

# THE PATHFINDER

*A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ*

Volume XXXII, Issue 1

January 2012

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

The year past has been a good year for West Haven and 2012 promises to be at least as good if not better. There is a spirit moving in our congregation that has given new energy, vision, and good hope for tomorrow as we serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ within the walls of the church and in the larger community. The signs are all around. There is a deepening interest in the spiritual life, prayer, and the study of Scripture. Our Sunday School is growing, the Scouting program is expanding, our mission and outreach to the community is increasing and others want to be part of that, pledging is strong, the long talked about West Haven Cookbook is about to become a reality! There is a freshness about caring and showing concern especially to those who need it most. People want to be involved. When worship is concluded, people do not rush out the door but stand around talking to one another. It seems as though our folks enjoy one another!!!!

As I cleaned out some old photographs and papers at my Dad's house, I came across this poem, which I share with you as we enter the new year:

*I asked God for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for help that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I ask for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of others;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.  
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I among all people am most richly blessed.*

May each of you be richly blessed in 2012~~

*Pastor Connie*

## ~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~



### SHAWL MINISTRY

January 7 9:30 a.m.  
Pemberton Bldg.

If you need yarn or patterns, contact Lyn Stephens. Please join us! If you do not know how to knit or crochet, we will teach you!

### Prayer Circle

Mondays 11:00 am

Join us as we pray for concerns of the church and the world. Fill out a Prayer Request and give it to the Pastor or Trudy Martin. All prayers and concerns are confidential.



### *Presbyterian Women News*

Circle 1

Monday, January 9, 2012

6:30 p.m.

in the home of Cheryl Piner

Circle 2

Tuesday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Pemberton Conference room

All women are invited to participate in the life of Presbyterian Women. Join us for Bible study, fellowship and service.

## GEMS LUNCH



Wednesday January 11, 2012  
12:30 PM

All retired and 55+ folks are invited to join us for a delicious meal and fellowship all for the cost of \$3.00!

*RSVP on Sunday in the Friendship Register*

## MEN OF WEST HAVEN BREAKFAST



Sunday, January 15  
8:30 a.m.

All men are invited to come for good eats and great conversation!

## Lunch Bunch

January 15 12:15 pm  
Texas Steakhouse



## Congregational Pictorial Directory

During January, Rick Adams will be taking pictures of our church family for our 2012 Directory.

We would appreciate your cooperation as we capture your smile for the camera!



## GOOD NEWS!!

At long last, a dream we've had for several years is coming true--West Haven's own cookbook! Hopefully the cookbooks should be available for purchase by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan to buy several – one for your kitchen and a present for someone special.

## ~ WORSHIP & MISSION ~

### *Outreach Sunday January 1*

Please bring your gift of canned goods for United Community Ministries and ethnic hair care products for My Sister's House. Also collected on this date are



Labels for Education UPC labels from Campbell and Franco-American products for Barium Springs Home for Children and our Pennies for Hunger for hunger relief through the PCUSA.

## Local Benevolence Offering

Sunday, January 15

The Session approved receiving an offering for a Local Benevolence Fund after each regular Communion Service. As we come to the table to share our bread, let us remember those who have no bread to share.

## SOUPER BOWL Sunday February 5, 2012



This is the 22<sup>st</sup> year of Souper Bowl of Caring which was begun by the youth group of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, Columbia SC. The goal and focus of this special offering on hunger in each community is exemplified in the prayer:

*Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.*

The movement has become a nationwide effort to stamp our hunger. Over \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger on local communities. On that day we will share soup after worship and give our gifts to Souper Bowl of Caring.



## Boy Scout Sunday February 5, 2012

This year our Boy Scout Troop #11, Cub Pack #11 and American Heritage Girls #NC11 will assist in leading worship. With approximately 60 boys and girls in the 3 groups it is sure to be a wonderful experience

## WHPC Advent Mission Project November 27 – December 25

Thank you for supporting the Blanket Project. We bought 85 blankets for a total of \$425

## Adopt-A-Shelter Month

January is Adopt-A-Shelter month and West Haven has been asked to participate in helping United

Community Ministries. This project is a collection of household items to be donated to UCM. These donations help save UCM approximately \$750/month.

- Trash Bags (13 gal and 55 gal)
- Laundry Detergent
- Toilet Tissue
- Napkins
- Foam Cups 8oz
- Foam Bowls 12oz
- Plates
- Tray Liners
- Pine Sol
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Dish Detergent
- Gloves
- Plastic Aprons
- Hats

We will be collecting these items for UCM from January 1 through January 15, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Davis.

Gifts and Memorials	\$	25.00
Blanket Fund	\$	60.00
Landscaping	\$	350.00
Offering Places	\$	27.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$	116.00

**Remember the West Haven Endowment – the gift that keeps on giving!**

Check out our website! You will find all sorts of up-to-date lists, the latest letter from Becca Young, missionary in Indonesia and other helpful information.

Thanks, John Stratton!

[www.westhavenpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhavenpresbyterian.org)

**~ STEWARDSHIP ~**

A few years back, I heard a hymn that really touched me---“There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know it’s the spirit of the Lord”. There seems to be an energy flowing through our church and it is being reflected in many ways. One way has been the great response of financial commitment during this stewardship season. We have received 56 pledges totaling \$162,625

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we thank each of you for your commitments of time, talent and money. Working together, we will use our hands and resources in service to God and neighbor.

Peggy Griffin for Stewardship Committee

**2012 Envelopes will be available after Jan. 8**

**~ SESSION ~**



*Session Digest*

*Next Meeting  
January 17*

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL ~**

**~FINANCIAL UPDATE~**

Treasurer's Report as of 11-30-11



	This Month	YTD
Where we should be		
(pledges made)	\$12,942	\$142,362
Where we are		
(pledges received)	<u>13,331</u>	<u>141,179</u>
Over (Under)	\$389	(\$1,183)
Budgeted Expenses	\$16,573	\$182,303
Actual Expenses	<u>15,232</u>	<u>158,636</u>
Over (Under)	(\$1,341)	(\$23,667)

**OTHER GIFTS**

Two Cents a Meal [Nov]	\$	1.53
West Haven Endowment	\$	25.50
Barium Springs	\$	270.00
Disaster Relief (NC)	\$	100.00

## ***Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, January 31***

immediately following Morning Worship  
for the purpose of

- 1) hearing the annual report of the Session
- 2) electing elders Class of 2014
- 3) voting on any changes in terms of call for the pastor
- 4) any other business that should arise from the above

**Please make every effort to attend worship on  
that day.**

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### **Officer Nominating Committee for 2012**

Elected at the Congregational meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>  
were:

Candice Davis, John Stratton, Linda Davis,  
Audrey Clark, Rick Adams

Please be in prayer for them as they deliberate and discern God's leading for leadership of the congregation. Please be in prayer as you listen for the call of God upon your life and be ready to say yes.

*To propose names(s) to the Nominating Committee for consideration for the Office of Elder, and believing them to have the spiritual maturity to lead our congregation in the Way of Christ, please call one of the members of the committee.*

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## **THANK YOU . . .**

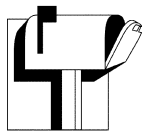


**Joyce Flye and Vickie Dew** for processing the Newsletter.

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## **We Get Letters . . .**

I would like to thank my West Haven family for your support, encouragement and prayers during the loss of my mother. Thank you to the kitchen crew for the wonderful lunch served to my family. You nourished our bodies as well as our souls. I am both encouraged and blessed to know that my mother is in the company of our Lord.



**Georgia Stussie**

Merry Christmas from UMass Habitat for Humanity! We would like to thank you for providing hospitality to us last spring and making our Spring Break trip possible. Due to your generosity we were able to work in Florida for the week on five different houses that are now providing a home for families who lived in poverty. Thank you for helping us make that happen. We hope that you have a great holiday!

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UMass Amherst Habitat for Humanity

*We appreciate your kindness by sharing with us the flowers from the church!*

*Thanks to West Haven Church for taking us into your fellowship and worship of love.*

*Our lives are blessed by having a church family.*

*Christian Love,  
Guildaroy & Vernon Baker*

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Please extend my thanks to the members of West Haven Presbyterian Church for the donation of \$260 to My Sister's House. Your generosity allows us to provide ongoing service for families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Your support is greatly appreciated. I wish you and your congregation a safe and happy holiday season.

Warmly,  
Meredith Holland

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Henry and I would like to thank you for the gift of so many nice things we could use. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas, and happiness throughout the year.

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Juanita Fountain.

Peggy Griffin giving lesson at Women's Christmas Party



Santa's visit to Cub Pack



Santa! Who is that?



Cub Pack & American Heritage Girls Christmas Party

PW enjoy annual Christmas Gathering



If you have digital pictures to share, email them to [office@westhavenpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@westhavenpresbyterian.org)