

The PRESSbyterian

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January 2019

FROM THE PASTOR



Kids these days... As a parent and soon to be grandparent, it is hard to know what to give children. Sometimes children can be hard to please; maybe you can understand.

However, I wonder as God's children, are we just as picky. Do we accept the gift of God? Or are we looking for a newer model, some upgraded version, a sleeker, shinier expression of the divine? Perhaps an expression more suited for our time, something we can relate with. The Manger is such a dirty place and The Cross so grotesque, there must be a newfangled way for us.

As we enter the New Year will we be busy seeking that "new thing" that will make us happy? Or will we holdfast to the happiness God offers? Will we respond to that "Old, Old Story of Jesus and His love?" Or will we fashion Him in our likeness and sanitize the messiness of grace?

Many Blessings and Happy New Year!

Pastor Darren

The Taylor Festival Choir
presents

MUSIC FOR ROYAL OCCASIONS

*Featuring music ranging from
the weddings of Harry and Meghan
and William and Kate
to the coronations of Kings and Queens
from the past four centuries*

Saturday night, January 26, 2019

7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Orangeburg, SC

\$15.00 AT THE DOOR

Reception following in the Presbyterian Centre.

**THANK YOU FROM THE
THANKSGIVING BOX COMMITTEE**

Due to your generosity, we were able to distribute 126 Thanksgiving Boxes on November 18th. This was an increase from 117 in 2017. At least 30 of those boxes were delivered within 2 miles of our church. The boxes we use are donated each year by Zeus. Piggly Wiggly gives us a discount on our \$15 gift cards that we include in each box. Many thanks to both of them.

Thanks also to each of you for getting your boxes filled early this year. When we left the Centre on Wednesday night, November 14th, all 126 boxes were filled. It made our job much easier to have everything ready for distribution on Sunday.

We are looking forward to a bigger and better year in 2019.

Elise and Gerald Myers, Co-Chairs
Thanksgiving Box Ministry
Evangelism Committee

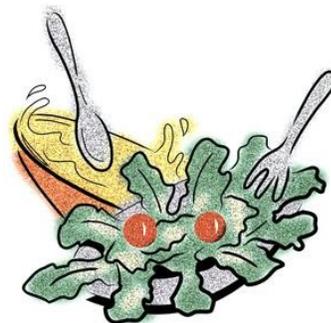
A NOTE FROM SYLVIA

Thank you for the opportunity to work and worship with you for the last 28 years. It has been an absolute joy. Who would have believed when I was hired as an interim back in 1990 (for 12 hours a week) that I would still be here in 2018? It has been a privilege to raise our boys in a church that has treated us like family since the day Mark and I first attended a worship service. We will carry with us countless memories of faithful Christian friends and wonderful musical experiences. Thank you for your constant love and support. Mark and I enjoyed the beautiful reception last Sunday and the opportunity to speak to old and new friends. We will miss you!

Sincerely,
Sylvia Trimmier

FUNDRAISER LUNCH

Join us in the Centre after worship on Sunday, January 6, for a fundraising lunch! The proceeds will benefit the children and youth attending the Montreat Worship and Music Conference in June. The menu will be soup, baked potatoes, and salad, and donations will be accepted.



Sarah Coggins

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

LIVING FAITHFULLY

There are two fundamental life questions:

Who am I?

What am I called to do?

If we seek answers from family, friends, self-help books, surveys or social media, we will probably get as many answers as the number of people we ask. So, go to the source. "The spirit Himself testifies we are God's children." Romans 8:16. God alone can quench our thirst for answers to these questions. When we ask God for our identity (Who am I?) and our mission (What am I called to do?), then and only then will we receive true answers. God tells us we are His beloved children now and for eternity. We learn our purpose is to join in God's mission of reconciliation for everyone and for one another. Our identity and purpose never changes and allows us to love others with the same forgiveness and mercy with which we are loved by God.



As believers in Jesus Christ, it is a privilege to show God's love and to demonstrate this love thru acts of kindness. Sometimes we may think we don't have much to offer. But all of us can develop an attitude of gratitude and servitude. We can actively seek opportunities to make a difference in people's lives by simply doing what we can. An acknowledging smile can go a long way. We can look beyond any struggles we may be having and put others first by

imitating God's love and compassion. Jesus very humbly took on the servant role. Jesus is the perfect example of doing everything we do to glorify God. Can we do less?

Paul pointed to Jesus as the supreme example of humility and selfless service and then instructed believers to humbly serve the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-5). He reminds us that Gospel-worthy living may face opposition even among believers, but also help among believers who share the blessings of a common spiritual bond (Philippians 2:1). In other words, we can model the love of Christ by doing what we can to serve others.

Challenge: Start each day by thanking God for three things and end each day by thanking Him for three different things. Try to find different things each day and in between the thanks prayers, serve!

Prayer: God, we thank you for your steadfast love for us. Even when we are not faithful, we know you are. Help us be faithfully serve you by serving others.

Serving together,
Kaye



NOTES OF THANKS

✿ The family of Janet Hinson Fogle would like to express its sincerest appreciation and thanks for all of the outpouring of support and love during the time of our loss.

Lewis, Danny, and Stephen Fogle

✿ Thanking and praising God for each member of the FPC. God has richly blessed us and given us many opportunities to serve each other and others outside our church. Some of you go on foreign mission trips and some of you serve missions locally. Many of you who are able participate in events like the Matthew 25 Challenge, Thanksgiving boxes and meal and *The Church Has Left the Building*. And this list goes on and on. EQUALLY important are those of you who are faithful attenders which not only nourishes your spiritual life but is encouraging to those who plan and lead. It is a joy to worship and serve with you.

Kaye Borgstedt

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1 Sarah Francis Coggins | 1/15 Campbell Bowers |
| 1/3 Kaye Borgstedt | 1/18 Bill Covington |
| Elsie Fogle | 1/19 Jane Shuler |
| Lawrence Thackston | 1/21 Marion Moore |
| 1/4 Tamra Campbell | Amy Delaney |
| Paige Hewitt | 1/26 Dawes Edwards |
| 1/6 Chance Boltin | 1/27 Gaye Lanier |
| 1/7 Keith Hewitt | 1/28 Carol McCall |
| 1/9 McCullough Mims | 1/29 Rita Hutto |
| 1/11 Melissa Plummer | 1/30 Blake Bruner |
| Katie Weigle | Reagan Ridley |
| 1/12 Jewell Davis | 1/31 Buddy Barnwell |
| 1/14 Cheryl Smith | |
| Beth Kuck | |
| Jennifer Turner | |
| Adison Walter | |
| Ava Cuttino | |

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED JANUARY 3RD!

The decorations in the Sanctuary and on the grounds will be removed on January 3rd at 10:00 am. Please help if you can.

Jane Shuler



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, January 8. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.

GENERAL FUND 2018

| For month ending November 30, 2018 | Month | Year-to-Date |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| General Fund Income | \$33,535.42 | \$452,744.90 |
| General Fund Budgeted Expenses | \$37,974.10 | \$486,984.71 * |
| | (\$ 4,438.68) | (\$ 34,239.81) |

* Includes year to date transfer to Missions of \$22,687.50.

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

will be observed in the service of worship
on Sunday, January 6, 2019.



GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

**Growing Through Fellowship will resume
on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.**

JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Circle 1: | Tuesday, January 8 Centre | 11:30 a.m. |
| Circles 2 & 4: | Tuesday, January 8 Conference Room | 10:30 a.m. |
| Circle 3: | Monday, January 14 | 6:00 p.m. |