

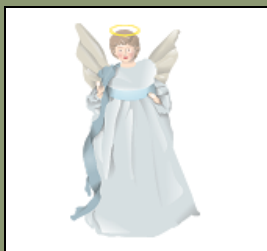
December  
2010

# Tolono Pres News



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**If you or someone you know would like a visit from a Deacon or the Pastor, please contact Rev. Kerry Bean at either 485-3725 or 485-5263.**

First Presbyterian Church (USA)

104 E. Vine Street Tolono, IL 61880 (217) 485-3725

## Advent Worshipers Begin December 1st



Advent begins this year on Sunday 11/28. And once again this Advent, First PC-Tolono will be providing special **Advent worshipers**. These worship services will all be based on the theme of "expectant waiting for Christ's coming."

**The services will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning 12/1.**

Each service will last

around 30 minutes, and will feature lots of prayers and time for reflection. Simple contemplative music will also be provided.

A short message on the theme may be included, as well.

Kerry envisions these worshipers as a time for folks to be still and rest in the midst of one of the busiest times of the year.

The sanctuary will be

bathed in candlelight as we prepare for the arrival of Christmas and also beckon Christ to return again in glory.

Please carve out these times on your holiday calendar to refresh your spirit.

If you have any questions about the services, please contact Kerry at 485-5263 (manse) or leave a message at the church office: 485-3725.

## Pastor's Page

Advent is all about waiting. Now, many of us despise waiting. We spend five minutes in line at a fast food restaurant and we begin to lose our patience.

But consider the people of Jesus' time. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the people of his country and of his faith had been waiting for the Messiah to come for *hundreds* of years. They were waiting for the realm of the great King David- when Israel and Judah were among the richest and most powerful countries in the world- to be restored.

But when Jesus came and

## Waiting for Wonderful Things...

lived among us, he was much more interested in announcing that the Kingdom of God was now at hand. One of the great lessons of the Christmas season is that the Messiah has come and has founded the kingdom in which we live.

But it is one of our responsibilities as today's followers of Christ to help bring the kingdom into plainer view. Since Jesus is the Prince of Peace, then we are to be peace-makers. Since Jesus is a prophet, then we too are called to work of justice

and speak out at injustice. And on it goes...

Advent is also about waiting for something else that is wonderful about Christ: his Second Coming! The scriptures speak of the night being far gone and dawn about to break. And even though not even Jesus himself knew the exact time, Christians have always been instructed to live as if this moment may be the moment of Christ's glorious return.

So come to church this Advent and get ready for Wonderful things to come. What are you waiting for?

-Kerry



## The Prayer Group for Church Mission and Evangelism Continues to Meet

*Is Generating Ideas for Future Directions for our Church's Ministries and Community Outreach*

*“Joy to the world!  
The Lord is  
come! Let earth  
receive her  
King!”*



What you can be praying for at home:

- Our church and its current ministries and missions
- Our leaders, like the Elders and Deacons
- Our community and the people searching for a deeper connection with God...

About twice a month the small group with the big formal name (“The Prayer Group for Church Mission and Evangelism”) continues to meet at the manse. We meet to pray and to reflect and sometimes we even brainstorm ideas.

We are still using the fantastic resource *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reece as the springboard for our conversations. It is Reece who contends that any effective effort by a church to reach out to the community around it must begin with prayer- and is sustained by prayer. So we meet and pray for direction from God.

Over the weeks, some things have begun to take

shape. The group believes that our church is being called to practice a form of unconditional love that reflects the unconditional love that God extends to us. What that means in its fullest extent is yet to be seen, but it’s easy to imagine visitors walking into a worship space on Sunday mornings feeling genuinely welcomed and comfortable and at home.

In our last meeting we talked about creating more opportunities for fellowship. We mentioned providing opportunities for parents to drop the kids off at the church with child-care providers for a couple of hours and having a relaxed dinner or even go bowling!

We are praying for discernment, too. We especially are looking for some divine guidance to figure out how to let the people of our community know that God’s love- and the Gospel of Jesus Christ- is for them. There are so many people who are looking for acceptance and meaning in their lives. They are looking for God but never think to look in the church. We want to help folks bridge that gap...

I envision that over the next few months the Prayer Group will be bringing some of its ideas and inspirations to the session and to the congregation. But there is no definite time table. Check the calendar in this newsletter and join us for the next meeting!

## Christmas Eve Service -12/24

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Friday. Our traditional Christmas Eve Service will be held in the sanctuary at **5:00pm**.

All the traditional elements like candles and carols and beautiful liturgy will be included.

Please plan on joining us. And please join us for our regular Sunday worship on December 26<sup>th</sup>!



### Deacons' Prayer List

- All the people who are lonely through the holidays, may they find someone to help.
- All those who are ill or facing surgery, may they find healing.
- All those in harm's way, may they find strength and courage.
- All those travelling, may they have safe journeys.

## Session Meeting Highlights: November 2010

Our session met on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> after worship. It was an abbreviated meeting. Here are some of the highlights of their discussions:

Advent services will be held on Wednesdays in December at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Bean will also lead the Tolono Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

### Clerk's Report

Clerk Schweighart advised that she did research on line regarding retractable screens for the sanctuary,

and will look into having a representative come to the church.

### Committee Reports

A. C.E. – WYN will wrap up on November 17, 2010.

B. Worship – **Had communion Nov 7, 2010.**

C. Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Wilson will schedule a work day in the future, and he and Rev. Bean will also schedule a meeting.

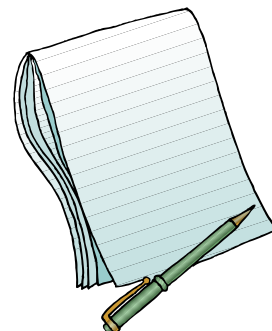
D. Membership: Chris, Tracy, and Rev. Bean met regarding the current membership list. Decisions were made on who would receive letters inquiring as to their

membership status. Rev. Bean devised a letter, which Tracy and Chris will send to the appropriate members.

E. Treasurer/Finance: Chris will assist with the QuickBooks program to show the FICA that has been paid. The financial reports were approved.

F. Farm Report: The lease is up in January of 2011. It was approved that the rate would remain the same for the next year (\$275/acre).

The next Session Meeting is 12/14 at 7:00pm



### Our Deacons:

Linda Smith  
Betty Pacquin  
Jeff Fisher

## Financial Information: Overview of Oct. 2010 report

Here is a snapshot of the church's finances as of October 31, 2010. The report was compiled by Staci Kamradt and Tracy Wilson, the church treasurer.

In October, the month's income was \$7,553.

On the expense side of the ledger, total expenses for September were \$8,421. So for the month we received \$868 less than we spent. There were expenses associated with the Mystery Dinner Theater of about \$850. (Session decided to give all the ticket proceeds

directly to PTYG.) Other than that, no unusual expenses occurred during the month.

Turning our attention to the Year to Date figures:

Income YTD is \$103,390, which is \$5,500 above budget.

Expenses YTD: Our 2010 budget calls for expenses of \$95,284 by 10/31. Our actual expenses are approx. \$98,428. In other words, we stand \$3,200 over budget.

So if we take a quick look at the math:

**YTD Income: \$ 103,390**

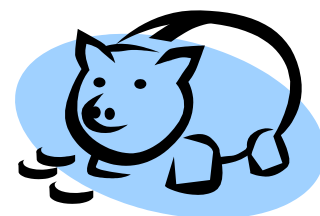
**Minus**

**YTD Expense: \$98,428**

**Total YTD: \$ 4,862**

This information shows us that we have a solid, accurate budget and that we are operating within our means. Session will be presenting the 2011 budget FYI at the Annual Meeting in January.

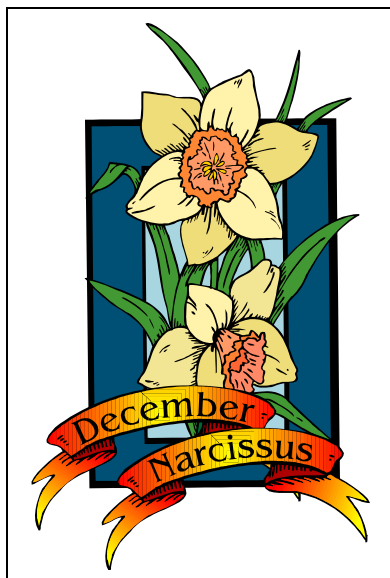
We continue to do well in the midst of challenging financial times. Thanks again to all of you who continue to generously support the mission and ministries of our church!



### Session Members

Chris Schweighart, Clerk  
Susie Fisher, CE  
Gary Fisher, Grounds  
Jeannette Hulick, Worship  
Jim Wilson, Grounds  
Tracy Wilson, Finance  
Rev. Kerry Bean, Pastor

**Church Calendar**



Sunday	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wed. 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
5 9:15 am Adult Sun. School 10:30am – Communion 3pm New Members Class PTYG Mtg. 2p	6	7	8 Advent Service 6:30pm	9	10	11
12 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Stewardship Sunday	13 Prayer Group at Manse 7pm	14 Quilting Session 7pm	15 Advent Service 6:30pm	16	17	18
19 9:15am Adult Sun. School 10:30am	20 11:30am Friends of Ch. Buffet Lunch	21	22 Advent Worship 6:30pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm	25 Christmas Day
26 10:30am Worship	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day

**December Lay Leaders**

Linda Smith- 12/5

Tracy Wilson- 12/12

Jeri Brooks- 12/19

Cary Woolard – 12/26



**Nov. Birthdays and Anniversaries**

12/1 Jamie Evans

12/1 Josh Hawn

12/11 Lindsay Brooks

12/17 Celeste Taylor

12/22 Rose Appl

12/25 Marvin and Dorothy Little

12/27 Jay and Beth Rogers

**Kerry's Vacation**

Kerry will be on vacation from Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> (after worship) until Wednesday January 5<sup>th</sup>. He is going with his family to visit Cindy's parents in Florida. (He will send warm thoughts back this way...)



More Happenings In the Church

Presbytery Report

Presbytery met on Nov 18 in Effingham. We considered the Belhar Confession and after a short workshop in listening and the ways we avoid listening we broke into small groups for discussion. Some groups thought we didn't need a new confession of any kind, others thought we didn't need this one as it emphasizes unity especially racial and cultural unity in the church but my group thought it was a good idea and we liked the inclusiveness of it. Presbytery as a whole will vote on it at the next meeting I believe.

After brief discussion of the constitutional amendments, the group voted them down - all no votes.

After installing the new Moderator, the meeting adjourned.

Mission Giving to Pine Ridge Reservation and Operation Christmas Child

Mission committee shipped six boxes of clothing to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation this week - that's 59+ pounds of coats, hats, boots, scarves and mittens among other items. Huge thank you to all who contributed.

WYN kids packed 36 shoeboxes with toys, soap and toothbrushes, candy and a handmade woven heart ornament to be shipped all over the world and share the love of Christ

New Members Class – Sunday 12/5 at 3:00pm

Kerry will be teaching a new members class on **Sunday 12/5 from 3pm-5:30pm at the manse.** This class is designed for folks interested in joining the church and for members who just want to brush up on their understanding of what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian today here in Tolono.

We'll be going over three or four broad areas: the history of the Christian faith from bible times to today, the importance of the scriptures and ways of learning about God (and ourselves!) through the bible, what makes the Presbyterian Church (USA) a distinct and special denomination, and what are the missions and ministries of our congregation here at First Presbyterian Church of Tolono.

You don't need to bring anything except your questions and an appetite for cookies and refreshments. Bibles and other learning materials will be provided.



Word Search Clues- Page 6

away in a manger	jingle bells	silver bells
bring a torch	joy to the world	sleigh bells ring
carol of the bells	let it snow	the first noel
chestnuts roasting	linus and lucy	up on the housetop
christmas medley	morning star	we three kings
coventry carol	oh christmas tree	what child is this
deck the halls	oh holy night	white christmas
drummer boy	oh how joyfully	winter wonderland
frosty the snowman	silent night	
jingle bell rock	silver and gold	



## First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Kerry Bean,  
Designated Pastor



We're on the Web!

See us at:

[tolonopresbyterian.org](http://tolonopresbyterian.org)

## Christmas Carols Word Search

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally

in all eight directions. Words may overlap but do not share letters. Clues on p. 5

f g r l e o n t s r i f e h t s i l e n t n i g h t g c  
p c g n w r q j i n g l e b e l l s q p t d y r c c l g  
t r m j s l l a h e h t k c e d k r r b k r r r o n n l  
r n k p n t w c a r o l o f t h e b e l l s h v x m n q  
k t t n v z z q t m k w l d c k b n h f m w e y g n d k  
d r a t s g n i n r o m g t j g f c c h v n n h g d v h  
q k x q h e r l b h t h t r y t r p s l t k a f n l f z  
n l j l g v e j r n v n p l n o j a l r r h m j f r r r  
t f n m r x w r t f h d l n t b m x y b e g w k c r q b  
b r k x s g n p t m m u q a t t g c t w g p o v c n f j  
l k g y l i k t p s f l g g s k a c p r n r n d h g l s  
c f k k o j l l b y a n q i g r x k t m a m s n r q e i  
y h k x r b p v o l i m r p o w c f s h m h e a i r t h  
u r e n y m r j e r k h t l k o v l f k a f h l s m i t  
t p t s l k w e b r c j l s r q e k v k n f t r t k t s  
h l o m t o s h m e a p o l i i t k h x i d y e m s s i  
g v f n h n p g t m c n l y g r l g n p y k t d a i n d  
i t l h t j u i n t u e d h t i h t n r a t s n s l o l  
n k o w k h h t l i b r b g n o n c x m w p o o m v w i  
y t c w p w e r s e k e d u o m t m h n a q r w e e c h  
l r v n l c x h l r l e s p p l p h k o x v f r d r v c  
o r x k f c k g o l o a e f d t d y e j l w l e l b b t  
h m f v l t n x s u n a r r z w j m d w x n z t e e t a  
h d c n h i m r c d s z s r h d k p c t o l n n y l f h  
o t l c j r i z l r r e c t n t c k l g l r r i k l d w  
y h k z x n v u r c b t t t i v e j r w r b l w t s c v  
p n k q g v c n m f m t m o q n z w r f j f z d p h f t  
r l x r d y c h m v y f d y p t g l l r k k k m t m b n

[www.puzzle-club.com/word-search-puzzles](http://www.puzzle-club.com/word-search-puzzles)

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