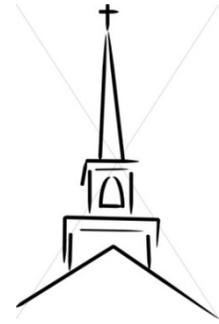


The Weekly Chimer

1st Presbyterian Church of Franklin
November 23, 2014



A Note from the Pastor

“That truth is in order to goodness; and the great touchstone of truth, its tendency to promote holiness, according to our Savior’s rule, “By their fruits ye shall know them.” And that no opinion can either be more pernicious or more absurd than that which brings truth and falsehood upon a level, and represents it as of no consequence what a man’s opinions are. On the contrary, we are persuaded that there is an inseparable connection between faith and practice, truth and duty. Otherwise it would be of no consequence either to discover truth or to embrace it.” (*Book of Order*, F-3.0104)

As Presbyterians, we believe that God is God of the whole of life; therefore there is no way to disconnect faith from practice. The truth of a theological belief or of a biblical stance is often revealed in the way it leads people to behave.

Because we take the connections between faith and practice so seriously, how we discuss issues often has a particular intensity. Each individual and each community strives to be obedient to God’s will as they understand it. Conflict is inevitable in the life of the church; peace within the church at the expense of our faithfulness is not really the peace of Christ we are seeking.

In our diversity, we find ways to speak, to listen and to deal with significant issues. The different perspectives that people bring to the discussion enable us to experience freedom from being tied to only one point of view.

We will not always agree on everything. What we can agree on is that each one of us is being faithful to how the Spirit is leading us, and we find our unity in our common discipleship and faith in Jesus Christ. Paul lists some fruits of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. To put this gifts into practice is not easy, but we can work together to make these our practices with one another.

God bless,

Pastor Naraof

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

The annual ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm. Because last year’s service was cancelled due to bad weather, the service will be held at 1st Presbyterian.

We will also host a fellowship reception after the service. If you can contribute refreshments, please let Kathie know by calling the office or sending an email.

Harvest Home & Christ the King Sunday

Today, is our annual Harvest Home celebration. It is also Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year. As we give thanks to God for the abundance of this year, we also praise Christ as the King of all. It is a joyful ending to the season and the church year, and prepares us for the waiting and anticipation of Advent.

Choir Rehearsals

The adult choir will be rehearsing in preparation for Advent and Christmas on Tuesday Dec 2 and Thursday nights, Dec. 11 and 18 at 7:00 pm. If you love to sing – come join the choir!

Session Notes

The session met on Wednesday, November 19. Some highlights from the meeting:

- The session discussed and worked on what is needed for a tenant in the manse. A lease will be put together, reviewed, and offered to the tenant.
- Christian Education is offering an opportunity for children to come to the church for activities and fun on Sat., Dec. 13 while parents are free to shop for Christmas.
- A preliminary budget was presented from the Finance Committee.
- A new and more comprehensive insurance package from Brotherhood Mutual was approved. This will also be a savings of approximately \$2500.

Looking forward to Advent

Advent begins Sunday, November 30. Here are some highlights of the Advent season:

- We will be lighting the Advent wreath candles each week in worship, and if you and your family would like to participate, please sign up in the West Chancel.
- A Sermon Talk Back will be offered each Sunday after the fellowship time. This is an opportunity to have a conversation about the texts for each week, to ask questions and to thoughtfully consider the themes of Advent.
- 1st Presbyterian will offer a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm. Often the holidays are difficult with those who struggle with loss or loneliness. This is a service of comfort and of hope.
- Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm
- The Presbyterian Women's Cookie Walk will be held on Dec. 13 at 9:00 am
- The Christian Education Committee of the session is sponsoring a "parents' shopping day out" on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13. Children are welcome in the Great Hall from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, where they will participate in crafts, activities, etc. while parents are free to go Christmas shopping. There is no charge for this activity.

