

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

# First Presbyterian News December 2014 & January 2015

Volume 53 No. 5



*Ring the bells that still can ring.  
Forget your perfect offering.  
There's a crack in everything.  
That's how the light gets in.*



I was reminded of these stanzas by Leonard Cohen while reading the ninth book in Louise Penny's wonderful Three Pines mysteries. I could rattle on about Louise Penny's books, or about Leonard Cohen, but as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, I think these lines speak to us.

We are imperfect people, living in an imperfect world, joined in an imperfect church. Our holidays, however we may spend them, will be imperfect. Our families, however they are constituted, are imperfect. And yet, at Christmas we celebrate the coming of the perfect light of God's love, revealed in Christ.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels, the Apostle Paul says. We are all cracked pots, if not downright crackpots. Our hearts have been broken, our dreams of perfection have been shattered. We are all too aware of the ways that others, and we ourselves, have failed to live up to our hopes and expectations.

And yet it is often the very cracks in our armor, the broken places in our hearts, that let in the light of God's love. As we approach the holidays, let us indeed ring the bells that still can ring. Let us celebrate that, however these holidays find us, we can rest in the loving embrace of our church family. And let us open ourselves anew to the light of Christ, shining the darkness that cannot overcome it.

Turning to congregational matters, keep praying for the pastoral nominating committee as it works on the church's Ministry Information Form, and for the session as it works on the 2015 budget. As of this writing, we don't yet have final results of our stewardship campaign, but the returns to date are very encouraging. Thank you for your generous giving! In addition, the session and presbytery's commission on ministry have approved extending my contract as your transitional pastor through June, 2015. I look forward to continuing to minister with you.

On a personal level, my 100-year-old mother, Beth Black Braden, died peacefully on Monday, November 17, at Eastlake Terrace in Elkhart. I was at her side, and she had recently been visited by all her children. I thank you for your prayers and support during these last weeks of her long and well-lived life.

**Poinsettias!** It's that time of year again. Our sanctuary is always so beautiful during the Advent season, all decked out with the Christmas tree, garlands, bows, wreaths, and many gorgeous poinsettias. Please consider donating a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or honor someone or a special event in your life. Regular size are \$10 and extra large are \$15. **Please make sure that you get your order and money to Debra by November 24.** Make the check out to FPC, with "poinsettia" on the memo line. The poinsettias will be purchased on November 29 so they will be ready for the first Sunday in Advent.

The sanctuary will be garlanded, wreaths will be hung and wonderful music will fill the air.

**Advent is here!** Yes, Advent, the first “season” of the church year begins on November 30 and the decorating of the sanctuary will be completed by then. Throughout these weeks until Christmas, we will be telling the story of anticipation through special music, readings while lighting the advent candles and creating the crèche (manger) scene with the beautiful wooden, hand-carved pieces with which we’ve been gifted. It is a season of preparation, looking forward to the of the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with Us. *Come and soak it all in. Refresh your soul. Renew your spirit.*

Come to the “church family” celebration on **Wednesday, December 24 at 7:15 p.m.** as we hear the bells ringing, special music, the choir singing and the traditional candle lighting as we share the light of Christ with each other. *It is not to be missed!*

There will be a brass trio, Alan Camren, Bruce McClure and Dan Rice playing carols in the CE lobby after worship that evening. *Linger and enjoy!*

There will be a **joint Presbyterian worship** on December 28 (Sunday after Christmas) at 10:00 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1501 W. Cleveland Rd., South Bend. Pastor Steve will be preaching and other participants from First Presbyterian, South Bend, Sunnyside Presbyterian, Memorial Presbyterian and Mishawaka, First Presbyterian will take part. It is an opportunity to worship in a different setting, see friends and former members of FPC Mishawaka and to look forward to 2015 with a renewed spirit. Plan to attend and share in worship will fellow Presbyterians in our area.

### News from Presbyterian Woman

Up coming events:

**December** no Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting

**December 6th:** Breakfast with Santa

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty will continue with lesson 4 in December and Lesson 5 in January.

Lesson 4 focuses on 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10 and Paul’s understanding of how the Church as a body of believers continues Christ’s work of healing, reconciliation and love.

*Elizabeth meets on 3rd Monday, at 7:00 p.m. see Mary Ann for more information*

*Ruth meets on 3rd Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. See Teresa for more information*

*Esther meets on 3rd Friday, at 1:30 p.m. see Ida for more information*

Darlene Seufert, Co Moderator



### Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

Welcome to the month of journeys and birthday parties. The children will spend their days preparing for the journey to Bethlehem. They travel far and wide, through the church, looking for the star to lead them to the baby Jesus. After their long travels, they give gifts and have cake to celebrate his birth. It’s an enlightening way to bring the season’s meaning home. Christmas Blessings from the children and staff to all church members. Merry Christmas.



Continuing on the with the green... energy that is!!!

New, brighter, more efficient, longer lasting light bulbs are now emanating their glow on the church Bell Tower. Look up this month, December 24th maybe?, and see our tower in a whole new light.



**Sunday Morning Advent Classes** will start November 30. There is always room for more at the table, one time or for all 4 classes. Please join us after fellowship for an hour of Christian growth.

**Canticle Ringers**

Will continue to practice Wednesday evenings in preparation of the prelude on Christmas Eve. The dates are December 3, 10, and 17 at 7 pm.

If you would like to join us please contact Judy at [mtcgjag@aol.com](mailto:mtcgjag@aol.com). Thank you.



Tai Chi Classes: December the 6th noon to 1 pm Tai Chi for Arthritis  
the 13th 9:30am-10:30am 24 Yang Form 10:45am-11:45am 32 Sword Noon -1pm Tai Chi for Arthritis

**Homecoming Sunday December 7**

On December 7, we are having a special Homecoming service, an Advent event, followed by a luncheon with special entertainment. The Deacons to extend a special invitation to our members and friends to join us for a festive worship and meal.



*Only days until Christmas!* For many of us this statement means decorating a tree, baking goodies, shopping and wrapping gifts and planning parties. For many hardworking families trying to make ends meet, it means finding extra funds to buy gifts or going without. For almost 30 years, the Deacons have been organizing an event to help these families buy gifts and provide much needed clothing for area children.



**Deacon's Christmas Shopping** at JC Penny's will take place **December 13<sup>th</sup>** 8:00 a.m. We are requesting names of 50 children from School City Mishawaka. We need your help with both monetary donations and your time. Money should be in by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> so we know how much money is available to spend. Mark your check "Deacon's Christmas Shopping". We also need about 15 people to help the parents shop. Please sign-up on the Clip Board and plan on meeting us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Penny's @ 7:45 a.m. by the elevators.

**Book Club's** next meeting will be on the **14th of December** at Judy Green's home. We will start at 2 pm and the meeting will last about 1 hour or longer. Our book is The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd, set during slavery south and spans a 35 year relationship, Sarah and Hetty grow-up in many ways. There is always room for one more, so come join us. You can contact Judy at [mtcgjag@aol.com](mailto:mtcgjag@aol.com) or check out the information board in the foyer. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on percent of undesignated receipts to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that workers and their spouses and families. The Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission



**December 21 and Christmas Eve.** Fifty Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the provide support to retired and active church other fifty percent supports colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Agency.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to be used for these important groups of people.

## NEWS FROM MISSION

Presbyterian Women and the Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support and during the Mission Tea. Those in attendance enjoyed great fellowship and a chance to sample several types of tea. A total profit of \$264.40 was split between Presbyterian Women and the Mission Committee. This money will be used for baby bundles, support of Mylene and cisterns in Xpujil, Mexico.

A total of \$425 was received for the Peacemaking Offering. Broadway Christian Parish will receive the 25% that stays in the community, which totals \$106. The remainder will be used for Peacemaking in the world. Special thanks to the congregation for their generosity.

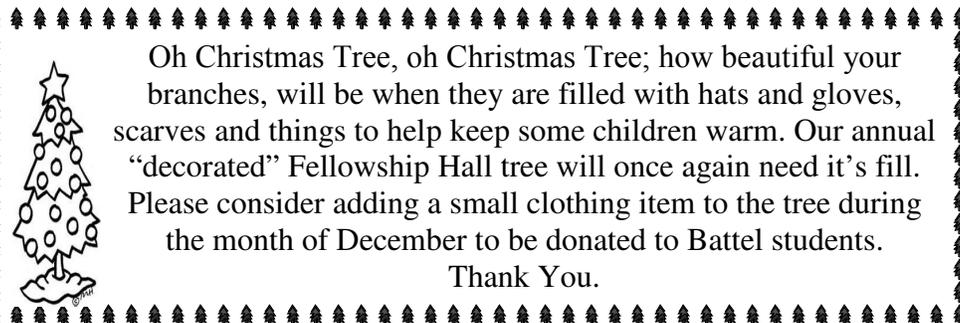
Another thank you for stepping up to the plate to provide Thanksgiving dinner to 14 Battell families that may not have had a reason to be thankful. Because of you they were able to gather around their family table with a delicious hot meal to eat.

**MAC MISHAWAKA ALLIANCE OF CARE**

There are approximately 41 churches in the Mishawaka area. Seventeen of these churches are listed as MAC members. Each congregation is encouraged to send a representative to the monthly MAC meetings and by doing so are kept informed of programs, outreach activities and opportunities to participate in ongoing events throughout the community. The Food Pantry housed at Albright United Methodist Church received the annual award as Outstanding Emergency Pantry this year at the Food Banks Annual Conference held in October. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana sent a "mystery shopper" to 70 pantries within a six county area and reported back to the Food Bank how clients are served using a criteria which included how clients are treated, the amount and quality of food received and whether or not each organization was operating within the compliance with Feeding American and USDA regulations. The "shopper" reported on the interaction with the volunteers, including helping the "shopper" to his vehicle and the loading of his groceries. The Food Pantry Director, Carol Minix, received a framed certificate to be put on display at the Pantry and a \$500 credit from the Food Bank to help stock shelves at the Albright Pantry. During the presentation, Jaime Owen, Food Bank Agency Relations Manager praised the Pantry for its outstanding work in feeding the hungry in the Mishawaka area. Kudos to Carol and the volunteers. Pantry statistics for 2014 to date: 3039 lbs. food (not including monetary or in-kind donations); 2,844 Households; 3,283 Children; 906 Seniors. Community Church of God and Vineyard Church held food drives in October. Miss Pam's Day Care is having a food drive to aid the Pantry Activities at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center: Sponsorship of the Great American Smoke-out in November.

Carol was invited to speak to the congregations at Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Methodist and Coalbush United Methodist recently. A mobile unit is moving throughout the region ready to provide mammograms for un-insured. We are contacting area restaurants and bars to place boxes at their location to collect donations prior to the Souper Bowl Partnering with Health-Linc to set up a program offering health services to the uninsured (the location at the 4-West building near Kindred Hospital on Fourth street) Marilyn Waumans reported meetings with the newly formed Social Services group are continuing. There are fourteen members, representing area entities involved with various levels of counseling services. One focus is the matter of the homeless in Mishawaka. The hope is there can be conversation with city officials in an attempt to seek the best way to address the matter.

Janet Freeman, Mission



Oh Christmas Tree, oh Christmas Tree; how beautiful your branches, will be when they are filled with hats and gloves, scarves and things to help keep some children warm. Our annual "decorated" Fellowship Hall tree will once again need it's fill. Please consider adding a small clothing item to the tree during the month of December to be donated to Battel students.

Thank You.

**Prayer Group**

Meets to unite in prayer weekly. Requests for prayers can be made to



Janet Freeman  
jfree930@aol.com

CHURCH STAFF  
**Transitional Pastor**  
Steve Braden  
 revsbb91@gmail.com  
**Church Secretary**  
**Debra Leonard**  
 Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com  
**Financial Secretary**  
**Joan Horvath**  
 Joanfcpmishawaka@gmail.com  
 Organist Michael Duryea  
 mduryea@nd.edu  
**Custodian Ken Vargo**  
*just give a shout!*

Pastor hours: varied, please check Sunday Bulletin, or call for appointment  
 Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday  
 Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 8 —11:30 a.m.  
 Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com

 mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka  
 P.O. Box 744  
 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744

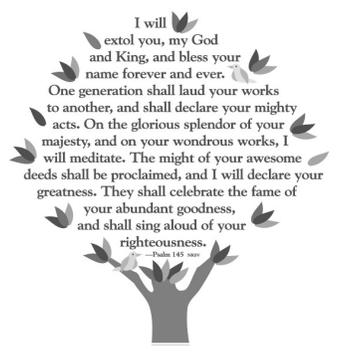
**Newsletter deadline is January 17 at noon.** Please send information for February newsletter to Sue Rice at [suce@aol.com](mailto:suce@aol.com) or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.

**Personnel: Currently, due to budgetary constraints, our church office is closed on Fridays. Some have had concern that the office is closed and a suggestion was made that it could be filled by volunteers. I would like for anyone interested in filling in to email me at [bmacinind@aol.com](mailto:bmacinind@aol.com) Thanks, Bruce McClure**



**Church Officers and Committees**  
**The Session:** Pam Camren, Mary Ann Dentino, John Martz, Stan May, Bruce McClure, Darlene Seufert  
**Board of Deacons:** Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits  
**Facilities and Operations**  
 John Martz, chair (elder)  
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino, Chuck Wukovits  
**Christian Education:** Darlene Seufert  
**Finance:** Stan May, Chair  
**Mission and Evangelism:**  
 Mary Ann Dentino, Chair  
**Nominating:** Dave Sulak, Chair (Elder)  
**Personnel:** Bruce McClure, Chair  
**Presbyterian Women:** Darlene Siefert and Teresa Primmer  
**PWNS Board:** John Rice, Chair  
**Special Gifts:** Sue Rice, acting chair  
**Stewardship:** Ron May, Chair  
**Worship and Music:** Pam Camren, Chair  
**Book Club:** Judy Green  
**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz  
**Scrap Booking:** Brittany Rice

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:**  
 The return of 2015 "Estimate of Giving" cards has begun well. The number of cards returned in the first week was just three less than all of last year. The cards returned indicate strongly increased support and faith in FPC's future. The session will be beginning to budget soon, with an eye toward our future leadership and program. If you have not yet returned a card, won't you please do so this week?



We welcome Dr. Janna McLean, Ph.D., into membership. Janna is Dean of Arts & Sciences and professor of biology at Bethel College, having come from a similar position at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. Besides administrative and teaching duties, she is active in researching *Drosophila melanogaster*, commonly known as the fruit fly. She is an ordained elder, and joins by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, IL. You may see her singing in the choir. She and her husband, John, have two grown sons.



**Annual Reports Due:**  
 Reports; summary and financial are due to church secretary by mid-December.



**December 2014**

Please remember when the preschool is in session to not park in east parking lot. Thank You.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Merry Christmas!	2 Bon Pasco	3 7pm Canticle ringers 	4 Feliz Natal	5 Merry Keshmish	6 Breakfast With Santa 9am noon—1 pm Tai Chi for arthritis
7 <i>Advent</i> communion Ushers: Bill B. & Greg Phillips W.L. Chris Wukovits Crèche: Dan Rice family, Luncheon, Treble Clef concert 4:30 pm	8 Sretan Bozic	9 Joyeux Noel	10  7pm Canticle ringers	11 Milad Majid	12 Rehus Beal Ledcats	13 Deacons shopping 8 am  Tai Chi 9:30 to 1 Westminster Hall
<b>Please sign "Christmas Card at the top of the stairs on your way into the sanctuary.</b>						
14 <i>Advent</i> Ushers: Janet F. & Dick Dentino Worship Leader: Pam Camren Session 11:15 Book Club 2 pm	15  Elizabeth Circle 7 pm	16 annual reports due	17  7pm Canticle ringers	18  Ruth Circle 7 pm	19 Esther Circle 1:30 pm	20 
21 <i>Advent</i> Ushers: Dan B. & John Heritz W.L. John Rice Crèche: Green Family <b>JOY OFFERING</b>	22 All school on winter break  office open	23 office open 	24 <b>JOY OFFERING</b> Office closed @ noon 7:15 pm Bells 7:30 Christmas Eve Service Ushers: Bill B. & Carole P. Worship Leader Pam	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 <i>Joint Worship at Memorial Presbyterian Church</i>	29 office open	30 office open	31 Office closed @ noon	Office Closed  <b>Happy New Year!</b>	Office Closed	

# January 2015 and beyond

## SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for some fellowship and fun at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall and the cost is \$5. I will provide the set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware. Sharing snacks and ideas with each other and catching up on all the things happening in our lives makes this evening go very quickly. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on. I have all the 2015 dates now...so mark your calendar! Remember we meet from **6pm to 11pm**.

### 2015 DATES

No January    February 27<sup>th</sup>    March 27<sup>th</sup>    April 24<sup>th</sup>    May 29<sup>th</sup>    June 26<sup>th</sup>    No July  
August 28<sup>th</sup>    September 25<sup>th</sup>    October 23<sup>rd</sup>    November 20<sup>th</sup>    No December

I look forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice [scrap.brittany@comcast.net](mailto:scrap.brittany@comcast.net)

## News from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



January 10, 2015-Winter Gathering/Carry in Brunch at 10:00 a.m.

PWCT meets at 9:00 a.m.

January 19, 2015-Kitchen Clean Up at 10:00 a.m.

See below for the rest of 2015 PW schedule

We continue with our bible study, Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians by

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. The passage for Lesson 5 is 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:10 where Paul writes about "the new creation".

*Elizabeth meets on 3rd Monday, at 7:00 p.m. see Mary Ann for more information*

*Ruth meets on 3rd Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. See Teresa for more information*

*Esther meets on 3rd Friday, at 1:30 p.m. see Ida for more information*

One Body, One Spirit is the theme for the 2015 *Church Wide Gathering* in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 18-21, 2015. The good news is that Minneapolis is close enough to drive, the better news is this Gathering will be much more affordable. Registration opens January 15, 2015. For more information log onto [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) for more information.

Darlene Seufert, Co Moderator

### 2015 CALENDAR

Feb. 1 PWCT noon

Mar. 14 Joint Circle Mtg. & Bible Study @10:00 a.m. Carry-in Brunch Election of Officers (PWCT 9am)

Apr. 12 Gifts of Women Sunday - Honorary Memberships Birthday Offering Celebration

Apr. 19 -Apr. 22 Basement Sale work days Apr. 23 Basement Sale 9 - 6 p.m.

Apr. 24 Basement Sale 9 - 2 p.m. Apr. 25 Bag sale 10 - noon/Clean up to follow

June 3 Calendar Meeting & Supper @ Church 5:30 p.m.

June 18-21 *Church wide Gathering* in Minneapolis, MN

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\* **Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School**, snow, snowflakes, snowmen, snow cones, snow  
\* angels... that is what will fill the children's January days. Plus, mittens or gloves, boots or  
\* galoshes, hoods or hats, winter or summer, which do you like best? The children will be  
\* making pinecone bird feeders with peanut butter and seed. Maybe you will see one in one of  
\* the church's trees. Thank you for all the soup labels, please keep them coming. Jayne Wurz  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>January</b>				1 <i>Office closed</i>	2 <i>Office closed</i>	3
4 Ushers: Ethan DeMaegd & Dan Bruner Worship Leader: Janna McLean Guest speaker John McLean	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>PWCT 9am PW Winter gathering carry in brunch</i>
11 <i>communion</i> Ushers: Carole Polk & Bill Bellairs Worship Leader: Darlene Seufert Installation of Officers	12	13	14	15 <i>Ruth Circle 7pm</i>	16 <i>Esther circle 1:30</i>	17 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>
18 Ushers: Michael Green & Judy Sulak Worship Leader: Chris Wukovits	19 <i>PW Kitchen clean up Elizabeth Circle 7 pm</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25 Ushers: Greg Phillips & Janet Freeman Congregational Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	31

**HELP FILL THE KETTLE**

Help fill the soup kettles found around the church on Super Bowl Sunday. All food items will be taken to Albright Food Pantry. All items to make soup or cans of soup are welcome. The following items will help you while shopping:

Chicken or beef broth  
Noodles  
Canned tomatoes  
Chili powder  
Macaroni

any type of pasta  
canned vegetables  
crackers  
barley or potatoes  
Ready made canned soup

rice, all kinds  
kidney or red beans  
canned meats  
spaghetti, croutons  
it will all fit....

Use your imagination-anything else you can use to make soup, let's make the kettle overflow!

We started November with All Saint's Day at FPC. The only church member memorialized as having been lost in the past year was Rod MacLean. All remembered loved ones gone from us but gained in heaven.

We ended November with a special celebration of St. Andrew's Day. For those who missed our special celebration with bagpipes, many thanks again to Len Sailor for filling the sanctuary with sweet music. Thank you to Christine Sneddon for special readings, and to special guest pastor Steve Mullin who gave a shout out to the many plaids filling our pews.

A brief history of Andrew, the brother. A guy you would like to have as a brother, was an agile and hardy Galilean fisherman whose name means Strong. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to Andrew and John. They spent time talking to Jesus and then Andrew ran to share the good news with his brother, Peter. "We have found the Messiah" he announced. On St. Andrew's Day, we at First Presbyterian Church, have highlighted this patron saint of Scotland, for almost 40 years now. He was martyred on November 30, 70 A.D. and His body is buried on the eastern coast of Scotland, where now the city and cathedral of St. Andrew's stand. His sign – the St. Andrews Cross – also known as Saltire—shows how he was martyred, dying spread eagle on a cross.

I include the 23rd Psalm— Old Scottish Version.

### The Twenty Third Psalm

The Lord's ma Guide at every turn,  
 He gies me a' I need;  
 He leads me doon beside the burn,  
 Amang the grassy mead.  
 And whiles when I hae lost the track,  
 And some wrang turning take,  
 His tender mercies bring me back,  
 E'en for his ain name's sake.  
 Yea, though He leads me through the land,  
 Where deaths dread shadows be,  
 I'll take His staff into my haun,  
 And that's enough for me.  
 I aye hae met mang frien and foe,  
 Wi' kindness never failin;  
 He gies me mair than I can eat,  
 Ma bicker's fu' and scalin.  
 Guidness and kindness follow me,  
 And mercy leave leave me never;  
 Till I wi Him a dweller be,  
 Forever and forever.



Many thanks to all for their thoughts and prayers during my recent illness and recovery. Dick Dentino

Thanksgiving Baskets filled, 14 of them! A blessing from our church to others so that they might have a dinner to remember this year. Fourteen members delivered the baskets, filled with turkey, potatoes, green beans, rolls, pie and other goodies. Thank You!  
 The Mission Committee

The church "Christmas card" is ready for greetings. Please sign or attach your card to share greetings of the season with your church family.

