

# THE SHELBY PRES (S)

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**DECEMBER 2018**

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## Dear Members and Friends,

With Christmas decorations in the stores, Christmas movies on television, and Christmas carols on the radio since the end of October, it is clear that Christmas has been embraced by our culture, even if the spiritual significance often seems to get lost. Did you know that Presbyterians in colonial America were opposed to the celebration of Christmas? It was not because they thought Christmas unimportant, but because they were afraid that the true meaning of Christmas might get lost in the midst of the celebration.

I believe it is possible to enjoy all the sounds and colors of the season and still keep the focus where it belongs, but it may take some effort. As you make plans for the season - parties, gift-giving, travel, family gatherings, and more - be sure to give some thought to the first Christmas! Perhaps you might pick up a copy of the Advent Devotional Booklet by Henri Nouwen or the Advent Calendar for children (both available free of charge in the church narthex thanks to our Spiritual Life Committee). Or, you might spend some time reading the words, or singing some of the Advent and Christmas hymns in our hymnal. You could also consider ideas for alternative gift-giving such as Heifer International (<https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>). Or, you could invite someone to read the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2 when you gather with friends and family for a special meal or a time of gift-giving.

★Be sure and read through this newsletter to learn about the many opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service such as these events:

- Chrystal's Retirement Celebration will be Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6.
- the Chancel choir presentation of Vivaldi's Gloria at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas caroling (by hay-wagon or by car) at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Eve worship services at 5 pm (including the Friendly Beasts puppets) or at 11 pm for the Candlelight Communion service.

★Please note the full worship schedule during December:

- Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> two services: 8:30 a.m. (chapel) and 11 a.m. (sanctuary)
- Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> two services: 8:30 a.m. (chapel) and 11 a.m. (sanctuary)
- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> one service: 11 a.m. (Vivaldi)
- Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> two services: 8:30 a.m. (chapel) and 11 a.m. (sanctuary)
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> two services: 5 p.m. (sanctuary) 11 p.m. (sanctuary)
- Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> two services: 8:30 a.m. (chapel) and 11 a.m. (sanctuary)

May God bless you and yours during this Advent and Christmas season!

**Luke Harkey**

## NEWS FROM CHURCH EDUCATOR

As the Advent and Christmas season begin, we have many exciting events and opportunities for all ages here at Shelby Presbyterian Church. As we become overwhelmed with “the hurry and scurry” of this month, let us not forget the reason that we are celebrating. Children will receive Advent calendars with wonderful ideas for each day of Advent. This calendar can be used through the season in your family devotions.

Our children and young people will be participating in our 5:00 o'clock Christmas Eve Service. As this newsletter goes to press, practice dates are yet to be determined, but you will be notified as soon as dates are finalized. I would like to give a special “thank you” to Margie McSwain for recreating our costumes for Christmas Eve. This has been a labor of love.

Music Makers and Kids for Christ will NOT meet during the month of December.

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, Catechism classes will have been completed. Please continue to pray for those participants. They are: Bly Borders, Drew Dixon, Abby Haydon, Ansley Julian, and Emerson Taylor. May God's blessings be upon you all during this Season.

-Linda Ware

## NEWS FROM RAINBOW CONNECTION

November was a calm, peaceful month at Rainbow Connection, highlighted by our Thanksgiving luncheon on November 14. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with our Rainbow and SPC families and friends!

In December, our classrooms will be filled with the excitement and joy of Christmas. The children will be busy making Christmas crafts, singing songs and reading our favorite Christmas stories. We will present our Christmas program on Wednesday, December 12 at 12:00 in the sanctuary. Please join us as we celebrate.

Rainbow Connection will be closed December 19-January 1 for Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Rainbow Connection!

-Becky Dorsey, Director

## NEWS FROM THE MEDIA COMMITTEE

The link for information on the Israel Trip is <http://www.shelbypres.org/israel-trip-2019/>.

If anyone has pictures of the Shelby Pres. members or events for Facebook or Instagram, please send them to Mary Raudez at [mary.raudez@gmail.com](mailto:mary.raudez@gmail.com) or text to 864-981-5830.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY RESOURCES 2018

- *Advent and Christmas: Wisdom of Saint Francis of Assisi* (John V. Kruse)
- *O Come Emmanuel: a Musical Tour of Daily Readings for Advent and Christmas* (Gordon Giles) combines hymn lyrics and readings for Advent
- *Behold: Cultivating Attention in the Season of Advent* (Pamela C. Hawkins) daily scriptures and Advent reflections
- *Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen* (Liguori Press)
- *Goodness and Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* (Pope Francis, Maya Angelou, Thomas Merton, Frederic Buechner, and many others; Michael Leach, James Keane, D. Goodnough, Editors)
- *Kneeling in Bethlehem: Contemporary Poems for Advent* (Ann Weems)
- *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- *Wonder of Wonders: Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (beautiful photographs and the writings of Bonhoeffer; Westminster/John Knox Press)
- *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* (Bonhoeffer, Luther, Merton, Nouwen, Donne, Yancey, and others; Plough Publishing)
- *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley* (hymn lyrics of Charles Wesley and readings; Paul Chilcote)

### Online Advent Resources

- Princeton Theological Seminary Advent and Lenten Devotionals: 2018 Advent Devotionals will be available November 1, 2018. Archived devotionals are available for last 5 years. It is free in the App Store: PTS Devotions-Advent and Lent or go to PTS website and sign up for devotionals.
- D365: Year Long Online Devotions sponsored by PCUSA: included daily music by Mark Hayes and others; available free of charge in App Store.
- Our Daily Bread, online free of charge; year long devotional with emphasis on Advent and Lent in seasons.

## MEMBER CARE

The goal of the Member Care Committee is to extend love and care to all of our Shelby Presbyterian Church Family. If you find anyone needing attention in our church family, in your neighborhood or beyond, please contact Margie McSwain, Chairperson of Member Care, 704-484-0585, [margieabt@carolina.rr.com](mailto:margieabt@carolina.rr.com) or the church office, 704-487-8503.

Please include the following in your prayers:

Sue Breen & Family	Karen Horne
Ben Brooks & Family	Fred & Joan Hunt
Carol Bridges & Family	Watt Jackson
Joey Carpenter	Rebecca Jones
Karen Carpenter	Peggy Lattimore
Myra Carpenter	Faye & Glenn McCants
Lacey Chambless	Matt McNeary
Charles & Jennifer Clyatt	Joe Miller
Richard & Susan Coiner	Ellis Monroe
Rip Collins	Betty Monteith
Ed Cushman	Judy & Tim Neville
Carolyn & Ira Darnell	Catherine Porter
Louis DuBois	Sandy Poston
Scot Dixon & Family	Joyce Ruark
Val Donaldson	Jim Simmons
Robert Greer	Steve Vaughn
Joyce Haydon	Anne Woodard

- All those serving in the military
- Our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos
- John McCall in Taiwan
- Dr. Steve & Alene Burgert in Kenya
- Jo Ella Holman in the Caribbean
- Martha Sommers in Malawi
- Food Ministry •Rainbow Connection
- Christians who are persecuted for their faith
- All disaster victims (volcanoes, floods, fires, etc.)
- All victims of violence
- All refugees

Thank you for expanding your prayer list to include specific children and youth each month. During October, pray for our **College Freshmen:** Anna Aldinger, Ian Brotherton, Jack Brownlee, Zack Byers, Braxton Clifton, Tyler Dodrill, Holly Hendrix, Sarah Lampley, Taylor Niblack, Jordan McIntyre, Wilson McNeary, Camille Persing, Noah Romich, Turner Smith, Will Stites, Riley Taylor, Spencer Teddy; and **College Sophomores:** Caroline Bridges, Will Clifton, Ali Huston, Davis Kennedy, Marc Smith, Micah Zehnder.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

These members may appreciate hearing from or seeing you this season. Cards are always welcome.

Susan Coiner 123 Hillside Dr. Shelby, NC 28150	Peggy Lattimore 510 Richards Drive Shelby, NC 28150
Dr. Warren "Rip" Collins Brookdale Senior Living 1425 E. Marion St. Shelby, NC 28150	Mollie Ley 132 Oakwood Dr. Kings Mtn., NC 28086
Ed Cushman 519 W. Sumter St. Shelby, NC 28150	Jane McBrayer 909 E. Marion St. Shelby, NC 28150
Doris Edwards Carolina House 493 Piney Ridge Rd. Forest City, NC 28043	Faye & Glenn McCants Summit Place 1001 Phifer Rd., #109 Kings Mtn., NC 28086
Barbara Gebel 134 Chagrin Farm Rd. Shelby, NC 28150	Joe Miller Brookdale Senior Living 1425 E. Marion St. #711 Shelby, NC 28150
Gordon Hamrick 1920 New Prospect Ch. Rd. Shelby, NC 28150	Betty Mitchell 1319 S. Lafayette St. Shelby, NC 28150
Jean Hamner 7401 West Lake Ter. #1401 Bethesda, MD 20817	Ellis Monroe 2316 Peninsula Ave. Shelby, NC 28150
Homer Haworth 728 Klumac Rd. Apt. 225-B Salisbury, NC 28144	Betty & Hugh Monteith 1204 Spring Dr. Shelby, NC 28150
Watt Jackson Summit Place 1001 Phifer Rd. Kings Mountain, NC 28086	Judy Neville 2090 Adair Dr. Shelby, NC 28150
Rebecca Jones 2430 Shuda Ave., Apt. H Gastonia, NC 28054	Mary Parsons Aldersgate 3800 Shamrock Dr. Charlotte, NC 28215
Annelle Kelly Covenant Village Apt. A105 1351 Robinwood Rd. Gastonia, NC 28054	Joyce Ruark C/O Jim Ruark 4562 Ike Starnes Rd. Granite Falls, NC 28630

## NEWS FROM MEMBER CARE

Member Care Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with Homebound Communion. Assisting with Homebound Communion is an extremely meaningful and personally rewarding opportunity to provide Holy Communion to and fellowship with church members who are unable to leave their homes to attend services. No prior education or experience is required, and all materials will be provided and prepared for you ahead of time. There is never any obligation to serve on any given day. Both former elders and non-elders are needed. Please consider joining us to provide this valuable service to member of our church family who are unable to join us for regular services. If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please contact Margie McSwain or Judy Greer.

Thank you,  
Member Care

## 😊 HAPPY BIRTHDAY 😊

December 1 ..... Terri Byers  
 December 1 ..... Phil Haydon  
 December 1 ..... Vic McCord  
 December 1 ..... Tim Zehnder  
 December 3 ..... Melissa DeVane  
 December 3 ..... Scott Thomas  
 December 5 ..... Katherine Ogburn  
 December 5 ..... Erin Riggs  
 December 5 ..... Craig Stites  
 December 5 ..... Hunter Young  
 December 6 ..... Ben Rybnicek  
 December 6 ..... Hailey Venable  
 December 7 ..... Mary Hamrick  
 December 7 ..... Colin Simpson  
 December 7 ..... David Webb  
 December 8 ..... Mark Petrilli  
 December 8 ..... Dylan Steeves  
 December 10 ..... Mike Wehmuller  
 December 11 ..... Richard Dedmon  
 December 11 ..... Silas Hamilton  
 December 11 ..... Madison McIntyre  
 December 12 ..... Eric Wehmuller  
 December 13 ..... Leslie Hannah Bankirer  
 December 13 ..... Lance Ware  
 December 14 ..... Shawn McNeary  
 December 14 ..... Joyce Ruark

December 15 ..... Jennifer Niblack  
 December 16 ..... Karen Simpson  
 December 17 ..... Bert Cushman  
 December 18 ..... Shannon Blackley  
 December 18 ..... Lydia Boimest  
 December 18 ..... Turner Smith  
 December 19 ..... Whit Beam  
 December 19 ..... Pete Moore  
 December 19 ..... Julia Nicopoulos  
 December 19 ..... Dot Roark  
 December 20 ..... Rick Bowles  
 December 20 ..... Taylor Cerwin  
 December 20 ..... Lou Gebel  
 December 20 ..... Kate McIntyre  
 December 22 ..... Becca Schwappe  
 December 22 ..... Charlie Schwappe  
 December 22 ..... Malachi Zehnder  
 December 23 ..... Gary Romich  
 December 25 ..... Anna Winstead Meza  
 December 28 ..... Larry Pearson  
 December 29 ..... David Dodd  
 December 29 ..... Ray Gravett  
 December 29 ..... Todd Welton  
 December 30 ..... Dennis Beam  
 December 31 ..... D Goforth

## PRAYERS & SYMPATHIES GO OUT FOR ...

†Ben Brooks and family on the death of his step-mother Anne Brooks of Simpsonville, South Carolina, on October 20, 2018.

†Richard and Susan Coiner and family on the death of their grandson, Seth Donaldson, on October 28, 2018.

†Carol Bridges and family on the death of her father, Dr. Tom Moss on November 3, 2018. Dr. Moss had been a member of SPC for 63 years.

†Tim Neville and family on the death of his mother, Evelyn Neville, on November 5, 2018 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

†Sue Breen and family on the death of her husband, Jack Breen on November 8, 2018. Jack had been a member of SPC for 12 years.

† Scoot Dixon and family on the death of his father, Ralph Dixon Sr., on November 11, 2018.

**MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS  
RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER**

...to the Choir Fund in memory of Dr. Tom Blackburn, Dr. Tom Moss, Donna Simmons, and Jim Teddy Jr.

... to the Marion School Backpack Ministry in honor of Joyce Boyette's Birthday

... to the Member Care Fund in memory of Dr. Tom Moss

... to the Memorial Fund in memory of Seth Donaldson and Dr. Tom Moss

... to the Music Fund in memory of Jack Breen

... to the Organ Fund in memory of Dr. Tom Blackburn, Jack Breen, Ralph Dixon Sr., Seth Donaldson, and Dr. Tom Moss

... to the Organ Fund in honor of Ed Patterson's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

... to the Youth Mission Fund in memory of Seth Donaldson

**THREE NOTES FROM THE BOOKKEEPER**

**(1) 2018 Donations**

The Office will be open Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> (til noon), and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> to receive any end-of-year giving, **OR** you can put end-of-the-year donations in the offering plate on December 30<sup>th</sup>! Last donations must be in at that time, or if mailed, postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. Anything after that will be considered 2019 donations, even if the check is dated 2018.

**(2) Online Giving**

If you have online banking, you can simply set up weekly or monthly giving. Away on vacation, forgot your envelope, never need to be problems again!

1. Find Bill Pay, or whatever your Bank calls it, on your online bank account.

2. Set up Shelby Presbyterian Church as a Pay To account (this will require the church's address: PO Box 1444, Shelby NC 28151)

3. Select automatic payments

4. Enter the amount you would like to contribute, the frequency, and the duration of your payment. Remember you can adjust this amount or cancel at any time. Also you will be able to give any special instructions regarding distribution of the offering. If it is for your pledge, you need not list any instructions.

If you have any problems setting this up, you can contact your personal bank for help. The check is mailed to the church at no cost to you. If you desire to have your donation posted to your church pledge each month, it will be helpful to have Payment Date by the 25th of each month. This will give the bank time to print and mail.

**(3) Giving by Numbered Envelope**

The only information that would be helpful on your envelope is the **amount inside**. The number on the envelope will identify you to Miranda to post to your pledge/name.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

2019 offering envelopes will be available for you to pick up at the church beginning Sunday, December 9, in the hallway behind the sanctuary (across from the conference room). Be sure to get your box - they will be arranged in alphabetical order. If you use offering envelopes and cannot find your box, please let the church office know.

**UPDATE ON ORGAN FUND**

The work has been completed and the total cost was: \$127,305.57

Total received to-date 11/15/18: \$118,405.02

Balance to complete project **\$ 8,900.55**

**NOVEMBER 2018 STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

2018 Operating Budget . . . . . \$568,665.00  
 Needed Weekly . . . . . \$ 10,935.87

**November 4**

Received . . . . . \$ 12,610.69  
 5¢-A-Meal (total Nov.) . . . . . \$ 119.66  
 Sunday School Attendance . . . . . 69  
 8:30 Attendance . . . . . 34  
 11:00 Attendance . . . . . 105

**November 11**

Received . . . . . \$ 10,046.75  
 Sunday School Attendance . . . . . 42  
 8:30 Attendance . . . . . 27  
 11:00 Attendance . . . . . 113

**November 18**

Received . . . . . \$ 5,982.01  
 Sunday School Attendance . . . . . 70  
 8:30 Attendance . . . . . 34  
 11:00 Attendance . . . . . 123

**November 25**

Received . . . . . \$ 2,968.08  
 Sunday School Attendance . . . . . 46  
 8:30 Attendance . . . . . 26  
 11:00 Attendance . . . . . 120

**→ As of November 19, 2018:** 92 Financial Pledge Cards for the 2019 budget have been received that total \$412,904.00. ( Last year 117 families pledged \$486,985.40 so we have a way to go.) Please give prayerful consideration to bringing or mailing your card(s) to the church office as soon as possible. Cards are available in the narthex or in the church office.

## 2018 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

On Sunday, December 23, our church will collect the 2018 Christmas Joy Offering. With grateful hearts and generous gifts, Presbyterians reach out through the Christmas Joy Offering to members of our Christian family as God reaches out to us. One-half of our gifts supports the Board of Pensions' assistance programs, while the other half helps to support seven Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. We encourage your participation as we help those who are discovering and developing their gifts as students, and those who have served the church faithfully with their gifts, and who now need financial assistance. Bring joy to the longing hearts of young and old alike by participating in the 2018 Christmas Joy Offering.

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Elder, Class of 2022, and Deacon, Class of 2022. There are 5 positions available for Elder and 5 positions available for Deacon.

Qualifications for serving as an officer of Shelby Presbyterian Church are:

- (1) Officers should be persons of faith, dedication and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both in the church and in the world.
- (2) Officers should be knowledgeable about the life of our church based upon active participation as a Shelby Presbyterian Church member in some area of the life of the church for a period of not less than two years.
- (3) Officers should be able to work well with others in decision-making groups and to serve as chair of a committee.

Please give prayerful consideration as you make recommendations to the Nominating Comm. Remember it will not be possible to nominate all qualified persons recommended by the congregation. For this reason it is best not to contact the person being recommended. If you need more space to discuss your reasons for recommending an individual, you may add an attachment to the form below.

Place your recommendation(s) in the offering by January 6, take or mail it to the church office, or use email to [miranda@shelbypres.org](mailto:miranda@shelbypres.org).

## NOMINATION FOR ELDER

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
I feel that this individual would be a dedicated and effective Elder because:

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## NOMINATION FOR DEACON

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
I feel that this individual would be a dedicated and effective Deacon because:

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Below is a list of 2019-21 officers:

### ELDERS

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Jeff Hamilton	Trip Boinest	John Brotherton
Robin Holland	Margie McSwain	Jon Brownlee
Anne Langley	David Schweppe	Margaret Harry
Lloyd Williams Jr.	Jeanne Spragins	Martha Noblitt
Paul Woodard		Jessi Ogburn

### DEACONS

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Thomas Couch	Carolyn Billings	Amy Goforth
Tom Greene	Anne Kennedy	Ted LeGrand
Warren Julian	Brett Niblack	Stefanie McIntyre
Barbara Moore	Joe Petrilli	Greg Melton
Heidi Steeves	Wiley Smith	Julia Persing

**Turn in your suggestions by January 6 to the church office or place in offering plate by then.**

## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) to be placed in the church for December 16 and the Christmas Eve Services, either in memory or in honor of someone, we ask that your check accompany the order form below and that it be made payable to "Shelby Presbyterian Church." Turn your form and check into the church office **no later than Dec. 3.**

Yes, I (We) would like \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) placed in the church.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

## SESSION MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

Examination of Officers Elders Elect John Brotherton, Margaret Harry, Martha Noblitt, and Jessi Ogburn and Deacons Elect Amy Goforth, Ted LeGrand, Greg Melton, and Julia Persing.

After breaking into small groups of existing officers and officers elect, the officers elect were examined by Pastor Harkey and Session. The officers elect were approved by Session and installed to serve.

Doug reported that a meeting between himself, Paul and PWNC staff is being scheduled to discuss the SPC transitional period and that information will be shared and discussed at the officers retreat in January.

Luke announced a called Session meeting in the morning of November 18 to examine and install Deacon Elect Stefanie McIntyre and Elder Elect Jon Brownlee. Neither could be present for the meeting tonight. Luke also received an email from Maria Palacio while she was on the PWNC Guatemala mission trip sharing information about the mission trip.

**Finance** - Jill Venable reported that the number of pledges and the amount pledged are behind last year at this time, but expects pledges to continue to be submitted.

**Fellowship** - Robin Holland reported Chrystal's retirement celebration will be held Wednesday, December 5.

**Mission and Ministry** - Paul Woodard made a recommendation to approve in principal the establishment of Guatemala Scholarship Program from local children. Scholarship amounts could range from \$135.00 for pre K and primary school students to \$560.00 for Jr. High School and \$995.00 for Vocational High School. The details of funding the program will be determined once Laura and Debra have returned from Guatemala with more information from our Guatemalan partners at Monte los Olivos.

This recommendation was approved.

**Personnel** - David Schweppe reported that Personnel will be gathering resumes in the process of replacing Chrystal as church sextant.

**PneuMatrix** - Luke Harkey reported that the SPC PneuMatrix team met in Morganton for the last session of the program.

**Security and Safety** - Doug Boyette reported that 2 CPR classes had been held and that a total of 20 people had attended.

**Spiritual Life** - Doug Boyette reported that Advent information will be placed in the newsletter and bulletin. Also, information may be accessed through the Pittsburgh Theological Seminar

**Stewardship** - Trip Boinest reported that a detailed report will be presented at the next Session meeting.

**Water to Wine** - Agaat Den Hertog reported a recommendation for SPC to adopt the Water to Wine program.

This was approved.

**Worship and Music** - Jeanne Spragins reported the 8:30 service will be held in the Chapel for the month of December. On December 16th there will be one service for the Chancel Choir's presentation of Vivaldi's "Gloria". The committee suggested that an invitation be made to Rev. Pen Peery from First Presbyterian in Charlotte for a Preaching Mission next year.

## PRESBYTERY IN BRIEF

OCTOBER 27, 2018

136 Presbyterians met on October 27th at the First Presbyterian Church in Hickory. They began and ended this meeting by reciting our Presbytery's purpose:

**SEE** - We are the Body of Christ!

We covenant to

Strengthen Congregations

Equip Disciples

Engage in Mission

There were two major highlights. First and foremost, they worshiped God! Following the liturgy crafted by Calvin in Strasbourg around 1540, they heartily sang hymns, old and new, and devoutly prayed, corporately and individually - culminating in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. **Whit Malone**, the host pastor, preached a stirring biblical sermon, reminding all that, while their mission from God remains the same, the means they must use to fulfill it need to change to fit new challenges. Their worship was greatly enhanced by a splendid choir in a lovely sanctuary, and the leadership of pastors **John Bates, Joanne Glaser** and **Jill Isola**, and musicians **Steven Mowery, Martha Hill, Spence Robertson** and many others.

Second, they discussed around tables and individually drafted answers to three important questions: (1) *What might we, as the Presbytery, do to help your church share the love of Jesus Christ given our changing landscape?* (2) *What are we, as the Presbytery, currently doing that must continue, and what is it you value about what the Presbytery currently does?* (3) *What are we, as the Presbytery, currently not doing well that you believe is important?* All were assisted by **Mark Tidsworth** from Pinnacle Leadership Associates and the Presbytery's Discernment Team, chaired by **Luke Harkey**. These individual answers will be collated and studied, with a report at the Presbytery's meetings in January and April. The purpose of this exercise is to discern how to staff the Presbytery in a way that is consistent with its mission and responsive to the needs and challenges before the congregations.

There were, of course, many other actions at this meeting.

- A draft "Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy" was submitted for possible adoption at the January meeting.

- Pat Reid** (from Charlotte Presbytery) and **Betsy Ray** (from this Presbytery) were examined and approved for ordination as Stated Pastors at the Third Street and Old Fort congregations, respectively.

- John Hall, Beth Hall, John Pea, and John Stanley** were recommissioned as Lay Pastors, and Lay Pastor **Ken Humphreys** was given an additional commission.

- Mark Achtemeir, Kat Achtemeir and Christina Tutterow** were welcomed as new pastors.

- The Committee on Ministry launched a new venture: Advocates for the congregations (volunteers desired).

- Amendments to the Constitution from the General Assembly were distributed for votes at the January or April meetings.

- 72 persons were elected for 23 committees.

- Many reports were received or approved, including relief work in response to recent hurricanes. •Information was shared on Presbytery's work in Guatemala and Malawi.

- Many good Youth Events were announced.

- David Nash** led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

This meeting was ably led by Moderator **Melvin Meares**, completing his year of leadership, and **Bob Forsythe**, subbing for the unavoidably absent Stated Clerk, as well as by General Presbyter **Bobbi White** and her fine staff.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia on Saturday January 26, 2019.

-James Aydelotte, retiring Scribe

## Resolution of Thanks

### 118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

- Give Thanks to the LORD for he is good. We have seen God's goodness in our midst, and we witness to God's action in the life of our Presbytery, made known to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- God called this particular group of Commissioners to this place, so that the Holy Spirit might speak to, and through, each of us. We give thanks, therefore, for a quorum of the faithful who mind the business of the church.

- We experienced the real presence of Christ in our midst during worship, especially the beauty of the music. God gave us a glimpse of God's own greatness through the grandness of the instrumental and choral music. We give thanks to God for working through the talents and efforts of all the worship leaders.

- God spoke to our Presbytery as the Word was proclaimed in the music of the Anthem and through the words and voice of Dr. Whit Malone's sermon. We give thanks to God for open ears and hearts, so that we are able to hear and understand how our story of exploration is a part of God's ongoing story.

- The Holy Spirit spoke through the myriad of voices around our tables as we sought to instruct the staffing discernment team on the needs of the Presbytery. We give thanks to God for a variety of experiences of the Church in our many congregations.

- God spoke again to our Presbytery through the words and voice of Patricia Reid - Candidate for Ordination and future pastor of Third Street Presbyterian Church. We give thanks to God for all of those who have formed the future Rev. Reid along her journey, and for God's continuing guidance of her and of her congregation.

- Christ was present with us as we approved the ordination and recognized the ongoing ministry of Patricia Reid and Betsy Ray, and for the welcoming of new members to our Presbytery. The Presbytery is our extended family of faith, and we are always grateful for our family to expand. We give thanks to God for the ways God connects us to one another into one body.

- The fellowship of the Holy Spirit was most apparent in the hospitality of the people who are First Presbyterian Church of Hickory, NC. They arrived early to set up, they stayed late to clean up. They gathered far in advance to plan, they gathered on the day to serve and facilitate. They welcomed us into their church home, such love testifies to the action of the Holy Spirit among them. We give thanks to God for them.



## DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Have any extra material, bias tape, elastic, or thread to donate? Enjoy sewing simple projects? I have been making "pillowcase dresses" for several years for the Dress a Girl Around the World campaign ([dressagirlaroundtheworld.com](http://dressagirlaroundtheworld.com)) Each dress takes a minimum of 24" of cotton material, two yards of extra wide double fold bias tape, and 15" of ½" elastic. Remnants from Hobby Lobby, Walmart and my neighbor have provided material for over 200 dresses thus far. If you are interested in making dresses, I have the printed directions that I received from The Rag Bag and I would be happy to talk to you, if you have supplies, you may leave them in the church office.



Thank you,  
Patsy McBride  
704-477-8785



## FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS

The Food Ministry is looking ahead to Christmas. Every year, we give each guest a bag that contains useful everyday items. Any help collecting these items would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off contributions at the church office.

Thank you,  
The Food Ministry

ITEMS	QTY ON HAND	NEEDED
Tooth Paste	45	30
Tooth Brushes	25	50
Deodorant	47	28
Shaving Cream	1	74
Razors	82	0
Soap	9	66
Floss	4	71
Shampoo	1	74
Toilet Paste	1	74
Body Gel	47	28
Miscellaneous (finger nail clippers, emery boards, etc.)	10	65
Combs	17	58

## MARION SCHOOL BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

The social worker and teachers at Marion School have identified 20 students who need weekend food support due to lack of resources at home. Our congregation has been very supportive of this ministry of love over the last five years. Joyce and I need your financial support in order for us to meet this increased demand. Supplying 20 students per week will cost about \$120 per week. Please send your contribution to Miranda or June in the church office, make check payable to SPC with a notation for Marion School Back Pack Ministry. Thank you for your support.

-Joyce and Doug Boyette

## FIRST THURSDAY WITH SUSAN BELL

Bible Study with Susan Bell will be held Thursday, December 6, 12:00-1:00 p.m., at Central United Methodist Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Martha/Mary Circle** will meet Tuesday morning, December 4, at 11:30 in the home of Debra Haddock, 125 Spring Forest Drive. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP Debra at 252-414-4144 or [debralaine@yahoo.com](mailto:debralaine@yahoo.com).

**Deborah & Sarah Circles** will meet together on Tuesday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the home of Jessi Ogburn, 208 Belvedere Avenue. Lunch will be provided. Pat Byers will lead a study on the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study book, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, by Amy Poling Sutherland. Pat, 704-477-1260, is the contact person for this circle.

## MEN'S FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

There are two opportunities for all men to join with other men from Shelby Presbyterian Church for food and fellowship. Come to breakfast or lunch or both!

- First Thursday, December 6, 7:00 a.m. at Ken & Mary's Restaurant, 1628 S. DeKalb St., for breakfast and sharing prayer concerns.

- Fourth Thursday, December 27, at 1:30 pm for lunch and fellowship at Joe's Place, main dining room, 211 S. Lafayette St.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN DECEMBER

6:00 pm Meal – 6:30 pm Program  
\$3/adult; \$1/under 12; \$10/family max.

... an opportunity to pause midweek,  
... to build new relationships,  
to strengthen existing friendships,  
... and to glorify God through  
intergenerational activities, worship,  
and programs that help us grow in our faith.

Date	Meal	Program
Dec. 5	*Barbecue	Chrystal's Retirement Celebration
Dec. 12	*Ham & Turkey SubSandwiches	Hayride/Caroling <i>Thanks to Larry Wilson for providing hay wagon!</i>

Dec. 19 No Supper - Merry Christmas!

Dec. 26 No Supper

\*Bring side dishes & desserts –peanut free please.  
Child care is available for infants-four year olds.

### CHRYSTAL'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

You are invited to join our church family at Wednesday Night Supper on December 5<sup>th</sup> to honor our sexton, Chrystal Lively. She is retiring after 18 years of service to SPC. We don't want her to move to West Virginia without letting her know how much she has meant to our congregation! Please bring sides to go with barbecue sandwiches; dessert will be provided. After supper the "program" will be recognition and thanks for Chrystal. Cards, stories, remarks will all be welcomed. Please join us as we wish her Godspeed in her next adventure.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>- Ice Skating in Charlotte (TBA)  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Movie in Ellis Hall at 6  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Party in Youth Rm(TBA)  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>- No Youth (Christmas Break)  
Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>- No Youth (Christmas Break)

### SSMM and KFC

During the month of December Sunday School Music Makers and Kids for Christ will not meet.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, from 1:30-6:00 p.m., in Ellis Hall. If you would like an appointment or would like to help with check-in, refreshments, or in some other way, please call Debi McDaniel, 704-482-9785.

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Cleveland County Choral Society will present their Christmas Concert at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 7:00 and Sunday, Dec. 2, at 3:00. SPC members include Sue Breen and Anne Langley. Tickets are \$5 each sold by members or at the door.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24

- 5:00 Service for Families
- 11:00 Service with Communion and Candlelight.

**All Services will be held in the Sanctuary.**

### HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed December 24, 25 & 26. The office will also be closed January 1. Please keep these dates in mind for bulletin deadlines.

### 2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

A Flower Calendar for 2019 will be posted soon on the bulletin board as you come in the west entrance (across from playground). If there is a Sunday in 2019 that you would like to reserve, please call the church office and we'll sign you up.



## **ARE YOU ON DUTY IN DECEMBER?**

### **9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Fellowship Time**

Dec. 2 Beverly Styers  
9 Agaat Den Hertog  
16 Greg & Stefanie McIntyre  
23 Nancy Fichter  
30 Barbara Hannah

### **Deacons Taking Up Offering & Ushers**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Warren Julian (Captain)  
Barbara Moore  
Joe Petrilli  
Heidi Steeves  
Beverly Styers  
December 30<sup>th</sup>  
Warren Julian (Captain)  
Barbara Moore  
Joe Petrilli  
Wiley Smith  
Beverly Styers

### **Sound Board**

Dec. 2 Chip Blackley  
9 Joe Petrilli  
16 Lee Huston  
23 Joe Petrilli  
30 Greg McIntyre

### **11:00 a.m. Worship Liturgist**

Dec. 2 Marlene Lovelace  
9 Brett Niblack  
16 Ellen Fletcher  
23 Pat Byers  
30 Kyle Aldinger

### **Offering Counter with Bookkeeper**

Joe Ogburn

### **Sanctuary Worship Guild**

Dec. 2 Barbara Blackburn & Barbara Hannah  
9 Margie McSwain & Margaret Harry  
16 Joyce & Paul Coey  
23 Harriette Beam & Laura Beam  
24 Judy Greer & Rachel White  
30 Stuart Schweppe & Beverly Elmore

### **Wednesday Night Elders & Deacons**

Dec. 5 Warren Julian & Carolyn Billings  
Nancy Blackley & Lloyd Williams  
12 Brett Niblack & Anne Kennedy  
David Schweppe & Trip Boines

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

Dec. 2 Member providing  
9 *Available*  
16 Poinsettias  
23 Poinsettias  
30 Katie Borders