

The PRESSbyterian

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January 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year!

It's 2020 and that's no type-o. Hard to imagine - in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, that those of us alive today are ushering in the year 2020. By the way, and I'm not complaining, but where are all our flying cars? Of course, that would just be one more thing to spend time maintaining. While considering this, perhaps it is also an opportunity to see the New Year with different eyes. After all, it is 2020.

I've always viewed the upcoming year as something to be experienced. However, one could easily see the upcoming year as something to be given or shared with others. After all, ultimately, we are talking about time, the one thing that we all get the same amount of each day. No matter how we might insulate ourselves, at the end of the day, all the pleading and all the money in the world (and that's a lot) will not buy any human one minute more in a twenty-four hour day or in a hundred year lifespan.

Knowing this, perhaps in 2020, our vision will include the continued sharing of our time with each other and sharing the gospel within our community - using words if we absolutely must.

While doing some reading, I recently came across the following poem. The words fanned embers of thought in my mind about past, present and future. With 2020 Vision, it's obvious time is to be shared, and then while living for others one experiences fullness of life.

To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to *give* a Happy New Year.

~ Author Unknown ~

Jesus healed physical blindness and spiritual blindness, gifting those He touched with 2020 vision. Of course, He still does. I pray the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to the 2020 Vision God has planned for us, that we will continue to share time generously and in so doing experience life.

Looking through the correctives of faith, hope and love,

Pastor Darren

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED JANUARY 6TH!



The Sanctuary and grounds will be undecorated on January 6 at 10:00 a.m. Please help if you can!

Jane Shuler

Removing of the Greens

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

will be observed in the service of worship
on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

2020 PLEDGES

If you have not had an opportunity to return your pledge card – **THERE'S STILL TIME**. Simply mail it to the church office, bring it by or drop it in the offering plate at church next Sunday.

Also, if you have not picked up your 2020 contribution envelopes, they are still available in the parlor. It costs the church almost \$5.00 each to mail them, so please **PICK THEM UP**.

Susanne Womack

JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle 1:	Tuesday, January 14 Centre	11:30 a.m.
Circles 2 & 4:	Tuesday, January 14 Conference Room	10:30 a.m.
Circle 3:	Monday, January 13	6:00 p.m.

THANK YOU FROM THE THANKSGIVING BOX COMMITTEE

Thank you from the Thanksgiving Box Committee. Due to your generosity, we were able to distribute 135 Thanksgiving Boxes on November 24th. This was an increase from 126 in 2018.

The boxes we use are donated each year by Zeus. Piggly Wiggly gives us a discount on our \$20 gift cards that we include in each box. Many thanks to both of them.

Thanks also to each of you for getting your boxes filled early this year. When we left the Centre on Friday evening, we were completely finished. We were ready for distribution on Sunday. We took Saturday off!!!

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped with the deliveries on Sunday and to Audrey and Craig for handling the 13 boxes that had to be delivered to the schools on Monday.

We are looking forward to a bigger and better year in 2020. We are thinking 150 boxes next year.

Elise and Gerald Myers
Co-Chair Thanksgiving Box Ministry
Evangelism Committee

We have received the following thank you notes from box recipients.

Sheridan Elementary School

Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving Boxes that were given to our needy families. Forever Grateful.

Orangeburg County Council on Aging

Thank you for the generous food boxes. All the seniors were very thankful.

A Habitat for Humanity family

Thank you for your time, care and love that you shared with us. We would like to say "Thank you" for the food gift. The food gift was very greatly appreciated. Always and forever, God will continue to bless you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE **LIVING FAITHFULLY**

One Sunday when Michael and I went to church with Sandra we sang, "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve." The words were written by Delores Dufner. My first thought was these words would make good New Year's Resolutions. What do you think?

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free; where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us: we go in Jesus' name.

What would our lives, our church and our community look like if this hymn were our theme song?

A Barna Group study in 2018 found that most folks do not like to talk about God, so obviously spiritual conversations are on the decline. Talking about God can have some dangerous side effects for us politically or relationally but, also, talking about God may help us realize we need to make some changes in our lives. So to go out and serve, we may first need to get our relationship with God right. Then we need to remember the instructions from God in Deuteronomy, chapters 6 and 11. To the Israelites, the instructions were law. But the instructions about God can be a normal part of everyday life for us. God's instructions were to memorize His words and to display them

where they can be seen. We are to talk about God's instructions with our children, "when you sit at home and when you walk down the road, when you lie down and when you get up". If we do this, we will be well prepared to go where the Spirit sends us.



God does call us to witness and He promised to give us what we need and to be with us. Let's take a chance, rely on the Holy Spirit and try turning small talk conversations to something deeper....conversations toward God. The blessing we and our community will reap as we talk about His words and practice them are immeasurable.

REFLECTION: What challenges have come to you as a result of spiritual conversation with friends and others? What Blessings?

PRAYER: God, help me share You with those in my life. Lead me as I interact with them. Amen.

QUESTION: From which two books of the Old Testament did Jesus quote most often?

Serving together.
Kaye
Christian Education Coordinator

GENERAL FUND 2019		
For month ending November 30, 2019	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$38,895.84	\$443,192.90
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$31,454.75	\$429,995.09 *
	\$ 7,441.09	\$ 13,197.81

* Includes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter total transfer to Missions of 15,000.

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



January 2020

GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

will resume on January 15, 2020.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1 Sarah Francis Coggins | 1/15 Campbell Bowers |
| 1/3 Kaye Borgstedt | 1/18 Bill Covington |
| Elsie Fogle | 1/19 Jane Shuler |
| Lawrence Thackston | 1/21 Marion Moore |
| 1/4 Tamra Campbell | Amy Delaney |
| Paige Hewitt | 1/26 Dawes Edwards |
| 1/6 Chance Boltin | 1/27 Gaye Lanier |
| 1/7 Keith Hewitt | 1/28 Carol McCall |
| 1/9 McCullough Mims | 1/29 Rita Hutto |
| 1/11 Melissa Plummer | 1/30 Blake Bruner |
| Katie Weigle | Reagan Ridley |
| 1/12 Jewell Davis | 1/31 Buddy Barnwell |
| 1/14 Cheryl Smith | |
| Beth Kuck | |
| Jennifer Turner | |
| Adison Walter | |
| Ava Cuttino | |

CAN YOU HELP?

The John Knox Class is collecting a love offering for Elizabeth Codington, our missionary in Albania. She is in need of a car for her work and has found one for \$3000. We are trying to help her. Please give any donation checks made out to *Christar* to any class member.

Jane Shuler

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

AT THE OAKS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 ♦ 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, January 7. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.