

South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-3797

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SOUTH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 21, 2006

TOUCHPOINTS



Education Opportunities
Sundays at 9:00

The children's combined class meets upstairs in the Ed. Center, as does Jr. Church.

Kerygma - Library (Carol Hough)

Searchers - Fellowship Hall (Shirley Suarez)

(No church school on Sunday, December 31)

Wishing



You

A

Very

Blessed

New

Year

New Year's Resolutions are often worth about as much as the paper they are written on – and they aren't even always written down! The best of intentions, fueled by the start of a new calendar and perhaps the pressure of those near and dear to us, can lead to over- or under-estimating the amount of change we are willing to make in our individual lives.

In the life of a congregation as well, there are limits to how many changes we are willing to make. The number we are "comfortable" making is likely smaller than that. But change is a part of life, and we can often help one another come to terms with necessary change.

This issue includes information from the Joint Church Vision Community (JCVC), the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), and about a change in our worship experience starting with the new year. In the midst of these changes, it is good to remember that our God is bigger than our discomfort, stronger than our fears, and promises to walk with us through challenge and comfort.

I was mightily impressed on December 10, when not one single person mentioned after worship that we had run 15 minutes "over time". The service included wonderful music from the bell choir, a powerful interaction between Kenn Logan and the children, and the ordination and installation of new officers. It was a full morning, and the Spirit was clearly with us – but I was still surprised when no one (not even Bob Coatney!) mentioned the timing.

You are a wonderful group of God's people, walking together in faith. It isn't always easy, but it is always good to belong to God. May your resolutions this year be balanced and measured, so that you can make the changes God has in mind no matter what anyone else may say!

Church Office: 786-6466 Fax: 786-6470
Email address: donnab@spchurchqc.org Website: www.spchurchqc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30 p.m.

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No Subscription Charge to members and friends

Serving God Together!

Pastor Vickie

Touchpoints Publication Schedule

Next Touchpoints will be mailed on Thursday, Jan. 25. The deadline for articles to be submitted is Sun., Jan. 14.

Church Services Schedule (see enclosed January calendar for all events)

Church Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00-4:30

Sunday, December 31

No Church School
10:00 Jazz Service with Ron Madow Trio Sanctuary

Sunday, January 7

Communion
Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary
12-4 Training for Officers

Sunday, January 14

9:00 Church School
9:00 Orientation/Training for Greeters, Lectors and Ushers
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary
12-4 Training for Officers
Touchpoints articles due

Sunday, January 21

Churches United Food Pantry
Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary

Sunday, January 28

Recycling
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship
Soup lunch after service followed by Annual Business Meeting

Points of Interest

Officer Training in January - The elders of this church will have training from noon until 4 p.m. on Sundays, Jan. 7 and Jan. 14. The deacons here will have training on Sat., Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. These trainings will be led primarily by Pastor Vickie.

In addition, the Black Hawk Presbyterian Connection has arranged for a one-day elder training to be held at Broadway on January 27 from 8:00 until 4:30 p.m., with lunch provided. This training, as well as a similar training on January 13 at Galesburg, will be led by Rev. Dick Johnson of Biggsville. Elders at SPPC who cannot attend the training here are invited to participate in one of these Presbytery training events.

The one-day trainings are offered for all current elders, all newly-elected elders, anyone who has ever served on a Session and anyone who would like to have this opportunity before making a decision about serving in this way. There will be a small charge for lunch. Please contact Pastor Vickie for more information.

Circle of Virtue - will be meeting on Tues., Jan. 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Covenant to Care - We will only meet on the third **Tues., Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.** at Margaret Grossman's home. Please bring your Bibles with you as we continue our study of I Thessalonians. If any questions, please call Brenda Thompson, 788-7769.

Church Events Calendar



January 1 - January 6

Mon., Jan. 1
New Year's Day
Tues., Jan. 2
9:30 Circle of Virtue in church Fellowship Hall
6:30 Fellowship
6:30 Handbells (and every Tues.)
7:00 Outreach
Wed., Jan. 3
6:30 Church in Society
7:30 Choir Rehearsal (and every Wed.)
Thurs., Jan. 4
9:30 PW Mission

January 7 - January 13

Mon., Jan. 8
1:00 Circle of Faith
3:30 Stewardship
4:00 WEM
6:30 JCVC at Broadway (Session)
7:00 Sternwheeler Board
Tues., Jan. 9
3:15 Tutoring (and every Tues.)
6:30 Personnel
7:00 Circle of Love
7:00 C.E.
7:30 Worship/Music
Wed., Jan. 10
1:30 Finance
Thurs., Jan. 11
7:00 PP&E
Sat., Jan. 13
9-1 Deacon Training
9:30 Book Club in church Library

January 14 - January 20

Mon., Jan. 15
1:30 PW Coordinating Team
Tues., Jan. 16
9:30 Office Volunteer Training
7:00 Covenant to Care
Wed., Jan. 17
5:00 Meal Site
Sat., Jan. 20
1:00 Ladies Afternoon Out in Ed. Center

January 21 - January 31

Mon., Jan. 22
6:30 Session
Tues., Jan. 23
12:00 VIP
Thurs., Jan. 25
Touchpoints mailed
7:00 Deacons
Sat., Jan. 27
8-4:30 Elder Training at Broadway

Sunday Attendance:

	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17
10:00 Service	116	144	149	143

Income:

Nov 26	\$	3,690.27
Dec 3	\$	7,394.05
Dec 10	\$	4,964.14
Dec 17	\$	5,879.81
Dec Food Pantry	\$	457.50



Address Change:

Yvonne Brumas	Vicki Wilcox
5112 N Fairmount St. Trlr 268	5 Woodley Rd
Davenport, IA 52806-7049	Rock Island, IL 61201

In last month's Touchpoints, Kim Hough's address was listed incorrectly. It should have read:

Kim Hough
1701 25th St. Apt. 3
Rock Island, IL 61201

Deaths: Doris LaMere, Duane LaMere's mother

Meal Site - Thank you to those who provided food and helped serve at the Meal Site on Wed., December 20. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parlor in January if you would like to help provide food for the January 17 Meal Site.

**P N U R S E
A R I S H
C O R N E R**

Thrush

Thrush is a common fungus infection of the mouth. Thrush usually affects the mouth, gums, tongue, soft palate, cheeks and lips. It usually affects newborns and infants, but may also affect older children and adults.

Signs and Symptoms:

Patches appear in the mouth with the following characteristics:

Patches are white to creamy yellow and are slightly raised. They are similar to milk curds, but they don't wipe off.

Patches are not painful unless they are rubbed in an attempt to remove them. Then they leave small, painful ulcers.

The mouth is dry.

Causes:

A fungus called candida albicans, may develop because of the following:

Treatment with antibiotics. This may upset the natural balance of organisms in the mouth and allow thrush to develop.

Birth. Newborns may acquire the infection during the passage through the birth canal - especially if the mother has a vaginal yeast infection. Thrush appears within hours or up to 7 days after birth.

Aging. Older persons develop thrush because of lower natural resistance.

Risks increase with:

- Poor nutrition
- AIDS
- Diabetes
- Illness that has lowered resistance
- Use of immunosuppressive drugs
- Irritation from dentures

Prevention:

If you have had thrush previously and must take an antibiotic, drink buttermilk or eat yogurt that contains acidophalous to replenish the helpful bacteria in digestive tract.

Treatment:

Rinse the mouth with a salt solution (1/2 tsp. salt to 8 oz. of water) 3 times a day or more after eating.

If an infant has the infection - sterilize the bottles and nipples by boiling for 20 minutes.

To avoid transmitting thrush to others, boil eating utensils or use disposable items. Boil anything that touches the mouth or saliva.

Gently swab the mouth with antiseptic mouthwash. If this doesn't help, your doctor might prescribe an antifungal drug to apply to the patches.

Diet - no changes for infants. Older children and adults should maintain an adequate intake of milk, liquid gelatin, ice cream, custard, water, tea, and other beverages and foods that are easy to swallow. Use a straw for drinking if the patches are painful.

At this time of year get adequate rest, eat a well balanced diet, wash hands before eating and after using the restroom. Cough or sneeze in the Kleenex (dispose of it immediately) or keep Kleenex in your sleeve. Check out the poster.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday

Joanne Stice, Parish Nurse

*Worship continues every
Sunday at 10:00 a.m., with
Church School classes
at 9:00 a.m.*

Interim Pastor Search Committee

(IPSC) - More good news to report from IPSC - the Session and the Committee on Ministry have approved the hiring of Virginia Murray to be our Intentional Interim Pastor starting Feb. 14, 2007, with a one year contract. Pastor Vickie Kintzel will be with us through Feb. 15 to allow an overlap for a "pastoral" exchange between the two of them. While we are excited about Pastor Virginia being able to join us to lead us through the Lenten season and beyond, all of us will greatly miss the powerful spiritual leadership Pastor Vickie is giving us. Although we knew Pastor Vickie could only be with us a short time, we must note that her presence has had a profound positive effect on South Park and she will be greatly missed.

V.I.P. - We will meet on **Tues., at noon, Jan. 23**, for the monthly potluck in the church Dining Room. Everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship, good food and joy.

Our program will be "Humor is Chocolate Cake for the Soul". LaNeva collects her resources from various areas. You will be laughing and that is a promise!! Del & Sallie Huntley, Duane LaMere, and Bev Linn will be our host committee for the day with Annette Iglehart sharing her devotions. LaNeva Birkel will be our MC. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service and a friend! Beverages are provided.

Anyone that is unable to attend the potluck is welcome for the program at 12:45/1:00. **Come, leave with a smile!**
VIP/Jan Fitzpatrick

Book Club - We will meet on Sat., Jan. 13, at 9:30 a.m., in the church Library. The book for the month is any selection by author Joan Hess in the Maggady series. Call Pat Anderson, 786-6318, if you have any questions.

Ladies Afternoon Out - On Sat., Jan. 20, we will gather at 1:00 p.m. for the film Simon Birch and fellowship. Please bring a plate of treats to share. Coffee and tea provided. All ladies and their guests are welcome!

Fellowship Committee - *Maxine & LaNeva*

Organ Concert - Eric Plutz will give an organ concert at 1st Presbyterian Church, Davenport, on Feb. 18, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 - contact 1st Presbyterian Church or Harriet Plutz.

"Church Basement Ladies" - at Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse has (24) reservations for South Park Church on Wednesday, May 9th, for a matinee, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Our group rate for a matinee is \$33 (includes a plated lunch served instead of a buffet, coffee/and or tea, show tax and gratuity). Doors open at 11:45 a.m., pre-show at 1:00 p.m. and show at 1:30 p.m. Sign up today - sheet is in the church Parlor. Payment must be made to Jan Fitzpatrick (cash or check payable to Jan) by April 15. *The Fellowship Committee*

College in Your Future? - If so, consider attending a Presbyterian college! South Park has a Presbyterian scholarship fund which could help you with your tuition. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please contact a member of the Stewardship Team. In addition, funds may be available through the denomination. Go to ww.pcusa.org and search "scholarships".

Joint Church Vision Community (JCVC)

(Note: this identical article is appearing in the newsletters of all three churches. More information will be included in the next Touchpoints.)

Rev. Sue Krummel, Executive Presbyter of Great Rivers Presbytery, will be meeting with the Sessions (current, "retiring", and new members) of all three churches (Broadway, Good Shepherd, and South Park) on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Broadway. A draft joint vision statement for a transformed Presbyterian Church in Rock Island was developed by JCVC and will be presented to the three Sessions at that time with the expectation that the Sessions will vote on acceptance of the vision statement.

The conversations within this committee during the last month have focused on ensuring that members of all congregations have an opportunity to participate in the joint meetings of each respective program area or group. After acceptance of the vision statement, the joint meetings will begin with Presbyterian Women followed by Deacons and then other groups such as Christian Education, Fellowship, Mission and Outreach, and so on.

Happy New Year to All from JCVC members

Broadway Members

Nancy Jacobsen
Cherry McIlvain
Ginny McKee
Sherrill Mixer
Frank Youngquist

Good Shepherd Members

Stew Adams
Jim Bertelsen
Karen Beshears
Brian Bollman
Mike Wendland

South Park Members

Kathy Davis
Joanne Fritts
Patty Henneman
Mary Jones
Duane LaMere

Worship and the Sacraments - In response to the recommendation of the General Assembly in June 2006, we will begin each worship service starting in January by pouring water into the baptismal font (before the Call to Worship). The pitcher and plate will be on the Table each time we gather, whether or not we share the Lord's Supper. In these ways, we will be reminded visually and by the sound of the water of the grace of God in our midst.

This recommendation came in response to a three-year study (but of course; that's the way we Presbyterians do things!). The conclusion of the study was that the power of the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper) has been gradually experienced less often in many churches. While baptism in our understanding is a "once for all" experience, we are invited to "renew" our baptismal vows periodically. That opportunity will be extended in worship on January 7, and may be repeated later in the

year. The Lord's Supper can be shared as often as the Session decides, and "shall be celebrated regularly and frequently as determined by the Session" (W-3.3101(5) and W-2.4000). The Session will decide (at their meeting December 18) how often that will be in 2007; the recommendation from the Worship Committee is to increase those experiences.

How can you help? Extra communion services mean a need for extra communion servers, bakers, and preparers/cleaners. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex, or contact Betty Miller (Worship chair) to indicate your interest.

Home Communion - continues to be available for those unable to gather with the community in worship. The goal for 2007 is to make a specific offer more often (see article on sacraments), and to arrange additional visits by request. Contact the church office.

Church School Request - Our cards are getting low for the different holidays. If you have any old cards, we would appreciate it if you would donate them. This year we had several boxes of Christmas cards to send, however, we also need old cards for Thanksgiving and Easter along with more Christmas cards. We also need get well, birthday, and sympathy cards. You can bring these to the Church School Room and drop them off in the box that is labeled "cards". Also a reminder to save those pop can tabs, "for education" box labels and soup labels. Thank you.

Julie Hook and the Church School Kids

Listed below are the newly elected Elders and their respective classes:

Class of 2007

Don Berg (Clerk of Session/Finance)
Joyce Hendren (Nominating)
Kim Hough (C. E.)
Marilyn Kieffer (Outreach)
Sue Roberts (Church in Society)

Class of 2008

Jan Fitzpatrick (Chair of Fellowship)
John Henneman (Chair of Personnel)
Terry Langston (Worship & Music)
Marilyn Sale (Wills and Endowments)
Judy Yates (Finance)

Class of 2009

Nick Bleuer (PPE)
Bob Cross (Stewardship)
Annette Iglehart (Personnel)
Carol Kramer (C.E.)
Betty Miller (Worship & Music)

Birth Announcements: Congratulations to the following families upon the recent births of:

Faith Bea Hanshaw, daughter of Marc & Denise Hanshaw of Palatine, IL. Florence Hanshaw is the grandmother. Faith was born on November 30, 2006 and weighed 2 lbs. 4 oz.

Allison Emma Lovett, daughter of Tom & Pam Lovett of Oak Harbor, WA. Maxine Patterson is the great-grandmother. Allison was born on December 4, 2006 and weighed 7 lb. 8 oz. and was 19" long.

To the Congregation - Thank you for your generous support of Thank Offering. We are able to send \$922 to mission projects for Presbyterian Women.

Harriet Plutz, Moderator PW

Thank You - We wish to thank you for your wonderful gift of hats, scarves, and mittens. We gave the small ones to our Head Start Preschool Program. The rest were sent out to 6 of our schools who requested them. As you know, there is always a need for these. On behalf of all the students who will be warm this winter, we thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely, *Rock Island School District #41*

Dear South Park Members: Thank you so much for the Christmas basket of cookies, candy and apples/oranges. It was so nice of you and was really appreciated. You made my holiday brighter.

Carol McAllister



Our Deepest Sympathies to...
*...Duane and Sam LaMere upon
the recent passing of Duane's mother,
Doris LaMere.*

FAMILY OF FAITH

Don and Shirley Fenton met when Shirley visited Don at the hospital. He was a patient and Shirley was a member or the pastoral care committee of the Deacons. The friendship blossomed and since then they have spent many years helping each other, traveling together, and enjoying each of their families.

It was in 1941 Don joined South Park Church. He was a pharmacist's mate in World War II. He served in Okinawa taking care of the natives there who were injured in the war. When he returned to Rock Island, he took up his profession of barbering. He and Wally Danielson ran their barbershop for 35 years downtown.

Shirley joined South Park Church in 1960. She has been a Sunday School teacher, on the Pastoral Care Committee of the Deacons, a member of the Circle of Virtue, Presbyterian Woman, Sternwheelers, and was instrumental in hiring a Parish Nurse.

Don lived in California for several years. His wife was suffering from Alzheimer's and their daughter was caring for her. Kiwanis was the way Don found he could meet friends in a new environment. Shirley stressed how important Kiwanis has been to Don. He had heart surgery while in California and 20 friends visited, all from Kiwanis. When Shirley and Don decided to marry it was a pastor, a good friend from the organization in California, who performed the ceremony. Don continued his membership in Kiwanis when he returned to Rock Island. He was President and then Lieutenant Governor of the club here.

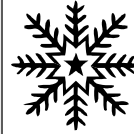
This couple has traveled extensively. Don and Shirley have taken cruises to Alaska, The Panama Canal, and The Baltic Sea. The Kiwanis Club held an International Convention in Italy which Don and Shirley attended and they also visited France and Monaco.

Both are big Cubs fans, like to read, and watch game shows on TV. The main thing, Don stresses, is they are together to take care of each other.

HIGHLIGHTS

of the December 18 Session Meeting

- There will be a joint meeting of all three Sessions on Jan. 8, 2007 at 6:30 at Broadway Church regarding merger at which the Vision Statement will be discussed and voted on.
- YTD Revenue \$257,423.00
- YTD Expense \$257,236.00
- PPE to look into insurance for water main breaks.
- Take up a Christmas Offering at both Christmas Eve Services; any undesignated money will go to the general budget.
- 27 Members will be moved from the active member roll to the inactive roll.
- There will be more communion services in 2007; the first Sunday of each month plus several additions related to the church year.
- Approved seven special offerings for 2007, including the Pentecost offering. This makes us a "5 for 5" congregation, one that contributes to the larger church and all four special PC(USA) denominational offerings.
- Pastor Vickie Kintzel presented a Petition regarding Positive Political Campaigning for consideration. Copies are available from the office.
- A special Session meeting is set for 9:30 am on Jan 7 to meet with new member candidate(s).
- A letter was received from Helen Sutton regarding dropping her membership in South Park. The Session decided to keep her on the roll and see if somebody can help out by going to see her and once in a while offer to bring her to Church.
- The final per capita payment was made. All other budgeted mission payments have been paid.
- Don Berg was reelected as clerk of session for the year 2007 and Beth Newberry as Treasurer, pending her concurrence.
- Copies of the full draft session minutes are available in the parlor.



Interim Notes:

"I came to leave." It is true of every interim ministry (and as a dear friend and mentor often says, every ministry is interim; none of us will live forever), but it is perhaps especially true for a deliberately short interim such as the one we are now sharing. You have been gracious in your welcome and reception of my initial weeks of ministry here, willing to look – again – at questions and issues that have brought you to this place.

As was announced in worship recently, the Session has entered into a contract with the Rev. Virginia Murray to begin ministry here on February 14, 2007. The Session and Interim Pastor Search Committee clearly heard your frustration and sense of being vulnerable in the time between the departure of Pastor Casey and my arrival, and so the plan is that she and I will "overlap". This will also allow time for us to talk about some of what you have shared with me and give her a running start.

I asked for a short-term assignment, even before I applied for this position. When our shared ministry ends, I will return to Colorado and my family. While I do not yet know exactly what my next ministry will be, God does.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with the Session, Deacons and committees as we seek to get into writing the practices and policies of how ministry is done here at this time. Some policies need merely to be reaffirmed and communicated; others need to be put in place and communicated. That process will not be completed before my departure, but I believe that it will have a good beginning and some momentum to carry it through.

You are welcome to contact me for conversation, and we will put our calendars together. My attempt to set aside blocks of time for such conversations is apparently not the best way to help that happen, so I am asking you to contact me if you would like to talk about ministry here.

Pastor Vickie
Intentional Interim Pastor (until mid-February 2007)



Interested in Becoming an Active Member of South Park Presbyterian Church?

There has been some interest expressed recently by persons desiring to formally become a member of this congregation. Pastor Vickie has obtained some excellent background books that help persons know what they're getting in for when they become a member of a Presbyterian Church. Those interested are invited to contact her to borrow one of these books. On Jan. 14, from 5-7 p.m., she will host a gathering for such interested persons; others who would like a "refresher" are also welcome. A light soup supper will be provided.

Our constitution (G-5.0202) defines an "active member of a particular church" as a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, been baptized, has been received into membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church's work and worship. The Session is the group that receives persons into membership, after which they are introduced to the congregation.

Active members may participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, present children for baptism, take part in meetings of the congregation, vote and hold office (G-5.0202). Persons who are, by their choice or by action of the Session, on the *inactive roll* of the congregation are entitled to the same privileges except the right to speak in meetings of the congregation, to vote and to hold office. There are many reasons why someone might be on the inactive roll, including moving away but not yet joining another church, attending another congregation but not yet asking for a transfer of membership, or just "getting out of the habit". The Session here, as in most congregations, takes great

pains in attempting to determine why members are not participating in the work and worship of the congregation. Sometimes, however, a move to the inactive roll is the reasonable and actually loving thing to do.

Those who are unable to regularly attend worship for reasons of health or employment, are normally retained on the active roll. Sometimes persons who have been moved to the inactive roll wish to return to active membership; often, a meeting with the pastor and/or attendance at membership classes is requested to complete such a move.

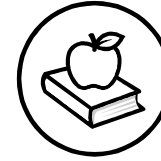
If you have questions about membership, please contact the pastor or Clerk of Session, Don Berg.

(submitted by Interim Pastor Vickie Kintzel)

Souper Bowl of Caring is coming. The Super Bowl football game will come (and go) on February 4, 2007. The hungry of this country will be hungry the days before and after that date as well.

America's teens are transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led day of giving, asking for only \$1 per person on one day. Young people from many denominations in all 50 states receive donations and give their collection to the hunger-related charity of their choice. Almost \$5 million was generated in 2006; what will the total be this year?

Please bring your donation with you on February 4, and help our youth help feed the hungry in our midst.



Tutoring - Christmas is the season for gift giving. Here at South Park, we have a group of volunteers who give the gift of care each Tuesday through the tutoring program. A big thank-you goes out to those who give their time to keep this important program going. Our regular tutors are Pat Anderson, Carol Beane, May Carlson, Nancy Coin, Janis Reddick, Bernice Swisher, Sallie Huntley, and Nancy Soseman. Substitute tutors who have helped this year are Elnora Benson, Francis Langston, Kent Jones, Vivian Feddersen, and Loretta McKamey. The van drivers are Jan Fitzpatrick, Duane LaMere, Kent Jones, and Don Samuelson. We look forward to continuing this mission in the new year.

Patty Henneman and Peggy Lieblein
Coordinators

Practice Makes Perfect! Orientation and training for those involved in Sunday morning hospitality ministries will be offered in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Jan. 14. Those interested in service as greeters, as ushers, and as lectors (leading worship) are invited to come, share your experience, and help one another. Led by Pastor Vickie and others. No reservation needed.

The Pastor Nominating Committee - has requested that the congregation grant them permission to go on "hiatus". This will come to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sun., Jan. 28 following worship. At that time, a summary of the work to date and the status of the merger discussions will be shared in more detail. For questions in the meantime, contact Pastor Vickie or Marilyn Kieffer.

What a Gift! - There's nothing certain except death and taxes, so it has been said. We aren't in the "tax" business, but we as a people of faith do invite ourselves to consider all aspects of a life of faith, including death.

Early in January, there will be a special mailing to the congregation which will include forms to help you think about your own funeral or memorial service. This pre-thinking and pre-planning is something that is immensely helpful to families, and may be among the best gifts you can give. The mailing will go to all members of whatever age, as death comes sometimes without warning.

When you're making those new year's resolutions, consider a decision to talk with your family about your desires in the event of a sudden accident or severe illness. Record your wishes, share them with your family and provide the church office with a copy (in a sealed envelope with your name on it if you prefer).

Pastor Vickie has access to special resources to help you talk with children about death, burial and cremation. Having such a conversation before you think you need to do so can help them and you in a future time of grief. There are different books for different ages, so please talk with her about your particular circumstances.

Can You Help? - Occasionally we need an office volunteer, mostly to answer the phone and let people in the door. Training will be offered on the morning of Tues., Jan. 16 for anyone who might be able to fill in on occasion. No need to RSVP - just come! Coffee break treats provided, along with much appreciation!