

The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

December 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

The Fall of 2018 has been an amazing time of ministry for us at FPC Orangeburg.

- We were blessed to spend time with the Manilas, and participate in Matthew 25: 35, a reverse offering sent into the community that we are still hearing great things about.
- We celebrated our Reformed heritage with our annual Kirkin' of the Tartan service.
- Over seventy-five of us shared our time and talents in *The Church Has Left The Building* project (please see photos inside this month's newsletter).
- Volunteers collected enough donations to fill 140 Thanksgiving boxes that members of our church then delivered, and it's not even Advent yet.

However, Advent is just around the corner and I hope you will enjoy each day of this season focusing on God's gift to us – Jesus, His Son. Material presents are great, and we all enjoy a thoughtful gift, but the most wonderful presence we will ever receive is that of God dwelling among us.

Praise the Lord! Merry Christmas! As we journey through Advent, let each of us enjoy moments with God, spend time in prayer and worship, especially giving thanks for the Advent of Jesus and His promise to return.

I pray this cartoon will brighten your day.

Smile, it is a proven fact our faces look better with a grin.

Celebrating and waiting expectantly,
Pastor Darren



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12



On Wednesday night, December 12th, at 6:00 p.m., the children's choirs and handbell choirs will present a Christmas program in the sanctuary. The Cherub Choir, Carol Choir, Crusader Choir, Youth Handbell Choir, and the Adult Handbell Choir will all participate in presenting music of the season. Come, bring family and friends, and join us for a fun night of Christmas music!

Sylvia Trimmier



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

6:00 P.M.

CHANCEL CHOIR MUSIC

On Sunday morning, December 16th, the Chancel Choir will present a service of Christmas music. They will sing music by John Ferguson, Dan Forrest, Craig Courtney, and John Rutter. The service will also include readings by Max Lucado from his Advent collection called *In the Manger*.

Sylvia Trimmier

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

DECEMBER 23, 2018

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 23rd. Prayerfully consider supporting this annual PCUSA offering.

PRIME TIME CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DECEMBER 20, 2018

A Prime Time Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday, December 20, at noon in the Centre.

Call the church office to make reservations (534-0088).



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018



Children's
Pageant

Children's Christmas Pageant is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, in the sanctuary. Supper is after the pageant.

All children of the church and any grandchildren, nieces, nephews, who are 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to participate. **Practice is during Children's Church on December 9, at which time the costumes will be given out.**

Kaye Borgstedt

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES 2019

Contribution envelopes for use beginning in January are available for pickup in the Parlor. Please be certain to pick up the correct box, as they are labelled and numbered.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADVENT BREAKFAST DECEMBER 2

Advent Breakfast is for everyone. Join us in the Centre at 9:15 a.m. on December 2 for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. You will have the opportunity to learn about and even make, if you desire, Chrismon ornaments to take home with you. You will receive your Advent devotional material, also. Looking forward to seeing YOU.



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS DECEMBER 23

All ages will meet in the Centre at 9:30 for coffee, hot chocolate and juice and a celebration of Jesus' birth.



TEACHERS - DECEMBER

PRESCHOOL: Leslie Lovelace and Maggie Robertson

KINDERGARTEN

December 9 Kim Reed
December 16 Lessie Gayle and Ed Dickson
December 30 Marcia Wood

ELEMENTARY

December 9 Melissa and Tripp Plummer
December 16 Geni and David Gillespie

YOUTH: Katherine and Craig Smith

ADOPT-A-CHILD



The Deacons and the Elders will coordinate the Christmas Adopt-a-Child mission this year. We will be contacting the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Hispanic Church that meets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays. It is called Iglesia Multicultural De Las Asambleas De Dios and its pastors are Alfonso and Lorena Young. We will be provided the names of children to purchase gifts for, that will lift their spirits and help make the Birth of Jesus a special time of the year for them.

Sign-up list to select a child to help will be available in the Centre and at GTF. Please contact Erin Axson <eaxson@orangeburgprep.com> or 803-860-0807 or Jim Harvey <james.e.harvey@gmail.com> or 440-263-7420 with any questions.

PRESCHOOL NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 2	Gué
December 9	Turner
December 16	Axson
December 23	Nexsen
December 30	Richardson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

December 2	Burroughs
December 9	Sterling
December 16	Smoak
December 23	Albergotti
December 30	Gillespie

The Taylor Festival Choir
presents

MUSIC FOR ROYAL OCCASIONS

*Featuring music ranging from
the weddings of Harry and Meghan
and William and Kate
to the coronations of Kings and Queens
from the past four centuries*

Saturday night, January 26, 2019
7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance
\$20.00 at the door

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, December 4. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 1:** Tuesday, December 11 11:30 a.m.
Centre
- Circles 2 & 4:** Tuesday, December 11 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room
- Circle 3:** Monday, December 10 6:00 p.m.

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Frank Tourville, Jr.
Mr. Richard Garick
Mrs. Marjorie Patterson

GIVEN BY

Ms. Rita Torio
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson
Janet and Johnny Brailsford
Mrs. Frances Lytch

GENERAL FUND 2018

For month ending October 31, 2018	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$34,398.34	\$419,209.48
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$51,219.25</u>	<u>\$449,010.61</u> **
	(\$16,820.91)	(\$ 29,801.13)

** Includes year to date transfer to Missions of \$22,687.50.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LIVING FAITHFULLY

ADVENT is a time of preparation ...

As an individual

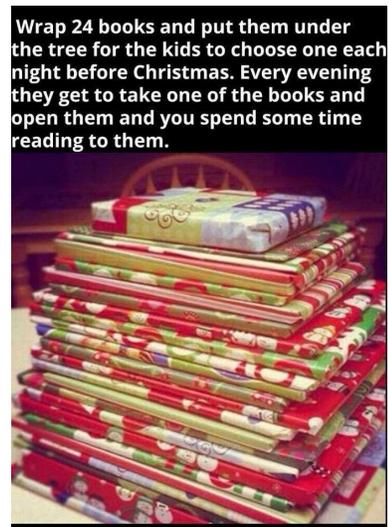
Sometimes I wonder if we are so busy concentrating on the birth of Jesus that we neglect to remember that we should always be prepared for His return. We really should be living as if each hour may be our last and be living for Him. It is so easy to think of a baby and all the smiles, etc., that come with a new baby. And we should certainly remember the birth of Jesus as the Incarnation—Jesus in human form. As we prepare for the birth with devotional readings, programs, prayer and gift giving, let us remember why God gave us the ultimate gift of His Son. And let us vow to make our Advent preparation become a daily habit. Titus and other books of the Bible give us instructions for Godly living and urge us to be ready and zealous in doing good deeds which are not limited to Advent. As Christians, we carry the name of Christ every minute of every day and we have the help of the Holy Spirit as we present Christ to the world in words, attitudes and actions. What Christian Heritage are you leaving? Are you using your GPS, God's positioning system, as He divinely aligns us with people and events to keep us from losing our way? Ask yourself the question, do I have Jesus in my heart or do I have religion?

As a family

Who does all the decorating, baking, gift buying and wrapping, etc. at your house? Are you "accelerating thru this process with your gas gauge registering on empty"? Is this the purpose of Advent? Why not slow down (after all, even God rested) and try some of these suggestions. Let everyone help with the decorations. Leave ornaments and other decorations just as they are placed by family members. What does changing them say to the person who placed them? The idea is not symmetry or perfection. It is family working together. While decorating, talk about your childhood memories and let children do the same. Talk about special ornaments/decorations you are using, who made them. Remember, when baking cookies together, they will be good no matter how they look. Take some to others. Intentionally plan a

devotional time. First Presbyterian will provide resources and maybe this will become a habit for your family.

If you are living alone, invite friends over for a decorating party. Make it simple. Coffee or tea and store bought cookies are fine because the idea is to be together. Everyone can share Christmas memories. Plan a time when friends, no matter where they are, will read the same devotion you are reading. Later, you may discuss the readings but just knowing someone else is reading with you can be comforting.



As a congregation

Make an extra effort to reach out to our members who are sick, shut-in, in nursing homes and residential care. We have many members who have experienced the death of a loved one this year. Reach out to them with a card or call and an offer of prayer.

(continued on page 6)

NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you to the wonderful ladies who volunteer in the church office throughout the year. Your kindness and assistance in busy times and stressful situations help the office in many ways and a "thank you" really is not adequate.

The Staff

THANKSGIVING BOX DRIVE

Our heartfelt thanks to Gerald and Elise Myers for serving as the chairs of this committee and to all who participated.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thank you to all who volunteered to help make the Community Thanksgiving meal a success again this year. So many church members donated baked goods, turkeys, time in the kitchen and time delivering the food on Thanksgiving morning. During this busy time of year we appreciate all you do to reach out to the community.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02	Hugh Hicklin	12/18	Geni Gillespie
	Anna Brake Plummer		Clay Lee
	Hazel Richardson	12/19	Caroline Bryant
12/03	Warren Albergotti	12/20	John Brailsford
12/04	Frances Lytch		Amber Hutto
12/05	Ashton Gué		John Dangerfield
	Jay Plummer		Cap Thackston
12/08	Coleman Axson	12/21	Riley Frierson
12/10	Joyce Hicklin	12/23	David Gillespie
	Jimmy Guthrie	12/29	Carol Farnum
12/12	Taylor Marcus		Josh Nexsen
12/15	Fran Hendren	12/30	Kyle Crabb
	Mark Dudley		Kayla Mims
12/17	Council Burroughs	12/31	Alice Flansburg

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONT.)

Participate in Sunday morning fellowship at 9:30. Participate in all worship services. Pray for each other. Greet each other with a smile. When you ask, "How are you?" really listen before responding. Offer support and encouragement. Call a shut-in and offer to run errands or call a more life experienced person and see if they have any task with which you can help. And the list goes on and on.

CHRISTMAS: December 25-January 6

As you pack up the decorations (and this can also be a family experience), look around you and see how the Advent experience has changed you. Are you packing away Jesus or are you carrying Jesus in your heart? Are you packing up all the feelings of joy and praise? Why not leave a crèche out all year to remind you of Jesus and His sacrifice? Will God be acknowledged and obeyed every day? We really do not have to do something extraordinary. We just have to walk with God in our ordinary lives. By spending time with God every day by reading the Bible and praying, we will be able to find the joy in every circumstance. Colossians 3:11 tells us "Christ is all, and is in all." Let us respond to each other with "compassion, kindness humility, gentleness and patience" (v. 12). Most of all we are called to "put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (v. 14).

CHALLENGE: Are you familiar with the hymn, "Surely the Lord is in this Place"? My challenge to you: Remember Jesus' presence is the best gift. Each day when you awake, take several deep breaths and let them out slowly. Then say and mean, "Surely the Lord is in the Place and every where I go!" You cannot go anywhere God is not! See how your life changes.

PRAYER: God, help us seek your presence in all that we do. You know every part of us, flaws and gifts, intentions and thoughts and yet you love us unconditionally. Thank you for this unfathomable gift. Teach us to respond by drawing closer to and serving you. Help us be ready to love, serve, give and honor you. Help us see your presence in every situation and to seek your joy. And all God's children said ...

With Christian Love and Merry CHRISTmas!
Kaye Borgstedt

First Presbyterian Church December Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2



First Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Advent Breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Trees set-up in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Handbell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 11:45 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Team
- 6:30 p.m. FirstPraise Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch with the Pastor at *The Oaks*
- 5:30 p.m. G.T.F. Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. G.T.F. Program
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 11:15 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9



Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
(Pageant practice during Children's Church)
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Handbell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 5:30 p.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Circle 3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 10:30 a.m. Circles 2 and 4: Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Circle 1: Centre
- 11:45 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Team
- 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. FirstPraise Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12



- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 5:30 p.m. G.T.F. Supper
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Program
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 11:15 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16



Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 11:45 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Team
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. FirstPraise Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19



Children's Pageant

- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
(Supper follows the pageant.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 11:15 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Prime Time Christmas Lunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23



Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Birthday Party for Jesus for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Service



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

"THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING" - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11



Free car wash!!!



Picking up litter to beautify our neighborhood



Praying for our community



Delivering treats to first responders



Operation Christmas Shoebox



Cheerful helpers

"THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING" - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Building a wheelchair ramp requires a lot of work and talent!



First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested

DECEMBER



2018

