Laura and I used to go to trivia contests that would raise money for worthy causes in the community and as you might imagine, there were always several different categories. There were questions about movies and celebrities, sports and riddles and even mathematics and potpourri. One of the more interesting categories was one called three of a kind.

The players would be given three things and then they’d have to figure out what was the one thing that all three had in common.

For instance, an easy one might be beach, pasta and rifle, and the answer would be “shells.” A tougher one might be playground, trombone and microscope and the answer would be “slides.” In this spirit, what do movies, soup and Black Friday all have in common? The not so obvious answer is “lines.”

It’s interesting to try and remember all of the things that have caused people to endure the curse of standing in line. I can remember people standing for hours in line and even camping out over several nights just to see Star Wars or to have a chance to buy the very latest video games. There was a time when a great mob of people gathered in the rain at an airport in New York just to get a glimpse of four guys from Liverpool who sang a song called “I Wanna Hold Your Hand”, and in a great yuletide irony, it wasn’t too long ago when mild mannered men and women practically killed each other trying to grab the last Cabbage Patch Kid or Tickle Me Elmo toy for their kid at Christmas time.

As you can see, we have developed a very long list of celebrities and other superficial passing fads to which we have been willing to sacrifice our time and money and even our dignity to possess and control. Yet, even with all this, we should also be reminded that lines can also be used for things that we actually need.

Eighty years ago, long lines were a very common sight in America. Back then, people would think nothing of standing in the cold for long periods of time, not so that they could go to the latest concert, but so that they could have a free bowl of soup. On a good day, you might be fortunate enough to also get a hunk of bread. Today, millions of people in a number of places around the world walk several miles just so that they can stand in long lines and receive enough grain to feed their families for a day or maybe two.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approach, it’s good for us to remember all of these different kinds of lines. It’s good for us to be reminded of all of the fantastic blessings that God has given to us without even waiting for us to ask for them or making us stand in line. No one likes standing in line, but very few people ever think about the lines that they avoid simply because of God’s grace.

It’s just about time for us to gather together and give thanks for another year filled with God’s incredible blessings. After that, it’ll be time to praise God for the birth of Jesus Christ. Who’s ready to do all of that? The line starts right here.

See you in church,
Rev. J.D.
I want to thank everyone for your wonderful gestures of welcome and love that you made toward me and my family at my installation service. Laura and I are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community of faith. You really touched our hearts with joy. Thank you. —Rev. J.D.
THE COLUMNS

A night of food, fellowship and learning for all ages at First Presbyterian

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

Wednesday ~ Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study & Children’s Programming at 7:15 pm
NOTE: NO KOINONIA ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 (Thanksgiving break)

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

Oct. 27 through Nov. 10 "The Universe and Faith", taught by Ron Kaitchuck
Nov. 17 "I Am Second" - How faith shapes our lives and how we talk about it to impact others, led by Bill Rogers
Nov. 24 through Dec. 15 "Church Music History", taught by Kirby Koriath

ONLINE GIVING is now available at firstpresmuncie.org under the Stewardship tab! If you have questions about using this feature, contact Jacqueline Burton (748-7450).

PLEDGE CARDS for 2014 are still available at the information desk and from the church office. If you have not received a pledge card at church or by mail, please pick one up or call the church office and return your completed pledge as soon as possible. Thank you!

Thank You...from Project Stepping Stone

Project Stepping Stone’s board of directors thanks all of you who contributed desserts and money to make the PSS’s annual dessert auction a success. Our goal was to raise $4,500. We exceeded that by more than $300, in part because of the generous support of First Presbyterian members. Your support helps provide housing to some of Muncie’s working poor.

Adult Ministry Luncheon
Join us for lunch on
Wednesday, November 20
12 noon in Fellowship Hall

Program: Tom Schwartz - "Christmas Traditions"
If you’re an adult, male or female, young, old or in-between and can join us for lunch ($3.00 per person), please call the church office (289-4431) to make reservations by Monday, November 18.

First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
8:30 a.m.—Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The Rev. J. D. Georlett, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
revja@firstpresmuncie.org

The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
ninebrights@hotmail.com

Pastor Carrie Jo Miller, Commissioned Lay Pastor
carriejo1stpres@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Alexander, Youth Director
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Interim Pre-Kindergarten Director
prek@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Jane Smith, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
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.

\[ \text{"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."} \]

John 15:5

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@firstpresp纪念馆.org.

Nov. 1-2 Henryville Mission Trip

Nov. 3 No Meeting

Nov. 6 (Wed.) KOINONIA!

Nov. 10 Mystery Meeting (Ho, ho, ho!)

Nov. 13 (Wed.) KOINONIA!

Nov. 17 Mystery Meeting (Ho, ho, ho...Part 2!)

Nov. 20 (Wed.) KOINONIA!

Nov. 24 "Meals on Wheels"

"We will not meet as a group, but this would be a great Sunday for your family to deliver Thanksgiving baskets assembled by the Mission Committee. Watch for details!

...and special activities coming in December (mark your calendar!)...

Dec. 1 Christmas is coming!

Dec. 8 (SUN.) Advent Workshop (on Sunday, not Saturday) from 2:00-4:30. We will provide an afternoon of games, crafts and snacks.

Dec. 15 All-Church Caroling Party

Dec. 22 "Meals on Wheels"

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Small text
**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@firstpsemuncie.org) **by December 1** to make a reservation.

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The Preschool-Elementary Sunday school class, taught by Jeff and Tracy Clinger, will be collecting items to fill several shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The class will be collecting the following items until November 17:

- **Shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper**
- **School Supplies:** Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **Toys (ages 2 to 14):** Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, Slinky, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), etc.
- **Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- **Other:** T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hairclips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Items may be placed in the tote marked Operation Christmas Child in the north lobby.
Our Mission Team is looking for 18 individuals/ families who would like to spread holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Holiday Food Baskets**

Food baskets will be assembled at the church, and volunteers are needed to deliver them as follows:

- **Thanksgiving Baskets** November 24
- **Christmas Baskets** December 22

A volunteer usually delivers both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the same family; however, if you are not available to deliver on both dates, you can sign up to deliver on one date and someone else will deliver the other date. Please call Janie Miller (289-3652) or email janiem13@att.net for more information, or to sign up for this wonderful holiday project - especially fun for families or for 2 or 3 friends together.

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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 later this month in the Lounge Hallway.

This is a great holiday activity for the whole family!

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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.
Help, Thanks, Wow

Writing perceptively and humorously about matters of faith has long been a specialty of Anne Lamott, author of numerous works of both fiction and non-fiction.

In her latest book, Help, Thanks, Wow (248.8 LAMO), she boils down all she has learned about prayer. Prayers, she says, are intended to seek assistance (help), appreciate the goodness we witness (thanks), and feel awe at the world (wow). These are the prayers that get us through the day and show us the way forward.

What’s Heaven Like?

Everyone wonders what heaven will be like. One pastor believes he has the answers. In a book simply titled Heaven (236.24 ALCO), Randy Alcorn paints a vivid picture of paradise based on scripture.

If you picture heaven as a place of spirits, clouds, and harp strumming, you’re wrong, according to the author. He describes heaven as a physical place, a New Earth where sin, suffering, and death are unknown. It is a place overflowing with Christ’s presence, natural beauty, and the rich culture that God intended. The author is a pastor in Oregon who has written more than 40 books.

The Day Jesus Died

In 24 Hours that Changed the World (232.9 HAMI), Adam Hamilton retells the last hours of Jesus’s life in a manner that utilizes biblical story, historical detail, theological analysis, spiritual insight, and pastoral warmth.

The author’s purpose in writing about an event that has received more attention than any other in history, is not only to foster greater understanding of the events that occurred during those 24 hours but also to help readers reflect on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death for their own lives. “The writing of this book has deepened my own faith and my sense of love and gratitude for Jesus Christ,” he states.

The Man Who Stood Up to Hitler

During the early days of World War II when Nazi tyranny had conquered most of Western Europe, one man of courage and determination defied Adolf Hitler and rallied his people to resist. The leader was Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain and leader of the allied effort defeat Germany and the other Axis powers.

A noted journalist and historian, William Manchester has written a biography of Churchill, The Last Lion. The third and final volume, is subtitled Defender of the Realm (941.087 MANC). This book covers the wartime period and Churchill’s final days (1940-1965). It is now available in the library.

Comprising almost 1,200 pages and weighing in at three and one-half pounds, this book is not exactly light reading. However, it is well worthwhile for those who want to know more about the man who is credited by many as the principal defender of Western civilization at the time of its greatest peril.

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Holiday Save the Dates!
Believe it or not, it’s already time to get these on your calendar!

- **Operation Christmas Child deadline** - Sunday, Nov. 17
- **Advent Booklet deadline** - Monday, Nov. 18
- **Thanksgiving Basket distribution** - Sunday, Nov. 24, 3:00 pm
- **Hanging of the Greens** - Sunday, Dec. 1, 4:00 pm
- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** - various dates (see p. 6)
- **Advent Workshop** - Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:00 pm
- **Poinsettia Order deadline** - Sunday, Dec. 15
- **Caroling Party** - Sunday, Dec. 15, time TBA
- **Advent Brunch (Carry-In)** - Sunday, Dec. 22, 9:45 am
- **Christmas Basket distribution** - Sunday, Dec. 22, 3:00 pm
Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? One that makes you smile, brings tears to your eyes, or reminds you of a special person or memory?

This year, the Worship and Religious Arts Team is preparing an Advent booklet about Christmas carols that will include short articles about the songs that are important to the people of First Presbyterian Church. We invite you to write a paragraph or two about your favorite Advent or Christmas carol and to share why it has special meaning to you. Children are encouraged to participate by making a drawing illustrating their favorite carol and briefly explaining why they like it.

Entries should be submitted to the church office to jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org, preferably in Word format for written documents, by Monday, November 18 (or sooner if possible!). It may seem as if Christmas is a long way off, but it’s not too early to start thinking about your favorite Christmas carol and what it means to you. Contact Barb Kvam (216-386-7413), or Tom Schwartz (765-282-2586) for more information.