

Towerbell

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019



Excerpted from Edith Campbell's ADVENT booklet ...

ADVENT, like Lent, is intended to be a time of reflection, of self-examination, and a time of pondering the investment that Almighty God has made – and is making – in us, God's children.

ADVENT is a time of looking forward – not only to Christmas this year, but to that Second Advent (date known only to God) when Christ returns and God's kingdom is fulfilled. Today we live in that Between Time – REMEMBERING and EXPECTING!

PREPARE ...

SEEK ...

LISTEN ...

REJOICE !!

Edith Campbell (former IPC secretary) originally developed the Advent Booklet in 2002 and shared it with IPC in 2012. Our current secretary, Paula Trill, has adapted it to 2019. Copies are still available in the Sanctuary on the Welcome Table if you would like one.

Calendar

- **Dec 1**—Church School & Worship with Communion; Congregational meeting
- **Dec 1**—City of Independence Historical Society's Tour of Homes (including IPC)
- **Dec 4**—Knit Wits
- **Dec 5**—Morning Glories
- **Dec 8**—Church School & Worship; Deacons meeting
- **Dec 8**—City of Independence Holiday Craft Fair
- **Dec 9**—Evening Circle
- **Dec 10**—Property & Finance C'ee meeting
- **Dec 15**—Church School & Worship; Session meeting
- **Dec 15**—Christmas Caroling
- **Dec 18**—Knit Wits
- **Dec 21**—Holiday Organ Recital by Jake Briggs
- **Dec 22**—Church School & Worship
- **Dec 24**—Christmas Eve service with Communion and Baptism
- **Dec 25**—**CHRISTMAS DAY (office closed)**
- **Dec 29**—Church School & Worship
- **Jan 1**—**NEW YEAR'S DAY (office closed)**

Worship Activities

Rev. Hudson's upcoming sermon titles and scripture selections are provided below:

- 12/1 *Wake Up!*
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:36-44
Liturgist: Carol Tomasko
- 12/8 *Special service – O come, O come,
Emmanuel*
Isaiah 7:13-15, 11:2, 25:8-9, 11:1;
Revelation 3:7; Job 38:12; Haggai 2:7
Liturgist: Wendy Lavey
- 12/15 *Shining Shoes*
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12
Liturgist: Paula Trill
- 12/22 *Do Not Be Afraid*
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-25
Liturgist: Christine Reinprecht
- 12/29 *Jesus the Refugee*
Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew
2:13-23
Liturgist: tbd

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM

Deacon's Corner

We have almost made our way through another year with so much to thank God for, and we Deacons are so grateful **to all of you** for your continued generosity, spirit and support. The following will show how much you all pitch in each and every day to keep our mission here at IPC going strong...

The produce for Harvest Ingathering was delivered on Friday, November 22nd, and carried in and set up for display by Frank Lovell, Mike Messenger, Dean Jermann, Butch and Jan Carr and Rev. Hudson. Said produce from **Harvest Ingathering** was delivered on Sunday, November 24th to Bethany Presbyterian (by Terry Tomasko) to help the 20 families who needed assistance for the Thanksgiving holidays. We collected a total of \$1,055 (very impressive!!), and our produce cost was \$422 (a bit less because our supplier was missing a big bag of carrots at delivery!). The money remaining, some \$633 will be divided equally among Love INC, Bethany Presbyterian, and South Hills Lend-A-Hand, and sent along with a letter from Rev. Hudson. These three organizations help people in need in our Community with food and meals. Bethany prepares meals on Friday nights, and Paula who volunteers there, says the meals are healthy, hearty and delicious and received with grateful hearts. South Hills Lend-A-Hand assisted some 70 families this Thanksgiving handing out over 3,000 lbs. of canned goods and 1,100 lbs. of fresh produce and a turkey for every family. Their shelves are now depleted and our assistance will help them during the Christmas holidays.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Independence Presbyterian Church is pleased to welcome the next meeting of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, scheduled for JANUARY 27th, 2020.

The Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall on the second floor. For those who are physically challenged, we will accommodate in the social room on the main floor. We will be providing a vegetarian menu. The worship service and the meeting will be held in the Sanctuary. Reservations will begin the middle of January and all are welcome to observe our Presbytery at work.

Questions? Contact Elder Bev Rospierski.

All Blessings ... IPC Session

Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational meeting following worship on Sun., Dec. 1, 2019, the following Deacons were elected:

Class of 2021 (serving 2020-2021)

Madeline Wateska

Class of 2022 (serving 2020-2022)

Lynne Andrews

Rhoda Kazarovich

Anne Siebert

Your other Deacons are Phil Holt, Pat Clark and Donna Edwards (Class of 2020), and Nina Kazarovich and Nancy Jermann (Class of 2021).

More From The Deacons ...

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long-time member, and **former Deacon, Betty Jane Walter** on November 21st. We all knew Betty and what a lovely person she was, always eager to help with any endeavor, and always so kind and complimentary to everyone. I will miss her smile. Her memorial was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 27th, at IPC, with a catered reception by Pazzo's afterwards in our Gathering Room, followed by a private family burial. Thank you to Janis Carr, Paula Trill and Nina Kazarovich, who stepped in to help me in setting up and cleaning up the Gathering Room.

On November 30th, the Gathering Room was decked out for the Holidays in preparation for the **City of Independence Holiday Tour of Homes** on December 1st. Our Deacons are providing tasty refreshments for our guests, and will surely impress them with our warm IPC hospitality! We hope you also enjoy the new Holiday decorations too! Thanks to all who also helped at Hanging of the Greens, and to Jan Carr who helped me with the Silent Night bulletin board in the Chapel Hallway.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

Luke 1:31



Deacon Donna Edwards has ordered the **Christmas Poinsettias**. We will pick them up on Friday, December 6th and bring them back to the Church for display. Deacons can deliver their plants to shut-ins any time after December 6th.

As the end of the year approaches, the Board will say goodbye to Deacons Guy Savastano and Karen Embrescia, and welcome new Deacons and those returning for a second term. *Special thanks* to Guy, who took care to make sure everything for Communion was always ready every month. We'll miss you both.

Happiest of Holidays to all of you, from your IPC Deacons!

Nancy Jermann

Presbyterian Trivia:

Name the “rags-to-riches” Founding Father who, as an illegitimate child and later teen-aged orphan, came to America from the British West Indies with the financial help of a Presbyterian minister, Hugh Knox, who had moved to St. Croix to serve as a missionary.

Answer to November Trivia: The oldest Presbyterian congregation in Ohio reportedly is the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, organized in 1790.



Do you know?



The nativity scene is an important part of many decorations during the Christmas season, but what do we really know about its history?

As written by Rachel Nuwer, December 14, 2012, on smithsonian.com, “Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis’ nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis’ death.

According to Bonaventure’s biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about ‘the babe of Bethlehem.’ (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn’t say ‘Jesus.’) Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences.

The nativity scene’s popularity took off from there. Within a couple of centuries, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. We don’t know if people actually played Mary and Joseph during Francis’ time, or whether they just imagined those figures’ presence. We do know that later scenes began incorporating dioramas and life actors, and the cast of characters gradually expanded beyond Mary, Joseph and sweet baby Jesus, to sometimes include an entire village.

Nativity buffs will know, however, that the familiar cast of characters relied upon today—the three wise men and the shepherds—is not biblically accurate. Of the New Testament’s four gospels, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus’ birth. Matthew mentions wise men, while Luke comments on shepherds. But nowhere in the Bible do shepherds and wise men appear together. What’s worse, no one mentions donkeys, oxen, cattle or other farmyard friends in conjunction with Jesus’ birth. But what would a nativity scene be without those staples? Luckily for all the kids cast as King #2 or random shepherd, some artistic interpretation is permitted.”

~ Janis Carr

Mission in Motion (December 2019)

Though there are people in need throughout the year, sometimes those needs are felt most acutely during the holidays and cold winter months. Thankfully, our knitters have completed and donated **640+ items** this year, including sets of hats/scarves/mittens and blankets to help people feel warm and loved. In November, five Presbyterian churches were represented at the cooperative mission meeting, where Love INC, bike restoration, filling shoe boxes for an Indian Reservation in North Dakota and more mission activities were discussed. IPC will be hosting the next cooperative mission meeting in spring where we will decide upon a common project for united giving. Local opportunities to show you care this season included helping with the Yuletide Hunger Program to lift heavy boxes of food for recipients during the week of 12/9 and on 12/14. The Salvation Army Red Kettle will be at the Giant Eagle at 4343 E. Royalton Road, until December 21st. Volunteers interested in ringing the bell or helping distribute food can call the Brecksville Human Services Center at 440.526.2499. Thank you for your selflessness.

~ Lee McGovern & Mission Team

Financial Corner:

Nov ‘19	Operating revenue	\$11,525	Operating expense	\$11,167	Net Operating income	+\$358
YTD	Operating revenue	\$107,846	Operating expense	\$104,223	Net Operating income	+\$3,623

SPOTLIGHT ON ... FRANK LOVELL



Frank is another native born Clevelander who is also a life-long Presbyterian. He described himself as being the “ham in the sandwich” between an older and younger Lovell brother. He graduated from John Adams H.S. and spent 4 years in the U. S. Navy afterwards. He served in Iceland for over a year but spent most of his time in Norfolk, Virginia. He retired from East Ohio Gas after 28+ years on the job. He was in the dispatch office when he retired but got his start as a meter reader. When his childhood church (2nd United) closed, he joined IPC along with his mother, brother Ernie and sister-in-law Debbie in 1983. Frank has been an active deacon and usher through the years along with taking food down to the Garden Valley neighborhood and working on the Harvest Ingathering and Home Days booth.

Frank is a very active retiree at the Parma Senior Center going on bus trips, attending seminars, playing chair volleyball, and being in charge of a “show and tell” antiques program monthly. He also swims laps three times a week at the North Royalton YMCA. He likes polka dancing and polka music and often attends ethnic festivals ... perhaps due to his Czechoslovakian heritage.

A little known secret about Frank is that he loves to bake!

Presbyterian Women Tidbits

At the November 21st PW Board/General Meeting and Tea, attendees got some business accomplished and had some competitive fun. During the meeting, the following volunteered to be on the **2019-2020 Board**: Janis Carr (Moderator), Pat Clark (Treasurer), Nancy Jermann, Nina Kazarovich, Brenda Kolchin, Connie Smith, and Paula Trill (Secretary). Due to your generosity, it was voted to send \$200 from our treasury to each of the following organizations for a total of \$2,200:

- ❖ Presbyterian Women Worldwide
- ❖ Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve
- ❖ Cleveland Furniture Bank “Beds for Kids” Campaign
- ❖ Cornerstone of Hope
- ❖ Laura’s Home Women’s Crisis Center
- ❖ Malachi House
- ❖ Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland
- ❖ Samaritan’s Purse
- ❖ Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- ❖ The City Mission

After our business was completed, we enjoyed a buffet of our “friend” Marie Callender’s pies and held a jigsaw puzzle challenge where teams of two competed against each other to complete a puzzle in the fastest time. In order not to hurt any feelings, we won’t tell you who were the winners, but all received a candy prize for participating. We hope to see you at our next function!

Speaking of our next function...be on the lookout for information on our exciting Game and Puzzle Afternoon Social which will take place after the holidays. Perhaps another puzzle challenge will be in the making! Perhaps not!! It is yours to have fun and make it what you wish. In the meantime, have a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with Peace and Blessings.



~ Janis Carr

Stewardship Update: Pledges for 2020 total about \$84,000 ... it's not too late to turn yours in if you haven't yet done so! Also, don't forget about IPC as you plan any year-end charitable giving!!!

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Postage



TO:

HOLIDAY ORGAN RECITAL, Sat Dec 21 @ 7pm

BY C.J. BRIGGS

Song of Songs and Magnificat by Marcel Dupré

Recent IPC Facebook posts

- *November 17: God takes our sorrows and turns them into peace, wholeness, and joy.*

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,

Nor will they come to mind.”

- Isaiah 65:17

Thank you to all contributors to the November issue of IPC's Towerbell: Janis Carr, Nancy Jermann, Wendy Lavey, Lee McGovern, Bev Rospierski, Kelly Savastano, Karen Shallcross, and Paula Trill. All errors belong to Wendy as editor and layout specialist! Color printing donated. Updates and articles are due to Wendy by the last day of the preceding month, although earlier is better!!