The View from Presbyterian Hill

We View Life Through the Cross

DECEMBER 2016

Volume XIII Issue XII

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By Bruce Morgan

Busy Day on Presbyterian Hill

Several men and a crew of professionals literally "stepped up" to do some painting and roof repairs last month. Under the leadership of Building and Grounds Elder Jim Crawford two crews converged on Presbyterian Hill to repair a leak in the sanctuary and paint the newly replaced front to the fellowship hall. All of this taking place at the same time that Jim was overseeing the repair of the grease trap that affected the drains in the kitchen. He expressed his thanks to the painters with donuts and burgers and is waiting for rain to thank the roofing crew.

Pictures by Jim Crawford

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Andy

A year ago 2016 loomed over my head like the most gigantic black cloud imaginable. Paralyzed by the thought of Neile's cancer diagnosis and a road that seemed very uncertain. I found myself at times just breaking down, sobbing uncontrollably. It was almost too much to bear.

Advent came and went unnoticed, it was almost the same for Christmas.

As I come near to 2016's end, I am grateful just to be here. Honestly, I wasn't sure if I was going to make it. But, I am here and I have made it.

The year's end for me really is a new beginning. Maybe I am on liturgical time. Maybe I am on God's time.

I long for something better this year more than any other I can remember. Thankfully, my faith tells me it is coming. It told me last year, but I couldn't hear. So, it tells me again, "SOMETHING BETTER IS COMING."

That's what this season of Advent is about for me--the hope in something better to come. The language of Advent pushes us to look forward into the future while also looking backward into a manger. I can no longer look forward too far. Cancer has taught me that today is all the gift I'm given. So, every day counts. Every day matters. That being said, I'm going to allow myself to look as far as Christmas. Because in Christmas I know there is joy. In that manger THERE IS JOY.

The angel proclaims it to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy." What I like most about this proclamation is that it is "for all people." My faith tells me this includes me. If I need anything this year, it is this joy. Joy that promises something better--a better 2017 for starters... without cancer.

I pray to understand this Joy the way a young Mary's heart did so long ago. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour…….His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." (from Luke 1, NRSV)

Mary would be right as her Joy would call "Blessed" those the proud and powerful kicked aside. She would be right as her Joy would touch the leper, give sight to the blind, heal the sick, and give hope to the downtrodden. She would be right as her Joy took his last breath and declared, "It is finished," while hanging on a cross. She would be right as a stone is rolled away and a tomb would be empty.

I know 2016 has been tough for many in our congregation and community. We lost loved ones, confronted difficult diagnoses, and had to figure out how to live life in a new way. My prayer for myself and for each of you (us) this Advent and Christmas season is that Mary would be right once again. May we all find her Joy, a joy the angel says is "for all people", as we come to the stable once again. And in this joy, may we find hope for THAT something better.

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas 2016

Pastor Andy

December 25, 10:00am

Casual Christmas Day Sunday Worship

Light refreshments beforehand at 9:30am by the Worship Team.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 3 - Bill Woods

December 6 - Chloe Gedney

December 8 - Judy Mabey

December 10 - Polly Woods

December 14 - Chandler Maddox

December 17 - Betty Royds

December 19 - Lanier Chambers

December 22 - Jan Hopkins

December 26 - Jurate DeMeritt

December 26 - John Rogers

December 26 - Dale Williams

December 27 - Elloree Chambers

December 29 - Regina Clonts

December 31 - Audrey Harbst

December 31 - Rita Morgan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

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GOD BLESS YOU

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Please accept our apologies if we missed your birthday this month. Please notify the church office so we will remember next year. Thank You

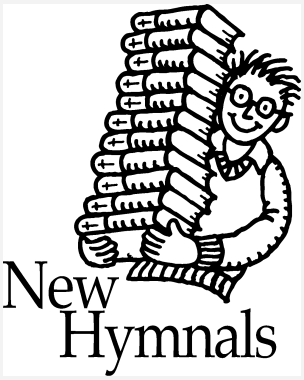
What is Your Favorite Hymn?

The Worship Team wants to hear what your favorite hymn is, that is not in our hymn book, so that it can be added to our FPC Songbook. Send your suggestions to dwessely@bellsouth.net or add to Hymnal sheet in the foyer.

Christmas Card Exchange

Once again Presbyterian Women will sponsor the "in church" Christmas Card Exchange. Please make a donation to the FPC General Fund in lieu of paying postage. Cards should be limited to local active members, attendees and staff who can pick them up by January 1. Cards are not mailed to those who live out of the area or are inactive.

Please put cards in alphabetical order, rubber banded together with your check, in the box located in the Upper Narthex.



In Lieu of poinsettias this year, the Worship Team has decided to purchase new hymnals. Members may purchase them in honor or memory of someone. We are still working the details out and will follow up with the details as soon as we get them ironed out. We have a few large poinsettias instead as part of the new decorations.

Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

These 5 attended the Synod Triennial Gathering on St. Simons Island, GA in October. They attended a variety of helpful workshops and worshiped with over 350 attendees during the weekend. Everybody reported it was a time of learning, sharing, fun and fellowship. We also enjoyed successful necklace and scarf sales at the marketplace.

November Remembered: Thanks to all who attended our Service of Thanks and gave so generously. Your donations help to support the Community Helping Hands Clinic and Caring & Sharing as well as our PW national projects.

December You Are Invited

All women are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon Potluck. It will be held in the fellowship hall on Thursday, December 8 at noon. Please join us for fellowship, fun and food. If you wish, you can bring a $10.00 gift for our gift exchange.

Necklaces Sales: We will once again be participating in the Dahlonega Women's Club Christmas Market on December 2 & 3. Stop in and shop and be sure to send your friends to see our newest necklaces. There are some samples on the PW bulletin board in the upper Narthex. Ask any PW-CT member and they will be happy to show you what we have available.

First Presbyterian Church—Cleveland
December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00pm NA	2 7:00pm NA	3 5:00pm Community Worship
4 10am Sunday School 11am Worship Congregational Meeting Cookie Swap Pictures for Directory	5 Office closed	6 12:00pm Rotary 7:00pm NarAnon	7 3:30pm K & S 3:30pm Kids First 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	8 12:00pm PW Christmas Lunch 8:00pm NA	9 7:00pm NA	10 5:00pm Community Worship
11 10am Sunday School 11am Worship Pictures for Directory 2:00pm Yonah Pickers	12 Office closed 6:30pm Lions Club	13 12:00pm Rotary 6:00pm Recital Chorus 7:00pm Nar Anon	14 3:30pm K & S 3:30pm Kids First 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	15 8:00pm NA	16 7:00pm NA	17 5:00pm Community Worship 7:00pm Yonah Brass Concert Family Promise Fund Raiser
18 10am Sunday School 11am Worship Christmas Contata 12:15pm Deacon Meeting	19 Office closed	20 11:00am Rotary Board 12:00pm Rotary 7:00pm NarAnon	21 3:30pm Kids First 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study	22 8:00pm NA	23 7:00pm NA	24 5:30pm Candlelight & Communion Service No Community Service
25 9:30am Light Refreshments 10:00am Worship	26 Office closed 6:30pm Lions Club	27 Office closed 12:00pm Rotary 7:00pm NarAnon	28 Office closed No Activities	29 Office closed 8:00pm NA	30 Office closed 7:00pm NA	31 No Community Service

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

By Bruce Morgan

The PM will not hold a dinner and fellowship in December. We'll resume our regular schedule of the second Tuesday meeting in January. The men's group will be making plans for outings of interest to the group and service projects to give us a chance to be of service while we enjoy one another's company.

Kirkin' O' the Tartans

This celebration of the heritage of the Presbyterian Church brought our past and present into focus. While we marched to the bagpipes and displayed traditional dress and family tartans, we also worshiped our God and Savior in a moving service of song and proclamation.

Mission Team News

Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoebox Report

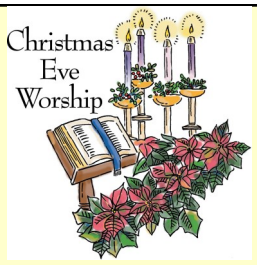
Special thanks to Dewayne Nix

By Melody Thomason

Once again we had a successful packing party for our shoeboxes that we pack and send to needy children overseas. Our church provided 92 boxes which will be going various places overseas to spread the Love of Christ.

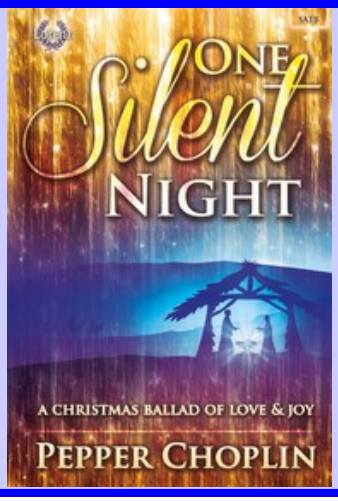
This year FPC would like to recognize Dewayne Nix for his continued service. Dewayne is always helpful for anything the Mission Team takes on, but shoeboxes are one of his favorite projects. Dewayne collects items all year long for our shoeboxes and was planning to be part of our packing party. As plans often go, he had to begin treatment for cancer before our shoebox party. As is typical of Dewayne, instead of wallowing in his own problems, he continued to think of others. He made sure his 3 big garbage bags full of items to be packed were brought to the church before leaving for his extended hospital stay.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this fun event and special thanks to Dewayne! Dewayne, we love, appreciate and miss you. Our prayers are with you. We look forward to you being part of next years packing party!



December 24, 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Dec. 18, 11:00 am

"One Silent Night,
A Christmas Ballad of Love & Joy,"

by Pepper Choplin

Presented by the FPC Choir with orchestra accompanied by James Geiger and directed by David Arvold.

IT'S TIME FOR NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY

DON MATHIS will be taking pictures of

everyone that wishes to appear in the new photo directory

on the following dates:

DECEMBER 4th

DECEMBER 11th

Don will be taking photos in the sanctuary following the service.

If you can not make one of these dates, call Don (404)376-2848.

He will try to work out a time to get your picture.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 13th we "consecrated" ourselves and our gifts during a worship led by Pastor Andy. God is blessing us and working through His church on Presbyterian Hill and His people have responded to His call to serve and to share.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

TO

1) Hear a report from the 2016 Nominating Committee and vote on new classes of deacons and elders.

2) Hear a report from the Session regarding "The Growing Place", a newly formed ministry (preschool) of FPC.

THERE WILL BE A COOKIE SWAP DURING THE FELLOWSHIP BREAK, AFTER THE MEETING.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 26 UNTIL JANUARY 2

FINANCIAL CORNER

October, 2016 Financial synopsis

Income for Operating Expenses:	$18,665.44
Operating Expenses:	$19,574.88
Net Income for the month:	$- 909.44
Checking Account balance (for operating expenses):	$34,004.88

In October we had some large expenses for repairs (kitchen grease trap and roof repair) that were not reflected in the October numbers – these will show up in November.

A complete listing of the church's October financial documents is posted on the church office glass wall (by the office door). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you to everyone who pledged this year. We received 31 pledges out of 53 families who pledged last year. We had two families pledge that had not pledged before (praise God!). If the rest of our church family can pledge similarly (or more) than they did last year, our church should be able to continue its various ministries without interruption. Tom Harbst

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Wednesday Night Fellowship
Supper 5:30 PM

December Menu

11/30 - Pork Loin
12/7 - Meatloaf
12/14 - Chicken Parmesan
12/21 - Ham/Christmas Dinner

Desserts are needed for the Wednesday Night Meal
Bible Study to follow meal

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 21TH

Chairperson & Editor
Bruce Morgan

Publisher
Cookie Mathis

Committee Members
Mil Clyburn
Jan Hopkins
Judy Winski

SAVE THE DATES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND COOKIE SWAP ON DECEMBER 4TH

HAVE YOUR PICTURE MADE FOR THE DIRECTORY ON DECEMBER 4TH

PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 8TH

HAVE YOUR PICTURE MADE FOR THE DIRECTORY ON DECEMBER 11TH

YONAH BRASS CONCERT FUND RAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE ON DECEMBER 17TH

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONTATA ON DECEMBER 18TH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ON DECEMBER 25TH

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS.