

# Idylwood



# PANORAMA

## Newsletter of Idylwood Presbyterian Church

Volume XLII, No.. 3

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Dear Friends,

### ***A reprint of MaryAnn's pastoral letter from last month.***

*Thankfulness is the basis of our life as Reformed Christians (that's the stream of the church that Presbyterians belong to). We don't worship God and accept Christ as savior in order to get to heaven. Rather we follow Jesus out of gratitude for God's grace that is already ours to claim, beyond our "earning" and even our understanding. And we have much to be thankful for at IPC. See the next page for a recap of where we've been and what we hope to experience in 2014, including a celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

*None of these ministries can happen without the energy of the Holy Spirit working in our lives, including through the giving of our financial resources. The Dana family supports a variety of religious and philanthropic organizations, but our commitment to the church is absolute: we tithe my salary (10%) directly to our congregation. This year we are hoping to increase our gift by at least 15%. It won't be easy, but we believe in what IPC is doing in our community and the lives that we touch.*

*This year I want to get our family set up for automatic withdrawals through our treasurer! But in the meantime, every time I write that check to the church, I think about the beautiful music that touches our hearts on Sunday morning, whether through choir, organ or the guitar and voice of a guest musician. I think about the conversations and laughter around the table at Lost Dog during T4. I think about the healing tears that are shed during our Wholeness Services. I think about the child who will have a power pack tucked into her backpack on Friday afternoon so she is not hungry over the weekend, or the senior citizen who will receive a hot lunch and a smile from our Meals on Wheels volunteers.*

*And I am grateful. I hope you, too, will have an Attitude of Gratitude this month, as you consider your support of IPC in 2014, our centennial year. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it by December 15.*

*Thank you!*

*In Christ,*

*MaryAnn McKibben Dana, Pastor*

***Idylwood Presbyterian Church is a welcoming Christian congregation. Thankful for God's grace and enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we aspire to demonstrate the inclusive and expansive love of Jesus Christ to neighbors near and far.***



**Pastor**  
**MaryAnn McKibben Dana**  
[pastor@idylwoodpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@idylwoodpresbyterian.org)

**Clerk of Session: Cara Dobbins**

**Treasurer : Dana Opp**

**Pastor Emeritus**  
**Leonard B. Sirbaugh**

Administrative Asst. - Amy Moore  
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## Affirmation for IPC

*"Without a doubt, IPC has been the most welcoming and supportive church community I have ever been a part of. I joined IPC during a difficult transitional period in my life... and I don't think I would have been able to get through it without all of you." -former IPC member*

*"You know, IPC is this tiny little church but we pack a roar!" -IPC member*

*"I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed worshiping with you all last Sunday. Everyone made me feel so welcome and were very kind. Close-knit congregations where everyone feels like family are very special, and I enjoyed your message. All the best to you and everyone at IPC." -a recent visitor to IPC from National Capital Presbytery*

## Prayer List

### Joys

Joyous celebration of Christmas  
College students home from school

### Concerns

Amy Williams: recovering from neck surgery December 23  
Cecilia Brammer, Linda Tang: grief at death of husbands  
George Petras's aunt and uncle: recent move to assisted living  
Osman family: adoption process  
Emily Whitaker's sister Coni: cancer treatment  
Carol Shuh: pulmonary illness  
Doug Roark's former wife Diane: breast cancer  
Alison French: chronic illness  
Linda Dono's brother;  
Steve Allen's son -- healing and wholeness for all.

### January Dedication Chancel Flowers

January 5 Cheval and Dana Opp  
January 12: Rae and Ed Case  
January 19: TBD SIGNUP!!  
January 26: TBD SIGNUP!!





## Highlights From 2013

- A Place at the Table hunger documentary
- CROP Walk for hunger relief
- Support of Falls Church Community Service Council
- New organist/choir director and increased numbers in choir
- Successful fundraising drive for new hymnals
- Second Blessing of the Animals
- Leadership Retreat for deacons, elders and transformers
- Third annual summer retreat at the lake
- First full year of Power Packs for hungry children in our own community
- Upper Room children's worship area
- Prayer Retreat during Lent
- Thursday Theology Talk... on Tap
- "Flat Jesus" summer fun
- Book Group meetings, including one in which we hosted the book's author
- Hosting a concert and dinner for a youth choir from Rochester NY
- Numerous memorial services ably and compassionately coordinated by deacons
- Family conference at Massanetta Springs
- Health Fair and Bone Marrow Registry Drive



## High Hopes for 2014

What does God have in store for us in 2014? No doubt many of the above ministries... plus a few new initiatives:

- an expansion of Power Packs--we are in conversation with Lemon Road Elementary School about providing their Power Packs directly
- a glorious celebration of our 100th anniversary - stay tuned for more information about what this celebration will entail!
- a series of events around the topic "What Do I Want to Do When I Grow Up" featuring retired Presbyterian pastor and speaker David Rich
- moving forward with upgrades to our facility so that our church building reflects the warmth and welcome of our membership.



You are a vital part of the ministry of IPC. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to IPC in 2014, complete the attached pledge form and return it by December 15, 2013.

### Idylwood Presbyterian Church -- 2014 Pledge of Commitment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, caring for God's creation, and reflecting God's love with gratitude and joy, I/we estimate my/our contributions to the ministries of Idylwood Presbyterian Church as follows:

(Choose one)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly      \$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly      \$\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly      \$\_\_\_\_\_ Annually

I/we understand that this pledge is between me/us and God, with the knowledge of the church treasurer. I/we may adjust this estimate at any time by contacting the treasurer.

Please bring this card on Commitment Sunday, December 15, 2013, or return it at any time to the church office Attn: Treasurer.

☐ Please contact me on how to include Idylwood Presbyterian Church in our will or estate planning.

### Third Sunday Guest Musician Ken Smith

What do James Taylor, The Monkees, Merle Haggard, Saturday Night Live, and Back to the Future all have in common? They were all major influences on a guy who is known around the Washington DC area as an outstanding singer-songwriter and performer, Ken Smith

Ken received his first guitar at the age of 11 and immediately began to learn the tunes and styles of his favorite artists, and to hone his skills as a musician. From his early years as a performer at high school events, and even providing the only source of music for a small country church in Virginia, Ken has always been most at home in front of an audience.

As he began to develop his talent as a songwriter, Ken discovered and began to share a boundless reservoir of songs and stories. Many of Ken's songs are taken from life's experiences and show a picture of the life he has made with his childhood sweetheart, Anna and the family they raised together. Faith, family, and friends have always been the top priorities for Ken and this is certainly evident in his songs and performances.



**T4: Thursday Theology Talk... on Tap  
January 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

Our monthly informal series on matters of faith resumes on. at the Lost Dog Cafe in McLean. Come for a drink or milkshake, appetizer or dinner, or just good conversation. Topic to be announced.

**Idylwood Presbyterian Church**





### Rides

If you need a ride to church please call **Don Palmer** before 6pm on Friday  
Home: 703-888-0854.  
Work: 703-258-1220

## Birthdays This Month



## Treasurer's corner

### It's pledge time!

Support the ministry and mission of Idylwood Presbyterian Church through a financial pledge for 2014. These pledges help the session plan and budget responsibly—you may email Dana Opp, our treasurer, at [rdopp3@gmail.com](mailto:rdopp3@gmail.com) or drop your pledge in the Sunday offertory in an envelope marked for the IPC Treasurer - PLEDGE. Please respond as soon as possible so we may plan for 2014!!!

### eGiving

We (IPC) will now accept EFT donations, electronic fund transfers, also known as direct debit. You just fill out our form with your banking information and let us know how much you'd like to give each week or month. If you are interested in doing this **please see Dana Opp for the form to fill out authorizing the church to do this.**

#### • WHAT IS ELECTRONIC GIVING (EGIVING)?

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes. Direct Debit Giving is the original and most popular form of electronic giving.

#### • STOCK GIVING

We now have the capability to accept stocks that you may want to dispose of. Stock giving supports both the donor and IPC. If you have stock that has appreciated significantly you may gift it to IPC and be relieved of paying capital gains as well as a charitable donation. We have several members/donors who are using this as a means to give to the church. **If you are interested in doing this please see Dana Opp for details.**

#### • FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q.** What are the major advantages of electronic giving by direct debit?
- **A.** Direct debit is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed every Sunday.
- **Q.** How does Direct Debit Giving work?
- **A.** Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

# Deacons Corner

Well, a brand new year is here. Happy 2014 to all! With a new year comes fresh new challenges and opportunities and I'd like to tell you about two opportunities for 2014.

The first opportunity will be in late January, the last week to be exact. That week IPC will be provisioning the homeless shelter in Falls Church. This involves shopping for the daily needs and breakfast items needed by the shelter. We have done this before and have always done a terrific job. The deacons will be mentioning this during the announcements part of the Sunday service and setting up a schedule in the next few weeks. This project should not be very time-consuming if we can get 6 or 7 volunteers.

The second opportunity is the chance to serve as deacon. Several deacons' terms will be expiring soon and the nominating committee will be contacting IPC members and asking them to serve. I hope that anyone reading this will take advantage of this great opportunity if asked. If you already want to be a deacon, you can help the nominating committee by expressing your interest to any of the deacons. If you don't feel ready to commit to a term as deacon or are not a member of IPC, you can just volunteer to help out the deacons at any time.

Being a deacon is a very rewarding experience and it provides many opportunities to help others, not only here at IPC but locally and even around the world.

Once again, best wishes from the deacons for you in the new year. *By Don Palmer*

## **Thanks to everyone!** **HOMESTRETCH HOLIDAY** **ADOPTION** **Gift Collection Brilliant**

This year we again supported Homestretch through our Annual Holiday Adoption Program. As a sponsor, we provide this family, working hard to transition from homelessness to a self sufficient life, by providing gifts and a holiday meal which they would otherwise not be able to afford.



On Saturday Jane Duffield and Yolanda Miller delivered a heap of gifts of all shapes and colors to a small basement apartment on Annandale Road in Falls church.

Maribel, Patrick and Natalia are the family that IPC supported through the Homestretch program They were grateful, happy, and in awe.





# Christmas Celebration at the Osman's

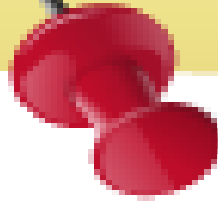


Idylwood Presbyterian Church

SERMON PODCAST: Sermons are now available  
via download  
at <http://idylwood.sermondrop.com/sermons>. We  
are also listed in iTunes: search for "Idylwood  
Presbyterian Church" under Podcasts, hit  
"subscribe," and have each week's sermon  
loaded automatically onto your various listening  
devices. For those of you who read sermon  
manuscripts – they will be back soon!



IPC Calendar is on-line at  
<http://www.idylwoodpresbyterian.org>  
Left side Main Menu  
"IPC Events Calendar"



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January 2014  
Comments or suggestion?  
[chevalforceopp@gmail.com](mailto:chevalforceopp@gmail.com)

