

# PULSE

*The heartbeat of  
Flora Presbyterian Church*

## December 2014



*Advent*

Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th,  
Dec. 14th, and Dec. 21st  
Advent Bible Study  
following worship.



JOY Offering  
Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th,  
and Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.



Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Oasis Christmas  
Celebration



December 21<sup>st</sup>  
Retirement reception  
for Eunice immediately  
to follow worship.

*Candlelight  
Service*



December 24<sup>th</sup> -  
7:00PM Christmas  
Eve Candlelight  
Communion Service

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!



*Worship  
THE  
King*



## *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*“Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.”*

These familiar words from the Charles Wesley hymn, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” set to Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra* music written in 1715 express the longings of our hearts during the Advent season. It’s not the shopping, not the gifts, not the tinsel and false togetherness of the commercial Christmas shopping season that fulfills the longings of our hearts. It’s Jesus who does. It’s the promise of redemption, of forgiveness, and of the joy that comes with salvation that warms and gladdens our hearts.

*Come, thou long expected Jesus.  
Come and set your people free!*

I encourage you to set time aside every day to be with God in prayer, in silence . . . focus your mind upon your heart’s desire, a closer relationship with Christ. Open your inner self to God’s great gift, coming to us again to us in just a few precious weeks -- the gift of a Savior, of God With Us.

What gifts from God are we expecting for our congregation during this time of transition and change, as we prepare for the called pastor that God has in mind for us? Gifts that come to mind for me are the fruits of the Spirit that can be found in Paul’s letter to the Galatians . . . “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*” These are qualities that we must cultivate, work towards, and keep always before us as Christian believers. Paul goes on to say in 5: 24-26, “*And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.*”

Advent is a time of introspection, of looking honestly and clearly at one’s self and one’s behavior in order to begin anew. As we wait for the coming child, let us open ourselves to the possibility of a new way of being in relationship with one another, one based upon love, respect, and compassion. This is one of the recurring blessings of the Advent season -- the hope of newness in our lives. Join with me in Bible study and discussion after worship during the first three Sundays of Advent. Let us be guided by Scripture as we prepare for the blessings that are yet to come for this faithful congregation.

We will gather together again as a congregation for our second congregational discussion, the **Gathering on the Present**, after worship on **January 18, 2015**. I will present some current demographic data on the Flora area that will help us look at how the community has changed in the last 25 years. One vital element of preparing to elect a pastoral nominating committee is to gather information on the current ministry setting of our church. When we are ready to elect the P.N.C. next spring, the information gathering and discussions will have already taken place, so all they need do is put the information into a readable form for interested pastors to consider.

May the peace and joy of the Advent and Christmas season bless you abundantly,

*Pastor Mary Ann Banning*

**Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced**

# Flora Presbyterian Church

December 2014

**Birthday    Nursery    Scripture Readers    Ushers**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <b>Janis Burns</b> 6:00 PM Oasis – Library Night	4	5 <b>Kent King</b>	6
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Joy Offering <b>Libby Sparks</b> <b>Laurie Brower</b> <b>Kris McGill</b> <b>Laurie Brower</b> <b>Steve &amp; Rachel Catron</b>	8 <b>Mike Kearns</b> <b>Jenne McMillin</b>	9	10 6:00 PM Oasis – Christmas Celebration	11	12 <b>Julie Catron</b>	13
14 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Session Meeting Joy Offering <b>Laurie Brower</b> <b>Dale Snipes</b> <b>Tammy Moss</b> <b>Kevin &amp; Martha Clark</b>	15	16	17 NO OASIS	18	19	20
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Reception for retiring secretary Eunice Lowery Joy Offering <b>Laurie Brower</b> <b>Barb Mayfield</b> <b>Kent King</b> <b>Bill Kearns, Jay McMillin</b>	22 <b>Betty Peterson</b>	23 <b>Bill Kearns</b>	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27
28 <b>Laurie Brower</b> <b>Steve Catron</b> <b>Rachel Catron</b> <b>Laurie Brower, Maggie Scholl</b>	29	30 <b>Kevin Clark</b>	31 NO OASIS	January 1  <b>Welcome 2015</b>		

## Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield



### Oasis ~

#### Christmas Celebration Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

On December 10<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Christmas with the Oasis children and their families. The children, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade will receive a Bible, including Elmer Crider, Emma Ehrman, Kaitlyn Lucas, Emileigh Lucas, Nadia Parker, and Cory Smith. We would love for you to join us for our celebration. Be watching the bulletin for more information. Oasis will then take a break until after school begins again in January.

#### Christmas Cookie Callout!

We will be serving Christmas cookies for dessert on December 10<sup>th</sup> after our program. If you would like to donate 1-2 dozen cookies, please bring to the church kitchen on or before December 10<sup>th</sup>.



#### YOU can be a part of this ministry!



#### Are You Able?

If you are able to help prepare, serve, and/or clean-up a meal, please refer to the sign-up sheet on the counter in the Fellowship

Room or talk to Laurie Brower or Donna Sholty. There are Openings for 2015.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of meals and other special events, designate "Oasis" in the memo line on your check to the church.

## Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop

The Mary-Martha Circle met for the last time until March 17. At this meeting the following gifts to missions were made in addition to those previously given to Buddy Bags, Habitat for Humanity, Jesus Well, and Carroll Religious Education: Christmas Baskets, Kokomo Rescue Mission, Oasis, Birthday and Thank Offerings, Food Pantry, and Helping Hand. These mission offerings totaling \$1,750.00 were made possible from our share of earnings at the Thrift Shop.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

#### Thrift Shop Schedule for December

Thurs. Dec. 4 ....Libby Sparks ..... Sort &Mark  
Sat. Dec. 20...Jane Bishop..... Tags  
Sat. Dec. 27...Laraine MacLauchlan..... Cashier

## Worship Committee

by Kevin Clark



Communion will be observed on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for a volunteer to learn how to operate the sound system.



## Clerk of Session

by Laurie Brower



Covenant of Closure has been signed by both Pastor Charles Compton and Session Clerk Laurie Brower. The Closure has

two parts to it; one for the outgoing Pastor and one for the Congregation. These are posted on the bulletin board outside the fellowship for the congregation to read. The covenant of closure documents state the understanding between the Outgoing Pastor and the Congregation behaviors that support the spiritual and mental health for the future of the congregation.

Session approved the use of the Church Basement/Kitchen by Howard and Eva McGill's family for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

Session approved the marriage of Matthew Brower and Jennifer Vary in the church for February 14, 2015.

Following are proposed bylaw changes that will be voted on in the January Congregational Meeting. If you have questions before this meeting, please contact Laurie Brower at 765-586-2819 or [laurie.brower@yahoo.com](mailto:laurie.brower@yahoo.com).

Flora Presbyterian Church Corporation By-Laws Proposed Revisions

November 13, 2014

SEC. III – Officers

#### Article 1

##### Current wording:

The officers of this church shall consist of the pastor/moderator, seven elders (three of whom are elected as trustees) who are elected by the congregation, and a treasure and financial secretary who are appointed by the session.

##### Proposed wording:

The officers of this church shall consist of the pastor/moderator, a minimum of three elders and maximum of nine elders (with two to three of whom are elected as trustees) who are elected by the

congregation, and a treasurer and financial secretary who are appointed by the session.

Reason for the Change:

The size of our current congregation does not support having seven elders. The proposed wording allows the number of elders to be increased as our congregation grows.

**Article 2**

Current wording:

The seven elders shall be divided into three classes (classes shall consist of 2, 2, & 3 members), one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting held in November for a three year term. No elder shall server on the session for the consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than three years, but shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term until one year shall have elapsed.

Proposed wording:

The three to nine elders shall be divided into three classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting held in November for a three year term. An elder can server on consecutive terms, during an interim period when the church is in undergoing a Pastoral Call. Otherwise no elder shall server on the session for the consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than three years and shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term until one year shall have elapsed.

Reason for the Change:

Allowing session members to continue to remain on session during a period of finding a new Pastor provides for continuity in the search.

**Congregational Life**

*by Terry Langston*

**Advent Bible Studies and fellowship lunch**

Join Pastor Mary Ann and your fellow congregation members during the first three Sundays in Advent, beginning on November 30th. Table bible study discussions and a delicious soup lunch will be served after worship in the fellowship hall. Please contact me if you can provide a crockpot of soup, chili, or stew for Sunday, December 14th. We are also hoping for homemade bread or rolls with butter and jam to complete the meal.

**Retirement Reception**

A reception for our retiring secretary Eunice Lowery will be held following worship on December 21. Please join us in thanking her for the many years of service to our church family. If you have a favorite Christmas treat (cookies, chocolates,

bar cookies) or a finger food item, please consider bringing these to share for the reception.

**Prayer Chain List**

As some of you might have noticed, an email is being sent for Prayer Chain requests. If you have an email and are not receiving them, please let me know and I will add your name. Those of you that do not have email will continue to receive a phone call. I will gladly answer any questions you might have concerning this matter.

**Church Directory**

The new church directory has been printed and may be picked up on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please check your information for any errors and let me know so that corrections can be made.

**Stewardship/Mission**

*by Joe Mayfield*



Advent is upon us! I think, in addition, to doing all that seems to be required of us this time of year, it is surely appropriate to stop for a moment each day and just "breathe in God's Grace" and bask in that peace. Surely the day will go better after that.

We have a busy December at church this year! Our annual JOY OFFERING this year will be taken on Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th, and Dec. 21st. This is an offering that does so much.



This week we received the families' names for our Yearly Christmas Basket Program. We have 8 families this year we will be helping. Look for the sign-up sheets at church this Sunday, November 30th. As in the past, it makes very good sense for more than one person or family to go together and share purchasing the gifts for our families.

The stewardship committee is still tallying the pledges and contributions, so if you have not turned in a pledge and want to do so, bring it to church or mail it as soon as you can.

Take a moment each day to think about and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The world needs our prayers!

Merry Christmas and may the peace of Christ be with this season and always.



