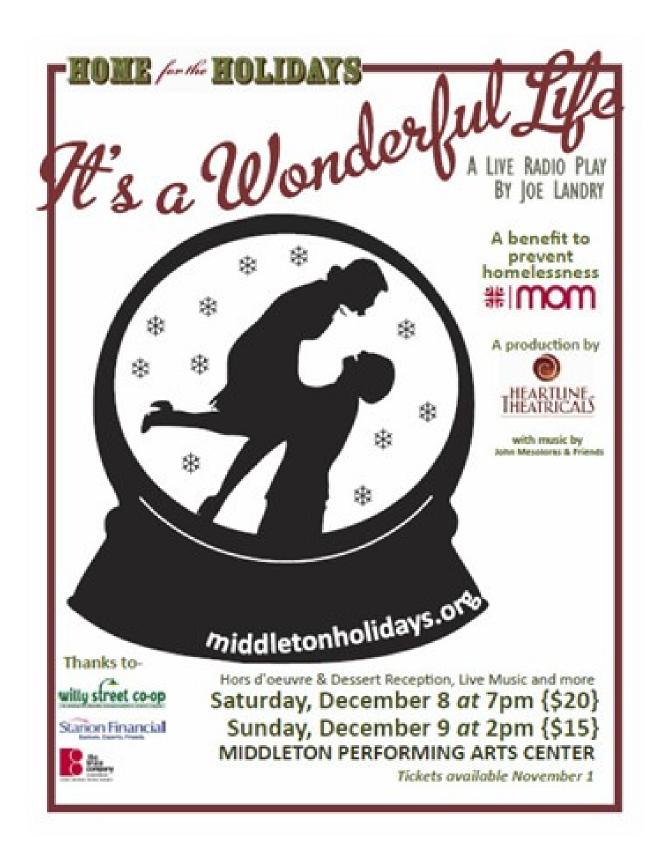
- Met with Coach Clara Thompson and the Transformation Team to continue identifying Key Result Areas;
 affirmed the final Guiding Vision Statement; approved holding a Conference on the Future Sunday, January
 20, 2013 in place of morning Church School and Worship; learned Joan Hicks and Jennifer Jones have joined the Transformation Team.
- During the Clerk of Session report, approved the October 21, 2012 stated Session meeting minutes; learned and formally thanked Clerk Mike Holland for serving as Clerk of Session the past 5 years, and for his Minutes and Registers being approved without exception by the Presbytery.
- During the Property & Finance Committee report, heard a brief report on the October and year-to-date financials; that flooring samples are being considered for replacing the Lounge and Concourse kitchenette carpets with linoleum; that the committee approved getting what is needed for the floor buffer so it is useable again; approved replacing the Concourse and Lounge thermostats; that a carpenter is being asked to look at where attic doors are needed to access the Concourse ceiling air conditioner unit; that the church's land along Norman Way still needs to be restored with top soil and grass seed by the city; and heard an update one replacing the sanctuary sound system.
- Received the monthly Pastor's report.
- Received the November 10, 2012 John Knox Presbytery meeting report.
- During the Care & Fellowship Committee report learned that the annual review of the membership rolls had been conducted; that plans are being made for Souper Bowl; and that the next meeting will be in March.
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report heard updates on the children's and adult Church School offerings; and that the Lunch & Learn class will begin an Advent study November 28.
- During the Nominating Committee report noted that nominees are being sought to present to the
 Congregational meeting that has been called following morning worship Sunday, December 9, 2012 for the
 purpose of electing two Ruling Elders to the Class of 2015, electing three persons from the congregation to
 the 2013 Nominating Committee, and to announce the 2013 capital campaign to replace the parking lots;
 approved ordaining/installing newly elected officers during worship Sunday, January 13, 2013.
- During the Outreach & Mission Committee report learned that \$537 of the remaining \$637 of their funds have been distributed; that the committee is formally requesting that its budgeted funds cut in 2009 be restored in 2013; and that the Christmas Joy Offering will be promoted throughout December.
- During the Personnel Committee report learned all employee and volunteer background checks are current; and that employee annual reviews will begin being scheduled soon.
- During the Worship & Music Committee report learned that Rev. Sam Buffat will be the guest preacher Sunday, November 25; that the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cultural emphasis will be Eastern Europe and plans are underway for that; that Advent candle lighters and Lessons & Carols readers are being recruited; that Christmas Eve is a Monday this year; and that the committee continues refining the communion traffic flow.
- The next stated Session meeting was set for Sunday, December 16 2012 at 6:30 p.m. with Caroline Pope or Tom Jones leading devotions.

Property & Finance Committee Highlights November 13, 2012

- Memorial Gardens: Bulbs are planted; ordering of two plaques postponed to spring.
- Concourse thermostat: Cannot be programmed to our specific requirements. Solution: set on
 "continuous unoccupied" 65 degrees. Users can then increase degrees as needed, repeating at three-hour increments. Rick will turn up the heat early Sunday mornings.
- Sanctuary A/C: Hold off till spring.
- Redecorating task force: Will proceed with fellowship hall stairwell "welcome" lettering. Will convene to discuss lounge vinyl flooring choices.
- Sound system extension and improvements: Second bid will be sought (previous bid is \$7000).
- University Ave reconstruction: Almost completed. Contact will be made to continue discussion on the Norman Way strip. Construction equipment has compacted the gravel and damaged an arborvitae. We will request some remediation and later reseeding.
- Office entrance concrete repair: Postponed until spring, since cold weather would require that the entrance be unusable for a week.
- Committee will act on session's request for a cost estimate on installation of two fire doors in the concourse ceiling to allow easier access to A/C.
- Committee will act on session's request to include concourse kitchenette in the bid for vinyl flooring in the lounge. Current bid by Madison Carpets is for 108 square yards of flooring, removal of lounge carpeting, scraping/prepping of floor surface, installation of flooring and cove base for entire lounge area. Current bid is \$2656, but committee feels a higher quality, 10-15 year life commercial/industrial flooring is necessary, so revised bid will be requested.
- Request received and approved for a brush for the floor-cleaning machine.
- Parking lots: table action until spring or late winter and then get current bids.
- Snow removal: estimate for winter 2012-13 received and approved.
- Stewardship campaign: Pledges are coming in and will be dedicated November 18.
- Discussion of basement bathroom and water fountain leaks and potential solutions.
- Looked ahead and big projects in the offing (parking lots, vinyl flooring, sanctuary A/C), Memorial and Foundation monies, and options of raising or borrowing funds.
- Financial Reports as of 10-31-12 reviewed. Both expenses and income are down this month. Year-to-date net budgeted income is \$3049. Pledge/contribution reports will be issued soon.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 7pm.

Greetings!

It's not too late to return your 2013 giving commitment card, but please do so very 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.



MOM will have a hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception on both days of the event. They hope to have over 1,000 people in attendance for the two day event, and are requesting help from MOM churches with providing finger foods and baked goods.

Please let Roy Lembcke know of your willingness to help out.



John Knox Presbytery Meeting Highlights

Here are some highlights from the November 10, 2012 Meeting:

Received the Nominating Committee report and elected Teaching Elder Clara Thompson Moderator and Ruling Elder Terry McGinley Vice Moderator for 2013; elected new Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder members to Presbytery Council, Committee on Ministry, Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Personnel Committee, Permanent Judicial Commission, Synod of Lakes and Prairies Commissioner, and elected Melanie Klump to Committee on Representation.

Participated in an Equipping the Saints time of Bible study and sharing in regional groupings evidences of God's activity in those areas, via video conferencing had a presentation by Percepts; and worship that included the annual Necrology Report, communion, and the installation of the 2013 Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Received the Committee on Preparation for Ministry report, during which examined and approved enrolling Inquirer Margaret Jumonville as a Candidate under the care of John Knox Presbytery.

Received the Presbytery Council report, during which approved amending the August 20, 2011 motion to designate 10% of the sale of the Presbytery Center for mission outside John Knox Presbytery to 50% of the amount for mission outside the Presbytery and 50% of the amount to missional projects within the Presbytery. The total amount designated is \$8,191.10; and approved a request from First Presbyterian Church, Baraboo, WI to sell the house adjacent to the church for \$105,000, with the proceeds going for a youth staff position and to support the church's ministries.

Received the Committee on Ministry report, during which called presbyters' attention to the joys and concerns in the triennial visit reports; noted that Teaching Elder Shirley Funk is moving to the state of Washington at the end of November, that Teaching Elder Deb Lind-Schmitz is moving to Geneva, NY in January, and that Commissioned Ruling Elder Barb Merwin is moving to Ecuador at the end of the year; noted that Teaching Elder Kristen Frederich will be installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cambria, WI on November 18, 2012 and Teaching Elder Eunuk Lim will be installed as Pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Madison, WI on December 30, 2012; noted the Honorable Retirements of Teaching Elders Susan Vergeront, Marsha Wilfong, and Tom Young at the end of the year, with formal celebration of ministries for Revs. Vergeront and Young; noted that the 2013 COM leadership team will be: Ruling Elder Allen Hanson, Moderator, Teaching Elder Grant VanderVelden, Vice Moderator, and Ruling Elder Marita Hale, Clerk; and approved revisions to COM Manual of Operations 32.

Received the Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, WI Administrative Commission report; approved beginning January 1, 2013 removing the "acting as Session" part of the AC's charge, that Shirley Funk become the Moderator of the AC only, that Sam Buffat be dismissed as Moderator of the Congregation, and that Jessica Scholten be named Moderator of the Session and Congregation; and to extend the AC until the February 16, 2013 Presbytery meeting.

Received the Moderator, Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, and Stated Clerk's reports. During the Stated Clerk's Report reported the death of Teaching Elder Woody Carey; that the Investigative Committee has determined not to file charges and has concluded its work; approved dismissing the Investigative Committee with thanks; that the Synod of Lakes and Prairies has approved the Presbytery's minutes without exception; approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install Teaching Elder Craig Howard as Pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove, WI; approved revisions to the Bylaws pertaining to the Presbytery Nominating Committee; and approved the Report of the Session Records Review to date, including that Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, Madison, WI's records were approved without exception.

Voted affirmatively on the following proposed amendments to the Constitution: the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism, 12-A, 12-C, all 12-D items, 12-E, 12-G, 12-H, 12-I, and 12-J; voted negatively on proposed amendments 12 -B and 12-F.

Received an update on and encouragement to participate in the Presbyterian Mission Agency's 1,001 New Worshiping Communities initiative – see http://www.onethousandone.org for more information and resources.

The next meeting will be Saturday, February 16, 2013 via video conferencing.

Read through the Bible in 1 Year!

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 Stor	y of Jesus
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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 | Peter 1-2

Dec-18 | 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

Check out our website:

www.daleheightspc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Christian Education for all ages

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Fellowship

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church 5501 University Avenue Madison, WI 53705 608.233.0134 dalehghts@sbcglobal.net www.daleheightspc.org

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.