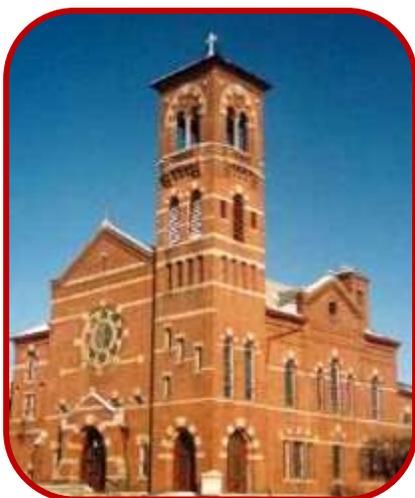




THE CALL



Church Happenings

Communion

Dec. 1

Friendship & Talent Luncheon-noon	Dec. 11
Care of Parish Meeting- 1:30 p.m.	Dec. 11
Train Show	Dec. 13, ...14, 15
Session Meeting- 4:00 p.m.	Dec. 18
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m.	Dec. 24
MERRY CHRISTMAS	Dec. 25

DECEMBER SERVERS

LAY LITURGIST:

Jeff Lincourt & Terri Pleak

GREETER:

Polly Matlock

USHERS:

Dennis & Susan Wilson

REFRESHMENTS:

Polly Matlock

COUNTERS:

?

Wally Words

As I write this article, I am reminded that it was one year ago that we began a journey together. Ours is a time of transition. During this past year I have seen many signs of life at First Pres Greensburg! Wednesday night was our Thankfulness Banquet. The head count for members and their many guests was **78**. Special thanks go to Susan Wilson, along with Kathy Denny and Judy Rust. Many others helped set up, and clean up, but these three worked almost the whole day. Joe Curran stopped for the banquet and manned the dishwasher. My apologies if any other hard workers are not mentioned. This was our third year of doing the banquet, and what a feast. After dinner was complete, many folks hung on to visit, just having a great time.

Now we move once again into the Season of Advent on December 1. November 24 was both Thanksgiving Sunday and Reign of Christ Sunday. This marks the end of the liturgical year. The new liturgical year begins with Advent on Dec 1. Embedded in the regular Sunday worship services will be Candle lighting services. Advent is a season of yearning for signs of **God's kingdom. Strange, isn't it? On November 24** we observe what it means for Christ to be King; then on the next Sunday we begin the church year anew with the yearnings of God's people of every age, because while **God's kingdom is breaking in all around us, there are still longings in our hearts.**

There are 4 Sundays in Advent, which ends on Christmas. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7:30. Advent is longing - longing for restored relationships with God, with estranged friends and family, and to be reunited with dearly departed loved ones in the life to come. Advent is longing for human warmth.

Christmas, however, is celebration of the One born in Bethlehem whose presence promises fulfillment of



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Presbyterian Women — Friendship and Talent

Come join us for our final luncheon of the year. We will gather for card signing and fellowship on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch at noon. Afterwards, we will hold a short meeting with devotions given by Melinda Weaver.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m.

Come join us on December 24th at 7:30 p.m. for our annual Candlelighting Service. Communion will be served.



IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Mike Gommel

JOSEPH, CARPENTER OF STEEL (DVD)

The early chapters of Matthew and Luke give intriguing details about the principal players in the Christmas story, but tantalizing few about Joseph. This DVD offers a look at the **foster-father of Jesus**. Joseph's unwavering trust in God, his obedience in the face of ridicule and disruption gives us a unique example of biblical manhood. As carpenter, guardian, and parent, Joseph was, above all, faithful. This documentary will get you looking at the Nativity story from a fresh angle.

BOO HUMBUG

By Rene Gutteridge

It is Christmastime in Skary, Indiana, but the holiday season has been hijacked by maverick director Lois Stepaphanopolis as she attempts to bring her horror-ific vision of *Christmas Carol* to life. But the holly-decked path from page to stage is a thorny one, as Lois attempts to rally her skeptical cast, and then she learns that her reluctant marketing director, Alfred Tennison, is truly a Christmas **Scrooge**. Alfred's **grassroots marketing plan** proves more than successful as the buzz builds that Skary should anticipate an overflowing audience for their opening night. But, a crucial miscommunication leaves the visiting theatergoers expecting a very different Christmas production. As chaos ensues, can the actors pull off an improve miracle—and can the Skary community convince their own Scrooge to embrace the true meaning of Christmas?

Wally Words—Continued from page 1

those longings. Christmas is heavy with memories. Let's be aware of those among us for whom Christmas is a depressing time, so that they are not forgotten but embraced in our feasts and family gatherings. Even if someone who is alone can't bear to come to your family table, perhaps a simple gift or meeting up for a cup of coffee can preserve the hope that is ours in the faithfulness of God.

The act of longing confirms our faith that God is here. Even in the midst of grief, gross injustice, and economic uncertainty, we confirm our faith that God's rule will eventually become reality. We can show what God's rule means: do something for a wounded vet or first responder, or reach out in mercy to the sojourners in our midst, or buy a meal for one who is homeless. May we as citizens of God's kingdom show compassion, work for justice for all God's forgotten, and share the hope that is ours.

May the gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy be yours this Advent and Christmas. May the love of God fill our hearts to overflowing, that good works may flow freely from us and from the Church we love, to the glory of God.

God's Blessings,

Wally

765-278-3749

revwwilson@gmail.com

PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER:

Here we are again starting another Advent Season. December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent. Sunday, December 22nd marks the fourth Sunday of Advent. Then, two days later is Christmas Eve on December 24th followed by Christmas Day on December 25th.



With all the rushing and buying gifts, decorating, meal planning and **sprucing up the house for visitors during the Christmas season, let's welcome** the thought of what Christmas is really all about. Ann Weems, a well-known/leading Christian poet, has written an Advent poem that reminds us of where our focus needs to be directed in this busy season.

IN SEARCH OF OUR KNEELING PLACES

By Ann Weems

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
An inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.*

When we are Bethlehem-bound, we experience our own advent in his.

When we are Bethlehem-bound, we can no longer look the other way

Conveniently not seeing stars or not hearing angels' voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem

And see this thing that the Lord has made known in the midst of shopping sprees.

Let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel lets look for the gold of the Christmas stable.

In the excitement and confusion, in the merry, let's listen for the brush of angel's wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Kathy Denny—Care of Parish Team



These are the families who are remembering their loved ones with a beautiful donated Poinsettia to adorn the Sanctuary this Christmas Eve.

Schlemmer family

Corya family

Hunter family

Joe Westhafer family

Rust family

Baumgartner family

Mike Gommel

Woods family

Laskowski family

Blanford family

Wilson family

Jean Stutz

Long family

It is not too late to order a poinsettia from your local florist in memory of your loved ones.

Look for a poster to be displayed in the Reception Hall for all those who are being remembered this holiday season.



KUDOS to our Church Librarian Mike Gommel

When Lois Laskowski retired as our church librarian a few years ago, a handful of us said we'd help keep the library operational . . . and we did clean, purge, move furniture and talk about what we should do. Meanwhile, as we fell by the wayside, Mike began making inroads into making the library what it is today.

Each week Mike has items of general interest in the Reception Hall. Those items are neatly displayed and showcased in various ways. Mike has also had the audacity to dive into the Archives File and bring forth important parts of our church history. Most recently he wrote an article about the Presbyterian Women's Organization and the rich history of the PW Group in our church.

Mike's Mom Mary always told us Mike liked the library—and apparently she was very right about that. A big THANK YOU goes to Mike who so often works behind the scenes—maybe YOU'D like to tell him "thank you" in person!

Darleen Fox





Our Life's Journey Together

Jerry and I were born in Muncie, Indiana. Jerry is the middle child born to Austin “Bud” and Ruth Chapman Fox in 1938. I am the only child born to Jesse “Brownie”

or “JB” and Gertrude “Gertie” Curry Brown in 1939. I had a half-sister 25 years older and a half-brother 23 years older. Jerry and I met in high school where we were both members of the “Marching 99” Band of Muncie Central High School, home of the Mighty Bearcats! Our first date was Jerry’s junior-senior prom. Nearly six years later we married after finishing our undergraduate degrees at Ball State.

Jerry’s family was very involved in the Walnut Street Baptist Church where his folks held many leadership positions. Jerry enjoyed playing sports in the youth group and especially enjoyed the parties. My family was Christian but did not attend church. When I was 12 years old, I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church (ELCA) after I joined and completed the catechism class at the invitation of a friend.

Jerry and I were married in that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Muncie during a snow storm on December 23, 1960. Immediately after the wedding we moved away from Muncie and attended several churches of various denominations. It was when we lived in Arlington, Indiana that a friend (teacher) invited us to a pancake supper at the First Presbyterian Church of Rushville. We attended a pre-membership series with the pastor and agreed that Presbyterianism was a good compromise of our different religious backgrounds. We subsequently became very active in the church.

Jerry and I spent most of our careers in the field of education. Jerry finished his career serving as a school superintendent and my final position was that of school psychologist. Along the way, we became business entrepreneurs and were involved in several business ventures. We were involved in Amway, Royal American Foods, and half owner of a bowling pro shop.

Tom and Jerry co-owned Foxco Vending which operated for five years before we sold it. Jerry has also been very involved in Rotary International, a service organization.

In 1974, two angels came into our lives—Lola and Tom, our children. Lola was 4 ½ years old and Tom was 3 ½ years old—both able to talk and tell stories that we hoped would not be repeated. As new parents, it didn’t take long to learn what NOT to say. All the Foxes were active in the church and attended each week (which was expected and not an optional choice). When Jerry retired in 1992, we moved to our home at Lake Santee and began attending FPC in Greensburg.

We now have three adult grandchildren. Our Daughter Lola and her family have recently moved to Greensburg from California since Son-in-Law Nathan has retired from the Air Force. Son Tom and two Daughters-in-Law, Jane and Holly, are deceased but they are alive in spirit in the many great memories that live in our hearts.

Jerry and I have been blessed. We have had friends and family to walk with us through the valleys and to rejoice with us on the mountaintops. We have always considered church “home” and the members as part of our family. We have spent the past 20 winters in Florida where we are affiliate members of St. Cloud Presbyterian Church. Our hope for both churches is to enjoy the fellowship of and share the faith with families, always striving to bring others to Christ, and to be involved in and support outreach programs. We can say without hesitation that “family” is everywhere if we “reach out” as well as “receive.”

Jerry cited his favorite bible verse as the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew and Luke)—a prayer for all seasons. My favorite passage is “Jesus wept” (John) which reminds me that God loved us so much that he let Himself be subject to human emotions. It tells me that Jesus understands my joys and my pain when I pray to him. In today’s vernacular, He is my “BFF” and He waits for me in my “Forever Home.”

Written and submitted by Darleen Fox



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by Serving Others*

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CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
**SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT,
AND FUTURE LEADERS**

The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. 50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy provide assistance for current and retired church workers.

Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges — offering students of color the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. 50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith.

SESSION 2019

2019
Jeff Lincourt
Roy Simpson
2020
David Schlemmer
Polly Matlock
2021
Mary Stradley
David Narwold
Judy Rust

Clerk of Session
Darleen fox

Pastor
Rev. Wally Wilson



THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP A LOCAL ORGANIZATION?

- **Bread of Life** • 812-662-4887
- **New Directions** • 812-662-8822
- **Meals on Wheels** • 812-663-6099
- **AGAPE Center** • 812-222-4273
- **Champions of Youth** (Formerly Big Brothers) • 812-663-7556
- **Kids Closet** • 812-663-2084
- **Decatur County Special Olympics** • 812-663-4690
- **Decatur County United Fund Adult Literacy Program** • 812-560-3820
- **Hospice of South Central Indiana** • 812-314-8000

Per Capita 2020— \$40.72



**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!**