

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

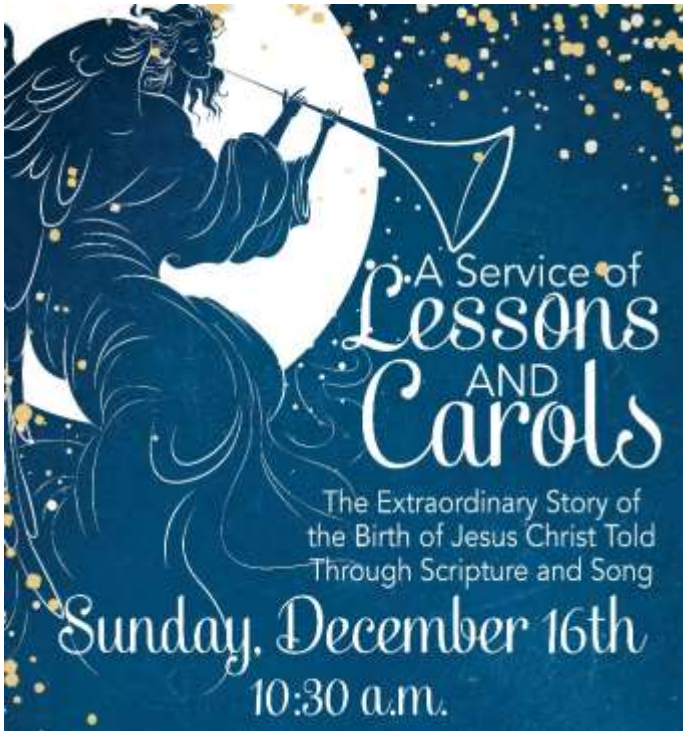
December 11, 2018

Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Parlor)

9:15 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for all ages.)



11:40 a.m. ~ Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

11:40 a.m. ~ Youth Bells

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The Middle School Youth Christmas Party will be this Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. at the West Building.

The High School Youth Christmas Party will be this Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of the Cheek's (129 Church Street).

Both groups are asked to bring a white elephant gift (\$5 maximum cost).

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Dave McInnis, Dan Spencer

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Glenn Woodrum

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (December 16-22)

Glenn Woodrum

WORSHIP AT HOME (December 16-22)

Sibbie McFaddin, Carol Reese

TELLER

Denise Dunn, Susanne Dwight

USHER

Julia Muldrow, Randa Carole DuBose

JUNIOR USHER

Brogdon Hill, Edmunds DuBose

YOUTH LITURGIST

Madison White

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Nursery – Markita Gadson, Lameshia Dennis

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Samantha Haxton,

Michael & Nancyhunter Blanding



A STORY OF PEACE

There once lived a king who invited all the artists in the kingdom to take part in a competition. The artist who presented the best painting depicting "peace" would win a mighty sum of gold. Many great painters entered beautiful paintings. The king held a gallery party for the entire town to attend. One of the pieces caught the eye of all who came in. It was a scene containing a calm lake perfectly mirroring peacefully towering snow-capped mountains. Overhead was a blue clear sky with fluffy clouds. The picture was perfect. This surely was the best representation of peace.

But when the king announced the winner, everyone was shocked. The picture he chose was filled with a jagged cliff surrounded by raging waters. A thunderstorm was in the background with dark clouds and lightning striking the earth. Peace seemed entirely absent from the painting. However, if one were to look very closely, he would find a tiny nest in the midst of a crack in the rocks. In the nest sat a mother bird with her wings shielding her young from the storm. Peace, it seems, is not only found in a place where there is stillness and quiet. Real peace is found by resting in the arms of God even in the middle of the storm. Real peace is a state of mind, not the state of surroundings. Christmas is not always a peaceful time of year. It can actually be the most chaotic or saddening, especially for those who are going through a storm. If you're traveling through a storm this advent season, or know someone who is, let us be reminded today of the Prince of Peace – Emmanuel, God with us. Let us remember that God so loved the world that he sent a Son, to walk with us in the middle of our storms.

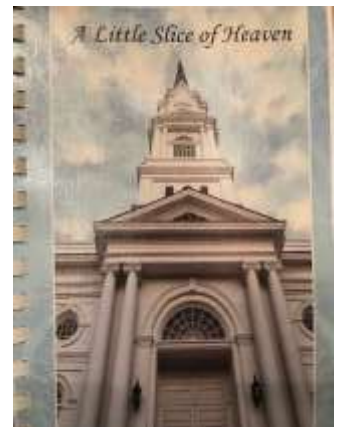
Blessings,

Nick

FPC COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

"A Little Slice of Heaven," the new cookbook prepared by the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian, is now available! What a great gift idea! Come by the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and pick up a copy for yourself as well as all those hard-to-buy-for individuals on your list! If you are unable to come between 9:00 and 1:00, please give us a call and we will make other arrangements. The cookbooks are \$20/each.

A special thank you to Margaret Hutchens, Ashley Blum, Linda Brown, Caron DuRant, Randa Edmunds, Sue Fienning, Beth Jackson, Debbie Jackson, Marie Mills, Suzanne Wates and Aggie White for all their hard work in getting this book published. Thanks also to everyone who contributed all the wonderful recipes!



UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
 11:00 a.m. Worship & MusicParlor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 a.m. "Care and Prayer"Parlor
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (No Classes for Children)
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Nativity and Communion Sanctuary

29TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT



March 1-3, 2019

Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grande Dunes

We will spend time together thinking about the importance of working together as well as gifts and challenges that come when life and ministry connect. Reflecting on biblical texts, missional models of church and life experiences, we will leave feeling renewed in our fellowship and committed to carry out the mission of the church. Registration forms are on the table outside the church office or you can sign up online at www.fpcsumter.org.



Focus will not be published the week of Christmas. Please be sure to submit any information to be included in next week's Focus to Shirley (shirley@fpcsumter.org) no later than noon on December 17, or for the Focus which will be published on December 31, the deadline is Friday, December 28 at 9:00 a.m.

2nd Annual Families with Children Elf Christmas Party

What is Christmas without Buddy, the elf? Grab your kids and come celebrate school officially being out for Christmas! It will be Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cheeks (129 Church Street). Please RSVP to Ashley (704-604-1060 or acheek@fpcsumter.org).



In observance of Christmas and New Years, please note our holiday office hours:

- December 24, 25 and 26 ~ Closed
- December 27 and 28 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- December 31 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p. m.
- January 1 ~ Closed
- January 2 ~ Normal office hours resume.

Please remember all end-of-year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2018, in order to be counted as a 2018 contribution.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 9 West Calhoun Street
 Sumter, SC 29150
 (803) 773-3814

Non-Profit
 US, Postage Paid
 Sumter, SC
 Permit #22

CHRISTMAS PIANISTS

It's time to plan for our young pianists to share their Christmas pieces with the congregation! Email the title and composer of the piece your child would like to play at our Nativity service on December 23. Please contact Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call 803-773-3814.

WILDER NEWS

First grade teacher Tanya Peckham needs headphones (not earbuds) for students to use with Chromebooks. She also needs sets of dry erase markers, stickers for positive behavior, and packs of solid color construction paper. If you can supply any of these, please mark them with her name and place them in the "Wilder" bin by the Volunteer Table outside the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

If you want to work with students at Wilder, we now have some opportunities. Please contact Peggy Curlovic 803-773-6509 or dcurlovic@sc.rr.com for required paperwork.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
 ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF
 Sunday, January 6**

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Sarah Tindal,
 Windy Corbett, Judy Mey,
 David R. Brown,
 Betty Crosby, Betsy Lynch, Ernie McDowell,
 Elizabeth Williams (Barney W. Williams' Daughter),
 Joe Kuhlmann,
 Michael Moore (Son of Julian and Lois Moore),
 Laura McIntosh (Sherri Redmond's Daughter-in-law)
Richland: Patricia Martin (Ruth Pierson's Sister)

**FOCUS ON FINANCES
 Week Beginning December 2, 2018**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 45,089.	\$ 727,886.	\$730,727.
*Other Sources	\$ 25.	\$ 105,499.	\$127,825.
	\$ 45,114.	\$ 833,385.	\$858,552.

*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.

SPECIAL REMINDERS:

- Please complete your financial commitment for 2018 so we can finish strong financially this year.
- If you have not yet completed a pledge card for 2019, please take a moment to do so. If you choose, you may call or email your pledge to our Business Manager, Neil Ross at 803-773-3814 or neilross@fpcsumter.org.