

Tidings and Treasures - January 2022

To our Devoted, Steadfast and Faithful PVEC Community:

Happy New Year! As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: "I will be more generous in 2022." It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!" -2 Corinthians 9:11

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses his/her life for Christ will gain it. The paradox? Generous people get back far more than they give.

First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity's real "payback" is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

Okay, my sermon is over...What's happening at PVEC:

- **Our Newest Group** – "Moving Forward and Outward with Love" is co-partnering with Elsa Todd at Trinity Methodist to expand our ministry into our community and build bridges with other organizations and helping them with projects that are already making an impact. Call Ninabeth if you are interested in joining this exciting new adventure.
- **Our Newest Donation** - Our Pajama/Book Drive over the holidays has been delivered to CASA SHaW - CASA recruits, trains and supports community volunteers who advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children in our community (ShaW = Sussex, Hunterdon and Warren Counties). CASA volunteers do their own investigation, get to know each child, and write reports directly to the judge with recommendations for what's in the child's best interests.
- **Our Newest Baptism and Communion Training** – will be given in-person and online by Pastor Ninabeth at 11:45 after worship on the following Sundays: 2/20, 3/6, 3/20 and 4/3 – children and adults are invited!
- **Our Newest Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting** – will be held at the church after worship on Sunday, January 30th – email Ashley for additional info (aewasher221@yahoo.com)
- **Our Newest Sunday School Event** – is a Valentine's Day Craft and Outreach, happening in fellowship hall on Saturday February 12th 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

And now our newest Joke:



As we pack away our Christmas Decorations, I've written this prayer for you: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you all now and forever.

Blessings, Donna