Do you remember a game show called, “To Tell the Truth”? It ran for more than twenty years in a variety of forms, but it was at the peak of its popularity back in the early ‘70’s when a guy by the name of Garry Moore was the host.

The show challenged a panel of illustrious Hollywood celebrities like Bert Convy, Nipsy Russell, John Cameron Swayze and Soupy Sales to correctly identify a contestant who had an unusual occupation or story to tell. This central character was joined by two imposters who pretended to be the central character. The top-flight celebrity panelists would grill the contestants with questions knowing that the two imposters were lying and that the central character was telling the truth. After the questioning was done, the celebrities tried to guess who the central character was and who the imposters were.

Evidently, back in 1973, Orville Redenbacher won five hundred bucks when he completely fooled Peggy Cass, Bill Cullen, Kitty Carlisle and Joe Garagiola into thinking that he was someone other than the great popcorn genius that he truly was. Can you imagine the dramatic tension in the studio that day as the entire nation waited with anticipation after hearing Garry Moore say, “Will the real Orville Redenbacher please stand up?” A greater moment in television history, there could never be.

Like most game shows, “To Tell the Truth” was created to do nothing more than to occupy thirty minutes of our time and create advertising revenue. I doubt that it had any intention of making any kind of profound spiritual or cultural statement, but with Thanksgiving in our rearview mirror and as Christmas quickly approaches us once again, it’s perhaps a good idea to question who we really are. What would it be like if we were sitting in that studio with two other people while Jesus asked us all kinds of questions, trying to discern which one of us was the genuine and true Christian and who were the imposters? Would we pass that test? Would everyone see enough of a difference in us that there would be no doubt as to who the real Christian was?

I know; I know; that’s pretty heavy. I know; Christmas is coming and I’m supposed to be talking about all of that really easy and warm and wonderful Christmas stuff like finding whatever you want under the Christmas tree, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, reindeer flying across the sky and Jack Frost nipping at your nose. That’s what Christmas is really all about, right? We know better.

Christmas and the Advent Season that leads up to it present us all with the beginning of the greatest story ever told. If we will only listen, this season will constantly challenge us with the question of whether or not it really is possible for God to put on human flesh and be born in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. We are also challenged with the question of what effect the birth of Christ has had on us.

By now, we know what to expect out of church at Christmas time. There’ll be decorations and great music and lots of beautiful candlelight, but there will also be something that we’ve perhaps never noticed. We will hear that story once again and with that, we will be presented with the opportunity to tell the truth about ourselves and show God and everyone else who we really are. Through the way we sing and worship we will have the chance to stand up with humble joy and declare, “I believe.”

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.
Hello, God bless you and yours today and always.

By this means I want to greet each one of you and in the same manner the congregation and your pastor and family. I feel very happy because God has made you part of the family of faith like the family that I pastor also.

At this time that we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is hope that is reborn anew in our hearts, so that every day we preach more his word with the strength that he gives. I hope that your church as well as the one that I pastor, in this time will be very blessed so that we can bless others. We are praying for you all and so we hope that you pray for us, my greetings to the congregation in the name of the Lord.

I want to thank you in a very special way for the gift that you gave me with the dictionary. I received it yesterday. God will pay you for this present and in this way I am thankful for this, thanks with all my heart, thanks, thanks, thanks.

Rev. Luis Jhonson
Pastor

(Please continue to keep the D.R. and our mission planning in your prayers.)

Koinonia (Koy-nuh-nee'-ah)—noun—Fellowship, Participation, Close Relationship [with God], Gift

Wednesdays ~ Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study* & Children's Programming at 6:45 pm

* December 4 - 18 (3 weeks)
The Old Testament Messiah

January 8 - February 26 (7 weeks - No class on January 29)
Developing a Heart for God—a study of the life of King David

March 5 (Ash Wednesday)
A very special Koinonia including an Ash Wednesday communion service

March 12 - April 9 (5 weeks)
The Sermon on the Mount

May 7 - 21 (3 weeks)
The Essential Elements of Christian Worship

**Adult Sunday School**
9:45 - 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Dec. 1 through Dec. 15 Christmas Music Traditions, taught by Kirby Koriath

Dec. 22 through Dec. 29 No Sunday School (all ages)

Jan. 5 through Feb. 2 Religious Art, taught by Cathy Bretz

Feb. 9 I am Second, taught by Bill Rogers

Feb. 16 through Mar. 23 Praying the Psalms, taught by Roger Sherwood

Mar. 30 - I am Second, taught by Bill Rogers
Prosperity From Pigs—Heifer Project International

"Betsi Delphine lives in the village of Mva’a, Cameroon. She is a widow caring for her 8-year-old granddaughter named Zanga. One day Betsi heard about a pig project that Heifer International was starting, and she asked to join. She really needed an income to support Zanga. After completing all the necessary training, Betsi received two pigs—one male and one female. Her pig soon gave birth to eight piglets, so Betsi was quickly able to Pass on the Gift of two piglets to another family. And by adding pig manure to her soil Betsi estimates that she doubled her crop yields and her income.

With her earnings, Betsi was finally able to buy mosquito bed nets to prevent malaria. And she is now able to invest in Zanga’s future. ‘From this project, I have been able to pay her school fees and take her to the hospital when she is ill,’ Betsi said proudly.”

Along with the Giving Tree that provides for children right here in Muncie, we offer Heifer International gift cards to give to those hard-to-buy-for, have-everything people on your gift list or for your children who would love learning about how their gift is bringing a better life for other children. And it is a gift that continues to grow through the years as those who receive animals are required to pass an offspring of the animal to another family. We saw Heifer International at work in Honduras on our mission trips. What a difference it makes to our brothers and sisters in Honduras. We were so impressed!

Since its founding in 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and agricultural training to more than 12 million families in more than 125 countries, including the U.S. Betsi’s story is told in the Heifer Project International gift catalog. You can pick up one at the Heifer table in the Lounge hallway.

—Carrie Jo Miller
We Welcome Children and Families on Sunday Mornings to First Presbyterian!

Infants through 3 year olds receive child care and Christian nurturing in Room 101 with Marie Burkey and Nancy Conn throughout Sunday morning from 8:15 am to noon.

During Worship Services:

**Children's Worship Center**

Children 4 years old through 2nd grade join their parents in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship and are dismissed with a leader for Children's Worship Center. Held in Youth Hall, Children's Worship Center is a way to be in worship with young children. Storytelling is used as a primary means for encountering God, so God is experienced, not just learned about. Children in the 3rd grade and older remain in worship with their parents.

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**9:45-10:30 am Sunday School for Children and Youth:**

- Room 104: 4-year-olds through 5th graders with Jeff & Tracy Clinger*
- Room 23 (on the stage): 6th-12th graders with Aaron & Jacqueline Burton

*We combine our elementary classes into a single class, using the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum. This curriculum provides comprehensive Bible study, application of Bible lessons and a variety of age-appropriate activities.

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**I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”**

John 15:5

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**Branches' Upcoming Events**

To glorify God, Branches' activities provide education, fellowship, mission, stewardship, and worship experiences for all junior high and senior high students. All gatherings are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the church unless otherwise noted and will usually include dinner. Always check your email for more details and last minute changes. If I don’t have your email address, please send it to cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Christmas is coming! Hanging of the Greens; Advent Workshop prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4 (Wed.)</td>
<td><strong>KOINONIA!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 (SUN.)</td>
<td><strong>Advent Workshop</strong> (on Sunday, not Saturday) from 2:00-4:30. We will provide an afternoon of games, crafts and snacks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 11 (Wed.)</td>
<td><strong>KOINONIA!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td><strong>All-Church Caroling Party</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 18 (Wed.)</td>
<td><strong>KOINONIA!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
<td>&quot;Meals on Wheels&quot; We will not meet as a group, but this would be a great Sunday for your family to deliver Christmas baskets assembled by the Mission Committee. Watch for details!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td><strong>No meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 5, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Mystery meeting - Happy 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 8 (Wed.)</td>
<td><strong>KOINONIA!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td><strong>Job Jar Sunday</strong> We will take down the Nativity in the north lobby and do a few other things around the church.</td>
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Advent Workshop

Who: Elementary and preschool children of First Pres
When: Sunday afternoon, December 8, 2013, 2:00 - 4:30 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall, Youth Hall, various classrooms
What: Crafts, stories, games, and snacks
Why: This is the youth group’s present to the families in our congregation. Parents are welcome to stay, but the youth group will supervise the children so parents can spend the afternoon preparing for the season.

Please call the church office (289-4431) or email Thea (cathy@firstpemsuncie.org) by December 1 to make a reservation.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you so much for your generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. The Preschool-Elementary Sunday school class, taught by Jeff and Tracy Clinger, was able to pack and deliver 55 shoeboxes filled with Christmas cheer for needy children around the world!

The Preschool-Elementary Sunday School Class
(A copy of this photo was included in each shoebox!)
**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY NEEDS:**

December donation item:
CANNED MEATS (tuna, ham, etc.)

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

$$\text{HIRONS FUND needs help!}$$

Please help replenish this fund which purchases food for the pantry beyond individual donations. Checks to FPC, memo Hirons.

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**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Lounge hallway on Sunday, December 1, and you can help decorate it with ornaments which are displayed on the table beside the tree. Please select an ornament or several, remove the tag from the ornament and place the ornament on the tree. Then purchase the gift, wrap it, PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT IDENTIFYING THE RECIPIENT, MAKING SURE THE FAMILY NUMBER IS ON IT. And put it under the tree.

Many ornaments represent a very special need of a family of children or of persons identified by the Salvation Army, A Better Way or the YWCA. Other ornaments represent gifts for agencies with whom we partner - some specific gifts and some monetary gifts.

It’s such a joy to buy for a child knowing how excited he or she will be. Each child will have two ornaments: one with toy or game suggestions and one with clothing suggestions and sizes. We ask that you choose only one of the suggestions per ornament because all the families have more than one child represented by ornaments. It wouldn’t be fair for one child in the family to receive 12 gifts while the others each receive two. If you want to buy many gifts, you could take ornaments for all the children in the family.

Agencies represented by some of the ornaments include Christian Ministries, Muncie Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), and Muncie Mission.

Place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 20, for delivery on December 22.

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**Be a Bell Ringer for Salvation Army**

at the Muncie Mall (just inside the entrance by MCL Cafeteria).

First Pres members will be ringing the bells on December 3-4, December 10-13, and December 16-18 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Choose a one-hour time slot and sign up in the Lounge Hallway.

This is a great holiday activity for the whole family!
Ron’s DVDs Wanted ASAP

Two DVDs of Ron Naylor’s retirement dinner and his last sermon were taken from the library but have not been returned. No signed and dated cards were left in the library basket, so we have no way of knowing who has these DVDs. If you have one of them, please bring it back right away. The people who have been waiting to see them will appreciate it very much.

Get Off Now

Using a parable of Jesus as a springboard, author Reggie McNeal launches an appeal to Christians to Get Off Your Donkey! (248.4 McNE). He asserts that becoming a follower of Jesus requires serving others—something that can’t be done while seated on a donkey or any other comfortable perch. Serving those who need help is the only path to becoming the complete person that God intended.

The author is a teacher and lecturer who has counseled many churches and other organizations ranging from the U.S. military to corporations.

Taking Care of Yourself

Everyone should take responsibility for his/her own health according to the authors of Health Power: Health by Choice, Not by Chance (613.2 LUDI). The book emphasizes the importance of diet, but also includes sections on drug and alcohol abuse and tobacco addiction. Authors Aileen Ludington and Hans Diehl emphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle that includes good nutrition, exercise, adequate rest, temperance, and trust in the divine.

Dr. Ludington is a physician and health educator. Mr. Diehl is the founder and director of the Lifestyle Medicine Institute in Loma Linda, California.

Verses for Young and Old

Writers as diverse as Shel Silverstein, Gertrude Stein, Robert Frost, Edgar A. Guest, and William Shakespeare wrote poems that are included in a new anthology compiled by Caroline Kennedy. There is a poem here to celebrate every moment of life, poems that appeal to the young and the young at heart, serious poems, silly poems, poems to admire, and poems to inspire.

The book is called Poems to Learn by Heart (808.81 KENN). Illustrations are by the painter Jon Muth.

The Advent Season is upon us, so get ready to sing your favorite Christmas carols while enjoying your copy of the...

2013 FPC Advent Booklet!

The Worship and Religious Arts Team would like to thank members of our congregation, both young and old, for submitting their favorite carols and an accompanying commentary on why these carols are so meaningful to them. We want to thank the children who so willingly drew pictures of their favorite carols, and Karen Hayden, who used her artistic talent for the cover of our Advent Booklet. We hope the Advent Booklet will become an important part of your Christmas Season and an enjoyable prelude to the celebration of Jesus’ birth.
As in previous years you have the opportunity to order poinsettias to decorate the church in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may be taken home with you after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

Cost is $15 each.

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church; memo: Poinsettias

**Orders must be received by the church office on or before Sunday, December 15, 2013!**

To order, **please place a completed form and payment in the offering plate or send it to the church office** at 1400 West Riverside Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303.