



First Things

First Presbyterian Church of Akron

January 2012, Issue 119

Dear Members and Friends of First Church:

As the old year was winding down, I met with a friend at a local McDonald's restaurant for our monthly get-together to share and pray. He handed me a copy of the Saturday/Sunday, December 10-11, 2011 **The Wall Street Journal**. It was the front page of the REVIEW section and the caption read: ***God's Quarterback, The Tim Tebow Phenomenon*** by Patton Dodd. I am sure, like some of you, you have been watching the story emerge about the second year quarterback of the Denver Broncos who (I had begun writing this article December 15) has now won 7 of his last 8 games as a starter and continues to bring his team back in the fourth quarter to win. And he keeps doing it time and time again.

Tim Tebow has become, in some people's eyes, one of the most polarizing professional athletes for two reasons (maybe there are more but these are my two): one, he is said to have poor mechanics as a passer and might not ever get it together in this area and two, he is not shy about sharing his faith in Jesus Christ. And by the way, while at the University of Florida he won the Heisman Trophy and helped lead the "Gators" to two national championships (not bad for a guy who can't throw the ball like the former Denver Bronco Hall of Fame quarterback- John Elway). The son of missionary parents to the Philippines he is known for spending his summers helping the poor and needy in that country as well as speaking in prisons in this country about his faith in Christ.

The now head football coach of Ohio State and Tim's coach at the University of Florida, Urban Meyer, said that Tim's "philanthropic efforts reshaped the campus culture, and for a time, volunteering became fashionable." In his senior year of college, the powder-puff football tournament that he launched, with the help of the university's sororities and fraternities, raised \$340,000 for charity.

What caught my eye, when reading the article, was something Patton wrote that I bring to your attention: "A public figure's seemingly admirable character throws us. We don't know how to trust goodness. And who can blame us? We don't want to be fooled again." "We don't know how to trust goodness..." And I ask, why not? Have we come this far, or shall I say this low as a society that when someone comes along who is trying to live the moral, Godly life we don't hesitate to ask, "so



when is Tim going to mess up, or do something stupid?” So instead of celebrating someone who truly loves the Lord and football, we keep waiting for the shoe to drop instead of seeing him as a modern day example of how to “love the Lord [our] God with all [our hearts], and with all [our] strength, and will all [our minds].” Why not trust goodness that only comes from God and instead of questioning someone who truly seeks to serve the Lord let’s embrace it and try to model our lives in a similar fashion. After all, didn’t Jesus command us right before His ascension to be His “witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth?” How better to be His witnesses not only through our words but through our actions.

I don’t know, maybe it is because I am in the Christmas spirit as I write this letter that I want to think positively and thank Tim Tebow for being a godly role model not only for the youth of today, but for us adults.

Oh, a news flash- I finished my writing on Monday, December 19, a day after Tim Tebow wasn’t able to bring his team back in the fourth quarter against the New England Patriots yesterday. So he has his second lose. But I am sure that during the game he competed hard and after the game in the press interview he thanked God and he reminded us all that it’s just a game.

Have a blessed New Year and I pray I see U in CH_RCH.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN JANUARY

TRADITIONS
(Traditional Service -9:00 a.m.)

FLOOD
(Modern Service – 11:15 p.m.)

Come and join us for worship in January as we will be looking at Paul’s letter to the church at Galatia as we will be **“LEARNING FROM THE GALATIANS.”**

JANUARY COMMUNION

Traditionally, Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Due to the first Sunday being New Year’s Day, even though we will have both services, we are changing the date to Sunday, January 8th.



Session Highlights

DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session approved (Christian Growth & Development) that \$360.00 from undesignated memorials be used to pay for background checks for those working with children in the church- Sunday School, Nursery, Children in Worship, Flood4Kids, Youth Group, etc. (the cost is \$15 per person).
- The Session approved to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 19, 2012 at 12:20 p.m. following the Flood worship service in Fellowship Hall. (The youth group will sponsor a fund raiser luncheon prior to the meeting.)

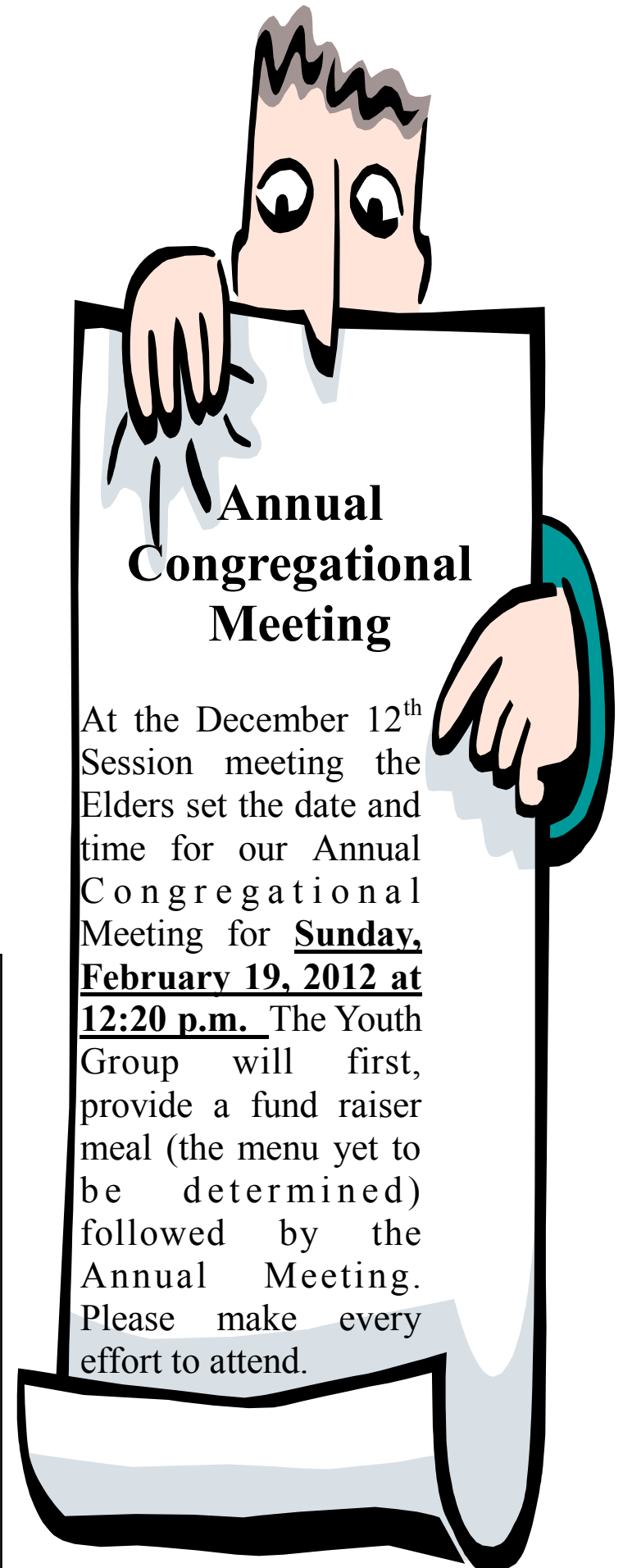
Nursery\Preschool Teachers Needed

Do you want to change a life of a child in a positive way? Are you good at holding babies and playing with toddlers? We are in desperate need of two more people who would be willing to work in the nursery on a rotational basis. You will be able to attend one of the two services. Please see Ann McCord if you are interested.



Annual Congregational Meeting

At the December 12th Session meeting the Elders set the date and time for our Annual Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 12:20 p.m.** The Youth Group will first, provide a fund raiser meal (the menu yet to be determined) followed by the Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

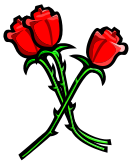


Youth Group News

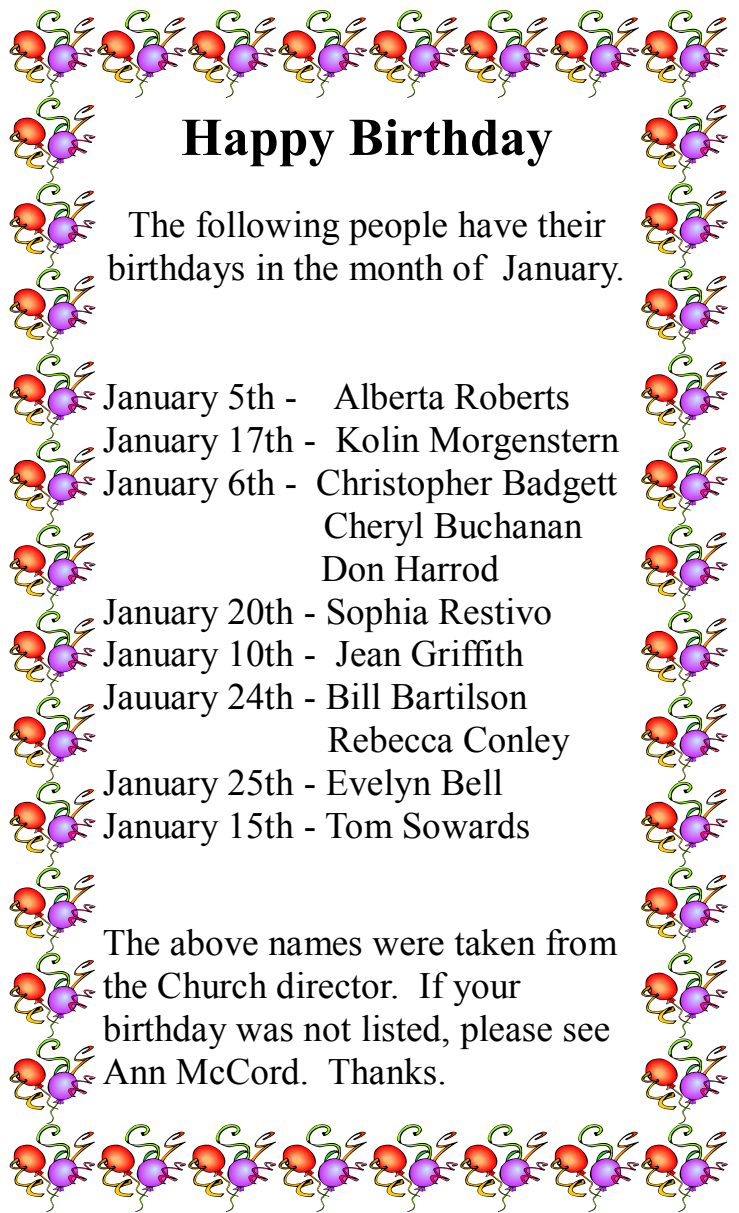
- Akron/Canton Save Around Coupon Books are available for \$20. \$3,700 in Value. Proceeds go to the youth mission fund. You can get this in the main office.
- January. 13-15 Annual Winter Retreat at the Comfort Inn in Bellville, OH. Our theme this year will be "You Are What You Eat." We are joining up with Arlington Memorial Baptist Church & Akron Bible Church. [Register](#) by Jan. 4th.



With Sympathy



Thank you to everyone who donated items to Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry. Because of you, we were able to fill 38 shoeboxes full of toys, socks, hygiene products and school supplies to be sent to children all over the world. Your unselfish act of donating will definitely bless the children who receive out boxes. Please continue to pray for those who will be receiving the shoe boxes. Once I figure out where our boxes went, I will let you know.



Happy Birthday

The following people have their birthdays in the month of January.

January 5th - Alberta Roberts

January 17th - Kolin Morgenstern

January 6th - Christopher Badgett

Cheryl Buchanan

Don Harrod

January 20th - Sophia Restivo

January 10th - Jean Griffith

January 24th - Bill Bartilson

Rebecca Conley

January 25th - Evelyn Bell

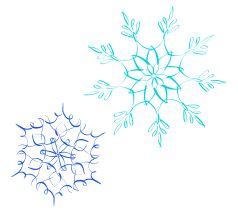
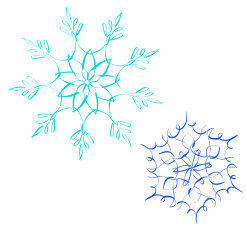
January 15th - Tom Sowards

The above names were taken from the Church director. If your birthday was not listed, please see Ann McCord. Thanks.

FIRST CHURCH RECEIVES A GRANT

We are pleased to announce that the church has received a grant from the Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust for our Food Pantry program that serves the Middlebury neighborhood. We are grateful to the Committee of Trust Advisors who has blessed us with this generous gift.





Bible Studies/ Fellowship time

Tuesday Club

Tuesday Club will not meet until April.

Presbyterian Women's Circle

Waiting for

Evening Circle

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday Morning, 6:30 am. Contact Roy Davis for more information.

Thursday Morning, 6:30 am. Contact Tony Miller for more information.

WNG

"They that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength... They shall mount up with wings as eagles..." Isaiah 40:31

Women of the church are invited to participate in the Wednesday Night Intergenerational Caring Group at 7:00 pm. Please see Pat Franklin for meeting locations.

1st and 3rd Bible Review

1st and 3rd Bible Review will not be meeting during the month of January.



Prayer Concerns

Remember to pray for our government leaders.

Pray for our military: Robert Welch - Marines, Chris Welch - Air Force, Mike Evarts - Army, Adam Philips - Army, Matthew Harris - Army, George Keebler - Navy, Paul Jones - Air Force, Dan Stahl - Coast Guard

Please continue to pray for: George Chima, Jim Warner, Mary Loudin, Pam Oldham, Jeanne Huber, Baby Mia Wilson and the Wilson and Weaver families, Liz Yako, Irene Imely, Phyllis Hillebrand, Arnold Ruppert, Jan Tregoning, Rev. Bill and Esther Clark, David Starkey, Meg Davis, Cindy Bell, Countries that are experiencing political and social unrest. The recent shooting in the city of Akron - 9 shot, 6 died, The earthquake victims in Japan.

First Presbyterian Church
647 E. Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44304 -1684

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

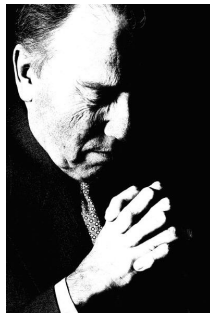
Phone 330-434-5183
E Mail: akronfpc@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: www.akronfpc.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Akron, Ohio
Permit NO. 232

As a caring Christian community, First Presbyterian Church welcomes all people as we proclaim, witness and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and service.

JANUARY PRAYER GATHERING

Start off the New Year by committing yourself to a time of daily prayer and joining with others at the church for prayer. Due to the New Year holiday we will not be meeting on the usual day, the first Monday of the month, but rather later the first week on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.. So come to the Parlor and join others as we start off the New Year praying as a community of faith.



Plain English:

You are in the driver's seat but God is holding the map!

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday School begins at 9:50 a.m.
Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.
Flood Service 11:15 a.m.

Mark T. Ruppert - Pastor

Rev. Harry B. Van Fleet - Pastor Emeritus

Ryan Lawrence - Director of Youth Ministry

Charles Kobb II - Director of Music Ministry

Ann McCord - Director of Christian Education
First Things Editor

Judy Bailey - Church Secretary

Carin LeSeur - Flood Worship Coordinator
New Church Development Director

Heidi Guttermuth - Organist

Sandy Schafer, Tim Dzoch and Amy Sandy - Sextons