

JANUARY 2019

TIDINGS

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PRESBYTERIAN | **COMMUNITY.**

3000 North High School Road + Indianapolis, IN 46224
9 am Traditional Service + 10 am Sunday School +
11 am Contemporary Service

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Frank Mansell, Pastor

Lisa Crismore, Commissioned Ruling Elder

THANK YOU

When we are going about our daily routines and facing the next challenge that life brings, we rarely have time to stop and reflect. The world doesn't afford us that opportunity very often. But once in a while, we are given those moments to pause and look back at where God has been in our life, and how grateful we are for God's presence and love.

I knew that the twentieth anniversary of my ordination was coming up in the beginning of November this past year, but with everything that was going on in life, I hadn't had much time to be prepared for it. Little did I know that others in this congregation had very much been thinking about it - and apparently planning for it - without my knowledge!

Needless to say, I was overwhelmed and humbled by the celebration that was thrown for me on Sunday, November 4, to celebrate this milestone in my ministry. I knew that it would be a special day already, when Debbie asked if she could assist with celebrating communion that morning, as Lisa was gone that Sunday. However, that was apparently all part of her master-plan, with whom she had many accomplices.

The Presbyterian Women organized a reception during the Church School hour - and set it up after we had begun the 9am service. That was very sneaky and extremely well-executed, I might add! Both my mother and Debbie's mother were present, as well as so many of you who attended. Erin even joined in from Davidson through the wonders of the internet! But there were pictures shown from my ordination in West Virginia 20 years ago, as well as pictures from our ministry together here at John Knox over the last 15-plus years. I want to thank Ann Hamel for putting that slideshow together, as it brought back many wonderful memories.

But I have to admit the most touching and meaningful gift you gave me were the multitude of letters and cards which you wrote. It's my understanding that Mary Carter, Amy Willis, Lisa Crismore, and Jon Barnhouse all had part in making

that happen - especially by sending out emails and communications to all of you without my knowledge. Once again, very sneaky!! And I am grateful for their having this idea, and then inviting all of you to respond in kind.

The notes and letters came not only from you here at John Knox, but also from many at Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, the church where I began my ministry before coming to John Knox. All these notes and letters bore special meaning to me - you reminded me of shared experiences we have had in the past, and you thanked me for being present with you in times that were of great need. I was moved to hear you share memories which I had honestly forgotten, but upon you writing them, I recalled God's grace and love in that particular moment. It was deeply humbling to read all your wonderful messages, and please know that I will go back and re-read them over and over again, especially in times when I'm low or struggling.

This gift which you gave me has reminded me how powerful words are. When we take a moment and tell someone how we really feel about them, it might be exactly the time and place that God is speaking through us to lift that person up. As we begin this new year in ministry together, I know I will seek to do that more and more in spoken and written word. Perhaps you will feel inclined to do the same.

Finally, this really has been a celebration of not just me, but also my incredible wife, Debbie, as she also celebrated her 20th ordination anniversary in October. I am grateful for this journey we have shared together, and will continue to be grateful to God for all we are able to do in the future.

With a full and grateful heart,

Frank

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DE-DECORATE THE CHURCH JANUARY 5

We've enjoyed the Christmas decorations at church throughout December. But now it is time to put them away. We will meet Saturday, January 5, at 12:00pm, and the Chancel Guild will reward you with a pizza lunch! The more people who come, the faster it will go - thanks for helping!

SUNDAY - JANUARY 6

COMMUNION: Sunday, January 6, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. Plan to be in church on that day to share this meal with the people of God.

FOOD ON THE FIRST: Food items (non-perishable) are collected on the first Sunday of the month and then taken to St. John's Storehouse Food Pantry. Bring your items on Sunday, January 6, or during office hours the week before.

COOKIE SALE THANK YOU!

The Mission Team wishes to thank everyone who participated in our Cookie Sale Fundraiser on December 16 for the Debt Retirement Fund. Through your tasty treats and generosity, we raised \$325 for the Debt Retirement Fund. Great job! Thanks again for all you do to make this an Open. Caring. Community!

TIDINGS DEADLINE

Articles for the **FEBRUARY 2019** issue of the John Knox Tidings are **due by Wednesday, JANUARY 16th**. The preferred way to turn in your articles is to email them directly to the editor: JKPCTidings@gmail.com, or place them in the **TIDINGS mailbox** in the Church Office.

CELEBRATION WORSHIP WITH NUEVA CREACION - JAN. 6 - 1:30PM

Since December 2, Iglesia Nueva Creacion has been worshipping with Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana at Westview Christian Church. And representatives from all four churches have had some initial conversations about what this new partnership might look like in the future. We are hopeful that even though Nueva Creacion is no longer worshipping on Sundays in our space, we will continue to be partners in ministry - at the locations of John Knox, Westview, and throughout our community.

But to mark the eleventh anniversary of Nueva Creacion, and to formally mark this transition we are going through, there will be a celebration worship service on Epiphany - Three Kings Sunday - at John Knox. The service will be at 1:30pm on January 6 in our sanctuary, and representatives from both Hispanic congregations, John Knox, Westview Christian Church, and the presbytery will be present. Let us all come and join together for a time to give thanks to God for our shared ministry in the past, and for what new things lie ahead in our future!

WINTER IS HERE!

WEATHER IMPACTING ACTIVITIES - As we enter the winter months, sometimes weather can be a problem with events we have scheduled at the church. If you are unsure whether an activity will go on as planned, please call the church and we will have an updated message on the main menu. We will record any announcements there for changes or cancellations of events due to weather, and will keep that updated accordingly. Frank Mansell will send a group email to those on his list to notify you as well. If you are not on Frank's list and would like to be, email him at jkpcpastor@comcast.net Finally, check the church's website and Facebook page, as updates will be posted there.

CRAZY CARDS SATURDAY - JANUARY 19 - 5:30PM

WHAT: This will be our January SET Saturday (instead of Sunday) Evening Together. This is a great way to get together, enjoy fellowship and food during the dreary winter, as well as a crazy card game (no card playing skills needed)!

WHEN AND WHERE: Saturday, January 19, Fellowship Hall 5:30pm to gather and get organized; 6pm we will begin.

WHO: Any and all adults interested in having a fun evening. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy terrific snacks and to get better acquainted with other adults in our church family.

SNACKS: Each of us is asked to bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

PRIZES: Door Prizes will be awarded to four lucky players.

COST: Optional \$5 donation for the Debt Retirement Fund.

RSVP: Please let us know you are planning to attend by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you have playing cards at home, please bring them. If you have a card table at home, please bring it. And know that child care can be provided - just mark that on the sign-up sheet. Thanks!

FAITH CONVERSATIONS SUNDAY - JANUARY 20

Are you interested in having further conversations around faith while sharing a meal together? If you attend the 11am service, then we have just such an opportunity for you! Once-a-month, starting on January 20, you're invited to join us in the parlor after the 11am service for a simple lunch and conversations on faith. The topics will vary from month-to-month, but will offer a time to reflect on how we are called to live out our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. They will be held on the third Sunday of each month. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Ann Hamel or Frank Mansell. We look forward to seeing you as we share in meaningful conversation together!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 27

On Sunday, January 27, we will mark a new year with a special schedule of events in the morning:

Church School - 9:30am
One Worship Service - 10:30am
Pitch-In Lunch and Annual
Congregational Meeting- 12:00pm

In our combined worship service that day, we will ordain and install those who were elected into leadership on November 18, 2018. That includes: Clark Wells, Ken Duggins, Tim Graves, Jon Barnhouse (elders); Matthew Dass, Mary Carter, Donna Pults, Jairo Turcias (deacons).

After worship, we will head to the Fellowship Hall for a pitch-in luncheon. This will be a true pitch-in: bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share; drinks and table service will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office to indicate what you are willing to bring for the meal that day.

Following lunch, we will hold the annual congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall around the tables. Materials for the meeting will be available no later than Sunday, January 20; please pick up packets before the meeting so you might be prepared. We will also make sure the materials are available on the church website.

At the meeting, we will share about what God has done in our midst in the past year at John Knox, and what we are being called to do in the years ahead. This is a great way to learn more, ask questions, and together look ahead to where God is leading us in 2019. We look forward to seeing you then!

NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: It's the start of a new year! Thank you for all your support of the "New Beginnings" program. In 2018, the "New Beginnings" program provided food, clothing, blankets, diapers, coats, rent assistance, and gas. We were able to help 69 families this year! Please pray and consider donating to the "New Beginnings" program. Thank you for your generosity, in supporting our community. I am lucky enough to see the relief and appreciation of those that come to JKPC for assistance, it warms my heart every time we are able to help. I look forward to doing it all over again this year! Blessings! -- *Amy Willis*

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who brought their nativities into share at the Nativity Open House. I am grateful to all who popped into browse during this busy time of year. It was interesting to see our Savior's birth interpreted through these scenes.

Thanks to all who participated and attended "The Best Intergenerational Christmas Pageant Ever." It was a night filled with fun and fellowship as we began this season of Advent. This has become an intergenerational program, where all ages can take part and grow community. There were over 50 people who came together to make this event a success.

-- *Lisa Crismore*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	9 a.m. Worship	C o m b i n e d Worship	11 a.m. Worship
Nov 25	64		29
Dec 2	75		34
Dec 9	72		25
Dec 16	83		33

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AN INVITATION TO SERVE THROUGH MUSIC

January is a great time to start something new....like joining the choir or band! New members are always welcome, but January is a great time to join because we all start fresh, both in the choir and the band. We especially need male voices in the choir, and a drummer and electric bassist for the band. But we need and welcome anyone - singers or instrumentalists, junior high age and up! If you feel led to serve, or if you know of someone who you think may be interested, please help us! And if you are unable to serve, we always appreciate your prayers, that we continue to serve effectively in music ministry. If you have questions or desire more information, contact me (jgillesp@butler.edu; 317-796-1143) or anyone who currently serves in the choir or band.

-- *Jeff Gillespie*

JKPC DINES TOGETHER

We will gather at noon on **Monday, January 28**, for lunch with our members at **Westside Garden Plaza**.

Come for a meal, communion and fellowship with our members. Please RSVP to the Church Office (317-291-0308) if you plan to attend.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUNDRAISING

TRASH BAG SALES - Trash bags will not be sold in January. They will be sold in February. The date for February sales will be in the February Tidings. They are \$13 per roll and are available in 3 sizes. If you should need trash bags before February, see Dick Herman or Judy Ricketts on Sunday, or they may be purchased in the church office during the week during office hours. Proceeds from sales go to Debt Retirement. Thanks for your support.

DINING EVENT REPORT - You raised \$93.81 by eating at BJ's in September. Thanks for your support!

METAL RECYCLING: \$2,432.61 (for 2018)

PAPER RECYCLING: \$26.88 (for 2018)

DINING EVENT AT CITY BARBEQUE TUESDAY - JANUARY 15

If you eat at City Barbeque, 9116 Rockville Road (on the north side of the road just east of County Line Road) on Tuesday, January 15, from 10:30am until 10:00pm, 25% of your total bill (not including tax) will go to the church debt retirement fund. Carry-out orders are included. You must present a flyer when you place your order. Flyers are available on the table under the bulletin board by the church office and on the church website on the home page under service projects. Please give flyers to your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. However, you may not distribute flyers in the restaurant parking lot the day of the event. This is a great way to help the church and go out to eat. Thanks for your support!

PW GARAGE SALE IS BACK!

GOOD NEWS!!! Presbyterian Women (PW) will once again hold a **GARAGE SALE** in 2019!! April 6th, to be exact!!

And, **IT'S NOT TOO EARLY.....**to put this date on your calendar and to start cleaning out those closets, drawers, and cabinets, organizing that garage, or going through the "stuff" in the attic or basement! Always remember..."One man's trash is another man's treasure!" Please keep that in mind over the next couple of months. We welcome any and all donations. Think... furniture, equipment, tools, dishes, kitchen gadgets, books, cds, dvds, toys, games, bikes, clothes that don't fit, that you haven't worn in two years, or that you simply no longer want, bedding you don't use... you get the picture! We will welcome your help, too, with the setting up and pricing in the days prior to the sale! If you have any questions, please feel free to see or contact Sandy Jordan (317-446-3860) or any member of the PW Coordinating Team. Please keep in mind that we no longer accept TVs, large entertainment centers, computers or large exercise equipment. (If you like, we even give receipts for your stuff - just like Goodwill!) Thanks for your support!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Esther Berko	Jan 1	Cheryl Fultz	Jan 16
John Donnellan	Jan 1	Faustina Annan	Jan 18
Savannah Gagna	Jan 1	Doris Hopper	Jan 21
Aida Baumgardner	Jan 2	Amy Stiles	Jan 21
Ann Hamel	Jan 3	Hank Kauppila	Jan 22
Kyle Pellett	Jan 6	Clark Wells	Jan 25
Russel Heath	Jan 10	Jacob Wistendahl	Jan 27
Jane Burgan	Jan 13	Jack Jordan	Jan 29
Sophia Herman	Jan 13	Jake Herman	Jan 30
Suzanne Phillippe	Jan 15		

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

It was a month ago that I was in the Dominican Republic meeting with our partnering Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana - IED Church. As I reflect on my time there, I remember the beautiful faces of the people from the church in Tamayo and the chapel in Uvilla. I was blessed to spend time with over 30 children who came early before worship to participate in games and interact with us. I was moved to see Pastora Elsa and her husband, Jairo, love their new son, Eliseo, and care for him as new parents. Even though they live in such a different culture, speak a different language, and live with very little means, I have no doubt that they love Jesus with all their heart, soul and being. I have no doubt that they strive to live as faithful disciples seeking ways to serve Christ. I have no doubt that they are committed to seeking how God is leading us in this partnership and finding ways of how we can learn and grow from each other.

As both churches continue to be in prayer about where the Spirit is leading us, I wanted to share with you a letter that Pastora Elsa gave to me while I was there.

Dear John Knox,

We hope that you are well. We are fine, thanks to God. We are happy to be connected with you. We are blessed and consider this to be a blessing from God.

Thanks for your prayers! We are deeply grateful for your support and future collaboration, which will be good for our church. Thank you for your part and allowing Lisa to come and spend a few days with us, which we are very blessed.

May God bless and prosper your goals and future projects, according to his will. May God help you live out your dreams and desires.

We pray that God will protect you from all evil and danger; give you all good health to keep going, where the Holy Spirit will take you from glory to glory and from triumph to triumph.

*May God today, tomorrow and always be with your families,
loved ones and everywhere God takes you.*

With love,

Pastora Elsa Thomas & Jairo Puente

Our congregation at John Knox was very generous in giving financial support and prayers throughout this year toward this mission's partnership. Money came from various places: Bingo and Silent Dessert Auction; 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering; Children's Offering from Church School, and past Mission trip support. The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley purchased my \$800 airfare ticket. All in all, John Knox's giving totaled \$2445. I wanted to share with you the break down on how your generosity was used.

Please keep in mind that when you go to a Third World country you must make sure that you are safe. You can't just rent a car and drive to your destination. You have to hire a driver and pay for his gas, which was \$600. Because of the difference in language, you have to hire a translator, which was \$700 (there was the need for 2 translators since originally we thought we were going to have 5 people on this trip). The hotel cost was \$180 for 5 rooms/3 nights. Our food had to be prepared as there are no restaurants in Tamayo or Uvilla; Elsa and her friend charged us \$120. The church in Tamayo received \$500 to support their ministry. The IED church headquarters, which will support education materials for the entire national church, received \$345.

I keep wondering how do we be the Body of Christ and stay connected with over 1700 miles between us? I think the answer is the Spirit will show us, and we have to be open to hearing God's response. The plan for now is that we hope to be reunited in the spring.

New Year's blessings,

Lisa

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2019

As we shared in last month's Tidings, we were facing some major challenges in our financial stewardship for next year and the end of 2018. However, once again, you as a congregation responded in generous, sacrificial ways, and the Session wishes to express its deep thanks to everyone who stepped forward and made the following possible.

On December 17, the Session met to review and approve a preliminary budget for 2019. Here are some of the details of our forecasted budget:

- The Session approved a budget for 2019 totaling \$372,776 in expenses, and forecasting \$372,600 in total income, a nearly-balanced budget.
- We have received 87 total pledges of financial support for 2019 for the annual budget; 32 are pledges which increased from 2018, and 6 are new pledges for 2019.
- We have received 46 pledges of financial support for debt retirement in 2019, totaling \$73,756 for 2019. The minimum we need for the year for the loan payments is \$67,000 - which includes being able to pay an additional \$21,000 per year on the loan principal.
- This budget does not reduce staff compensation, mission giving, or other program funding from 2018.

To address the anticipated shortfall in income for 2018, several people have made additional contributions in December to aid in that need. We will have a clearer picture of where we stand for the end of 2018 by the annual congregational meeting on January 27. You are encouraged to come to that meeting to hear more information and to ask any questions you might have in regards to our financial health.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about any of this, please don't hesitate to contact Frank Mansell, a member of Session, Cindy Hiday (financial secretary) or Troy Judy (treasurer).

Once again, thank you for your incredible generosity to this Open. Caring. Community!

JOHN KNOX POLO SHIRTS

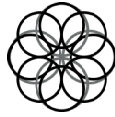
We have two large-size teal green polo shirts available for purchase in the church office. The price is \$18 per shirt. If you would like one or both of them, please contact Amy Willis in the church office (jkpcoffice@comcast.net; 317-291-0308). Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PYOCA

This Spring is busy at Pyoca Camp and Conference Center! They are hosting three new adult retreats, all focusing on sabbath and spirituality. Expressions in Faith (January 11-13) will focus on art as a spiritual practice and is open to participants of any artistic level. Pyoca is also introducing two new yoga retreats: Yoga and Spirituality (February 8-10) and Flow and Grow Yoga (May 3-5). Additional information and registration for these events may be found at www.pyoca.org.

THANK YOU!

The Mission Team wishes to thank the congregation for its quick and generous response to the Angel Tree donations we made for the Salvation Army at Christmas. We learned at the last-minute that there is no longer a United Christmas Service provided by the United Way, and that all those children and their families were being supported by the Salvation Army and its Angel Tree project. One Sunday, we placed out the names of seven children and the 5-7 gifts they each wanted for Christmas. The next Sunday, all those gifts were delivered by you to the church. THANK YOU! We hope to be able to do this project again next year, and would love to adopt more children in our community, so that they will know the joy of the season.



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