

The Vision

The monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

January 2006

We glorify Christ by making disciples who share God's love, seek His truth, and serve His World.

A New Year begins . . .

So,

you've heard a lot about Wednesday Nights here at First Church. Make a resolution to check it out this year. There is something for EVERYONE!

Beginning Wednesday, January 11th:

Dinner for all at 6PM

At 6:45 Classes and Activities begin

A new Alpha Course (*bring your friends!*)

Unlocking Your Bible continues (*new class members are welcome*)

A Life Worth Living (*a new class for Alpha grads*)

Confirmation class continues (8th & 9th graders)

Study Hall for Mid and Sr high

Activities for children and nursery care for our youngest

. . . a new opportunity to grow in our faith

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A Last Minute Update to Our Church Family

Dear Friends and Family,

As most of you know, our Pastor, Doug Barranger, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer unexpectedly six and a half weeks ago. Since that time, his condition continued to deteriorate and he was hospitalized for most of that time. As we prepared to print this issue of The Vision on the morning of December 28, 2005, we learned that Doug had passed away the previous evening at 11:06pm. In the difficult days ahead, please keep Donna and Nathan in your prayers. Thank you to all of you who have extended Christ's love and prayed so faithfully during Doug's illness. More information will certainly become available in the coming days and the church staff and leaders will do their best to keep you informed.



Come Join in Prayer on Thursday Mornings

Every Thursday morning at 8am, you are invited to a prayer gathering in the chapel to pray for our church, its leaders, its ministries, our community, our world, and any other subjects that you may have on your heart to pray about. The prayer time will be led by Beckie Dicks. We hope that many will join with us in prayer before they head off to work or other tasks of the day. We will finish no later than 8:40am.

The Session's Ministry of Healing Prayer

Elders are available to pray for those who need healing prayer. If you would like the elders to arrange a convenient time and place to pray for you, just contact the **Prayer Contact Elder for the month of January: Bud Cashwell. You may contact him at 563-4672.** Any of the Session members are also happy to pray with you between worship services on Sunday.

A Note from the Minister's Desk



When Dorothy and I decided to retire again, for the third time, we spent some time making a decision about the best location. Son Dean wanted us to choose the very nice retirement center in Pasadena, CA. This is a lovely facility provided by the Presbyterian Church for retired clergy/church workers. Having served as staff to Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, we were eligible to enroll. We spent two weeks there, but decided that we really wanted to have a big enough house for family to visit.

Son Doug wanted us to move to Florida. That would provide a neat spot for vacations for the family in Michigan and New Jersey. Or, he had also opined that Arizona would not be so bad as we had spent 10 years in Scottsdale. Problem: no family nearby.

The week that we decided really told the tale. Our oldest son Alan was in India for a meeting; our middle son, Doug was in Cancun for a meeting; and, Dean was in New Zealand making “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” The only one home was daughter Debbie and our two married granddaughters. They live in Ypsilanti, or the Ann Arbor area. Debbie and our granddaughter Jami were assigned the task...find a house to lease nearby. So they did. The very nice home they selected is located in Canton. (7046 Pittsford Street, Canton, MI 48187). It is also right next door to Duke Morrow’s home. He serves as the pastor of the Dearborn Woods Presbyterian Church.

Dutifully, having moved in this past June, I checked in with the Detroit Presbytery office and Executive Al Timm, indicating that I would be willing to help out at any church that needed pastoral assistance. Several contacts later, a phone call came from Doug Barranger, a meeting was arranged, and once again – the Lord works in his mysterious ways. Dr. Barranger invited me to meet with the Session and consider serving as his aide during this period of his illness.

Session affirmed his request, and the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery approved. Last Tuesday, the Session invited me to serve as the Temporary Supply Pastor of First Church. In short, until Dr. Barranger is able to return to his duties, I will be serving as your “instant” pastor. I will be preaching on Sunday mornings, and will have office hours three days a week (usually Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and carry on the duties of the Senior Pastor. For those who have not already heard, Dorothy and I served this congregation for almost 10 years – that was 32 years ago – it is a privilege to return.

Please pray for the Barranger family in this time of his illness; and also for the staff as we seek to fulfill a leadership role in the mission which God has called us to perform as His Family of Faith.

May God bless you all as we begin a new year together. See you in Church !

Rev. Donald A. Wright

Book of the Every Other Month Club



The Book of the Every Other Month Club (BEOMC) next meets on Saturday, January 28, at 10 am in Room 16, upstairs. Our discussions are led by Wanda Moon. We enjoy coffee, tea, donuts, fellowship and stimulating conversation.

You will have no difficulty locating a copy of the book we'll be discussing, as it is the subject of a current movie and much media attention: ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis.** Multiple paperback editions are available. If you've never read this ageless tale of wonder, you are in for a treat. If you have read it in the past, you may wish to revisit the land of Narnia -- you may discover something new or awaken forgotten memories.

We hope you will join us. Questions? Call Paul Ytterrock at 274-1313, Ext. 12.



Encounter God!

Join the youth who have already signed up to experience the Battle Cry Stadium Event. Held on Friday evening and all day Saturday, April 7th and 8th at Ford Field Stadium. 24 of us will go to see and hear youth speakers Ron Luce and Jack Hayford, as well as listen to the bands Pillar, Cross Movement, Toby Mac, Jeremy Camp, Delirious, KJ-52, Michael Gungor and more. See skits, video, testimonies, pyrotechnics and more!

Mainfloor tickets that are \$55 at the door can be purchased from Bob Szczechura or Mike Hoffman for \$25. Contact one of them today as only 8 tickets are left! Call Mike at 562-5961 to reserve tickets NOW.

Do you need transportation?

To church on Sunday?
Doctor's appointments?
Grocery shopping?



Part of the deacon's ministry is providing transportation based on need.
Contact Tom Roberts at 240-7652.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S WINTER GATHERING

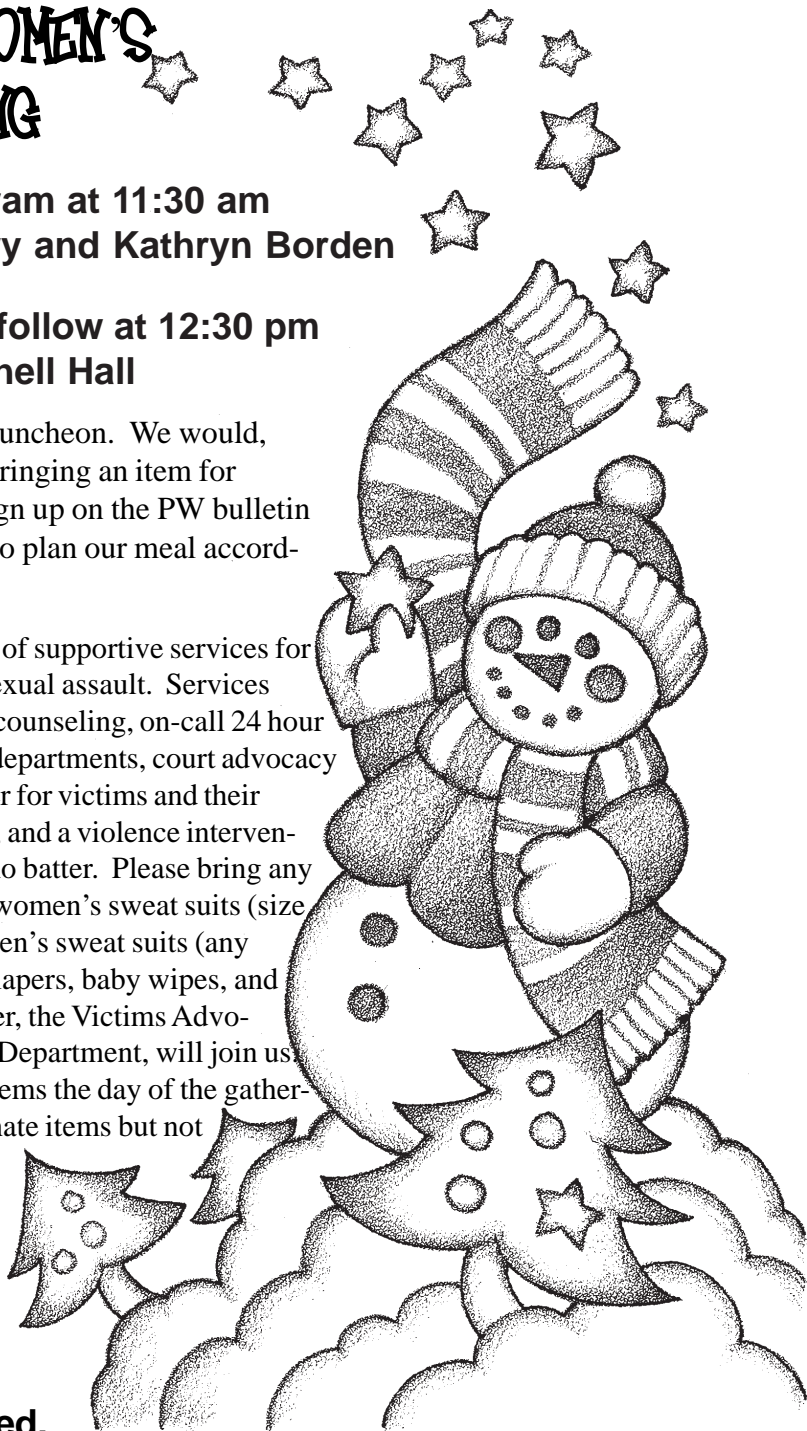
**Music Program at 11:30 am
featuring Jane Lewy and Kathryn Borden**

**A light lunch will follow at 12:30 pm
in Mitchell Hall**

There is no charge for the luncheon. We would, however, appreciate your bringing an item for "FIRST STEP". Please sign up on the PW bulletin board. This will enable us to plan our meal accordingly.

First Step provides a variety of supportive services for survivors of domestic and sexual assault. Services include a 24-hour help line, counseling, on-call 24 hour help at hospitals and police departments, court advocacy and legal information, shelter for victims and their children, children's services, and a violence intervention program for persons who batter. Please bring any of the following to donate: women's sweat suits (size large and extra large), children's sweat suits (any size), personal care items, diapers, baby wipes, and phone cards. Julie Kipfmiller, the Victims Advocate at the Dearborn Police Department, will join us. She will take the collected items the day of the gathering. Anyone wishing to donate items but not able to attend the gathering should leave items clearly labeled "FIRST STEP" in the powder room off the North Parlor prior to January 7th.

All women are invited.



From Our Parish Nurse, Chris Mayer

What Sort of New Year's Resolution Should a Christian Make?

The practice of making a New Year's Resolution goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of a New Year's Resolution. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's Resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's Resolutions are: to quit smoking, to quit drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year's Resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "**For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things**, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." The vast majority of New Year's Resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's Resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, to attend church more regularly, etc., etc. These are fantastic goals! However, these New Year's Resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions. Why? Because there is no power in a New Year's Resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

(continued on next page)

What Sort of New Year's Resolution Should a Christian Make?, cont'd

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's Resolution, it has chance for success – depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God honoring and/or is not in agreement in God's Word – we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make? I cannot answer that question for you. My advice to you is this: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God's strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures, instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6, "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday."

Recommended Resource: *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

**Material taken from www.gotquestions.org/new-years-resolution.html*



All of the coffee you now drink at the church has been purchased through the **Presbyterian Coffee Project**, and you can purchase coffee, tea and cocoa for home use through the Project as well. By using fair trade coffee in our congregations, offices and homes, Presbyterians help guarantee that farmers will earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children and improve their communities. Fair trade is a simple solution that means the difference — quite literally — between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers. You can make your purchase by filling out an order form (found on the information table outside the sanctuary or in Mitchell Hall) and placing it, with your payment, in Angie Saylor's mail box in the main church office. **Orders will be placed the first of each month.** You will be notified when your coffee, tea or cocoa arrives.



'Twas the

~Photos by Ted Daykin &

Hanging of the Greens - December 11



Keith Ingram arranges
the creche



Sue Ingram gets water
for thirsty workers



Jillian Drzinski hangs
a Crismon on the tree

Touch of Hope Food Drive & Choral Concert December 18



Emma Scott greets concert
goers with a friendly smile



Bill Leslie and Sharon Francis sort
food for our Touch of Hope families



Marshall Dicks directs the
choir in *Born a King*

Season



Jared Hoffman

Come to the Bethlehem Inn - December 17



The Suzuki Violins provided dinner music.



A recorder consort added its festive notes.



The Holy Family was played by Amit (Joseph), Animika (Mary) and Sahil (Baby Jesus) Henry.



Singers and ringers



JJ Lewy attacks the desserts!



Innkeepers John and Bunny Barr

Session News

From the **December 13, 2005** meeting of Session:

- Session held its annual joint meeting with the Deacons. The Deacons updated Session on their activities and on the list of immediate concerns. Session thanked the Deacons for their continued care for the people.
- Session interviewed Rev. Don Wright and invited him to serve as our Temporary Supply while Doug is ill. Rev. Wright graciously accepted.

Amy Bruhn, Elder - Session Communication Secretary

Focus on Folks: Susan Ingram

Length Of Time at FPC: We joined the church in September 1994. We transferred from Dearborn Covenant Church.

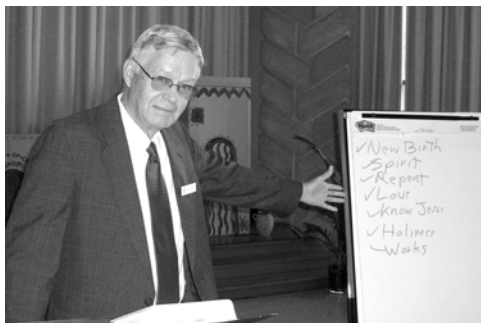
Background information: Keith and I have been married for 30 years. We have a son, Thom (25), and a daughter, Kolleen (19). We live in a two family home with my elderly mother. I work full time for an insurance company and take care of my mom, too.

How/When I became a Christian: I attended Calvary Baptist Church on Chase in Dearborn. When I was in the 3rd grade, each one of us in my Sunday School class gave a confession of faith and we received a Bible with our name on it. I guess that was when I began my walk with God. As an adult I re-dedicated my life to Christ.

Activities/Ministries at FPC: Presently, I am serving as a Deacon. I have been a leader of the preschool kids in Sunday school, a helper and a leader in ALPHA, and volunteered with ChristNet. I have helped in the kitchen on several occasions, and I am leading the 3-5th grade students in Sunday school this term.

My favorite leisure activities: I enjoy sewing and crafts.

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Reflections on The Word

*A monthly, scripture-based devotional
by John Holden*

Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3 JKV

The Hebrew word for peace (shalom) means to have right and harmonious relationships; it may also convey prosperity, health, and fulfillment. Perfect peace requires the right relationship with God in all circumstances, which means we must be righteous in God's sight. Perfect peace overrides circumstances because it trusts in God's sovereignty. It is not limited by the frailty of human conditions but trusts God to be faithful with those who trust Him. Such a person sees every issue in the context of God, lives and obeys accordingly, and is blessed. Those with perfect peace do not worry (Philippians 4:6; Matt 6:31-34; 1 Peter 5:7).

We can have peace with God only after we become righteous in God's sight (justified) by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). Once we have peace with God, we can have the peace of God, which transcends all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). Once we have a righteous relationship with God, we can have righteous and peaceful relationships with fellow believers (Colossians 3:15). Obviously, the presence of sin kills peace.

A relationship with God that gives perfect peace allows us to withstand trying times. For example, Jeremiah's lament over God's judgment of Jerusalem included his realization that: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22, 23). Similarly, Habakkuk was able to rejoice in the Lord despite the coming judgment, because he trusted God's sovereignty and knew the judgment would be a chastening but not a total destruction (Habakkuk 3:18).

SHALOM!

January



1 Bill Leslie
Jenny Miazga
Elizabeth Daykin
Noah Husby

2 Peg Hadley
Robert Morris
Eugene L. Smith

4 John W. McFadden

5 Therese Martin
Lori Wyatt
Ann Phillips

6 Bob Mabbitt
Bette Smith
Ginger Calderon

8 Amy Kutt Richards
Scott Abramowski

9 George Baumgartner

11 John Blyth
Lisa Reiter

13 Ian Craig Joachim

14 Jeffrey Hosmer
Robert Powanda

16 Jane Gibbs

17 Margaret Engstrom
David Martin

18 Susan Miller

19 Charlene Verral
Kate Bruder

20 Brittany Patterson
Kathleen Peterson

21 Whitney Barr
David Carlson

25 Dick Fisher

26 Gloria White

27 Jill Robinson

28 John M Matthews
Dean Young

29 Jillian Skye Drzinski
Ivan Doverspike

30 Margo Martinez
Jane Dearth

January 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

▶▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶▶



With Sympathy

to the families of:
Reverend Stan Taylor



Happy Anniversary!

Jane and Grover Gibb celebrated 60 years of marriage on December 15th.

Jack and Jane Wood will be married 61 years on January 4th.

Roger and Margaret Lamb celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary on January 29th.



Baptized
into the
Faith

On December 11th, Zander Perkovich, son of Diane and Tom Perkovich, and Chloe Doverspike, daughter of Ivan and Kim Doverspike, were baptized.



Adoption

Congratulations to new parents, Jim and Marie Shearer! They welcomed a new daughter, Marie, in December.

January Prayer Focus

This month, please keep the following in your prayers:

Doug, Donna, and Nathan Barranger
Rev. Don Wright and our staff
Our Alpha and FISH programs
Our Nominating Committee
Our Senior High/College Retreat

Light in the Darkness

Just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows." Here's a portion of the poem:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.

The deadline for the February edition of *The Vision* is January 15, 2006. Place any submissions in the VISION box in the church office or email them to Angela Saylor at AJN37@aol.com.

Focus on Folks: Susan Ingram, continued from page 10

Favorite Book: I don't have one favorite book, the one I am reading is my favorite. Right now it is *The Secret Life of Bees*.

Favorite Movie: I like a good romantic comedy. *You've Got Mail* comes to mind.

My Favorite Foods: I would say tomatoes are my favorite food, so anything that involves tomatoes and pasta.

Favorite Music: I have Van Morrison in my CD player now, so I would say classic rock. When I listen to the radio, it is usually contemporary Christian.

Favorite TV program: *Law and Order*. I like home improvement shows, too.

My favorite place: Around the table, enjoying the company of my family and friends.

What makes me laugh: Slapstick comedy.

My favorite Bible passage: Ephesians 6:10, 12-13 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. [] For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

The person I would like most to meet and why: My grandparents, they all passed away before I was born.

The thing that might surprise people about me: I am the 3rd generation of my mother's family to live in my house.



Another Alpha Course Begins!

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith. It is an opportunity to explore the important questions of life in relaxed, friendly surroundings. Sessions begin on **January 11, 2006** and continue on the following Wednesday evenings from 6-8:45 pm. Each evening includes dinner, a DVD presentation, and small group discussion. There is no charge for Alpha. ANYONE is welcome.

Schedule

January 11	<i>Who is Jesus?</i>
January 18	<i>Why did Jesus die?</i>
January 25	<i>How can I be sure of my faith?</i>
February 1	<i>Why and how should I read the Bible?</i>
February 8	<i>Why and how should I pray?</i>
February 15	<i>How does God guide us?</i>
February 18	ALPHA SATURDAY
	<i>Who is the Holy Spirit?</i>
	<i>What does the Holy Spirit do?</i>
	<i>How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?</i>
	<i>How can I make the most of the rest of my life?</i>
February 22	<i>How can I resist evil?</i>
March 1	<i>Why and how should we tell others?</i>
March 8	<i>Does God heal today?</i>
March 15	<i>What about the church?</i>
March 22	ALPHA Celebration Dinner Party

Alpha Registration

Name(s): _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number and E-mail address: _____

It is also helpful if you can provide your age: _____

Please mail or take your completed form in to the church office, or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

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of Dearborn
600 North Brady Road
Dearborn, MI 48124

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Permit 516

The Vision

Senior Pastor
Rev. Douglas Barranger, Ph.D.

Director of Christian Ed.:
Paul Ytterock

Director of Music/Evangelism:
Marshall Dicks

Parish Nurse:
Chris Mayer, RN