



First Presbyterian Church of Perryville
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Stamp

Spreading the Good News

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

**Annual Meeting:
January 27**

Address Label

Address Correction Requested

Just Keep Pedaling, cont.

The Spirit whispers, "Come on, I'll teach you. I'll show you how to use momentum to get where God wants you to go." The Spirit knows we have what it takes to keep upright once we've shoved ahead. Yes, there are lots of wobbles along the way. With time we learn to control those things – if we just keep pedaling.

The Holy Spirit is a constant force in our lives. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28. God assumes we will exercise our own spiritual muscles to keep the momentum going as we come into 2013. Keep pedaling. If we fall, well, we can help each other again. Get back on the "bike" and keep moving forward.

Blessings,

Nancy

Call or text Nancy on her cell phone, day or night: 573-587-1673.

Don't Forget!

January 6

- Teen Challenge Worship
- Congregational Dinner
- Taking down the Christmas Decorations



January 9

11:30 Lunch at Ewald's
 1:00 Bible Study: Lesson #4
 Leader: Rita Maager



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Peace and Healing Service

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in the world.

-Fred Rogers

December 27 started with quiet prayer but ended with candles and singing.

Elders at First Presbyterian asked, "How do we respond to the tragedy of gun violence against first graders in Newtown, Connecticut?"

It was decided to design a day of prayer and a candlelight service to be held in our sanctuary. The focus of the service was the Christmas message of "Peace on Earth" and New Years thoughts of promise for 2013.

Many community leaders were invited including teachers, mental health workers, first responders, church members and pastors from the Perry County Ministerial Alliance.

Perryville Mayor Deborah Gahan opened the evening with comments encouraging the community to find strength in the light of one small candle. Rev. Gillard shared a meditation using a quote from Fred Rogers of PBS.

After the service, among many comments shared was the hope that "This is just the first of many peace and healing events."



"Look for the helpers."

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January 2013

Remember in your prayers...

- Norma Moake Downen
- Candace Fair
- Harry Guth
- Barbara Levine (Marje Stearns' daughter)
- Our Children
- Our Churches
- Our Country
- Our Brave Men and Women in the Armed Services

Thank you notes to the church from:

- Carol Suchland – “Thank you for your card and your prayers! God’s blessings to you.”
- The Family of Marita Nelson, thanking the church for its generosity, providing the funeral lunch, and for the many words of sympathy.



Happy January Birthdays to...

- 1 Nancy Gillard
- 3 Angela Brooks
- 11 Dennis Martin
- 13 Erin Holly
- 16 Jamie Talbert
- 17 Rose Mary Morton
- 19 Rita Maager

Just Keep Pedaling...

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Acts 1:8



When I learned to ride a bicycle, I did it badly. I had no sense of balance. I'd wobble-wobble. I ended up with scraped knees and shins. It seemed no matter how much I wanted to, I couldn't get the two-wheeler to stay upright.

Fortunately, a neighbor offered to teach me how to ride. “It's simple,” he said. “The problem is you haven't got enough momentum going to keep in balance. Once you get going fast enough, long enough, you won't have any trouble at all.”

“Uh, I don't think so,” I answered. “Fast enough, long enough? I think I hear my mother calling me home.”

“Come on,” he said. He placed my hands on the handlebars of my red bicycle, a color that matched my emotion: deep fear. As we started to move forward he said, “When I let go, keep pedaling! Don't be afraid of momentum. Use it!”

His feet pounded the pavement. He kept me upright. We were going fast. Then he shoved the seat of my bike forward. He yelled, “Use the momentum!” In panic, I kept pedaling. I've been pedaling ever since.

In the Kingdom of God, there are days we think we'll never learn our lesson because circumstances are too overwhelming. We review difficult circumstances as threats, not opportunities. We don't want to bloody our knees and shins in the process. *(cont. page 4.)*



Front Yard Ministry Lights up the Church in December

On December 7, families walking toward the town square for the Holiday Lighting and Christmas Parade were warmly greeted by our members' December edition of the church's Front Yard Ministry. On a chilly but not cold evening, about 100 people stopped by during the festivities for water, and red and green holiday beads.



Many also came inside to view our church's decorations, and get something sweet from the “Sweet on Jesus” candy bowl. The “Angel Rooms” provided by Shirley Guard and Linda Reinwald were also popular. One little girl turned to her mother, wide-eyed, and announced, “I want to get married here!”

Another December mission project was the Angel Tree in the church's lobby. Two families were adopted this Christmas by our congregation through the East Missouri Action Agency. On the Angel Tree were 24 gift tags specifying gifts for the children.

Church members also provided \$325 in cash donations. These were used for utility payments at the City of Perryville and Citizens Electric, gift certificates for food at Rozier's Grocery, and gift cards at McDonald's restaurants.

Two annual offerings were also scheduled in December, the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering, and the Joy Gift Offering.

The Mission Committee is interested in hearing from the congregation concerning additional ideas for mission projects and church outreach activities. We need your ideas!

Those New Year's Resolutions

January is the month for making resolutions. According to the website USA.gov, the most popular resolutions every year are: Lose weight, drink less alcohol, find a new job and manage your debt.

The website also has resources to help you achieve these and other goals.

As you make your resolutions for 2013 consider one of these to enhance your spiritual life:

- Say grace
- Pay God first
- Help other people
- Read through the entire Bible in a year

Fifty percent of all Americans will make a resolution or two. Of those, 75 percent will keep their resolutions – for one month.

It's a good idea to take a look at your spiritual life every once and a while. So, this January 1, 2013, we wish you a Happy New Year – and Happy New Start.

