

PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

THE CROSSROADS

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are back to a fully decorated church for Christmas, with Hanging of the Green, lighting of advent candles, poinsettias, and a Christmas Cantata. We may be masked, but we're celebrating! The Cantata is "The First Light: Rejoice! A Child of Hope is Born." A fitting title as we return to worship services about light and hope. The music is in four sections, representing the four themes of Advent Sundays: hope, peace, love, and joy. You will hear familiar carols and some new music, and I hope you will join us on Saturday, December 18, at 3:00 for this concert.

Christmas always seems to come too soon, and then it's over too soon. We get the house decorated and the tree up, and it's time to take it all down. I have a friend who just refuses to do that. She leaves her tree up all year, and her nutcrackers stay on her sideboard. I've been known to keep my tree up till April, because I love all the accumulated ornaments – from Catherine and Jeneane's homemade offerings to Chrismons to special things like a glass Varsity chocolate milk ornament. And yes, there are things with UGA themes and Sesame Street and Rugrat characters, all mixed in with other ones we've collected over the years. There's nothing really expensive on the tree, and there is no real theme – other than the fact that it reflects 40 years of marriage and children in the Simpson family. We even hang one of Jim's baby shoes on the tree!

I like all the eclectic stuff, and I especially like the lights. We caved in a couple of years ago and got an artificial tree, and you hit this little button on the floor and it will change from white to colored lights, with options for blinking and switching colors. When I was little, I was already so nearsided that I was legally blind without my coke-bottle glasses. If I took my glasses off, all the lights on the tree would merge into balls of light of various colors. It was magic to me. Sometimes, I still take out my contacts at night, and there that magical scene is once again. The lights at Christmas always enchant me. So I leave you with these words from the Cantata you will hear soon:

In the first light of a new day no one knew He had arrived.
 Things continued as they had been while a newborn softly cried.
 But the heavens wrapped in wonder knew the meaning of His birth;
 In the weakness of a baby they knew God had come to earth.

May this season of hope and light bring you joy.

Yours in Christ,

Jeanne



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Rev. Jeanne Simpson

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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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THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

08/ Joyce Smith
20/ Guy Staats
21/ Van Banke
21/ Rose Thigpen
25/ Frances Youngblood
29/ Ann NeSmith

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

01/ Kathy & Hal Banke
01/ Debbie & Greg Durden
20/ Jo & Don Nelson

THIS MONTH'S USHERS

Fred Rohrbach
Rick Pierce
Mary Smith
David Hatch

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

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

Christian Sympathy is extended to Fred Rohrbach and family in the homegoing of Fred's dad, Lee on November 18.

- 11/07 Rick Burchette (Durden's daughter-in-law's dad) – emergency heart surgery w/kidney dialysis
- 10/13 Tom Harris (friend of Rohrbach's) – broken bones & fractures in fall
- 09/29 Becky Huie – trouble with balance and falling
- 10/12 Pam Langley – staying with family - recovering from falls & hospital stay
- 11/21 Todd Long (Nancy's nephew) – stroke recovery, coming home
- 11/07 Connie McWilliams – twisted her knee
- 11/21 Richard Phillips (Jim's brother) – chemo treatments for liver cancer
- 10/13 Rick Pierce –recovering from knee replacement surgery
- 10/31 Doris Ragan (Cindy's mother) –compound fractured femur & hip-rehab going slow
- 10/15 Barbara Sutton (Joyce's niece) spine cancer, finished radiation, now on chemo
- 10/15 Sarah Trotter (Joyce's niece) breast cancer, taking chemo

OUR HOMEBOUND: Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information

Nell Cates Patty Boone Becky Huie Ann NeSmith

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email secyppc@bellsouth.net or call a Session member or Shepherd.

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank my wonderful Church Family for all the cards, calls, care and most of all your Prayers in this time of loss for my family of my dear sister, Jan Brown.

Love to All,
Joyce Smith

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of the cards, prayers, hugs, phone calls, and flowers. Dad's illness was so unexpected and sudden. Jennifer and I both greatly appreciate all of the prayers that have been said not only for my dad but for us as well.

Love,
Fred

SECURUS HOUSE



SECUR'US HOUSE is Clayton County's refuge for abused women and their children. Each Christmas we ask everyone, who's able, to bring a gift for the children. The children range in age from babies to 17. Do not wrap them so Securus can direct their distribution.

Some suggested gift items are: toys, games, cars, trucks, baby dolls, puzzles, crayons & coloring books, all kinds of children's books.

We will also be collecting some of their needed supplies. You may bring your donations in right away. Place them in the collection bin in the narthex.

PLEASE NOTE: You may make monetary donations. Make your checks payable to Philadelphia Presbyterian and mark for Securus House. Place them in the offering plate or mail to the church office. **All donations and gifts must be received by Sunday, December 19.**

Connie McWilliams, Community Missions

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FACILITY

Items for infants & children include:

diapers (all sizes, but esp. large & x-large) ,baby oil, baby wipes & Vaseline, bottles with nipples, socks, underwear & undershirts (all sizes), crayons, coloring books, markers

Items for the women include:

new underwear (all sizes), pajamas, gowns & slippers (all sizes), personal hygiene products, hair blow dryers, hair care products for women of all color

Items for the shelter include:

toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, bar soap), paper towels, toilet tissue & facial tissues, tooth brushes, toothpaste & mouth-wash, first aid products, lip balm



PW MESSAGE CORNER:

DEC 5– 12:15pm—PWCT

DEC 8 — 7:00pm—Mary & Martha (virtual)

DEC 11 —10:30am—Circle One



PPC Clerk's Corner . . .

Greetings from the Clerk of Session,

Merry Christmas Everyone!!! It is hard to believe that it will soon be Christmas! This is such a magical time of the year, and I always look forward to the greening of the church, the lighting of the Advent candles, and the Christmas Eve service. The Christmas Eve service is one of my favorite services.

We will once again have our Christmas tree and the Church will be decorated for the season. Our Cantata will be in person, and we hope that you will make plans to join us. Though we still have COVID around to deal with, we aren't letting it stop us when it comes to worship and enjoying this wonderful season.

The Session did meet on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 via Zoom to conduct our monthly business. For the month of October, our financial information was as follows:

Total Assets - \$74,209.58

Monthly Total Revenue – \$19,566.39

YTD Revenue – \$147,552.78

Monthly Total Expenses – \$13,296.40

YTD Expenses – \$120,261.84

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated! Your generosity is such a blessing not only to our church but also to the various charities that we support.

I pray that each of us will be blessed and have the opportunity to bless others during the Christmas season. Blessings come in many shapes and forms – a kind word, a smile, a card, prayers for loved ones as well as for strangers. We each have the opportunity to make a difference every day so don't be surprised if God presents you with an opportunity this season.

As always if you know of someone who is in need, please let either myself or one of the other elders know. If you have an idea as to how we can help one another, please share your idea (s). Together we can accomplish much.

May God bless you and your families during this Advent season.

Merry Christmas to you and may you see blessings all around you!

Love,

Jennifer

Craft Group Members

I have been discussing plans for our annual Christmas Party with members of the Craft Group. The majority are in agreement, we should plan to have it this year. If anyone has any hesitation, please use your best judgement about attending. This could change, but as of now, we will plan for a covered dish lunch, 11:30 am, Meridian Club House, Tuesday, December 14. Husbands and/or boy friends are invited. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS no later than Sunday December 12.

Barbara Barlow

PPC Financial Year in review – November 2021

The numbers: So far this year we received income for the year of \$147,553 made up of offerings, special donations for activities & benevolences, as well as facility rentals.

We incurred normal operating expenses of \$120,262 made up of salaries, contracts, utilities, and committee expenses for an operating surplus of \$27,290.

As of November of this year we have total Church operating assets of \$74,210, up \$17k from January. The assets include short and long-term cash and investments, as well as several designated account funds for such things as long term maintenance, recreation and bereavements funds.

The reason: Total giving for the year is up \$26k even though total church membership dropped by 5 members. Total rental income is up \$3k. Total expenses were down by \$7k, due to a decrease in Administration expenses and utilities. We still anticipate several large end of year expenses like Benevolence commitments which will change some of these figures.

The outlook: In 2022 we are looking forward to a continued relationship with the Way of Salvation church for facility rental income. On the expense side, we anticipate an increase in utility usage as we increase our Church activities. Also, we always face the possibility of unexpected large capital expenses for heat, a/c and facilities.

The assessment: Overall, considering the pandemic and the reduction of church membership we had a surprisingly stable year financially. For the past several years we have had the need to go from a full time minister to a half time position. That arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future. The Session and the congregation in general are more mindful of the financial realities in this slowed economy and the effect of a gradual decline of mainstream denomination membership. We are, as a church, are also in a state of gradual membership decline.

The need: However stable we are at this time, we recognize that year over year we are on a financial decline we must keep in mind that we have a fairly minimal financial commitment to local and worldwide mission. If we as a church hear the call to start any new evangelical, outreach, or new mission projects; we will have to increase revenue or dip further into our Church reserve and Corporation assets to finance any new programs. We must remember that stewardship includes giving of time and talent. We will often be faced with the question of "doing it ourselves" or "paying someone else" to do it. Whenever possible, church volunteers can significantly reduce project costs by "doing it ourselves".

Again the surest way to financial security and increased mission and community impact is through church growth. Invite a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker to church and nurture them once they enter our doors.

Rick Pierce

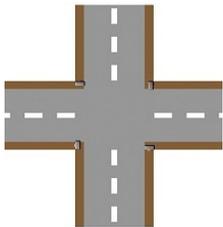
Chairman of Finance Committee

OUR MISSION: is to offer spiritual peace in a chaotic world through the stability of traditional Christ-centered teaching, worship and prayer.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- 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)**

Find us on the web
ppc-usa.org



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