



# Focus

January 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

### Praying in 2016

As we wrap up the 2015 Holiday Season and begin to think about the New Year, I want to ask you to join me in a church-wide resolution to increase our corporate prayer life.

Our American Christianity, particularly in my pietistic, evangelical tradition, has been too individualistic. And that's certainly reflected in our New Year's resolutions. We make resolutions regarding overcoming negative behavior and habits, dropping a few pounds of weight, and adding some new disciplines that will strengthen our spiritual lives. When we make these resolutions we rarely consider or involve others.

In light of the distressing situations that have plagued our nation and world in 2015, I think we do well as the people of God, to resolve as a church family to increase our praying for God's kingdom to come more fully and his will be done more completely, in earth as in heaven. We've seen too much violence, destruction, death, and injustice.

Certainly as we read and hear daily news reports, we're likely to despair that anything can be done to halt the apparently increasing threat of terrorism. We've heard from those who aspire to be the next President their opinions and proposals, which seem futile and in some cases counter-productive to long-term peace. We're also distressed to read about corruption, excessive force, and gross misconduct on the part of our law enforcement officers, and wonder what can be done to increase accountability that will result in greater justice for all. We're also aware, that even though many of us are blessed beyond measure when compared to the majority nationally and world wide who live below the poverty line, and in many cases are literally starving to death. Then there remain those many trouble spots in the world with ongoing suffering and warfare.

*Continued...*

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In light of all of this, what can we do in 2016? I'm reminded, as I read Scripture about God's miraculous deliverance of his people, all the way through to Jesus' triumph over death on the cross through his resurrection, that the way forward for God's people is to trust, obey, and pray, realizing that our God is able to transform and heal a broken world even as he does individual lives. We'll never have enough influence to turn society around through political channels and mass protests, even though there are times for us to join with others in making our convictions known.

The most powerful force, I still believe, is God's working through the prayers of his people. And we are people who rely, not on our numbers or political influence, but rather on the "weak power of the cross." We're called to be God's salt and light in the world, letting his power work through us, through our earnest praying, as we hear God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Yours in his love and service,

—*Pastor Roger*

**January 3**                      Second Sunday after Christmas Day

**Liturgist:** Melanie Klump

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

**January 10**                    Baptism of the Lord

**Liturgist:** June Zeeh

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

**January 17**                    Second Sunday after Epiphany

**Liturgist:** Otty Schaefer

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

**January 24**                    Third Sunday after Epiphany

**Liturgist:** Marcia Holman

**Ushers:** Mike Holland, Elizabeth Ndafooka, Nathan Tripp

**January 31**                    Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**Liturgist:** Edi Chan

**Ushers:** Keith Chan, Jim Tracey, Kris Tracey

### January New Beginnings

The January New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, January 19 at 11:30 at Olive Garden, 7017 Mineral Point Rd. 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.

### January Birthdays

|            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| January 5  | Vicki Klump                    |
| January 9  | Andy Lembcke                   |
| January 12 | Keith Chan<br>Michelle Shannon |
| January 18 | Colleen Shannon<br>Longua      |

### January Anniversaries

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 1  | Bill & Lenore Mercer |
| January 17 | Keith & Edi Chan     |



### Church Women United

On January 9, Church Women United will host Florence Chenoweth who will speak about Liberia's rebuilding efforts after devastating crisis. We will gather at 9am at Monona United Methodist Church, 606 Nichols Road.

—Ellie Metzloff and Kate Dooley  
Co-Key Women

## Fill the Robes

Our annual Fill the Robes Sunday will be held on January 24. This is a great opportunity to join the renowned Dale Heights Choir for a Sunday to sing the introit, anthem, and benediction response.

See Maggie if you're interested in participating, and come to rehearsal at 7:30pm on January 21!

*"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."*



—Henry Van Dyke

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan on staying after worship on January 31 for the annual Dale Heights congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hear committee reports and other information about past and future Dale Heights activities.

Committee reports are due to the office by **January 26**. Early submissions are encouraged and much appreciated!

## Property & Finance Highlights December 8, 2015

- Memorial Gardens: Most of the new and replacement plaques have been placed.
- Lounge: A Mohawk Group representative will visit soon to assess the replacement tile. Four of the blue chair backs have been fixed.
- Stewardship campaign: Pledges have been received. A draft of the 2016 budget was reviewed.
- Giving statements: Statements as of 11/30/2015 were prepared for pickup or mailing.
- Other business: New glass for the office door entrance will be ordered and installed as weather permits. An electrical outlet in the lounge will be repaired and a lamp cord will be replaced.
- Financial status reports as of 11/30/2015 were received and reviewed.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00pm



## January *Outreach* News

### Looking back on December...

December was a busy month for us! We had **Al Ripp** from **Middleton Outreach Ministry** come and speak to us about all they do for the greater Middleton area, and we enjoyed delicious potluck food as well! We also adopted a family through **Sharing Christmas**, learned about all that the **Christmas Joy Offering** does to assist those in need, and the Chan family hosted a **Christmas Day dinner** at Dale Heights—music and food were enjoyed by all who attended!

### Upcoming and Continuing Service...

- Our next commitment to **The Road Home** shelter will be Friday, January 15th, with an overnight on Thursday, January 14th. Please see Wendy if you'd like to help!

- We are still collecting items in the suitcase in the Concourse for the **Guatemala Mission Trip**! The current weight of donated items is at 75 pounds...great job so far and let's keep going! Items will be collected until **January 10**, at which time the team will have a packing party of all donations. If you would still like to donate, requested items are: baby formula, combs/brushes, NEW children's socks, Matchbox/Hot Wheel cars, small toys, baseball caps, Frisbees, suckers, stickers, stuffed animals, deflated soccer balls, crayons, and pencils. The Dollar Store is a great place to shop for these items. **A huge thank you to FPC and members of our congregation for financial support of this mission trip!**



- Please continue to add your **pull tabs** for **Ronald McDonald House** to the container in the Concourse. Thanks to Gerry Klump for spearheading this collection for a worthy cause!
- Keep an eye out for upcoming potlucks in 2016!

**Next Outreach meeting: TBD, 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

Adult Christian Education

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)