Epiphany Big Bang Bingo!

Epiphany BINGO!
...and the not so Silent Auction
Sunday, January 5th
12 Noon – 3 P.M.

FREE Soup Dinner with a Bingo Card
Small charge for a dauber and extra Bingo Cards
Donations are always appreciated!

Camels are on the RUN to get to the celebration of the Christ Child on January 5 at First Presbyterian Church.

Join your church family for a fabulous afternoon of fellowship with soup & salad, playing Bingo for prizes, and making bids on Silent Auction baskets.

BRING FRIENDS!!

All proceeds of the Silent Auction will go to support spiritual growth and renewal of our congregation as we approach First Presbyterian Church’s 150th Anniversary!! Contact Cynthia Rekoske at 992-9595 if you have any concerns or would love to assist!

Following the 10:45 a.m. service on January 5, we will be enjoying our Epiphany Lunch and Big Bang Bingo! 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.

1 Donn Mason 18 Jane McHugh
4 Ruth Collingwood 23 Bailey Bowles
5 Gabriel Iwig 25 Owen Barker
7 Jim Graves Jacob Ediger
8 Molly Lyon Rosalie Klocke
9 Janice Savute Suzanna Stanberry
10 Rebecca Deckard
11 Margarethe Van Zandt 26 Heidi Barker
12 Stephanie Penny Judy Davis
13 David Wade
14 Tom Veatch 27 Corbin Jones
15 Liz Norris 28 Christal Jones
Stacy Rucker
Cassandra Swenson
30 Taylor Gill
31 Sharon Hartsel
32 Jeff Van Sickle

January Birthdays

The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston
Pastor/Head of Staff
pastor@firstchurchwichita.org

Joan Aldrich
Parish Nurse
aldrich@firstchurchwichita.org

Geri Doll
Director of Youth Ministry
doll@firstchurchwichita.org

Liz Norris
Director of Children’s Ministry
norris@firstchurchwichita.org

Steve Bixler
Director of Music
bixler@firstchurchwichita.org

Mark Sweeney
Organist
msweeney620@yahoo.com

Gary Huffman
Archivist
huffman@firstchurchwichita.org

Administrative Staff

Michelle Edwards
Administrative Assistant
publications@firstchurchwichita.org

Nancy Bishop
Bookkeeper
finance@firstchurchwichita.org

Roy Yarbrough
Facilities Manager
facilities@firstchurchwichita.org

Mary Burgett
Economy Corner Manager

Jody Robertson
Economy Corner Assistant Manager

Dave Duncan
Whispering Winds Camp Manager
dbduncan@firstchurchwichita.org

Melinda Sears
Clerk of the Session
sj.ml.sears@att.net
“Out with the Old and in with the New”

Out with the Old and in the New is a saying one hears quite often to ring in the new year. Many people who have experienced hardship of one sort or another like a loss of job, the death of a loved one, the loss of health, are glad to see 2019 come to a close. I certainly feel this way when it comes to putting away the Christmas decorations but hold off until the January 6 so as to ring in the 12 days of Christmas. But I admit the Christmas tree has seen better days and has lost its sparkle, destined for the curb to be ground into mulch. Clearly what once gave so much joy will now become the stuff out of which new life springs forth. This reminds me of a verse from Isaiah which says, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

As we move into the new year filled with promise let us pause to reflect on how God has been at work using the grist of our life like mulch for new life to spring up in our midst. First, I am thankful for the privilege of being your pastor, doing what I love like preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and van driver. Who would have thought I would enjoy so much the opportunity to drive the Church van on Wednesday nights for Wednesday Clubs? I have gotten to know the WRCC children by name. Before they were only a face. Second, I am thankful for the teachers and volunteers who make Wednesday Clubs happen. It has been hard work integrating the FPC kids with the WRCC kids into one group. In many ways, what happens on Wednesday nights is a sign that the kingdom of God has come upon us. May God continue to bless our efforts at making disciples of Jesus Christ at Wednesday Clubs. Third, I am thankful that the WRCC leadership has taken the step to begin the process of becoming a new PCUSA church in Presbytery of Southern Kansas. Fourth, I am thankful for the opportunity to get to know our Young Adults. We have met four times this year, going to Chicken-n-Pickle in September, Ax Throwing in October, Pinot’s Palette in November, and Illuminations in December. We have averaged about 8 to 10 Young Adults each outing. It is my hope and goal we will double that number as we plan to do a Young Adult Mission trip this summer. Last, I am thankful for the traditional worship service in the Chapel and Sanctuary each Sunday that glorifies God through Word and Music. I truly believe we are the best kept secret in Wichita. The music is outstanding as demonstrated whenever the Choir sings or the Bell Choir rings. And this excellence would not be possible without such gifted musicians singing, playing, and directing. Let us take pride in what we do well and invite a friend to the Sunday services.

As we move into the new year, we will be celebrating the church’s 150th anniversary. First Presbyterian Church was chartered on March 13, 1870. We will celebrate this historic occasion with a little ceremony at what used to be the site of the dugout. And then we celebrate it in style on Sunday March 15, 2020 pulling out all the organ stops as they say with invitations to past and present members, pastors, dignitaries, choirs performing with orchestration, and a documentary on how First Church and Wichita grew up together. This will be one service you do not want to miss.

But, alas, one service does not make a church. Truly, the future of First Presbyterian Church will depend upon discernment, discussion, and decisions that will carry this church forward for the next 50 years. Towards that end, members and Staff in leadership positions and anyone else will be attending a weekend session entitled, “Your Leadership Edge,” that will be put on by our KLC coach—Dr. Joyce McEwen Crane. You will be hearing more about this opportunity from our Core KLC Team comprised of Cynthia Berner, Patrice Cummings, Stephanie Bird Hutchison, Jeff Van Sickle, Melinda Sears, Cynthia Rekoske, and Darryl Ott.

Truly, God is doing amazing things do you not yet perceive it? May we all perceive God at work in the world so as to join God in God’s work in 2020 that celebrates our past as we make way for the new.

Grace and Peace,
Upcoming Adult Education Classes

Please join me beginning January 8, 2020 on Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss what those in academia and those in the pew are talking about, John Robinson’s book *Honest to God*. Bishop Robinson sensed that Christianity needed to be made relevant to the modern world. And he found inspiration in that task in two twentieth century theologians—Paul Tillich and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This book spawned in the academy the “Death of God” movement. It spawned in laity, a lay renewal, liturgical renewal, and what we now know as progressive Christianity.

This class promises to generate stimulating discussion as we seek to do in the words of Anselm, “faith seeking understanding.” The book may be bought at the Church Office for $20.00 dollars or on Amazon. I hope to see you in class in *The Well* January 8 at 6 p.m.

Journeys Class to Re-Convene

on January 5

*For the first event of our 150th Anniversary Celebration*

Join us in the *Journeys* class as we celebrate the New Year and the 150th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church. Starting on Sunday, January 5, 2020, Gary Huffman, church archivist, will lead a four-week session on the history of our church. The schedule is as follows:

- January 5—Early Wichita, Dugout, Frame Church
- January 12—Red Brick Church & The Stone Church
- January 19—3 Men—3 Windows
- January 26—13 Charter Members (live presentation)

The Journeys Class meets in the Parlor at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. All are welcome! Please join us!
A NEW YEAR’S PRAYER FOR 2020

“Dear Father,
You are the God of love and I thank You that You are with me in every change and transition.
I trust in your word that says,
“the Lord your God goes with you”.
Therefore, as I enter into this new season, I will not be anxious of the uncertainty, but I declare Your Word that says, I must not be anxious for anything but in everything through prayer and supplication, I will make my requests be made known unto You.
Amen”

DEUTERONOMY 31:6
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

This New Year is a time of reflection and renewal. May we put our worries aside and trust in God’s presence and provisions for our lives. May we all grow in generosity, kindness, forgiveness, hope, faith and love.

Happy New Year 2020!

Blessings and Love to each of you,

Joan
I want to take a moment to thank all our Wednesday night volunteers. If it wasn’t for your hard work and dedication, we could not make this program work. We are growing Wednesday night in size and very excited for the upcoming Winter/Spring Semester. I cannot express enough how thankful I am for everyone and all they do for the First Presbyterian Children’s program. Working with these children each week is such a joy not just for me but for the adults that chose to be here even with a busy hectic life. Thank you for being a part of the JOY!

We will be on winter break for the next few weeks so families and volunteers can enjoy the Holiday season. We will return to normal program Schedule on January 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for worship.

**January 2020 at a glance**
January 5th Epiphany Lunch following the 10:45a.m. Service in the EDR
January 8th Wednesday clubs 5:30-8 p.m.
January 15th Wednesday clubs 5:30-8 p.m.
January 22nd Wednesday clubs 5:30-8 p.m.
January 29th **NO CLUBS** Staff and Volunteers will be attending the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

If you have any questions about upcoming events or want to contribute to our meal please contact me at Norris@firstchurchwichita.org or by cell @ 316-214-4318.
Youth Activities for January 2020

January 1 (Wednesday) – New Year's Day- No Youth Club

*January 3-5 (Friday-Sunday) – Westminster Woods Young Adult Winter Retreat

January 4 (Saturday) - Community Breakfast, arrive at 7:30 a.m.

January 5 (Sunday) - 2 worship svcs. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Epiphany/Bingo Lunch following 2nd worship service

January 7 (Tuesday) - CE Commission meeting-5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in The Well

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

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

January 15 (Wednesday) - Youth Club – 5:30-8 p.m.

*January 17-19 (Friday-Sunday) – Westminster Woods High School Winter Retreat

January 19 (Sunday) - 2 worship svcs. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Melodrama rehearsal 12-2:30 p.m.

January 22 (Wednesday) - Youth Club – 5:30-8 p.m.

January 26 (Sunday) - 2 worship svcs. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Melodrama rehearsal 12-2:30 p.m.

January 29 (Wednesday) - No Youth Club

*February 7-9 (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.
The Economy Corner's November total sales were $13,152.00. This is an increase of $1,812.58 over November 2018 sales. FPC’s share was $11,851.23 and Grace’s was $1,300.77. We filled 323 vouchers in November for basic clothing necessities which were equivalent to $3,976.25. FPC’s portion of the vouchers equaled $3,566.50 and Grace’s was $409.75. The increase in vouchers is partly due to the large demand for winter gear; new coats, hats, scarves, gloves, hoodies and thermal underwear.

Our assistant manager and super shopper, Phyllis Robertson, has spent a total of $5,613.10. She has used all our Mission monies and has been buying for 2020 using our Volunteer account. This year, we had 224 coats, 50 thermal underwear, 68 hoodies and 48 pairs of gloves. In August we spent $750.00 on backpacks to help with back to school needs. We also donated $1,500.00 to the International Refugee Committee and $600.00 to Mankind Ministries (was UMM).

We are so grateful that our Congregations help make possible, the opportunity to aid those in need in our urban Community. God has truly Blessed us!

Thank You

To all who volunteer their time and efforts to support the church activities, missions, community breakfasts, cleaning around the outside of the building, assist with providing transportation services by scheduling appointments or driving those who need a ride.

We appreciate all you do!

Thank You!
December Activities
Start off 2020 by becoming involved in church activities, ministries and missions. Make an impact for those in need and our community. This page features pictures from recent mission activities. Thank you for your contributions and have a blessed 2020!

With cold weather and flu season on us, items in the Yellow Bag Ministry need to adjust accordingly. Products especially needed are facial and toilet tissue, lip balm, Mentholatum or Vicks vapor rub, cough drops, and hand/body soap.

Also, greatly appreciated by the refugee families is laundry detergent. These simple items help them stretch their limited income and use their cash to pay rent and utilities. Donations can be placed in the basket in the hall outside of the church office at any time!

CHRISTMAS CARDS PROJECT!

Christmas cards for those who are not able to come to church, are sick, or have no family. Thank you Catherine for leading this worth while mission.
# CALENDAR

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

**Friday, January 3**  
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)

**Saturday, January 4**  
8:00 Community Breakfast (EDR, WDR, KIT)

**Sunday, January 5**  
*Epiphany Bingo/Communion*
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:00 Coffee Fellowship *(The Well)*
9:30 Journeys Class (Parlor)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204)

**Monday, January 6**  
4:30 Personnel Meeting (Hobbs)

**Tuesday, January 7**  
11:00 Staff Mtg *(Hobbs)*
4:30 Camp Comm. Mtg (WDR)
5:00 Evangelism & Hospitality Mtg *(The Well)*
5:30 CE Comm. Mtg *(The Well)*
5:30 Facilities Mtg (C109)
5:30 Stewardship Mtg (Parlor)

**Wednesday, January 8**  
9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)
10:00 PW Study Circle (Parlor)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
6:00 Adult Ed *(The Well)*
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, January 9**  
11:00 Economy Corner Luncheon (WDR)
5:00 Mission Comm. Mtg (Hobbs)

**Friday, January 10**  
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)

**Saturday, January 11**  
9:30 Transportation Mtg (C109)
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 12**  
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:00 Coffee Fellowship *(The Well)*
9:30 Journeys Class (Parlor)
9:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision (C103)
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204)
11:45 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg (McComb)

**Monday, January 13**  
4:30 Personnel Meeting (Hobbs)

**Tuesday, January 14**  
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
5:30 Finance Mtg (Hobbs)

**Wednesday, January 15**  
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
10:00 PW Board Meeting (Parlor)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
6:00 Adult Ed *(The Well)*
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, January 16**  
1:30 Book Chat (C109)

**Friday, January 17**  
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)

**Saturday, January 18**  
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 19**  
*Prayers of the People*
8:30 Worship (Chapel)
9:00 Coffee Fellowship *(The Well)*
9:30 Journeys Class (Parlor)
10:00 Blood Pressure Check *(The Well)*
10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (C204)

**Monday, January 20**  

**Tuesday, January 21**  
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting *(The Well)*
5:30 Session (Parlor)

**Wednesday, January 22**  
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
10:00 PW Circle (Parlor)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
6:00 Adult Ed *(The Well)*
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Friday, January 24**  
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)

**Saturday, January 25**  
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study WRCC (Hobbs)

**Sunday, January 26**  
*Yellow Bag Sunday*

**Monday, January 27**  

**Tuesday, January 28**  
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)

**Wednesday, January 29**  
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
10:00 PW Study Circle (Parlor)
5:30 Wednesday Clubs
6:00 Adult Ed *(The Well)*
6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Friday, January 31**  
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)
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.