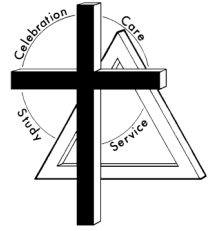


The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI 48917



Volume 13 No 1

JANUARY 2012

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January Highlights:

- *Sundays*
8:45 am Adult Education
10 am Worship
- *Wednesdays*
12 pm Prayer Service
- *January 1*
Change for Change
Ordination/Installation
- *January 7*
Un-Green the church
- *January 8*
Advent House
Communion
Fellowship Meal
- *January 10*
Aging 101
- *January 15*
Personal Needs Closet
- *January 18*
Kids Hope Party
- *January 23 & 28*
Session/Deacon Retreat

Session News

On December 19, the session met with the deacons. New elders and deacons were approved for ordination/installation, and January 1 was set as the date to ordain and install them during the worship service. We set Monday, January 23 and Saturday, January 28 as the date session and deacons will have extended meetings to lay the groundwork for our work this coming year.

While the annual report will be available at the end of January, the annual meeting will take place March 18. This will give the committees time to meet and begin their planning for the year before the meeting. We will still receive the annual report, but the bulk of the meeting will be focused on plans for the future. The Session meetings now focus on the future and we have found it to be productive.

We invite all of you to talk to the committee moderators about becoming involved in one of the committees. To help you decide, here is where Session members will serve this year.

Spiritual Life Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30. Sue Settle will continue as moderator, and Mary Meier will also serve on the committee. **Spiritual Life Committee** focuses on the spiri-

tual growth of the congregation through worship and education.

Property Team will meet at 10:00 in the mornings on the first Wednesday of the month. Roger Small has agreed to moderate. Richard Mead and Jim Dexter will also serve on the team. **Property Team** is a working group that maintains the building and seeks bids for various projects around the church, including snow removal and the new phone system that has been ordered. They will begin renovations on January 4th as they start painting, beginning with the multipurpose room in the basement. In addition to their work at the church they like to enjoy fellowship over half price milk shakes at Steak and Shake. The **Property Team** comes under **Resources Committee**.

Resources Committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00. They are responsible for the financial and building resources of the church. Jim Dexter will be moderating, with Doug Dykstra and Jane Elsinga also serving on the committee.

Mission Committee meets on the second Monday at 7:00. Joe Frick has agreed to serve as moderator. The mission committee promotes and distributes our financial support of mission

and recruits people to be involved in various mission projects, from mission trips to Kids Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Crop Walk, Advent House, the Community Garden, and much more.

Personnel Committee handles employee reviews, recommends salary changes, and deals with any issues that come up with staff. They meet on an as needed basis. Jane Thomas has agreed to serve as moderator of the committee.

The session also approved the budget for 2012, which will be available at the Commitment Center

While it is exciting to welcome new elders who are beginning service, it is sad to say good bye to those who are rotating off. We welcomed new elders Doug Dykstra, Joe Frick, Mary Meier, Roger Small and Jane Thomas, and thanked retiring elders Kyle Dymond, Mary Jarrard, Chuck Jennings, Mark McElwee and Jo Seppala, for their service. Several have volunteered to continue serving on committees to support the new moderators. In January we will be setting priorities and goals for the coming year. We look forward to the new things God will continue to do in our midst.

Words From Wendy



Words From Wendy

Recently I was part of an amazing meeting. The Resources Committee met with the moderators of all the committees and the deacons to finalize the 2012 budget. I think it is fair to say that many of us were dreading the meeting. We went into 2011 with a budget deficit of almost \$21,000 that we agreed to cover with the surplus from 2010. In 2008 there was a \$3,000 increase in pledges, but for the most part recent years have seen pledges shrinking, which has meant making painful cuts to the budget. This year, we encouraged the committees to dream in their requests for 2012, with the result that we started with a budget that sought a \$40,000 increase in pledges to attain a balanced budget.

Did we reach our lofty goal? No, but we have 6 new pledges and the majority of you increased your pledges for 2012. Pledges grew over \$10,000 for next year. Thanks to your generosity throughout this year and the careful stewardship

of our committees, our budget deficit for this year was much lower than anticipated. As we sat down to do our work, we were facing a deficit of \$22,000. As we began our work, personnel, spiritual life, deacons, property, and mission all voluntarily cut their requests for this year. After their voluntary cuts, we ended with a deficit that can be covered by the money we set aside to meet 2011's deficit but didn't need. Session readily approved the budget at their December 19 meeting.

Most exciting is that after years of cutting back, this budget moves us forward in exciting ways. We have added a child care position to the budget for 2012. If we want to be family friendly, we need to make it easy for families with young children to attend various events. We were able to leave raises for staff in the budget. While we did not increase the amount budgeted for mission, for the first time in several years we did not cut it.

Our commitment to mission has grown in many ways. This year members participated in 2 different mission trips, and we have laid the groundwork for a community garden in the spring. Three new people have begun serving as mentors with KIDS Hope. Session had reaffirmed our commitment to mission with a new vision for it: Open Doors, Open Hands, Open Hearts. It reflects our commitment to use our building in mission, to continue our financial support, and to continue our personal involvement in various mission projects.

The meeting I had been dreading turned out to be positive. We are moving forward as a congregation, and God is working among us in exciting ways. I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2012.



Retreat

Session/Deacon Retreat

Last year both the session and deacons spent a Saturday at the church setting priorities and making plans for the year. This year they will be doing this together, and we will split it over two days. On Monday, January 23rd, we will meet at 6:00 to

learn more about one another and build our team. We will focus on our different personality types and the way we work together, and what it takes to make an effective team.

We will gather again on

Saturday, January 28 at 9:30. We will spend the morning working together to set priorities and goals for the year. In the afternoon, we will work separately to begin to plan how we will implement those goals.

Cause to Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

There is much to celebrate as we move into 2012. I hope you've read Words from Wendy and the session news, both of which lift up ways God is at work in and through us.

We rejoice in the Good News of Jesus' birth.

We celebrate beautiful weather for Christmas caroling and the number of peo-

ple who participated this year.

We rejoice in the beauty of this year's Christmas poinsettia garden. Thank you to everyone who gave a plant in memory or honor of a loved one.

We rejoice in the new elders and deacons and the fresh perspective and enthusiasm they bring to the work of the session and deacons.

We rejoice in the 16 KIDS Hope mentors and their prayer partners and the im-

pact they are having on children in our community.

We rejoice in the volunteers who made the chrismons we have enjoyed wearing throughout this Advent season.

We rejoice in the ways God has been at work in and through us, and there certainly are many.

What gives you cause to rejoice at Delta? Let us know, and we'll include it here next month.



Aging 101-January 10, 6:30 pm

The deacons are offering an opportunity to meet with JoAnn Dexter, LMSW and Jane Elsinga, LBSW to review and discuss some of the concerns and issues related to the challenges of growing older. Topics include:

- The basics of being prepared: Advanced directives, medical/financial power of attorney, end of life issues/hospice
- Navigating the system: Your physician, the emergency room visit,

hospital admission and discharge

- The challenges of growing older: Making the most of what you have, making sense of it all (brief look at medical/physical, social, cognitive, emotional, spiritual aspects)
- When it's time for a change: Identifying risk factors, communication between the older adult and family, adult children as care givers

We'll meet from 6:30 to 7:15, break for 10 minutes (coffee and dessert provided) and go from 7:25 to about 8:15 PM. This is informal and questions, discussion will be encouraged after each "topic"!

This will be an "informal", relaxed gathering to review and discuss concerns/issues that most of us will or have faced. Join us on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at 6:30 pm.



Elder Care

Adult Education

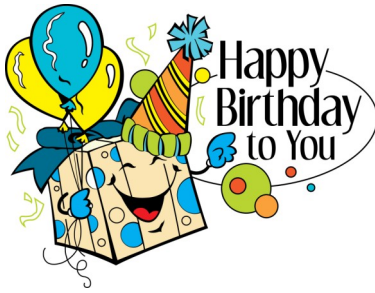
Do your plans for 2012 include deepening your faith? Come join us for an opportunity to learn and grow together. Beginning Sunday, January 8, Wendy will be leading a class at 8:45 on Sunday mornings. The class will consider Rob Bell's book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*. An excerpt from the introduction: "For thousands of years followers of Jesus, like artists, have un-

derstood that we have to keep going, exploring what it means to live in harmony with God and each other. The Christian faith tradition is filled with change and growth and transformation. Jesus took part in this process by calling people to rethink faith and the Bible and hope and love and everything else, and by inviting them into the endless process of working out how to live as God created us to live....

Times change. God doesn't, but times do. We learn and grow, and the world around us shifts, and the Christian faith is alive only when it is listening, morphing, innovating, letting go of whatever has gotten in the way of Jesus and embracing whatever will help us be more and more the people God wants us to be." Join us as we learn and grow together at 8:45 on Sunday mornings.



Adult Education



January/February Birthdays

Jan 15	Ginny Noble	Feb 8	Bob Kull Wendy Pratt
Jan 20	Sarah Dymond	Feb 10	Kyle Dymond
Jan 22	Gayl Venman	Feb 11	Cris Cone
Feb 2	Bob Potter	Feb 27	Mary Ann Martin
Feb 7	Juilanne Hebert	Feb 28	Brad Venman

Servants

Ushers

Jan 1	Baker
Jan 8	Brown
Jan 15	Venman
Jan 22	Beglin
Jan 29	Brock

Communion Servers

Jan 8	Geri Jennings Chuck Jennings Tom Fort Rhonda Fort Kathy Peters
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Lay Leaders

Jan 1	Kathy Peters
Jan 8	Sue Settle

Jan 15	Cory McElwee
Jan 22	Kyle Dymond
Jan 29	Kathy Peters

Singspiration Leaders

Jan 1	Choir
Jan 8	Mary Jo & Art Kelley
Jan 15	Chuck Jennings Joe Frick
Jan 22	Ellen Jackson Kathy Peters
Jan 29	Sue Settle Bonnie Reemsnyder

Nursery

Jan 1	
Jan 8	Laurie Stirling
Jan 15	Laurie Stirling
Jan 22	Holly Brock
Jan 29	Kim Baczewski

Sunday School Teachers

Jan 1	Mary Jarrard
Jan 8	Jon Vogler
Jan 15	Jon Vogler
Jan 22	Jean Potter
Jan 29	Laurie Stirling



Thank You From Wendy

Thank you to all who contributed food, helped with set up or clean-up, or attended my open house. It was a joy to welcome so many of you into my home. Since several of you have asked, here is the recipe for butterscotch cashew bars: (*from [Taste of Home Magazine](#)*)

BASE

1 cup plus 2 Tbl. butter or margarine, softened
3/4 cup plus 2 Tbl. packed brown sugar
2-1/2 cups flour
1-3/4 tsp. salt

TOPPING

1 pkg. (10 to 11 oz.) butterscotch chips
1/2 cup plus 2 Tbl. light corn syrup
3 Tbl. butter or margarine
2 tsp. water
2-1/2 cups salted cashew halves

To make the base, cream the butter and brown sugar. Combine flour and salt; add to creamed mixture just until combined. Press into a greased 15" x 10" x 1" baking pan. Bake at 350° F. for 10-12 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Meanwhile, combine the butterscotch chips, corn syrup, butter and water in a saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat until chips and butter are melted. Spread over crust. Sprinkle with cashews and press down lightly. Bake for 11-13 minutes or until topping is bubbly and lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack. Cut into bars. Makes about 3-1/2 dozen.

Big
Thank
You!

January 2012

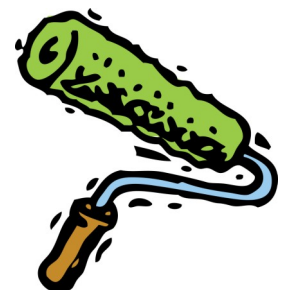
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day Change for Change 10 am Worship/ Ordination/ Installation	2	3	4 9:30 am Quilting 9:30 am Painting 12 pm Prayer Service	5 9:30 am Painting 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	6 Epiphany 9:30 am Painting	7 10 am Un- Greening Sanctu- ary
8 Advent House 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship/ Communion 11:15 am Fellow- ship Meal	9 6:00 pm Resources 7 pm Mission	10 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group 6:30 pm Aging 101	11 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 12 pm Prayer Service 6:30 pm Spiritual Life	12 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	13	14
15 Personal Needs 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship 3 pm Worship/ Delta Retirement Center	16 Marthin Luther King, Jr Birthday 7 pm OCD Support	17 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group 7 pm La Leche	18 9:30 am Quilting 12 pm Prayer Service 3:45 pm Kids Hope Party	19 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	20	21
22 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	23 6:00 pm Session/ Deacon Retreat	24 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group	25 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 12 pm Prayer Service	26 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	27	28 9:30 am Session/ Deacon Retreat
29 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	30	31 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group				

Painting Project

Come join the property team as they begin painting the multipurpose room downstairs on Wednesday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m.

They plan to spend 3 days on the project. Come do some painting and enjoy the fellowship as the property team continues to make im-

provements and do maintenance around the church. For more information, talk to Jim Dexter or Roger Small.



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Quilting 10 am Property 12 pm Prayer Service	2 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	3	4
5 Change for Change 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	6 6:30 pm Spiritual Life	7 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group	8 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 12 pm Prayer Service	9 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	10	11
12 Advent House 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	13 6:00 pm Resources 7 pm Mission	14 Valentine's Day 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group	15 9:30 am Quilting 12 pm Prayer Service	16 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	17	18
19 Personal Needs 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship/ Communion 11:15 am Fellow- ship Meal 3 pm Worship/ Delta Retirement Center	20 Presidents' Day 6:30 pm Deacons 7 pm OCD Sup- port	21 Fat Tuesday 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group 7 pm La Leche	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 12 pm Prayer Ser- vice	23 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	24	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent 8:45 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Session	28 10 am Great Par- ents/Great Start Play Group	29 9:30 am Quilting 12 pm Prayer Service			



Per Capita

Per Capita

Per capita in 2012 is \$24.38 per member. Per capita covers the costs of the administrative portions of the budgets of Presbytery,

Synod and General Assembly. Please help us meet this expense by using the envelope in your Offering envelope packet to pay for each

Delta member in your family.

Deacon Salute-Newly Elected Deacons

The Deacons would like to salute their newest members, who will be serving Delta from 2012 through 2014

Bob Potter has been married to Jean for 47 years. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Bob has been involved with Delta for 27 years serving the church and community. Some of his activities have included Session, Choir, Co-coordinator for Kids Hope USA, church treasurer and although Bob has been working MSU concessions for many years, MSU actually gave his position a title this year: Cash Manager. He enjoys spending time helping with Rotary Club activities. In his spare time Bob enjoys working out, playing golf, babysitting the

grandkids and taking walks with his wife. Welcome Bob to the Deacons.

Art Baker and Pat have been married for 55 years and have 3 sons, 8 grandkids and 5 great kids. He and Pat are Charter Members of Delta Presbyterian. Art has served the Church in almost every capacity including session and almost every committee, including Youth Leaders for over 10 years. In their spare time Art and Pat enjoy traveling and have been to every state and most places in Europe. The Deacons are glad to have Art Baker join them.

Cory McElwee and her husband, Mark, have been married 19 years. They live in DeWitt, Michigan with their

dog Linus, a purebred Sheltie. They have attended Delta Presbyterian Church for 16 years. Cory has been a long-time member of both the Celebration Choir and the Bellievers. Cory is from Vassar, Michigan and she attended Alma College. She currently works for Blue Care Network as a Senior Data Analyst. If she has any spare time outside of work and Delta she enjoys curling (aye), reading, walking and traveling. The Deacons welcome Cory and will be sure to give her a few more things to fill up that spare time.



DEACON SALUTE

New for 2012

Beginning January 4th, our Wednesday noon prayer services will include prayers for different families in the church each week. Over the course of the year, all families will be lifted up in prayer at one of these services. Every month we will list the families we will be praying for and the date in the Ambassador. You are invited to join in praying for them at home if you can't make it to the service. If your family is listed and there is something specific situation in need of

prayer, please let us know in the office and we will be sure to include it in our prayers.

Jan 4, 2012: The Akrights: Jeff and Sandy

The Baczewskis: Mark, Kim, Erick and Evan

Jan 11, 2012: The Bakers: Art and Pat

Dorothy Beardsley

Jan 18, 2012: The Beglins: Sam and Janice

The Benetzettes: Bob, Wendy, Beau, and Zack

Jan 25, 2012: Julie Boedeker
Jean Bradley

You are invited to join us at noon on Wednesdays for a prayer service in the gathering room. The service includes Scripture, music, time for silent reflection, and prayer. It lasts 20-30 minutes. Come join us for a time of renewal in the middle of the week.

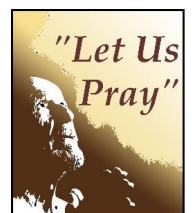


"Let Us Pray"

The deacons and session will be gathering for a retreat on

January 23 & 28. Please pray for this time they spend

in prayer and planning.



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JANUARY 2012
Phone: 517-321-3569
E-mail: deltapres@sbeglobal.net



Delta Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Delta Presbyterian Church is a community of Christians committed to serving God through celebrating God's love in worship; studying God's Word; searching for God's truth and guidance; caring for each other in times of need, sorrow and joy; and, serving others to reflect Christ's example.

—Approved by Session, September 2009

"We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." II Cor 5:20 .

We're on the Web!

www.deltapresby.org

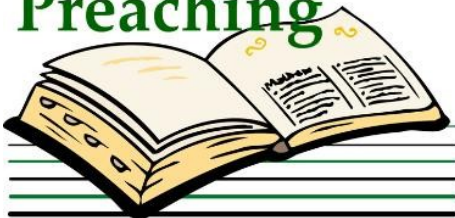


Pledge Update

Pledge Update

Thank you everyone for the prompt return of your 2012 Pledge Cards. To date, we have received \$165,329.50 from 62 pledging units. This is an increase of \$8,333.00 over last years pledges.

Worship and Preaching



January Worship

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Change for Change
Epiphany
Ordination and
Installation
Matthew 2:1-12
Home by Another Way

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Second Sunday after the
Epiphany
Personal Needs Closet
1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51
Known

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Fourth Sunday after the
Epiphany
Wendy will be gone on
this day, so we will have a
guest speaker

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Advent House
Baptism of the Lord
Communion
Mark 1:4-11
Baptized

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Third Sunday after the
Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Mark 1:14-20
Called
