



First Presbyterian Church

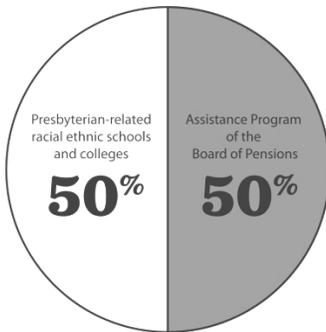


Christmas Joy Offering

November 27, 2012

Dear Friends,

The Advent/Christmas season is a season of gift-giving. We exchange gifts with loved ones, and most of us feel especially generous at this time of year. Recently, we successfully participated in the “We Care” project, and currently we are supporting such worthy causes as the Salvation Army Angel Tree and Backpack Buddies. The money raised by our Basket Auction on December 16 will be used by Presbyterian Women to support several local mission projects. In addition, many of us are receiving friendly reminders from favorite charities to make our end-of-year donations.



Please remember, too, the **Christmas Joy Offering** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is very *clear* how the donations received for this Offering are used:

One half of the Offering supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic school and colleges. Through this support, these schools offer an opportunity to young adults to advance their education and escape the cycle of poverty and prejudice.

The other half of the Offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions where it is used to assist pastors, missionaries, and church workers -- active *and* retired -- who have special financial needs.

Last year more than \$4 million was received nation-wide.

During the four Sundays of Advent, our worship bulletins will contain information about people whose lives have been profoundly helped by this Offering. You will read about a young woman who, having experienced surgery and therapy herself, pursued her calling as a nurse by attending Stillman College. You will learn about a pastor’s family who needed additional medical assistance when their little daughter’s accident necessitated two surgeries and a year of physical therapy. These gifts *matter!* Please give generously.

Blessings, Meta

Care for church servants and their families

- Income Supplements
- Shared Grants
- Emergency Assistance Grants
- Housing Supplements



The Rev. Kelli Whitlock and her family received a shared grant from the Board of Pensions to help with financially crushing medical bills.

Help us assist people like the Whitlocks in their hour of greatest need. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously.

Educational opportunities for minority students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges



Put the world in their hands.

- Barber-Scotia College**, Concord, NC
- Cook Native American Ministries**, Tempe, AZ
- Knoxville College**, Knoxville, TN
- Menaul School**, Albuquerque, NM
- Presbyterian Pan American School**, Kingsville, TX
- Stillman College**, Tuscaloosa, AL

Help us support these students at this time of great promise in their lives. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously.