

The "Press"byterian – December 2018



A Note from Pastor David

Dear First Friends,

Before we leave our newest CFPC adventure behind, let's give thanks yet again for the Mistletoe Market. Special thanks go to Sharla Smith, who conceived of, organized, recruited a team for, and coordinated the entire thing, from beginning to end. That included the major task of recruiting vendors and attracting buyers. At this point, all objectives were accomplished and it looks like we will be good to go for next year with a refined, better, and bigger product! To top it all off, the event raised \$2,259.22 for our mortgage payments.

As we leave behind this exciting new aspect to our church's life and ministry, we move straight on into the month of December and another series of enjoyable and meaningful events. December means Advent, of course. This year's Advent season begins with "The Hanging of the Greens" on the morning of December 1. Our Sunday morning worship services during Advent will focus on the theme of "All We Need!", utilizing the first few verses of John's account of the incarnation. John's gospel presents the birth of Christ more in terms of its meaning for us instead of its facts. John presents the greatest story ever told in grand, almost poetic, terms. Advent culminates into Christmas Eve, during which we will provide our usual two services at 7:00 and 11:00. These services will include enthusiastic singing of the revered Christmas carols, a meditation, communion, and the beloved candle-lighting ceremony.

I have a special request of us all for this Advent season. I ask that all of us develop an invitational life-style during the season, inviting any and all to our Christmas Eve services. When you invite someone, who doesn't have an active church home, and they come, and they are blessed, and they come back on Sunday mornings, and they join our church family - you have then given the most appropriate Christmas gift possible! And, you will have blessed yourself...and your church!

Another neat experience we look forward to every year at this time is the annual Tour of Homes. This year the tour takes place the evening of December 1 and will feature three homes, in the following order: Fran Johnson, Bo & Sherry Burgess, and Bob & Debbie Butler.

Still another annual event we always enjoy getting together for is the Yankee Trader dinner and gift exchange. I hope you'll come out and enjoy some great food and fellowship!

Gay and Megan Little along with Cathy Keeter are beginning what we hope will be a new church tradition! Christmas cookie decorating for the children! With our scouts on board and our own young church members, this looks to be a fun-filled event!

Brace yourself! It's going to be a blessed ride through the rest of our year! Frances and I feel privileged to come along with you for the ride.

Blessings,
David

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Church Session

Ed Donn
Judy Greeson
Martha Ann Haley
Lamar Harrison
John McPhearson
Peggy Smith
June Antony – Clerk of Session

Church Deacons

June Antony
Debbie Baue
Barbara Burnham
Sandi Donn
Dreama Giles
Retha Haddock - Chair
Cheryl Melis
Bob Smith

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Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm



December Birthdays:

- 4 – Randy Parker
- 4 – Gary Yeager
- 5 – Tammy Foley
- 7 – Hannah Burgess
- 9 – John Driscoll
- 13 – Trish Nebel
- 15 – Owen Mitchell
- 18 – Sarah Dodson
- 21 – Shawn Keeter
- 25 – Jesus Christ
- 26 – Laura Ray



December Anniversaries:

- 5 – Bill & Dreama Giles (1957)
- 12 – Robert & Samantha Mitchell (2015)
- 16 – Vern & Pat Grinnell (1961)
- 22 – Tony & Anne Judah (1984)



- Adult Sunday School – Retha Haddock
- Adult Bible Study – Lamar Harrison
- Buildings & Grounds – John McPhearson
- Christian Education –
- Lydia Circle – Gay Little
- Men of the Church – Jim Clark
- Membership Team – Martha Ann Haley
- Missions Team – Judy Greeson
- Personnel Team – Ed Donn
- Sanctuary Choir Director – Khim Nalzarro
- Stewardship & Finance – Lamar Harrison
- Worship – Peggy Smith
- Ushers – Jim Clark
- Warriors of Christ Sunday School – Judy Greeson
- Water Walkers Sunday School – Tammy Foley
- Women of the Church – Sandi Donn/Dreama Giles
- VAC – Jim & Joan Clark

Give Thanks
to the Lord
for he is good.

First Sunday of the Month

We observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion and collect our Missions Offering on the first Sunday of the Month.

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN OF THE CHURCH

The MOC met on November 15 for our regular monthly meeting. We voted to donate \$200 to the South Georgia and Florida hurricane relief efforts through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We donated \$375 towards the deductible on roof repairs. Women of the Church matched our donation and Lydia Circle paid \$250. We paid \$50 for our booth rental for the Mistletoe Market scheduled for November 16 & 17. The sale was a success. We cleared \$371.45 plus \$350 in honey and syrup sales.

The Missions team is purchasing Boston butts for the January meal at VAC, and MOC agreed to purchase two butts for the meal (\$60).

The Yankee Trader Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 9 @5:30 PM. Bob Butler will be our MC; Charley Little and Shawn Keeter will prepare the meal. Cathy Keeter has agreed to decorate the tables for the event. We need men to volunteer to help set up and clean up. Several ladies have agreed to prepare desserts. We have 44 signed up for Yankee Trader so far.

Our next meeting will be on January 17 @6:00 PM. All men are invited.



LYDIA CIRCLE

Lydia Circle has been busy over the last month and it will continue throughout this month. Our Christmas Cheer visits were a success. We were able to deliver gifts and visit with 5 members of our church who are unable to visit with us on Sunday mornings. These are special times for them and us as we may share stories and catch up on families.

The annual Christmas Tour of Homes is scheduled on December 1st. We look forward to kicking off the season and visiting these beautifully decorated homes. Please join us at the church on Saturday at 4:30-4:45 pm so we may carpool to each home. This is a perfect time to visit and have Christmas sing-alongs by carpooling. Thank you to each hostess.

Angel Tree gifts are well underway and we are excited to share the love and excitement to make Christmas a little more special for these children. Thank you to everyone who has helped this Christmas be bright.



On November 14 we fed about 110 wonderful folks. A huge THANK YOU to Gene Simmons who cooked a delicious beef and noodle dish. Along with that we served green beans, rolls, dessert and tea. We always say a prayer before we begin serving our meal. As we were making our circle to pray, one of the regulars who comes to eat asked if he could join us. Not only did he join us, he wanted to lead us in prayer. It was a beautiful heartfelt prayer that touched us all. He thanked God for the rain, but felt it was just a little too much. He thanked God for not letting all of his belongings wash down the creek that he lives by under a bridge. It made us all realize how very fortunate we are.

Our next meal will be served on December 12. (Please note the change from our regular schedule.) We will serve a Christmas meal of chicken/dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans, candied yams, rolls, dessert and tea! Come join us for a true Christmas blessing.

In January we will get back to serving the 4th Wednesday of each month! Merry Christmas to everyone from the church VAC team.



Thank you ALL for your support of our first Mistletoe Market. The final total of the funds raised in two days was \$2,259.22. We will be making some recommendations for a few changes for the next Mistletoe Market. I would like to ask that as you are out and about this year to look for people that may be interested in our event. Please pick up their business cards and give them to me. I will contact them and invite them for next year. We could fill our church with vendors. When the vendors are successful, we are successful. Thank you all again for your participation and help in making this event a success.

Best regards,
Sharla Smith

membership

Our team held their monthly meeting at the church on Wednesday, November 7.

Several ladies from the Itchin' 2 Stitch craft group had a booth in the Mistletoe Market. Along with several hand-made items and some amazing pickled beets (!), they made a blue jean quilt and together with a picnic basket, bottle of wine and two wine glasses created a "picnic package" to be raffled off. Congratulations to our own Claire Harris, who won the raffle!! All proceeds from the booth sales (\$206) directly went back to the church. This group is already planning for next year's market!

Cheryl Melis has translated our "Loving ALL to Christ" to "Amando a TODOS a Cristo". We are working on getting a banner for the front of the church.

On Tuesday, December 4 after Bible Study, we plan to go to the Calhoun Senior Center. Debbie Baue is getting together Christmas carols for us to sing and we will visit with the seniors. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We also will have an ad in the newspaper about our Christmas Eve Services.

Folders for our first-time visitors have been ordered! They will contain the current "Press"byterian newsletter, a church pamphlet and a pen with a beautiful picture of our church on the front of the folder.

On Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 PM we are decorating cookies with our children. Please RSVP to Gay Little (706) 271-6612 how many can come so she will have enough cookie dough! We hope to have a box of cookies for each of them to take home and some to share for refreshments on Sunday morning.

December does have a fifth Sunday, but since it occurs when a lot of our members will be traveling, we will not have a fifth Sunday breakfast that day.

Hope to see all members of our team on **Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00**. We have several ideas to vote on.

Merry Christmas to ALL as we share the love of JESUS on His birthday!



BUILDING & GROUNDS

There was a new light added at the choir entrance. We are also trying to get extra lights added to the front and back double doors.



All are invited to join us in Bible study. We are a group of learners attempting to better understand the message of God to us through scripture with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We share our thoughts of what the Scripture says to us openly and without criticism. We pray for each other and others on our list, sharing actual experiences of blessings and answers to prayer. We also have Bible quizzes and a little humor, which enhances our camaraderie. You will feel welcomed and comfortable with us.

Join us if you are available on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM.



The youth met on November 17th to assemble fruit baskets for some of our members and individuals of the Community.

Their next project is scheduled for December 1st, when they will meet at the church and practice their reading for Advent and put together 117 gift bags for the residents of Gordon Health Care to be delivered closer to Christmas.

Then we will walk in the Christmas Parade scheduled for Thursday, December 13th.

I have not determined the date, but I do plan to give them a small Christmas party to celebrate Jesus birthday! This may be a small group, but they are staying busy serving God and hopefully making a difference in someone's life if not their own. Please continue to send prayers our way!



Helping Hands for December

Ushers:

Bob Welch
Jim Clark
Martha Ann Haley
Gloria Brown

Liturgists:

Dec 2 – Gay Little
Dec 9 – Ed Donn
Dec 16 – Bob Smith
Dec 23 – Retha Haddock
Dec 30 – Connie Connell

Sound System Operators:

Dec 2 – Tony Judah
Dec 9 – TBD
Dec 16 – Tony Judah
Dec 23 – Megan Little
Dec 30 – Charley Little

Money Counters:

Dec 2 – Martha Ann Haley / Ken Greeson
Dec 9 – John McPhearson / Peggy Smith
Dec 16 – Connie Connell / Ed Donn
Dec 23 – Judy Greeson / Lamar Harrison
Dec 30 – Ken Greeson / John McPhearson

Children's Church:

TBD

Deacons of the Week:

Week of Dec 2 – Cheryl Melis
Week of Dec 9 – Bob Smith
Week of Dec 16 – June Antony
Week of Dec 23 – Debbie Baue
Week of Dec 30 – Barbara Burnham

Refreshment Providers:

Dec 2 – Sherry Arp
Dec 9 – Gloria Brown
Dec 16 – Sherry Burgess
Dec 23 – Barbara Burnham
Dec 30 – Bob & Debbie Butler

Communion Servers:

Retha Haddock
Ron Jackson
Cheryl Melis
Connie Connell
John Driscoll
Gay Little
Jim Clark



Let's Pray For...

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS

Anne Judah – Recovering from sinus surgery
Peggy Smith – Recovering from gall bladder surgery

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Viola (Nathan's friends' grandmother) –
Recovering from bypass surgery
Family of Barbara Scott (Ashlie Hyde's grandmother)
– Passed away
Safe travels for Pat Tatham's niece Felicia & family
coming home for the funeral.
Family of John Meadows, III – Passed away
Family of Dawn Bragg Selden (Ron Jackson's cousin)
– Passed away
James McPhearson (John's brother) –
Recovering from surgery
Patience and guidance with aging parents!
Preston Evans (Jim Clark's nephew / age 6) –
Cancer treatments

OUR SHUT-INS

Pat Glasser – Morning Pointe
Max & Teri Thomas – Home
Jack Sloan – Home

“Press”byterian Newsletter Deadline for Articles

Sunday, December 23

**Please submit articles to Debbie Baue by
email if possible. Thank you!**



**The weekly sermons are now uploaded to the
church's website!**

<http://www.calhounfpc.org/>

In addition, recordings of the entire worship services
are available on CD each week for your use. Please
contact the church office if you would like one.