



# Focus

December 2014

[www.daleheightspc.org](http://www.daleheightspc.org)

## *A Message from Pastor Roger*

### Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Roger Roberts

Director of Music & Office Manager:

Maggie Rogers

Financial Secretary:

Dick Corey

Custodian:

Rick Geiger

### MOM Needs

*Cereal  
Pasta  
Spaghetti sauce  
Peanut butter  
Fruit juice  
Jelly  
Cooking oil  
Sugar  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Diapers (4,5,6)*

### Advent at Dale Heights

This Advent Season is certain to be a special one for Nancy and me, as we celebrate with you good people of Dale Heights. I look forward to our Sunday worship services, with the lighting of the Advent candles, and also to our special Christmas Eve service. What a joy it will be to share this season with all of our Dale Heights friends!

This season is a great opportunity to focus on the meaning of the Dale Heights Guiding Vision Statement, which you adopted in November of 2012. Throughout that statement we see words and concepts like reconciliation and peaceful resolution. During this special season, I invite you to join with me in seeking personal peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ. But we must not remain content with personal peace, but rather must seek to be God's peacemakers, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves and through every opportunity given to us.

Let me suggest that, as you make your list of Christmas cards this year, you include someone normally and previously not on your list—perhaps a former friend, fellow church member, or relative to whom you can express love, forgiveness (if needed) and a desire for reconciliation. As you pray for peace in this war-torn and violence-riddled world, maybe this season you can invite an international student to join with you and your family for Christmas dinner, which can be an opportunity for you to share the real meaning of Christmas as the birth of our Savior, and also convey to them your desire to see peace among all the nations of the earth (let me know of your interest to host an international, and I'll put you in touch with the internationals ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church). God can use you as a real ambassador for peace!

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However God may impress and lead you, I pray that this Advent Season will be as meaningful and blessing-filled as I expect mine to be. I remember as a child how Christmas was filled with expectations of gifts to be received. But for many years now, I've experienced the truth of Jesus' words, that it's more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Serving as your fellow pilgrim and also as your pastor, an "under-shepherd along our life journey," my Advent and Christmas celebration is certain to bring new joys and blessings. I look forward to every occasion for worship, giving and fellowship with you, our dear friends, at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church! May God richly bless you and yours this Advent Season!

Yours in his love and service,

*—Pastor Roger*

**December 7**            2nd Sunday of Advent

**Liturgist:** Gerry Klump                      **Ushers:** Roy Lembcke, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber

**Readers:** Bonnie Savonne & Vreni Straubhaar

**December 14**            3rd Sunday of Advent

**Liturgist:** Barb Fleishman                      **Ushers:** Joan Hicks, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer

**Readers:** Wendy Weber & June Zeeh

**December 21**            4th Sunday of Advent

**Liturgist:** Gale Oakes                      **Ushers:** Janice Krall, Rick Shannon, Vreni Straubhaar

**Readers:** Bill & Marcia Holman

**December 24**            Christmas Eve Worship

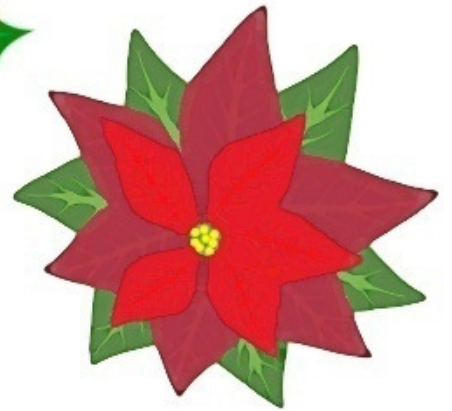
**Liturgist:** Wendy Weber                      **Ushers:** The Lembcke Family

**Readers:** Jim & Kris Tracey

**December 28**            1st Sunday after Christmas Day; Lessons and Carols

**Liturgist:** Kate Dooley                      **Ushers:** Mike Holland, Tom Jones, Elizabeth Ndafooka

Thank you to the following people who purchased poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season! Edi Chan, Dick Corey, Barb Fleishman, Joan Hicks, Marcia Holman, Jennifer Jones, Gerry Klump, Ellie & Carl Metzloff, Elizabeth Ndafooka, Roger Roberts, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer, Rick Shannon, Margie Shumate, Vreni Straubhaar, Mary Towne, and Sandy Weigt.



The congregation is invited to bring plated Christmas treats to enjoy following the Christmas Eve service. If you would like to contribute to the cookie table, please bring your cookies Sunday (clearly marked for use on Christmas Eve) or Christmas Eve when you come for the service.

Our annual Lessons & Carols service on December 28 needs 9 readers. The lessons will be read from your place in the pew and will alternate with carols. The sign-up sheet will be in the Concourse on December 7. This is an opportunity to participate in the service by sharing your voice.



### December New Beginnings

The December New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 at Sofra Family Bistro, 7457 Elmwood Ave in Middleton.

Please call or e-mail Mary Towne at 692-3885 or marytowne45@gmail.com for reservations. **Please note new phone number and email.** Thank you.

### Movin' Movin' Movin' We're a church that's movin' Dale Heights!

God's plan for Dale Heights could be called serendipity, the stars aligning or simply God's plan for us.

We traveled together on a Transformational Journey over the past few years. Some of the props were a suitcase, a passport, and a desire to look at our relationships with the past, with the present, and our dreams for the future. We prayed, we studied, we ate, we had conversations in fellowship. The next part of this journey is action!

Members of Session met with Coach Clara and Pastor Rogers and the most interest seemed to be in developing more relationships with internationals.

Our congregation has always been interested in this and we can intentionally work on deepening our relationships. We don't have to start from scratch! We already have the Madison Sah-lang Church and the Shekina a las Naciones church nesting with us. The Tibetans have their cultural school meet in our building. Madison Friends of International Students use the garage at the back of our property for their furniture loan. We are already thinking globally and acting locally, aren't we?

### December Birthdays

December 2	Ruby Meyer
December 13	Vreni Straubhaar
December 18	Jamie Klump
December 22	Ray Miller
December 25	Dick Corey
December 27	Lois Meyer
December 28	Marian Todd
December 29	Caroline Pope

### December Anniversaries

December 16	Otty and Larry Schaefer
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Pastor Roger is very interested and has experience in developing international relationships. He has introduced us to Jean-René Watchou and the English Conversation time at Christ Presbyterian Church.

Session is talking about this and we hope you will join in the conversations. Watch for more information next year.

***So, is it God's plan?***

***Serendipity?***

***The stars aligning?***

***God's Plan?***





### **Winter Weather Cancellation Policy**

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. If the decision is made to cancel worship, Maggie will send an email and change the answering machine by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation. If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your email or call the church.

***Above all, play it safe.***

### **Property & Finance Highlights**

#### **November 11, 2014**

- Memorial Gardens: bark has been spread.
- Peace Pole Garden: pavers have been laid and some shrubs and a tree have been planted. The peace pole will return to the concourse, and the garden hole will be covered for the winter.
- Flooring: looked at samples on October 22. Madison Carpets will look for additional vinyl flooring options.
- Malawi wall hanging: will be moved up to the concourse.
- Drainage: lounge lower exit door has been fitted with material to stop rainstorm runoff. Other drainage projects postponed until spring.
- Kitchen faucets: faucets are now repaired.
- Plowing: stakes have been placed to indicate snowplow boundaries.
- Leaking faucets in lounge and upstairs restrooms: reviewed comparison pricing for retail/commercial faucets and determined to go ahead soon with commercial-grade replacements installed by church volunteers.
- Attic noise: mousetraps and live trap, and exterminator advice will be sought.
- Financials: a few pledges have come in. Financial status as of 10/31/14 was reviewed. For Crop Walk next year, to ease bookkeeping, the committee requests that all checks be made out to Church World Service. An exception would be if the giver wishes to give checks or cash to Dale Heights one week before the walk, that would allow time to enter the contributions into the Dale Heights system and still comply with Crop Walk's donation deadline.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7pm.





# Outreach & Mission

December *Outreach* News

## **Pastor Roberts' Potluck**

Thank you, Pastor Roger, for sharing your photos, general and historical information about Brussels and some of your experiences from your ministry in Brussels on Sunday, November 16. We had 38 people enjoy delicious food and fellowship with one another as well.

## **The Peace Pole Garden**

There are still forms and envelopes available in the concourse to explain how you may consider donating to the Peace Garden Fund. An outright donation either in cash or by check made out to Dale Heights (with Peace Pole Fund in the memo line) may be made. You could also pledge a gift to the fund to honor or in memory of a person or an event, and payment may be made in the future. How about making a gift to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, Christmas, or in memory of someone? Plans are to offer donors the opportunity to briefly explain the purpose for the gift and including them in a binder which already exists. Please see Gale Oakes for further information.

## **Sharing Christmas**

We are seeking individuals interested in helping with Sharing Christmas, a program sponsored by Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM). We at Dale Heights are sponsoring a family of four this year: Dad, Mom, an 8-year-old girl, and a 2-year-old boy. We're looking for members to select one of the family members and buy for him or her, purchase just one of the gifts, make a donation, or simply help by going shopping. There is a small Christmas tree in the concourse with information about the individuals and their suggestions for gifts. It is an enjoyable experience to be involved in. If you have questions or would like to help, please see Barb Fleishman, Gale Oakes, or Wendy Weber.

## **The Road Home**

We once again participated in The Road Home's shelter program on Friday, November 28th at ST. Luke's in Middleton by providing a meal, fellowship, and staying overnight with the 14 guests. Surprise! We are doing it again on Friday, January 9th!

*Continued...*



*December Outreach News, continued*

## **Christmas Joy Offering**

The upcoming Christmas Joy Offering supports past, present and future leaders of the church. That translates to those retired and current leaders who have a particular need for assistance, and for racial-ethnic leadership development. That last category means funding for young people studying in ethnic schools who intend to work in the field of ethnic leadership. There will be pulpit talks highlighting the history of the offering and specific uses for the money on December 7th, 14th, and 21st, with the official offering dedication on December 21st. Thank you very much for prayerfully considering a donation to the Christmas Joy Offering.

## **Other items of interest...**

- The committee is disbursing \$3500 to various organizations. Three of those organizations are Operation Fresh Start, The Odyssey Project, and Porchlight. Next month we will give brief descriptions of all the recipient organizations.
- Wonderful gifts for Christmas can be found at the SERRV Store on Monroe Street.
- The annual Fair Trade Holiday Festival will be held on Saturday, December 6th at Monona Terrace. It's amazing, and you may want to check out their website, or search Fair Trade Holiday Festival on Facebook.
- Thanks again to all who helped the Outreach Committee in so many ways this past year!

**Please stay tuned to hear about our future Outreach activities! We have several potluck speakers in mind, but we would love to hear your ideas!**

*—Honorably Retired Ray Bayley, Kate Dooley, Barb Fleishman, Ruby Meyer, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber, and our newest congregational and committee member, Aundrea Price*

### **Church Office Email**

The new preferred church email address is:

**[office@daleheightspc.org](mailto:office@daleheightspc.org)**

The office can still receive email sent to the old address, but this should now be the primary email contact; please update your address books accordingly.

Thanks for your help!

Check out our website:

[www.daleheightspc.org](http://www.daleheightspc.org)

### Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Christian Education for all ages

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Fellowship

### **Dale Heights**

#### **Mission Statement:**

*Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace. We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus and by serving those in need in our community and world.*

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