Buy Globally for the Holidays This Year

Looking for just the right gift this holiday season? Want to help artisans in developing countries earn a fair wage? Come to the Global Gift Market and do both!

At the Market on November 12 and 13, you will find one-of-a-kind items from Ten Thousand Villages, such as hand-crafted Christmas decorations, scarves, toys, jewelry and household items from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Each purchase helps pay for food, education, housing and healthcare for artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. The Gift Market will be Nov. 12–13: 10:00 to 1:00 on Saturday and Sunday until 1:00, in the T.K. Young Room.

Every handmade object from Ten Thousand Village has a life of meaning behind it. Your purchases help put food on the table, send children to school, provide housing, and keep families healthy. Learn more at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

Stewards of God’s New Thing

On Pledge Sunday, November 6, we celebrate the dedication of our pledges for the coming year. If you haven’t already done so, please submit your pledge today.

As stewards, we want to leave the church healthier and stronger. Your financial support is needed. Since next year’s budget is based solely on pledges, the earlier you pledge, the better.

If you have questions about stewardship, feel free to contact Jim Harwood, chair of the Stewardship Committee.
Prepare Your Spirit with the Advent Devotional Booklets

Advent devotional booklets will be available at the church on Sunday, November 20, and will also be available at www.idlewildchurch.org (Newsletters & Bulletins page). The devotions are written by members of the congregation and reflect on a passage from the daily lectionary. The scripture and prayers will also be a part of the annual Advent calendar put out by the Evangelism Committee in December. The Adult Ministry Committee hopes that this Advent devotional booklet will enrich your family’s experience of the Advent season.

More Than A Meal Will Have Turkey Dinner on November 17

This year’s big MTAM turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be on November 17—the week before Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, More Than A Meal dinner will be a simple soup and sandwich meal, because there are so many other big turkey dinners in the city on the actual day.

More Than A Meal is held every Thursday: worship is at 5:00, and dinner is at 5:30. Dinner is always free—and all are welcome!

November & December Topics for A Look Inside

Do you wonder what it means to be a PC(USA) Presbyterian, or why we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper like we do? The Sunday morning class A Look Inside, which meets the first Sunday of each month, answers these and many more questions. This class is perfect for prospective and new members, and longtime members are welcome too. Upcoming topics:

November 6 – Stewardship
December 4 – Worship and the Liturgical Calendar

The class is offered by New Member Welcoming and taught by clergy. For more information contact Cheryl Westlake at 849-7624 or Associate Pastor Anne H.K. Apple at 726-4681, or anne@idlewildchurch.org.
Don’t take the political process for granted

By the time you read this, I will have already voted. Ever since I was 18 years of age, have done my civic responsibility and have not missed an election.

I take that very seriously for several reasons. I recently returned from a trip to Cuba where I once again preached at our sister church, the Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas, but also spent several days in a conference with U.S. Presbyterians and leaders of the Cuban Presbyterian Church. Our hosts were remarkably well-informed about our current election campaign and the depths to which it has plummed.

As one participant said, “We envy many things about your country, but if this is what democracy has to offer, why should we want it?”

Why indeed? I want to make a brief theological case for my vote, beginning with John Calvin, who believed that government and political authorities are ordained by God for our good. This does not mean that any and every particular government and political authority is from God, but it does mean that we should thankfully acknowledge, support, and obey those that do what God ordained them to do: restrain sin and promote human welfare.

Calvin was realistic about human sinfulness and its consequences. We are all, he said, “ravenous beasts,” who, left to ourselves, would destroy each other. But a gracious God has ordained that there should be governments and political authorities to restrain human sinfulness that is always prone to rebel against laws God has given us for our good, and prone to take advantage of other people in the service of our own self-interest and that of others like us.

Calvin, in other words, would have little use for those today who believe that people are “basically good”; that if “the government” would just leave us alone, we would voluntarily do what is right and care about one another; that therefore the best government is the least (ideally, no) government. He knew (as Reinhold Niebuhr did years later) that we need God’s gift of government and political leaders to protect us from our own and other’s sinfulness.

But for Calvin, the main purpose of government was not the negative restraint of sin. In his final chapter of Institutes of the Christian Religion, he said that political authorities are called to “represent in themselves some image of divine providence, protection, goodness, benevolence, and justice” so that “humanity” and “freedom” may be maintained among all people for the sake of the “common safety and peace for all.”

He went further (and started to “meddle!”): Political leaders are called to “give justice to the poor and needy, rescue the destitute and needy, and deliver the poor and needy from the hand of the oppressor.”

Now, Calvin was a medieval man who lived in a different age. We believe that in a free pluralistic society the

(STEVE’S LETTER continued on page 4)
government has no business promoting the faith of any particular religion or religious group. But most of us in the Reformed tradition can and should “point in the direction of” the justice and peace of the Kingdom of God proclaimed and inaugurated by Jesus Christ.

The political process can be distasteful. I think we all can agree on that. But I hope that all of us will not take it for granted, and will make it to the polls and vote for the candidates who will most effectively serve the common good of all people. If we don’t, then we have answered the question the Cubans asked “Why should we want democracy?”

Blessings.

Who had more fun at NaCoMe — Kids or Adults?

Clean Water Team Heads to Ghana

Our clean water team—Jim Levernier, Steve Valentine and Chalmers Valentine—will be in Ghana November 13–18 on a Living Waters for the World (LWW) trip mission trip. They will working with LWW instructors to plan for next year’s Clean Water University training in Ghana. It will be the first time training has happened outside the U.S. Please keep the travelers in your prayers.

Thanksgiving at Pinecrest

11:30–1:00 Dinner
Reservations required by Nov. 18
Call 878-1247

Gather with families & friends at beautiful Pinecrest Retreat Center in LaGrange for a traditional feast and outdoor fun. $22 adults, $15 children 4-8, free for children 3 and under.

Thanksgiving at Pinecrest

Blessings,

(STEVE’S LETTER continued from page 3)

Congratulations to Sarah Colley, who was named one of Memphis Business Journal’s Top 40 under 40.

David Schnell will be on stage at GPAC November 4th and 5th playing the role of Basilio, music master and busy body in the court of the Count, in the Opera Memphis production of “The Marriage of Figaro.” David, a tenor, will be sharing the stage with world class singers.

We offer condolences in these deaths in our extended church family:

m Gary Emerson Swaddle, husband of Susan Elliott, died Sept. 23

m Helen Kreddit, sister of Phil Guichelaar, died Sept. 11

m Annie Minnick, grandmother of William Myers, died Oct. 4

Submit congregational news to Jenni Brooks, jbrooks@idlewildchurch.org.
“A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.” – Cicero

**OWLS Travel Talk with the Llewllyns**

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, the OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) will get together for a fun presentation by Bob and Lola Llewellyn entitled Travel Talk: In the backyard of Alexander the Great: Albania, Macedonia, Northern Greece, Bulgaria. Quite apart from the fact that these countries are associated with the early life of Alexander the Great, they have rich, and troubled, histories and beautiful vistas in their own right.

Join Lola and Bob for a “visit.” The program starts at 11:30 in the T.K. Young Room, and lunch will follow.

**Walk the Labyrinth on November 27**

Come and walk the labyrinth after the 11:00 service on November 27, and learn about this ancient practice of prayer and meditation. Come down to the lower floor of the Jones Building (under the gym). Folks will be there to guide you in a time of quiet reflection on God’s presence in your life.

**Children Prepare the Agua Prieta Gift Bags**

**Our children are leaders in outreach!** Please make plans for your 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to be part of the annual Agua Prieta gift bags for Christmas. Our children will learn about the lives of children in Agua Prieta, Mexico, Douglas, Arizona, and the PCUSA border ministry there. After learning why and for whom the bags are made, our children will sort, pack, sell and dedicate the bags for more than 100 children whose parents cannot provide any Christmas gifts. If you want more information, please contact Dr. Barbara Jennings, math0618@bellsouth.net.

- **Sundays, Oct 30–Nov 20** — Come any or all Sundays to help sell Christmas cards to fund the bags. It will be between 9:30 and 12:30.
- **Sunday, Nov 6** — At 12:15, our children will fill the bags for the children along the Mexico/Arizona border. Lunch will be provided, so please let us know if your child is coming.
- **Sunday, Nov 20** — The gift bags will be dedicated in the 11:00 worship service.
**Basketball Coaches Needed Soon**

Basketball Coaches are needed for the coming season. If you would like to volunteer or need more info, contact Jacob Pierce (725-4165).

**Young Women’s Fall Retreat**

The Young Women’s Retreat is November 11-13 at Pickwick Lake. The retreat is for women in their 20s-30s. **The last day to register is Nov. 1.** Get details & register online (www.idlewildchurch.org/women) or at church Sundays.

**Winter Weather Watch**

Whenever public schools are closed due to inclement weather, Idlewild classes, dinners and meetings will be cancelled. **More Than A Meal worship service and dinner on Thursdays are held regardless of weather conditions.** For questions about specific groups, please check with your committee chair, group leader or contact person.
Dates to Remember

Nov 1.......................... All Saints’ Day
Nov 1.......................... PW Circles
Nov 1......................... Young Adult Trivia Night
Nov 6.......................... All Saint’s Sunday
Nov 6.......................... Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov 6.......................... First Sunday Lunch
Nov 6....................... New Officer Faith Statements
Nov 6....................... Fill Agua Prieta Gift Bags
Nov 9.......................... Chimes Deadline
Nov 9.......................... Confirmation Mentor Training
Nov 10....................... Young Adult Men’s Dinner
Nov 11....................... Veterans Day
Nov 11-13.................... YPW Retreat
Nov 12-13.................... Global Gift Market
Nov 13....................... Confirmation Opening Dinner
Nov 15....................... OWLS Travel Talk
Nov 15....................... Idlewild at Muddy’s
Nov 20....................... Christ the King/Regn of Christ
Nov 20....................... Soup-To-Go Sale
Nov 20....................... Wholeness Service
Nov 20....................... Movie Night
Nov 21....................... Hanging of the Greens
Nov 24....................... Thanksgiving Day
Nov 24....................... MTAM Worship & Dinner
Nov 24-25 ....... Office, Children’s Center Closed
Nov 27....................... First Sunday of Advent
Nov 27....................... Labyrinth Workshop
Nov 30....................... Advent Service & Lunch

Committee Meetings

These meetings were scheduled as of Oct. 13. Please check with your committee chair or the church office if you have questions.

Nov 1 ..........3:30pm Bldg. Communications
Nov 1 ..........6:30pm IC3 Board
Nov 7 ..........6:00pm Congregational Care
Nov 8 ..........5:30pm Worship & Music
Nov 9 ..........8:00am Building
Nov 9 ..........5:30pm Budget & Finance
Nov 14 ..........6:30pm Evangelism
Nov 15 ..........9:00am Presbytery Meeting
Nov 15 ..........10:00am PW Coordinating Team
Nov 15 ..........1:00pm PW Bible Moderators
Nov 15 ..........6:00pm Adult Ministry
Nov 16 ..........6:30pm Session
Nov 17 ..........8:00am Personnel
Nov 23 ..........5:00pm House & Properties

Please remain mindful of keeping your pledge payment current. Thank you!

Memorials

DENBY BRANDON, JR.
Mary Lou Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Berger
Thelma F. Scott
George & Mary Edith Walker
ANNE WILLIAMS BROWN
Emily & Jerry Gay
CATHERINE BROWN
Regina Benson
Dr. & Mrs. Robert R. Llewellyn
PEGGY T. DRINKARD
Mr. & Mrs. Harte R. Thomas, Jr.
JIM EIKNER
Brooks Ramsey
JOHN FAIN
Mary Lou Adams
Julia Allen
Regina Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Berger
Coastal Carolina University
Dr. & Mrs. Clair E. Cox, II
Ray & Marilyn Curle
Skip & Faye Daniel
Adrienne Davis
Jon & Rita Ellis
Anne & Joseph Fisher
Buzzy Hussey & Hal Brunt
Ted & Joyce Johnson
Ellen & Andrew Kang
Maggie & Milton Lovell
Anne McKinney
Caroline McKinney
Eleanor McKinney
Diane Meess
Jeannette M. Peeples
John Pickens & Suzie Satterfield
Ann W. Roane
Beth Simpson
Sol Solomon, MD
Suzy Sullivan
Dr. & Mrs. Parker Suttle
George & Mary Edith Walker
June F. Wilcox
Page & Gail Williamson
Walter D. Wills, III
Betty Anne Wilson
Mydelle Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas O. Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wurtzburger
SANFORD GARNER, III
Allen Cox, III
GARY SWADDLE
E.J. Baird
Anne & Jim Ferguson
Beth Flanagan & Tim Maxwell
Maggie & Milton Lovell
Al & Janet Lyons
Donna & David Rhodes
Anne Shaw
Beth Simpson
Betty Anne Wilson

Transitions in Our Church Family

New Babies
Katherine Birdwell Askew
daughter of
Candace & Graham Askew
born September 9, 2016

Baptized in the Faith
Catherine Malry Berger
daughter of Alison & Taylor Berger
Emory Phillips Driskill
son of Christine & Gavan Driskill

Bennett Watson Gladstone
Warren Rea Gladstone
twin sons of Jennifer & Ben Gladstone
Olivia Lawson VanVeckhoven
daughter of Katie & Patton Springfield

New Members
Amanda Crowder
by letter of transfer from Highpoint Church

Ted & Jenny Mealor
by letter of transfer from Evergreen Presbyterian

Molly Turner
by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian in Covington

Restored to the Rolls
Suzan Beth Carlile

Marriage
Whitney Baer & Charlie Foster
October 8, 2016

Memorials & gifts

Thank you!

Monday, November 21
9:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m. A Service of Wholeness in the Trippeer Chapel
4:00 p.m. Movie & discussion: “The Theory of Everything” in the T.K. Young Room.

The Service of Wholeness is centered on prayer—silent, spoken and sung—and enacts the church’s ministry as a healing community. It is particularly appropriate as we approach Advent, the season of waiting in faith for Christ who proclaimed wholeness through the gospel. Harp music, presented by Elizabeth Houston, will accompany our prayers for others and ourselves. All are invited to come and participate in this inspiring, moving service.

“How are these two connected? “In some ways that I don’t really have words for—through it’s navigating grief and loss with grace and within community; lamenting brokenness in worship and acknowledging how hard it can be to carry; a seeking of an anointing and support in prayer for the journey.” — Associate Pastor Anne H.K. Apple