Inside This Issue:

- Congregational Care  Page 2
- Birthday List  Page 2
- Pastor Letter  Page 3
- Associate Pastor  Page 4
- Parish Nurse News  Page 5
- Children’s Ministry  Page 6
- Youth Activities  Page 7
- Economy Corner  Page 8
- Pastor's Annual Report  Page 9
- Ministries & Missions  Page 10
- Calendar  Page 11

Mission Statement
In response to the love and grace of God, First Presbyterian Church of Wichita, Kansas, is a fellowship of believers bound together to glorify God and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, spiritual nurturing, education and mission to all people.

FPC Information:
525 N. Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 263-0248
info@firstchurchwichita.org
www.firstchurchwichita.org

Sunday Worship Schedule
Worship 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)
Coffee Fellowship 9:15 a.m. (The Well)
Worship 10:45 a.m. (Sanctuary)

First Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Epiphany Soup Lunch

“We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”
Matthew 2:2

Following the 10:45 a.m. service on January 6, we will be enjoying our Epiphany Lunch. Please bring soup in a crockpot or cupcakes (we need about 200.) Please bring your soup recipe too, since we will be compiling a cookbook of these recipes. Please let Alice Price know if you plan to bring soup at 267-6853, and what kind of soup you are bringing. For questions or more information, please contact Liz Norris.

Sympathy: Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of church members James Chitty, Beth Devins, Joyce Greene, and Margaret (Pat) Carnahan as they grieve the recent loss of their loved ones. Please pray for Dick Wieland and family as they grieve the recent loss of his mother Virginia. Also, please pray for Stacey Rucker and family as they grieve the loss of her mother Linda Stebbins. We also extend our sympathies to Herb Bevan over the loss of his brother James. Also, please pray for Janice Savute as they grieve the recent loss of her sister, Karen Blair.
From the Pastor’s Desk

For 8 weeks beginning January 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor, we will look at Bart Ehrman’s New York Times Best Selling Book, *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee.* Bart Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Quoting Erhman as to why he wrote this book, “As a historian I am no longer obsessed of how God became man, but with the historical question of how a man became God.” Come to the class beginning January 9th to find out.

Pastor Brent

Pastor’s Annual Report

“Embracing our Future by Making Progress on our Adaptive Challenges”

Yogi Berra, former baseball player and philosopher, once said, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Which one to take seemed less important than the actual decision of taking either option. You might be surprised to learn that this happens whenever an organization refuses to face the future that is quickly becoming their present. When, what we once were is no longer an option, resistance to what we can become (and are becoming) is an act of denial. It is the proverbial Ostrich sticking its head in the sand to avoid a perceived threat. How effective this is as a strategy is obvious for everyone but the ostrich. And I might add any organization that refuses to face difficult decisions.

How this relates to First Presbyterian Church should be obvious to anyone who has known the church when it could boast a membership over three thousand. Since the 1960’s, First Presbyterian Church has been losing members every year regardless of Head of Staff and Staff it has hired to reverse this situation. Solace can be taken that this phenomenon isn’t affecting just First Church. A steady loss of membership has happened to main-line churches. Two factors that stand out among many is the loss of trust in our institutions and the growing secularization of society. The Evangelical Church in many ways is the response by conservatives to this lack of trust in institutions and growing secularization of society. Their response is to double down and trust the authority of scripture and those in authority to combat the growing secularization of our society. Those who remained in Main-line Churches have tried reorganization of Staff, Priorities, and Five-Year plans borrowing from the business world to plan for growth. But growth never happened. And it will not happen when one simply rearranges the deck chairs on the Titanic and thinks substantive change has occurred. The Adaptive solution lies not in strategies that have passengers remain on the boat but strategies in getting off the boat. (Continued on Pg. 9)
A few words from Pastor Judy...

I remember standing in the checkout line at Dillon’s on New Year’s Eve Day last year, waiting to purchase a few items I needed for a party I was attending that evening. The young man sacking my groceries seemed exceptionally happy and I complimented him on his cheerful attitude. He told me he was going to four New Year’s Eve parties when he got off work! Sounding like his granny for sure, I couldn’t stop myself from reminding him not to drink and drive. Not the least bit offended, he said, “Oh, I won’t! I know my limit!”

It’s been a long time since I was that excited about New Year’s Eve, if, in fact, I ever was. Most of us lose steam after Christmas, and the New Year brings mostly visions of taxes and the economy dancing in our wee little heads. And...does anyone make New Year’s resolutions anymore?

Don’t despair. For Christians worldwide, the new year brings something much more exciting than anyone can imagine! It’s called Epiphany, the secular definition of which is “a sudden realization or discovery brought on by a simple event or happening.”

For those of us who eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child during the season of Advent, and then welcome Him joyfully into our hearts on Christmas morning, there is no surprise. We know who He is. We know what his coming means for us and for the world. We know He is the Word made flesh who brings a message of God’s love, grace and salvation.

Not so for those who lived at the time of Jesus’ birth. Not even his own parents knew what God had in mind for their precious new baby. When the three wise men, the Magi, came calling on the Holy Family, Mary and Joseph knew something was afoot. These exotic-looking strangers had followed a special star for months, from lands far away, looking for the “king of the Jews.” The star had led them straight to Bethlehem.

This event was a sure sign that Jesus was to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” It was the Epiphany, the realization that the Christ child was truly the Messiah, not just for a few but for the whole world.

As we trudge through the cold, dark months of winter yet to come, let us lift our faces toward the Son who brings hope, love and peace to all of us. Let us, along with Mary, Joseph and the Magi, experience our own Epiphany!

Happy New Year!

Judy

ADULT EDUCATION – LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

The Lectionary Bible Study will resume Friday, January 5th. The study is based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. The one-hour study begins at noon every Friday in the West Dining Room. Everyone is welcome. You may bring your own lunch and are encouraged to bring your own Bible.
From the Parish Nurse

Tips for a ‘Be Well’ New Year

There are lots of tips written on line and in magazines and newspapers, on how to be healthier in mind, body and spirit. I have compiled tips that you already know but deserve repeating. As you set healthy goals for the 2019 New Year try to:

**Drink half your body weight in water.** (e.g., 150 pounds = 75 oz of water/day). Drinking water has plenty of benefits including increasing energy, flushing out toxins, boosting immunity, and improving your skin complexion. Try infusing filtered water with lemon or other citrus fruits to add flavor. Drink a tall glass of water first thing in the morning to rehydrate and start the energizing process.

**Add more fruits and vegetables to every meal.** Consuming many colored fruits and vegetables has shown to promote longevity and overall wellness.

**Keep healthy snacks available.** When healthy food is near and consumed, it is easier to forgo the salty and sweet cravings.

**Practice mindful eating.** Eating when we’re distracted, especially while watching TV, leads to overeating. When we eat mindfully, we notice when we are full, plus we’re more likely to enjoy the good foods.

**Do not smoke.** Note that the new e-cigs and flavored vapors are under scrutiny as harmful substances, too.

**Drink alcohol in moderation.** The literature says one drink per day for women and up to two drinks per day for men. Some experts say no alcohol is best for good health.

**Examine your hygiene and beauty products and substitute with natural and non-toxic ingredients.** Our skin is the largest organ in our body and since it is porous, it absorbs systemically whatever we put on it. Stay clear of these toxic ingredients: sodium lauryl sulfate, BHA, triclosan, coal tar, parabens, petroleum distillates and fragrance, to name a few.

**Use natural items for household cleansers.** To avoid toxic exposure to your skin and respiratory system, substitute natural ingredients, such as vinegar and water to your cleaning regime.

**Be active daily.** Aim for 30 minutes of some enjoyable activity that gets your body moving.

**Get more sleep.** Establish a nightly bedtime routine. Turn off the phone, TV, and tablet, knock down the thermostat, and keep your room darkened for quality sleep.

**Adopt an attitude of gratitude.** Take time at the beginning and end of your day to reflect on the blessings in your life. When we are grateful, we shift our focus and minimize the distracting or distorting influence of stress.

**Believe that everything happens for a reason.** Expect good things to come out of challenging times.

**Focus on learning, loving, growing and serving.** This is so good for the heart and soul.

**Stay positive.** Know that with faith all things are possible.

Blessings to each of you in the New Year! Be Well!

Joan
Children’s Ministry News

The last few months have been busy for the children of FPC. We spent a lot of time getting ready for our Christmas service which took place on December the 9. We had several rehearsals leading up to the performance and the kids loved being included in the special service.

Wednesday night clubs will resume on January 9 at 5:30 p.m. We will have a sign up available in The Well on Sundays to help contribute to our weekly meal. Thank you to all who have been a part of making our Wednesday nights services a success. We are excited to see what 2019 will bring for our children and their growing faith.

Children and Youth Special Events

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

On December 12 we held our second annual parent’s night out. The children decorated cookies, drank hot cocoa, played games, and enjoyed a Christmas movie while their parents enjoyed a night out. A big thank you to Roseanne Waller for making all the cookies for this event. They were a big hit with the kids. We are thankful for your generosity.
**Youth Activities**

**January 1 (Tuesday)** – New Year’s Day

**January 2 (Wednesday)** – No Youth Club

*January 4-6 (Friday-Sunday) – Young Adult Winter Retreat*

www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

**January 5 (Saturday)** – Start off the New Year by volunteering at the **Community Breakfast**. The community breakfast is an ongoing mission of our church. We encourage you and your family to volunteer. Arrive at 7:30 a.m.

**January 6 (Sunday)** – (2) worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday school is in the Youth Lounge from 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Epiphany Lunch is right after the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Followed by Melodrama Casting from 2-4 p.m.**

**January 9 (Wednesday)** – Youth Club-5:30-8 p.m.

**January 13 (Sunday)** – (2) worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday school is in the Youth Lounge from 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Melodrama rehearsal 12-2:30 p.m.**

**January 16 (Wednesday)** - Youth Club-5:30-8 p.m.


**January 20 (Sunday)** - 2 worship svcs. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday school 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Melodrama rehearsal 12-2:30 p.m.**

**January 23 (Wednesday)** - Youth Club – 5:30-8 p.m.

**January 27 (Sunday)** - 2 worship svcs. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday school 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Melodrama rehearsal 12-2:30 p.m.**

**January 30 (Wednesday)** - Youth Club – 5:30-8 p.m.

*February 8-10 (Friday-Sunday) – Westminster Woods Middle School Winter Retreat*

* means Westminster Woods Winter Retreats

Need to contact me? Geri Doll-Youth Director-cell phone # 316-737-8855/doll@firstchurchwichita.org/Facebook.

*We are happy to give you a ride if needed.*

**Intergenerational Advent Workshop**

On December 2nd FPC CE committee held an Advent workshop. This event included a potluck lunch (we provided the turkey) and several different craft stations. The crafts included ornament making, nativity scene made from graham crackers, cookie decorating, Advent Candle wreaths with live greenery wreaths pictured above. Everyone worked very hard to make this event a success and we appreciate your support.
November’s total sales were $11,339.42. This is an increase of $378.81 over November 2017 sales. FPC's share was $10,229.99 and Grace's was $1,109.42. We filled 147 vouchers in November for basic clothing necessities which were equivalent to $1,974.75. FPC's portion of the vouchers equaled $1,650.50 and Grace's was $324.25.

The Economy Corner’s Board elected new officers for 2019: Rosalie Klocke, President, Delores Granger, Treasurer, and Janet Setser, Secretary. They will be installed at our January 10th meeting. We are in desperate need of a volunteer who can evaluate the usability of the electronic donations we receive. We are also in need of men’s jeans, especially larger sizes, and men’s shoes. For the fifth year, our new coat and winter wear Mission project is helping those most in need. We are blessed to have the support, donations, and volunteer help from our Congregations which assist us in meeting the needs of those we serve in our Urban Com-

To all who volunteer their time and efforts to support the church activities, members and operations. We appreciate all you do!

Journeys Class in January

“THE END OF THE AGE: Apocalypse, Tribulation, Revelation, and Hope”

How should we as Christians view the end of time? Is it a time for fear or hope? What does Jesus have to say? What about Biblical scholars and TV evangelists? We will look at the Book of Revelation, the Gospels, the Old Testament, and other sources as we consider the Last Days. So, if you want to know more about the Apocalypse, the Millennium, the Rapture, and other topics, join us beginning January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the West Dining Room. Jeff Van Sickle will lead the group in a provocative journey through the end times. No reading required; come join us!
Likewise, our future lies not in strategies that pretends we are a large Church with a membership that can support a large budget to staff, program, and take care of the building(s)—Sanctuary, Chase Wing, Economy Corner, and Camp. Our membership is now around 390 members on the roll with a budget close to 1 million dollars. With Congregational giving around $430,000 and other sources making up the difference, clearly this is not sustainable. What I propose is that we be pro-active in facing our future and embrace it by making progress on our adaptive challenges to vitality and sustainability. In other words, let us take the fork in the road.

**First Adaptive Challenge: Accepting and Mourning the Loss of Being a Large Church.** Most of the solutions presented towards growth always involve what Pharaoh told the Israelites when presented with their complaints, “Make more bricks without straw.” When you have diminished resources and no excess capacity for the system to take on a new initiative unless you drop an old initiative but don’t because the old initiative gives meaning to those doing it, is it any wonder we do not experience growth? If the task of shedding the old for the sake of the new was easy, we would have done it by now. Therefore, it is called an adaptive challenge because it requires a change in our congregational culture, our present way of doing things.

**Second Adaptive Challenge: Transforming Parallel Play into Cooperative Play.** When an organization is a large Church, it can afford its members to parallel play in the sand box without ever having to share objects brought to the sand box. Sociologists will tell you that a higher form of child development occurs when children stopped playing with their toy and start sharing the toys in a cohesive narrative called “Cooperative Play.” So, it should not come as a great surprise that in the past cooperative play was not deemed necessary in our life together. But now that we are no longer a large church with resources to fund every-one’s programs and projects, cooperative play will become necessary in developing a strategy moving forward. For instance, we are becoming a small church with a large building, how do we share it going forward to facilitate our mission and ministry? This question cannot be answered without engaging in cooperative play. And many more like it.

**Third Adaptive Challenge: Transforming Consumers of Religious Goods into Disciples of Jesus Christ.** Now that we live in what economists call a consumer driven economy that caters to individual wants and desires whether one can afford to pay the price is not a question answered by the economy. Religion is supposed to answer these questions dealing with satisfaction. When is enough, “enough” as it relates to the just distribution of goods to distinguish a want from a need? Consumerism says, “I am entitled to satisfy my wants irrespective of what others need.” We see this attitude creeping into our worship when members say, “The message didn’t speak to me,” or “I didn’t like the music.” When this happens, the transcendent dimension of worship is lost. As if the purpose of worship is all about satisfying individual preferences. And, yet, Jesus’ message runs counter to this “me-ism” or “consumerism” that pervades our society with these startling words, “What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and forfeit one’s soul? What can you give in exchange for your soul?” The answer is “nothing.” That is why Jesus gave the following invitation, “If any be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up the cross and follow me.”

All of this is to say that the way forward is to make progress on the greatest adaptative challenge facing Christians and the Church in any age and that is to embody, “Christ existing as Community,” instead of “individuals who go to church to consume religious goods.” Without God the task before us is impossible. But with God all things are possible. Let us become the future we seek. Let us make progress on our adaptive challenges facing us in 2019.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Brent
Start off 2019 by becoming involved in church activities, ministries and missions. Make an impact for those in need and our community. This page features pictures from our recent Community Breakfast and other mission activities. Thank you for your contributions and have a blessed 2019!
**January 2019**

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, January 1**
Happy New Year
Office Closed
Economy Corner Closed

**Wednesday, January 2**
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 4**
8:30 Sr. Men’s Breakfast (WDR)

**Friday, January 5**
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

**Saturday, January 6**
8:00 Community Breakfast (EDR, WDR, KIT)
8:00 Guadalupe Clinic (EDR)
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 6**
Epiphany/Communion
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:15 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (YL)
9:30 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204/C201)
12:00 Melodrama Rehearsal (EDR)

**Tuesday, January 8**
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Mtg (The Well)
5:30 Finance Mtg (Hobbs)
5:30 CE/Evangelism Mtg (The Well)

**Wednesday, January 9**
9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)
10:00 PW Study Circle (Parlor)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
5:30 Wednesday Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00 Brent’s Bible Study (The Well)
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, January 10**
9:00 Economy Corner Board Meeting (EC)
10:00 PW Study Circle (Parlor)
11:00 Economy Corner Luncheon (WDR)
4:30 Promote the Growth (The Well)

**Friday, January 11**
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

**Saturday, January 12**
8:30 Gardens & Grounds
9:30 Transportation Mtg. (C109)
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 13**
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:15 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (YL)
9:30 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR)
9:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision (C103)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204/C201)
11:45 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg. (McComb)
12:00 Blood Pressure Check (The Well)

**Tuesday, January 15**
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (The Well)

**Thursday, January 17**
11:45 Theological Themes in Lit. (RR)

**Friday, January 18**
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

**Saturday, January 19**
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 20**
Prayers of the People
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:15 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (YL)
9:30 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR)
9:30 Camp Whispers (The Well)
10:00 Blood Pressure Check (The Well)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204/C201)
12:00 Melodrama Rehearsal (EDR)

**Tuesday, January 22**
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (The Well)

**Wednesday, January 23**
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
5:30 Wednesday Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00 Brent’s Bible Study (The Well)
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Friday, January 25**
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

**Saturday, January 26**
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 27**
Yellow Bag Sunday
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:15 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (YL)
9:30 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204/C201)
12:00 Melodrama Rehearsal (EDR)
Stephen Ministers are the *After People.*

*Stephen Ministers are there:*
*after* the divorce,
*after* the funeral,
*after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry,”
*after* the baby arrives

If you have questions or need to talk, please contact Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.

The February Presby News Deadline is Wednesday January 16, at NOON.

The editor reserves the right to edit submitted information for content and space availability.

Questions? Contact Michelle Edwards at 263-0248 or email publications@firstchurchwichita.org