

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Mint Hill, North Carolina
November 2018



From Rusty Benton, Head Pastor

In recent weeks, our community and our country have been confronted by what at times can seem like endless stories of violence. It has become almost common-place to hear people share how they “never listen to the news anymore” because their perception is that the only news that is reported is bad news. It is tough on us as individuals, a community and as a country to be constantly bombarded with stories of how one person had chosen to cause harm to another. It’s disheartening to think that what is prevalent in our E Pluribus Unum society is a sense of the importance of the individual, often at the expense of the greater good and the greater health of the community.

It is true that these things have happened. It is true that they cause great hurt and often result in great pain. It is true that the effect that selfish and violent acts tear at the communal foundation of what we as Christians believe and as what we as Americans believe is a just and righteous society. Aren’t we supposed to help those lost or in need, instead of creating need and causing loss?

Is it also true that Jesus faced violence? (the cross) Is it true that Paul faced violence? (beaten, imprisoned, chained, eventually executed!) Is it true that Peter faced violence? (reportedly, he was crucified upside down) Is it true that early Christians faced an unfriendly government in Rome and were hunted, imprisoned and even used for sport in the Roman Coliseum? Yes, these are all true. Each of these people or groups has seen the world through the eyes of God and has had to confront the violence and hurt in that world just like everyone else.

And historically, the views and actions of those who have faced the acts and stories of hurt, pain and violence that we face today have been shaped by the life, words and actions of God given in Christ. That life, and those words and actions have been things like...

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” (Jn. 16:33)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12)

God has overcome the world. God is alive and in our lives. We see it every day in the countless acts of love that are shared, in the kindness that most people offer to one another in daily life and in the genuine concern and desire to help fill people’s hearts when we face sad, challenging and difficult circumstances. The good news is, God wins! The bad news is, in this world we will and we do have trouble.

But we are not the first to experience such trouble and neither will we be the last. But, in God we have helpful and hopeful ways to deal with and even overcome it. Not even death could beat God. Nor can anything overcome God’s children. In His strength, we can be strong. In His grace we can forgive and overcome. In his power we can reach out, unafraid and assured, with the good news that evil does not win and that we can be part of God’s solution. If we want the world to change, God has set the example in Christ of how to help that change come about. One word of kindness, one act of forgiveness, one or more choices made that reflect the will and love of our Lord can change everything.

May we comfort, encourage, help, teach, support, love and be with each other as Christ has done all of this for us. In so doing, we offer a different and better path of life to a world of folks who so desperately need it.

From Katie Sloan

I love everything about Thanksgiving. The food is good, gathering together with friends and family is great and there is even a pleasure that goes along with the work of preparing everything.

From the time I was a kid I remember everyone pitching in. It is the only time of year where everyone plans a meal and cooks together. There is the parade and foot-



ball, and stretchy pants are totally ok on turkey day! I don’t do Black Friday, but every Thanksgiving there is something entertaining about watching my family plot out their shopping escapades while clipping coupons. The day is filled with things for which to be thankful.

As the years have passed, traditions have changed a bit – I no longer use fancy china and silver like my parents did; instead we use every day dishes and red solo cups (don’t judge me, please). My stuffing now has some southern flair and has cornbread in it and those popcorn balls that my dad made every year...well, they have gone onto popcorn ball heaven (trust me that’s a good thing). My only regret about Thanksgiving is that the world isn’t just a little bit smaller, at least for just one day. My family is all so spread apart by distance. My husband’s family is here in the Charlotte area, along with my dearest friends, but most of my immediate family is in Massachusetts or in Heaven. It sure would be nice to all be in one room together. But that doesn’t stop the best part of the Thanksgiving season for me, staying focused on being thankful.

It is sometimes hard to be thankful though because there is so much to crowd thankfulness out of our lives. The pressures of everyday living tend to lead us toward complaining and focusing on self rather than being thankful. For example, recently my dishwasher broke. One night I stood over the sink, hand washing dishes. I was frustrated and tired. I would have rather been doing anything else other than washing dishes. Suddenly, I felt the Holy Spirit remind me to be thankful. Thankful that I had running water and dishes to wash. Thankful that I had the food to make those dishes dirty. Life can be messy, things break – appliances, hearts, trust. But God is in the repairing business. And while things don’t always go our way, we can always be thankful.

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it, and it is the time when we are reminded to be thankful, which I try to do all year long. *1 Thessalonians 5:18* says “Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belongs to Christ Jesus.” We live busy lives and sometimes we forget to stop and reflect on how incredibly special it is to be a child of God.

So, in between the turkey and pie and second helpings, the football and the food coma, do not forget to stop and give thanks for the greatest gift, Jesus Christ and remember just how blessed we are to be the children of God.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Katie

An invitation from the DAR

The grave of Revolutionary Patriot Adam Alexander is in the church's oldest cemetery off Brief Road. On Saturday, November 17, at 4:00 p.m., the Clear Creek Militia Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a grave marking ceremony at this site. A bronze commemorative plaque will be installed on Mr. Alexander's tombstone. Many thanks go to Scott Griffin for taking care of this!

Due to limited space at this cemetery, there will be carpooling from the church at 3:30 (Kerr Building parking lot). We invite you to join us for cookies and punch in Bigham Hall afterwards.

What will you do Thanksgiving Eve?

The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held in the Kerr Building at 6:00 p.m. on November 21. This will be an informal service for families and will include Holy Communion.

Following the service, the Stephen Ministry will serve "Breakfast for Dinner". The pancakes and sausage/bacon are always delicious! Plan to take a break from your Thanksgiving dinner preparations to join us for a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship!

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 of each poinsettia will be \$8.00. Orders should be turned in to the church office by December 3. Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins and outside the church office.



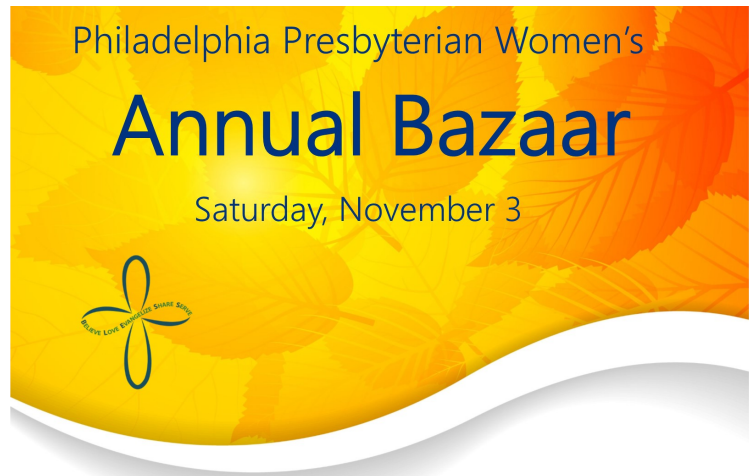
The poinsettias may be removed from the sanctuary after the Christmas Eve services.

Presbyterian Women's mission focus

The double mission focus for October was Bright Blessings Baby and Safe Alliance (domestic violence). We are extending this drive through November since we had a bit of a late start with it last month. Donations can be put in the missions room across from the church office. Please mark your donations "BB Baby" or "Safe Alliance". Safe Alliance respectfully requests no trial size or travel size of toiletries, just regular full size.

Bright Blessings Baby has a need right now for diaper bags, bottles, medicine droppers, nasal aspirators.

Some of the needs of Safe Alliance are personal care items.



Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

11501 Bain School Road, Mint Hill, NC 28227

Breakfast—8:00 A.M.

Bazaar Craft/Baked Goods Sale—9:00 A.M.

Chicken and Dumplings Supper—6:00 P.M.

Quilt Drawing/Auction—7:00 P.M.

Come help support this annual fund-raising event!

The day is filled with exciting activities! Come participate as you can!

We will have a quilt to raffle again this year. You may purchase the \$1 tickets from a Presbyterian Woman or at the church office. The quilt is queen size and reversible!

We need you on the team to make this all day event successful! So create, donate, purchase, and spread the word to attend on November 3!! If you can donate art, crafts, baked goods or auction items, it would be most appreciated! For more information ask a Presbyterian Woman or contact Susan Griffin at 704-293-1902 or email at smgriffin@griffinmasonry.com. Hope to see you there!!

Please mark your baked goods with your name, what they are, and whether or not they contain nuts.

There's a lot more at the bake sale this year!

Chicken pot pies, chicken casseroles, French toast casseroles, meatloaf, cannelloni lasagna, English beef with a twist, macaroni and cheese deluxe....all these are for sale! These are frozen items that you can take home and pull out of your freezer when you are pressed for time. Circle 7 spent the afternoon of October 20 assembling all these wonderful dishes, and they were frozen upon completion. Check it out! Bring a small cooler with ice packs with you to the bazaar and plan to take home some homemade goodies!





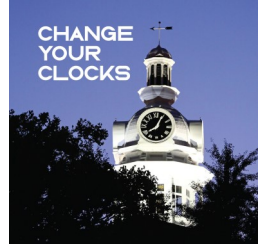
- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Janice Cooper | 17 | Clark Davenport |
| 1 | Martha Hood | 17 | Allison Morris |
| 1 | Wilson Lohrer | 18 | Reagan Fauser |
| 2 | Paul Porter | 18 | Eve Harrison |
| 2 | Quincy Rosmon | 18 | Ellen Snelson |
| 3 | Shirley Hill | 19 | Jan Craddock |
| 3 | Mary Hyson | 19 | Jake Forbis |
| 4 | Christopher Cuartas | 19 | Dowd McEwen |
| 6 | Berkley Starnes | 19 | Tim Rosmon |
| 7 | Ginger Black | 19 | Richard Williams |
| 7 | Bo Pamplin | 20 | Morgan Chavis |
| 7 | Terry Reed | 21 | Norma Davidson |
| 7 | John Rowell | 21 | Matthew Hall |
| 8 | Ruth Bokhoven | 21 | Bill Lohrer |
| 8 | Dave O'Brien | 22 | Ken Epley |
| 8 | Jesse O'Brien | 22 | Becky Griffin |
| 9 | Michael Davis | 23 | Ann Pearce |
| 10 | Kathleen Ryalls | 24 | Carl Ellington, III |
| 11 | Mason Jaeger | 24 | Ella Gallagher |
| 11 | Anna Mitchell | 25 | Anne Cloaninger |
| 12 | Charlie Kerr | 26 | Regina Ziliani |
| 13 | Mike Barnes | 27 | Brandon Hartsell |
| 13 | Tyler King | 27 | Walter Whitley, Jr. |
| 14 | Cynthia Ford | 29 | Sheila Cloaninger |
| 15 | Bill Crowder | 29 | Carla Lohrer |
| 15 | Richard Newton | 29 | Joseph Rukenbrod |
| 16 | Keith Perkins | 29 | Wil Griffin |
| 16. | Louise McSwain | 30 | Vicki Watts |

November Anniversaries

- 2 Mike & Kay Hastings
- 4 Robert & Jennifer Fauser
- 5 Pete & Dottie Kastner
- 7 Brad & Angela Watts
- 15 Rick & Karen Davis
- 16 Terry & Russ Sinagra
- 21 Leslie & Joan Anderson
- 22 Don & Vickie Moore
- 22 Ed & Shirley Simmons
- 23 Bo & Alice Pamplin
- 28 Donna & John Simmons

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

To those who have served in the military, we thank you!



Set your clocks back an hour at bedtime on Saturday, November 3!

Gifts to the church

In memory of...

Blanche Whitley—Walter & Carrie Whitley, III (Endowment Fund)



We are now sending weekend food home for 55 students at Clear Creek Elementary. Our needs at the moment are **hearty soups and dinner meats.**

We can hold off on macaroni and cheese for a while, as we are well supplied. Please watch for updates in the Sunday bulletins listing our weekly needs. Thank you.



Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

Name something that is happening at PPC on November 18th.

Survey says...

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!
5:00 PM
KERR BUILDING

FEATURING:
ROCKSTORE BBQ
CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY FEUD!
RSVP @ [HTTP://BIT.LY/2R8W52X](http://bit.ly/2R8W52X)

Please be mindful of the deadline to get articles or announcements in for the upcoming *Philagram*. That deadline is the 18th of the month! Submit to sts0603@aol.com or place handwritten or typed information in box #15 outside the church office. The next issue will be a combined December-January issue. Please think ahead about information to publish through January.

Thursday, November 1

7:00 p.m.—Personnel & Admin. Min. Meeting—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 3

8:00 a.m.—Craft Bazaar

All Saints Sunday, November 4

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Monday, November 5

6:00 p.m.—Christian Education Min. Mtg.—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—Deacons Meeting—Heritage Room
 7:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Chapel
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, November 6

7:00 a.m.—Voting—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, November 7

10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex
 5:10 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, November 8

7:00 p.m.—Finance Ministry Mtg.—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, October November 9

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

Saturday, November 10

8:00 a.m.—VA Breakfast—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Poor Man’s Supper—Kerr Building

Sunday, November 11

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary
 4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Min. Mtg.—Session Room
 5:30 p.m.—Youth Meeting—Kerr Building

Monday, November 12

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Evang./Outreach Min. Mtg.—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Heritage Room
 7:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Bigham Hall
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, November 13

10:00 a.m.—Circle 4—Pairs & Spares Classroom
 10:30 a.m.—Circle 5—Heritage Room
 5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 7:00 p.m.—Prayer Shawl Min. Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom
 7:00 p.m.—Resource Ministry Mtg.—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, November 14

10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex
 5:10 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, November 15

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



Friday, November 16

7:00 p.m.—Youth—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, November 17

2:30 p.m.—DAR—Bigham Hall

Dedication Sunday, November 18

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m.—BBQ—Kerr Building

Monday, November 19

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:30 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Session Meeting—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, November 20

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, November 21

10:00 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex
 6:00 p.m.—Thanksgiving Eve Service—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Breakfast for Supper—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, November 22

Church Office Closed
 7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, November 23

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



AA Building

Saturday, November 24

No Meetings

Sunday, November 25

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building
 10:00 a.m.—Advent Workshop for Kingdom Kids—Kingdom Kids Area
 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Monday, November 26

10:00 a.m.—PW Council Meeting—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Meeting—Fred Brown Classroom
 7:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, November 27

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 7:00 p.m.—Endowment Council Mtg.—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—Shawl Ministry Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, November 28

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, November 29

7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, November 30

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

Saturday, November 31

8:00 a.m.—Setting up for Christmas Tree Santa’s—Kerr Building

Room In the Inn - Ready, Set, Go

With a chill in the air, we start thinking about fall and then winter. Soon December 1 will be here and that is when Room In the Inn begins. It runs through March 31. Last winter we had a successful season, and we look forward to having another good year. We are looking for many volunteers to help serve in this mission.

There will be a sign-up sheet outside the office on the bulletin board. Consider participating in this wonderful program.

If you are hard to reach by phone....

If you have dropped your land line and have only a cell phone now, please let the church office know what your number is. That request goes also for any changed phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses. It's important that the church office and members be able to get in touch with you!

Presbyterian Women will sponsor Angel Tree

In just days, the Angel Tree will be up and decorated with angels. You may choose your angel(s) for whom to do some special Christmas shopping. These angels will be people who might not otherwise have a very merry Christmas without our help. To



help you with your choices, there will be gift suggestions listed on the angel along with the person's age. 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!

News from Christian Education

The Wonderful Wednesday program will end November 14 and resume January 9. Thank you to everyone who participated or volunteered this semester!

The Kingdom Kids will have an Advent Workshop on December 2 during Sunday School. They will learn all about Advent and will be able to take home some Advent projects for their families.

Your help is desperately needed in the infant and toddler nurseries on Sunday mornings. This is a wonderful opportunity to fulfill your baptismal promise to our PPC kids. Plus, they are precious! And it's only for an hour! **Please** choose one of the following times to volunteer: 9:45 to 10:45 during Sunday School or 10:45 during the worship service. The goal is for volunteers to serve every three months which would be only four times a year. Because we don't have enough volunteers, some people have been serving once a month. More people are needed! Please consider participating in this important ministry and contact Jill Linscheid jlinscheid@carolina.rr.com or the church office 704-545-6172.



You are invited to the Enchanted Forest Book Fair at Philadelphia Presbyterian Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten. Come join the fun during the week of November 5-9, 2018. The Scholastic Book Fair will be open Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM. The congregation and visitors are welcome to shop on Sunday, November 11 before and after church. Books are great gifts for all occasions! We hope to see you there.

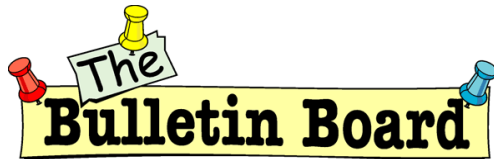
Connecting with our youth

This past month our Student Ministry went on their Fall Retreat. We spent time in Ridgeway, SC for a weekend of laughing, talking and worshipping together. Our theme this year was "Together". We spent the weekend learning how we were meant to be together as a body of Christ and what that looks like in a world very much divided. Thanks to everyone who prayed for us during this time together!



Need a church directory?

The ACS Church Life App is a free and easy to use app for your smartphone. It gives you instant access to the church directory and calendar right on your phone. Just download the app from your app store and begin just like you do when you log into Access ACS. If you need help or more information about this app or Access ACS, contact Cynthia at Cynthia@philadelphiachurch.org.



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

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Rev. Rusty Benton, Head Pastor
Katie Sloan, Commissioned Local Pastor
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