





While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

-Luke2:6-7

Of course, these are familiar words to us. At some point each year we hear them read aloud in worship, around a family table before a meal or during *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Perhaps now, more than ever before—these words bring hope.

These words have inspired authors and composers. These words are a reminder that God's light is brightest when the world is at it's darkest. Although many of us struggle with an empty chair this year or relive the loss of loved ones from decades passed – ultimately, because "the time came for the baby to be born," there is reason for great joy. Madeline L'Engle, before her death wrote the following:

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great.

He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy He came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame He came, and His Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

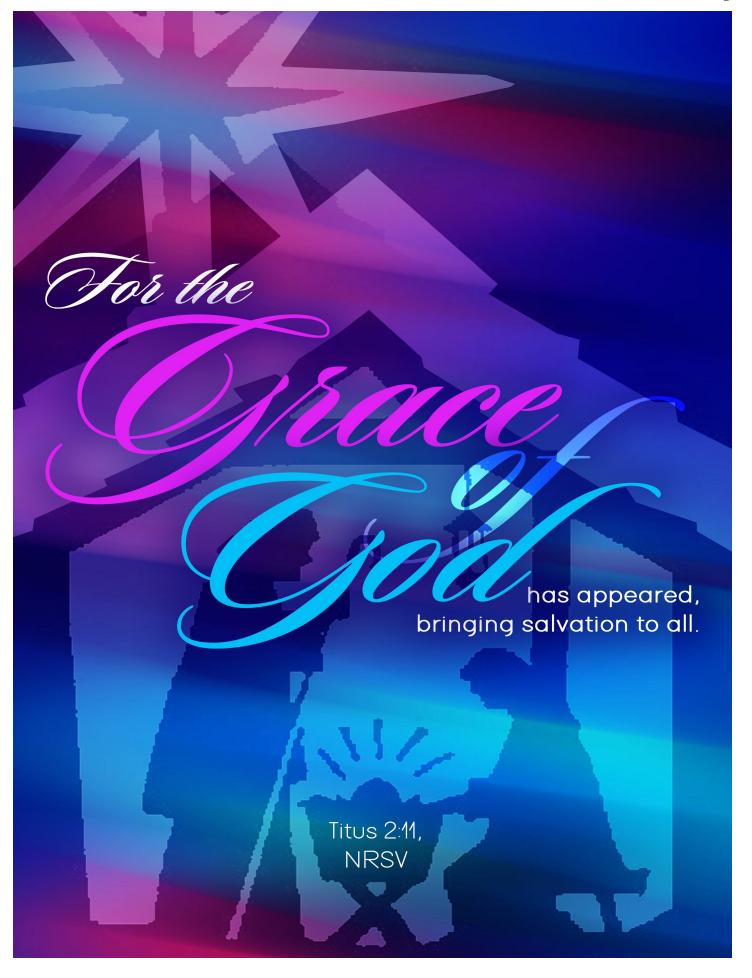
We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



Not unlike the inn, our hearts over time can become crowded, full, even to the point where there is no room for God's presence. I pray the Spirit will open up a space within us where the clutter has accumulated—clutter like sadness and loneliness, anger, fear and that dark night of the soul that seeks to consume so many once happy and joyful hearts. I pray that Christ will enter this space, dwell, rest and reside there, as we prepare for His next entrance into the world. I pray for those who struggle to find joy during this time of year and I pray for God's intrusion in all circumstances - Praying, come Lord, Jesus.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

-Pastor Darren





# Living Nativity

## Saturday, December 19 7:00 PM (LAST ADMITTANCE IS 8:00 PM)

#### Living Nativity is on!

At a time when so much is being put off "until next year", Living Nativity persists. With thanks to the great Carolyn Boyle, Doug Reece, Terry Irwin, and the entire Community Life and Outreach Committee, WPPC will continue on with this wonderful tradition, though it might look a bit different this year.

This year, instead of timed performances that draw big crowds, our Living Nativity will be broken up into tableaus that families can experience as they walk through our preschool and sanctuary. Volunteers will be costumed, acting out some of the most important scenes from the Nativity Story. Christmas music will play from the Carillon during the course of this event and narration for the tableaus will be available as families walk by, experiencing the journey to Bethlehem at WPPC as they never have before.

Because of these adjustments the Living Nativity will be only one night, Saturday, December 19. We will begin to allow families inside at socially distanced intervals starting at 7:00pm. The last admittance will be at 8:00pm.

Living Nativity, much like this year, is going to be a bit different. But Christmas is an opportunity for us to rejoice in the things that we have and to wonder in all that we are capable of. We appreciate your support as we continue on in keeping this wonderful and beautiful tradition alive and well at WPPC.

If you wish to volunteer for Living Nativity as a guide or an actor, please get in touch with Emily Wasser - emilyw@winppc.org - immediately for details.



#### **Season's Greetings!**

We will be collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED toys for the 46th Annual Christmas Toy Store for the Hope Community Center in Apopka again this year.

The challenges during 2020 are continuing and they have added the ability to donate via Amazon.

Our collection process will change as well.

Please leave your gifts in Room 301.

Contact Rachel Myers at 407-484-7290 if you would like to help sort and box on Sunday, December 6, and/or assist in loading and delivering the toys to Apopka on Tuesday, December 8.

Pastor Emily will bless the toys on Sunday, December 6.



A list of recommended toy store donations is on the next page of this newsletter. Also included on the list is information on how you can order through Amazon.



#### **2020 DEACON OF THE YEAR**







The Deacon of the Year certificate was presented to Jeanne Vinci on November 19th. Jeanne was recognized in recognition of her tireless and selfless contributions as a highly dedicated Deacon at WPPC during the most difficult year of extended isolation for all of us.





## White Socks Drive Deadline: December 30th

This year we will be serving the Homeless later than usual so please bring your socks before December 30th. The Hannah Circle will be folding and packing them for the January Meal.

The recipients of these socks are the people that come to the Coalition for the Homeless, for an evening meal, or they are residents in the program. Our church has been doing this drive for over 20 years, and have dispensed literally 1000's of pairs of socks. It's hard to describe the joy and thanks that is expressed for these simple gifts.

Please bring <u>NEW WHITE SOCKS</u> and deposit them in the marked containers in FRONT OF THE CHURCH. We will be accepting the socks up until <u>December 30th.</u>

The Compassion Committee thanks you for your donations!



The Worship & Music Committee has reissued the Chrismon Tree Booklet. This booklet was originally done in 1989. The committee is asking for a minimum donation of \$2 and they will be available on Sunday mornings and in the front office.







Our church will once again be graced with poinsettias as we celebrate Christmas. A form for purchasing a poinsettia to serve as a memorial or as a tribute of honor is on the back page of this newsletter and forms are also available in the narthex and the front office. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15. Order forms must be completed and returned by December 11th.





This year Central Florida Presbytery is hosting a Winter Virtual VBS from December 28-31. This virtual VBS will feature daily theme Bible verses, exploration of the theme through storytelling, arts and crafts, movement, and science activities. The kids will also have discussion times in breakout groups by age. In the Advent lead up to the 4-day VBS, families are encouraged to choose at least one service project a week and to take a picture of "flat" Little Baby Jesus and post it to our Journeys with Jesus Facebook Group. Deadline to register is December 15th 2020. To register or to get more information please go to <a href="http://www.cfpresbytery.org/upcoming-events.html">http://www.cfpresbytery.org/upcoming-events.html</a>.



A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ~Isaiah 40:3-4

The image of a voice crying out, though used to describe John the Baptist, originally came from Isaiah. The Old Testament verses celebrated the return of exiled Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem. Isaiah bade the faithful remnant to ready the path leading to reconciliation. Matthew reinterpreted the passage as a prophecy of John's precursor ministry to Jesus' ministry. And that latter ministry calls upon us to end our exile and reunite with God in a loving, transformative relationship.

As we anticipate Christmas this year, we also look forward to a reconciliation after a long season of separation, worry, grief, and strife. This year's journey has often felt like an exile from normalcy, like a long trudge from one unexpected difficulty to another and another. It's easy to get lost when the path twists and turns nearly every day.

Perhaps this season of Advent provides an opportunity to look beyond current misfortunes and confusion, to realign our relationship with God. How can we make "the uneven ground...level, and the rough places a plain"? I, for one, have to work on nurturing trust in God. Potholes of doubt mar my highway.

One thought helps to lift my spirits: God seeks reconciliation too. As I work on straightening my desert highway, a Loving Presence moves toward me along any open stretch. As I approach Jerusalem, Jerusalem comes to me.

Darkness and confusion may still appear to reign especially after reading my daily newsfeed, but better times are coming. The days shorten and nightfall comes early, but a newborn light approaches.

May our hearts be open to God. May the highway in the desert run straight and smooth.

-Dennis Schmalstig, WPPC Deacon



In a season when we are considering the perfect gift, the gift that says how much we know and love our family and friends, we are reminded of God's perfect gift to us. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. Jesus Christ was God's perfect gift.

During Advent we celebrate the gift of leaders, past, present and future, through the Christmas Joy Offering. Leaders greatly impact our faith, serving as models for our own journey of faith. We need well-equipped leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity. We want church leaders and their families who find themselves dealing with dire financial needs to receive assistance. For those leaders the Christmas Joy Offering is truly a gift from above. For those who give, your gift will be a reminder of the One whose birth we celebrate, the one truly perfect gift.



Fifty percent of the offering received is sent to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, offering critical financial assistance for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Fifty percent provides opportunities for education through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color and leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Joy Offering, which will be taken on Sunday, December 20. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

~ The Compassion Committee





### 2020 Opportunities

The Compassion Committee regrets the cancellation of the Global Market due to the virus. The market has been an important source of funding for many organizations that make a critical difference in the lives of people. We have arranged for you to continue to support several of these organizations: Heifer International, Society of Saint Andrews, Transitions Ukraine Orphan Foundation, and Alliance for Reforestation (AIR). You can write a check to Winter Park Presbyterian Church and place the name of the organization on the memo line. Checks can be dropped in the offering plate, submitted to Carolyn Achenbach or given to the church office.



#### **Homeless Coalition**



Because of the hardship of preparing, cooking, and serving on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of November (Thanksgiving) and December (Christmas), we have asked the Coalition to change our serving dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month beginning in January, 2021. This will be WPPC's permanent assignment in our mission to "Feed the Homeless." Please mark your calendars.

Sue Rudolph's *Sock Drive* will be collected in December and delivered to the Coalition when we serve on January 8th. If we are unable to start serving in January, we will still deliver the socks so they can be distributed.

The Coalition Team needs 3 bus drivers (men or women) to deliver volunteers to serve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. Currently, our drivers are Will McCurdy and Stephen Smith. Since the Tallungans move to Washington, we need to recruit another driver to replace Sean. For more information on how you could help out with this special mission, please call (407.929.0903) or email Nancy Galyean—nangalyean@gmail.com.



The original Two Cents A Meal program was begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering funded a hunger program that started the Hunger Action Enabler network in 1973. Central Florida PATH (Presbyterians Answer To Hunger) was formed in 1982 under the leadership of Rev. John Jackson, who was the first Hunger Action Enabler.

At the June 4th meeting of Central Florida Presbytery, the motion sent to Council by the Mission Development Committee to increase the PATH 2 Cents Per Meal offering to 5 Cents Per Meal was approved unanimously. Much thought, prayer and research went into making this request. Much of the decision to request an increase was based on the realistic cost for a serving of food today compared to 38 years ago when the offering was established.



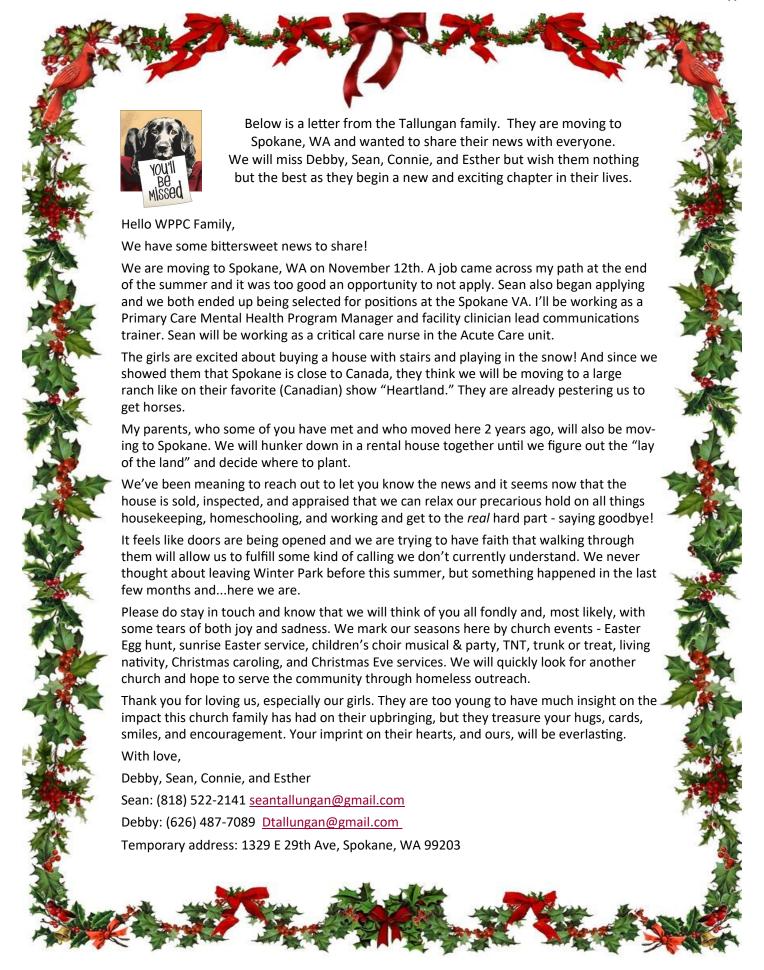
Forty-six percent of the 5 Cents A Meal offering is awarded through grants to local organizations and agencies; 42% is awarded to regional, national and international organizations and agencies. All grant recipients must address hunger through one or more of the following five Presbyterian Hunger Program areas of emphasis: direct food relief, development assistance, public policy advocacy, hunger education and/or lifestyle integrity. The remaining 12% is used for administrative costs.

The organizations that currently benefit from the Central Florida PATH offering are Second Harvest Food Bank (25%), Society of St. Andrew (gleaning local fields - 21%), Alliance for International Reforestation (AIR in Guatemala - 21%), Dan and Elizabeth Turk PC(USA) Mission Workers in Madagascar (21%).

Our 5 Cents A Meal offering is taken quarterly on the fourth Sunday (January, April, July and October). We will receive our next offering on Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of supporting this offering, used in good faith to provide food for the hungry. 

The Compassion Committee



## ?? Bible Quiz ? ??

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



"At least they saved themselves a co-pay."

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q

VIN ,8:6 daisel

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.

MOVE	<b>→</b> *	MOVE 👚	MOVE -	<b>—</b> **	MOVE -	
PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6	
₩ for	🎇 give	come 💥	together	around 🎇	after **	
₩ self	into	** settle	* eternal	thanks	* forgive	
₩ God	LORD **	** says	without	Christ	warmth	
🎇 love	sins	** scarlet	other **	<b>ight</b>	*** praise	
red	*** star	white	snow *	winter	peace	
					1	

"\_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter," \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_,
\_\_\_. "Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_,

they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV





400 S. Lakemont Avenue Winter Park, FL 32792-4600 407-629-0727 www.winppc.org/preschool

Preschool teachers, toddlers and two-year-old students are thrilled with the new playground! It was well worth the wait.

The playground project started when large trees were removed over Christmas break. During the summer work began on the drainage system to alleviate flooding problems that would occur after heavy rains, causing water to spill into our hallways. During this time roofs on surrounding buildings were replaced. Walls were pressure washed and painted.

Four large square holes were dug, filled with concrete, and poles that support the sun shade were set. The canvas canopy was lifted over the buildings by a crane and fixed in place.

Finally, grading and installation of a cushioned artificial turf surface were completed, and new enclosures were built around the air conditioners.

The most important last step: Our Bunnies Twos class burst through crepe paper stretched across the gated entrance to the playground on the first official play day! The children ran, laughed, and shouted for joy.

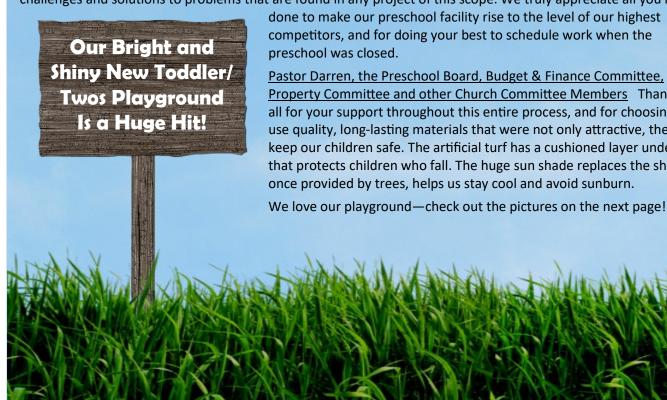
We would like to thank the following people from the bottom of our hearts:

David Miller, our tireless project manager from R. Miller Architecture We are forever grateful to David Miller for his hands-on presence during the preschool and church projects. David brought thoughtful design, attention to detail, good cheer and professionalism to the job site and was a pleasure to have on campus. He was often seen working in the hot sun next to his crews who were always courteous and tidied up at the end of each day.

Bob White, Church Property Committee Chairperson Thank you, Bob, for being here day after day making sure work was on schedule and according to plan, for keeping everyone up-to-date with the unforeseen changes, challenges and solutions to problems that are found in any project of this scope. We truly appreciate all you have

> Pastor Darren, the Preschool Board, Budget & Finance Committee, Property Committee and other Church Committee Members Thank you all for your support throughout this entire process, and for choosing to use quality, long-lasting materials that were not only attractive, they help keep our children safe. The artificial turf has a cushioned layer underneath that protects children who fall. The huge sun shade replaces the shade once provided by trees, helps us stay cool and avoid sunburn.





### Our playground...from start to finish!



The trees and mulch were removed at the beginning of the project. Equipment was moved to the Nature Center so that the children had a place to play outdoors while their playground wasn't available.



Large holes were dug for the poles that support the sun shade.



Cement was poured in the holes.



The sun shade was lifted over the building by a crane.



The new sun shade is amazing!





The Bunnies class burst through crepe paper at the grand opening of their new playground.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
O B	ecember	1 Lucy Martin	2 Jackson McCurdy	3 Rene Cuthill	4 Chris Rudolph	5 Beverly Tavel
6 Doris Anguish	7 Betty McKinney	8 Annabelle Bartholomew Terry Irwin Sylvia Reaves Dawn Sumrall John Trexler	9 Ellenorr Osterhaus	10 Reta Jackson	11 Linda Morse	12 David Lee
13 Berta Hall	14 Alissa Mahoney	15 Linda Beaty	16 Lee Newsom III	17 Jamison Fagan Melinda MacDade Don McCarter Ann McDonald	18 Betty Gale Case	19 Julie Kent Holly Small Stephen Smith
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	23 Lee Adler Cynthia Nants	24 Corinne Dodd	25 William Darcy Julia Frazier	26 Luke Gettys Julie Rankin Ellis Roe
27 Jerry Osterhaus Clark Ranson Peter Rice	28 Howard Evans	29 Gary Henderson Ellen Skelton	<u>30</u>	31 Patrick LaRue Glenn Riccio		

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	JAN	JARY Birthdays		1 Tom Russell David Yost	2 John Gehrig Claudia Hafich Barbara Oldford Carole Reece Audrey Santiago
<u>4</u>	5 Nancy Johnson	Lucienne Lee	7 John Bartholomew	8 Eleanor McKechnie	9 Jo Davidson Johnnie McCarter Jay Van Hook Joe Workman
<u>11</u>	12	<u>13</u>	14	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
18 Debbie Workman	<u>19</u>	20 Meg Baldwin	21 Lindsay Blood	22 Matthew Walker	23 Harleen Anderson
<u>25</u>	26 Andy Anderson Drew Byrne Patricia Kiester	27 Austin Bartholomew	28 Alyssa Kittinger Flo Tuck	29 Barbara McKnight	30 Chris Galante
	4  11  18  Debbie Workman	10	10	11	1   1   1   1   2   1   3   1   4   1   5   Martholomew   Eleanor McKechnie







The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
Justin Chase, Director of Music
Penny Walsh, Organist
Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

#### **SESSION**

2020 **2021** 2022 Phillip Anderson Theresa Coker Doris Anguish Marilyn Bryant Lisa Dreasher Bonnie Gaughan Rick Davis layne Leach Fran Morrissey Steve House Shaheed Mohammed Sean Tallungan Larry Seel Peter Rice Michelle Trahan Bob White Nelson Roe Jay Van Hook

#### **DIACONATE**

2020 2021 2022 Ardyth Austin Mike Galyean Susan Davis Cathy House Reta Jackson lane Munns Caroline James Iulie Kent Rachel Myers Jim McKinney Curtis Koon Christine Rich Dennis Schmalstig Sara Van Arsdel Meg Ball Thomas Matt Straub Jeanne Vinci

#### **MISSIONARIES**

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic Mark Hare - Haiti Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

About About	War
If you would	like to purchase a poinsettia in honor/memory of someone, please fill out
	nd return it to the church office. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.
I would like	to purchase poinsettia(s)
	(Qty)
Attached is 1	ny check in the amount of \$
Donated by	
In Loving M	emory of
S	•
In Honor of	
	ion of
In Appreciat	
In Appreciat	
In Appreciat	