

**PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, GA 30297 - PO Box 871028, Morrow, GA 30287

**THE CROSSROADS**

***Dear Friends in Christ,***

We are waiting, once again. For 28 days, we will worship as we wait for the promise that God gave to Isaiah and other Old Testament prophets – the coming of Emmanuel, or “God with us.” As we wait in joyful expectation, we celebrate old church rituals: hanging of the greens, purple paraments, Chrismons on trees, and singing of carols. Worship begins with the lighting of a candle on the Advent wreath as we focus on the five major themes of the Christmas season: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and on Christmas Day, Light. Churches borrow a tradition from Mexico with poinsettias, that bloom in the winter there. These flowers are called Flor de la Noche Buena (Flower of the Holy Night), due to their resemblance to the Star of Bethlehem.

We love the smells of the season – Christmas trees, scented candles, peppermint, and cinnamon. We love the food at Christmas – we feast once again almost like Thanksgiving. It is a time of gift giving and receiving, of sharing our blessings by contributing food and toys and clothing to those in need.

And my favorite of all – Christmas lights. I’m legally blind without my contacts or glasses, and when I was little, our Christmas tree had those older, bigger colored lights. I would take off my glasses and stand there in awe of all the big, fuzzy colors. Sometimes I still do that. Our tree can switch from white to colored lights, and from blinking to steady lights, so I tap the floor switch with my glasses off and watch the colors change. It’s magic, and a big part of Christmas is magic – elves and Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman and the North Pole. Our children get so excited they can’t sleep. We get excited as we wrap presents and empty our stockings on Christmas morning. Our only admonition is to try to not get too overwrought with the consumer version of Christmas. I try to remember that the fuzzy lights are as magical as any fancy present.

Light seems to be everywhere – on lamp posts, in store windows, in our own windows, on our bushes, and even along our driveways. It’s the shortest time of the year, and we want that light to brighten our nights and our moods. We end the Christmas Eve service with lit candles and the singing of Silent Night, and go out into the cold in joy, knowing that the birth of the baby is imminent. We read the Christmas story in Luke remembering once again the story that begins “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.” We know what the rest of the story says, but we love hearing it again anyway.

This season I hope you will come to church and celebrate this season of light. We will hang the greens on November 27, we will have special music each Sunday, we will have a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 17, and our Christmas breakfast on December 18. On Saturday, Christmas Eve, we will hear the Christmas story and light our candles, and on Christmas Day, you will be able to listen to a short service on Facebook from the comfort of your home. Christmas is coming. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel. Let us rejoice in that coming.

***Jeanne***

**PASTOR:**

**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

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**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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**THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS**

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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**THIS MONTH'S USHERS**

Emory Pearce  
Danny Morris  
Celestine Karka  
Thomas Thigpen



**CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTIONS:** We will again this year, be gathering Christmas Cards for our PPC family that will be here in December. Bring in a gift bag (the size of most cards) with your or your family's name on it. Bring in your **Christmas Cards** for Church members who attend regularly and we will sort them out and hand deliver them during before/after service on December 18. *The postage you save can be donated to Philadelphia.* **December 11 is the last day to turn them in for sorting.**



**Christmas Breakfast—December 18—9:00am**

The congregation is asked to bring breakfast dishes to share with others. Session will provide juice & coffee. This is the day we receive all the donations for Secur'us House children's Christmas gifts. See suggestions in next column.

**December 17—Christmas Concert—3:00pm**

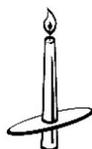
A cookie reception will follow.



December 24—3:00pm

**Christmas Eve Service**

Carols, Candlelight, & Communion Service



**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!

- 11/13 Dinah Bingham – dealing with arrhythmia
- 11/13 Gerri Dean Bradley (Mary Smith's sister) –immunotherapy for lung cancer
- 10/28 Connie McWilliams – recovering from additional procedure on knee
- 10/16 Mark McWilliams (Connie's son) – prostate cancer and shingles
- 10/16 Willie Smith – recovering from leg amputation
- 08/25 Barbara Sutton (Joyce's niece) spine cancer, chemo treatment pills now

**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](mailto:secyppc@bellsouth.net) or call a Session member or Shepherd.

**TOWEL COLLECTIONS FOR SECUR'US HOUSE**

Thanks to your donations, we were able to supply Secur'us House with 84 wash cloths, 8 hand towels, and 107 bath towels for a total value of \$1,052.00 during the month of November. The Philadelphia family always comes through when we find a need.  
**Connie McWilliams, Community Missions**

**Christmas for SECUR'US 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 Secur'us 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 Secur'us House. Place them in the offering plate or mail to the church office.* **All donations and gifts must be received by Sunday, December 18.**

**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 & mouthwash, first aid products, lip balm

## PW MESSAGE CORNER:

DEC 6—11:30am—Mary & Martha Circle – see note  
DEC 10—10:30AM—Circle One

**REMEMBER:** The Annual PW Retreat was re-scheduled to January 14. The study of Psalms will be led by Pastor Jeanne. We will still be meeting at the Geneva Lodge, Calvin Center.



## CRAFT GROUP

The annual Craft Group Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30 am, in the Meridian Subdivision Club House, Stockbridge. This is a covered dish lunch and the husbands and/or boyfriends of the members are invited. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Please call, text or email Barbara Barlow if you plan to attend.

## MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE

The Mary & Martha Circle will be meeting for lunch on December 6th at 11:30am. We will dine together at Applebee's in Griffin (1647 N. Expressway, Griffin 30223.) Please let Kathy Banke know if you will be able to attend.



## Community Outreach—The Babb Project

Each Friday afternoon, the staff at Babb Middle School send home bags of food items with some of the students who are homeless or very low income so that they can eat over the weekend. We have partnered with them to provide some of the needed items for these bags. **FOR CHRISTMAS:** We are collecting hats, gloves, & scarves for the students. There are 5 girls and 6 boys involved. We would need these items by December 11.

**Breakfast Items:** Individually wrapped cereal, Pop tarts  
Cereal bars, Granola bars, Nutria-grain bars, Individual packs of Grits or Oatmeal, etc.

**Lunch Entrees:** (*in microwavable containers*) Ravioli with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti O's with Meatballs, Individually wrapped Mac and Cheese, Vienna Sausages, Beef Stew, Red Beans and Rice, Beans and Franks, Beef a Roni, Soup, Corn Beef Hash, Ramen Noodles, etc.

Juice Boxes, Milk Boxes (shelf-safe)

**Snacks:** Dried or canned fruits, fruit chews, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, goldfish, pudding or jello cups, mini microwave popcorn, etc.

Monetary gifts are also welcomed. We are looking into providing coats, hats, & scarves as well. Make you check payable to PPC and mark it for the Babb Project. For more info, see **Mary Smith** or **Eliot Lawrence**.

## Community Outreach

## PPC Clerk's Corner

*Greetings from the Clerk of Session,*

Can you believe it's December? I love this time of year – almost as much as Fall. I love seeing houses decorated, wrapping gifts, and baking. It's a magical time for so many reasons but especially because we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Session did meet on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, via Zoom to conduct our monthly business. For the month of October, our financial information was as follows:

**Total Assets - \$88,993.10**

**Monthly Total Revenue – \$22,413.87**

**YTD Revenue – \$146,020.64**

**Monthly Total Expenses – \$8,599.17**

**YTD Expenses – \$125,921.76**

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated!!!

As we head into December, we have a few special activities occurring. First on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in Advent, we will have the greening of the Church. This is such a wonderful way to start Advent. Next on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas concert followed by a cookie reception, and then on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. The congregation is asked to bring breakfast dishes to share with others. On Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas Eve service at 3:00 p.m. and finally on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a recorded Christmas service – no in person service. The recorded service will be available on our Facebook page.

We have recently started a new community service project for Babb Middle School. Our church is sponsoring students at Babb and helping to provide meals for homeless students to have over the weekends when school is out. We are also hoping to provide hats, scarves, and gloves for these students. Please look in the Crossroads for additional information on how you can help with this worthwhile project.

As we are approaching the end of 2022, it is my hope and prayer that each of you are filled with an abundance of joy and love in December. Please know that you are loved and that you make our church and our world a better place!

Merry Christmas!!!

**Love, Jennifer**

Southern Crescent Orchestra Concert

Benefit for Good Shepherd Clinic

December 3, 7:30pm, at Morrow 1st Baptist

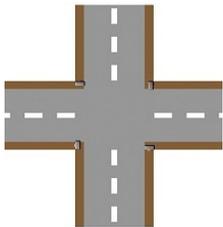
*There is no admission charge, a love offering will be received.*

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



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