

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

December 2013

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from bbsnyder22@gmail.com. It is also available on the POV website.

Week of December 1 Commissioners to Presbytery Assembly

Please pray for the Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder commissioners as they gather for the Presbytery Assembly in Mitchell on December. Pray for discernment as they elect the 2014 officers and committee members and conduct other important business of the presbytery.

Week of December 8 Westminster, Washington (SW) Rev. Cheryl Thorne

The 1814, the earliest Presbyterian congregation was founded leading to what is now Westminster. With both joy and humility, we anticipate celebrating in 2014 the 100th anniversary of our Presbyterian members worshipping together. "The Stone Church with a Warm Heart" has been our guiding motto for the last 102 years since our current beautiful church was built in 1911 at 110 SE Second Street in Washington, Indiana. Praise God for our history and for our promising future sharing Christ's message of hope, forgiveness, comfort and stewardship for our church, country and world communities.

Westminster holds dearly "mission" in our prayers and actions. Our doors are open to all for worship and to several small groups needing a safe meeting place. We support our local missions and Daviess County "CONNECTIONS" with donations and serve on its board. Right now we are gearing up for the Annual Jubilee Christmas when we host a "Jubilee" evening allowing invited parents to select and wrap gifts for their families. We support teens who gain comfort and guidance at the Power House.

For our local food bank "Feed My Sheep" we do several collections of food each year and send our volunteers to help with distributions. This year we had our first one-day Vacation Bible School for all ages in our local park and plan to do another next year. It was such fun and a great success.

This year we started our prayer blanket ministry. It has been such a blessing to hear the stories of spiritual comfort and God's healing that these prayer blankets have brought to so many. We support our seminaries and contribute to all the denomination's mission outreaches all around the world.

As we seek to be faithful, our church has received a renewed sense of excitement to be revitalized. We are looking for new ways to be a welcoming church and serve our community. Change is not easy, but God has been so good to us and we are asking that your prayers for us be that we can follow God wherever He is leading us.

Week of December 15

**New Church Development
Sellersburg (SE)**

Greg Gibson

Greetings from Sellersburg, brothers and sisters in Christ! The Sellersburg New Church Development (NCD), also known as the Ark of Sellersburg, began as a worshiping community in May 2013. Relying on social media and personal contact, the Sellersburg NCD held monthly events since May to worship God, introduce ourselves to the community, and generate word-of-mouth excitement for our NCD. We have hosted four worship services in Sellersburg, one at my home and three at the Clark County REMC community room, and participated in three community events. At these events, we have handed out small bottles of water with our contact information and future events to drivers at an "un-road block." The enthusiasm from those receiving the water was great at the time, but did not help in bringing people to our events.

As an NCD, we are hopeful to find God's place in this community. We would appreciate prayers for the Administrative Commission and the people of Sellersburg, that God would continue to lead us in our efforts to find God's place in this community, and that people inside and outside Sellersburg's boundaries would respond to God's call to them.

Week of December 22

Peace on Earth

Week of December 29

Bethlehem International Center

In Bethlehem where Christ was born, on a narrow cobblestone street that leads down a hill to Manger Square, including the ancient Church of the Nativity, and the Palestinian Peace Center, one passes the site of our presbytery's partner in mission, Christmas Lutheran Church and its International Center of Bethlehem, a hostel to house international guests, and birthplace of an arts and crafts center, a school for K-12, a college, a health and wellness center, a media and communications center, Bright Stars of Bethlehem and more. Set in a land poor in most of what we call "natural resources," its resources are its people, and the Center's programs prepare those people to live in and enrich their culture as they find it.

Following are the brief reflections of two who have stayed at the Center and learned of its work.

- *The ICB is a great place to stay. The staff are very pleasant and when there is a need for obtaining transportation or information. I remember how welcome I felt seeing the driver with a sign "Presbytery of Ohio Valley" when we arrived at the airport. The school, health center, the elders there all benefit from our partnership and we benefit from their gracious spirit and hospitality.*
- *Standing by Waggoners' Wells in England back in 1863, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, marveled over a flower blooming beautifully, seemingly growing out of a rock, conceived and born and sustained by so little soil it seemed to him a miracle of God. It inspired him to write his little poem "Flower in the Crannied Wall." I thought of that little poem as I lived through my time in Bethlehem and experienced the International Center of Bethlehem, a center for peace and learning in a war-torn land, taken root and blossoming where life seemed so barren and hopeless to so many living in the birthplace of Christ.*

The Center is a miracle of peace and love wrought by God with the hearts and hands of Palestinian Christians and sustained by the gifts of Christians worldwide, including the Presbytery of Ohio Valley. Google "International Center of Bethlehem" to learn more.