

## THE JUNIOR PILGRIM DECEMBER 2012 – JANUARY 2013

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**BLESSING...**a word with many different meanings from “a special favor granted by God” to “thanking God prior to a meal” to “**anything promoting or contributing to happiness, well being, or prosperity; a boon.**”

Lately I’ve been thinking about how important it is to the well-being of our children to teach them early on how important it is to be a blessing to the world. Lately I’ve been thinking about those people I’ve encountered in life who have not been able to find any sense of happiness in this world; how sad and why. For sure, having all the *things* this world has to attain doesn’t bring happiness. What brings lasting happiness when you’re 2, 12, 22, or 92 for that matter.

My mind drifted to Thanksgiving Day when my granddaughter, who is two, arrived with a bag of cookies she baked with her mother (slice and bake). She had bagged these and her Mom had put the names on them, but she put bright stickers all over them. She had pure delight in handing them out to everyone. Happiness comes when you are a blessing to others.

A few Sundays ago, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School student, told me she had 10” of her hair cut which were given for “locks of love” (a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21). When I asked her to come up front to tell the kids what she had done, I shall not soon forget the radiance in her face when she spoke. Happiness comes when you are a blessing to others.

Last Sunday, at the last moment, there was a need for a substitute Sunday School teacher for a class that at full capacity would be 13 kids. One of our second year college students came to the rescue. When she arrived, she said “thank you” for asking me to teach. I love teaching Sunday School. Her smiling face was a blessing to me that day and she was so **happy** to do it.

These are just a few recent examples of why I believe when “raising kids 101” - being a blessing to others should be on the top of every parent’s list. Hopefully this would serve them well all of their days, because what you give away in time, talent, and earthly goods surely blesses the giver as much if not even more than the receiver.

How impacted our world would be to the good if all of us become blessings to others and teach that to the children! “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

May the **SON**shine through me,

### DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES

#### Students Nursery 3-Grade

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall be in want.” (Psalm 23:1)

#### Students Grades 3-12:

“And we know that is all things God works for the good of those who love him, according to his purpose.”  
Romans 8:28

### JANUARY BIBLE VERSES

“...Do to others what you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12) **Golden Rule** (N3-Grade 2)

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37 (Grades 3-12)

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 5<sup>th</sup> to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**SUNDAYS:**

Morning worship, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.

High School Class 10:30 a.m.

Coffee hour, 9:50 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Children's Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.

Youth Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.

**Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship**

Check church bulletin

The newsletter is posted on our website:

[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**CANCELLATIONS:** Tune in to

WICH, WCTY, WNLC, WKNL,

or Television Channel 3 or you may

check our website:

[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

When Sunday School is cancelled,

church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless

specifically announced.

**THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S COOKIE BAKE...** Mrs. Dudek will be making and baking cookies with the children (Grade 3 and up) on **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, from 3-6:00 p.m. Adult and teen church members are needed to lend a hand making cookie batter (ahead of time) and to help that day. If you can help in any way, please speak to Sandy or call the church office. It would be very helpful for me to know that your children will be there. We always have a memorable day. Did you know that we make *at least* 50 plates of assorted cookies every year. This year we have been asked to make extra plates for *other special recipients*. These cookies will be delivered by the carolers.

**THE ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. and leave promptly at 2:00 p.m. with a return time of 4:00 p.m. If you can go, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Information Center. This is an important outreach of our church. I always pray we'll have enough carolers to do all six routes! Last year we had a great turnout. It's a meaningful family or singles or doubles activity that's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon in December. **Marcia Bartha** is coordinating soup, sandwiches, and dessert back at the church...**thank you so much.**

**DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>:** Our second Interactive storytelling Sunday School session will take place at the **8:45 a.m.** Sunday School session. "**No Room In The Inn**" is something you won't want your children to miss. Our creative storyteller, **Judy Ladegard**, spends countless hours finding effective ways to communicate important Bible stories to the children. Our teens are encouraged to help her in the presentations; it speaks volumes to the kids to see our young people take Christian education seriously! If you might be interested in this type of ministry, why not make arrangements with Judy or myself to be present that day. It is a ministry I would like to keep developing for our children and others will be needed. The first session in October on "Creation" was so meaningful to the children who attended. It was complete with a remote control moon!

**DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>,** our Sunday School children (grades 1 & up) will present "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" but not as you know it. The pageant, directed by Tiffany Barry, is at **4:00 p.m.** and **EVERYONE** is invited! Our preschool children, 3's, 4's and kindergarten children will present "**The Nativity**" directed by Melissa Blondet. Come and see; it will warm your soul as you see these little ones dress as the people and animals present at Jesus' birth. The pageant wouldn't be complete without a live baby Jesus. **The Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship** will coordinate pizza and punch following this hour long event. **Parents** are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share for dessert.

**THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP** planned for Maine (this is a change in location) **July 28-August 3, 2013** has two openings left. **A deposit of \$60.00** should be given to Cheryl Giuliano to hold a spot. Those eligible for the mission trip are those students who will enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall as well as those who have finished high school in the spring (2013). Participants **must** be registered and active in the Sunday School for at least one year.

**KALID**, the High School class's mission child, is sent \$35.00 monthly. There is a large jar in front of the altar in the Sunday School for the children to put offerings and anyone else who would like to contribute to the cause. This young man from Ethiopia has high hopes of becoming a doctor one day. Offerings this year are barely keeping up our pledge to World Vision for this young man. Please encourage your children to remember him.

**THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (grades 9-12) enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together at the church on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving placemats were made for the patients at Village Manor. Elections were held that day: President, **Anthony Boyington**; Vice-President, **Whitney Van Alst**; Secretary, **Hunter Bustamante**; Treasurer, **Ashley Labrie**. December activities include a Christmas scavenger hunt (2<sup>nd</sup>), Christmas caroling with our church family (9<sup>th</sup>), and serving pizza and dessert for the Christmas pageant (16<sup>th</sup>).

**THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** made and sold jars of "Friendship Soup" and jars of cocoa mix during the bazaar. They made over \$230 and thank you for your support. They went to the Ekonk corn maze in October and plans are being formulated for activities in December. Check the church bulletin to keep posted on times and places.

**THANKS TO** the children and the generosity of the congregation in providing turkeys and funds for turkeys and pies, several families had a nice Thanksgiving. What you do is never taken for granted and always appreciated.

**THANK YOU** to **Adrianna Veloce** (second grade) who arrives early every Sunday morning with her grandmother to put the bulletins on the chairs and class signs out. She is a big help to me; it gladdens my heart to see the faithfulness of one so young dedicated to helping in her church.