



THE FIRST WORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday



Volume XXXIV, Number 1

January 2017

Maya Angelou Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

"Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes and lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.

What have we done to so affront nature?

We worry God.

Are you there? Are you there really?

Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope and singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor, come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.

Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.

Flood waters recede into memory.

Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us as we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children.

It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.

Hope spreads around the earth, brightening all things, even hate which crouches
breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.

At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.

We listen carefully as it gathers strength.

We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace.

It is loud now. It is louder. Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.

It is what we have hungered for, not just the absence of war, but, true Peace.

A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.

Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.

We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.

We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.

We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian, implore you, to stay a while with us.

So we may learn by your shimmering light how to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ into the great religions of the world.

We jubilate the precious advent of trust. We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.

All the earth's tribes loosen their voices to celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers, look heavenward and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister. Peace, My Soul."

**JANUARY 2017
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
FOR SUNDAYS & FESTIVALS**

We are encouraged and invited to read and reflect on these scripture passages as a part of our preparation for each worship service.

1st Sunday after Christmas Day—Jan. 1

Isaiah 63:7–9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10–18
Matthew 2:13–23

Epiphany of the Lord—Jan. 6

Isaiah 60:1–6
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
Ephesians 3:1–12
Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 8

Isaiah 42:1–9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34–43
Matthew 3:13–17

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—Jan. 15

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—Jan. 22

Isaiah 9:1–4
Psalm 27:1, 4–9
1 Corinthians 1:10–18
Matthew 4:12–23

4th Sunday after the Epiphany—Jan. 29

Micah 6:1–8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18–31
Matthew 5:1–12

Good Grief

Good Grief, a ministry for folks who have suffered the loss of a loved one, meets every Sunday following worship for lunch. The location moves from week to week, so check with Barbara Troyer for this week's lunch site. All are welcome to join in for the friendship and fellowship.

JANUARY NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 1—???
Jan. 8—Joyce Kalmey
Jan. 15—Abby Dew
Jan. 22—Maree Collins
Jan. 29—Jason Collins

JANUARY GREETERS & USHERS

Jan. 1 — Janet & Joyce Kalmey, Ruth & Doug Welch
Jan. 8 — Jewel Davis, Mary Steinhilber, Duke Owens, Janet Yates
Jan. 15 — Barbara Troyer, The Jasper Family
Jan. 22 — The Zaring Family, Marshall Long, Brooke Caudill
Jan. 29 — Diann, Geo & Billy Cook; Betty Motts



There are a few openings for folks to join this ministry, as a few have moved away or it has come time to pass this ministry on to other folks. Please consider joining us. We greet on an assigned monthly rotation, usually four times a year.

Team 7 - We need 2 additional greeters for February, May, July, and October.

Team 2 - We need 2 additional greeters for January, March, June, and September.

Would you be willing to be a substitute? If for some reason team members aren't able to greet, you would be called to *SEE IF YOU ARE* available. This is a great ministry and a wonderful way to serve our church.

FINANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2016

In November, we collected \$11,233.09. On the expense side, we spent \$19,379.34. We brought in \$8,146.25 less than we spent. Questions? Please call Fred Waits (502) 321-5128.

FPC Shelbyville Budget Summary as of November 2016			
	Last Month	Year to Date	
Pledges Received	\$10,696.00	\$134,471.84	
Kroger Gift Card	\$0.00	\$1,400.50	
From Savings	\$0.00	\$23,000.00	
Other Income	\$537.09	\$90,825.04	
Designated Funds	\$100.00	\$4,261.80	
Total Income	\$11,333.09	\$253,959.18	
OPERATING INCOME	\$11,233.09	\$249,697.38	
Personnel Expense	\$12,312.79	\$149,220.33	
Utilities	\$1,010.87	\$16,249.95	
Building Maintenance	\$5,536.90	\$15,153.90	
Youth & Education	\$0.00	\$1,287.08	
Music	\$0.00	\$919.67	
Office	\$476.90	\$5,454.65	
Shared Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Per Capita	\$0.00	\$4,561.16	
Other	\$41.88	-\$631.95	
Designated Expenses	\$1,700.00	\$3,068.14	
Total Expenses	\$21,079.34	\$195,282.93	
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$19,379.34	\$192,214.79	
Summary 2016	Income	Expense	Difference
December			
November	\$11,233.09	\$19,379.34	-\$8,146.25
October	\$16,794.94	\$17,895.56	-\$1,100.62
September	\$85,394.62	\$16,186.35	\$69,208.27
August	\$17,528.36	\$20,209.81	-\$2,681.45
July	\$12,251.07	\$12,469.84	-\$218.77
June	\$15,482.83	\$15,374.69	\$108.14
May	\$20,528.35	\$18,033.38	\$2,494.97
April	\$19,692.16	\$16,053.57	\$3,638.59
March	\$12,240.16	\$16,791.25	-\$4,551.09
February	\$11,157.22	\$22,058.31	-\$10,901.09
January	\$14,377.00	\$18,608.50	-\$4,231.50



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM "Good Grief"	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 3:30 PM E. Huling Vocals 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4 8:30 AM Food Distribution at Serenity Center 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 818	6	7 10:00 AM Knit-Wits
8 LOVE SUNDAY 9:00 AM Outreach Ministry Meeting 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM "Good Grief"	9	10 NO SESSION MEETING 3:30 PM E. Huling Vocals 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	11 10:00 AM PW Morning Bible Study 6:00 PM PW Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 10:30 AM FPC serves lunch at God's Kitchen 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 818	13	14
15 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Newsletter articles due 12:15 PM "Good Grief"	16	17 3:30 PM E. Huling Vocals 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	18 11:00 AM Congregational Care 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 818	20	21
22 Annual Congregational Meeting 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM "Good Grief"	23	24 3:30 PM E. Huling Vocals 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	25 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 818	27	28
29 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM "Good Grief"	30	31 3:30 PM E. Huling Vocals 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	1 8:30 AM Food Distribution at Serenity Center 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 818	3	4 Love the Hungry Fundraiser (tentative) 10:00 AM Knit-Wits

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

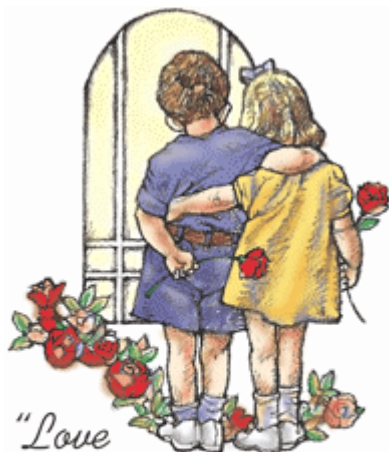


Food Distribution

JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4,
ANYTIME BETWEEN
12:00 NOON. & 4:00 P.M.
AT THE SERENITY CENTER
98 7TH STREET.

Bring plastic bags
(Kroger, Walmart, etc.)

COME GET YOUR
"GOD HANDS" ON!



*"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."*

Mark 12:31

January 8
Remember
Love Sunday

Funds collected on Love Sunday are used to help many individuals in the community. Make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark it for LOVE SUNDAY.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE RANKS!
VOLUNTEER TO SERVE LUNCH AT
GOD'S KITCHEN
715 Main Street
Downtown Shelbyville

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
10:30 A.M.

INTERESTED? Talk to Boyd or Susie Phillips about how you can help. Desserts are always needed.



The Outreach Committee Report from the December 11, 2016 Meeting

One family was helped with rent this month.

A Place to Sleep

The Raffle is still active.

\$1525 was received from the Celebrate for a Cause Silent Auction during Light Up Shelbyville.

Mortenson's Family Dental has expressed an interest in delivering beds.

Give a Kid a Brighter Day

Cadence Collins will be donating pajamas and books to the Christmas Baskets. All but 8 of the 73 children have been adopted.

God's Kitchen continues on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The group is still small. This month all food was eaten; therefore, there was none left to share with the residents of Colonial Hall. Desserts left from the choir concert were gobbled up. Ann Greenwell shared her delicious cookies. Daniel, a patron, had to be taken to the hospital with high blood pressure. Daniel needs prayers to survive the cold weather. Two churches have dropped their day volunteering at God's Kitchen. Susie Stivers is looking for new groups to volunteer. Our next date is January 12.

The Adopted Family — Eggs are available.

\$60 was donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to house a homeless family from Painted Stone Elementary.

This church is volunteering at the Serenity Center on 7th Street the 1st Wednesday of each month. An age limit has been placed on volunteers.

75 instruments have been placed in the schools. Gary Steinhilber has placed a notice on the Community page of the Sentinel News.

50 Food Baskets will be assembled and delivered on December 17. Jason Collins & Farrier Product Distributors are donating boxes. Norma Beasey will handle breakfast. Toys for children 10–15 are needed. Susie Phillips gave Cadence Collins an additional 10 children for her project.

The Salvation Army kettle is in the kitchen receiving donations.

Coupons are being collected for the military.

Shoes are being collected for the water project.

Donations for the Backpack Project and Boo Boo Buddies are being collected.

Donations of anything Maree Collins can use in her Art classes are being accepted.

The next meeting will be January 8.

SOME OF GOD'S KITCHEN'S REGULAR VOLUNTEER TEAMS HAVE OPTED TO WORK ON OTHER MINISTRIES IN THE COMMUNITY LEAVING A NUMBER OF DAYS OPEN FOR LUNCH. IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN HELPING OUT OR FORMING/JOINING A TEAM, CONTACT SUSIE STIVERS AT 502-762-4623.



A Giant THANK YOU!!!

Submitted by Susie Phillips

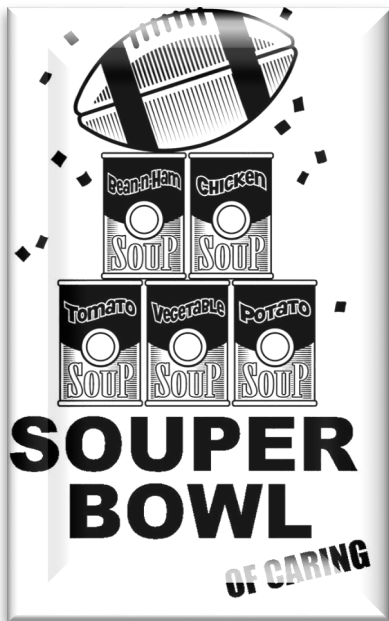
This congregation never ceases to amaze me with the generosity it has for the "least of these". 50 food baskets were prepared and delivered to some hungry families. The many prayers and donations made this possible. Many showed up to help assemble the boxes; Norma Beasey, Francis Hall, and Mary Ann Soergel filled us up with snacks and coffee; and Cadence Collins supplied pajamas, books, and blankets to over 80 children. Shopping for extra toys, books, clothing and food (all provided by this congregation) was available to make the families' Christmas more personal. Dee Hochstrasser manned the mitten tree again thanks to all who decorated the tree with scarves, gloves and hats while Ann Greenwell crocheted beautiful afghans for the babies in the families.

Although the price of each box has risen over the years, Save-a-Lot provides us with the food at a reasonable cost. We are blessed with Ronnie Barrickman who gives his time in helping to deliver to us each year.

The words, "thank you," do not seem to be enough, but that is all we can give back to you. Until next year....



2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES - If you would like to have offering envelopes for the New Year, please pick-up a box of envelopes from the Information Center in the Assembly Room. To ensure proper credit to your contribution statement, please print your name on the envelope log sheet. You may also call the office at 633-2693 to request envelopes.



Attention Sports Fans –

It's that time again when we have our annual Souper Bowl competition between the NFC and the AFC. We will be collecting items for the Backpack Project in the boxes in the Assembly Room. Place items in the box of the conference you support for the Super Bowl which is February 5. Not a football fan? That's okay, there's also a Neutral Zone box. We'll be making the donations to help feed the children in Shelby County.

This
Christmas
end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you
were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your
demands on others. Think first of someone else.
Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a
little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a
child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the
wonder of Earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it yet
Once again.



Give A Kid A Brighter Day

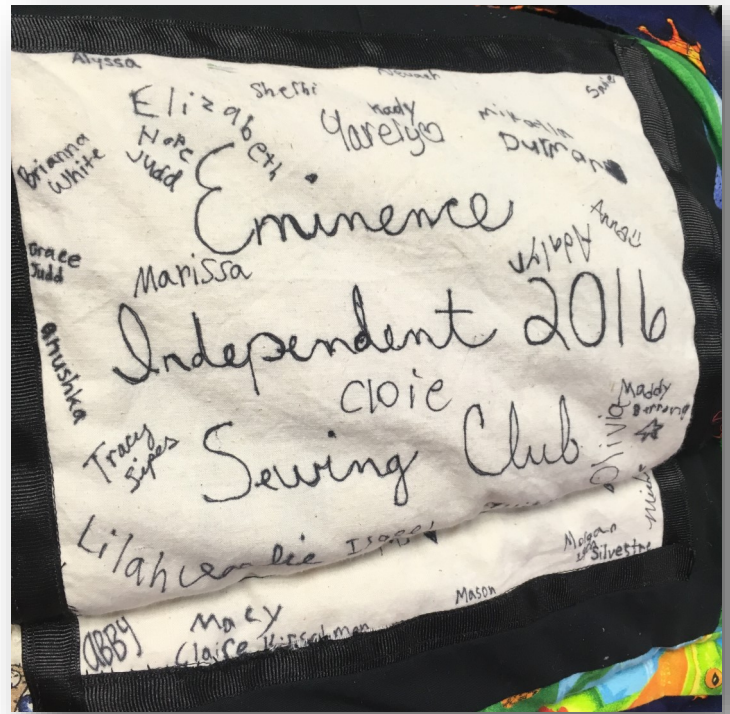
Look at all the bags Cadence Collins was able to put together, thanks to many of you! 80 children received pajamas, books, blankets, bears, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more on December 17 through

her Give A Kid A Brighter Day ministry. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this possible. Special thanks to Rebecca Jew & Project Linus for donating the blankets and Tedda Baehr for making the teddy bears. Cadence had lots of support in the community with people “adopting” the kids from A Place to Sleep’s Facebook page and donating pajamas and books. Cadence always gets a new set of pajamas to wear on Christmas Eve from her Grammy Wilma. She wanted to pass this gift on so other children can have the same experience and feel the same love.



Go out and preach the Gospel, using words if you have to.

A PLACE TO SLEEP



Check out this beautiful quilt (above) that the 1st - 4th graders at Eminence Independent Schools made. They formed a Sewing Club and made this masterpiece. They also signed one of the blocks, which makes it even more special. Thank you Michelle Hodder and students for all your hard work. Keep it up!



SHOUT OUT to Torrey Smith Realty!!! Besides being great realtors, they are awesome people who care about their community. Thanks to the Celebrate for a Cause Community Charity Event that they hosted during Shelbyville's Celebration of Lights, over \$1,500.00 was raised for A Place to Sleep. This event was the real "God Thing", and thank you, Torrey Smith & staff, for following God's lead.



This great group of young people from Rhema Christian Assembly Church learned about being servants to others and caring for God's creation. They gathered donations of bedding, books, stuffed animals, and even tie-dyed pillowcases and presented them to Jessica earlier this month. Thank you kids, Rhema Christian Assembly, and Martha Lawson for teaching and sharing.

MORE...A PLACE TO SLEEP



This is Ryan Burgan and she has a very big heart. For her 8th birthday, Ryan asked her friends and family to make donations to A Place to Sleep instead of bringing gifts for her. She and her mother delivered a van load of bedding and monetary donations. **HAPPIEST OF HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO YOU, RYAN!!!!** and thank you for paying it forward.



HILLSDALE FURNITURE and their employees have been supporters of A Place to Sleep for at least 3 years. Each year, they have brought us bed frames, mattresses, foundations, and bedding. This year is no different. Christine, Kenny & Robert came this week, not once, but twice, to deliver beds and bedding to us donated by the company and the employees. **THANK YOU, Hillsdale Furniture, for helping kids have sweet dreams.**



We had a great time transforming Carlen Pippin's antique truck into our A Place to Sleep float for the Shelbyville Christmas Parade. Riding in back tossing out candy were Kennedy Collins, Kevin Stivers, Callaway Zaring and Lawson Zaring.



MORTENSON'S FAMILY DENTAL ROCKS! Not only did they collect bedding for A Place to Sleep, they collected beds, bedding, dental kits, and cash donations for 3 kiddos AND delivered them to the family last month. What a sweet, sweet family they were, too.



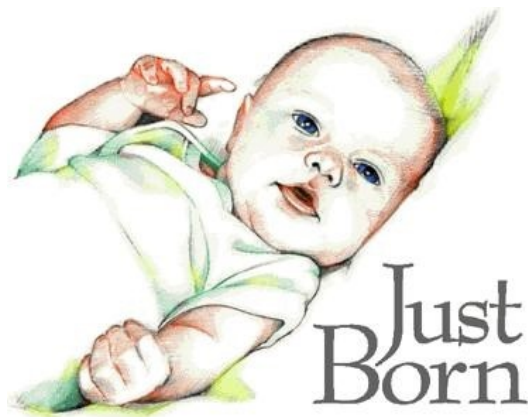
AND, here is just one of the reason's the volunteers and supporters of A Place to Sleep keep doing what they do.

A Place to Sleep Raffle

And the winners of the raffle are:

Mosaic Candle Shade & Tray—Jenny Pippin
 Child's Reading Bench—Libby Pollett
 Coatrack—Jenny Pippin
 Yankee Candle Shade—Diann Cook
 Vera Bradley Hat—Joyce Dotson
 Framed Landscape Art—Sue Davis
 Crocheted Afghan— Dee Hochstrasser
 Snow Jar Candle—Saylor Aylmer

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and congratulations to all of our winners!



Congratulations
 to Jon & Melody Cook
 on the birth of their first child,
 a son, Lucca.
 Grandparents are Al & Diann Cook



***Since our last issue, we've lifted up
the following in our prayers:***

All the homeless
Bob Chapman
Bob & Nancy Pearce
Charles Jackson
Daniel
Dee Hochstrasser
Emily Swigert & Family
Gary Collins
Gary Curry
God's Kitchen
Jan & Jim Bonner
John Davis
Julia Jury
Louise Van Slyke
Norma Beasey
Paula Fangman
The family of Chris Waits
The family of Don Blythe
The family of Kathleen Ruckriegel
Tom Wilson
Webb Bates

We continue to lift up:

All our family & friends at Crescent Place, Crestview,
Amber Oaks, the Masonic Home & other assisted
living care centers
Anne Webb
Arriba Ninos
Bill & Cecie Adams
Bob & Jacquie Lier
Dee Hochstrasser
Ed Sames
Helen Walters
Jason Hundley
Jay Hood
Jim & Jan Bonner
Jo O'Malley
John Seplak
Joyce Dotson
Julia Shepard
Kathleen Collins
Katie Warkentine
Laura Tobia
Mark Burks
Mary Dotson Hamm
Rita Ridley
Ruth Wilson
Sam & Laura Morris
Tandy & Cecie Chenault
The Chenault Family
The Garbat-Welch Family
The Herrinton & Hodge Families
The individuals, families and communities
addressing drug addiction
The people of Louisiana
The Refugee Ministry
University Presbyterian Church of Baton
Rouge, LA

We give thanks to God for:

The birth of Jesus Christ
All our loved ones, two and four legged
All those celebrating birthdays, including JR RoBards, Nancy Sears & Todd Hall
Allie Blair singing during worship
Everyone who helped with and participated in decorating the church and the Advent Celebration
Geena & Renee Shepard appearing in the Community Theatre's White Christmas
Gary White who donated the materials and labor to repair our sidewalk
Lawson Zaring providing 10 care packages to homeless men through his ministry
Mark & Jaymie O'Malley and Lenny Hartano worshiping with us
The birth of Lucca Cook to John & Melody Cook, grandparents are Al & Diann Cook
Those who purchased poinsettias and those who care for them
Webb Bates is recovering well

******Starting with the first Sunday in January, we will start a new prayer list with only the prayer concerns from the prior week listed. If there is a prayer concern which has been removed that you would like to see replaced, please leave a message with the office and we will be more than happy to put that person back on the published list.***



01/01 Janet Yates
 01/04 Jewel Davis
 01/04 Alex Green
 01/04 Zoe Kremer
 01/06 Vandy Powell
 01/07 Luke Bortscheller
 01/10 Joyce Dotson
 01/13 Destiny Dodd
 01/13 Hope Kremer
 01/13 Jason Collins
 01/14 Al Cook
 01/17 Kathy Searcy
 01/19 Brooklyn Neace
 01/22 Robert Sherrod
 01/23 Bill Powers
 01/23 Carrie Cotton
 01/29 Todd Dodd
 01/29 Mary Steinhilber
 01/30 Angela Cook
 01/31 Kennedy Gill

Anniversaries to Celebrate



01/02 Todd & Kristy Hall
 01/08 Sue & John Davis

If you know of
 someone whose
 birthday or
 anniversary
 aren't included,
 please contact
 the church office so
 we can add
 their information to
 our records.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday, January 11

Morning Group

10:00 AM at the church

Evening Group

6:00 PM at the church

All women are invited to participate.

We pray for our military family & friends:

Alaine Shepard, medic US Army, wife of Steve Shepard, daughter-in-law of Linda Shepard

Brandon Pettyjohn

Brandon Brouillet, father of Tyler Brouillet

Carmen Aragon Corum, sister of our childcare workers

Daniel Ehrichs, nephew of Joanne Burke

David Luebke

Frank Renner, US Navy, Leslee Bottorff's son

Hunter Moore, US Marine Corps, Tom Seacat's nephew

Jack Walters

Jonathan Bowman

Major Marshall MacClellan, chaplain, currently stationed at Air

Force base in Ohio after time in Afghanistan, nephew of Nancy Sears

Matthew Harper, Alaine Shepard's son, US Army

Ryan Donaldson, grandson of Joanne Burke

Spencer Goetzinger, US Army, husband of Bobbie Renner Goetzinger, son-in-law of Leslee Bottorff

Todd Dillon, US Army, friend of the Whittakers

(If you have additional information regarding any of the folks listed above or have someone else to add to the list, please contact Lynn Whittaker or leave with the church office.)



First Presbyterian Church
629 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40065

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THE FIRST WORD

Articles for
February's
First Word
are due by
12:00 noon,
January 15.



The Naming Ceremony for Azai Lutulu Garbat-Welch held in our sanctuary on November 20 was a very powerful and meaningful celebration of new life. A Naming Ceremony is a traditional West African service that officially names a child and introduces him/her to the community. This tradition is a way of blessing and dedicating the child's life to the Lord in place of a child baptism. Thank you, Luta & Jeremy Garbat-Welch, for including all of us in Azia's big day and your family.



Norma Beasey, better known as the self-proclaimed "Bag Lady", is still collecting~~~

Plastic bags (Kroger, Walmart, etc.) for Operation Care & The Serenity Center

Box tops for Education for local schools

Coupons current or expired for military personnel

Old cell phones for military personnel

Ink cartridges from ink jet printers

Pull tabs from cans (soda, soup, etc.)

Postage stamps cancelled

Shoes any condition for Water Step

Magazines for Second Time Around

Eye glasses, cases, etc.



**We are no longer collecting hearing aid batteries.