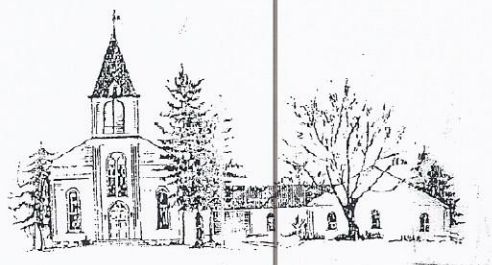


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"Pilgrims"

As I write, it is a week before Thanksgiving and I am thinking about pilgrims. Obviously at this time of year we think about the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony in the early seventeenth century, but pilgrims are actually much older than that. A pilgrim is one who embarks on a journey, usually for spiritual or religious purposes. The word "pilgrim" comes from the Latin "peregrinus" and means "traveler" or "one from abroad." The tradition of traveling to a holy place or to take a journey for spiritual enrichment is an old one and was known in Ancient Egypt, Persia, and Greece as well as India and China. In Jewish tradition there were three annual festivals at which Jews were encouraged to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem: Passover, Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost), and Sukkot (the Feast of Booths). In modern day Islam, of course, every able Muslim is obligated to make a pilgrimage to Mecca sometime in their life.

Christianity also has a long history of pilgrims. Many people from the time of Constantine in the fourth century, up to modern times, have made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in order to see the things that Jesus saw and walk where Jesus walked. Most of you know by now that Erin and I will be spending a couple of weeks in Israel and Palestine in January with a group from Louisville Seminary and we will be able to visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho and Jerusalem. We will visit mosques, pray at the Western Wall, and worship at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (the traditional site of Jesus' burial and resurrection). We will have an opportunity to write a blog as we travel, so those of you who want to follow along can read our daily entries about our pilgrimage (ain't technology great?).

But the most popular pilgrimage since the Early Middle Ages for Christians in Western Europe has not been Jerusalem or Rome, but the town in northern Spain, Santiago de Compostela. Why would that be? One of the reasons must be ease of travel, that it was easier to go the relatively few miles to northern Spain than to travel all the way to Jerusalem. But what did this town have to offer? The name "Santiago" is from the Latin "Sanctu Iacobi"—Saint James. This town is the legendary home of the remains of St. James the apostle, brother of Saint John. Tradition says that James traveled to Spain and proclaimed the good news in the years after Jesus' resurrection. After receiving a vision from the Virgin Mary, he traveled back to Jerusalem where he was beheaded in 44 A.D. His bones were then gathered by his followers and taken back to Spain where they eventually were buried in Compostela. St. James is now the patron saint of Spain. So many people have traveled here through the centuries that there is a "Way of St. James," a foot path for pilgrims stretching 500 miles from the mountains of France ending at the Cathedral of Santiago. After we are in Israel, Erin and I will take an extra few days and drive (no 500 mile hike for me yet) from Madrid to Santiago.

We all are pilgrims on a journey. Erin and I are privileged to walk in the footsteps of so many pilgrims before us to travel to the Holy Land and to Santiago. I know it will be a spiritual journey as well as a physical one. Thanks to all of you who have made this pilgrimage possible. I look forward to sharing it all with you as we travel and when we get back.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

2014 Greeter

Usher

Coffee

4 people for the same month

| | | | | |
|------|----|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan. | 5 | Barts | | Alexander, Brignall |
| | 12 | Field | Inman | MacRitchie, Bryant |
| | 19 | J & G Gibson | Saddler | Mandrell, Carpenter |
| | 26 | D & G Gross | A. Steele | Bryer, Cazer |
| Feb. | 2 | Howard | Langshaw | Butler, Simon |
| | 9 | Scouts | Carrington | Calkins, Kleis |
| | 16 | Knibloe | Crenshaw | Mack, Curtis |
| | 23 | Muss | | Deater, Juodawlakis |
| Mar. | 2 | Teall | | Fiordalis, Larson |
| | 9 | Schaadt | Kreinbring | D & J Fisher, Romyak |
| | 16 | Slezak | Knox | M & D Fisher, Gray |
| | 23 | Sorrell | | R & A Gross, Trautman |
| | 30 | Hubbard | | Greve, Rothenberg |
| Apr. | 6 | Gauthier | Polzin | LaLonde, Monk |
| | 13 | Hodgson | Brundage | Becker, Carlson |
| | 20 | Stasevich | Barton | Wank, Webb |
| | 27 | Steely | | E & M Davis, Weigel |
| May | 4 | Gay | | Wright, Young |
| | 11 | Mandrell | Stafford | Hart, Youse |
| | 18 | MacRitchie | Irey | Hittle, Muss |
| | 25 | Larson | | Barts, Newell |
| June | 1 | Deater | | Meitz, Lebiecki |
| | 8 | McConnell | Luscombe | Lindenberg, Nott |
| | 15 | Steele | Leiter | Alman, Bakker |
| | 22 | Lynch | Coverly | Fonger, Hutchinson |
| | 29 | Noall | | B & B Jones, Kubiak |
| July | 6 | Bakker | Hubbard | Lynch, Noall |
| | 13 | B & B Jones | Nash | Rhodes, Stegink |
| | 20 | Martin | <u>1 VOLUNTEER</u> | Ruser, Thorne |
| | 27 | Fonger | | Spengler, Howard |
| Aug. | 3 | F & P Davis | | R, J, A, & J Steele |
| | 10 | Stegink | Wright | B & T Jones, J. Odar |
| | 17 | Thorne | Stubbs | Kendall, Petersen |
| | 24 | Ruser | <u>1 VOLUNTEER</u> | Knibloe, Carisalez |
| | 31 | Spengler | | Pollock, Croasdale |

continued...

Please note that we are still looking for only 4 more ushers to fill out the year! Thank you for thinking about doing this!

Also please note that I have run out of names to put down for coffee! I don't want to ask people to double up on coffee duty, so I'd appreciate volunteers for those dates with question marks. Thank you to everyone who's stepped up to ushering and helping me!

Julie

continued....

2014

Greeter

Usher

Coffee

Sep. 7 Alexander
14 Brignall
21 Bryant
28 Bryer

Clawson
Dishon
T. Vantine

Schaadt, ???????
Keusch, ???????
Slezak, ???????
Sorrrell, ???????

Wright's

Oct. 5 Lovequist
12 Calkins
19 Carpenter
26 Becker

3 Carahaly's
D. Odar

Stasevich, ???????
Stafford, ??????? *COVERLY*
Steely, ???????
Sunden, ???????

Nov. 2 Curtis
9 E & M Davis
16 Fiordalis
23 Hooks
30 Alspach

T & V Osborne
Hart

Sutherland, Brundage, Barton
C & J Gibson, ???????
Urban, ???????
Hubbard, ???????
Lovequist, ???????

Dec. 7 Keusch
14 Petersen
21 Butler
28 Remley

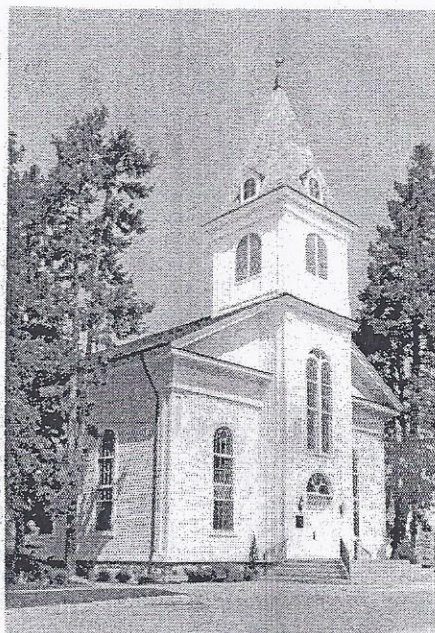
Dwoinen
Mandrell
2 VOLUNTEER

Willemstyn, ???????
Williams, ???????
Wittwer, ???????
Wynsma, ???????

(24) VOLUNTEER

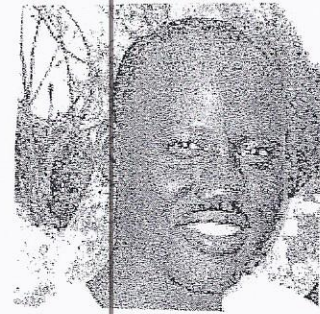
5-6 VOLUNTEERS

Remember to keep this list of names throughout the year so
that if you are not able to fulfill your assigned responsibility, you can call
someone from the list to trade with, and then just let Julie know. Thanks!
ALSO, THIS LIST WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE ~ www.fpcrich.com
and on the bulletin board above the water fountains.



Missions

DENG ~ The latest email he sent to Mary Lou Cazers



email from Deng Thon Alier (a.k.a. Samuel) on 11-24-2013

Hi,

I have been in Bor since Saturday of last week and I did not have an access to internet. I came to Werkok yesterday (Saturday.)

I am still working on my job search. I have not heard anything yet from the places I have applied and I want you to keep praying for my job search.

Furthermore, I have been sick with flu for two days but I am now getting better. I am taking four different types of medications (amoxicillin, paracetamol, priton, and Vitamin C).

The security in Bor County is now stable. I will return to Bor on Tuesday.

Thank you and happy Thanksgiving

Deng

Our GIFT GIVING Tree is back!!

The Mission Committee is working with Family and Children's Services once again!

One local family has been adopted by our church
to provide a Christmas they otherwise would not have.

Please stop by the Gift Giving Tree in the Gull Prairie Room and select a tag or two, or more!

Enjoy your shopping trip, wrap the gifts and put the name of the recipient on the package.

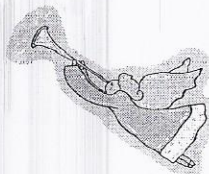
We will also be gifting food items for their Christmas dinner.

They are vegetarians, so no meat!

Please return the gifts and the food to the church by noon on December 15th.

We'll be delivering everything on the 17th.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THIS FAMILY HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!!



Whence Comes This Rush of Wings?
(Listen for the Angels Singing)

For all of you who love the music of Christmas, and who doesn't, here are my personal recommendations.

First and foremost, do not miss the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, in Cambridge, England. This service is so beautiful and so famous that people stand in line day and night for several days just to get into the chapel to hear it. The fact that it is broadcast live all over the world on Christmas Eve further underscores its importance.

The King's College Choir of men and boys is widely recognized as one of the very finest choirs in the world. The college staff, townfolk of Cambridge, and the chapel clergy and choristers take part in reading the lessons from the Bible (the King James version, of course) and the choir sings the carols. Naturally, the large congregation sings several additional carols. All of this takes place in the 15th century chapel on the grounds of King's College. It is long and narrow and its vaulted ceiling seems almost to get lost in the heights, all of which make for thrilling acoustics. The service begins at 3 p.m. in Cambridge, which means it comes on here live at 10 a.m. on Christmas Eve. Last year WMUK-FM, Western Michigan University's radio station in Kalamazoo, carried the program locally (102.1 FM); but they have been sporadic in offering it. You can always find it on Michigan State University's station, WKAR-FM at 90.5 FM. Same time; 10 a.m.

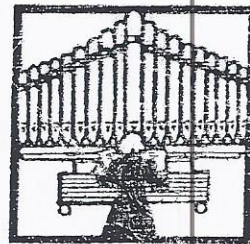
Offering #2:

New this year is a program titled "Christmas in Norway" by the premier U.S. St. Olaf Choir, a college choir in which our own longtime member Chuck Farho once sang. "Christmas in Norway" was filmed at Norway's Trondheim Cathedral. PBS will broadcast this program during Christmas. Check the local listings for dates and times. Obviously, I haven't seen it, but knowing the St. Olaf Choir, you won't be disappointed.

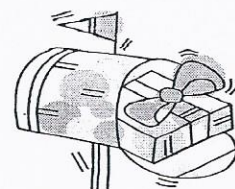
So, how about us? As I think you know by now, I've been working at enhancing and expanding the music of this church over the past few years and some of these musicians will join us on Christmas Eve. But first, throughout Advent, you will hear inspiring offerings of music from our choir and organ. Then, on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. service we will host a brass quartet to put an extra shine on the radiance of this ineffable night. In addition, Kenneth Young, from New York City's Metropolitan Opera will once again join us in this always richly special celebration of the birth of Jesus.

All of this is deep spiritual food, my friends. Come taste and see; the banquet will be ready.

May God grant you a blessed Christmas.



December Birthdays



1 Andrew Fiordalis
 1 Joseph Juodawlkis
 1 Jana Turpin
 2 Brian Schaadt
 2 Casey Sunden
 3 Brandon Delf
 3 Katie Venner
 4 Grant Slezak
 7 Josh Weigel
 8 Kay Hodgson
 8 Kevin King
 8 Jean Kubiak
 8 Carson Miller
 9 Nancy Hess
 9 Matt Reinhardt
 9 Alanna Wyckoff
 10 Kendall Jennings
 10 Kathleen Rothenberg
 11 Gordon Mahieu
 11 Jane Morrow
 11 Lindsey Scribner
 11 Holly Scribner
 14 Mara Cazars
 14 Ron Martens
 14 Evan Odar
 14 David Snyder
 15 Sarah Myland
 15 Lars Ruser

16 Marty Rench
 16 Harry Stolt
 18 Jarred Barts
 18 Pam Moseley
 19 Nathan Brundage
 19 Hoyt Fonger
 20 Cathy Layson
 20 Michael Wright
 21 Ashleigh Webb
 22 Mike Juodawlkis
 22 Laura Monk
 22 Julie Pixley
 23 David MacQuarrie
 24 Jake Larson
 24 Jeni Steele
 25 Jan Petersen
 26 Jennifer Stupica
 27 Amy Juodawlkis
 29 Laurie Alexander
 29 Karen Urban
 29 Nancy Woods
 30 Ashlee Connell
 30 Maggie MacRitchie
 30 Chad Storer
 31 Eric Bryer
 31 Jan Fisher
 31 Kay Polzin
 31 Arlene Kuizema



and Anniversaries



1 Ed and Marilyn Davis ~ 24 years
 6 Holly and Brian Scribner ~ 22
 16 Larry and Kay Irey ~ 46
 18 Lib and Jerry Wittwer ~ 48

21 Liz and Allen Matthews ~ 11
 27 Kay Gross and Gary Mittelbach ~ 38
 27 Julie and Matt Pausch ~ 27
 29 John and Kay Polzin ~ 57

29 Chuck and Joyce Farho ~ 9

