



First Presbyterian Weekday School

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Lara Davis, Director

December 2012

School Calendar

December

Wednesday, December 5th :
Noon Dismissal
(Staff Training Day),
Spirit Day*

Monday, December 17th &
Tuesday, December 18th :
Christmas Programs &
Reception

Wednesday, December 19th
–Tuesday, January 1st :
Christmas Break,
No School



January, 2013

***Notice schedule change: School will re-open:**

Wednesday, January 2nd
Noon Dismissal
(Staff Training Day),
Spirit Day*

Monday, January 21st :
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day, **No School**

* Don't forget to wear your
WDS shirt or something with a
heart on it.



What is my name?
What do I say?



What is my name?
What do I say?

LETTER FROM LARA

Dear Weekday School Families:

"When children see the same programs repeatedly, they become locked into particular scripts.

This limits their ability to create their own scripts, which limits their play."
(Susan Linn, advocate for commercial-free television)

So many children's toys are designed to entertain the child. There are buttons to push and lights that flash. Toys walk, toys talk, toys perform incredible feats. In order to foster and promote creativity in children, toys should be 10% "toy" and 90% "child. Why?

Imaginative and creative play has positive effects on all areas of development, such as:

Cognitive development (creativity, abstract thinking, problem-solving, persistence); Social/Emotional development (self-confidence, self-esteem, sharing, turn-taking, conflict resolution, cooperation); Physical development (gross motor, fine motor, self-help skills); and, Language development (communication skills, vocabulary, story telling, emergent literacy).

What kinds of toys can promote children's imagination and creativity? Here are a few: empty boxes, puppets (homemade or those without names and personalities), blocks, Lincoln logs, dress-up clothes, pretend food (to set up a kitchen or restaurant), process art supplies (brushes, paints, crayons, markers, all kinds of paper, cardboard, etc.) Of course, there is always the outdoors! For more ideas, visit: <http://progressiveearlychildhoodeducation.blogspot.com/> for "Let the Children Play."

Wishing each family a very happy and blessed Christmas season!

Lara



CHANGES TO THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/RECEPTION

The annual Christmas program will be held on Dec. 17th and 18th.

Performances will be held in the church's sanctuary and reception for adults will be held in the fellowship hall.

In order to accommodate all of our children, there will be two performances on each day, one at 11:30, the other at 12:45, with adult reception occurring 11:45 - 12:45. Your child's teachers will let you know which day and time their classes will perform. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we make these changes to our ritual.

We would like to thank Ms. Amy Bowman for planning the program and working so diligently with our children.

Helping Those in Need:

W.A.T.T.S
(Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter)

This outreach mission provides food and shelter for those in our area who are in need.

First Presbyterian Church will host WATTS February 18 - February 25, 2013, 7 pm - 7 am daily.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this mission, please contact the church office: 662-3824.

What's Cooking?? It's a First Ever WDS Cookbook!!

The Weekday School is proud to offer a treasured collection of recipes from many outstanding cooks. This keepsake contains recipes from our entire school family; including staff and the students themselves. Each section also contains classroom prayers that are shared before lunchtime each day. This attractive cookbook makes an ideal gift, as the holidays are rapidly approaching. Cookbooks will be available for purchase through the Weekday School office and during the Sunday School hour on Sundays during the month of December.

Cost: \$10 per book
(If you wish to have books gift wrapped, add \$2.00)



Just a reminder to observe these signs.



Helping With A Mission Project

Attached with this newsletter is information about "Blankets and More," a mission project to help support our friends at Highland Presbyterian Church.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY?

The bulletin board in the main hallway of the church has a section labeled "News." Be sure to check this bulletin board for listings of community events and opportunities. You will also find our newest members of the Weekday School family (birth announcements) and other helpful Weekday School information. To highlight some events:

- 11.23.2012 - 01.06.2013 5.30.pm - 9.30.pm:
Walking in a Winter Wonderland - Clearbrook Park
- 11.30.2012 - 12.01.2012: Santa's Headquarters
Godfrey Miller Fellowship Center
- 12.2.2012: Advent Event for Children, 3:30 - 5:30
First Presbyterian Church

(see notice outside of classrooms for more information)

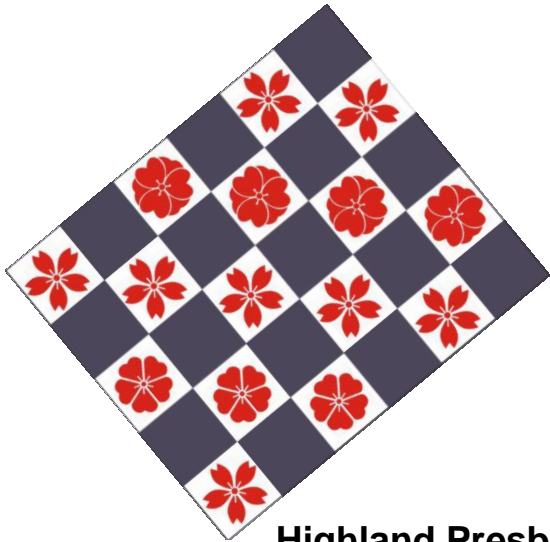
Welcome New Family Members:

Hendrik Michael Chavez McKechnie, born Nov. 10!
Lucy Charlotte McIntyre, born Nov. 14!



Registration is coming for the 2013-2014 school year:

Hard to believe, but registration is fast approaching! Mark your calendars for February 4 and 5, 2013. The 4th is reserved for returning families and church members. The 5th begins open enrollment.



"BLANKETS AND MORE" CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Highland Presbyterian Food Pantry in Winchester's North End is once again sponsoring a special *Christmas in the Pantry* month for Food Pantry clients. We are expecting to serve about **300 families during the month of December**. Our clients will be able to shop for their children, grandchildren, friends, or themselves.

Items especially needed include: new **blankets** of all sizes, sheets & towels (new or gently used); small **kitchen appliances**; small space heaters, simple hand tools; winter **gloves** and **hats for all ages**; **toys** for kids – basketballs, footballs, electronic games, scooters, games, bikes, dolls. (*Please no clothes, shoes, or household knickknacks.*)



The Food Pantry is an ongoing outreach program of **Highland Presbyterian Church** serving low income families from the greater Winchester area every Tuesday morning. This program serves the hungry with help from **30 church and community volunteers** and assistance from the **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Clearbrook Presbyterian Church, Cline Farm, First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell Friends, Mayfair Farm in**



Bunker Hill, New Life Christian Church, Opequon Presbyterian Church, Shenandoah Presbytery, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, & Wal-Mart.

In the tradition of the **Highland Presbyterian Food Pantry**, Christmas is a time to celebrate hope and love breaking into a world of brokenness and fear. Please consider supporting our **BLANKETS AND MORE** collection. YOU can help express in a tangible way the warmth of caring for those in need.



Donations will be received from **October 15th** through **December 15th**. For questions or to arrange a drop-off time, please call or email Helen Robinson at 540.533.3913 (hrobinson21@verizon.net).