

PULSE

*The heartbeat of
Flora Presbyterian Church*

JANUARY 2015

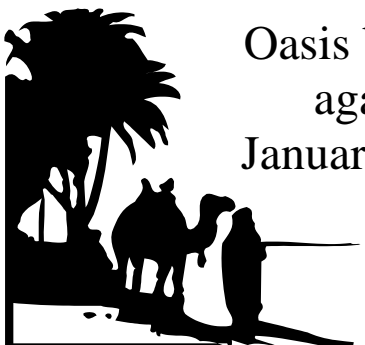


Epiphany
Observance and
Communion
January 4th



Session
Meeting
January 11th

Welcome
2015



Oasis begins
again
January 14th!



January
25th



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Pastor's Page



A Time for Ministering and Living in the Present

*“Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
(Isaiah 43: 18-19 NRSV)*

We have come to the time in our transitional process when together we will look at our ministry and our community in the present time . . . that is, we will look closely at how Flora and our congregation are a new creation in comparison to the prior twenty-five years of ministry.

On Sunday, January 18th, we will gather as a congregation to hear a presentation of demographic data compiled through a program provided by the Presbytery of Wabash Valley to help churches understand their community better. Jay McMillin has produced a print-out from this program for our use. It is very important that all of us participate in the discussion together after the presentation. I will be taking notes, and the information and insights will be given to our Pastoral Nominating Committee when it forms in the spring of 2015 to become a part of the position description for the search process.

We have completed the Gathering on the Past. We will complete the Gathering on the Present on January 18th, 2015. Our Gathering on the Future will be scheduled by the Session sometime in February. Information from each of these gatherings is very important for the development of the Mission Information Form (the position description that pastors view on-line). We need input from all of you in order to move forward with this process. Your individual point of view and opinion is needed, so the Session invites you to be an active participant in all of these gatherings.

We live in interesting times . . . the old ways of “doing and being church” are not as productive or satisfying as they were decades ago. Our culture has changed and is no longer church or faith-centered. Congregations find themselves in competition with many other scheduled events on Sunday mornings and through the week. It is no longer a given that everyone belongs to and attends a church. Electronic communication is rapidly replacing “snail mail” and other forms of advertising. Many congregations have realized that in order to communicate the good news of the gospel effectively, they must rethink the structures and process of church ministries.

Challenging as it is, future ministry for Christ is a new thing that God is creating in our midst. I encourage us to move into the future with anticipation and joy, for Jesus Christ is our companion and our guide. As Scripture reminds us continually, “Nothing is impossible with God.”

May the blessings of faith in Christ encourage us on our journey,

Pastor Mary Ann Banning

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

Flora Presbyterian Church

January 2015

B=Birthday N=Nursery SR=Scripture Readers U=Ushers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  New Year's Day	2	3
4 Epiphany Observance Communion N=Julie Catron SR=Martha Clark SR=Joe Moss U=Kevin & Martha Clark	5 7:00 PM Caregiver Support Group	6 B=Kathy King  Epiphany	7 NO OASIS	8 B=Mary Ann Banning	9	10
11 Session Meeting N=Julie Catron SR=Kris McGill SR=Mark Good U=Kevin & Martha Clark	12 B=Brenton Lee Jackson	13	14 6:00 PM Oasis – Library Night	15	16	17
18 Gathering on Present N=Julie Catron SR=Barb Wilkinson SR=Kevin Clark U=Bob & Ann Brown	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	20 B=Jane Bishop	21 6:00 PM Oasis	22	23 B=Terry Langston	24
25 Annual Meeting N=Julie Catron SR=Laurie Brower SR=Joe Mayfield U=Bob & Ann Brown	26 Beginning today, Pastor Mary Ann on vacation through February 10 th .	27	28 6:00 PM Oasis	29	30	31

Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield



Oasis –



“7 Star Award” Bowling

Be watching the February Pulse for the list of names for the many children who will be going bowling with their parents for earning 7 or more stars during the first half of the year. The bowling date has not yet been set, but will be sometime in the month of February.

Oasis will begin on January 14th after taking a break over the Christmas holidays. The Christmas Celebration on December 10th was a great time with nearly 100 children, parents, and leaders in attendance. We sang carols, were entertained by the children, made ornaments, and went caroling. Six, 4th graders, were given Bibles: Elmer Crider, Cory Smith, Kaitlyn Lucas, Emileigh Lucas, Tyson Woodward, and Emma Ehrmann.

Thank you to all who continue to lead, serve, donate and pray, making our Oasis ministry possible. A new sign-up sheet for preparing meals is on the counter in the fellowship room.

Sunday School

The Adult Bible Study class will be studying the Psalms, using a Disciple Bible Study video curriculum with a participant's study book. The class will meet in the Sunday School room off of the fellowship area every Sunday from January 4th through February 22nd. It will begin after worship at 11:45 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. The class will be taught by Pastor Mary Ann and member volunteers when she is on vacation.

January Library Corner

by Laraine MacLauchlan



CHURCH LIBRARY

News

Our church library has enjoyed a wonderful 2014 with circulation of books and DVD's totaling 156 items.

I have added some new books and DVD's as well as a donation of a series of Guidepost stories and some gently used books from the Flora Library Book Sale.

Please stop by the library when you can to enjoy our selection.

Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop

We will not meet until March, but will need volunteers for the Thrift Shop each month and for the Food Pantry in February.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thrift Shop Schedule for January

Sat. Jan. 10.....? ? ?	Cashier
Sat. Jan. 17.....Jane Bishop	Tags
Sat. Jan. 24....? ? ?	Tags

Volunteers are needed

Food Pantry in February

Monday, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23
Friday, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27

Both men and women are encouraged to volunteer. The Food Pantry is being heavily used and is an important mission right here in Flora. Hours are 9:45 AM to 12:00 noon. Please call Jane at 967-3962 with your preferred date.

Worship Committee

by Kevin Clark



Communion will be observed on Sunday, January 4th.

Clerk of Session

by Laurie Brower

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.

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.



A well-balanced church

The owner of a new puppy got a good laugh when the little dog, out for a walk, had an itch. The trouble was that the itchy spot was accessible only to a hind leg. So, while still walking, the pup tried to scratch and tumbled over, rolling a couple of times before coming to rest.

In several places throughout Scripture, the apostle Paul writes about the church as the body of Christ, and of the importance of each member. Just as the dog needed each leg to stay balanced while walking, so the church needs all the different God-given gifts of its members: preachers and teachers, friendly visitors, generous givers, musicians and singers, wise parents and imaginative children, people to produce and distribute meals, newsletters, lesson materials, and on and on.

When we start thinking that some part of Christ's body isn't necessary, we risk taking quite a tumble!

As Christmas gives way to Epiphany and 2014 to 2015, may we place our lives in the hands of Christ once more, to guide and direct us.





One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

hope
 Spirit
 body
 baptism
 Lord
 Father
 God

_____y
 i . . .
 . . .
 . . .
 . . .
 . . .

_____ n _ nce
 _____ v _ n

Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness

First Class Mail

Flora Presbyterian Church
 211 S Center Street
 Flora, IN 46929
 florapc@Embarqmail.com
 (574) 967-3907

