

## DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

**Ruth Fraty** recovering from surgeries

**Murray Belknap** in Unity Hospital

**Jim Meddaugh** recovering from surgery



### Condolences

The family of **Mary Edwards** on her death on October 19

**Pat Sawyer** on the death on her husband, **Roger**, on October 19

**Steve and Carol Henchen** on the death of Steve's mother, **Ellie Henchen**

**Wendy O'Keefe and family** on the death of her husband, **Ralph**, on November 16. Memorial service will be on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at GPC

### REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting will be Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** meets next on Tuesday, December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet at the church on Monday, December 8, at 11:15 a.m. to carpool to lunch at the Apple Tree Inn.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On the first Monday of every month (10:00am to 1:00pm) a group of volunteers from GPC partner with Salem United Church of Christ Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve a meal to those in the city of Rochester who are hungry. No experience is needed! Please contact Melissa DeRosia ([Melissa@gatespres.org](mailto:Melissa@gatespres.org) or 247-5292) if you are interested in a one time opportunity or ongoing commitment.



### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

December 24 – (9am – 12noon); December 25 – Office Closed; December 26 – Office Closed

December 29, 30, 31 – (9am – 12noon)

January 1 – Office Closed; January 2 – Resume normal office hours



## Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming, and with it comes a whole variety of sounds: carols on the radio, the crunching of snow, and plenty of laughter shared with family and friends. But with all the noise and busyness of the season, some things can get drowned out.

There are other sounds in Advent too:

Our hearts crying out for peace and love in the midst of worry.

A voice crying out in the wilderness, preparing the world for Christ's birth.

Mary's heart crying out with joy when she learns of her role in God's plan.

Angels crying out in celebration as our Savior is born.

Our theme for Advent this year is "Our Hearts Cry Out". Together we will lift up all of the ways we cry out to God. We'll share our hopes and dreams for our community, and connect with each other over crafts and dinner at the Family Advent Festival. We'll listen for the voices crying out around us, and look for ways to recognize the people whose voices have been silenced. We'll share stories from the Bible of the people whose hearts guided them to God. And we'll keep listening together for God's still, small voice deep within our own hearts, leading us to new life. The choir will share a beautiful cantata with us, and cry out with the praise and love in their hearts.

This Advent, we'll all prepare together for the arrival of Jesus Christ. As you go throughout this Advent season, listen to your own heart. Pay attention to where you see fear, and listen to how God is calling you to respond. Focus on what makes your heart sing, and celebrate that happiness with others. Let us prepare our hearts for one more sound: the cry of a tiny baby, born in a manger. Our hearts are ready to cry out with love this Advent!

Peace,

Katie.



## Annual GPC Women's Candlelight Holiday Dinner

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Brook-Lea Country Club beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner - Cost: \$20.00 per person

Every Sunday in November beginning on Sunday, November 2nd, money will be collected in the Fellowship Hall. We will be collecting donations again this year for ABW and will need a volunteer to take to ABW the next day or so after our dinner. Any questions, please contact Barb Snaith at 247-9066.

## WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

Do you have ideas for a fundraising event for GPC? The Stewardship and Budget Committee would like to know about them! As God calls us to open our horizons, we will be discussing new fundraising ideas at our January 2015 meeting. Your ideas can be big or small. Describe your organized plan to us in as much detail as you can. Some of the things that you should include are:

- the time of year the event would take place
- is it a GPC event or GPC/community event
- the location or space needed
- designate how a portion of the profits should be used, if you want
- who will chair the event (This must be a specific person – you or someone who has agreed to do this.)
- what types of skills are needed to run the event

Our congregation has a wonderful history of helping with events, but we need a leader – which could be you!

Please send your ideas to Linda Beattie at [Linda.btt@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.btt@gmail.com) or 3 Loyalist Ave., Rochester 14624.

## STEWARDS OF CHILDREN TRAINING:

GPC will be offering a child abuse prevention training on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This training will go from 10:00am to noon. All Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders are expected to attend, and everybody else is encouraged to come! The training is specially made for faith communities, and helps us discuss how to identify abuse and protect against it. To RSVP, please contact Katie.

## Congregational Meeting ←←←←

December 14, 2014

Following worship in the Sanctuary

For the purpose of electing elders, trustees and deacons and to review the 2015 annual budget.

## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Date	Front Door Greeter	Lay Reader	Usher
December 7	Linda Beattie	Eric Vail	4
December 14	Carrie Dykes	Paula Sousa	5
December 21	Bob Binko	Rick Howe	6
December 24-4:30	Eric Vail	Tom Ward	1
December 24-8:00	Peter Derry	Jeff Tuttle	2
December 28	Tammy Tackling	Tommy Kelly	3

Communion: - December 7 – Team E

Left:	1. Carrie Dykes	Right:	1. Cheryl Fehnel
	2. Mary Hadley		2. Ann Haag
	3. Bob Fehnel		3. Christine Arcara
	4. Barb Walence		4. Barb Snaith

## TRUSTEE LOCK UP SCHEDULE:

December: Dan Charcholla

## OUR HEARTS CRY OUT... IN FAITH

Every Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30pm in the Jr. High Lounge a community gathers to nurture one another through spiritual formation, prayer, and Biblical exploration.

During the month of Advent we will be learning how hearts cry out in faith through the words of the church's use of confessions. The Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly voted to encourage the presbyteries to make an addition to our current "Book of Confession." The addition would be the "Belhar Confession." In 1994 the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa united to form the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA). The translation of the original Afrikaans text of the confession as it was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986 is found here:

[www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession/](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession/)

A study guide can be found here:

[www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belharstudyguide.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belharstudyguide.pdf)

We will break the confession up into three parts and discuss them each week during Advent.

During December we will meet:

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> NO BIBLE STUDY Merry Christmas

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> NO BIBLE STUDY Happy New Year!



## Follow up to Conversations about Belhar Confession

Saturday, January 10, 2015 - 10:00am- 3:00pm

Gates Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

Cost \$5.00

Join with Clifton Kirkpatrick-- former Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Faculty at Louisville Seminary and Member of the Belhar Committee—for conversations and learning.

Please RSVP to Presbytery Office by calling 585-242-0080 or emailing office@pbygenval.org

## Our Hearts Cry Out... In Silence and Prayer

Take a break from the chaos and bustle of the season and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ. Every Wednesday in Advent (starting December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00pm- 6:30 we invite you in to the sanctuary for a time of silence and prayer. You may come for 5 minutes or 30. Someone will be available in the sanctuary if you wish to have someone pray with you.



## From the Public Worship Committee

There are many ways that we can be active within the community of Gates Presbyterian Church. The Public Worship Committee would like to extend an invitation to everyone, including our youth, to consider being a Lay Reader during Sunday morning worship and also joining an ushering team. If you would like to be a part of one or both of these responsibilities please make a note in the hospitality register, contact a member of the Public Worship Committee, or contact the GPC office 247-5292.

**COME EARLY** on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to enjoy some instrumental carols before morning worship! Our church's brass and woodwind players will get together in the Worship Center at 9:20 and play from 9:30 until the service begins. If you have any questions, or would like to take a look at the music ahead of time, please see Dennis or Debbie White. Come share in the special music of the season!



## BOTTLES AND CANS

The Youth Committee has set up an account with Flower City Redemption Center, 2374 Chili Avenue for bottles and cans. All you have to do is drop your bottles and cans off at the redemption center and tell them they are for Gates Presbyterian Church. They send us a check every month for what is collected. We will still take your bottles and cans here at the church if you prefer. Any questions???? Call the church office at 247-5292.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS and/or RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRIES

If you would like to order a plant for display in the Sanctuary for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one or donate to Rural & Migrant Ministries in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and leave it with the money (or check) in the offering plate or in the church office **NO LATER** than December 8<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to Gates Presbyterian Church. Mail the order to the church if it is more convenient. This year poinsettias will be available for \$10.00 a piece.



NAME OF DONOR (S)

ADDRESS

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (please circle appropriate phrase)

POINSETTIAS \_\_\_\_\_

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRIES \_\_\_\_\_

## Poinsettia Alternative: Rural & Migrant Ministry

Since 2007 the alternative mission donation for the Christmas poinsettia has been designated to support our ongoing work to build a Basic School with the congregation in Green Island, Jamaica. With the successful completion of that project Gates Presbyterian Church has been exploring other ways we can further the mission partnerships with communities in Jamaica. One way we have unexpectedly discovered the possibilities for new relationships is with the Jamaican farm workers who come to the Rochester area and work on farms during the harvest season. Rural and Migrant Ministry has been crucial in supporting our efforts and nurturing these relationships. This year the mission alternative donation for the Christmas poinsettias will be for Rural and Migrant Ministry. Rural and Migrant Ministry is commitment to honoring and supporting the efforts of those who are disenfranchised, especially migrant farm workers and the rural poor, as they seek greater self-determination. For more information visit their website: [www.ruralmigrantministry.org](http://www.ruralmigrantministry.org)

## WHY AM I AN ELDER!

In the tradition of David Letterman, here are my top ten reasons for serving my church as an elder:

10. I like to keep abreast of what is going on in the congregation. Being an Elder keeps me informed of all the events, fundraisers, mission projects, etc. that GPC engages in.
  9. I like to help others troubleshoot problems and come up with solutions. Let's face it, our church is not perfect. Being an Elder provides me with a way to help make it better.
  8. I feel the power of the Holy Spirit in every meeting and event I attend.
  7. I like to serve others. Being an Elder gives me the chance to be a Christ-like servant and practice humility (which I admit is not easy for me).
  6. Being a church leader gives me an opportunity to learn. Leadership is an art that requires continuous development. I have learned much about church leadership from my fellow Elders.
  5. Being a church leader is not rocket science. It isn't tough! There is no special skill or training required.
  4. It gives me the opportunity to be creative.
  3. I build closer and stronger relationships with other people in the church.
  2. I like to show people I love them. I love people. All people. And you can't show love without action. Being an Elder provides me with a way to act.
- And the number 1 reason... **It's fun.** As my family can testify my tombstone will read "She made people have fun whether they liked it or not". With as much pain and suffering as humans experience in this world, joy is hard for people to find. But I experience joy in every Session and Mega meeting and Elder responsibility I undertake. The elders I serve with are funny and engaging and we spend a lot of time enjoying the role of Elder.
- Praise God I am an Elder! Love to you all, Carrie Dykes
- 1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

## CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone who  
Helped in  
Any way to make our  
Naturally amazing CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR a  
Knock out success!!

You made it happen! With  
Out you, there is no CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR.  
U are wonderful!!!!

Kay Harder, Debbie Lamphron, Barb Snaitth



## CHOIR CANTATA

If you are interested in participating in a Choir Cantata with the GPC Choir, please consider joining us through the month of December as we prepare to perform EMMANUEL. Please see the Harbinger schedule for rehearsal details and contact Roy Smith (585-409-8883) with any questions. The choir will perform the cantata in Sunday worship on December 21st.



Choir schedule variations through Christmas:

Sunday 11/16 (business as usual)

9:00 Youth  
9:30 Adult  
10:00 Worship

Wednesday 11/19 (business as usual)

7:30 Adult

Sunday 11/23 (business as usual)

9:00 Youth  
9:30 Adult  
10:00 Worship

Wednesday 11/26-No Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 11/30 (extended Sunday)

9:00 Youth  
9:30 Adult  
10:00 Worship  
11:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday 12/3-No Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 12/7 (business as usual)

9:00 Youth  
9:30 Adult  
10:00 Worship

Wednesday 12/10 (business as usual)

7:30 Adult

Sunday 12/14 (extended Sunday)

9:00 Youth  
9:30 Adult  
10:00 Worship  
11:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday 12/17-No Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 12/21 (Cantata)

8:00 a.m. Combined Youth/Adult Brunch  
Extended Cantata Rehearsal  
10:00 Worship

Wednesday 12/24 (Christmas Eve)

7:45 Adult Rehearsal  
8:00 Worship

Sunday 12/28 (extended Sunday)

9:00 – 10:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal (No Youth)  
10:00 Worship

Wednesday 12/31-No Choir Rehearsal

## YOUTH EVENTS

### Summer Work Projects:



Mark your calendars! This year the Junior High work project will be in Rochester from July 20th to 24th for youth entering grades 7-8 in Fall 2014. The Senior High work project will be from August 2-8, location TBA, for youth entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2014.

### Junior High Overnight:

Get ready for our first overnight of the year! We'll help out with the Advent Festival, then have a cookie contest and hang out! Bring your absolutely best batch of homemade cookies to share. The lock-in starts at 7:30pm on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and will go until 9:30am the next day.

### Senior High Where's Waldo:

The hunt is on! We'll meet at the church at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, then head to the mall and start hunting for Waldos. Adults, if you want to be a Waldo let Katie know; we've got plenty of scarves.



### Junior High Caroling and Cookies: 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

Bundle up and get excited to carol! We'll meet at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, go caroling to church members and share cookies, and be back by 8:00pm. Start warming up your vocal cords!

### Senior High Movie Night:

To celebrate Christmas break, we'll stay warm inside and watch a Christmas movie! Come to GPC at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, and bring a snack to share – we should get done around 9pm.

### Movie Madness:

Junior Highs, get ready for a mega-movie-marathon over at Summerville Presbyterian Church from Friday, January 16th to Saturday, January 17th. Be on the lookout for more information!

### College and Young Adult Night Out:

Let's get together over Christmas break! We'll have dinner at MacGregor's (our treat) and relax after the holidays. We'll also be talking about future events for the group, so let us know what you're interested in! Meet us at the Gates MacGregor's on January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8; email [katie@gatespres.org](mailto:katie@gatespres.org) if you need a ride. Everybody 18-30ish is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!

### Confirmation class:

Hope your Amazing Faith Journey is going well! There's a service opportunity at St. Joseph's on Saturday, December 20th - check out your binders for more information. If you need a check-in, talk with Katie or Melissa, and we'll see you for our next water stop on January 11th!

### Attention 2014 Confirmation Class AND 2014 High School Graduates:

The 2014 confirmation class will be candlelighters during "Silent Night" at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve. Please meet in Room 16 at 4:15 for instructions. The 2014 high school graduates will light the candles during "Silent Night" at the 8:00 Christmas Eve service. Meet in Room 16 at 7:45. If you are part of these two groups and can participate, please call Katie at 247-5292 or email [katie@gatespres.org](mailto:katie@gatespres.org).

### Jamaica Mission Trip Participants check-list for December:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Catch up your payments by December 1<sup>st</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare to hand in trip paper work by January 1<sup>st</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mark January 16 and 17 on your calendar for the coffee house
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dream of doing God's work in the midst of tropical beauty!

## YOUTH NEWS

Tuesday, Dec. 2	7:00 – Youth Committee meeting
Friday, Dec. 5	6:00-7:30 – Family Advent Festival 7:30pm – 9:30am – Junior High Overnight
Sunday, Dec. 7	9:00 – Youth Choir 10:00 – Worship 11:15 – Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
Sunday, Dec. 14	6:00 - 8:00 Sr. High – Where's Waldo 9:00 – Youth Choir 10:00 – Worship – Cantata 11:15 – Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
Wednesday, Dec. 24	6:00 – 8:00 Junior High Caroling and Cookies 6:00 – 8:00 Senior High Movie Night 4:30 – Christmas Eve Service (2014 confirmation class will light candles) 8:00 - Christmas Eve Service (2014 high school graduates will light candles)
Thursday, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!!!
Sunday, Dec. 28	10:00 Worship Fusion Sunday, no choirs, Sunday School, or youth group



**JOIN US FOR THE  
ADVENT FESTIVAL  
FRIDAY, DEC. 5  
FROM  
6:00 – 7:30pm  
Pizza, salad, drinks  
Crafts for children  
Interactive service for children**

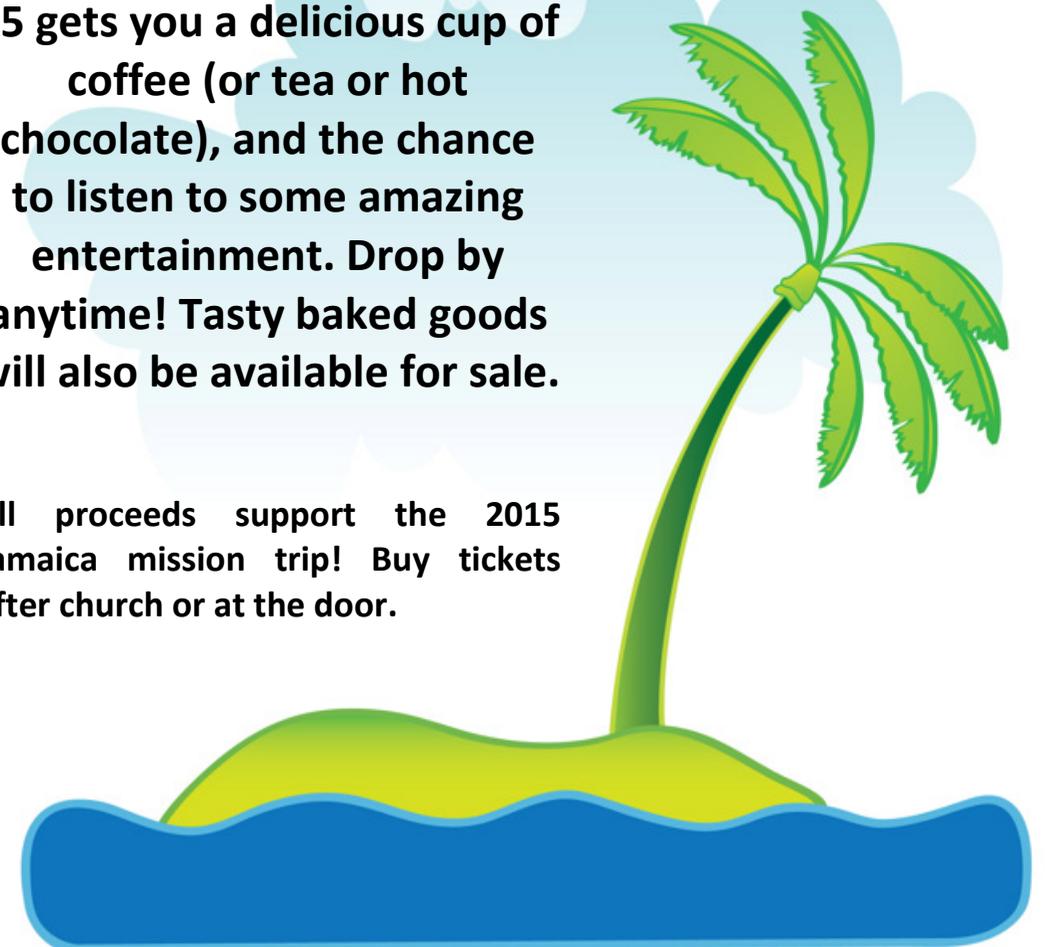
Please sign up on the Kiosk so we can plan how much food to order.

# Blue Mountain Coffee House!

**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:30pm**

**\$5 gets you a delicious cup of coffee (or tea or hot chocolate), and the chance to listen to some amazing entertainment. Drop by anytime! Tasty baked goods will also be available for sale.**

**All proceeds support the 2015 Jamaica mission trip! Buy tickets after church or at the door.**



## GPC ADVENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### GPC MITTEN TREE

The GPC Mitten Tree proudly stands in the hall shouting its long history as an Advent Project of GPC. This year it invites you to fill its branches with gloves/mittens and hats/scarves for the men and women of DePaul Mental Health Services of Rochester and their families.



### CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

**Due December 14, 2014**

Help provide a Christmas dinner for a family in need living in the Southwest quadrant of our city. The following requested list from SWEM is for a family of 3-4. The ten dollars that goes with the meal is used to purchase a chicken, eggs, and margarine. If you feel creative, decorate the box that holds your dinner and add some small candies, mints, instant coffee, or tea bags. Please don't include gifts, toys, clothing, etc.

- |                                                  |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 can of fruit cocktail or other canned fruit    | 2 cans of soup                   |
| 1 large can of fruit juice                       | 1 box of instant mashed potatoes |
| 1 large canned sweet potato                      | 1 can of cranberry sauce         |
| 3 cans of vegetables                             | 1 bag of stuffing mix            |
| 1 or more relish/pickles/olives                  | \$10.00 in cash                  |
| 1 cake mix and frosting or pie crust and filling |                                  |

Members of the Mission/Peacemaking Committee will be in the parking lot to receive your dinner before service on Sunday, December 14th. Please hand your money to them separately from your dinner.

### ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY - December 20 – GPC serves lunch.

Folks from GPC will serve lunch on December 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The meal will be prepared at GPC on December 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for the following:

Donations: Bring to the church kitchen by December 19<sup>th</sup> - noon  
Cooks: GPC kitchen, 6:30, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Plan to stay until 2:00.

This mission site serves lunch to those in our city with limited financial resources.



### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – Received in worship on December 21

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offerings will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



### CAMERON CHRISTMAS

We have been asked to assist Cameron Community Ministries with their Christmas Programs again this year. We will decorate the Cameron Street Christmas Giving Tree in the narthex with tags bearing information of the gifts that are needed.

The Cameron Street Christmas Giving Tree will be put up the Sunday before Thanksgiving on Nov 23 and the gifts need to be returned to GPC by 10 a.m. on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

They are focusing on new hats, gloves, scarves, and bike locks for the adults this year. There also will be toy suggestions for the children. For the adult gifts please return your **unwrapped** gifts **with the tag attached**. If you choose a children's gift tag from the tree, please purchase the item listed and **place it in a gift bag with tissue**. Please put the tag on the **outside** of the bag so it can easily be sorted by the folks at Cameron. Thank You.

### ALTERNATIVE ADVENT MARKET – December 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> hour – Fellowship Hall

Come and shop where the gift gives twice: to the loved ones for whom buying AND to the non-profit organization which you are supporting!

Here's the marketplace:

- Healthy Sisters Soup & Bean Works
- Gourmet coffee from Coffee Connection
- Heifer Project
- Socks for St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
- Smiles for the Green Island Basic School
- One World Goods
- Flower City Habitat for Humanity
- Guatemala Partners
- and more

**One World Goods**  
*Celebrating 25 years as a  
fair trade marketplace*

