



# Focus

December 2015

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

## A Message from Pastor Roger

### Dale Heights Staff

**Pastor:**  
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Office Manager &  
Director of Music:**  
Maggie Rogers

**Financial Secretary:**  
Dick Corey

**Custodian:**  
Rick Geiger

### Dale Heights Session

**Moderator**  
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Clerk**  
Sandy Weigt

Roy Lembcke  
Gale Oakes  
Caroline Pope  
Rick Shannon  
Wendy Weber

### Advent Season Joy

In *Psychology Today*, Ray Williams writes:

*"We are told that Christmas, for Christians, should be the happiest time of year, an opportunity to be joyful and grateful with family, friends and colleagues. Yet, according to the National Institute of Health, Christmas is the time of year that people experience the highest incidence of depression. Hospitals and police forces report the highest incidences of suicide and attempted suicide. Psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health professionals report a significant increase in patients complaining about depression. One North American survey reported that 45% of respondents dreaded the festive season."*

Williams then offers various explanations for holiday depression, such as unrealistic expectations, social and financial pressures, increased loneliness and grief based on memories of recent losses, and long, dark evenings with the beginning of wintertime. This will be the first holiday season my family and I will be without my wife, Nancy, who passed away on July 10th of this year. Because we remember how she loved the holidays and our family times of celebration, her presence will be sorely and sadly felt. But for the grace and goodness of God, who gives joy in the midst of pain and sorrow, I would anticipate this Advent/Christmas Season with dread and a desire they quickly come and go.

The remedy for holiday depression, we must all remember, is to focus on the real meaning and message of the Advent Season, a message that is too easily lost in the hustle and bustle of seasonal activities. You and I need to focus on the angel's announcement to the shepherds: "I am bringing you good news of **great joy** for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10)

*Continued...*

(continued from page 1)

As followers of Christ, our joy is a gift of God's goodness, and is more than the fragile and fleeting happiness that's based on holiday merriment and fickle emotions. Joy is the deeply rooted sense of the presence of a loving God, giving the will and strength to live each day with confidence in God's care for us and his delight in us as his children. The one who gives us joy is the one who freely gave us his only Son. Remember, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, we celebrate the birth of one who suffered and died for us, the ultimate gift of God's love. Even when the darkness seems to overwhelm us, we can turn to our loving God with faith and assurance, asking him to give us renewed peace and joy *in him*. Joy *in him* results in joy in all of life, whatever our circumstances.

I pray that you and I, along with the Dale Heights family, will experience the joy that Christ gives, not only at Advent and Christmas, but throughout the entire year.

Yours in his love and service,

—*Pastor Roger*

**December 6**                      Second Sunday of Advent

**Liturgist:** Jamie Klump

**Ushers:** Roy Lembcke, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber

**Reader:** Barb Fleishman

**December 13**                      Third Sunday of Advent

**Liturgist:** Gerry Klump

**Ushers:** Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer, Nathan Tripp

**Reader:** Edi Chan

**December 20**                      Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Cantata

**Liturgist:** Aundrea Price

**Ushers:** Janice Krall, Rick Shannon, Vreni Straubhaar

**Readers:** Kate Dooley and Mary Towne

**December 24**                      Christmas Eve

**Liturgist:** Wendy Weber

**Ushers:** TBD

**Readers:** Bill & Marcia Holman

**December 27**                      First Sunday after Christmas; Lessons & Carols Worship

**Liturgist:** Kate Dooley

**Ushers:** Mike Holland, Elizabeth Ndafooka, TBD

### December New Beginnings

The December New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, December 15 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.

### 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.*

### Home Communion

Communion is served in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month. Those who are homebound and wish to have Communion brought to them either Communion Sunday afternoon or the Wednesday following Communion Sunday should call the church office by the Thursday before.

### December Birthdays

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

### December Anniversary

December 16 Larry & Otty Schaefer

### Church Women United

The World Community Day celebration held here at Dale Heights, under the direction of Kate Dooley, was inspirational. Ellie Jarvie, Consumer Affairs Coordinator at the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services was the speaker. She overcame Tourette’s Syndrome to become successful and advocate for others against bias. Vreni Straubhaar set up and Jane Williams poured coffee, Ellie prepared the breakfast treats.

On December 4, there will be a Christmas Tea in the Morning with a traditional English tea party and a display of International Christmas customs. It will be held at Memorial UCC, 5705 Lacy Rd in Fitchburg at 9:30am. Both women and men are invited to attend, and can participate by bringing traditional Christmas items for the display.

—Ellie Metzloff and Kate Dooley  
Co-Key Women





# *Advent and Christmas*

## **Christmas Cantata**

On December 20th, the choir will be performing our biennial Christmas cantata entitled "Follow the Star, Follow the King." We hope you will be able to join us for this fantastic performance!

## **Poinsettias**

Many thanks to the following people who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Advent season:

Debbie Doshier, Rick Shannon, Vreni Straubhaar, Bonnie Savonne, Jennifer Jones, Pastor Roger Roberts, Elizabeth Ndafooka, Bob Jorgenson, Margie Shumate, Marcia Holman, Larry & Otty Schaefer, Barb Fleishman, Sandy Weigt, Ellie Metzloff, Edi Chan, and Melanie Klump.

Thanks also go to Elizabeth Ndafooka and Mike Holland for arranging the flowers each week.

## **Christmas Eve Fellowship**

We will again have a fellowship period following the Christmas Eve worship service.

If you would like to bring treats for fellowship time, please bring them (either to the service or beforehand) plated and ready to serve. If you bring them before the service, please mark that they are for Christmas Eve.

## **Lessons & Carols**

Our annual Lessons & Carols service on December 27 needs 9 readers. The lessons will be read from your place in the pews and will alternate with carols. The sign-up sheet will be in the Concourse on December 6.

This is an opportunity to participate in the service by sharing your voice!

## **Property & Finance Highlights**

**November 10, 2015**

- Memorial Gardens: plaques ordered have been received. Sturdier stakes will be epoxied to the plaques prior to placement in the gardens.
- Lounge flooring: replacement flooring has arrived and will be installed in lounge and Concourse kitchenette soon.
- Work Days: The final fall work day will be Saturday, November 14. Thank you to volunteers who cut down two dead ash trees. Other repairs this month include fellowship hall window and exit sign, office entry threshold, and drainage problems near back door. A weed eater has been purchased.
- Carpet cleaning: Thank you to Sah-lang for having this done.
- Concourse and sanctuary lighting needs were discussed.
- A revised building use checklist was approved.
- Financial status reports as of 10/31/15 were received and reviewed. Pledges for 2016 are beginning to come in. Yearly giving statements will be prepared after the end of November.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, at 7:00pm



## **Session Highlights**

**November 16, 2015**

- Pastor Roger encouraged families to host internationals during the holidays to help form individual relationships. He also reported on a conference he attended in Minneapolis on "What It Means to Be Human."
- Many committee reports are in other areas of the newsletter.
- The Care & Fellowship Committee went over the prayer tree and church rolls. We try to match individuals who need rides with those who are able to give rides. If you need a ride, please call Sandy Weigt at 238-9402.
- The Personnel Committee met and are making appointments to review our staff, and made a recommendation about pay changes of the staff.
- The Nominating Committee is looking for one individual to serve on Session. A congregational committee will be called to elect two Session members at an appropriate time.
- Next meeting: Monday, December 14, at 7:00pm.



## December *Outreach* News

### **Potluck Time!**

Our next potluck is scheduled for **December 6th** following worship. We have invited Al Ripp from Middleton Outreach Ministry to speak about Sharing Christmas and all that MOM does for our community. Please bring a dish to share and join us!

### **The Road Home**

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 4th**, which is the final 2015 date for Dale Heights' commitment to The Road Home Family Shelter. Come join us to serve supper to the guests and offer fellowship as well. See Wendy if you'd like to help out!

### **Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House**

Don't forget to save your pull tabs from soda or beer cans and add them to the container in the Concourse. Thanks to Gerry Klump for spearheading this collection effort for a worthy cause!

### **Sharing Christmas**

Sharing Christmas is once again fast approaching! Watch and listen for more information, and let an Outreach member know if you would like to be involved.

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

We will hear a Minute for Mission each week during Advent, beginning November 29th, leading up to the dedication of the 2015 Christmas Joy Offering. Please prayerfully consider what you can give this holiday season.

### **Christmas Day Dinner**

The Chan family will host the annual Christmas Day dinner for those who would like to join for fellowship and music in the downstairs fellowship hall on **December 25th** at **4:00pm**. Please see Edi Chan for more info!

*Continued...*





December *Outreach* News

...Continued from previous page

### Guatemala Mission Trip—Fill the Suitcase!

Gerry and Jamie Klump are requesting items to give to the children they meet in Guatemala in January. Requested items are: baby formula, combs/brushes, NEW children’s underwear and socks, Matchbox/Hot Wheel cars, small toys, baseball caps, Frisbees, suckers, stickers, stuffed animals, deflated soccer balls, crayons, and pencils. The Dollar Store would be a great place to shop for these items. Please put donated items in the suitcase in the Concourse! Gerry and Jamie would like to fill two 50lb suitcases with these donations.

Financial support and sponsorship for the trip is a welcomed gift as well. Please make checks payable directly to either Jamie or Gerry Klump.



**Next Outreach meeting: Sunday, December 20, at 11:15am.**

—Pastor Roger Roberts (*ex officio*), Kate Dooley, Barb Fleishman (*chairperson*), Jamie Klump, Ruby Meyer, Gale Oakes, Aundrea Price, and Wendy Weber

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.*

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church  
5501 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53705  
608.233.0134  
[office@daleheightspc.org](mailto:office@daleheightspc.org)  
[www.daleheightspc.org](http://www.daleheightspc.org)