

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Points of Interest:

- ◆ Poinsettia orders for December
- ◆ Christmas—Adopt a Family

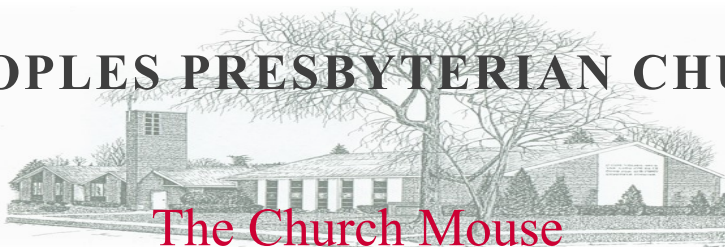
We are continually collecting:

- ◇ Pull Tabs
- ◇ Box Tops
- ◇ Plastic Caps & Lids

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

Volume 11 || Issue 8

December 2017

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

From my sermon for the Community Thanksgiving Service —

I got a cat.

I have never lived with a cat before, but Gingersnap is pretty cute, so I went from living by myself to having a very small roommate in the manse. Now, I did grow up with a dog, so my assumption was that I would play with the cat and then she'd get tired and jump up on my lap and cuddle and it would be super cute. But apparently that's not how cats work. The two of us argue a lot. I will say to her, "Okay, cat, let's play. I got you toys, and a cat tree, and a laser pointer!" She looks at me and meows.

And I say, "Caaaaaaat. Come cuddle, then! You're soft and I want to pet you!" She meows again.

So I say, "Come on, cat, aren't I super nice to you? Do you just not appreciate anything?" And she meows and jumps up next to me...and bats my pen off the table.

Cats are not very thankful creatures. All the great things we do for them and they just go around knocking things over!

I wonder if that's how God feels about us, sometimes. All the grace God shows us and we just go around knocking things over. But sometimes we respond to God's grace with faith.

"Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him." (Luke 5:1-11)

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia and/or her cat

By the incredible grace of God, we have been given far more than we can comprehend.

How do we respond to a grace so amazing?

For Peter, at first, the answer was simple. He would listen to this teacher, sure. To love God is to want to know more about God. When the man asks, sure, Peter can help. It's not asking all that much for him to get back into the boat and let Jesus teach from it so the crowds can see Him better. Maybe then, keeping the boat steady, Peter takes a break from cleaning his nets and really listens to what Jesus is teaching to the crowds. What is Jesus saying? What is the lesson that changes Peter's whole life? What words would it take to change our whole lives?

But then Jesus asks another favor of Peter: to take the boat out into the deep water and cast down his nets. What does he have to lose? There's no way he's going to catch anything, but Jesus taught a good lesson and Peter might as well be polite when faced with this fairly simple, if silly request. What's the worst thing that can happen?

But the worst thing doesn't happen. Instead, Peter witnesses a miracle. Jesus doesn't ask it of them, but the men drop everything and follow Him. How could they not?

Grace isn't always so obvious, even when it's just as abundant.

I hope that when we find it, we can respond to God's grace like a Peter...and not like a cat.

I hope that when we find it, we don't fail to see it for the gift that it is, or take God's grace for granted, or react with anger that grace isn't what we thought it would be, or respond by knocking something over just to show that we can.

I hope that when we find it, we drop everything and follow God and shout praise and thanksgiving to the Lord with all our hearts and with all our minds and with all our souls.

shalom and agape



Pastor Leia



Poinsettias for the Church Sanctuary for Christmas Eve Service

As has been our tradition for many years, we will be taking orders for red poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The price is \$12 each.

Order forms are available in the pew pockets, and a sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

If you wish to have your poinsettia donation in honor or in memory of someone, please note those names on the card or on the sign-up sheet. The **last day to order is December 17.**

Please pay for your poinsettia when you place your order.

Make your check payable to Peoples Presbyterian Church and write "poinsettia" on the memo line. If you are paying with cash, please write your name and "poinsettia" on the envelope, so the office can track your payment.

If you have ordered a poinsettia, you may take it home following the Christmas Eve service. Any plants remaining will be used for the January 1 worship service.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

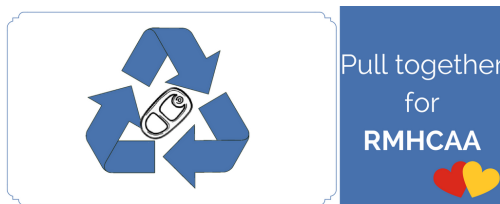
By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

7th Annual Pop Tab Battle

It is time for us to send our pop tabs to the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House and Rachel Flint is going to be the entrusted one to deliver them - Thanks, Rachel!

This is the 7th Annual Pop Tap Battle for the Ann Arbor and Columbus Ronald McDonald Houses. The tabs have to be delivered to the Ronald McDonald houses by November 25, the day of the U of M/Ohio State football game. The winning Ronald McDonald House receives \$1,000 from Coca-Cola. As far as I know, U of M has not won the competition yet, maybe this will be the year.

In the past years, we have collected around 6 - 8 pounds of tabs. As you can see in the Narthex, this year, with Cindy Marsh's efforts, **we collected 95.5 pounds!!** Unbelievable! So, all I can say is "Go Blue!"



Youth in the Spotlight . . .

Reese Rupert received a 3rd place ribbon with her horse, Kirby, at the Cedar Ridge Event Derby on October 15.



Boston Bashaw earned his Varsity letter in football at Summerfield High School along with a gold football pin and certificate for being a scholar athlete.



CE Report continued on page 5

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

On November 19, the kids learned about the Legend of the 5 Kernels of Corn. This eye-opening story was the perfect message to remember as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends. The kids prepared copies of the legend and a package of 5 kernels of corn for all the families of the congregation. We all thanked God for the many blessings we have received.

We will be starting preparations for the Advent season as all the kids will create their very own Advent candle wreath! They will be able to safely "light" a candle each Sunday during Advent and then light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning as well as activate their glow sticks inside the candle. *Thanks to all the congregation for their collection of toilet paper and paper towel rolls for this exciting project.*

December 3 marks the beginning of Advent, and the children and some adults in the congregation will be involved in the "Building the Nativity" presentation. Figures will be added to the Nativity each Sunday, with the celebration of Jesus' birth and the placing of Baby Jesus in the manger at the Christmas Eve service.

Don't miss our Annual Christmas Pageant right after the worship service on Sunday, December 10. The kids will also be involved in some of the worship service on this special day. Reminder, rehearsal for the pageant is Saturday, December 9, from 10 am - 12 pm with donut holes and hot cocoa to follow.

News Flash!! A Family Holiday Potluck will follow the pageant on December 10 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be holiday games and activities for the whole family. Plan to stay after the potluck for some Christmas fun!!

Christmas Eve Service at 7pm will feature the last part of Building the Nativity. At the end of the service when the adults light candles for the last hymn, the children will be treated to a couple of red and green glow sticks. Don't miss this special service! (bonus: the children can enjoy the glow sticks for hours afterwards.)

January 7 is Epiphany and is time for Baby Jesus' Birthday Party complete with a special birthday cake! Find the lists of suggested gifts for Jesus in the bulletins leading up to this important Party. Feel free to wrap the gifts and take them to the Fellowship Hall any time and put them on the table with the sign on it.

The Christian Education Committee wishes everyone a very joyous, meaningful and healthy Christmas season!



We continue to collect :

Pop Tabs



Box Tops



Plastic Caps and Lids



An Important Message from the Stewardship Committee

Due to a number of circumstances, the Annual Stewardship Campaign - Consecration Sunday will not occur until February 11, 2018.

We understand that this is three months after our usual November timing, but due to members of the Stewardship Committee participating on the PNC for the process of hiring our new pastor, the need for supply pastors this fall due to Pastor Griffith's illness, and availability of a Consecration Sunday Leader from Presbytery, it is not possible to complete our pledge drive before year end.

Given this, we ask all of the members and friends of Peoples Presbyterian to please continue their current pledge until Consecration Sunday on February 11, 2018. That is only a little over a month past the time your 2017 pledge would normally end. By doing this, we can ensure that we fund the important operations of the church and its ministry and mission efforts.

Thank You for your understanding of this situation, and continued support of Peoples.

— Stewardship Committee

Mission Committee

By Chad Lawver, Mission & Outreach

Thanksgiving Baskets

A big thank you to the congregation!!!!

We raised \$355 for turkeys and had ten full boxes for the Aid in Milan donation!!!



Thanks for your continued support on this annual donation!



thank
you!

The ***Halloween Canopy on the Corner*** was a success again this year. Many people in the community mentioned that they love to stop in every year and they make sure they work us into their trick-or-treating route!

We handed out 35 dozen (420) cookies, 8 gallons of gourmet Wasem's Apple Cider, and many cups of coffee.



Session Highlights

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from the November 15, 2017 Session meeting

Election of Corporate Officers for 2018 Session re-elected Jack Cranson as Corporation President, Ken London as Treasurer, and Nancy Kuzniar as Secretary/Clerk of Session, all for one-year terms.

2017 Nominating Committee has finalized a slate of candidates for Elders and Deacons for 2018, as well as the 2018 Nominating Committee. Session has approved the list, and recommends these dedicated volunteers to the congregation for election at the January 28, 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting.

2018 COMMUNION SCHEDULE

January 7	July 1
February 4	August 5
February 14 (Ash Wednesday)	September 2
March 4	October 7 (World Communion)
March 29 (Maundy Thursday)	November 4
April 1 (Easter)	December 2
May 6	December 24 (Christmas Eve) (Monday)
June 3	January 6, 2019

2018 Operating Budget The proposed 2018 Budget was distributed and explained. The main changes are in Personnel line items, now that we have a full-time called pastor. Session approved the 2018 Operating budget in the amount of \$157,909.13.

PPC Women's Group – Cancer Hats To date, a total of 222 hats have been delivered to St. Joe's Oncology Center, with more to be delivered before the end of the year. The knitting continues.

Fellowship The PPC Christmas party originally scheduled for December 8 has been cancelled. It was decided to re-invent the family party idea and move it to a Friday or Saturday in mid-February. Instead, more focus will be placed on the December 10 Pageant Sunday. This will be a joint Fellowship/ Membership family event, with a potluck following the pageant. Among other things, a cookie decorating table will be set up for kids, and Christmas carols will be sung.

Membership The Annual Membership Review for 2017 has been completed. Membership and Fellowship will coordinate on the December 10 potluck and family Christmas party.

Mission and Outreach Our Halloween Canopy on the Corner outreach was a great success: 8 gallons of warm and cold cider were given out to trick-or-treaters and their parents, along with 35 dozen cookies (420) and many cups of coffee. \$500 for Shared Mission will be sent to the Detroit Presbytery. The Peacemaking Offering is in process of being finalized and sent out.

Thanksgiving boxes were packed on Sunday, November 17; currently, \$270 has been raised for the purchase of needed food items and turkeys. Aid in Milan Christmas adopted family paperwork has been submitted, and we are awaiting their response (two smaller families for this year).

Looking ahead, there will be a Soup/Chili fundraiser lunch to support Mission, after worship on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

Stewardship There will not be a pledge campaign this fall. The congregation will be asked to keep their pledges at the 2017 level until the Consecration Sunday program is implemented in early February 2018.

Worship and Music During Advent, youth will take part in lighting Advent candles and/or readings. Poinsettia order forms will be placed in pew pockets on Nov. 26, with a deadline for ordering of Sunday, December 17.





Community Adopted Families

From: Mission Committee

This year, PPC has offered to “adopt” two families for Christmas through Aid in Milan. AIM is hoping to have information available to us this next week. We will then put the gift tags listing needs on the tree in the Fellowship Hall. You may select a gift tag showing a gift to purchase. Please wrap your gift, *place the gift tag on the gift with all of the information still listed*, and return it to church by **Sunday, December 17.**



Checks may be made out to **Peoples Presbyterian Church** with “*Adopted Family*” listed on the memo line. Money is always welcome. The money is used to purchase gifts that weren’t brought in or to purchase extra gift cards from Kroger or Meijer for Aid in Milan.

All donated gifts are gratefully accepted. THANK YOU for your participation in this very important Mission Outreach. Feel free to contact Carol Vollink, Chad Lawver, Helen Barnes, or Georgia Anderson if you have any questions.





December

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
31 10 am Worship, No CE					1	2
3 10 am Worship: 1st Sunday of Advent, <i>Hanging of the Greens,</i> Communion, CE Begin collection of Christmas gifts for Adopted Family	4 7:00 pm Handbells	5	6 7:00 pm Bookworms—lounge	7	8	9 10:00 am-12:00 pm CE Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary
10 10 am Worship: 2nd Sunday of Advent, CE Christmas Pageant and Family Potluck Continue collection of Christmas gifts for Adopted Family	11 7:00 pm Handbells	12 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	13	14 	15	16 
17 10 am Worship: 3rd Sunday of Advent, CE Final Day for collection of Christmas gifts for Adopted Family!	18 7:00 pm Handbells	19 	20	21 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	22 	23
24 Christmas Eve 10 am Worship: 4th Sunday of Advent, Handbells, No CE 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Communion, Handbells	25 <i>Christmas Day!</i> 	26	27 Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	28	29	30 



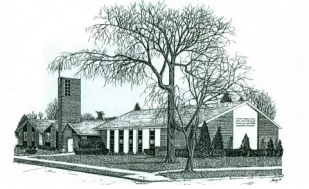
January

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3 	4 	5	6
7 10 am Worship: Communion, Baptism of the Lord, CE <i>Birthday Party for Jesus</i> <i>during Fellowship</i> Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk	8 7:00 pm Handbells	9 3:00 pm Calendar Planning Meeting— lounge 7:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting— lounge	10	11	12 	13
14 10 am Worship, CE Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up Session Committee <u>Annual Reports</u> due today to Church Office	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 7:00 pm Handbells	16	17 7:00 pm Session Meeting - lounge	18 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	19	20
21 10 am Worship, CE Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for February issue Session Committee Annual Reports available on narthex table	22 7:00 pm Handbells	23 	24	25 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating - lounge Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	26	27
28 10 am Worship, CE Handbells <i>Annual</i> <i>Congregational</i> <i>Meeting and Potluck</i>	29 7:00 pm Handbells	30	31			

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