

**PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**THE CROSSROADS**

***Dear Friends in Christ,***

Time seems to move so fast these days. March 5 is Ash Wednesday, and then the season of Lent begins. It seems like the wise men just came, and of course, the way the liturgical calendar runs, they DID just come! There are 8 weeks between Epiphany, when the wise men appeared, and Lent. That is because Jesus was crucified during Passover, which always occurs in the spring, and even though scripture indicates Jesus was born in the spring (i.e., shepherds watching o'er the flocks by night because the ewes were lambing), the early church moved his birth to coincide with pagan winter solstice celebrations. It is believed that the emperor Aurelian in 274 A.D. set the birth date of the Invincible Sun as December 25, the day of the winter solstice in the Roman calendar. This celebration was part of a 7 day Roman holiday season called Saturnalia, which included parties and the exchange of gifts.

In the first third of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the early Christian church co-opted the celebration of the Invincible Sun as Jesus' birth date. The early Church linked Jesus Christ to the Sun and referred to him as the "true Sun" or the "Sun of Righteousness" prophesied by Malachi. Augustine, in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, said, "Let us ... keep this day with due solemnity; not, like those who are without faith, on account of the Sun, but because of Him who made the Sun. ... He, incarnate, stands above that Sun which is worshipped as a god."

So that moves the celebration of Jesus' birth and his crucifixion very close together on our liturgical calendar. After Eastertide and Pentecost, we move to "ordinary" time (meaning only that the weeks are numbered; i.e., ordinal) for a long period until Advent comes again. March will be a busy time of moving into Lent, and then we will slow down during those 40 days and ponder our faith as we look at repentance and Jesus' walk toward the cross.

**Yours in Christ,**

***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**

- 02/ Chris Banke
- 03/ Jennifer Rohrbach
- 05/ Rose Enow
- 15/ Angie Tharp
- 18/ Diane Kemper
- 19/ Andrew Durden
- 20/ Pat Randolph
- 24/ Pegge Murphy
- 26/ Henry Brock
- 28/ Erwin Gettys

**THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES**

- 20/ Karen & Howard Nelson

**THIS MONTH'S USHERS**

- Danny Morris
- Thomas Thigpen

**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 Connie McWilliams and family in the loss of her aunt and Janice Lockhart and family in the loss of her cousin, both in the week of February 9.*

01/13 Toni Griffin Fields (Jeanne's friend) – husband has stage 4 pancreatic cancer

01/13 Erwin Gettys – has had a hard time for the last few years

**02/19 Natalie Langley (Jennifer's SIL) - in the hospital with diverticulitis**

01/28 Eliot Lawrence – home recovering from heart ablation, change in meds for swelling in leg

02/04 Dot Pearce – testing for cause or severe hip pain

01/28 Emory Pearce – back pain, working with doctor, more testing

01/28 John Randolph –cellulitis, metastasized bladder cancer, good Cardiologist report

02/09 Ginger Westlund – homebound with lymphedema in both legs after hip replacement

**02/16 Arlene Wood (Frances' SIL) – diagnosed with lung cancer**

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

- Nell Cates
- Patty Boone
- Becky Huie
- Ann NeSmith

**Please pray for the AA Participants meeting at our church**

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



**WORKDAY—SAT.**

**Mar 1 & 15, 9:00AM**

Please know that help is needed to get things ready for Homecoming. We hope you will come and help as you can over the course of the next year. If you have any questions, suggestions, or recommendations please let me know. **Fred Rohrbach**

**The Babb Project—Community Outreach**

With your generosity, we were able to spend \$276.06 for food in January to support this ministry. We are always in need of food items for the bags we give the students each week. See the list on our bulletin board. **Monetary Gifts** are also welcomed. Make you check payable to PPC and mark it for the **Babb Project**. For more info, see **Cathy Morris**.



**PW MESSAGE CORNER:**

**MAR 2—12:00pm—PWCT**

**MAR 8—10:30am—Circle One**

**MAR 12—07:00pm—Mary &**

**Martha Circle— virtual**

**MAR 18—10:30am— Busy Bees Circle**



**Save the Date - Our PW Retreat** is being planned for Saturday, May 17th. It will be in our Church Fellowship Hall

**CHURCH FAMILY,**

Please continue to collect Campbell's soup labels and stamps. PW sent several very full packaging envelopes to Thornwell in the fall and I hope to send another package this spring. We are also continuing to collect the pull tabs from beverage cans for the Ronald McDonald House. You may put your collections in the little box under the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Sanctuary.

Thanks! **Kathie Pierce, World Wide Missions Chair**



Tuesday, March 4, 9:30am @ Egg's Up, Morrow. See you there!

**Craft Group**

**March 11—11:30am @Gabino's Mexican Rest., Rock Quarry, Stockbridge**

**March 25—11:30am @ Sweek Auburn BBQ, Off Jonesboro Rd., McDonough**

**Dear Church family,**

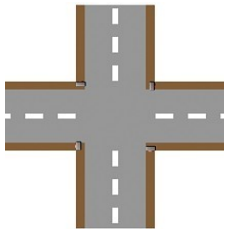
*Words will never be enough to express my gratitude for the thoughts, prayers and cards sent to my Dad, Bill Hines, during the past few years. After Covid started, he really didn't get out to see people and I think he missed that and with progressive hearing loss, he had difficulty keeping up with phone calls. He read all the cards and kept them. Also, I wanted to Thank you for the support you have given Rick and I during these last few months. Thank you for your thoughts, cards, love and prayers. We have felt the love and prayers so much. **Kathie Pierce***

**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  
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