

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Mint Hill, North Carolina
December 2018 / January 2019



From Rusty Benton, Head Pastor

Blessings and peace as we enter the Advent season and look forward to a new year! Advent, even though it comes during what we know as the end of the year is really all about new opportunities and new beginnings. Those opportunities and beginnings are of course grounded in the decision of God to be a child born of extraordinary circumstance whose birth is all about God's gift of extraordinary life made new. We know all of that deep stuff simply as Jesus Christ!

Jesus is our new beginning in every moment. As we move into the Advent season, we celebrate not only the birth of Christ, but the life of God in Christ that is also born into us in the greatest Christmas present that has ever or ever will be given. We have been forgiven. We are eternally loved. We have been given the ultimate example and pattern for life! And...that pattern works! It works in our jobs, with our families and for the decisions that we make every day.

Advent reminds us that our faith isn't tied to human means or institutions. It isn't limited by human ability. God made this happen! In so doing, he reminds us that if He can make it happen then, he can make it happen now, too!

While the celebration of Christmas and the New Year are seasonal, the good news of the Gospel is that the gift of God in Christ isn't. Strength, guidance, direction, mercy, fellowship, friendship, hope, love and the faith that defines life is here every day. It isn't grounded in an institution or a tradition or an individual. It is instead sourced in the eternally present God who chose to personally show us the best way to do life every day in Jesus Christ.

So it is with confidence and humility, expectation, excitement and assurance that we move both into this season and into life every day as Christians. We do so because our lives, our faith and our foundations are not seasonal nor are they dependent. Instead they are the promise of an everyday God who cannot and will not be contained! NOEL! YEE HAA! AWESOME!

We always belong to Christ and to each other in Christ! Wherever we go and whatever we do, we are children of God sharing a world, and a chance to help make it new, together every day...and once in while throwing a huge month long party just to celebrate how awesome that really is!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

In Christ,
Rusty

From Katie Sloan

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?" - Isaiah 43:18, 19a

I find it hard to believe that I am writing about the extravagant joys of Christmas and how, before we even had a chance to settle into the warm colors of fall, we will soon be welcoming in 2019. Time seems to be passing by so quickly. How did December sneak up on us?

We tend to slide into Christmas off the high of Thanksgiving and we start December feeling as if we have elf superpowers. We want it all just right. A sparkling tree, the smell of gingerbread and sugar cookies filling the air, people all merry, the houses all bright. Then it happens. We realize that we have over committed to parties and family has unrealistic expectations of us – we have unrealistic expectations of family. We forget someone on the shopping list or better yet, Amazon says that the one thing that you just HAVE to have for Christmas day won't arrive until December 27. Somewhere amid the search for perfection you turn into the Grinch.

The best way to avoid all of those pitfalls is to remember the purpose of the season. Christmas isn't a list to be conquered, a task to be completed, or a burden to endure. It's a celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus, who came to save us from our sins. That is the ultimate gift. Instead of making a list and checking it twice, make the main thing, the main thing this season.

"I am about to do a new thing....Do you not perceive it?"

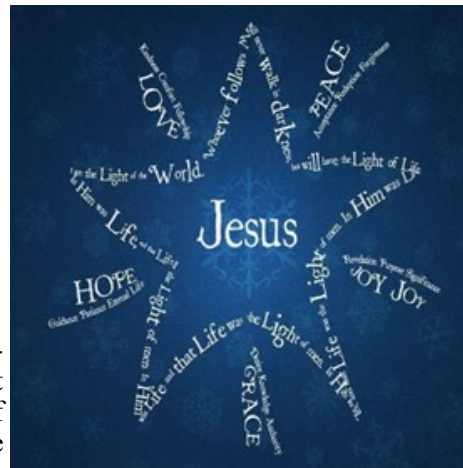
In every season, but most especially this season, God is doing a new thing. If we empty our minds of the expectations of the world and fill them with the wondrous love of Jesus, our spirits will unfold in new and awesome ways. In those moments when you are tempted to give into the hype and the hustle and bustle of the season, be still and listen for God's voice calling you to "follow". When we follow him, he will lead us to a soft comfortable place to rest, where peace abounds and grace overflows.

So, do yourself a favor, look over your holiday to-do-list and cross a few things off. Make the main thing, the main thing this season. I promise you, I won't judge you if you have store bought Christmas cookies and a tree with 400 lights instead of 1,000. Say no to a few parties. Trust me RSVPing no is not in the Bible as one of the deadly sins. The chaos of the holidays will slowly become null when you find more time for celebrating Jesus. There is incredible joy when we seek Him.

Wishing you an amazing, joy-filled, peaceful Christmas Season! I cannot wait to see what 2019 brings to PPC and to each of our lives!

God Bless you real good!

Katie





December Birthdays

- 1 Anna Haney
- 1 Inez Paschal
- 1 Thomas Petry
- 1 Lee Smith
- 1 Sara Grace Todd
- 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 Keira Lukjanczuk
- 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 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 Iamaio
- 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 Kelvin Day
- 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 Amy Cervantes
- 7 Rachel Nance
- 8 Sam Basden
- 8 Erin Moses

- 10 Charlie Jones, Sr.
- 10 Allison Watts
- 11 Justin Flowe
- 11 Frances Starr
- 12 Bob Bourgeois
- 12 Anna McEntee
- 12 Richard Saia
- 12 Eva White
- 13 Arnold Bokhoven
- 13 Marianne Smith
- 13 Doug Vass
- 15 Kaitlyn Linscheid
- 15 Fran Williams
- 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
- 21 Ben Clark
- 22 Richard Gilbert
- 22 Toby Vosburgh
- 24 Pam Crowder
- 26 Peyton Sailors
- 29 Ted Morris
- 30 Caroline Reed
- 30 Carolyn Smith
- 31 Betty Ford

December Anniversaries

- 3 Bill & Anne Cloaninger
- 5 Sandra & Berry Ferguson
- 12 Buddy & Sherry Knotts
- 15 Mark & Ginny Setzer
- 17 Andrew & Candace Starnes
- 19 Dan & Becky Oke
- 21 Jack & Mary O’Rourke
- 26 Lee & Carolyn Smith
- 27 David & Melissa Johnson
- 29 Sam & Ashle Basden
- 30 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

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

Congratulations to Kelvin and Arliss Day on the birth of their son, Luke Benjamin Day, born on October 25, 2018.



Gifts to the church

- In memory of...**
Tina Ross—Circle 5 (Columbarium Fund)
Margaret Allen—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Porter Behrendt—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Neal Broome—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Robert Caldwell—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Ronnie Cochrane—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Tom Connors—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Benny Davis—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Aaron Ferguson—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Ney Freeman—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Stacy Gulledege—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Carolyn Hawkins—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Colene Houck—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Don Jamison—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Helen Kiser—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Cora Lee Lonon—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Sandy Moore—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Frances Morris—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Tina Ross-Duke—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
- In honor of...**
Alexa, CJ and McKenna Miller—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)
Aiden & Bryce Lomas—Doris Miller (Miller Scholarship Fund)

Our condolences

We extend sympathy to the family of Wayne Wolf who passed away on November 24.



Having just packed for the Thanksgiving weekend, we are now preparing for the long Christmas break. The last day of school in 2018 is Tuesday, December 18. Please shop for large cans of white meat chicken, stuffing, standard size cans of yams and green beans (the larger cans are too heavy for the kids to carry along with the other foods), and cranberry sauce. Fifty-seven students and their families will feel our love and caring due to the generosity of PPC. In the intervening weeks, our immediate needs are packets of oatmeal and grits, PopTarts, hearty soups, vegetables in standard size cans or small cups, and snacks.



Saturday, December 1

8:00 a.m.—Christmas Tree Santa—Kerr Building
9:00 a.m.—Circle 7—Heritage Room

Sunday, December 2

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr Building
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Chrismon Service—Sanctuary
6:15 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, December 3

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
6:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.
6:30 p.m.—Scouts--Bigham Hall
7:00 p.m.—Deacons Meeting--Fred Brown Classroom
8:00 p.m.—AA New Comers Meeting—AA Building

Tuesday, December 4

10:00 a.m.—Circle 4—Home of Sonya Kelley
10:30 a.m.—Circle 1 & 2—Heritage Room
5:30 p.m.—Basketball--Kerr Building
6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts--Chapel

Wednesday, December 5

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 6

6:00 p.m.—Basketball--Kerr Building
7:00 p.m.—Personnel & Administration Ministry Meeting--Session Room
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, December 7

2:00 p.m.—Set-up for Community Christmas Party
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, December 8

7:00 a.m.—Blood Drive—Bigham Hall
8:00 a.m.—Community Christmas Party—Kerr Building

Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr Building
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary
4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Min. Meeting—Session Room
6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, December 10

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
6:30 p.m.—Cub Scouts--Chapel
6:00 p.m.—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry Meeting—Session Rm.

7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 11

10:30 a.m.—Circle 5—Home of Millie Mullis
5:30 p.m.—Basketball--Kerr Building
6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts--Bigham Hall
6:00 p.m.—Circle 6—Courtyard Room in Annex
7:00 p.m.—Shawl Ministry--Fred Brown Classroom
7:00 p.m.—Building & Grounds Committee Mtg.--Heritage Rm.

Wednesday, December 12

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 13

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

Friday, December 14

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

Saturday, December 15

2:00 p.m.—Ralph Leete Fellowship Class Party—Bigham Hall

Sunday, December 16

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr Building
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Choir Christmas Cantata—Sanctuary

Monday, December 17

6:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Kerr Building
7:00 p.m.—Session Meeting--Session Room
7:00 a.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 18

10:30 a.m.—PPC Good Timers—Kerr Building
5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building
6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

Wednesday, December 19

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 20

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, December 21

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

Saturday, December 22

No Meetings

Sunday, December 23

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr Building
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary
4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Min. Meeting—Session Room
5:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Caroling
7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, December 24

Church Office Closed for Christmas
5:30 p.m.—Children's Christmas Pageant—Sanctuary
11:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, December 25

Church Office Closed for Christmas

Wednesday, December 26

5:30 p.m.—Room in the Inn—Kerr Building
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, December 27

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building
6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

Friday, December 28

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

Saturday, December 29

No Meetings

Sunday, December 30

9:00 a.m.—The 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. Meeting—Session Room

Monday, December 31

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building



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.

Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

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 Build-
ing

Thursday, January 3

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

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

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 4

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

Saturday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 6

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship —Kerr Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

6:15 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 7

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

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

7:00 p.m.--Scouts--Bigham Hall

7:00 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Heritage Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 8

10:30 a.m.—Circle 5—Heritage Room

5:30 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 9

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 10

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

7:00 p.m.—Finance Ministry—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 11

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

Saturday, January 12

7:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 13

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr
Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

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

6:15 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 14

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

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

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building



Tuesday, January 15

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

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

5:30 p.m.--Basketball--Kerr Building

Wednesday, January 16

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 17

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

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 18

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

Saturday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 20

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr
Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

6:15 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 21

Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 22

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

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

Wednesday, January 23

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 24

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 26

3:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts Winter Ball—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 27

9:00 a.m.—The Journey Alternative Worship Service—Kerr
Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

6:15 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice—Bell Choir Room

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, January 28

10:00 a.m.—PW Council Meeting—Session Room

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

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

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

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, January 29

5:30 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel

Wednesday, January 30

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 24

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—AA Building

Notes to the congregation

Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies to Clear Creek Elementary. We truly appreciate all you do for our students and staff.

Clear Creek Staff

* * *

My church family and friends,

How I have missed you since it has been necessary for me to be away. Doctors are still working on my overhaul as answers to mysteries are found.

I want to thank you for your prayers. I am feeling and experiencing God's miracle of healing. We have been nourished by your wonderful food, calls and cards, all uplifting. Let us all be extra thankful during this upcoming season.

In Christian love,
Linda Jamison

From your Music Ministry



The Chancel Choir of the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church would like to give the gift of song to the congregation on Sunday, December 16 at 11:00. They will present the Christmas Cantata "Mary, Did You Know?" created by David Guthrie & Bruce Greer, arranged by Bruce Greer. Please

join us for this moving presentation!

The Joyful Noise Choir, Cherub Choir, Celebration Singers, and Sanctuary Choir will present the musical, "There Was Love," on Christmas Eve at the 5:30 service. Come experience this intergenerational production and hear the Christmas Story told in a new and exciting way. Following tradition, at the conclusion of the service we will all light candles and gather around the sanctuary/chapel circle to sing Silent Night.

Why don't we sing Christmas Carols during Advent?

For the same reason we don't sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!" during Lent. We are waiting, preparing, yearning, longing for the Christ Child. After three weeks of quiet, reflective waiting, we will be ready to shout: "Joy to the World!", "O Come All Ye Faithful!" "Hark the Herald Angels Sing!". But until then, we anticipate.

News from Christian Education Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday's will resume on Jan. 9 with the same schedule as the fall. We hope you will join us for a new semester of fun with new studies for kids, youth, and adults and new songs for choirs! We will need lots of helpers to make this program stay strong so please volunteer your time and talents!! Contact Susan Griffin or Jill Linscheid for more information at smgriffin@griffinmasonry.com or jilinscheid@carolina.rr.com.

The Christian Education ministry is looking for additional members to join the team which plans and implements things such as Easter Eggstravaganza, VBS, Wonderful Wednesdays, and choosing various curriculum for Sunday School and Bible Studies. This team works hard on awesome events throughout the year and needs more dedicated volunteers who would like to share their time and talents to continue this vital program in the upcoming year.

If you are interested in joining in this ministry, please contact Susan Griffin, Beth Barnes, or Ashley Ponscheck for more information.

Angel Tree gifts are due in soon!

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!



Can you volunteer some time to help with the Christmas Party?

The PPC Community Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, December 8. 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. More volunteers are needed!**

Presbyterian Women end year with successful bazaar, look toward 2019

The Presbyterian Women Bazaar Group would like to thank the PPC congregation for your support and participation in this year's Annual Bazaar. It takes many hands, sharing many talents, and donating many hours to be the success that it is! It was once again a wonderful event raising \$29,000!

The bazaar has been promoted to a non-profit organization called the "The Annex Shoppe". In addition to our annual event, shopping for gifts or for yourself can take place year round in The Annex Shoppe located on the cemetery side of the Chapel beside Bigham Hall. There will be a grand opening in early 2019. A schedule of operating hours will be announced soon, so be watching for more information. This is an exciting new project for PPC and the community!

PW is in need of a kitchen committee to oversee the running of the Kerr Building kitchen. This is a job that has really not officially been assigned to anyone or any group, and it is badly needed. The search is on for a couple of people (women OR men) who would have an interest in making sure things are running smoothly, setting up rules for use of the kitchen, purchasing needed items, etc. There would be a few meetings at the beginning, but when details are worked out and decided on, this committee would not necessarily have to meet on a monthly schedule. It is hoped that this committee could be in place and at work at the beginning of 2019. If you think that you could serve for one year (or more!) or if you have questions, please contact Shirley Simmons at 704-545-8620 or Emily Davis at 704-576-1522. This committee would be a sub-committee of Presbyterian Women's Council.

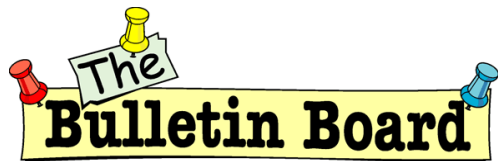
Save the date of February 10, 2019 for the Valentine's Tea. Be watching for details!

PW mission focus for January is Alexander Youth Network. Their needs, other than school supplies, will be shared with you in Sunday bulletins and weekly e-blasts after the holidays.



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 wsocv.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.



MILITARY

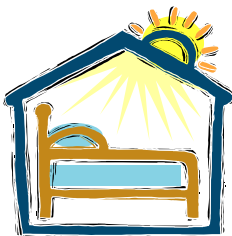
Major Grant Cloaninger
1337 Judge Tyler Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

Rachel Brinegar
6730 S. Court Drive
Tampa, FL 33611

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

Blood Drive will be December 8

The drive will be from 7:00 a.m. until noon in Bigham 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 at www.redcrossblood.org and enter the Sponsor Code: MintHillChurches.



Room in the Inn will begin in December

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!) contact Andrew Starnes (estarnes24@gmail.com) or Cathy Snelson (cellensnelson@gmail.com).

Christmas trees and car wash cards for sale

The Philadelphia Class is sponsoring a Christmas tree sale again this year. Please use forms located on the tables in the narthex and outside the church office. Contact Mickey Ellington at 704-545-4421 or a member of the Philadelphia Class for more information.



The Philadelphia Class is also selling Auto Bell Car Wash cards for \$20 to help raise money for their Love Offering Fund. You may contact Earney Smith at 704-545-1811 to order these cards. They make great stocking stuffers!

Update on Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry completed more than 90 scarves in a month to fulfill a request by the Charlotte Rescue Mission for men's Christmas presents. In addition to those scarves, we made and blessed 189 shawls and hats in 2018. The hats are donated to newborns through Bright Blessings and cancer patients through Claire's Army. The ministry is not having formal meetings in December but will resume on the second and fourth Tuesdays in 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fred Brown classroom. Please join us!

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



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