



# The Salt Shaker

JANUARY 2015

First Presbyterian Church Near Ely, 11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227  
319-848-4624 ❖ www.elypres.org

## *From the Pastor*

Ten boxes and five bags of books and resources were taken to Washburn on December 12 to a collection location in the backyard woodshop of Mary and Bob Ellermann's home. Items were from the church library and from congregation member's homes. These will be transported to Butler, Illinois at the LOVE PACKAGES headquarters and then transported overseas to Asia, Africa, and South America.

Not everyone can use resources in English, but, countries like Nigeria and Ghana have taught English in their schools for the past 35 years. In India, 25% of their population of 1.3 billion people speak and read English. Literature is shipped overseas on ocean-going containers that weigh approximately 20 tons. The cost of a 20 ton container is between £3500-£9000. In addition to other expenses of the organization, the cost to ship a single piece of literature costs less than a dime per pound.

When resources get to Butler, Illinois, every piece is examined and non-Christian or cult literature is discarded. Then the materials are sorted into 6 categories: Bibles; reference materials; Sunday School literature, books; magazines and daily devotionals; music; and miscellaneous.

A slideshow presentation on the LOVE PACKAGES ecumenical mission will be shared in late January before worship.

Thank you to all who donated items.

In Christ,  
Pastor Julie

## *January Worship Schedule*

**January 4:** Holy Communion and Epiphany Sunday with star words. Psalm 147:12-20

**January 11:** Acts 19:1-17; Mineck Family sharing on Operation Christmas Child

**January 18:** John 1:43-51

**January 25:** Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck following worship



### **Advent Festival Fun!**

Above: Calvin Chadima, Nathan Harder, Noah Tedrow, Rachel Harder, Matt Zacek and Emmett Stockdale decorate Christmas cookies in the church kitchen. Terry Zahradnik and Daniel Schuett use teamwork to string cranberries and popcorn. Right: Michaela Arnold and her friend, Emma, build a colorful paper chain during the Advent Festival held Nov. 30, 2014.





## *This 'n' That*



*Thank you to the Buresh/Reist families for providing St. Mikulas traditional gifts of oranges and peanuts as well as modern gifts of pencils and candy in the Christmas stockings. On behalf of other families, we appreciate this tribute and tradition. It certainly is exciting for the children. God bless you.*

*- Anonymous*

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, It is a joy to share our sixth Christmas with you. We appreciate your faith, your perseverance, your creativity, and your joy in this Christmas season. We thank you for the Christmas gift symbolizing your love and your spirit. God bless us all as we begin 2015 together. In Christ, Pastor Julie, Steve, and Daniel Schuett

*Thank you so much for thinking of Our Table to Yours with your recent offerings. It is very greatly appreciated and helps us so much. -Our Table to Yours*

### **WINTER WEATHER!**

If bad weather threatens, please check KCRG TV9 by 8:30 a.m. to confirm if church services or activities have cancelled. We will make every effort to update the church web site ([www.elypres.org](http://www.elypres.org)) and an email will be sent out to the email list. Send the office your email, if you're if not currently receiving weekly church messages. If in doubt, call someone before driving in risky conditions!



## Christian Education

Adult Sunday School will meet on January 11 and 18, February 1 and 8.

On January 11 and 18, we will view a Jan Hus narrative in acknowledgement of his death 600 years ago in 1415. Jan was a Czech priest, philosopher, and reformer of the church who was a key predecessor in the Protestant movement in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The documentary uses location footage, interviews with historians, artwork, and drama. It is a thought provoking examination of many difficult issues facing anyone living in any time: *When should we stand our ground and when should we back down? Which issues are worth dying for? How should we speak out against what we know is wrong?*



Rachelle Mineck will also present her experiences with Operation Christmas Child as she took her two sons with her to Minneapolis to one of the processing centers of this mission.

And, we will begin a Bible study which will direct us into the season of Lent.

### Sunday School January Schedule

	Preschool-Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	7th – 12th Grade
<b>January 4</b>	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
<b>January 11</b>	Pharaohs Dream 11	Ruth	
<b>January 18</b>	Joseph Takes Care of the People 12	Samuel	
<b>January 25</b>	MOVIE DAY (Congregational Meeting)		No Sunday School
<b>February 1</b>	Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt 13	Samuel Anoints David 9	

Sunday School begins each Sunday for preschool-12th grade at 10:45. Adult Sunday School is held in the church living room at 11:00.

### Session Notes from November 20, 2014

1. The Session concluded its year-long study of *Praying Circles Around Our Children*.
2. Average Sunday attendance in November was 99. Membership totals at 219. One death in the congregation: Vern Zach.
3. A motion was approved to set up a Contingency Fund for the annual budget.
4. Our 2014 budget giving and spending is on track.
5. An overview and then closed door discussion of Pastor Julie's 2014 review was conducted. It concluded a successful relationship with Pastor Julie and the faithful intentions to continue ministry together.
6. The receiving treasurer has received 24 pledge cards totaling \$57,000 in pledges for 2015 as of November 20.
7. Reports from all committee chairs were presented and discussed.

Full minutes can be reviewed by any church member by asking Clerk of Session Marilyn Zvacek.

## AED Defibrillator

According to the wiseGEEK website, a defibrillator is

“A machine used to shock the victim’s heart and restore the heart’s normal rhythmic patterns. When this machine is used, it in effect kicks the heart into action again, causing it to resume pumping blood throughout the body. According to the American Heart Association, 700 Americans die every day as a result of sudden cardiac arrest... Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have become the norm in schools, gymnasiums, city offices, and other facilities. An AED is a compact device contained in a box roughly the size of a lunchbox. These valuable tools are automated and offer assistance to aid a volunteer in successfully using them. Two pads connected to the wires are the primary tools contained in the AED. One of these pads is placed over the victim’s heart area and the other nearby on the chest. After everyone is clear of the victim and the pads and wiring are set properly, the AED will charge itself and then send voltage to the victim’s heart. The machine will then check the heart rhythms to determine if a second shock should be sent. Though these machines walk the user through the steps, training in AED administration is still recommended.”

First Presbyterian Church near Ely is installing an AED Defibrillator in January on the lower level of the building. This is a memorial gift from family, friends, and colleagues of Nancy Mortensen. We thank those who have contributed and we support her family as they grieve, but, do this act of kindness and prevention for others. On January 11, we will dedicate this gift in Nancy’s memory during worship.

If you are trained in using the AED, or would like to be trained, please let the church office know. Training will be arranged soon.

## Stewardship

Just a reminder if you haven’t had a chance to turn in your 2015 pledge card, please send it into the church under the attention of Judy Serbousek, Receiving Treasurer.

## Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting is Sunday, January 25 after worship. Please join us for a potluck lunch following.



## Summer Camp Nurses

Are you interested in serving in a fun and exciting environment? Want to work with young people from kindergarten through college? Camp Wyoming is seeking nurses to work at camp for a week during the summer. Meals and lodging (with A/C) are included as well as stipend. Contact Kevin Cullum, Executive Director at [kevin@campwyoming.net](mailto:kevin@campwyoming.net) or phone 563-488-3893.

## Eagle Scout Project

To obtain his Eagle Scout, Tyler Appleby of Anamosa, Iowa renovated the archery range at Camp Wyoming and constructed a new building to store the archery equipment. He also shared his advice with the camp staff in their purchase of new bows, arrows, targets, and backdrops. This amazing project has dramatically improved the camp’s professional approach to archery. Tyler raised over \$8,000 in donated materials from local companies to complete this project. This was an amazing project and gift to camp. Thank you, Tyler, for your time and energy!

## Youth Group News

Hello from the Youth Group!

Thanks to all who continue to support and pray for our youth program!

In December, Youth took part in the life of the church by helping decorate the tree, lighting candles, assisting with the children's program, decorating the sanctuary with a poinsettia fundraiser, sharing music by caroling to the homebound members, singing in the Christmas Cantata, and participating in Sounds of Christmas. In addition, they volunteered with Salvation Army collecting food donations at the Cans Film Festival (Salvation Army's largest food drive of the year), and ringing bells at the Red Kettle. Youth celebrated with a party at Angie's house which included Christmas Jeopardy and a gift exchange.

In January, youth will resume regular Sunday School and Youth Group. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a **parent meeting** at 6:00 p.m. for all youth and parents. We will talk about Spring and Summer activities, including Montreat Youth Conference in July. On Sunday, January 11, there will be no Youth Group in the evening – everyone enjoy the night off! February 1 is the Souper Bowl Sunday, and youth will be collecting funds to help those who are hungry.

As always, if there are any questions or comments about the Youth programs, please feel free to contact me at church, or by phone.

Blessings,  
Angie



## January Youth Calendar

**Sun., January 4:** 10:45-11:30 a.m. Sunday School 6 p.m. Parent Meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group –Jr/Sr High

**Sun., January 11:** 10:45-11:30a.m. Sunday School; NO Youth Group

**Sun., January 18:** 10:45-11:30 a.m. Sunday School; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group Jr/Sr High

**Sun., January 25:** Congregational Meeting; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group

**Sun., February 1:** 9:30 a.m. – Souper Bowl of Caring; 10:45-11:30 a.m. Sunday School; 6:30-8:30 Youth Group Super Bowl Party at Angie's

**Save the dates:**

**Approx. July 17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: 2015**

**Montreat Youth Conference**



**Above:** In December, Youth members Grace Ehle and Rachel Harder process canned goods donated during the Cans Film Festival event sponsored by the Salvation Army.

**Left:** Michaela Arnold, Nathan Harder, Morgan Eadie, Cole Huedepohl and Luke Huedepohl volunteer for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle drive outside Fareway grocery store in Cedar Rapids.

## Camp Wyoming Retreats in 2015

### *The Games March 6-8*

This challenge-themed retreat for kids in grades 2-5 offers plenty of games, competition, and fun as you get an early start on Spring and experience a little bit of the camp atmosphere before summer camp begins.

### *Grand Camp April 10-12*

Grandparents and grandchildren will enjoy the chance to participate in camp activities and worship together.

### *Retreat for Older Adults April 14-15*

At this retreat for older adults (age 50+), participants will be able to explore their own spiritual gifts and talents and learn how they fit into the church today.

For information about these retreats, visit [campwyoming.net](http://campwyoming.net) or call 563-488-3893.

## Willy Wonka at Camp Wyoming



This summer, the Music, Arts & Drama (MAD) camps will perform the musical *Willy Wonka Kids*. The musical is based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl and follows the story of candy maker Willy Wonka who stages a contest by hiding gold tickets in the wrappers of candy bars. Five children who find the tickets receive a tour of Wonka's chocolate factory, which has never been seen before. The children soon discover that the bizarre factory is filled with treats, candy, and imagination, but also offers obstacles and life lessons. Campers who attend MAD camp will have the chance to work on set design, acting, singing and dancing during their week at camp as they come together to learn the musical. Then, on Saturday morning, their families and friends can join us in Deer Center after the week's closing ceremony for their performance of this silly and entertaining show.



## An Active & Meaningful Advent Season 2014





# JANUARY 2015

**WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.**

Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group Sunday Evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m.

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 Food Pantry Sunday Epiphany / Star Sunday	5	6 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	7 9:30 Bible Study at The Retreat 6:15 pm Bell Choir/7:30 pm Chancel Choir	8	9 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	10
11	12	13 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	14 9:30 Bible Study at The Retreat 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	15	16 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	17
18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	21 9:30 Bible Study at The Retreat 6:15 pm Bell Choir/7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 Session /Deacon Meeting 6:30 pm	23 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	24
25 Annual Congregation Meeting and potluck after worship	26 Ladies Night Out 6:30 pm	27 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00 Mens Night 6:30 p.m.	28 9:30 Bible Study at The Retreat 6:15 pm Bell Choir/7:30 pm Chancel Choir	29	30 Office hours 9:00 to 1:00	31