

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Mint Hill, North Carolina
March 2018



From Rusty Benton, Head Pastor

Joy and Peace in Believing

Sometimes a light surprises, the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord who rises, with healing in his wings:
When comforts are declining, he grants the soul again
A season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation, we sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new:
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
E'en let th' unknown to-morrow, bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing, but he will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing, ill clothe his people too:
Beneath the spreading heavens, no creature but is fed;
And he who feeds the ravens, will give his children bread.

Though vine nor fig-tree neither, their wonted fruit shall
bear,
Though all the field should wither, nor flocks nor herds be
there:

Yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice;
For while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

This poem is by John Newton who also wrote the well-known and well-loved hymn, Amazing Grace. It seems most appropriate to share because of Newton's life story. In short Newton was a sailor who was jailed and flogged for insubordination. He was known as a person of moral abandon who "made it my life to tempt and seduce others." One day Newton's slave ship got caught in a storm. The storm was severe and caused Newton to pray to God. Newton's prayer bore the fruit of his conversion to Christianity. He eventually retired from the slave trade and became an Anglican minister and served in the ministry until his passing.

Newton's life and world were full of the experience of abuse, prejudice, poverty, violence, immorality and fear. In the midst of these circumstances, he wrote not only hymns, but also poetry. Instead of being defined by the difficult world around him, Newton, who experienced so much of the difficult side of life, decided to make things like hope, help, redemption and joy his focuses in life.

It may at times seem like our world or culture today is rife with negative emotion, anxiety, fear and violence. Unfortunately, these characteristics of life have been a part of life for a long time. Newton could have simply gotten angry or become apathetic to the plight of others in the midst of the challenges he experienced. Instead, he chose to see not through his own eyes, but through God's eyes. As such, even in the most trying moments in life, he was defined not by his external circumstance, by the God inside of him.

God is our ever-present source of joy, love, grace and hope. May we, in this Lenten season and in all circumstances, hold to this God who is always with us and in us. In Him may we always look to shine light in the dark places of life and believe that in the best and worst of times there is always joy!

From Katie Sloan, Associate Pastor

Southern Hospitality.....

Invitations to parties and special events make us feel good. Even if we are unable to attend we all want to be invited. Jesus gives us a standing invitation, in the gospel of Matthew 11:28 he said "come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest". Who would pass up on an invitation like this?

I have learned the blessing of true southern hospitality, which includes: when invited somewhere you should never show up empty handed. "That's only proper after all" – or so I have been told. And so, I always make it a point when attending parties, to arrive with a small token in hand for the hosts. The amazing thing about God's invitation is that we do not have to bring a thing. In fact, we actually get to trade our burdens for his blessings. We leave our troubles for the treasures of the Lord.

Philadelphia has the unique opportunity to extend that invitation from Jesus Christ. We have two amazing worship opportunities, (The Journey and The Sanctuary services), the Poor Man's Supper, Wonderful Wednesday, and a variety of Sunday School classes, just to name a few things. The best part is that folks can come as they are, even if they are weary from the expectations of life and carrying the stresses of the world. Better yet, they can exchange them for the joy and love of Jesus.

The greatest invitation we will ever receive, the greatest invitation we can ever extend to anyone else is the one that Jesus makes to us - everyday. I hope that you are sharing the love of Jesus. It's as simple as letting the light of Christ shine through you and inviting someone to the Poor Man's Supper and buying their dinner, encourage them to have their youth check out our youth programs, sharing about the AWESOMENESS of Kingdom Kids and the Eggstravaganza, or letting them know about our two worship services. Show folks some great southern hospitality. Most importantly, be sure you tell them, the only thing they need to bring is themselves.

Blessing,

Katie



The Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrated Valentine's Day by blessing our 500th shawl in 3-1/2 years of existence. Since it takes at least 25

hours to make one shawl by our fastest knitter using the fastest method possible, that totals at least 12,500 hours of knitting, sewing, or crocheting and a countless number of stitches and prayers. For those of you who like averages, *that's about one shawl produced every three days!*

We hear story upon story of how appreciative the recipients are for the shawls and the follow up notes we send (if the address is known) which provide a tangible reminder that they are being prayed for and are not forgotten in times of stress and upheaval in their lives. We've received cards like the one stating the shawl and the note gave someone renewed faith in God and His healing ability. We were able to recently fulfill a request to send two shawls to a prison ministry which requested shawls for the families of death row inmates. At least once per year, the Stephen Ministers provide the RITI neighbors with small shawls to help keep them warm. Approximately half of the shawls are distributed to PPC members and half to others in the community and wider family of faith who could use our prayers and support. No thanks are required but we do tear up from the heartwarming notes we often receive!

If you know of someone with a need, please pass the word to the Stephen Ministers, Deacons, or shawl creators. Those on the nursing home list, high school and college graduates in the past three years, and many on the prayer list have already received shawls. Distribution is controlled *only* to prevent multiple shawls from being presented to the same recipient because we NEVER are able to build up a ready supply of shawls!

The shawl creation process is simple – as they are stitching, the shawl creators pray for the future recipient and pray that the completed shawl provide them God's peace and comfort. The shawls are approximately 5-6 ft. x 2 ft. and can be made by any pattern, by any stitch, and in any color. Some of the most interesting shawls are made from combined scraps from other projects! Once the shawl is completed, the Stephen Ministers provide a final blessing and a special bag which includes an explanation of the Shawl Ministry and the prayers/blessings associated with the shawls.

Please check out our closet near the Heritage Room for supplies where we have yarn, crochet hooks, and knitting needles and please PLEASE take what you need to make a shawl. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights of most months from 7:00pm to approximately 8:00pm in the Fred Brown classroom. The group includes expert stitchers who will be able to help if you have a question. There is no requirement to come to the meetings to participate in this ministry, but we would love to have you!

Special thanks go to everyone involved in making shawls from those who are struggling to learn to knit on their first shawl to the experienced stitchers who have produced many shawls. We also appreciate the efforts of the Pastors, Stephen Ministers, and Deacons who often deliver the shawls. Thank you all for being a blessing to others!

Contact Cindi Hoffner at 704-488-3027 if you have any questions.

PW Spring Sale

The Presbyterian Women's Bazaar is having a Spring sale to make room for new bazaar items and to get you excited about our new Annex Shoppe that will begin later in 2018. Come check out our latest spring floral arrangements and wreaths, as well as some other fun creations on Saturday, March 10 in the Chapel Annex from 10am-2pm.

From your Christian Education Ministry

The Easter Eggstravaganza is Saturday, March 24 at 10 a.m. at the Park on Wilgrove!

This is a family-friendly event sponsored by our church for the community, so spread the news! Ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to enjoy crafts, games, face painting, snacks, and of course, a huge egg hunt while learning about and celebrating Jesus, the risen savior!



There are lots of opportunities to serve in Christian Education. Please see if you can help in one of the areas below. 1) There is a need for more volunteers to help in either the Sunday School or the 11a.m. worship service. If you can please serve our infants and toddlers contact Jill Linscheid at jlinscheid@carolina.rr.com. 2) Kingdom Kids Sunday School is looking for volunteers to be assistants on Sunday mornings. 3) VBS (Vacation Bible School) is August 5-9 and lots of volunteers are needed for this event. If you are able to share your time and talents with Kingdom Kids or VBS please contact Susan Griffin at smgriffin@griffinmasonry.com.

We welcome our new members

Lisa M. Shields-Cook

2717 Connemara Dr.
Matthews, NC 28105

Lisa is joining by Letter of Transfer from Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Southern Pines, NC. Lisa is married to Keith A. Cook and has two daughters, Lorelei and Caroline McSweeney.

Julia Margaret Clark

7414 Hannah Alexander Ln.
Mint Hill, NC 28227

Julia is joining by Letter of Transfer from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Southlake, TX

Christopher & Erin Clark

8627 Brookgreen Dr.
Mint Hill, NC 28227

Chris and Erin are joining by Reaffirmation of Faith
Chris and Erin have 3 children: Annie, Ben, and Gwyn Clark

John Allocco

4000 Amen Ct.
Matthews, NC 28104

John is joining by Profession of Faith
John is the son of member Karen Davidson.



Backpacks of Love

Over the last few months, we have had periods of abundance and periods of low inventory. Whenever the needs arise, this very caring congregation steps up to provide for the children of Clear Creek Elementary. Our needs this week are lunch and dinner meats in small or standard size containers such as beef stew, chicken and dumplings, chili, canned chicken, canned tuna, beanie weenies, Vienna sausages, spaghetti/ravioli/beefaroni/lasagna/chicken alfredo; also standard size fruits, and small vegetable cups. Thank you for your continued support.

Presbyterian Women announce Claire's Army event

It is time to start planning your table for our Claire's Army event on the morning of May 19. Many more details will follow, but if you have questions, please contact Millie Mullis - 704-545-5313, or Tina Ross-704-545-6231. WBTB's Kristin Miranda will once again be our Mistress of Ceremonies.

Mark your calendars for
How Great is Our God - a musical
presented by the Celebration Singers,
March 18, 7 p.m.
Kerr Building

Attention, High School Seniors!

Application forms for the Elizabeth Caldwell Junker, the Frances McEwen Hunter, and the Jimmy Miller Scholarships are available in the information rack outside the church office. Deadline for their return is April 1.

Hot Meals Program



Seniors' Nutrition

If you are 60+ and not attending the Hot Meals Program, but would like to, call Jessica at 704-573-2490. You will find a very enthusiastic group who exercise daily, develop friendships, and dine in a pleasant Christian environment. Age and residency in Mecklenburg County are the only prerequisites.

Time to order Easter lilies!

As has been our tradition, we will once again have lilies to adorn our chancel on Easter Sunday. Be watching for order forms coming soon. The six inch potted lilies are \$12.00 each. The deadline for placing your order is March 25.



Poor Man's Supper

A Poor Man's Supper will be held on Saturday, March 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Kerr Building. This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Presbyterian Men. Proceeds from the event will go toward church and community projects. The menu is pinto beans, rice, slaw, apples, cornbread, and dessert. Contact Jerry Mullis (704-545-5313) for more information.

Planning a meeting or event?

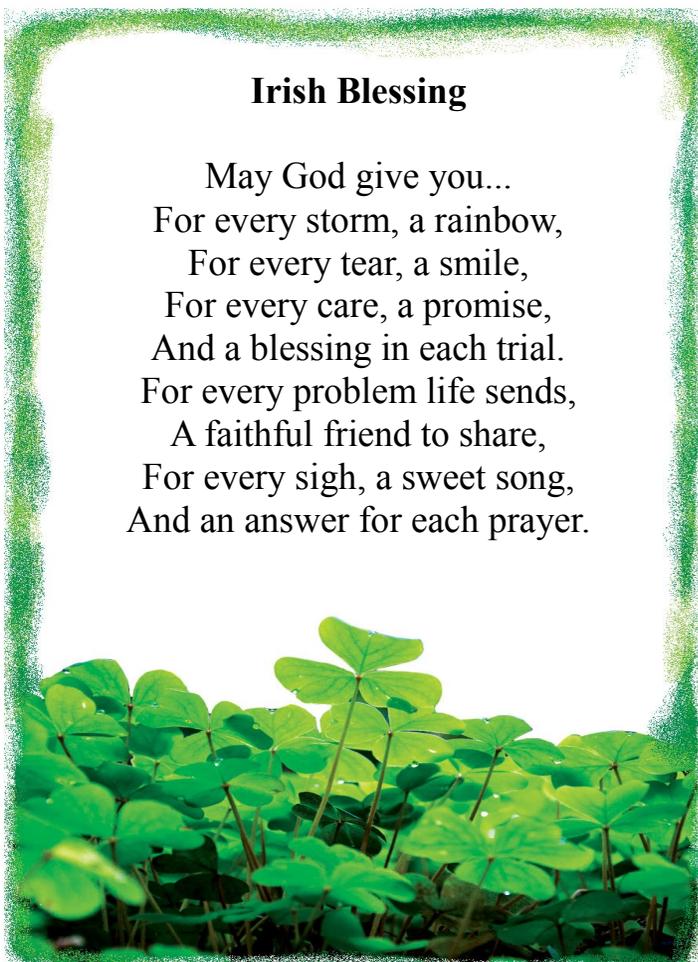
Please remember to schedule all meetings and events through the church office. Building Usage Forms are available in the information rack across from the church office.

Kerr Building kitchen

If you would like to become certified to work in the Kerr Kitchen, call the church office to sign up for an upcoming kitchen certification class.

Irish Blessing

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.





- 1 Ney Freeman
- 1 Bill Johnston
- 2 Bill Griffin
- 2 Pam Martin
- 3 Jennifer Fauser
- 3 Bill Hawkins, Jr.
- 3 Lynette Pritchard
- 4 Leila Campbell
- 4 Jackson Lohrer
- 4 Linda Little
- 4 Shane Sledd
- 5 Joe McManus
- 5 CJ Thomas
- 6 Keith Ensley
- 7 Joyce Kjos
- 8 Emily Dee
- 8 Hilary Hall
- 8 Mark Jetton
- 8 Elizabeth Perkins
- 8 Carly Szymanski
- 9 Clark Davenport
- 9 Dean Ferguson
- 10 Austin Griffin
- 10 Alana White
- 12 Larry Black
- 12 Tom Duke
- 12 Aaron Ferguson
- 13 Martha Benenhaley
- 13 Lucille Furr
- 13 Claudia Long
- 14 Cathy Davis
- 14 Julie Duke
- 14 Ike Griffin
- 14 Sherry Knotts
- 14 Jamie Porter
- 18 Ginger Bourgeois
- 19 Sandra Ferguson
- 18 Becky Hamilton
- 20 Janean Flowe
- 20 Jason Flowe
- 20 Jean Taber
- 21 Adam Cervantes
- 21 Elijah Cervantes
- 21 Linda Cummins
- 22 Avery Starnes
- 25 Linda Davenport
- 26 Taylor West
- 27 Jody Briner
- 28 Gary Brown
- 29 Eric Jaeger
- 30 David Andrews
- 31 Gale Baker
- 31 Clint Bartlett

March Anniversaries

- 5 Keith & Jennifer Perkins
- 15 Steve & Emily Davis
- 15 Dave & Marnie Gallagher
- 18 Mert & Janet O’Prey
- 19 Charlie & Marlene Jones
- 31 James & Catherine
Blanchard

Our condolences for the following deaths:

- Porter Behrendt on February 4
- Ronnie Cochrane on February 8
- [Judy Wiley] mother of Judy McWhirter on February 15
- Don Jamison on February 16
- Colene Houck on February 18

At bedtime on March 10



Attention, drivers of the church vans!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee Guidelines require that all drivers of church vans must have a copy of their driver’s license on file with the church office. Before driving the vans, make a copy of your drivers license and send to the church office.

Gifts to the Church

In Memory of...

- Randy Page**—Herb & Sylvia Gill (Music Fund)
- Sandy Moore**—Rick & Karen Davis, Herb & Sylvia Gill, Janice Wilson (Capital Needs Fund); The Ralph Leete Class (Endowment Fund); Ernest & Linda Jamison (Current Fund)
- Cora Lee Lonon**—Ernest & Linda Jamison (Current Fund); Lucille Furr (Miller Scholarship Fund)
- Porter Behrendt**—Herb & Sylvia Gill (Capital Needs Fund); Ernest & Linda Jamison (Current Fund)
- Bill Furr**—Lucille Furr (Endowment Fund)
- Don Jamison**—Janice Wilson (Capital Needs)
- Bob Funderburk** from Brenda Funderburk

PPC Birthday Endowment Fund

Celebrate your big day by sharing your blessings. Or remember anyone you love by giving a gift to the PPC Birthday Endowment Fund. Each donor and honoree will be acknowledged in the *Philagram*. By growing this fund, our church will be able to use the interest for much needed improvements and repairs to the buildings and grounds of our campus. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex of the sanctuary and chapel and outside the church office.

The following donations have been made to the Birthday Endowment Fund:

In Memory of:

Bob Funderburk from Brenda Funderburk in honor of Bob’s 77th birthday

If you made a donation to the Birthday Endowment and it is not listed, please contact the church office.



Remember that the upper-level parking spaces nearest the ramp entrance to the sanctuary/office are for handicapped only on Sundays. Please reserve the spaces nearest the sanctuary and the ramp for wheelchair-bound persons. All other spaces in the uppermost lot (other than staff) are for persons needing assistance in walking.

**Thursday, March 1**

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
 7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building
 7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Heritage Rm.
 7:00 p.m.—Personnel & Admin. Meeting—Session Room

Friday, March 2

11:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 5:00 p.m.—Celebration Singers Choir Practice—Children's
 Choir Rm.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, March 3

8:00 a.m.—Scout Pinewood Derby—Kerr Building

Sunday, March 4

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Service—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service--Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class—High School Youth Room
 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Choir Room

Monday, March 5

6:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session
 Room
 6:30 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Bigham Hall
 6:30 p.m.—The Journey Practice—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Deacons Meeting—Heritage Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Tuesday, March 6

10:30 a.m.—Circle 1 & 2—Heritage Room
 11:00 a.m.—Diabetes Class—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Wednesday, 7

9:30 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex
 5:10 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
 5:30 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, March 8

6:30 p.m.—Finance Ministry Meeting—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—Youth Basketball
 7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, March 9

6:00 p.m.—Celebration Singers Choir Practice—Kerr Build-
 ing
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, March 10

6:00 a.m.—Poor Man's Supper—Kerr Building

Girl Scout Sunday, March 11

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Service—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service--Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class—High School Youth Room
 4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Min. Meeting—Session Rm.
 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Choir Room

Monday, March 12

6:00 p.m.—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry—Session
 Room
 6:30 p.m.—The Journey Practice—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, March 13

10:30 a.m.—Circle 5—Heritage Room
 11:00 a.m.—Diabetes Class—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 6:00 p.m.—Circle #6—Courtyard Lobby
 7:00 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Heritage
 Room
 7:00 p.m.—Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.—Fred Brown Class-
 room

Wednesday, March 14

9:30 a.m.—Craft Workshop—Chapel Annex
 10:00 a.m.—Ladies Card Game—Session Room
 5:10 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
 5:30 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, March 15

10:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Session Room
 6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, March 16

11:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 5:00 p.m.—Celebration Singers Choir Practice—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, March 17 No Meetings**Sunday, March 18**

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Service—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service--Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class—High School Youth Room
 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room
 7:00 p.m.—Celebration Singer's Musical—Kerr Building
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Choir Room

Monday, March 19

6:30 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Bigham Hall
 6:30 p.m.—The Journey Practice—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Session Meeting—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, March 20

11:00 a.m.—Diabetes Class—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Resource Comm. Mtg.—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, March 21

9:30 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex
 5:10 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
 5:30 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Building

Thursday, March 22

7:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, March 23

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, March 24

10:00 a.m.—Easter Eggstravaganza—Wilgrove Park

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Service—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service--Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class—High School Youth Room
 3:30 p.m.—Scout Court of Honor—Chapel/Bigham Hall
 5:30 p.m.—Youth—Kerr Building
 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Choir Room

Monday, March 26

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Kerr Building

Tuesday, March 27

11:00 a.m.—Diabetes Class—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom
 7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, March 28

9:30 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Craftroom
 5:30 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, March 29

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service—Sanctuary
 7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, March 30

11:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Session Rm. (Meals Program)
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, March 31

No Meetings

Philadelphia Presbyterian Kindergarten news

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is underway! If you are planning to register your child for next year, please send in your application as soon as possible. Classes are filling up! You may obtain an application from our website: philadelphiachurch.org or from Vicki Crossman.



If you are a widower, come have breakfast at Showmars at 8:00 the third Friday of each month. It would be helpful to let Tony Baker know (704-545-4730) that you will be there, but it's not necessary. Just come around to the back room at Showmars in Mint Hill.

All announcements or inserts to be included in the weekly bulletin MUST be received in the office by noon on Thursday of each week. Announcements or inserts received after noon will be included in the following week's bulletin. Please be aware that any submissions may need to be edited for space!

In the event of bad weather, be sure to tune in to WSOC-TV for information concerning delays or cancellation of services or events. You may sign up to receive text alerts of service and activity changes or closings due to bad weather by going to wsoc.tv.com/s/closings. Look for the "School closings and delays text alerts" link. The church ID# is 0426.

Ten Cents a Meal offering received on second Sundays

The offering continues to be received on the second Sunday of each month to support hunger-fighting programs within the Presbytery of Charlotte bounds, and to feed the mind, body and spirit of people in our communities to include hunger related and "at-risk" youth programming.

Members in the Military

Major Grant Cloaninger
1337 Judge Tyler Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

Rachel Brinegar
6730 S. Court Drive
Tampa, FL 33611

Foreman, Jack W.
51802-2 Comanche Ave.
Fort Hood, TX 76544



Rev. Rusty Benton, Head Pastor
Katie Sloan, Associate Minister
Shane Sledd, Youth and Family Minister
Judy Clinton, Office Manager
Cynthia Stokes, Secretary
Linda Cummins, Webmaster/Administrative Assistant



www.philadelphiachurch.org

Jane Mendlik, Interim Director of Music
Marnie Gallagher, Youth Choir Director
Melinda Johnston, Children's Choir Director
Leslie Anderson, Organist
Shirley Simmons, *Philagram* Editor