

# The Trumpet

January 2012 Volume 29 Issue 1

*Firelands Presbyterian  
Church*

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Reverend Jeanne Gay, Pastor

Dr. Jay Mann, Music Director

Margaret Mann, Organist

William Umlauf, Treasurer

Dave Moore, Clerk of Session

Karen Crownover,  
Preschool Director

Janine Dress,  
Administrative Assistant

Mark Owen, Custodian

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## Musical Arts Series Concerts

Saturday, January 14 — 7:30 p. m.

The Musical Arts Series of Firelands will host **Merling Trio**— Remarkable gifts of communication, precision and blend of sound from an intentionally renowned piano, cello, violin trio. The event is sponsored by Neidecker, LeVeck, and Crosser, plus MAS. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15.00, \$12.00 for Firelands members. Free for Students. "Like" us on Facebook! Look for The Musical Arts Series at Firelands, and click on the *Like* button. Let us know what you thought of this concert, and watch for "insider" news on upcoming events.

## Cluster Gathering

On Saturday, Jan. 21 we will welcome pastors, elders and deacons from Presbyterian churches in our "cluster" (the NE corner of the Maumee Valley Presbytery). They will come for workshops on storytelling, Celtic spirituality, and preaching for elders, for worship, for lunch and fellowship, and for reading the session minutes from each church.

If you are currently serving as an elder or deacon here, I hope you will plan to attend (8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.). If you've served as elder or deacon in the past, you are welcome! If you're just curious, well, come on by!

Watch for more information about the event and for requests to help with hospitality for the morning. Let's show these other churches what a Firelands Welcome is all about!

## Congregational Meeting

The Session is calling a meeting of the congregation immediately after worship on Sunday, January 29. Please plan to attend for an important discussion of our 2012 budget and to vote for the 2012 Nominating Committee and an additional Trustee.

## Dinner out with Firelands Friends

Looking for an opportunity to fight the winter blahs and get out of the house? Come and have conversation with other Firelands Friends at our Dinner Night Out. on Friday, January 20 at 6 p.m. at Waldo Peppers in the Bassett Plaza. You can enjoy a bowl of soup or a five-course meal! Just bring your appetite—no preparation required. Sign up on the Opportunity Table or contact Janine in the church office to make a reservation.

## Nominating Committee Needs You

The Nominating Committee is a standing committee of the Firelands session that, through a discernment process, nominates candidates for vacant offices in our church. Our congregation elects members to this committee who in turn seek candidates for the vacant offices. This year three Deacon and two Elder positions must be filled. If you feel called to be a part of the process that nominates folks who will help lead our congregation, please contact John Madison (419-732-3171 Day) or Pastor Jeanne Gay.



## Thank You's

Thank you so much for your donations to our very close friends, who lost everything in a fire. They are still in disbelief that total strangers would step up and donate to their family. I can't imagine losing my house but so thankful HE was looking over them. They have their family and "things can be replaced." Your kindness is appreciated especially so close to the holidays.

Thanks again,  
*The Maloys and The Grosswilers*

To my Firelands Family,

Thank you so much for my gift card. I really enjoy working for you as your administrative assistant. I pray that 2012 is a year of peace and blessings for us all.

*Janine*

## Recycle Your Christmas Gift Bags

Wondering what to do with those beautiful gift bags at the end of Christmas? They are too pretty to toss, and too much to store until next year. We have the answer! Please bring in your gently used Christmas gift bags for use during next year's Holiday Toy Drive. This year, thanks to a donation from American Greetings, the Salvation Army was able to offer gift wrapping as part of the Toy Drive. Wrappers found that several of the items were challenging to wrap and thought gift bags would be a wonderful solution. Please leave them in the box under the Opportunity Table and we will store them until next December. Thank you!

*Shirley Stary*



## Terra Community College Program

**Friday, 2/10, 9:00-11:00 AM**

On Friday, Feb. 10, 9:00-11:00 AM, at Terra Community College, Marsha Bordner will facilitate a session on Poems of Spirituality. She has asked Pastor Jeanne to attend and participate/add to the discussion. This will be a low-key conversation about some of the great poets: John Donne, George Herbert, John Milton, and Shakespeare. It will cost \$5 for members of the ElderCollege and \$10 for those who are not members. You can register by calling Marsha Thiessen at 419-559-2255. Hope to see some of you there!

*Jeanne's Note:* I see that Terra's ElderCollege is also offering a six-week course on the history of the Bible. If you're interested in this Wednesday morning course, call the number above for more information.

## Coats & Jackets Needed

After all of the holiday shopping is done and everything goes on sale, let's all try again to pick up a few coats for The Salvation Army 'Coats for Families' program and take advantage of the price mark downs. Last year we brought in 28 coats and they were very much appreciated. Bring them to the church anytime, and we can store them until they are needed. Thank you.

*Shirley Stary*

## MAS Jazz Combo Concerts

**Saturday January 28, 2012**

The Musical Arts Series at Firelands sponsors concerts each winter at area retirement centers and nursing homes. This year the performers will be jazz combos from Terra. You are welcome to any of these—and they're free because of a grant from the Ottawa County Community Foundation. The first date is Saturday, January 28: 1:30 at Edgewood Manor Nursing Center (1330 Fulton Rd. Port Clinton) and 3:15 concert at Otterbein North Shore Retirement Community (9400 North Shore Blvd., Marblehead).

## Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available on the counter outside the sanctuary. Please pick yours up! If you are out of town for the winter and want them mailed to you contact Janine at [secretary@firelandschurch.org](mailto:secretary@firelandschurch.org) or 419-734-6211.



## Preschool Tidbits

The Christmas program, *Come On Ring Those Bells*, was a huge success. There were 135 people here to enjoy the program and the yummy refreshments afterward. A heartfelt thanks goes to all of you for baking cookies—what a help that is to us!

The children sang so well that Santa heard them as he flew over, and he stopped to say hello and recheck those Christmas lists.

The songs we selected were about the animals at the manger, and Jesus' Birthday. If you could only have heard those sweet voices singing "Baby Jesus, We love You!".

Our gift exchange was all about books; every one brought a new book and took a new book home.

We joyfully start the second semester, knowing that even our 2 and 3 year olds know most of their letters and sounds. The rest of the year will be more math and putting those sounds together to make words. We must have the best job in the world.

Happy and Healthy New Year,

Karen



If you're interested in daily lectionary readings, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/devotions/> —part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) website. You can read the texts online, subscribe to an email list to receive them daily, print out a reading list, or listen to them read out loud.

## Lectionary Texts for January

### Sunday, January 1

#### *Christmas 1*

- ◆ Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- ◆ Psalm 148
- ◆ Galatians 4:4-7
- ◆ Luke 2:22-40

### Friday, January 6

#### *Epiphany of the Lord*

- ◆ Isaiah 60:1-6,
- ◆ Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- ◆ Ephesians 3:1-12
- ◆ Matthew 2:1-12

### Sunday, January 8

#### *Baptism of the Lord*

- ◆ Genesis 1:1-5
- ◆ Psalm 29
- ◆ Acts 19:1-7
- ◆ Mark 1:4-11

### January 15

#### *Epiphany 2*

- ◆ 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
- ◆ Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- ◆ John 1:43-51

### January 22

#### *Epiphany 3*

- ◆ Jonah 3:1-5,10
- ◆ Psalm 62: 5-12
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- ◆ Mark 1:14-20

### January 229

#### *Epiphany 4*

- ◆ Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- ◆ Psalm 111
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- ◆ Mark 1:21-28



PASTOR'S PAGE

# Epiphany: Traveling Mercies

The calendar tells me that it is January, the beginning of a new year. By the church calendar, of course, we're more than six weeks into the new year, the one that starts with Advent. In fact, this newsletter is going out on January 6, the 12th day of Christmas—Epiphany.

Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation, striking appearance." You can have an epiphany, a manifestation or revelation, about just about anything—say, when you suddenly realized that you loved the person you would later marry, or when it suddenly struck you that you really hated golf. But in the church, Epiphany is the day we celebrate the manifestation of the Light to the magi: the manifestation of God in human form—God with us. And we recognize the journey—or journeys—through life that take us to the baby, the prophet, the Messiah, God.

In the poem at right, Jan Richardson talks about this pilgrim journey of ours, the one we see only by stages, the one that is personal to us (and sometimes secret) and that leads us somewhere unexpected, to a baby in a most unlikely place—not where we thought we were going.

As I look around the people at Firelands Church, I recognize bits and pieces of the roads you all have been on, and I dream with you of the roads you have yet to travel. I also recognize some of the road that we as a congregation have traveled—and I encourage all of us to, as Richardson says, "be faithful to / the next step ... to keep an open eye / for the wonders that / attend the path." The path we've traveled over the last half year has been bumpy, even scary. And now we are called to the next turn in the road, the one that calls to us next. We travel in faith that at least we will kneel "to offer the gift / most needed," the gift only each of us—and all of us—can give.

May God bless us on our journey.

## For Those Who Have Far to Travel An Epiphany Blessing

Jan Richardson  
paintedprayerbook.com

If you could see  
the journey whole  
you might never  
undertake it;  
might never dare  
the first step  
that propels you  
from the place  
you have known  
toward the place  
you know not.

Call it  
one of the mercies  
of the road:  
that we see it  
only by stages  
as it opens  
before us,  
as it comes into  
our keeping  
step by  
single step.

There is nothing  
for it  
but to go  
and by our going  
take the vows  
the pilgrim takes:

to be faithful to  
the next step;  
to rely on more  
than the map;  
to heed the signposts  
of intuition and dream;  
to follow the star  
that only you  
will recognize;

to keep an open eye  
for the wonders that  
attend the path;  
to press on

beyond distractions  
beyond fatigue  
beyond what would  
tempt you  
from the way.

There are vows  
that only you  
will know;  
the secret promises  
for your particular path  
and the new ones  
you will need to make  
when the road  
is revealed  
by turns  
you could not  
have foreseen.

Keep them, break them,  
make them again:  
each promise becomes  
part of the path;  
each choice creates  
the road  
that will take you  
to the place  
where at last  
you will kneel

to offer the gift  
most needed—  
the gift that only you  
can give—  
before turning to go  
home by  
another way.



## STATED SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS for December 13

**Devotions:** John Madison presented devotions, the theme being "Broken Presents."

**Report of the Clerk:** the minutes of the November 2011 Session were read and approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Church Growth:** A list of Greeter volunteers is being assembled. If willing, they will be assigned certain weeks to serve, just as all others who have weekly duties for Sundays. This will help the Deacons so they have one less responsibility. We are having some new folks come back to our church as repeat visitors; when you see them, please make them feel welcome. Ads are being placed and press releases sent to media sources about the Service of the Longest Night.

**Property/Landscape Management:** Our church is undergoing an energy audit to see where we may save money in terms of our utilities. Larry Hatten is providing this to us free of charge. The door to the senior high room has been repaired, Bill Shannon has re-set the timer for our street sign and provided instructions as to how to do this to the committee. A special thanks to Sally Wahlers and the chili contest group, the Christmas decorations look amazing. The committee hopes to mulch the new plantings by the Pavilion to help them survive until Spring. We also hope that the long awaited windbreak mound will be installed—this is being handled by H&G Landscape. The funding for this landscaping work, except for the "congregational work day," has come through volunteer labor from B&G members and donations—there has been no cost to the General Fund.

**Mission:** The mission committee and the Board of Deacons held a potluck supper on Nov 27 followed by a business meeting. These two groups will combine their efforts to support the mission work of our church. Projects under discussion:

- ◆ Chili Cook-off and Hanging of the Greens
- ◆ Christmas Joy Offering
- ◆ Preschool Christmas Program on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Holiday Bureau collections
- ◆ Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign, coats, mittens
- ◆ Church of the Nazarene Wednesday evening monthly meal
- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing
- ◆ Community needs, through the United Way
- ◆ Summer Lunch program
- ◆ Church's Food Pantry
- ◆ Kitchen cleaning and stocking of supplies
- ◆ Greeters

- ◆ Hospitality Hosts
- ◆ Souper Bowl Sunday
- ◆ Linus Project Blankets
- ◆ Church Meals: potlucks, funeral, celebration

Chairpersons for each committee were established. A tremendous amount of work was accomplished thanks to the cooperative efforts of all committee/group members present.

**Preschool:** The Christmas Program, entitled "Come on, Ring Those Bells," was to be held on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship and Music:** A great amount of effort has gone in to developing a budget proposal for our committee that both reduces our expenses but still covers our highest priority needs. Discussions will continue in the New Year.

**Report of the Financial Stewardship Committee:** The committee's best judgment is that the loss for Firelands Church for 2011 will be right around \$15,000. This loss is due primarily to a shortfall in revenues. 28 pledges have been received for 2012 out of a 2011 total of 42 pledges for our church, so a definite dollar figure cannot be determined. But as a result all committees have been asked to present "bare bones" budgets. The approved 2012 budget reflects this. Also, historically this church has reviewed its budget annually; from now on we will do budget analyses quarterly so that we may more quickly recognize, and adjust for, revenue shortfalls. A number of ways to save money were discussed, including having the church purchase a tractor/lawnmower and recruit volunteers weekly to mow the church property (saving the cost of the lawn service being currently utilized).

**Report of the Pastor:** The Reconciliation Task Force Final Report was presented. The recommendations of the Task Force were unanimously affirmed the Final Report.

A tremendous amount of work was put in by the committee members; we all are extremely grateful to them.

There will be a Cluster Gathering at Firelands Church on January 21, 2012 at from 8:30 to 12:30.

And the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January will be the date of our next Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Moore, Clerk of Session



## January Birthdays

John Madison	8	Patricia Anderson	22
John Rogers	10	Ed Spitler	24
Sally Walter	11	Merissa Jaguki	25
Tyler Gogolek	14	Ian Chandler	25
Bill Umlauf	16	Jim Layton	26
Bob Wilson	16	Dan Barlow	28
Karen McCollough	21	Heather Stouffer	28
		Julie McDonald	30

## January Anniversaries



Doug and Alison Falls 8  
 Pat and Bill Sharp 31  
 Bob and Maxine Wilson 31

If there are additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary pages, please contact the church office. Thanks.

# January 2012

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> JANINE NOT IN OFFICE	<b>3</b> Preschool Back in session	<b>4</b> 9 MAS 6 Dinner at Church of the Nazarene	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> EPIPHANY	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7 Session	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> JANINE NOT IN OFFICE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7 MAS Concert
<b>15</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1-4 Peace Lutheran using Conference Room	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> JANINE NOT IN OFFICE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6 Dinner out with Firelands Friends	<b>21</b> 8:30-12:30 Cluster meeting
<b>22</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship—Pulpit Exchange	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> JANINE NOT IN OFFICE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



## Don't Forget Your Time to Serve!

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAMES</b>
<b>All Month</b>	<b>Deacons of the Month</b>	<b>Sarah Hartley</b>
	<b>Communion Steward</b>	<b>Joyce Jagucki</b>
<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>	<b>Alison Falls</b>
	<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Cookie Sharing</b>
	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Jay Mann</b>
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Merissa Jagucki</b>
	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Dan Barlow</b>
	<b>Servers</b>	<b>John Madison, Lori Madison, Dave Wahlers,, Sally Wahlers</b>
<b>Jan. 8</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>	<b>Wahlers</b>
	<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Coffins/Bordner</b>
	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Lori Madison</b>
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Nic Stouffer</b>
	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Bob Black</b>
	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Jay Viery, Sally Walter, Dave Moore, Dick Coffin</b>
<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>	
	<b>Refreshments</b>	
	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Joyce Jagucki</b>
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Nic Stouffer</b>
	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Lori Madison</b>
	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Heather Stouffer, Susan Rogers, Shirley Stary, Fred Hany</b>
<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	
	<b>Refreshments</b>	
	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Ruth Shannon</b>
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Nic Stouffer</b>
	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Joyce Jagucki</b>
	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Dan Barlow, Deb Barlow, Lori Madison, John Madison</b>
<b>Jan. 29</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>	
	<b>Refreshments</b>	
	<b>Reader</b>	<b>John Madison</b>
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Merissa Jagucki</b>
	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Ernie McCullough</b>
	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Marilyn Umlauf , Karen Coffin, Bob Black, Sally Walter ,</b>





## Financial State of our Church

A bit of good news is that we made our final mortgage payment in December, a year ahead of schedule. We are now debt free! This was made possible by some people continuing to make contributions to the Building/Pavilion Fund even after the pledge period had expired, plus a large gift last year specifically designated that it be used to pay down our principal, thus saving us considerable interest.

Another bit of good news is that Preschool is now operating slightly in the black. This after a disappointing year, last year, due primarily to the cut-off of state funding for some families.

A bit of bad news concerns our 2012 General Fund budget. Over the past few years we have had to reduce our operating budget. This year we further reduced our budget by \$21,000 for 2012. This reduction was made necessary by the continuing reduction in our church membership, coming from deaths, people moving away, and the more recent 10A issue. Ten years ago we averaged 111 people at a Sunday service. In 2006 this had dropped to 86. At our last annual meeting in September this annually reported figure had dropped to 63.

Some examples of these latest budget cuts for 2012 call for elimination of our pledge to Presbytery for their Mission work, reduced personnel costs, the elimination of our outside lawn mowing service, reductions in propane expense through conservation, and cuts in church programming. Volunteers from our membership will now be needed to do such things as mow the lawn. Even this reduced budget was counting on some pledges still anticipated to come in based on past year experience. We will be reevaluating on a quarterly basis.

*Bill Umlauf - Treasurer*

## Communion Stewards Needed

For the months of April, May, June, September and November, volunteers are needed to be communion stewards. If you want to know what this job entails, and are interested in helping out, please contact Sally Wahlers (419-734-9680 or drw@roadrunner.com). Thank you for your willingness to help!

## Souper Bowl Sunday Potluck

We will gather after worship on Sunday, Feb. 5 for our annual "Souper" Bowl luncheon. Bring a pot of soup, a salad, a dessert, or a dish of your choice, and let's enjoy a meal together.

Also, on your way in to the worship service, drop off some cans of soup to restock our Food Pantry. The winter months can take a toll on our community members, and we will need to be ready to meet the needs of those who are hungry.

Mark your calendars, lunch on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

*The Mission Committee and the Deacons*

## Events at Otterbein Northshore Retirement Center

Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm: Open House

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> noon-2 pm: Lunch and Learn w/ Bolte Realty. Lunch by Chef Ryan Duffy.

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm: Open House

For Questions and reservations please contact Robyn Karbler at 419-798-8203 ext. 108.

Many Thanks to Dan Barlow, Bob Black, Karen Coffin, Alison Falls, Anita Fisher, Betty Layton, John McIntosh, Maxine Wilson and Pastor Jeanne for their work all Fall on the Reconciliation Task Force. The group's final report and recommendations were released in December—if you did not receive one, please contact the church office for a copy.