



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
351 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK, GEORGIA 30297

DECEMBER 2014

# THE CROSSROADS

## ***Pastor's Corner . . .***

This is my first Advent and Christmas season at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church but this has always been my favorite time of year. As a child, it was hard to wait for the tree to come in, decorations to go up and presents to be opened (they had been poorly hidden before Santa put them in their proper place).

Missing are memories of any type of celebration or program for children in the small Baptist churches of my youth. No doubt there were decorations and music leading up to Christmas but clearly there was nothing of note. So you can imagine my surprise during my first few Advent experiences as a Presbyterian. It was a joy to see trees go up, sanctuaries adorned, families lighting Advent candles every week and pageants performed by the littlest angels. Hearing Christmas music for a month or more was awesome.

The sense of anticipation and joy is heightened this year as I continue to "look, listen, learn and laugh" with all of you at PPC. I look forward to experiencing the Hanging of the Greens, The Cantata, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and learning about other traditions that PPC holds dear. I can't wait to hear the choir singing hymns and carols of the season. I'm also excited about meeting members who can only come on special occasions along with some of our neighbors who are seeking a church where they might catch the spirit of the Holy-days.

Overriding all of this is my excitement about seeing how God will move in our midst. This year perhaps all of us might focus more intentionally and intently on the life of Mary's baby even as we embrace traditions of the past. Jesus grew up. And during his lifetime he would preach, teach, heal and minister to the "least of these". Ultimately, the babe who was born in a manger some 2000 years ago would give his life for us and for the church.

During this time of transition, Philadelphia Presbyterian Church is in an ideal position to discover new ways to minister to God's people. We can build on experiences of the past if we can never replicate them. With God's help, we can do all things just not at once.

As we prepare for the holidays may our anticipation of the birth of Jesus carry over to our planning and preparation for the birth of a new and glorious future. And may we together grow in wisdom and stature in even if we are a bit unsteady while seeking to faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge the Lord, and the Lord will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

With lots of love and huge hugs,

*Pastor Sylvia*

## ***My Christmas Prayer***

*We cannot look backward without looking forward. This my prayer is that while anticipating the birth of Mary's baby, PPC will shape and form its future ministries. As we prepare for the "advent" of the baby Jesus, my prayer is that through it all, I invite you to join me in listening for the still small voice of a babe that was born.*

*I cannot wait to hear the choir put forth their best efforts and for this year, I am filled with even more anticipation and joy. Not only about the traditions that are held so dear but also about the new insights and revelations.*

*Serving PPC at this time of year is no accident. For we too are but that same sense of anticipation was revived. Attending my first Advent celebration in a Presbyterian Church I did not know what to expect. That changed soon after God directed me to the Presbyterian church. People go all out to celebrate the season.*

**Pastor:**

*Rev. S. J. Wilson*

**Phone:**

404-366-1851

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**Website:** [ppc-usa.org](http://ppc-usa.org)

A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.

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# OUR PEOPLE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...** 01/ Dot Morgan, 06/ Felicia Mann, 18/ Joyce Smith, 21/ Betty McDonald, 21/ Van Banke, 25/ Frances Youngblood, 17/ S.J. Wilson, 29/ Ann NeSmith

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...** 01/ Kathy & Hal Banke, 01/ Debbie & Greg Durden, 20/ Jo & Don Nelson, 23/ Jane & Buddy Ashmore, 28/ Dot & Ray Morgan

## THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

**Ushers:** Tom Murphy, Fred Rohrbach, Emory Pearce, Don Nelson

**Nursery Workers:** To be announced



**NURSERY WORKER NEEDED:** If you know anyone interested in serving as a Nursery Worker, please contact Jennifer Rohrbach.

They work for only 1 1/2 hours when needed and make \$25 each time.



**SECUR'US HOUSE** is the refuge for abused women and their children. As usual, we will be collecting supplies in December. The list of needed items is on the back of the calendar.

You may make monetary donations or leave your donated items in the narthex by 12/21. **Connie McWilliams**, Community Missions

### **TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS** (new info in bold)

*Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!*

- 11/12 Anita DeBey – Tim's cancer has spread to bladder and lost son-in-law in an accidental fall
- 11/3 Rose Enow's family – sister-in-law, Ester, recovering from stroke, now sister, Susan, had stroke
- 11/5 Henderson Family (friends of Pastor Wilson) – in the loss of their mother
- 11/18 Dennis Hermosilla (nephew of Tom Smith's) – taking holistic treatments for Pancreatic Cancer
- 11/5 Darlene Johnson – (friend of Pastor Wilson) – diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer
- 11/12 Cathy Morris – being treated for colitis
- 10/20 Laralaine Morrow (friend of Barbara Barlow & Cindy Adair) – very slow recovery from stroke, affected speech
- 10/29 Joan Murphy – recovering from knee replacement, doing surprisingly well
- 11/17 Rev. Selvis & Rev. Nancy Smather – Missionaries to South Sudan, returning to mission field
- 10/20 Dawn Smith (Frances Youngblood's daughter-in-law) –omentum cancer, recovering from surgery
- 11/12 Pat White (Red & Gold Florist) – recovering from injuries from an attack during robbery at florist shop

### **OUR HOMEBOUND:**

*Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information*

Tye Bryant

Jean Ray

JoAnn Tatzel

Dot Upchurch

**Prayer Request:** Call 404-366-1851, Email [secyppc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secyppc@bellsouth.net) or click on [www.ppc-usa.org](http://www.ppc-usa.org).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We will have our annual Christmas luncheon on December 7, 2014 immediately following service. The session will provide the meats for the luncheon and everyone else is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts. We hope you will stay after service and eat lunch with us. As always, there will be plenty of food so join us.

### THE CRAFT GROUP

December 09—11:15am—@ Cheddars Restaurant, Jonesboro Rd, McDonough

*Husbands of Craft Group members are invited.*

### Christmas Cantata—7:00pm—Sunday, December 21

Join us to hear our Worship Choir present their Christmas Program with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

## ADVENT 2014

Advent material is available in the narthex for everyone in the congregation. There is a calendar that includes scripture and reflections for each day of the Advent season. There is also "A World Awaits" devotional booklet from the works of C.S.Lewis. Please use these to prepare your heart and soul for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

### They Moved

The Reverend Bill Hines and his wife, Kayre, have relocated. The new address is available on the bulletin board.

Kathie Pierce says they would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Marie Foster has also moved. Her new address is also on the bulletin board.

## PW Message Corner . . .



- **December 7—PWCT—after Christmas Party**—We will hold an abbreviated meeting for those who can stay a few minutes.
- **December 16**—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle
- **December 20**—10:30am—Circle One  
*No Mary & Martha Circle meeting this month*

## WORKDAY



Saturday, December 13, beginning at 9:00am. Plan to come and serve.

### Celebrate Christ! - Christmas Eve - 7:00pm

Pastor Wilson will lead us in worship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. Join the celebration! Bring your family and friends!

## 2014 PPC Christmas Events

November 30—11:00am—Hanging of the Green Service

December 7—12:15pm—Church Christmas Party

December 21—7:00pm—Christmas Cantata & reception

December 24—7:00pm—Candlelight & Communion

December 24-25—Christmas Holiday, office closed

January 1—New Year's Holiday, office closed



OUR MISSION: To exhibit the kingdom of God to our community by being a witness to everyone who is within our reach that Jesus Christ is LORD. To proclaim the gospel by telling the good news of Jesus Christ while equipping all who will to be evangelist so the church will grow. To provide for the worship of God through traditional Sunday morning worship and offer alternative times and styles of worship to the community. To promote the ministry of compassion by providing opportunities for ministry and encouraging others to seek God's call for compassionate service. To preserve the truth of God's word by defending the faith against any deviation from the bible as objective truth. To educate the members of the body of Christ so they are equipped to live as becomes the followers of Jesus. To maintain the spirit of unity through the fellowship of the children of God. To expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**Core Values of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church**

- Radical Hospitality** (Romans 12:9-21)
- Passionate Worship** (John 4:21-24)
- Intentional Faith Development** (I Corinthians 9:19-24)
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service** ( Matthew 25:14-30)
- Extravagant Generosity** (II Corinthians 9:6-15)



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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:  
[WWW.PPC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.PPC-USA.ORG)

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## NEEDS LIST

**Items for infants & children include:**

- diapers (all sizes, but esp. large & x-large)
- diaper rash cream
- cornstarch baby powder
- baby oil, baby wipes & Vaseline
- bottles with nipples
- diaper bags & baby strollers
- humidifiers for babies
- socks, underwear & undershirts (all sizes)
- pajamas & slippers (all sizes)
- crayons, coloring books, markers
- school supplies & book bags
- hair accessories

**Items for the women include:**

- new underwear (all sizes)
- pajamas, gowns & slippers (all sizes)
- pantyhose (all sizes, all colors)
- personal hygiene products
- hair care products for women of all color
- hair blow dryers, hair pieces & wigs
- casual clothes (all sizes)
- alarm clocks
- folders for personal documents
- MARTA tokens & gas cards (\$10 or \$20)

**Items for the shelter include:**

- Polaroid camera & film
- laundry detergent & fabric softener
- dish-washing detergent (hand & machine)
- rubber gloves & hand sanitizer
- Febreze air freshener & Lysol
- paper towels, toilet tissue & facial tissues
- trash bags (large kitchen & heavy-duty yard)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste & mouthwash
- first aid products; cough drops; lip balm
- Infant & Children's Tylenol (non-generic)
- 9-oz. & 16-oz. cups
- paper plates & plastic cutlery
- light bulbs (75 watts) & night lights
- gift certificates for office supplies
- 8 ½ x 11 copy paper
- Post-it notes (all sizes)
- dry erase markers (all colors)
- 9 x 12 manila envelopes
- blue ink pens

**PLEASE NOTE:** *You may make monetary donations. Make your checks payable to Philadelphia Presbyterian and mark for Securus House. Must be received by Sunday, December 21, 2014.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

*“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*  
*Matthew 25:34-40*