

### Upcoming Events

November 6, 13 – Boy Scouts offering Christmas wreath purchases. Pick-up on November 20.

November 12 (Saturday) 8am - Noon – Fall Clean-Up Day (or however long you can help) Bring your rakes, gloves and brown paper recycle bags, and join us as we pull flowers and clean-up the grounds around the Church. Rain date: November 19

November 13 (Sunday) – Lighthouse Thanksgiving bags returned & Harvest Dinner Gather around the harvest table for the annual OLCC,P community lunch on Sunday, November 13 after both services. Turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and beverages will be provided. Guests are encouraged to add to the buffet with potluck salads, side dishes, or desserts. Free will offering will be accepted. Questions? Contact Christy Forhan.

November 20 (Sunday) – **Presbyterian Women's Association Bake Sale!!** We invite you to be part of this event by contributing your favorite pies, cookies, breads and special treats. You are also invited to purchase the goodies baked by others! Monies received in this bake sale will go toward mission projects. Look for details in the November Sunday bulletins.

December 2 (Friday) 7:30 pm & December 4 (Sunday) 4 pm –**This is the Year of the “Messiah.”** Under the direction of Bruce Snyder, the OLCC,P choir and other local church choirs combine to perform Handel's “Messiah.” Plan to begin your holiday celebrations with us by enjoying this beautiful gift of seasonal music. Look for ticket information soon! If you would like to lend a hand with ticket sales, or the reception after either of the “Messiah” performances, please contact the church office.

December 8 (Thursday) 7 - 9:30 pm Ladies Christmas Tea  
Ladies of all ages are invited for dessert, décor, friends & fun. Table hostesses will decorate a round table for 8 in a Christmas theme and provide dessert. Guests can sign up with a specific table hostess or let us handle the seating arrangements. Invite neighbors, friends, relatives. Everyone should bring a wrapped “White Elephant” gift (value about \$5) for a fun gift exchange.  
R.S.V.P. by December 1 to Sally Russell 248-200-9500 (pmrussell3178@yahoo.com) or call the church.

December 10 (Saturday) – Christmas Tree-Cutting Gathering Come join with other OLCC,P members and families cutting Christmas trees and donating them to families in Pontiac. Trees will be given at a party that evening. Look for details in November Sunday bulletins.



December 24 (Saturday) – **3 pm Children's Christmas Musical**  
7 & 9 pm Candlelight Communion Services

Sunday, December 25 – 10:30 am – One Worship Service

Monday, December 26 – Sunday, Monday 2 - Church office will be closed.  
Pastoral needs will be available.

Sunday, January 1 – 10:30 am – One Worship Service

*From Pastor Paul ...***“God Richly Provides”**

*“As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”*

*(1 Timothy 6:17)*

**W**e have been journeying through 1 Timothy this fall and considering what it means to be “Shaped As God’s People”. Paul, at the end of his ministry career, is writing to his younger protégé Timothy with teachings about “how one ought to behave in the household of God” (1 Tim. 3:15). In the final chapter of 1 Timothy, Paul focuses in on the topic of true riches and how those in the household of God are called to a life of “godliness combined with contentment (1 Tim. 6:6).

**Contentment...a quality which seems in increasingly short supply in our day (not to mention godliness)! We are an anxious, restless people – even many of us who belong to the household of God. Our culture cultivates a continuous cacophony of messages measuring contentment according to material possessions. Of course, our culture says we are only content if we have more of this or that, newer versions of our favorite car or appliance or cell phone, a bigger check waiting for us at the end of the pay period. We chase a target moving away from us.**

Human nature was probably no different in Paul and Timothy’s day. Paul counsels Timothy to teach those in the household of God “not to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Tim. 6:17) The source and focus of true contentment are found in a God who richly provides, not in the uncertainty of worldly riches. As we deepen our trust in such a God, we deepen our ability to live with contentment in an uncertain and rapidly changing world where any and all of our physical comforts can be taken from us in the blink of an eye! We also deepen our capacity to be generous with the blessings God has richly provided, trusting God will continue to care for us as we trust in his provision.

November and December are the months of Thanksgiving and Christmas... a time when we are called to reflect on God’s abundant provision in our lives materially and spiritually. We fall into the category Paul refers to in the verse above – “those who in the present age are rich.” By any measure when compared with the rest of the world – even those of us on fixed incomes – we in the West, and especially in the United States, are rich... at least by material standards. My visits to places like Malawi, Costa Rica, and Mexico have convinced me that people with far less material riches are often more spiritually rich than we are in the West. I wonder if there’s a correlation? “Rich in things and poor in soul” is how one hymn phrases it.

November is also the month of our annual Stewardship Campaign, this year for ministry in 2017. Our theme this year is taken from 1 Timothy 6:7 – “God Richly Provides.” Stewardship materials with a 2017 Target Budget (see 2017 Target Budget in box below) describing our ministry plans and needs will be mailed out the last week in October. On Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> we will receive and consecrate 2017 Faith Promise Cards with our prayerful offerings of generosity for the work of Christ in this place in the year ahead. **Please keep in mind God’s rich provision for you and the ministry opportunities made possible by your generous giving.**

There are exciting things happening in our OLCC,P Kids ministry with younger children and families. More adults are participating in Christian Life and Learning programs which help shape them as **Christ’s followers. Our Mission and Outreach team** is considering plans in 2017 for possible trips to assist with flood and hurricane relief as well as a return to Mexico partnering with Todd Luke.

**“God Richly Provides”** (contd.)

Sandra Crane has a team preparing to travel to Uganda in the summer of 2017. Our Music and Worship ministries continue to excel in offering inspiring musical contributions to our worship life together. Our Gathering Team has new vision for events – such as the Christmas Women’s Tea - which will gather us together as a congregation and welcome new people into our fellowship. And our Personnel Ministry Team continues to support an excellent staff team deserving of appropriate financial compensation for their faithful service in ministry.

All these things need financial resources in order to be sustained and to grow in a new year. Those financial resources come almost entirely from our members and friends giving generously to support Christ’s ministry in this place and beyond. Reflect on God’s rich provision in your life...yes, materially, but more importantly through the redemption and new life offered us through Jesus

Christ. Psalm 49:7 says “Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life, there is no price one can give to God for it.” Christ’s offering for us is the only price that can be paid to secure new life. No financial gift to a stewardship campaign can compare with that gift – or earn our way into heaven! Our generous giving is a response to that priceless offering! And it is the necessary resource needed to continue sharing the good news of Christ’s offering for us through the ministry of today’s Body of Christ as represented in OLCC,P.

God Richly Provides – may we do the same as we prayerfully consider and offer our gifts to the work of Jesus Christ in 2017!

In Christ,



Pastor Paul

	<b>Proposed Budget 2017</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 480,000.00</b>
<b>Mission</b>	72,975.00
<b>Christian Life &amp; Learning</b>	8,300.00
<b>Worship / Music</b>	26,520.00
<b>Office Administration</b>	29,000.00
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	73,000.00
<b>Membership/ Fellowship</b>	3,000.00
<b>Mortgage</b>	30,000.00
<b>Stewardship</b>	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 724,795.00</b>
<b>Faith Promises &amp; EFT</b>	500,000.00
<b>Non-Pledged</b>	152,000.00
<b>Loose Offering</b>	7,000.00
<b>Misc. Income</b>	8,000.00
<b>Investment Returns</b>	17,000.00
<b>Per Capita Offering</b>	8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 692,000.00</b>

## Church Reports

As of 9/30/2016	
Annual Budget Report	
2016 Income: \$472,517	2016 Expenses: \$499,431
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Moving Forward Through Faith & Miracle Sunday	
Income Received: \$1,317,821	
Outstanding Pledges: \$75,895	



## Memorial Fund Report

Gifts are given either in honor of loved ones still living or in memory of loved ones who have gone to the Church Eternal and Triumphant.

- o The gift given by William Girardot in memory of Captain Ralph Jay Harting III was designated to the Harting Children's Fund.
- o Undesignated gifts in memory of Beverly Ingham were given by: Judy Day, Mary Ingham, and Kerry Weber.
- o Undesignated gifts in memory of Carole Thompson were given by The Colton Family, The Friedl Family, Joan & Gordon Lyon, Patricia Miller, Jack & Patricia Rothley, and Kristin Trenholm.
- o A gift designated for OLCC,P Music in memory of Carole Thompson was given by Patricia Colvin.

*~ Patricia Mudge, Memorial Chair*

The \$25.93 Per Capita (per person) for our Congregation is requested by **January 22**.

Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid-councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) support the work of the wider Church: Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices of our denomination.

Each year it costs OLCC,P over \$25 for each member. When the full amount is not covered by the congregation, the money comes out of our Mission Budget. If all of the members of OLCC,P would prayerfully **consider paying their own family's per capita, it would allow your Mission Committee to have more to give to others in need.**

*(To learn more about the importance of the per capita offering, go to <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/importance-capita-funding/>.)*

The 2017 Per Capita offering is \$25.93 per OLCC,P member. We would greatly appreciate your per capita on **January 22** at the 2017 Congregational Meeting.

*(If you use offering envelopes, a Per Capita envelope is provided.)*

## *From Your Stephen Ministers ...*

**L**ast month we outlined the Church's Role in Stephen Ministry. This month we want everyone to "Think Stephen Ministry."

Stephen Ministry is a ministry that belongs to every member of Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian. It is your ministry, too, and we ask you to support it in whatever ways you can. One essential way you can help Stephen Ministry is to Think Stephen Ministry.

Thinking Stephen Ministry happens as you meet and talk to people. When you notice a need, ask about it and listen some more. Might this be a need for Stephen Ministry. Let yourself be the eyes and ears of Jesus. When Jesus saw a need, he recognized it and looked for a way to fill that need. Let Jesus work through you so that you are quick to recognize needs and to find ways to fill those needs. One of our current Stephen Ministers has a care receiver in assisted living since his wife passed away. Frank Swica related the following to his supervision group and it bears repeating for all of our church family to hear:

*"A few weeks back when I was visiting with my care receiver, we were having the usual enjoyable meeting, with talk, laughter, scriptures, singing (well trying to sing) and a devotional. I can't quite pick out the exact moment of talking; but, my care receiver looked at me straight in the eyes and said unexpectedly, 'I know you come to see me, not because you have to (referring to SM) but you come because you want to'!! I was so dumb-founded. We just looked at each other with tears in our eyes and smiled. My God, it's one of those moments I will cherish for life!! I could not have been paid a higher compliment by anyone, than that simply stated and humble statement. As I have joking with my care receiver, I became a Presbyterian and joined OLCC,P just so that I could be with him!! God is good."*

What an incredible experience! And, we just welcomed 6 new Stephen Minister trainees to our program on September 21<sup>st</sup>. As they go through the 50 hours of training they will understand more fully what Frank has been privileged to receive. We all have favorite stories about the relationships we have formed with our care receivers – they truly have given us more than we could ever give **to them because we weren't with them** to solve their problems; but, just to listen and watch how they solved their own situations over a period of time. How very fortunate Orchard Lake Church is to have such a caring, loving Ministry to assist the Pastors and how thankful we all are this Thanksgiving Season. God truly is good!

If you or someone you know is in a crisis situation at this time, please feel free to talk with one of the Pastors or any of the Stephen Ministers. Our pictures and names are on the bulletin board in the narthex.



**Happy holidays to everyone from your  
Stephen Ministry team!**

## *From your Director of Children's Ministries*

**M**any years ago, before we had children, when Raleigh and I were DINKs (double-income, no kids), I worked with a man whose wife was a stay-at-home mom. It sounded incredibly boring to me and just I could not understand what she did all day. I remember a discussion Joe and I had one day – it is indelibly imprinted on my mind. I asked him why his wife didn't go back to work now that the kids were in school and she didn't have anything else to do. He told me that she was even busier now than she had been with the kids at home. I stared at him in disbelief and just had no comprehension of how that could be possible. Now, I want to go back and apologize to him and his wife!

Now, I have 3 children in school, the twins, Kate & Alex, in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Jack in 6<sup>th</sup>. We have swimming and horse-back riding because I want my children to be physically fit. They are all involved in scouting because I want them to have outdoor fun as well as opportunities for service and leadership. They are taking music lessons, theater and German lessons because I want the arts to be part of their education. Add into that play dates (because you can't just let your kids roam around the neighborhood not knowing where they are any more) and birthday parties and special events . . . Oh, and we have church.

We all want the very best for our children. We are the 1<sup>st</sup> generation that cannot expect our children to live the American dream and do better than we have done. College tuition is going up and up and there's no guarantee that with a degree, our kids will get a job in their field. Our kids need to have something that other kids don't to give them an edge in a heavily competitive market. The future just plain looks scary with terrorism and drugs and social media. We are worried and utterly exhausted, physically and mentally. When we organize our schedules, how does church fit into this competitive, market-driven view?

All of us have chosen OLCC,P for a reason. We **want God in our lives and in our children's lives. Sometimes church doesn't fit into our schedules** perfectly but we are all doing our best, right? So what to do, what to do . . . first, try to grab a moment each day — at breakfast or bedtime — and talk to your children about their faith. Read a devotional or use the ones we send home with the lessons. Let your children know that faith is something that is important in your life. Pray together. Bring them to church whenever you can – let them know that attending church is part of their journey of faith. Spend time with other church families so that your children grow up with Christian friends.

We just finished a special lesson on why the Bible is so important and how it is a life-long study. All the children will be working on learning the books of the Bible over the next month, using that knowledge to look things up. Tips and suggestions along with fun activities will be coming home and will also be linked to the newsletter and posted on the Facebook page. Use this as an opportunity to help your children learn the value of scripture.

In November, we're finishing our unit on "Weird Science: An Exercise in Obedience." There are reasons why following the instructions given to us is really important – just ask Adam and Eve! During this month when we focus on being thankful, we'll be making Thankfulness Chains. Instructions and supplies will be going home on October 30<sup>th</sup> and will also be posted online.

Then, we take a look at "A Triple-Dog Dare: Compassion" with a series of challenges, one for each week of Advent which begins November 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll be asking the children to live out their faith through the season, sharing God's love and compassion in a variety of ways.

Please share with us how we can help your family stay connected to OLCC,P and grow in Christ as we head into one of the busiest times of the year.

May the Peace of Christ be with you (and with Me!)

  
Elizabeth Belcher

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Heritage Sunday 9am - Adult Ed 9am - Worship 9:50am - Kids Choir 10:30am - Worship 8pm - AA Meeting	31	1 7pm - AA Big Book 7:20pm - CBS	2 6:15pm - Bells 7:30pm - Chancel 8:30pm - Messiah	3 6pm - Bells 7pm - Scouts 7pm - Stephn Mins 7:30pm - Prayr	4	5 10:30am - K. Rogers
6 Wreath Sale 9am - Adult Ed 9am - Worship 9:50am - Kids Choir 10:30am - Worship 8pm - AA Meeting	7 1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Reading	8 6pm - Beyond Grief 6pm - Bldg & Grnds 6pm - Ministry Team 7pm - AA Big Book 7:20pm - CBS 7:30pm - Trustees	9 6:15pm - Bells 7:30pm - Chancel 8:30pm - Messiah	10 7:30am - Fort St 11:30am - ROMEO 6pm - Bells	11	12 Fall Cleanup 4pm - Exiles
13 Harvest Dinnr Wreath Sale 9am - Adult Ed 9am - Worship 9:50am - Kids Choir 10:30am - Confrmtn	14 9:30am - Mary 12pm - Deb Ruth	15 7pm - AA Big Book 7pm - Session 7:20pm - CBS	16 6:15pm - Bells 7:30pm - Chancel 8:30pm - Messiah	17 6pm - Bells 7pm - Stephn	18 7pm - Youth Game	19 8am - Fall Cleanup 9am - Presby Mtg @ 7pm - CoffeeHouse
20 PW Bake Sale Wreath pick-up 9am - Adult Ed 9am - Worship 9:50am - Kids Choir 10am - BP Screening	21 1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Messiah 7pm - Scouts	22 7pm - AA Big Book 7:20pm - CBS	23 6:15pm - Bells 7:30pm - Chancel	24 office closed	25	26
27 Advent begins 9am - Adult Ed 9am - Worship 9:50am - Kids Choir 10:30am - Worship 6pm - Family Fun	28 7pm - sololats/orche	29 7pm - AA Big Book 7:20pm - CBS	30 6:15pm - Bells 7pm - Messiah	1 6pm - Bells 7pm - Scouts @ FH 7pm - Stephn Mins 7:30pm - Prayr	2 7:30pm - Messiah	3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>9am - Adult Ed</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>9:50am - Kids Choir</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>4pm - Messiah</p> <p>6:30pm - God &amp; Me</p> <p>8pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>1pm - Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>6pm - Ministry Team</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book</p> <p>7:20pm - CBS</p>	<p>6:15pm - Bells</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>6pm - Bells</p> <p>7pm - Scouts @ FH</p> <p>7pm - Stephn Mins</p> <p>7:30pm - Prayr</p>	<p>7pm - Youth Game</p>	<p>10am - Tree Cutting</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>9am - Adult Ed</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>9:50am - Kids Choir</p> <p>10:30am - Confmtn</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Deacon</p> <p>6pm - Youth</p> <p>6:30pm - Family</p> <p>8pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:30am - Mary</p> <p>12pm - Deb Ruth</p>	<p>6pm - Beyond Grief</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book</p> <p>7pm - Session</p> <p>7:20pm - CBS</p>	<p>6:15pm - Bells</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>6pm - Bells</p> <p>6:30pm - SM Dinner</p>	<p>7pm - Youth Game</p>	<p>10am - Tree Cutting</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>9am - Adult Ed</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>9:50am - Kids Choir</p> <p>10:30am - Confmtn</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Deacon</p> <p>6pm - Youth</p> <p>6:30pm - Family</p> <p>8pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>1pm - Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>7pm - AA Big Book</p>	<p>6:15pm - Bells</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>6pm - Bells</p> <p>6:30pm - SM Dinner</p>	<p>7pm - Youth Game</p>	<p>10am - Tree Cutting</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9am - Adult Ed</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>9:50am - Kids Choir</p> <p>10am - BP screening</p> <p>10:30am - Confmtn</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>8pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>1pm - Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>7pm - AA Big Book</p>	<p>6:15pm - Bells</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>11:30am - ROMEOs</p> <p>6pm - Bells</p>	<p>Pageant Dress Rhrsal</p>	<p>3pm - Family Svce</p> <p>7pm - Service</p> <p>9pm - Service</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>Christmas</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>8pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>7pm - AA Big Book</p>	<p>6:15pm - Bells</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>11:30am - ROMEOs</p> <p>6pm - Bells</p>	<p>Pageant Dress Rhrsal</p>	<p>3pm - Family Svce</p> <p>7pm - Service</p> <p>9pm - Service</p>



*From Your Faith Community Nurse ...*

**Get Ready for Healthy Holiday Meals**

Healthy cooking doesn't mean you have to become a gourmet chef or invest in expensive cookware. You can use basic cooking techniques to prepare food in healthy ways which help you cut fat and calories. Consider, for instance, that each tablespoon of oil you use when frying adds more than 100 calories. Adults should limit fat calories to no more than 20 to 35 percent of total daily calories. For a 2,000-calorie diet, that means no more than 400 to 700 calories from fat a day. By switching to roasting, you not only eliminate added fat but also allow any fat in the food to drip away. Avoid using excessive salt to make it heart healthy.

Braising involves browning (searing) the ingredient first in a pan on top of the stove and then slowly cooking it partially covered with a small quantity of liquid, such as water or broth. In some recipes, the cooking liquid is used afterward to form a flavorful, nutrient-rich sauce. Try broiling by placing food on a broiler rack below a heat element. This method allows fat to drip away from the food.

For baking, place food in a pan or dish surrounded by the hot, dry air of your oven. You may cook the food cov-

ered or uncovered. Baking generally doesn't require you add fat to the food. Roasting is like baking, but typically at higher temperatures. You can roast foods on a baking sheet or in a roasting pan. For poultry, seafood and meat, place a rack inside the roasting pan so the fat in the food can drip away during cooking. To maintain moisture, cook foods until they reach a safe internal temperature but don't overcook them.

Sautéing quickly cooks relatively small or thin pieces of food. If you choose a good-quality nonstick pan, you can cook food without using fat. Depending on the recipe, use low-sodium broth, cooking spray or water in place of oil. A traditional Asian method, stir-frying quickly cooks small, uniform-sized pieces of food while they're rapidly stirred in a wok or large nonstick frying pan. You need only a small amount of oil or cooking spray for this cooking method.

One of the simplest cooking techniques is steaming food in a perforated basket suspended above simmering liquid. If you use a flavorful liquid or add seasonings to the water, you'll flavor the food as it cooks.

Creating meals using spices and herbs is one of the best ways to add color, taste and aroma to foods without adding salt or fat. Choose fresh herbs that look bright and aren't wilted and add them toward the end of cooking. Add dried herbs in the earlier stages of cooking. When substituting dried herbs for fresh, use about one-half the amount. (Mayo Clinic)

*Christmas Trees for Grace Centers*

OLCC,P will again support Grace Centers of Hope with Christmas trees for the needy in the Pontiac area. We will meet at Broadview Christmas Tree farm on December 10 at 9am to cut down the trees. Between 10:30-11:00 we will arrive at Grace Centers of Hope to deliver the trees. From 11am - Noon we will meet the families, and there will be cookies for all and crafts for the kids. We are also collecting Christmas tree ornaments, lights and tree stands for our friends in Pontiac--please deliver those to the church. Broadview Christmas Tree farm is at 4380 N Hickory Ridge Rd., Highland, MI, 48357

Open Door Outreach Center ~ Food Pantry Challenge

November:

Roadside: Boxed Potatoes / Turkey Gravy

Lakeside: Stuffing Mix / Cranberry Sauce

December:

Roadside: Tuna / Chunky Soups ( Progresso or Campbell's)

Lakeside: Baked Beans / Diced Tomatoes

The OLCC,P Deacons collect these and other items for the Open Door Outreach Center. The center distributes food and personal care products and resells donated clothing and household items.

As a reminder: The monthly Deacons Fund collection provides for members of the congregation and the community for unexpected financial situations. These financial gifts to the Deacons Fund are welcome the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to contribute, Deacon Fund envelopes are provided in the pews each Sunday.

Thank you for all of your support!

~~ The Deacons of OLCC,P

Music Events at OLCC,P

Lakeside Coffee House - November 19 ~ Doors open at 7 pm. Music begins at 7:30 pm

Returning to the Coffee House, our featured performer will be award-winning Christian pop/folk artist Amy Susan Heard who is known for her smooth, soulful, angelic voice. Amy works as a professional vocalist and actor as well as an instructor of voice, guitar, piano and theatre. She is currently being heard on Women of Substance Radio, through Live365.com! She has done various voiceovers and just landed her first three principal commercial roles: Mega Millions Lottery, Aco Hardware, and Treasure Hunt. Amy can also be found on IMDb for her leading role as Cheryl in the Christian film, "Presence" and for supporting roles in "Papou" and "Unexpected Places." Her voice is also "heard" in the film track, "Roadkill: A Love Story."

Handel's "Messiah" Friday, November 30 at 7:30 pm & Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm

Under the direction of Bruce Snyder, the OLCC,P choir and other local church choirs combine to perform Handel's "Messiah." Plan to begin your holiday celebrations with us by enjoying this beautiful gift of seasonal music. Look for ticket information soon! If you would like to lend a hand with ticket sales, or the reception after either of the "Messiah" performances, please contact the church office.

## Merry “Alternative” Christmas

**T**ired of the same old same old? Don’t know what to get that family member or friend who “has everything”? Do you want to make Christmas about more than the gifts under the tree on Christmas morning? Try “Alternative” Christmas approaches this year:

- Many care and relief organizations publish *Alternative Gift catalogs* (just like the endless ones we all receive in the mail) with unique giving ideas for things you can give in honor of or in memory of a loved one. These can be a wide variety of items where you choose an appropriate gift and amount and then a card is sent to the recipient telling them what has been given in their name. Last year in our family, we gave chickens, school supplies, and several other things destined for those with great needs. You can check out World Vision ([www.worldvisiongifts.org](http://www.worldvisiongifts.org)) or Heifer International ([www.heifer.org/gift-catalog](http://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog)) as a starting place.
- **Don’t want to cruise the malls and get “malled”?** Think about making your loved one or friend a Christmas gift by your own hand. You can invest your own creative genius into something with special homemade significance. I have always appreciated these kinds of gifts and the special thoughtfulness and investment of time and energy they represent.
- How about the gift of service? It can be very meaningful to gather your family or a group of friends together and offer to spend time serving others as a special Christmas gift. Many places would appreciate the help and the experience you share just might be one you will never forget. Making a visit to a care facility (nursing home, assisted living facility, etc.), sorting food at Gleaners, helping serve a meal at Fort Street Presbyterian’s Open Door or Grace Centers of Hope. These are all ways to offer a gift that will make a difference for others.

You probably have some other thoughts or ideas you can add to the ones above **to make this Christmas season stand out as a bit different or unique.** Let’s redeem the Christmas season from the mad rush to acquire more stuff for ourselves and make it a season where we truly remember and celebrate the One who came “not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”