

January 2012

Words from Your Interim Pastor

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:4

How the Very Human Context of the Christmas Story and Its Conflicts Can Encourage Us?

In newspapers, from Radio and TV broadcasts, emails, and even in some of the Christmas letters we receive, we are informed, too well informed, about the struggles and difficulties, the disasters and disturbing behaviors of people – wars, riots, scandals and corruptions. In our family lives, at work, in the community we run into disagreements, differences of opinion, and uncomfortable conflicts.

All of this is part of the stuff of which our human life is made. The marvelous truth of Christmas is that God works for us and with us in this kind of “stuff.” It is this gift of Christmas we can take with us into a new year.

In fact, trouble was the very stuff of life into which Jesus Christ came. The human context in which the first Christmas happened can be a helpful reminder for us in the face of our own difficulties and challenges. An unwed pregnant teenage girl. A burdensome enforced census that meant for dangerous and tiring travel. Strangers alone and homeless in a crowded city. Birth in a stable. A mad King first deceiving others, and then destroying innocent children. Jesus and his family, refugees fleeing for their lives. Not the best of times, not the best context for great good news to be received.

Yet it was the best time in all the history of the world. “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Christmas is about Jesus Christ being present with us in the midst of our very human lives, in all our difficulties and troubles and disappointments.

In this Interim period, waiting for new pastoral leadership to be called, in still hard economic times, the light of faith shines and as a church there is much to be joyful about as we face the New Year.

Programs and ministries continue strong. The Organ Project is on schedule and related mission efforts are being planned. A Faith Community Nurse Program is in the near future. Increased financial support has been committed in 2012. And the Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work.

The truth is, if we are faithful, in our personal lives, in our life in the church, faithful as those at the first Christmas were faithful, Mary and Joseph, the wise men, shepherds, and Simeon and Anna, in the face of great difficulties, then there will be light for us, and not darkness.

Christmas was and is good news for our not yet perfect lives, in the church and world. It is the celebration of God’s gift of light and love to us all. May each of us, and all of us, find anew in the New Year Christ’s life as light for our lives, a vision for a future we cannot yet see but that we can live into in great hope, trust and joyous expectation. Yes – Merry Christmas and a Happy, blessed New Year.

Faithfully yours, David Robertson, Interim Pastor

Session Approves Renewal of Baptism Vows Ceremony

On Sunday, January 8, we mark the Baptism of Jesus, and will celebrate the Sacrament of Infant Baptism. At all services we will conclude our worship with a brief ceremony offering the opportunity for renewing the vows we took, or were taken for us, at Baptism. Following a brief liturgy where we may answer again the questions at Baptism, affirming our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and promising to be faithful members of Christ’s Church, persons will be offered the option of taking a stone from a Baptismal font as a reminder of the promise that we are God’s forever children, and our promise to live for Christ.



Prayers

Care through Prayer for our loved ones in the Armed Forces:

Chaplain Major Timothy S. Moermond, United States Air Force; David Johnson, National Guard; Captain Mike Dumas, United States Air Force; Captain Jeffrey VanSickle, United States Army; Cadet Michael VanSickle, United States Military Academy; Major Tom Kapla, United States Army; Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Carothers, United States Air Force; Private Second Class Bryce E. Tunnell, United States Army; Col. Harry Tunnell, United States Army; Sergeant Michael Miner, United States Army; Second Lieutenant Justin Mishler, United States Army; SPC William S. Milford, United States Army; Chaplain – Major David Kelley, United States Army Reserve; Dustin Risk, United States Army; Ty Joseph Sackett, First Lieutenant United States Army Reserves; Lance Corporal Matthew Morrison, United States Marines

Sympathy

To the family and friends of Dorothy Langdon Yates, December 12.

Congratulations

To Dorothy Boeke on her 97th birthday, December 9.

To William and Janet Crozier on their 50th wedding anniversary, December 16.

To Muriel Dersnah on her 94th birthday, January 2.

To Ruth Gildart on her 88th birthday, December 25.

To Lindsay (Dinkel) and Adam Brogger on the birth of twins Mia and Mya, December 9. They remain in care within the neo-natal unit of Covenant Hospital in Saginaw. Grandparents are Kevin and Deborah Dinkel.



In the News . . .

Kate Pretty and *Victoria Pretty* have been acknowledged for excellence in volleyball by the *Midland Daily News*. Kate has been named to its Dream Team and has been named *Most Valuable Player*. Victoria has been named to the First Team. They are daughters of Keith and Gretchen Pretty and seniors at H. H. Dow High School.

Sharon Miller is Co-Chairperson of the 2011 Love Light Trees Campaign for MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland.

Scott Withrow, *Heather Brubaker*, and *Nick Lyons* are featured “dancers” in the 2011 United Way Campaign Success Video for Midland County.

Alan Getzin and *Larry Fiedler* with the Men of Music presented the program *Christmas Time Is Here!* in Midland, December 4.

Alaina Richard and *David King* with the Great Lakes Bay Region Jazz Ensemble shared their vocal talents at the Opening Gala for MidMichigan Medical Center, December 1, and the Christmas Jazz Trail Festival at the Temple Theater, December 4. Alaina is the daughter of Susan Putnam and Allen Richard. David is the son of Lynne and David King.

Ginny Jossi has been named *Volunteer of the Month* by Senior Services. *Allen Richard* is welcomed as a new volunteer for Senior Services.

Charles B. and *Lowanda Roberts* are featured in the Bickford Cottage publication, *Midland Happenings*, in an article depicting their marriage and life together, *A Lifetime of Love*.

Bells of Praise provided music for the Dow Gardens Christmas Walk, December 10. The Bell Choir is directed by George Widiger.

Tim Goralski received his PA-C certification from Grand Valley State University at commencement exercises on December 9. He is the son of Carol and Jack Thompson and Chris and Margaret Goralski.

Carole Calvert-Baxter will participate in the Great Lakes Bay Regional Leadership Institute in 2012.

Tammy Hayhoe is featured in *Midland Happenings*, a publication of Bickford of Midland, with remembrance of her mother Harriett Brown. *Carol Macartney* joined with Tammy in the gift of Christmas decorations for Bickford residents this season.

Grace Kendall served as Master of Ceremonies for *Rhapsody Rendezvous* of Midland High School at Midland Center for the Arts. She is the daughter of Sarah and Kirk Fisher and the late Peter Kendall and the granddaughter of Jim and Tooney Kendall. *Anne Beery* served as program Co-Chairperson.

Lenin Brenes provided keyboard entertainment for the Love Light Trees Ceremony at MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland, December 8.

Kimberly McMahan received her M.A. in Education from Central Michigan University, December 10.

Alan Getzin, *Larry Fiedler*, *Jean Joslyn*, *Lynne King*, *Evie Ducker*, *Diane McBride*, *Judy Moehs*, *Joan Rogers*, *Stephanie Spence*, *Roger Bohl*, *David King*, *Ginny Donald*, *Carol Macartney* and *David E. King* performed in *Holiday Extravaganza: Home for the Holidays* at Midland Center for the Arts.

Dr. Robert Klomparens and his office staff again supported donations to “Alex’s Lemonade Stand,” a Foundation established to combat childhood cancer “one cup at a time.”

Michelle Williams with other Education and Training Connection students prepared and mailed care packages to members of the armed forces as their Christmas project.

Covenant Ringers shared music ministry at the Dow Gardens Silent Walk for the Christmas Season on the evening of December 16. Guy Lynch serves as Director.

Grace Kendall provided handbell accompaniment to the selection *Alleluia*, *Rejoice* and vocal solo to *Ave Maria* at the Winter Program *Now the Winter of Midland High School Meistersingers and Chorus* in our Sanctuary, December 21. She is the daughter of Sarah and Kirk Fisher and the late Peter Kendall and the granddaughter of Jim and Tooney Kendall.



Music Ministry

Children in grades two through five: Rehearsals for our annual children's musical begin Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. for the 2012 musical, **Faith Hall of Fame!** Participants are invited to stop by the music office to receive their music with a CD included.

Plan for the arrival of our new organ on Tuesday, March 6, 2012! Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck (no heavy lifting required). Plan to bring old blankets to church prior to March 6 to help us protect the pews during the storage of all those various organ parts.

Friday Night Voyagers

Friday Night Voyagers will meet for dinner and a program on January 13, 2012 in Fellowship Hall. The presentation is "The Rulfs and Their Artwork" presented by Don and Shirley Rulf.

A social gathering with appetizers begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Attendees should bring their own table service, a dish to pass, a \$1 per person donation and an item for the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. A basket for the food pantry items will be present in the Allen Street lobby.

Skippers for the evening are Doug and Ann Ward: Committee members are Gloria Manary, Tom and Elsie Misner, Jean Moermond and Dave and Cinda Morrison.

Friday Night Voyagers is a fellowship of couples and singles meeting on the second Friday of each month, September through May, for a meal and a program. The group is open to the entire church as well as guests. If you would like to attend, but are not a regular member of voyagers, please contact Ann Ward at 835-3624 to make a reservation or for more information.



Sharing Tree Thanks Everyone

Thank you to everyone who contributed Sharing Tree gifts this year! Your generosity has blessed many lives in our community and the joy you have brought to others will live on through the year ahead. A big thank you to all those who helped with the logistics of making this event happen, from communications to the packing and transporting of the packages. Many thanks to all!

Susan Kruse
Memorial Presbyterian Church coordinator for
Sharing Tree 2012

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Holiday Schedule: The holidays are just past us and school is starting. All regular activities will begin Sunday, January 8, 2012. Full House will begin January 8 at 5:00 p.m. TNL will resume on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

PYC Winter Ski Retreat:

When: Friday, January 27, 2012 through Sunday, January 29, 2012

Who: Students in grades 6 through 12

Where: Skiing at Boyne Highland and lodging at Birchwood Inn

Cost: \$100 per person

If needed: \$50 for ski rental, \$60 for snowboard rental

Registration Deadline: Sunday, January 15, 2012

This event is not just for those who like to ski. We have the opportunity to participate in other activities like tubing and zip line course. All youth are encouraged to join us for a weekend of fun. As with all youth events, we offer scholarships to those who need assistance. If you would like some assistance please contact Patrick Kirts.

Full House Spring Break Retreat:

When: Saturday, March 31, 2012 through Saturday, April 7, 2012

Who: High School students

Where: Appalachian Mountains in Georgia

Cost: \$150 per person

Registration Deadline: Sunday, February 5, 2012

This retreat is a backpacking trip in the southern part of the Appalachian Mountains, mostly in Georgia. This trip offers a different experience for all participants. If you are interested in attending please contact Patrick Kirts prior to the deadline.

College Montreat Conference: 2012 is a first of hopefully many years to come. Memorial Presbyterian Church has a group of college students attending the Montreat conference which is being held Monday, January 2, 2012 through Thursday, January 5, 2012. We have nine college students and two adults attending. Please pray for safe travels for our group.

Poinsettia Delivery

Many thanks to all those who delivered poinsettias on December 11, 2011. Thank you to the office staff who printed and cut the cards, put announcements in the bulletins and tracked down addresses. Thanks to Reverend Wally Mayton for helping with our list, Pesi Kennett for printing the labels, Nancy Kuper for ordering and organizing the poinsettias in the Parlor, and Barb Stuart for helping hand out card envelopes, picks, and calendars.

Many hands make light work. Thank you all for your help. Have a wonderful Christmas season. You have made someone's holiday special!

Scottie Cross
Poinsettia Delivery Co-coordinator

Presbyterian Women

The Annual Meeting with honorarium presentation and a program "*Remembering and Retaining Our Roots*" will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, January 11, 2012**. Lunch is provided at 11:30 a.m. followed by the meeting, program and honorariums. Bring a friend. Call the church office at 835-6759 or sign the Ritual of Friendship Pad to RSVP by Sunday, January 8, 2012.

January Events

The Annual Meeting, January 11 (see above)

Midland Church Women United 2012 Annual

Assembly: Human Rights Celebration "Embracing our Oneness" Friday, January 6, 2012 at the Salvation Army, 330 Waldo Avenue.

9:00 a.m.: Registration and refreshments

9:15 a.m.: Annual Assembly, summary of 2011, introduction of officers, plans for 2012

10:15 a.m.: Human Rights Celebration, "Embracing our Oneness"

Speaker from Midland county Sheriff's Department on "Being Safe in Your Own Home." When essential needs, food and safety, have been met; when basic public services, safe streets and the rule of law prevail; with opportunity and access to education – individuals may achieve what is possible! Please bring nonfood products such as soap, dish and/or laundry detergent, personal hygiene items, toilet issue/paper towels, etc. for the needy clients of the Salvation Army. Food stamps cannot be used for the purchase of such items.

Circle 2 will meet on **Wednesday, January 18, 2012** in the Parlor, beginning at **11:00 a.m. (note time change)** with a short meeting, study lesson

and then our annual January luncheon. Our study will be on Lesson Five, "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy!" The luncheon will feature deli wraps, salads and desserts. Choices for deli wraps from Café American are chicken or ham and cheese. Cost is \$3 for a half wrap and must be ordered ahead by calling one of the co-leaders below. If you have been thinking about joining a circle, making new friends, learning more about the Beatitudes and enjoy good fellowship, this is the month to do it! All women of the church are invited and new members are always welcome. Childcare is provided. If you have questions or need a ride please call Gloria Manary at 837-2314 or Katie Talcott at 835-9635.

Circle 3 meets Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at King's Daughters in the Activity room.

Sewing, Quilting and Sharing group meets Wednesday, January 25, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in room 55.

Knitting and Crocheting Group meets weekly on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Room 58-60.

Churchwide Gathering 2012

Wednesday, July 18 - Sunday, July 22, 2012
"River of Hope"

at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida.

Online registration is open (credit card only).

Registration by mail opens January 15, 2012 – registrations sent by mail are only payable by check.

Register by May 15, 2012 to save \$40 on full registration.

Adult full registration includes 5 meals, \$440 through May 15, 2012, Wednesday dinner through Saturday night dinner and reception, breakfast included with hotel package. Special hotel rates at Gaylord Palms have been arranged. These rates are available to Presbyterian Women and their families Sunday, July 15 through Wednesday July 25, 2012.

Details are available in the registration booklets. Booklets can be found under the Presbyterian Women bulletin board (on the ledge across from the computer lab). Please call Joanne Clever at 989-832-2895 for more information on scholarships. Churchwide scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 30, 2012.

**Save the Date:
Winter Warmth Festival
Sunday, February 26, 2012**



Enjoy the warmth of fellowship in the snow and by the fire. All ages are invited to attend from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at City Forest

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee with joint efforts of Children, Youth and Adult Ministry Teams

Visitation Offered

Our pastors welcome the opportunity to visit members and friends of the congregation during their admission to regional hospitals and health care facilities. We encourage personal contact from family members or friends at these times of hospitalization. We ask those requesting visitation not to depend on the communication system implied upon admission to medical centers. Information may be shared through phone message to the church office or by note to the pastors through the Sunday worship ministry of friendship. We appreciate your assistance for our offering of pastoral care.



Marriage Tune Up: February 2012 Conference
On February 3 and 4, several Midland area churches are joining together to sponsor Jeff and Debby McElroy as speakers for the "Marriage Tune Up" conference. The event will take place at the First United Methodist Church of Midland, and childcare will be available with pre-registration. Online registration is available at www.tlcmidland.org. **Cost is \$50 per couple through January 29, 2012 then increases to \$60 until the conference.** Please contact the Reverend Cathy Chang for more information.

Eagle Village Receives Support
Craig Weidner, Development and Marketing Director, writes,

During this fall season we have enjoyed great change in our surroundings. We have witnessed leaves of green turning scarlet, orange and maize, and soon we will see everything turn white with winter powder. Through your generous support of the hurting children and families we serve, their lives are changed every day, one child and family at a time. With change comes growth, discovery, and healed lives. Thank you for partnering with Eagle Village to provide a powerful place for changing these lives. An October graduate from one of our girls' houses shared her perspective at a recent luncheon: Eagle Village has changed my life by encouraging me to make healthy choices and leading me down the path to becoming a successful young woman in the future. I know that I will struggle through many challenges, but I feel between my faith and the tools that I have learned, I will be successful. Your continued support allows young people like Mashea and the lives they will touch to be changed every day. Thank you.

The support of new programming is provided by the Session by recommendation of its Advance Concepts Committee. Lou Garl serves as Committee Chairperson.

Presbytery Members Welcomed

Memorial Presbyterian Church hosted the meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Huron on December 6, 2011. We thank Judy McDowell, members of Session, and volunteers from our Welcome Ministry for their greeting and guiding presence for the day's meeting. Katie Talcott provided morning refreshments. Lunch was served. We thank Karen Boeke, Meal Coordinator, and her volunteer crew. They include: Bob and Dorothy Everett, Thayre and Katie Talcott, Cindy Torrence, Mary Sydney Matuska, Marcia Leach, Ginny Jossi, Linda Lauderbach, Jerry and Charlotte Maxson, Bill Bridge, Steve Smith, Patty Schmidt, Dorothy Smith, Judy McDowell, Elsie Misner, Dolores Daudt, Joanne Clever, Betsey Guenther, Jeanette Gillette, Nancy Brown, and Nancy Kuper.

Presbytery Invitation

Friends within the Presbytery of Lake Huron are invited to the Dedication and Celebration of the newly renovated facility of the First Presbyterian Church in Fenton in worship on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. A reception in the church's new Fellowship Hall will follow. Pastor is the Reverend Dale C. Swihart, Jr.

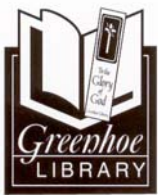
Eastside Soup Kitchen Wednesday, January 18, 2012



Memorial Presbyterian Church volunteers help at the soup kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Nancy Richey at 835-7058. We leave the church at 8:45 a.m. for Saginaw and return at

approximately 1:00 p.m.

Greenhoe Library



The Greenhoe Library Board wishes you a Happy New Year. We hope you will make reading a part of your winter schedule. Stop by and check out the many new books on the carts in the hall outside the Library. We have fiction and non-fiction on a wide

range of topics. Take some books home to enjoy.

Kids' Corner Brief

Please see the Kids' Corner full newsletter on the web at mempres.org

Movin' Up: Fourth and fifth graders, cross your fingers for snow and RSVP for an afternoon of tubing at Snow Snake on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Family Fellowship: will meet on Friday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 116. The January theme is a pajama party! Come relaxed and cozy!

Children's Musical: Rehearsals begin on Saturday, January 7, 2012. Children in second grade through fifth can contact Guy Lynch for more information. The musical will be on Sunday, February 26, 2012.

Vacation Bible School: Mark your calendars for Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22, 2012. Planning will begin on Tuesday, February 7 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. where we will select curriculum. All are invited.

Bible BLAST: We will resume our SPARK rotation Sunday school on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Let Wendy or Diana know if you would like to help.

Adult Ministry

New Year Resolutions: New and New-to-You opportunities to learn and grow in faith on Sunday mornings and during the week. All are welcome to join these new and ongoing opportunities.

Your Adult Ministry Team consists of a small group of people who evaluate and create wonderful opportunities for all adults. Special thanks to **Ginny Donald** for serving as a faithful Adult Ministry Team member. For 2012, we are excited about the following ideas: presentations about end-of-life issues; support for a Men's Group; parenting seminar; and theologian-in-residence. Are you interested in any of these ideas? Consider joining the Adult Ministry to help *transform* these ideas into reality!

For more information, please contact Dave Molzahn, Chair, Jim Dempsey, Mary Ann Gilbert, George Gillette, John Smith or the Reverend Cathy Chang, Staff.

Sunday Morning Classes will not meet on Sunday, January 1, 2012 but will resume on **Sunday, January 8, 2012.**

Presbyterian 101: This class is specially designed for any adults in learning more about the Presbyterian church and its beliefs, whether you are the parent of a confirmand or anyone else with this desire to learn. This class meets on Sunday afternoons, 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Colonial Room, starting **Sunday, January 8, 2012.**

Teen Talk with Parents: All parents of early teenagers are encouraged to attend specific sessions about preparing for transitions from middle to high school. Once a month on Sunday afternoons **starting Sunday, January 22, 2012** from **1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.** in the Colonial Room. This month's featured guest: Kurt Faust who serves as one of H.H. Dow High School counselors.

Weekly Bible Study: After a brief break, this group will continue to meet on **Wednesday, January 11**, with their study on the book of John. You are still invited to join this Bible study even if you didn't participate in the fall. Contact Reverend Cathy Chang for Bible study book.

Spiritual Autobiography: Read a spiritual memoir and discuss it with small group of friends who seek to share and learn from one another. Next meeting is **Tuesday, January 17, 2012** from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the Colonial Room. Stay tuned for more details about January book selection!

Potable Water for the People of San Pedro Martir, Mexico



The people of remote San Pedro Martir (150 miles South of the City of Veracruz in southeastern Mexico), like more than 1.5 billion others throughout the world, previously depended upon

untreated water for living. Memorial Presbyterian Church, Midland, gave some assistance to St. John's Episcopal Church (SJEC) in Midland for their project to install a water treatment system in this community of 3000 villagers and in training leaders to operate and maintain the system.

The water treatment system was designed by Living Waters for the World (LWW) (www.livingwatersfortheworld.org), a major project of the Synod of Living Waters, PC(USA). The system purifies the water first by filtration to remove bacteria followed by ozone disinfection to kill viruses and stores the water in large plastic tanks. The system can produce more than 250 gallons each day that is stored in 50, 5 gallon sanitized water jugs for family home use.

Nine members of the St. John's congregation participated in a 5 day, intensive, training program at Clean Water University in Hopewell, Mississippi in 2008 run by LWW. In June of 2009, three members of SJEC/LWW Team visited southeastern Mexico with assistance from members of the South Eastern Mexico Anglican Diocese and selected the community of San Pedro Martir for the installation. Two systems were assembled. The first system was built in Midland for team training and local demonstration. The second system was assembled in San Pedro Martir in 2010 with six members of SJEC/LWW Team. Along with the installation, several training programs conducted for the people of the village in potable water, hygiene, sanitation, and management of the water system.

A follow-up visit in early 2011 revealed the water system was being properly operated. Potable water is being provided to local low-income pre-school and kindergarten schools at no charge; the critical need for potable water by children to avoid sickness and frequently death is well-recognized throughout the world. Some local villagers also purchase 5 gallon bottles of water for a nominal price of \$0.90. But the usage is not as great as first expected, so the local leaders are encouraged to help the villagers to better understand the importance of reliable potable water for the health of a community. During the 2010 hurricane season, bottles of potable water were also supplied to neighboring villages which were cut off by

impassible roads from emergency government aid. The water system supports the outreach of the local Anglican diocese which provided substantial assistance with this project. The water treatment system which was first assembled in Midland for training and local demonstration has been sent to Living Waters for the World for installation in Haiti in March of 2011 following the devastating earthquake there in 2010.

Memorial Presbyterian Church assists this ecumenical mission effort by providing critical Spanish translation skills of Juan Lopez and by some guidance from experiences with several water projects, led by Ced Currin, in Nicaragua and Haiti over the past 15 years.



Christmas Gifts for Neighbors

The Outreach Committee of the Board of Deacons on behalf of the Session and congregation made benevolent gifts for the Christmas season. These gifts include:

- ✚ \$300 to Ten Sixteen Recovery Network for Christmas gifts for residents;
- ✚ \$250 to King's Daughters and Sons for the ministry of the 2011 Christmas Closet mission; and,
- ✚ \$250 to Global Compassion, a local non-profit established by Ms. Indira Oskvarek, a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Parish, for relief and self-development of her hometown in India.

We thank the congregation for its pledge commitments which encourage these messages of care for our neighbors during the season of Light. Heather Brubaker serves as Chairperson of the Outreach Committee.

Herbert the Talking Presbyterian Organ Mouse - Herbert's Historical Tidbits about the Church



"Hey Herbert," I called from my chair in the living room. After a minute or so, he poked his head out of his wooden organ pipe home and asked, "Well what story would you like to hear tonight?"

"I've been thinking about Kirk Hudson. Do remember him?" A little high-pitched cackle came back and said, "of course, he was a favorite pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Dr. Kirk Arthur Hudson was installed as Senior Pastor on January 11, 1976. His wife, Cally and their 10 year old son Bob moved with him to Midland. [Kirk and Cally's two daughters, Lyn (21) and Betsy (20), were away at college.] He had a big job in front of him. One of Kirk's goals was to reach out and increase church attendance. He felt that the choir could be larger and more people should be involved in Church School."

"I know firsthand," I said, "that Kirk was such a personable person and that people were drawn to him. After I first met him, he would often come and visit me where I lived to share many long conversations. I became a member of this church because of him."

Herbert started telling me about how the elevator came to be, "Kirk told me one day about the elevator that would be installed in the church because accessibility was important to him. Some of the funding came from the Dow Family Foundation and Herbert Dow, III. In fact something else he did was to move the library to its present location so it would be accessible to everyone. He would come over to the organ and talk to me about what he was doing. I used to say to him, 'right on!' Remember it was the 70's."

"Did he start any new services?" I asked. "Funny you would ask that at this time of year, because Kirk liked to host a New Year's Eve midnight communion service in the Sanctuary." Herbert said a little shyly, "I used to try to stay up for it, but at my age, 10 o'clock is the best I could do."

"What about other interests he had while here in Midland?" Herbert got that mousey smile as he related that "Kirk used to tell me about how much he enjoyed acting in plays at the Center for the Arts. His favorite role was Captain Hook in the musical *Peter Pan*. He also collected antiques and liked a good bargain. He looked forward, with anticipation, the twice annual Presbyterian

Women's Rummage Sale. He said that Presbyterians had the best rummage of anyone. He also would often browse local antique malls."

Kirk became well known in Midland for his involvement in the community during his 15 years of service here in the church. He was a friend and pastor to many."

"Happy New Year!" Herbert finished and said "another day, another story" as he disappeared into his organ pipe home.

Herbert's Story Editor, Mike Hoy





**Empty
Bowls
Luncheon**
*for the
Open Door*



January 29
Noon to 1 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall



Almost every night we see TV images of poor and starving people in distant lands and can give thanks for our own comfortable lives here in Midland County.

However, not everyone in the county is that comfortable. In 2011 approximately 12.2% of the population has income below the poverty level. The homeless count in October, by 23 social service agencies, stood at 225 people. The Open Door Soup Kitchen served over 45,000 meals and its Crisis Shelters provided over 11,000 nights of shelter.

So there still is work to do and Memorial Presbyterian Church is joining in a compassionate effort to address the need in our community. On January 29, we will co-host with the Open Door, its "Empty Bowls Luncheon" from noon to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. Everyone is presented with a hand-crafted bowl, created by local potters, to remind them of the empty bowls and hunger in Midland and throughout the world.

Please come enjoy a simple meal and a brief informative program at noon on Sunday, January 29. With your donation, help the Open Door continue to serve those in need in our community.

The Bertha E. R. Strosacker

Memorial Presbyterian Church



We Welcome You!

Welcome to Memorial

The year 2012 brings with its announcement many thoughts and hopes. The fulfillment of hope, peace, joy, and love through the Christmas gift of Jesus Christ becomes a renewed reality for our celebration and devotion. Our discipleship to follow Christ as Lord and to proclaim Christ as Savior is expressed through our invitation to friends and to neighbors.

Evangelism is the outreach of the good news that Jesus Christ is born. The invitation embraces all within our reach both locally and globally. We welcome our neighbors into the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church with affirmation. Membership in the church is celebrated by Profession of Faith and Baptism; by Reaffirmation of Faith; or by Transfer of Letter of Membership. While there are those who choose to serve Christ as friends to the church, we depend on the commitment of members to assist us in building the foundation upon which our invitation to neighbors is offered. Our programs of education, worship, recreation, and mission service testify to the blessing of members who capture our vision for the New Year.

Our resolution is to be evangelists in 2012. How we live and speak in the name of Christ determines the outcome of our invitation, "welcome"!

Friends interested in the gift of membership are invited to share this good news with a pastor or member of staff. The Ministry of Friendship in worship on Sunday mornings provides additional opportunity. We are thankful for the spirit of a congregation among whom the Spirit of Christmas lives. As God gave to us, we now give to one another in hope, peace, joy, and love. The winter 2012 classes are February 26, March 4 and March 11 in the Small Dining Room.

Welcome!

For information on events or services, call the church office or consult www.mempres.org.
Wallace H. Mayton, III, Associate Pastor