

The Philagram

**Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Mint Hill, North Carolina
December 2017 - January 2018**



From Head Pastor Rusty Benton

A Christmas Favorite

Recently, I took the opportunity to do something that I try to do every year around Christmas. It has become an annual tradition for me that always seems to somehow focus my thoughts of Christmas in the direction that is truly grounded in things like joy, peace, hope and love. My tradition is to read or watch some version of Charles Dickens' short story, A Christmas Carol.

I know that this story has been done what seems like an endless number of times. The character of Scrooge has been played by everyone from actors that have been knighted by the Queen of England to Scrooge McDuck who is accompanied by other famous Disney mainstays such as Mickey Mouse and Jiminy Cricket.

I really like just about every adaptation of this story (honestly, my favorite Scrooge is played by George C Scott) and there are *a lot* of adaptations. No matter how many times it is reinterpreted, no matter how many times it is glitzed up or made to look like authentic 19th century London what makes it so powerful for me is that it centers on the crux of what Christmas is really all about. It is powerful and meaningful to me because, no matter the players or the set or the use of technology, the message conveyed in this story is the message that God conveyed to us all in the birth of Jesus. That message is of course, hope!

God is love. This is an unchanging truth. But in the course of our "us" centered human existence we separated ourselves from God. The love has always been there, we just chose to go another direction. As such, the world had become as self-centered and miserly as the opening scene in which Ebenezer Scrooge would begrudge Bob Cratchit a meager lump of coal for a dying fire on a cold winter day.

Scrooge had become so focused on his own gain that he had lost sight of what real gain is. His life was an exercise in the preservation of quantity, and it had cost him every measure that gives life its quality. In his miserly state, even though Scrooge had accumulated great means, he readily denied the invitation to help others with the most basic of needs. But, in God's plan, even for Ebenezer Scrooge there was hope.

Jacob Marley, Scrooge's now former partner in life who now suffers a torturous afterlife for his own selfishness, bottom lined it all. When confronted with Scrooge's claim that Marley had been a good man of business, with a ghoulish lament, Jacob informed Scrooge that humanity was his business...or at least, that it should have been. From here the story tells of the three ghosts whose visits help transform Ebenezer from self-centered crotchety miserly to someone who "knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge."

Hope for change. Hope for improvement. Hope that we as individuals and we as a society can move or be moved toward a healthier, happier, more holy life. This is the gift of God in Christ. In the gift of Jesus, God gives us all the hope that, without him we could never know.

This is the hope that inspires us to believe that love is real and available to us. It is the hope that love can bring about change for the better in any circumstance. God knew the world needed this hope and so he sent His son so long ago. God knew we needed this hope and so Jesus lived and died and rose that we may know God's gifts for all time. God knew we needed this hope, and so our Lord inspired Mr. Dickens to write this short story that continues to inspire so many today. God knows we still need this hope....and perennially new versions of "A Christmas Carol" arise. God knows we need this hope, and every year Christmas comes and brings with it the reminder that in God, in the Spirit and in Christ, hope is always lovingly given!

From Katie Sloan, Associate Minister

God Is With Us

There are certain things that take me back to my childhood during the Christmas season. The lighting of the advent candle during worship always reminds me of the advent wreath that we had on our dining room table - my mom would light the candles each Sunday at dinner. The smell of a fresh tree reminds me of trudging through snow to cut down our perfect tree - which was usually lopsided. The smell of freshly baked gingerbread reminds me of all the times my dad and I would make the "great cookie escape", leaving my mom buried in dozens and dozens.... and DOZENS of cookies in the kitchen. You see... as soon as my mom would yell "it's cookie time" that was the signal to run for your life. It meant she was preparing to court marshal everyone to the kitchen to decorate every last cookie. The smell of peppermint reminds me of the candy shop that sits right on the beach. The candyman made hand twisted candy canes. No two were alike. They were a very special treat. You always knew when he was making them because when you walked past his shop you could smell the sweet peppermint wafting in the cold winter air. And of course there are the memories of watching Christmas specials while munching on popcorn and sipping cocoa. And seeing Santa come into town on the Coast Guard boat up the river and being lead to his workshop on a fire engine (yes I said a boat and a fire engine) and candle light worship service at midnight.

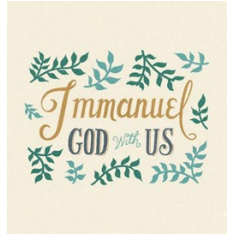
As I was reflecting on all of these things, I started to think of the changes that have taken place in my life and the world over the years. I've start new traditions in the south, my family has changed in so many different ways. Some changes have been good, great even, some have been a little more painful than others. I know many of you can relate.

Many of us have traditions that we hold tightly to and new memories that we are establishing with our own children. Many of us have experienced things this year that have changed the canvas of our lives and so, our traditions are becoming things of the past or they are at least being put on hold until we can pick them back up again when our lives get back to normal. Not to mention that the holiday season is especially stressful on our schedules and so we are often forced to decide which party, program or celebration to attend. Even our children's schedules are packed and we have to make decisions for them and inevitably we disappoint them when they don't get to participate in something. Life just seems so busy and overwhelming. Even if your life has been calm and you have had a tremendous year, I'm sure you have been walking along side those you love who have struggled and so you've been a burden bearer. Life, after all, is filled with vacillations between peaks and valleys. One minute you are up and one minute you are down. There is no surefire way to see the future and when we are in a valley we often yearn for the "good ol' days".

Here is the amazing thing about not only this season, but every season of our life: EMMANUEL, God is with us. In the midst of our lives, in every moment, God is in it. In the changes, in the traditions, in the decisions, in joy, in pain, and in this very moment...GOD IS IN IT! Our only true task is to not get stuck in yesterday or worry about what tomorrow shall bring, but to breathe in the presence of the Lord and to live into every moment as it comes.

I pray that while we celebrate the birth of the sweet baby Jesus, you spend this season experiencing the gift of the Already God and that you experience that awesome grace that he showers on each of us. May you experience joy in the midst of your ups and downs. May you extend grace to others and may it be extended to you. Emmanuel: GOD IS WITH US!

Katie



Thanks for your help with the bazaar!

The Bazaar group as part of the Presbyterian Women would like to thank each and every person who shared their time, talents, and money on this year’s annual fundraiser! It was a great year that included the completion of the Chapel Annex six months ago which allowed more room for people to attend workshops, and was topped off by a very successful bazaar! This year’s event raised over 31,000!! It takes a village to make this happen and all volunteers are much appreciated! Please pray for this money to be used for the glory of our Lord as we seek to bless others as we have been blessed!

There are still items left for sale at half price! If you are interested contact Susan Griffin or Ellen Street.



Order your poinsettias!

As has been our tradition for many years, poinsettias provided in honor or memory of friends and loved ones will grace the chancel during the Advent season. The cost for the 6" pots of poinsettias will be \$7.50 (same as last year). The plants will be 14-18" tall. Orders should be turned in to the church office by December 2. The poinsettias may be removed from the sanctuary after the Christmas Eve services.

PPC Campus Master Plan Update

Where there is no vision the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

The Vision Team has appointed a Task Force to undertake a thorough study of the PPC campus grounds and facilities with a mandate to update the Campus Master Plan developed in 1994. Over the next two or three months the Task Force will be interviewing staff, ministry chairs, SS class representatives and members of all major groups that use the facilities at PPC. We will also hold Town Meetings with the entire membership invited to gather information and develop ideas concerning the best ways to utilize our campus physical facilities and grounds to meet the vision and mission of our congregation. It is a daunting task.

The Holy Spirit has given us God's Blueprint for the design of His church and how to accomplish His mission. He has given us the Scriptures. We prayerfully seek to be guided by God's word in scripture and to be further guided by the newly developed mission statement of PPC which challenges us to Bless Others As We Have Been Blessed: to Believe in Jesus Christ, to Love one another, to Evangelize, Share, and Serve.

The Campus Task Force will begin contacting individuals and groups in December.



Christmas Cantata

You are invited to experience “One Small Child”, a Christmas Cantata created and arranged by Tom Fettke. It will be presented by the PPC Sanctuary Choir on Sunday, December 17, in the Sunday morning worship service at 10:30. Please join us!

Important news about our Safe Sanctuary Policy

In an effort to keep our children and youth safer, the Christian Education Team is asking ALL volunteers who help with children and youth in ANY way to please fill out a form for a criminal background check. This coincides with the PCUSA safety measures and will be mandatory moving forward for nursery volunteers, teachers, VBS volunteers, Wonderful Wednesday volunteers, youth advisors and chaperones, and special events where children attend. The background checks are paid for by the church and will be submitted by Judy Clinton who is the only person who will see them. As of January, all volunteers should go by the church office to pick up and fill out the form and turn it in to Judy Clinton. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and consideration in this effort to uphold our safe sanctuary policy.

Dear PPC Family,

What a BLESSING this congregation continues to be for so many homeless and impoverished children across our local communities. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure make a direct impact in the lives of children who are experiencing the challenges of poverty. Once again, we offer our loving gratitude to everyone who participated in our programs in 2017, giving time, offering prayers, and providing resources that brought joy, care and hope to local kids in need. Because of you, babies were blessed, birthdays were celebrated, bellies were fed, and care was provided. This ministry began with the love and support of our PPC Family over 12 years ago, and we truly thank you for continuing to share your gifts and lift up this mission for the children we serve. "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

With gratitude,
Amy & John Cervantes
and the Bright Blessings Team

Wonderful Wednesdays!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Wonderful Wednesdays this semester! We had great attendance in choir, adult and kids classes, free meals, fun, fellowship, and faithful friends! We will take a break until the second week of January when we will start the second semester hosting Room in the Inn. More details about classes will come soon! If you have comments or suggestions please write them down and place them in officer box 32. Thank you!

Ten Cents a Meal

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.



Be the hands and feet of Jesus

Sign up to serve our Room in the Inn ministry today! PPC will host twelve homeless neighbors each Wednesday night from December through March, and it takes a lot of volunteers each year to make this happen. If your small group, Sunday School class, or ministry team would like to host a week (or two!) please sign up on a date on the blue poster outside of the office. If you are not currently part of a PPC group and would like to serve, we need you! This ministry is a great way to meet people and serve others! Please also sign up on the blue poster, and you will be contacted to volunteer.

We will also be collecting men’s and women’s underwear, undershirts, and socks to restock our closet for the season and donate to our Room in the Inn neighbors. Please donate NEW undergarments in the size you wear in the Room In the Inn box outside the office. We would like to collect these items by December 1.

Reminder about Angel Tree gifts

Please wrap your gifts, securely fasten the paper angel to them, and return to the church no later than **December 9** (absolute deadline). Use lots of tape! Should the angel become detached from the gifts, it will be very hard to determine for whom they are intended. Your gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you for helping to make someone’s Christmas special!



Scouting for Food

Again this year the Scouts of Pack 65, Troop 65 and Crew 1465 will be collecting food for Loaves & Fishes. All the food collected will remain in the local area. Please be generous with your canned and dry goods to assist the less fortunate in our community.

Scouts will pass out food bags after the worship service on Sunday January 28. Please bring your filled bags to worship on February 4, which is also Scout Sunday. The bags will be collected by the Scouts and transported to Loaves & Fishes.

Many thanks for your faithful and generous support of our Scouting Programs and Scouting for Food.

Blood Drive - December 2
7:00 a.m. to noon in Bigam Hall

The American Red Cross has an emergency need for blood and platelets. Donors should eat iron-rich foods for two weeks before donating blood. Drink plenty of water, and avoid caffeine on the day of the drive. You can schedule your appointment by contacting Lewana Ratliff 704-545-9518. Donors may also visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the Sponsor Code: MintHillChurches.



The PPC Community Christmas Party will take place on Saturday December 9. Our goal is to serve children from our local and surrounding communities. Please “like” and “share” our church promotions as we post them across social media. This is a great opportunity for everyone to practice one of our church missions, “service”. Even our children are encouraged to volunteer to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we continue to express our mission statement and “bless others as we have been blessed”. If you are interested in volunteering please email emilydavis7215@att.net

Our alternative worship service, The Journey, is coming early 2018!

It will be an awesome outreach opportunity for PPC! Sound and acoustic improvements to the Kerr Building have been quoted at \$120,000 and will begin in January. Currently, we have raised \$96,225 (\$79,2000 from a private donor!). We only need \$23,775 by December 31 to complete our goal. Please prayerfully consider helping us grow our church.

The Journey (J9) will feature a looser order of worship, more varied styles of music and be a more relaxed service. Our pastors, Rusty and Katie, will preach the message and the Praise Team will lead the music.

The new Sunday schedule will be:
The Journey (J9) 9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

We can use your help with singing, playing an instrument, technology, set-up, advertising, childcare and so much more. Pray and consider how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity to spread the Good News! You can contact Marnie Gallagher 704-661-1352 for more information. Can’t wait to see you on The Journey! **Be watching for a start date for this service.**



- Sunday, December 17 - Sanctuary Choir’s Christmas Cantata in the sanctuary during the worship service
- Sunday, December 24 - 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, children’s Christmas pageant “One Small Child”
- Sunday, December 24 - 11:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, candlelight service with Holy Communion

December Birthdays

- 1 Anna Haney
- 1 Inez Paschal
- 1 Thomas Petry
- 1 Lee Smith
- 1 Avery West
- 2 Karen Davis
- 2 Jean Hargett
- 2 Kay Hastings
- 2 Grace Phillips
- 3 Vicki Crossman
- 3 Ryan Dayton
- 3 Millie Mullis
- 4 Gayle Williams
- 5 Liz Biggers
- 5 John Nofsinger
- 5 Daniel Phillips
- 5 Rachel Phillips
- 6 Ashle Basden
- 6 Nona Pourlos
- 7 Sue Tilley
- 8 Kathy Bartlett
- 8 Corey Gargaiola
- 8 Jacob Hessler
- 8 Cathy Snelson
- 9 Chelsea Johnson
- 10 Buddy Knotts
- 10 Kaitlyn Szymanski
- 11 Austin Owens
- 11 Randall Snelson
- 12 Christy Davis
- 13 Bob Long
- 16 Carleton Hamrick
- 16 Cindi Hoffner
- 17 Lizzie Blanchard
- 17 Katherine Ellis
- 17 Becky Robison
- 18 Cathy Haney
- 18 Amy Stanley
- 19 Jimmy Smith
- 19 Carl Street
- 20 Sue Aycock
- 20 Nancy Flowe
- 20 Savannah Garbark
- 22 Abby Governale
- 22 Ashley Ponscheck
- 23 Mary O'Rourke
- 24 Handy Cooper
- 24 Jane Long
- 24 Sandy Roberts
- 24 Caleb Simmons
- 24 Mike West
- 25 Shane Griffin
- 26 Eloise Black
- 26 Mary Muehl
- 26 Tracy Thomas
- 27 Lila Corrigan
- 27 Angie Cuartas
- 28 Leslie Anderson
- 28 Sonya Kelley
- 29 Mikey Dellinger
- 29 Erin Owens
- 29 Becky Szymanski
- 30 Christopher Simmons
- 31 David Houck
- 31 Holland Stanley



January Birthdays

- 1 Matt Corrigan
- 2 Jerry Mullis
- 3 Tanya Briner
- 4 Mike Hastings
- 5 Elizabeth Griffin
- 5 Andrew Jaeger
- 6 Alice Pamplin
- 6 Sylvia Gill
- 7 Porter Behrendt
- 7 Amy Cervantes
- 7 Rachel Nance
- 8 Sam Basden
- 8 Erin Moses
- 10 Charlie Jones, Sr.
- 10 Allison Watts
- 11 Justin Flowe
- 11 France Starr
- 12 Bob Bourgeois
- 12 Anna McEntee
- 12 Richard Saia
- 12 Eva White
- 13 Arnold Bokhoven
- 13 Marianne Smith
- 13 Doug Vass
- 14 Kyle McAlister
- 15 Tom Connors
- 15 Kaitlyn Linscheid
- 16 Barbara Kistler
- 17 Martha Carriker
- 17 Brenda Funderburk
- 17 Angel McClure
- 17 Judith Orr
- 18 Shelley Guerin
- 19 Rusty Benton
- 19 Jean Butler
- 19 Jane Carriker
- 19 Dottie Kastner
- 19 Amy Lewis
- 19 Carol Timblin
- 20 Woody Cummins
- 20 Roger Hagy
- 20 Carolyn Platts
- 20 Danielle Vanasse
- 22 Richard Gilbert
- 22 Toby Vosburgh
- 24 Pam Crowder
- 26 Don Jamison
- 26 Peyton Sailors
- 26 Thomas Luke Shedd
- 29 Ted Morris
- 30 Caroline Reed
- 30 Carolyn Smith
- 31 Betty Ford

If your name was omitted from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

December Anniversaries

- 3 Bill & Anne Cloaninger
- 5 Sandra & Berry Ferguson
- 11 Don & Becky Jamison
- 12 Buddy & Sherry Knotts
- 15 Mark & Ginny Setzer
- 17 Andrew & Candace Starnes
- 19 Dan & Becky Oke
- 20 Tom & Debbie Connors
- 21 Jack & Mary O'Rourke
- 26 Lee & Carolyn Smith
- 27 David & Melissa Johnson
- 29 Sam & Ashle Basden
- 29 John & Colleen Ellis
- 29 John & Patti Nofsinger
- 31 Tony & Julie Griffin

January Anniversaries

- 2 Harry & Martha Hood
- 8 Bill & Melinda Johnston
- 11 Butch & Leslie Allen
- 15 Jerry & Millie Mullis
- 18 Ron & Inez Paschal
- 28 Jason & Heather Williams

Congratulations to Andrew and Candace Starnes on the birth of their daughter and Avery on her new baby sister, **Berkley Drew Starnes!** Berkley came into the world on Monday, November 6 at 12:38 a.m., weighing 7 lbs 11 oz and 21 inches long!

Deaths

[Mary Sullivan] mother of Janice Cooper, October 28
[Earl Thomas Holt] father of Myra Kirkland, October 29
[Georganne Austin] mother of Becky Hamilton, October 30
[Dowd McEwen], November 11
Margaret Allen, November 13
[Brode Thomas Duke, Jr.] father of Tom Duke on November 24

Memorials

Elizabeth Phillips—Bill & Margie Reid (Endowment Fund); Camey Reid, McCloud Family (Wonderful Wednesday Fund)
Mrs. Huntley—The Philadelphia Class (Endowment)
Mrs. Faye Ross-- The Philadelphia Class (Endowment)
Sigrid Morris—Ted Morris, Larry Britt, Jeanette Links, Bobby Long (Zebulon & Rena Mae Historical Cemetery Fund); Presbyterian Women (Claire's Army); Mickey & Anne Ellington (Current Fund)
Pauline Ross-- Mickey & Anne Ellington (Current Fund); Dan & Julie McCoy (Endowment Fund)
Doug Ross-- Mickey & Anne Ellington (Current Fund)
Ann Dobbins-- Mickey & Anne Ellington (Current Fund)
Margaret Allen—Ernest & Linda Jamison (Choir Fund)
Dowd McEwen—The Philadelphia Class (Endowment Fund)
Olin Flowe—Lee & Carroll Flowe (Music Fund)
William (Bill) Furr—Lee & Carroll Flowe (Music Fund)
Edward (Eddie) Price—Lee & Carroll Flowe (Music Fund)

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 honor of:

Demetrios & Nona Pourlos from Nona Pourlos

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



Friday, December 1

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

Saturday, December 2

7:00 a.m.—Blood Drive—Bigham Hall

8:00 a.m.—Christmas Tree Santa—Kerr Building

Sunday, December 3

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, December 4

6:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.

6:30 p.m.--Scouts--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.--Deacons Meeting--Bigham Hall

8:00 p.m.—AA New Comers Meeting—AA Building

Tuesday, December 5

10:30 a.m.—Circle 1 & 2—Heritage Room

6:00 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Chapel

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—Endowment Council Meeting—Session Room

7:00 p.m.--The Journey Meeting—Adult Choir Rm.

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 7

6:30 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Bigham Hall

7:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.--Personnel & Administration Ministry Meeting--
Session Room

7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Heritage Room

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, December 8

2:00 p.m.—Set-up for Community Christmas Party

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

Saturday, December 9

7:30 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast—Jimmie’s

8:00 a.m.—Community Christmas Party—Kerr Building

3:00 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Bigham Hall

Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m.--Coffee & Fellowship--Bigham Hall

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

4:30 p.m. —Worship & Music Ministry Meeting—Session Room

6:00 p.m.—Cantata Practice

Monday, December 11

6:00 p.m.--Cub Scouts--Kerr Building

6:00 p.m.—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry Meeting—Session
Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 12

5:30 p.m.—Circle 6—PW Courtyard Lobby

6:00 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Bigham Hall

7:30 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.--Shawl Ministry--Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.--Building & Grounds Committee Mtg.--Heritage Rm.

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 14

6:00 p.m.—Finance Ministry Meeting—Session Room

7:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 16

10:00 a.m.—Cantata Practice

Sunday, December 17

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Choir Cantata—Sanctuary

Monday, December 18

7:00 p.m.--Session Meeting--Session Room

7:00 a.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 19

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

7:00 p.m.—The Journey Meeting—Adult Choir Room

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 21

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 23

No Meetings

Sunday, December 24

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

5:30 p.m.—Children’s Christmas Program—Sanctuary

11:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed for Christmas

7:00 a.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed for Christmas

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, December 27

5:30 p.m.--Room in the Inn—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 28

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

7:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—250 Task Force Meeting—Session Room

Friday, December 29

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

Saturday, December 30

No Meetings

Sunday, December 31

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary



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

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!

You may sign up to receive **text alerts** of service and activity changes or closing due to bad weather by going to wsocvtv.com/s/closings. Look for the “School closings and delays text alerts” link.



Monday, January 1

6:00 p.m.--Christian Education Ministry Meeting--Session Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 2

10:30 a.m.--Circle #1&2--Heritage Room

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.--Deacons Meeting--Heritage Room

Wednesday, January 3

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Epiphany Party—Kerr Building

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, January 4

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Heritage Room

7:00 p.m.--Personnel & Administration Ministry Mtg.-- Session Room

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 5

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

Saturday, January 6

9:00 a.m.—Circle 7—Heritage Room

9:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 7

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 8

6:00 p.m.—Evang. & Outreach Ministry Mtg.—Session Room

6:30 p.m.--Scouts--Bigham Hall

7:00 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Heritage Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Chapel

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.--Prayer Shawl Ministry--Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.--Circle #6--PW Courtyard Lobby

7:00 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Heritage Room

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, January 10

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, January 11

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

6:30 p.m.—Finance Ministry—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

9:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 14

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Ministry Mtg.—Session Room

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 15

Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 16

10:00 a.m.--PPC Good Timers--Kerr Building

6:00 p.m.--Girl Scouts--Chapel

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—Resource Ministry Meeting—Session Room

Wednesday, January 17

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, January 18

10:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Heritage Room

6:00 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 19

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

Saturday, January 20

9:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 21

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 22

7:00 p.m.--Session Meeting--Session Room

6:30 p.m.--Scouts--Kerr Building

Tuesday, January 23

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—Prayer Shawl Meeting—Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, January 24

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, January 25

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 26

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

Saturday, January 27

9:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 28

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 29

6:30 p.m.--Scouts--Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 30

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

Wednesday, January 31

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

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



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