

# Montesano Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December 2017

To know to love and  
serve Jesus Christ

1883 - 2017



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Montesano WA 98563  
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Steven Fischback, Pastor

*He became what we are  
so we could become what  
He is.*

*Merry Christmas!  
Steve Jay Susan*



## Pastor's Perspective

Over the last 100 years, a familial and charming debate has been held concerning whether Santa Claus really exists. An editorial appeared in the September 21, 1897, edition of *The New York Sun* entitled "Is There a Santa Claus?" It was a reply to a question sent by an eight-year-old girl named Virginia O'Hanlon. She asked her father if there was a Santa Claus, and he suggested she write to *The Sun* and ask, telling her "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Francis Pharcellus Church, one of *The Sun's* editors, famously replied to the young girl, offering a line that is now part of common folklore: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

In 1947 the debate continued through the film, *Miracle on 34th Street*. A gentleman named Kris Kringle worked for Macy's on 34th Street, New York City, as Santa Claus, welcoming countless children onto his knee with a ho-ho-ho. There was much more to Kris Kringle than meets the eye, however, and eventually he stands trial accused of impersonating someone who does not really exist. Of course, both Kris and Santa are vindicated.

Well, the debate about Santa Claus likely will continue for generations to come. But there is

## Mark Your Calendars

**Hanging of the Green**

December 3rd

**Festival of Lights**

December 9th

**PW Christmas Party**

December 11

**Children's Christmas Program**

December 17

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

December 24

no debate about the existence of Saint Nicholas, the real Santa Claus of the Christian Faith. His name was Nicholas of Myra. He lived in what is now Turkey, dying on Dec. 6, 342. (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> is considered a good day for big purchases or to get married - for me, it was a good day to be born!) Nicholas was a very active leader in the early Christian church, even participating in the great Council of Nicea in 325. Nicholas was known for holiness and a passion for Christ. He was even imprisoned for his faith as part of the Diocletian persecution. He gave most of his money away to help the poor and sick and his love for children was real.

Nicholas later became the patron saint of children. In fact, it was children who began giving presents in his name. But they had trouble pronouncing it, so St. Nicholas became Sinter Klaas, and then became Santa Claus by the Dutch. Simply put, St. Nicholas was one of the great heroes of the faith, and worthy of honor. Even during times when "saints" were less than celebrated Nicholas remained popular.\*

This is the good St. Nick that we at Monte Pres. can remember and celebrate each Christmas. Nicholas was a fellow believer who went before us as an example of what it means "to bring the little children to Jesus, instead of forbidding them." Let's focus on telling our children and grandchildren the real story of this St. Nicholas, while leaving the debate about the Jolly Big Guy in the Red Suit and Suspenders for others to resolve.

### Just a

Can you picture this? The sanctuary, bathed in the soft glow of candlelight, decorated with the tree, garlands, stars and our purple flags to celebrate the birth of the King; the perfect setting in which to experience one of the most moving services of our church. Everyone will be given the opportunity to light a candle representing the spread of Christ's good news throughout the world. (con't page 3, col 1)

## Who's Doing What & When

### Welcome Team

December 03	K. Jarvis & S. McCombs
December 10	L. & B. Taylor
December 17	S. & J. Dameron
December 24	L. & T. Bullington
December 31	Wright Family
January 07	K. Hughes & A. Royce
January 14	D. Chambers & R. Toyra
January 21	J. Grenon & P. Willis
January 28	P. & S. Hildreth

### Worship Leader

December 03	Sandy Thomas
December 07	Penny Woodruff
December 17	Pam Hildreth
December 24	A. Oestreich
December 31	John Gillespie
January 07	P. Gillespie
January 14	S. Thomas
January 21	P. Woodruff
January 28	A. Oestreich

### Church 4 Kids

December 03	Jennifer Wright
December 10	Practice for Christmas Program
December 17	Children's Program

### Coffee Hour

December 03	P. & S. Hildreth
December 10	P. & J. Gillespie
December 17	C. & B. McDougall
December 24 Christmas Eve	
December 31	Soup & Bread
January 07	Open
January 14	Open
January 21	Open
January 28	Open

(con't)

The Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will be featured along with piano, organ and other instrumental pieces of both traditional and contemporary music. Congregational singing and a message from the pastor will complete the evening. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend. What better way to celebrate the birth of our Savior?

## Presbyterian Women

PW Leadership Team prepared 29 small gift bags to be sent to Jeremy Wright's unit in Afghanistan. Sunday school class grades 1-6 prepared Christmas cards to send along with the gifts.



This is a card made by one of the children to send to the troops.

## PW Christmas Party

This year's theme is How Great Our Joy!

The party will be Monday, December 11, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for fun, fellowship and devotion with lots of good food and excitement. Please bring:

- 1) A festive party food to share.
- 2) A wrapped gift for the White Elephant gift exchange. Yes, it's back but please follow the motto "Give unto others what you would want given to you". Bring a used item but please, **NO JUNK.**
- 3) An unwrapped item for the Friendship House (see insert).

## Deacon News

Deacons continue to request that the congregation provide names of individuals or families in need for Christmas. They will be providing gift vouchers/cards to those in need. Last year five families/individuals were served.

The Deacons also intend to repeat last year's gift-giving activity which allows the congregation to choose an individual for gift giving. An example of cards on the tree for young people and children were as follows; each youth/child had three tags hung; one for shoes (for instance, 8 year old girl size 3 shoe), one for a clothing item, and one for a toy or age appropriate gift. The Deacons provided gift cards for the adults in the family. Last year all the tags were chosen; gifts wrapped and brought to church along with the card taken from the tree. The Deacons then separated them by family and delivered them. We hope you will participate in this opportunity to bring joy to someone this Christmas.

## Missions and Outreach

The annual Live Nativity is set as a part of the community Festival of Lights on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The nativity is Monte Pres' gift to the community and is well attended every year. It is not only a blessing to those that drive through but also to those that participate in the scene. The local Food Bank is blessed since many drop off donations after viewing the scene. If you are interested in taking part a sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

## Reach out and Touch Opportunity

During the Hanging of the Greens celebration you are invited to stop at the Mission & Outreach table in the Fellowship Hall and help fill a "Cold Weather Pack". The pack will include a pair of warm socks, gloves, a hat, 2 snack bars, and a bottle of water. Then, take a pack or two with you to give to someone on the street, that you encounter, who needs a little warmth this winter. The pack itself doesn't make their lives all better, but it says "I see you".

## Christian Education

Monte Pres dedicated 34 Shoe Boxes with the good news about Jesus to be sent to children all over the world. Continue to pray that the box you donated will have a life changing effect on the child receiving it. **THANKS** to everyone that participated.



## Carpet/Pew Update

This is a heads up for all of you who would like to be a part of beautifying the sanctuary. We will be removing the pews, pulling up the old carpet, and scraping the floors starting February 12th. We will need dedicated workers to help in this labor intensive process. While we are doing this the pews will be getting recovered in the fellowship hall and the old green material sent to the Seahawks for new uniforms. Hopefully, the new carpet will be laid and the pews back in place for Sunday service on the 18th. Please keep this week in mind so you can help with this project

### Mission Meals

December 19

Dameron/Morrill conduct services

Dondra Newbill	470-2541	Hot Dish for 20
Bev Goble	249-3120	Hot Dish for 20
Sammie Dameron	7048223	Hot Dish for 20
L. Anderson	249-5246	Salad & Dressing for 20
Lori Menzy	249-3602	Salad & Dressing for 20
Lisa Bullington	580-3715	Salad & Dressing for 20
Earlene Chambers furnishing dessert for 60		

January 16

Monte 1 Life Group conduct services

Ruth Kivi	249-5872	Hot Dish for 20
J. Neibert	350-2838	Hot Dish for 20
Edie Johnson	249-3957	Hot Dish for 20
L. Anderson	249-5246	Salad & Dressing for 20
Pam Stien	249-5723	Salad & Dressing for 20
Randi Toyra	249-5888	Salad & Dressing for 20
Lorna Claxton furnishing dessert for 60		

## Youth News

**December 2nd** Rock and Bowl 8:00 - 10:00

Meet at Fischbacks at 6:45 for Pizza

## Group Schedule

Monte 1 Life Group will meet at 6:30 pm on  
Dec 11

Elma Life Group will meet at 6:30 pm on  
Dec 13 and Dec 27

## Other Scheduled Activities

Deacon's Mtg	Nov 02	7pm
Men's Breakfast	Dec 02	8 am
*Bell Choir	Dec 03	6 pm
*Choir	Dec 03	7 pm
Hanging of the Greens	Dec 03	4 pm
*Awana	Dec 05	6 pm
Deacons Meeting	Dec 07	7 pm
Festival of Lights	Dec 08	
Live Nativity	Dec 09	
PW Christmas party	Dec 11	7 pm
Session	Dec 14	7 pm
Schuh Piano Recital	Dec 15	
Children's Program	Dec 17	Worship Hr.
Candlelight Service	Dec 24	6 pm

\*Meets weekly

## Address Change - Dolores Mooney

Channel Point Village  
Room #807  
907 K Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550



## Birthday Lunch

December 4th Birthday lunch will be at The Bee Hive at 11:30. The Birthday lady is Alletia Simons.