
WOODLAWN WINDOW

December 2014

Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
2612 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704



David Baker, Pastor
Telephone No.: (727)822-4477
Internet: www.woodlawnchurch.net

DAVE'S DIALOGUE

Christmas is by far the favorite time of year in our house. We have most of a walk in closet, floor to ceiling, dedicated to storing our copious amount of decorations, ornaments and assorted knick knacks related to the Christmas season. I've been known to start listening to Christmas music as early as October, even though I'll complain bitterly if I hear a store do the same.

Why is Christmas such a special time around the Baker house? Because of the feelings of faith and family that it evokes. Christmas is a time to relax and spend time with family, but it's also a time to reflect on the many gifts that we've been given over the past year. Cathy and I are especially thankful (and not a little nervous) to be welcoming a new Baker into the family this coming May.

Of course, Christmas should be at least as much about our family of faith and our relationship with Christ as it is about decorations and time spent with our relatives. This season at Woodlawn we'll be taking time to think about the gifts that God has brought us in the person of Jesus Christ. In Christ, we have the wonderful gifts of joy, peace, hope, and selfless love, ready under the tree of Calvary to be opened for all who want them. We'll be examining these blessings in our teaching series, "The Gift of Christmas".

There will also be many opportunities to spend time with our family of faith this year. We'll begin Advent services on Sunday Nov. 30th with

Communion and a Christmas Pageant, then on Dec. 7th fellowship at our Congregational Christmas Dinner immediately following the Sunday service. As we draw nearer to Christmas, we'll worship with a Cantata on Sunday Dec. 21st and a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM. I hope that everyone will make room in your busy Christmas schedules to come out and spend time worshipping the Lord with us this season!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Dave



DEACONS' DISPATCH



The deacons met again on October 17, 2014. Because of the resignation of two deacons due to health concerns, we are now looking forward to the addition of three new deacons. This will enable us to be more supportive of our church family.

We continue to receive new visitors and have welcomed back some of our members from their summer homes. We look forward to greeting more of the congregation as they return to spend the winter at Woodlawn.

Faith Community News

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



November is National Diabetes Month. The slogan to remember is, "Be Smart About Your Heart: Control the ABC's of Diabetes". This is to remind people with diabetes they are at greater risk for heart problems such as a heart attack or stroke. By taking care of your diabetes you are helping take care of your heart.

"A" is for the A1C test. The A1C test is a blood test that measures your average blood sugar level over the past three months. It is different from the blood sugar checks you do each day if you have diabetes. The A1C goal for many people with diabetes is below 7. Ask what your goal should be. High glucose levels can harm your heart and blood vessels, kidneys, feet and eyes.

"B" is for Blood pressure. What is blood pressure? It is the force of your blood against the wall of your blood vessels. The blood pressure goal for most people with diabetes is below 140/90. High blood pressure makes your heart work too hard and can cause a heart attack, stroke and kidney disease.

"C" is for cholesterol. There are two kinds of cholesterol in your blood: LDL and HDL. LDL or "bad cholesterol" can build up and clog your blood vessels and cause a heart attack or stroke. HDL or "good cholesterol" helps remove the "bad" cholesterol from your blood vessels.

"S" is for *"stop smoking"*. Many people avoid the long-term problems of diabetes by taking good care of themselves. Work with your health care team to create a self-care plan for you that includes making healthy food choices, exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, monitoring your glucose and blood pressure levels and taking your prescribed medicines. Learning to cope with stress, which can cause your blood sugar

to rise, getting regular dental care and eye exams, and checking your feet daily for cuts and blisters are important actions to take especially if you are diabetic.

The National Diabetes Education Program has much more information about diabetes and is a part of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You can go on line to learn more.

Wendy Siedlecki RN

Faith Community Nurse



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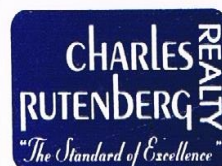
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ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee has been working all year to see that the building is improved and constantly maintained. As we have reported throughout the year, we have taken on some big projects and have completed most of them. The kitchen and conference room next door are already being put to good use and we are trying to complete the new Media Room (next to the Nursery) before the end of the year.



The Media Room can be used by anyone working on projects for the church and it has or soon will have a new copier, fax, computer and research capabilities. The room is also available for meetings of committee or others and as a classroom. When finished it will have a working kitchen with what is necessary to serve coffee and/or snacks.


We hope you will take a look at the new areas and use them as you have a need.

We also are finishing the year with our work in the office, preparing reports, paying bills, copying and mailing out letters and bulletins to shut-ins and those who have had surgery or have been ill, preparing and copying the Sunday bulletins and the Woodlawn Window.

We appreciate all the volunteers who have helped us in our efforts. Some who work a weekly schedule in the office and others who work on special projects. We cannot do this without you.

The Administration Committee:

Mary Lee King, Chairman, Nancy Allison, Dale Baldwin, Janie Hodgson, Britt Long, Dave Means, Pat Ruedy, and Jim Sirmons



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OUTREACH NEWS

The holidays are here already and there is a lot on the calendar. We will be having bingo November and December. Children's Christmas Day will be on Dec. 20th. There will be singing, skits, crafts and the Christmas story. Please tell your neighbors, children and grandchildren. It will be 9 to 12 noon. We are already starting to plan for the Pet Fair on February 21st. These types of affairs take a lot of work and time and we will be asking for help as time goes on. The Outreach Committee is very grateful to Betty Turini for donating the soft drinks from the bazaar. Don't forget to sign up for the Christmas caroling. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.



Bert Bent, Chairman Outreach Committee

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

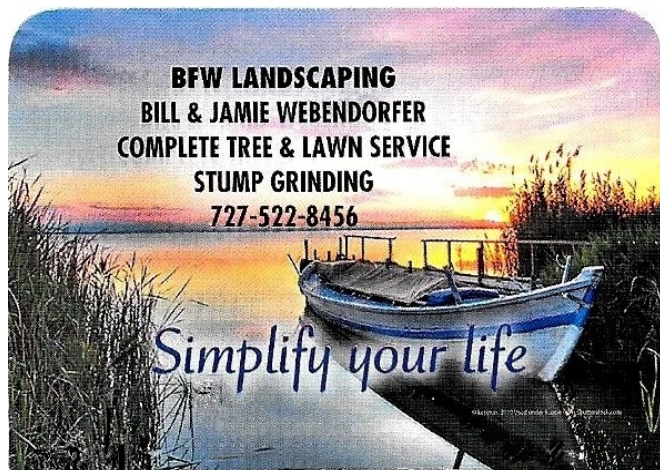
The November Wednesday @ Woodlawn included a delicious taste of Thanksgiving prepared by Steve. Betty Turini created three different Thanksgiving cards that we could put together for our shut-ins and for Meals -On-Wheels deliveries. They were fun to make and beautiful cards to wish our congregation Thanksgiving blessings.

For December 3rd, Wednesdays @ Woodlawn we will go caroling to our shut-ins. We will meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. to share rides. Dinner will not be served by we'll meet for dessert afterwards. When the residents know we are coming it is a time they look forward to. Come sing your favorite Christmas carols. Song books provided.



After worship on Sunday, December 7th is our congregational Christmas dinner. The tables will be decorated. Fellowship Hall will be decked out in greenery and turkey and ham will be provided. Please feel free to invite guests, neighbors and extended family. It is a time to reach out and share the joy of Christmas together. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Let us know how many are coming and whether you can provide a side dish or dessert.

Wendy Siedlecki, Chairman



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MISSIONS COMMITTEE



Unbelievably the year 2014 is drawing to close and 2015 is almost here. Soon it will be Christmas with all its merriment and holiness and then comes New Years Eve and all its festivities. It just seems like yesterday I was watching T.V and the ball at Times Square dropped and it was 2014. There are still a couple of events that the Mission Committee has to promote to complete its goals for 2014.

One will be a toy drive in support of C.A.S.A, the organization that helps women victims of domestic violence. C.A.S.A offers them temporary housing, counseling, and various other programs to help them lead normal lives. Unfortunately, many of them have children with them. They are the ones this drive reaches out to. C.A.S.A and Missions believes no child should not have a gift under the tree at Christmas. Just think, you wake up Christmas morning and realize you couldn't afford to give your child or grandchild, or loved one a gift. Not a very pleasant thought is it? Please give and you will feel better about yourself knowing you have brought a smile to a child's face this Christmas. It is not known at this time the age limits of the gifts, As soon as it is known, it will be announced in church. The drive will begin on Nov 28 and continue through Dec 21. All gifts can be left in the Mission area of Fellowship Hall.

The second event is the Christmas Joy Offering which will be taken on Dec 21 during the regular offering. Joy Offering envelopes will be in the bulletins of Dec 14 and Dec 21. There will be special inserts in these bulletins also showing what the Presbytery uses their portion of the proceeds for. The offering is split half for the Presbytery and half for the local Mission. This offering is very important in that it helps support the 2015 ministries and goals of each organization. So you see your support is vital.

Until next year, have a Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones and a very safe and happy New Year.

Joe Orts, Chairman

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



With the return of cooler weather and the "snow birds" arrival we can look forward to a much busier schedule again at Woodlawn. All are invited and encouraged to help decorate our church on Nov. 29, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It makes it a much easier job when we have a large turnout. The usual informal buffet style continental breakfast will be served to help get your day started. Please come to enjoy the companionship and sense of accomplishment in helping to beautify our church. And don't forget to come the Saturday after New Year's to repackage the decorations for storing until next holiday season.

Be sure to watch your church calendar as a lot will be happening in the next two months. Our congregational dinner is on December 7th immediately after Sunday Service. The choir has planned another wonderful Cantata on December 21st. This effort takes a lot of work, practice and planning on their part, so prior thanks by the Worship Committee is sincere. The Christmas Eve Communion and candlelight service is at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th and a special program is planned for December 28th, subject to be announced.

As I look back on the quick ending of another year, it always amazes me how much our church can accomplish. It's not just the remodeled kitchen, media and conference rooms, but the work and dedication of all our committees, volunteers and especially the office staff cannot be emphasized enough. This church operates on its volunteers and it can always use more. The leaders, session and deacons, assume much responsibility, usually with little recognition. From our Sunday School teacher, Bible study leaders, Worship Leaders, choir members and all others that give their time, talent and sometimes \$\$\$, they should be proud.

Britt Long, Worship Committee Chairman



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BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone for all your help in making the Bazaar so successful. The weather cooperated and as the clock struck 8:00 a.m., we were off and running.

Great!
JOB!

It takes all of us to make the day successful. Items were donated for Granny's Attic which had to be sorted, priced and lugged to the curbside. Plant cuttings had to be started weeks ago, prices set and sellers in place. Jewelry was priced and set up for display and sale. Bakers were busy on Friday. Items were priced and coffee was made early Saturday morning for our hungry visitors. The grill was heated and soon the smell of hamburgers and hotdogs was wafting through the air. Behind the scenes, the banker provides the seed money, collects funds throughout the day and counts the earnings at the end. Advertising signs are made and distributed around the neighborhood. Ads are placed in the newspaper and on Craigslist. Vendors are signed up and visitors are greeted.

A busy day no doubt, and a successful one too!!

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2014

Our Commitment Sunday was October 18th. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible so that the budget for 2015 can be finalized. Those who pledged time, will be contacted to help find the perfect job or jobs for your special talents.

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SESSION RECAP

HEALTH FAIR: A lot of positive feedback. A list of jobs had been created for each committee. Going forward it was suggested that all committees should be assigned specific jobs for special events.

Interest in New Members class is being sought. Name tags may be used on special Sundays possible in connection with New Members.

Vision Statement: "Bringing People to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ to People" the general consensus is to keep and utilize.

Deacons and committees will have a vice chairman in addition to the chairman and vice chairmen will have authority to moderate in the absence of the chairman.

Policies and procedures for each committee are still being written for approval.

WEDNESDAYS @ WOODLAWN

DECEMBER MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 5:15 P.M., TRAVEL TO LOCAL NURSING HOMES TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH FOR DESSERT.

JANUARY: GAME NIGHT, DINNER PROVIDED (5:30 P.M., SUGGESTED DONATION \$4.00)

TRIP'S II

Did you know in October, Trip's Diner expanded to a second location? You will find the same menu, hours of operation and friendly service as the original Trip's. the Seminole location is: 10555 Park Blvd., 727-623-0907, Mon. - Fri, 6 AM - 9 PM; Sat. 7 AM- 9 PM, and Sun. 7 AM - 3 PM.

Many who receive our monthly Woodlawn Window newsletter are well aware that Trip's is "A Stone's Throw" from our church and a popular neighborhood diner where friends and families meet to share good American food. (My personal favorites being their cheese grits, mini blueberry pancakes and bacon!)

2339 Dr. MLK, Jr. St. N., 727-498-8980

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Though Trip's I and II will be closed on Christmas, they will be full of cheer and open Christmas Eve Day until 3:00 PM. Our thanks to Gordon Stevenson and his Trip's employees for being such great neighbors.

Janie Hodgson

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Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

It has been a tradition at Woodlawn Church to adorn the Chancel and Sanctuary steps with red Poinsettias for the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Individuals planning to dedicate a plant(s) "In the Memory Of" or "In Celebration / Honor Of," are asked to complete a simple information form that will be available in early December. We ask all Poinsettias be here by the morning of Saturday, December 20th. The Worship Committee will have them beautifully arranged for our Worship Service on December 21st. A dedication list will be in each bulletin on the 21st and 24th.

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WPC Cookbook

Did you know we are planning to include "In Memory Of," recipes? *Thank you!* To submit, send your recipe with both your name and the person you wish to remember and drop it in the box on the table by the courtyard doors or send it to the church office.



Dates to Remember:

Saturday, November 29th - 9:00 AM
YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 30th - 10:00 AM
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT *COMMUNION*
and
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Wednesday, December 3rd - (time t. b. a.)
CAROLING - Meet at the church and travel to area nursing homes for Christmas Caroling, returning to the church for dessert.
and
THE PRACTICE OF LECTIO DIVINA
Wednesday, 6:15 PM to 7:15 PM

Sunday, December 7th
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
(to follow the 10:00 AM Worship Service)

Saturday, December 20th - 9:00 AM to Noon
CHILDREN'S DAY - Holiday arts and crafts, refreshments and of course, reading of *The Christmas Story.*
and
Please bring your Poinsettia(s) to the church Fellowship Hall in the A. M. *Thank you!*

Sunday, December 21st - 10:00 AM
CANTATA SERVICE and JOY OFFERING

Wednesday, December 24th - 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION and
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



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GOD'S DECEMBER CHILDREN



1 Bob Staples	6 Joe Orts
8 Mary Moore	11 Bob Babcock
15 Shelley Rodgers	16 James Sirmons
17 Dan Chesnut	20 Irene Wolthoff
22 Martha Dietrich	27 Jeanne Heibner
31 Sue Wareham	

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LUNCH BUNCH

2nd Thursday of the month



THURSDAY, DEC. 11th

11:45 AM

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NEXT MEETING DATE:

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Upcoming Event at Cedarkirk

Christmas Retreat

December 19-21

FRIENDSHIP CLASS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is exciting to see the new enthusiasm in Bible study as we realize that we follow in Jesus' footsteps best when we learn, know and understand His leadership in the Bible.



Do you have a favorite Psalm (or two or more)? Would you like to get even more out of your understanding of its (their) meaning(s)? Now is your chance! We are asking members to select their favorites and we will go into a deeper meaning of those psalms. There is so much to learn in every psalm about God, His plans for us, who we are and why we do the things we do. This is becoming more interesting each week and we are excited about it.

We're growing, so come and join us as we attempt to gain spiritual wisdom in our new Bible study.

Sundays at 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM - **(It's really not that early!)** - We meet in the Parlor.



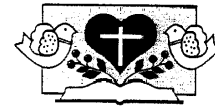
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Martha Dietrich
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WOMEN'S



CIRCLE

We meet the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. Please join us at 6 p.m. for a covered dish supper and Bible Study. This year we will be studying

"Contemporary Study of 2nd Corinthians"

Please join us on November 11, 2014 and every second Tuesday through May 2015. We meet in Fellowship Hall.

**All women are invited
and welcome!**

LUKE 1:39-56

Mary and Elizabeth

39 In those days Mary got up and went hurriedly into the hill country, to a town of Judah, 40 and entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 She exclaimed with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! 43 And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? 44 For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Mary's Hymn of Praise

46 And Mary said, "My soul exalts the Lord, 47 and my spirit has begun to rejoice in God my Savior, 48 because he has looked upon the humble state of his servant. For from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

50 from generation to generation he is merciful to those who fear him. 51 He has demonstrated power with his arm; he has scattered those whose pride wells up from the sheer arrogance of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up those of lowly position; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, 55 as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." 56 So Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

LUKE 2:1-14

The Census and the Birth of Jesus

2 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. 2 This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 Everyone went to his own town to be registered. 4 So Joseph also

went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds' Visit

8 Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: 11 Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger.

17 When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said. 19 But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. 20 So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

