



First Press

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Nov - Dec 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



The season of Light has arrived. Moving us into Advent/Christmas at the beginning of December are celebration of the Lord's Supper (Dec. 3) and the Women's and Men's combined Christmas meeting (Dec.2): Christmas Trains and Crafts with snacks. The community is widely invited to the event as a gesture of generosity and celebration of the impending birth of our Lord Jesus. The Temple Telegram published the Dec. event this Thursday (Nov. 30) in the "Weekly Events" column. Publication in that column is free to the church.

As I have been asked by church members how this event is being organized, I offer the following:

Three model train layouts (O scale, HO scale and N scale) are being hosted by Bobbie Sutter and Bruce Vineyard. Both are or have been members of the Temple Train Club and model train buffs. The layouts are replicas of villages complete with operating trains. The layouts will be in the social hall.

(See pg 2)



Polka Sunday

Pastor's Desk (cont.)

Crafts for adults, youth and children

are hosted by Nicolette and Amy Boyles, Jennica French, Julie and Arthur McPhail and Kathy Vineyard. The library at the end of the hallway will house adult/youth crafts. Projects available will be drawing, coloring or use of prepared artwork to create unique and personalized notecards or Christmas cards and painting and decoration of wooden Christmas ornaments to be inserted in prepared Christmas cards already printed with manger scenes.

The children's classroom at the end of the hall will be the art workshop for the youngest. The children will enjoy making stained glass on paper with watercolors. They will be given mini color books and a pack or crayons to work on as preferred and to take home.

Snacks are hosted in the social hall by Penny Worley and Lynda Allmer who are preparing gift bags of cookies. Bottles of water will be provided.

Greeters will be Kay Atwood and Sandra Jones.

Preparations have been ongoing, and setup of trains was on Thursday and Friday. Crafts are already in the classrooms. **Final set up will be at noon Saturday, Dec. 2.**

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and the men and women's groups for attending and participating. As always, our need for working volunteers is evolving and may include parking lot attendants, security detail and guides for those who need help locating the various workshops-train layouts are obvious.

This project began as the brainchild of our model railroad enthusiasts to whom we owe our gratitude as we welcome not only one another but also the community outside our walls. No fees are being charged -all supplies have been donated as a gesture of hospitality to our friends and church family

in these challenging economic times. People I have invited seem excited and interested to have a safe and fun event to bring families together.

Kathy E. Vineyard, H.R.



Polka Dancers

Stated Meeting of the Session November 28, 2023 at the Church Minutes

Worship

Joy Offering – Kay made a motion to collect the Joy Offering on Sunday, December 17th and Marian seconded the motion. The motion carried. We will use the special envelopes designated for this specific offering.

Poinsettias – Rather than have members purchase poinsettias this year, we decided to purchase about three large ones for the bema, especially since the sanctuary is already decorated for the holidays.

Buildings & Grounds

Memorial bricks update – The bricks for Jane Hickerson and Mary Frances Brown are finally back. The man who did the lettering provided them to us for free because he felt it had taken him too long to complete the project.

HVAC proposal from Bell Air Conditioning – Bell has presented us with an offer to provide HVAC maintenance for about \$ 500 less that we are currently paying. The offer was accepted by consensus.

Terry reported that we have had some issues with garbage around the picnic tables including beer cans, broken glass, etc. Terry contacted the police and asked that they patrol the area in the hope of curtailing this activity. Kathy also asked if there was anything we can do about the fence, especially since it is looking very shabby with boards missing etc. Terry will contact the landlord of the strip center on the other side of the fence and discuss options. .

Congregational Care

Amy Boyles requested a box for cards/letters to Nicolette in boot camp – Members present thought that this was a nice idea and thought it needed to be publicized for greater participation. We suggest that Amy connect with Patricia to decide where to put the box. That way Amy can pick up the cards and send them off to Nicolette in batches.

Missions

Possible reading program with BISD – Kay reported that she and Marian had attended the recent luncheon with Julie. Right now discussions are preliminary. But, the thought is that we might be able to help BISD by reading with elementary school students..

FINANCIAL DATA

JANUARY - NOVEMBER, 2023

Total Income	\$77,543.08
Total Expense	\$72,682.91
Net Income	\$ 4,860.17



HAPPY
163rd
BIRTH-
DAY
FPC
BELTON



