

I praise God, and give thanks for each of you and know by the Grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, our gift from Jesus, we will continue to be a warm and caring community and have a blessed 2015.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

Pastor Judy

Dear Friends,

Resting from my "hip episode," I reread, *Shaped By God's Heart, The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*, by Milfred Minatre. His thesis is that an "Active observance of seven areas of relationships results in a culture quite distinct from the world. The kind of a community that people find warm and caring."

I believe he could have been describing Paradise UMC when he states, "groups (members) interact with one another in seven areas that are based on the New Testament."

- (1) Love one another. John 13:34-35; 15:12; 1 Thess 3:12
- (2) Yield to others, serving their interests; be devoted. Rom. 12:10
- (3) Spend time with each other. Rom 16:16; Cor. 13:12
- (4) Allow others to be imperfect – don't become irritated with them, be patient. Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13; Rom. 15:7
- (5) Build one another up with words. Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11
- (6) Have a gentle heart for others in difficulty. 1 Cor. 12:25; Eph. 4:32
- (7) Be in unity with one another. Rom. 12:16; 15:5; Eph. 4:25

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

In December, we collected 50 boxes of cereal for the Food Pantry. We also collected \$347 for the Christmas project, which was used to purchase Christmas flowers for a few of our members who are not physically able to attend church. The monthly Food Pantry collections and monetary collections are currently being reviewed and, once they are confirmed, the collections for January will be announced.

Thank you for your continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding any of the collections or mission projects, please contact Linda East or a member of the Outreach and Missions Committee.

**REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM**

January 11 is the Sunday we read about Jesus' baptism. We have a service in our hymnal for remembering our baptism in which we will affirm the questions we answered (or confirmed) at our baptism. We will also walk by a bowl of water and hear the words, "Remember your baptism and be thankful."

## CHURCH COUNCIL

We will begin our new year with Church Council on Thursday, January 15, at 6:30p.m. This will be our chance to get the year started with good plans to reach out into the community to represent God. Feel free to be a part of our planning.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School class will return to its study of the book by James W. Moore, "Do Your Best and Trust God For the Rest." All are welcome at 10:00am on Sunday mornings.

The next Fellowship Sunday is January 11 at 10:00a.m. It's a great way to have breakfast and catch up with fellow church members, so please come join in the fun!

## WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January 4 (Pastor Judy) – **"Our Heritage and Wisdom"** from Ephesians 3:1-12;

January 11 (Pastor Larry) – **"Service of the Baptism of Jesus;"**

January 18 (Pastor Judy) – **"Revealed by the Word of God;** from 1 Samuel 3-10, 11-20;" and

January 25 (Pastor Larry) – **"God of Second Changes"** from Jonah 3:1-5, 10.

## POTLUCK SUNDAY

Mark your calendar! There will be a Potluck lunch Sunday, January 25, immediately following the worship service.

Bring a dish and join us for a great meal and fellowship.

## MONTHLY REPORT

The Monthly Report for December 2014, is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,907.82
Offering:	+\$9,444.00
Expenses:	- \$4,152.32
Final Balance:	\$18,199.50

The above-noted offerings included \$3,936.34 collected through March to the Manger and \$347 collected for the Christmas project. It was a very good 2014!