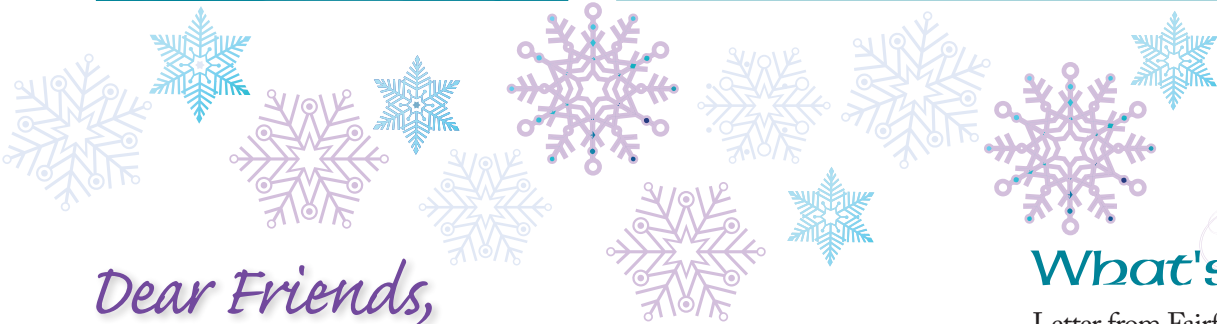




# First Press

A NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR  
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*Dear Friends,*

Christmas is such a beautiful time of year! There are smiles on peoples' faces, sparkling decorations on homes and businesses, and merriment in the air. It just seems too fleeting! But it need not be here for only a moment.

As we begin a new year, my prayer is that each of us will remain very aware of the presence of the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ. The author of the Gospel of John writes, "The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth."

These words probably come as close as any to capturing the inexpressible wonder of Christmas. God's love for humankind is made manifest in a child, vulnerable as every child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and kept warm by the heat radiating off the backs of common livestock. The miracle of Christmas is that God chooses us to be the recipients of this gift which is beyond compare. The continued blessing that is Christmas is the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, as we move into a new year, confront different challenges, and find new joys. There is no place – and no circumstance – where we are separated from God who creates us, upholds us, and redeems us from our errant ways.

Despite our best efforts, soon we will revert to our ordinary routines. The lights that brightened bushes and doorways will be put away; the candles that adorned the sanctuary will be packed up for another year. We will get busy with whatever occupies our time – school, work, committee meetings, sports, or play practice – and the memory of the silent night – when God came among us in a land far from Michigan and a time radically different from 2012 – will be overcome with the pressing demands of daily life. Yet God will still be present with us and to us.

May we continue to trust God as Mary and Joseph did; seek God as did the shepherds; and bow before God as did the wise men. And may we never forget: the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, pastor

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### Annual Meeting Equals Annual Fun – Sunday, January 22

Come to the Annual Meeting - a great way to kick off your year! It's a time to hear about the life of the church, the growth of our ministries, the goals of the church staff and committees, and the work of our Session. Join us as we give thanks to God for where we have been, where we are, and where we are going as a congregation. It all happens on January 22. Following the 9:30 a.m. worship, we will remain in the Nave for the annual meeting. We conclude with a delicious lunch in the Social Hall (\$5 per person, maximum of \$20 per family.) Sign up today by visiting this link:  
<https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.co/forms/annual-meeting-luncheon/>

Note: There is no 11:00 a.m. service on January 22.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

(more information found in this edition of First Press)

- January 8 Adult Ed Returns!
- January 15 All-church trip to the Detroit Institute of Art
- January 22 Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- January 25 Wednesday 2:42 Returns!
- January 28 Saturday Suppers
- January 29 Coffee Hour honoring Parish Nurse Martine Blogin and Kirkin' of the Tartan (3 p.m.)



## Worship & Music



### The tradition of the Kirkin' O' the Tartan

On **Sunday, January 29**, at 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, we will celebrate our Scottish heritage with The Kirkin' O' the Tartan, a service generally thought to have been established by Dr. Peter Marshall at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, on April 27, 1941. All are invited to attend this colorful service which will be presented complete with pipes, brass quartet, tartans, and choir.

The Kirkin' is strictly a North American tradition, but its origins go back into Scottish history. The Scots have always had strong Christian convictions, whether they be Catholic or Protestant, and have always observed Sunday as The Lord's Day, a day of rest and worship. This was the day when the Sunday or dress kilt was worn—a finer quality wool

kilt with more white than was in the everyday kilt. Because of the significance of the family tartan in helping to unite the clans in the old days, a special event was held every year. The clansmen gathered together, dressed in their finest tartan, to rededicate themselves to their Heavenly Father and to give thanks for His watchful care over them during the year.



### Communion Workshop for Families

Young children and their families are invited to attend "Exploring the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," on **Sunday, January 8**, at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall. The workshop, led by Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair and Deborah MacVey, will help parents and children understand the Sacrament of Communion, the different parts of the communion service, the symbols used at the communion meal, and how this meal is celebrated in worship. This is a faith milestone for our Kindergarteners. It is strongly recommended that all children attend a Communion workshop with their families, to learn about the Lord's Supper. To sign up to attend the workshop, contact Deborah MacVey at 662-4466, ext. 342 or [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).



# Adult Education Opportunities

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## Sunday Morning Adult Ed Classes Resuming January 8

"The Bible at 9:30 a.m." – French Room

The Reverend Ed Koster leads this group, currently taking an in-depth look at the book of Jeremiah. Join anytime!

"The Origins and Nature of Islam" – 11:00 a.m. - Monteith Hall

This class, January 9 - February 26, will provide an overview of the origins of Islam, its institutional features, and the main impulses for its historical success. It will focus on the historical and religious contexts of Islam's beginnings, on the figure of Muhammad in Mecca and Medina, the Quran, its teaching on Jews, Christians and the role of women, the development of law (sharia), and on prayer and the annual pilgrimage (hajj) among the pillars of the faith. The class will be taught by Waldemar Schmeichel. On January 9 only, the class will meet in the Lewis Room.

## Winter Wednesday 2:42 Adult Education Classes

January 25 - March 21

"Bible 101: The New Testament" – led by pastoral staff

5:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the Vance Room

"The Confessions" – led by Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

7:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall

"Faith & Film" – led by Rev. Evans McGowan

January 25 - February 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lewis Room.

An exploration of popular and lesser-known films that explore faith and other theological issues relevant to our culture and lives as Christians. These four classes include watching film clips with short presentations, and rich discussion.



### Save the date!

The Third Sunday Potluck, held at noon on February 19, will be sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibilin and Applying the Word Task group of Adult Education. The program will be a presentation of local youth reading excerpts from Deborah Ellis' compelling book, *Three Wishes, Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Bring a dish to pass and join us following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Social Hall for this informative and thought-provoking program.



# Children and Families

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## Considering a Preschool?

**Triangle Cooperative Nursery School** will hold its annual Open House on Saturday, February 4, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at First Pres. Families can learn more about Triangle and tour the preschool. Children are welcome. Triangle classrooms are located on the 200 Level in Rooms 200 and 201. Church member applications are due by Wednesday, February 1 to receive priority enrollment. For more information email Christina Busse at [info@trianglecoop.org](mailto:info@trianglecoop.org).



## Children and Families (continued)

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### Camp Westminster Coming Soon - Save the Date

Attention Parents and Kids — First Pres is going to Camp Westminster again this summer, July 29 to August 4. Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake, 200 miles north. It provides a traditional camp experience, with swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, singing, campfires and more. Older campers will also have a canoe trip on the AuSable River. Children currently in second grade through eighth grade are eligible.

Brochures and pre-registration forms will be mailed to each home soon. Check out the camp photos from previous years on the bulletin board on the 400 Level at church. Do you have questions about camp? Contact Debbie MacVey, [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Youth Connection

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### High School Update!

**Florida Mission Trip**, January 1-8. Keep in your prayers the 18 members of this team as they help IHOPE serve the people of Immokalee, Florida.

**Munch & Mingle** and **High School Sunday School** return Sunday January 8

**Keystones** returns January 15, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Michigan Hockey vs. MSU** at Joe Louis Arena, \$22, February 11, 3 p.m.

**Alma Youth Mix**, March 9-11, Alma College, \$60. Register with a check and a Consent Release by January 30 and get a free ticket to the hockey game.

**New Mexico Mission Trip**, June 17-25. This trip closes January 30.

### 6th - 8th Grade Update!

**Munch & Mingle, Sunday School** and **Confirmation** return Sunday, January 8

**Confirmation**, January 8 join Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair for a special lesson on Communion

**MIDS**, our 6th-8th grade youth group returns, Wednesday, January 11 in the Youth Room.

**Believe Conference**, April 28-29, Holland, MI. Watch for details!



## The Sacrament of Baptism

A Baptism class is required for those desiring to present a child for baptism or who wish to be baptized at First Presbyterian Church. The next available classes are scheduled for January 21 or March 17, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Vance Room. To register, contact Jennifer Sansbury at (734) 662-4466, ext. 343, or [jsansbury@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jsansbury@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Join First Pres in 2012!

The next new member class will be held January 29 and February 5, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Curtis Room. If you are considering uniting with First Pres as your church family, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), or call 662-4466, ext. 390. The two classes are led by pastors and elders, and are a good way to learn about the church and congregation.

## Winter Wednesday 2:42 Starts January 25

Wednesday 2:42, our wonderful intergenerational mid-week program, will start up again on January 25 and continue through March 21. Our program's name comes from the bible, Acts 2:42. "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." 2:42, as we have affectionately begun to call it, includes the breaking of bread (all-church dinner every week at 6:00); fellowship (dinnertime activities); prayer (before and after dinner devotions); and teaching (after dinner Adult Education classes, children's choirs and programs, MIDS youth fellowship, and more!) Sign-up at the Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings in January, and on-line through our website. Join us this winter/spring at Wednesday 2:42 and get to know your First Pres community. There is something for everyone! (Note: There will be an all-church dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 22 preceded and followed by Ash Wednesday worship services, with no other events that evening.)

## Wednesday 2:42 Dinner Helpers Needed

Each week, Chef Christine prepares delicious 2:42 dinners. If you like good food and making friends, join Chef Christine's 2:42 kitchen crew! Volunteers are welcome to assist at one dinner or several. From January 25 - March 21, we will welcome your help! Shifts run from 4:00 to 6:15 p.m. To sign up, contact Jennifer Sansbury at 662-4466, ext. 343, or [jsansbury@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jsansbury@firstpresbyterian.org). Thanks!

## Saturday Suppers Back by Popular Demand!

Our new pastor, Dr. Fairfax Fair, recently wrote, "I attended my first Saturday Supper last fall. What a delightful evening! I came away knowing a small group of church members much better after joining them for appetizers, dinner, dessert and wide-ranging conversation, all in the relaxed setting of a member's home. These gatherings, held three times a year, are stress free; everyone brings one dish to contribute to the meal. I hope you will sign up for the dinner to be held January 28th."

Saturday Suppers are becoming so popular that we're adding a new one on **January 28** and are calling upon our nearly 125 adult "regulars" to invite a First Pres friend who's never participated before in this feast of fellowship. Small groups of eight or so meet in host homes, bring some food to share, and relax and enjoy an evening of camaraderie and fun. All ages are welcome. You may sign up in person during coffee hour in January or on-line. (Go to [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org), click on the link beginning <https://suppers.wufoo...> and complete the questionnaire, being sure to let us know the name of any guests coming with you.)

The pleasures of Saturday Suppers are among the best kept secrets at First Pres, so share them with a friend while you treat yourself to another memorable evening.



## Church Life (continued)

### January with Mature Singles

January 1 – **Open House** at Marcy's at 1:00 p.m. Call her at 995-2519 if you would like to attend.

January 8 and 15 – **Mature Singles** will attend the Adult Education class in Monteith Hall for a series on “The Origins and Nature of Islam,” presented by Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel. This series will resume on January 29 and extend through February.

January 22 – Potluck and Planning meeting, Curtis Room.

For Friday night dinner schedule in January, [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org).

### First Pres Transitions: January Edition

Congratulations to Brady West, Deacon Co-moderator last year, who was recently named Assistant Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research, and Assistant Research Scientist for Statistical Consultation and Research at the University of Michigan. And our prayers are with Brady and his wife Laura, who are expecting their first child this spring.

These First Pres members have entered the Church Triumphant. Our prayers are with their loved ones: Peg Vezina, November 18; Patricia Clyde, November 27; Lee Danielson, November 28.

Congratulations to Larry and Pat Farris on the birth of their first grandchild, Alec Lawrence, born December 20, to Jordan and Joanna Farris in Chicago.



Congratulations to former Lily Resident Minister Amanda Adams Riley (2005-2007) and her husband Bill, upon the birth of their first child, James Patrick Riley, born November 25, in Los Angeles, California.

### Presbyterians Explore the Face of Jesus

Join us on January 15, at 1 p.m., to travel to the Detroit Institute of Art (5200 Woodward Avenue) for the special exhibit, “Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus.” The cost is \$12 for admission. We will carpool together in church members’ cars and vans. Sign up in the church office if you’d like to join us and please note if you are willing to drive. You can also sign up on the church website. We will return in time for the 5:05 p.m. worship service.

### Mature Ministries in January

#### Thoughtful Christian Discussion Group: January 5, 12:30 p.m., Vance Room

Join us to discuss, “Books that Didn’t Make the Bible and Why” with Rev. Gary Oliver. A pre-class reading is available through Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, [mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org). Sign up in the church office.



#### Hilltoppers, January 12, Noon, Social Hall

Dr. David Weir, University of Michigan Researcher, is the director of the largest single research project at UM – the Health and Retirement Study, a study of Americans 50 and older, that looks at a wide range of issues. He will talk about “The Future of Aging.” Sign up in the church office for the \$5 hot lunch and program.

### Save the Date! Annual Women’s Retreat for Women of All Ages

Join the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers, and special guest facilitator Rev. Lois Colon for the annual women’s retreat. This year, it begins on Friday evening, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. and concludes on Saturday, March 21, at 4 p.m. Travel with us to the Weber Center in Adrian. Single and double rooms will be available. Our theme will focus on the progression of our spiritual journey. More information will be forthcoming. Plan to join us!



# Church, Community and World

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## The Rotating Shelter

The Rotating Shelter Planning Team thanks our congregation and friends for helping us host the Winter Rotating Shelter, January 2 to January 16. The homeless men who sleep here from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. are most grateful for the warm beds, the fellowship, the snacks and coffee, and your Christian hospitality. Contact Sue Chandler at [suechandler@comcast.net](mailto:suechandler@comcast.net) to volunteer.



## Latin American Task Force Seeks Nicaragua Missioners

*October 22, 2011 – “Nicaragua is being greatly affected by the rains that started in September, causing widespread disasters in Central America and damaging the fragile economy of Nicaragua... The rains have destroyed at least 1,600 homes, 249 kilometers of highways and roads, and affected more than 134,000 people, mainly in the North and the Pacific of Nicaragua. The government has said it will take about \$3.2 million to respond to the emergency in its first stage.”*

CEPAD Nicaragua (<http://www.cepad.org.ni/>)

First Pres plans to respond to the crisis unfolding in this second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere by sending a team of missioners to Nicaragua in August 2012. The Latin America Task Force will work with CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua), a longstanding international missions partner of the PC(USA). A team of 10 adults will travel to Nicaragua, meet with CEPAD in Managua, travel to a neighboring community, and explore partner possibilities with a Nicaraguan church to identify needs. There will likely be some type of work project and possible home stays. If you have an interest in Latin America and would like to investigate the possibility of joining the team in August or would simply like to join our Task Force, the next meeting will be Monday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. at First Pres.

## Alpha House Volunteers - Thank you!

Thank you to the many of you who volunteered last week at Alpha House during our final host week of 2011. Over 50 members participated! Looking ahead, in 2012 we plan to restock the Alpha House pantry during a week in the spring and then host again in September and the end of November. If you have a heart for families in need and would like to contribute to this local mission effort at the coordinator level, please contact Nancy Vander Kuyl, Wendy Rampson or Anne Gere.

## Applying the Word

All are invited to join a study group focused on applying Christian ethics to peacemaking and social justice. Supported by the Adult Ed and Mission Committees of our church, the name for this program is “Applying the Word.” We are seeking those who have an interesting in studying and developing recommendations to improve governmental social policies and the lack of peace in our country. Those who have an interest are invited to contact Rod Bentz, [rbentz@comcast.net](mailto:rbentz@comcast.net), or 973-0394. Meeting times have not been selected yet.

## Be a Part of ECIR’s Global Friendship Program!

The Ecumenical Center & International Residence is asking families to host dinners and participating in local community activities with international students and scholars for cultural sharing. To participate or to learn more about the Global Friendship Program, visit ECIR’s website, [www.ecir.org](http://www.ecir.org).



## Church, Community and World (continued)

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### Faces of Faith

You and your family are invited to participate in the second Faces of Faith (FOF) event sponsored by The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County on Sunday, January 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Social Hall of Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's on Packard Road. FOF allows you to meet people from your community who pose as "books" telling you the story of their personal spiritual journey. Each time you "borrow" a "book", you'll learn (one on one) about a different spiritual practice, religious belief, or turning point of faith. Between the three "reading periods" (20 minutes each), you'll be able to purchase snacks at the coffee/tea/cocoa bar and help support the non-profit work of the Round Table – to build bridges of understanding between different faith traditions in our community and beyond. For more information, email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).

### Caring for the people of Dumaguete in Typhoon Tragedy

One week before Christmas, a very strong typhoon hit the southern Philippines and caused flash flooding. In Mindanao, over 1,000 people were killed. The same typhoon swept through the city of Dumaguete where members of our church have worked for over 12 years. We thank God that there were no fatalities in the little villages where we work. However, nearly 90 homes were swept away or damaged in the Habitat village of Candau-ay, where we worked in 2010. Candau-ay is where the "Sunny Side Up" chicken-raising and other livelihood projects were operating. Another village, Villa Swerte, was totally devastated. This is where the poorest people in Dumaguete live and where First Pres Church supports a children's feeding program to guarantee one meal a day to the children of the street. Our partners in the Philippines have specifically asked us to pray for the families. Please pray with us for these people who have so few material goods and who have now lost all of what they had. Financial contributions to the Philippines task force are, always, welcome.

### Thanks for Afghanistan, December 2011

In November, the First Pres Veterans Group (and four Boy Scouts) packed and mailed 40 boxes to military personnel in Afghanistan. The items donated for shipment included hand knitted scarves by First Pres women, dental hygiene kits, shirts, personal care products, books, cookies, and more. Know that the time, effort and contributions are appreciated. The email below was written by CSM Jose Castillo who is stationed in Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division.



Boxes being prepared for mailing.

*"On behalf of COL Ryan, CSM Castillo and the Soldiers of the 10th Sustainment Brigade, we want to take the time to thank you. The Packages that we receive are greatly appreciated. It is great Americans like yourself that keeps our motivation going every day. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve in the United States Armed Forces and to serve to protect our great country. Our soldiers are doing great things everyday ranging from force security to vehicle maintenance. No matter what the job our soldiers are tasked to do, they exceed the standards every day. We thank you for all the prayers and the support that we receive."*

CSM Castillo, Jose,  
10th SBDE CSM



# Congregational Care

## Saying Thanks and Farewell to Martine Blogin



It is with deep gratitude that I say farewell to our parish nurse, Martine Blogin, and invite you to celebrate her ministry with us on January 29 at the Coffee Hour. For four and a half years, she's been a vital part of our pastoral care program. From advising families, to dealing with health crises on a Sunday morning, to sharing with me in home communion, to lending expertise to our Mature Ministries Steering Committee, Martine's compassionate skill, calm demeanor, steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, and devotion to health has benefitted our church family. We are glad that she will continue to be a member of First Pres, which means we do not have to say goodbye. As she explores new areas of employment in public health nursing, she will take with her the love and support of us all. Thank you, Martine, for your hours of service and help to our members, staff, Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and our community. (Special thanks to Craig, her husband, for his support, as well.) Gifts and cards can be sent to the church office, c/o our new Financial Administrator, Lynnette Conner.

— Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

## Parish Nurse Search Underway

*"If a man's gift is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously." Romans 12:7-8*

In anticipation of Martine's departure, and to minimize any gaps in this critical position, the Parish Nurse Search Committee has been initiated to seek her replacement. Search Committee members include: Greta Krapohl (Co-Chair), Lori Wolters (Co-Chair), Donna Nussdorfer, John Santinga, Victor Stoeffler and Melissa Anne Rogers (ex-officio). The Parish Nurse Program at First Presbyterian is designed to identify and address the health needs of the congregation through education, counseling and advocacy.

Qualifications include:

- RN with a current Michigan license
- Three-five years nursing experience
- A member of a faith community
- Committed to ongoing spiritual and professional development
- Interested in a flexible, part-time position with competitive pay.

If you are interested, or know a nurse that may be interested, to serve our faith community, please email [parishnursesearch@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:parishnursesearch@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Grief Support

First Presbyterian will hold a grief support group for anyone who is dealing with loss or grief, during the first four weeks of Wednesday 2:42, January 25 to February 15, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. If you are interested, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), or 662-4466, ext. 390. The group will be led by Rev. Rogers and other pastoral staff.

**Arbor Hospice**, Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, will also hold winter grief support groups: Sundays, January 22 to February 12, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m., at the Arbor Hospice Residence. These support groups are for general losses. For more information, call Gail Haynes at Arbor Hospice, at 794-5375, or [gaynes@arborhospice.org](mailto:gaynes@arborhospice.org).



# Opportunities for Women

## January Presbyterian Women Gathering

Join us on Wednesday, January 18. The morning begins at 9:15 a.m., with a Bible Study in the Lewis Room on Lessons 4 & 5 of our study of the Beatitudes. At 10:45 a.m., we will move to Monteith Hall to view the film "Pray The Devil Back to Hell." This is the astonishing story of the Liberian women who took on the warlords and regime of dictator Charles Taylor in the midst of a civil war and won peace in their shattered country in 2003. It is a compelling example of how grassroots activism can alter history of nations. The film won the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. See [www.praythedevilbacktohell.com](http://www.praythedevilbacktohell.com) for a clip. Lunch will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. (Please sign up in the Church Office soon! The cost is \$7.)



## Regular PW Events

**Body and Soul** meets Monday Mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Curtis Room. Come and "tune up" your body and keep it working well. Contact Lynn Haddan, 665-5105, for more information

**Women's Evening Bible Study** (WEBS) meets Monday, January 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Curtis Room. Carol Brent will lead Lesson 3 of the PW Horizon's Bible Study on the Beatitudes. All women of the congregation are welcome. Find out more by contacting Jennie Lombard, 663-7244.

**Women's Reading Group** meets Thursday, January 5, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Jennie Lombard. Jennie will lead a discussion on Chapter 5 of *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. All women of the congregation are welcome. Contact Barbara Black, 663-6289, for more information.

**The Presbyterian Women of Detroit** (PWPD) will not meet in January but will join together on February 1, at the Second Baptist Church in Detroit for a tour and presentation on the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War.

**The PWPD Annual Retreat** is March 10, 2012 at Orchard Lake Community church. Contact Ruth Barnard for more information.

## Business of the Congregation

Necessitated by Finance Manager John Sampse's wish to retire, the church has hired Lynnette Conner as his replacement. Lynnette has had extensive experience in accounting and financial management, including working for Plante & Moran and the Fisher Group. She also has served as treasurer and Finance Committee chair for the New Hudson Methodist Church. Lynnette, who begins work at First Presbyterian December 27, will work with John throughout January. Welcome, Lynnette!

