



DECEMBER 2018

### PASTOR'S ARTICLE

By Tom Dendy

*Join Us in the Advent Journey  
as We Prepare Our Lives  
to Receive Jesus Christ the King of Kings*



Pastor Tom Dendy

#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**ADVENT I – December 2 - 11:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion**

**Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas**

**Advent Wreath Lighting - The Tiani Family**

**ADVENT II – December 9 – 11:00 AM Worship**

**Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas**

**Advent Wreath Lighting - The Sinnet Family**

**ADVENT III – December 16 – 11:00 AM Worship**

**Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas**

**Advent Wreath Lighting - The Resnick Family**

**ADVENT IV—December 23 – 11:00 AM Worship**

**Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas**

**Advent Wreath Lighting - The Tomlin Family**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24 – 7:00 PM**

**Family-Friendly Worship**

**Holy Scripture, Carols, Communion and Candlelight**

**\*Special Music beginning at 6:45 PM**

**Christ Candle Lighting - The Burrows Family**

**1st Sunday After Christmas – December 30 – 11:00 AM**

**\*Family-Friendly - Final Worship of 2018**

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Polar Express Pictures	2
Wednesday Potluck	2
Movie Night	2
LadyBug Luncheon	2
Missions	3
Fall on Broadway— THANK YOU!	3
Christmas Joy Offering	3
5th Sunday Offering	3
Giving Offering Env.	3
What is Advent	4
Preschool	4
The Shepherd's Table	5
Dairy Queen	5
An Advent Poem	5
Memorial Gifts	5
The Bible –The Living Word	6
Calendar	7
Volunteers	8



Polar Express was a HUGH success on Friday, November 30.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

By Ken Krenzer



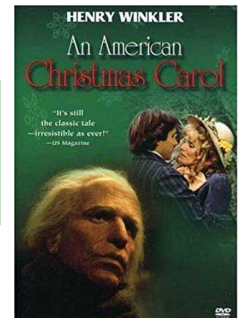
Barbara Bruno will be sharing some healthy mixology tips on Wednesday, December 5, 5:30pm, at our Potluck Dinner. She will be mixing up some energy boosting drinks and teaching you how to keep your energy and immunity up during the holidays.

Followed by another form of holiday cheer making a joyful noise. We will be singing a few of those favorite carols to get us in the Christmas mood. It's going to be a fun night!

All are welcome! Bring your favorite dish to share.

The next movie night is Tuesday, December 4, at 6pm. The movie "An American Christmas Carol" starring Henry Winkler and is based on Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



## LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler



Our November luncheon took us to Jellie Bellie & Co. This was a first time for most of us. There were 11 Ladybugs in attendance.

We collected \$60.00 for charity. Thank you, ladies, as always, for your generosity. Since Trudy Miller couldn't be with us, I passed her many, many thanks for the donation we gave to her to help with the aftermath of her flooded home.

With soups, salads and sandwiches all around, the food and service were very good. We also noted that it might be a great place for breakfast buddies as well. As always, the friendship, camaraderie and laughter make for a fun outing.

Our next luncheon will be Thursday, January 3, 2019 at noon at Maggie D's on Seaboard Street across from Coastal Grand Mall. If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited.....hope to see you there. Come join a bunch of fun Ladybugs!

REMINDER: This will be the last Ladybug luncheon in 2018 as our ladies Christmas luncheon will be held in December. There is a sign-up sheet for our January luncheon in the narthex.

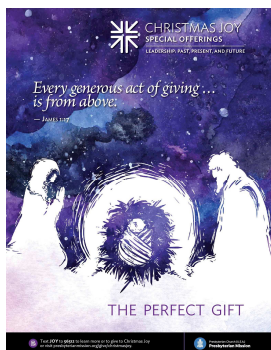


## MISSIONS

By Cecilia Evans

If you have been to a Pelicans game you may have seen our Pelicans Third Base Grill team. This dedicated group of individuals worked Pelican games throughout the season and donated their salary back to the church. This year they generated over \$2000 for mortgage reduction. Thanks to the team: Bob Miller, Ken Krenzer, Judy Leonard and Donna Woodard. Baseball will be starting up before you know it. Connect with Bob Miller for additional information.

Thank you to our Celebration Family for their assistance with Fall on Broadway. There are so many people to thank but a big thank you to Sarah Abushakra for sharing her talent and time to organize the performers and to the performers. To everyone who participated by buying a ticket, creating a raffle basket, donating a silent auction item, selling tickets, parking cars, writing thank you notes, creating home made treasures, baking cookies, asking businesses for donations, thank you. It takes a village but you made it happen. Thank you. Nancy Torcivia, Nancy Resnick and Cecilia Evans



## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering on December 16. This offering helps current and retired church workers who need extra financial help, people like pastors or Christian educators who have an illness or a tragedy happen in their family. This offering also helps students who attend one of our Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The wise men brought gifts to share with Christ as a response to the amazing gift God has given us: Jesus. We, too, can give gifts in response to the gifts we have been given—our church leaders and the college students who will be our future leaders.

# 5th Sunday Offering

December 30 is the 5th Sunday of the month. We will be receiving our 5th Sunday Offering that helps us provide upkeep and improvement of our property. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins for your use.

## GIVING ENVELOPES

By Terry Pettijohn

The giving (offering) envelopes were available starting on December 2. If you were unable to pick yours up on Sunday, they will be available each Sunday in December. If you do not see your name and would like to receive a box of offering envelopes, please let Linda in the office know.

Giving envelopes are simply envelopes (length of a dollar bill or a check) that you can use to put your offering in each week. There are 52 envelopes in a box. Each envelope has the date on it to make it easy to remember to use them. It also has the church name and logo on it.

The giving envelopes are not mandatory, and if you prefer to put cash or checks directly in the offering plate, you are more than welcome to do so. The envelopes will make it easy to put your offering in, and also serve as a reminder of the offering as you are preparing to come to church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Terry Pettijohn).

## BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes or send them a card. If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

3—Logan White  
4—Daniel Watson  
7—Rainee Taylor  
13—Emerson Cicala  
13—Margaret Reeder  
14—Bob Stepanek

15—Nicklaus McIlrath  
21—Frances Mehalick  
21—Nancy Resnick  
26—Jesse Wallace  
29—Jeanne Bredbeck  
29—Quinn Coleman

### What is Advent and Why do we Observe It?

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. [Liturgical -- from liturgy, which means the forms and functions of public worship.]

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward and anticipate the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. It is in Advent that we learn, not to master time, but rather to submit ourselves to the flow of God's time. In Advent we can learn the spirituality of waiting.

Advent, it is important to remember, draws our attention to two biblical pregnancies. To one young virgin, Mary, an angel announces the inexplicable - she shall bear a child. To another old and barren woman, Elizabeth, cousin to that young girl, the gift of pregnancy is also given. And in the womb of Elizabeth, the blessed leaps in the presence of the one who blesses. And so these two women wait - and with all the mothers of the world, they teach us how to wait. So let us submit to the teaching of mothers and the testimony of fathers and reflect on the lessons that come from bringing a child into the world.

First there is the news that there is to be a child. Often a woman realizes this almost intuitively, sensing the first changes in her body. Then the waiting begins. But it is a peculiar waiting, for there already is a child in the womb. And yet, in the beginning, particularly for the father, there are few discernible signs of what is to come. Therein lies the heart of the Advent spirit.

Advent is a paradoxical season. It is to be a season of waiting, a season governed by anticipation. But what are we waiting for? We are waiting for the Christ who has already come and is to come again. Much like the child in the womb, we believe Christ to be present and yet we wait. We know what it is to wait for a guest to arrive; but waiting on a guest who has already arrived is another matter! And yet that is what Advent asks of us. In faith we must celebrate, even in our waiting, the reality of Emmanuel, God with us.



## PRESCHOOL

*By Susan Spraker*

It is crazy to think that we are already into December! With all the craziness of the hurricane and the floods I never had the opportunity to introduce our new teachers for this school year. We have three new teachers that joined our preschool family in August. Ms. Laura is working in room 2 with Ms. Marsha, Ms. Melissa has joined Ms. Kim in room 3, and Ms. Rebecca is in room 5 with Ms. Hiroko. It is extremely rare to have three new assistants in one year, but they all have stepped up and we have not missed a beat.

Our preschool family extends a warm wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Preschool will be closed December 19- January 1. School resumes on January 2, 2019.

See you all next year!!!!



# THE SHEPHERD'S STABLE

By Cecilia Evans

Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E
Nancy Torcivia Dom Torcivia Margaret Reeder Beth Bruton Marsha Meek Steve Meek	Roy Andrews Laurie Andrews Dot Crissey Nancy Thornburgh Rick Thornburgh	Kathy Wechter Bob Stepanek Carol Butler Anthony Tiani Lois Storms Pat Himes	Ann Brallier Sara Bamrick Donna Woodard Gerri Byrne Ken Krenzer Sharon Mook	Leslie Eckert Tom Dendy Rosie Rashid Jerry Rashid Paul Youngblood Patty Youngblood
January 10	February 14	March 21	January 17	February 21
April 11	May 9	June 20	April 18	May 16
July 11	August 8	September 19	July 18	August 15
October 10	November 14	December 19	October 17	November 21
Sub: Cindy Smith				



Dairy Queen is offering a 10% discount on your meal when you mention the name of our church, Celebration Presbyterian Church. They will also donate 50 cents back to Celebration for every meal that is bought using the 10% discount. This is only available at the Dairy Queen located at 101 Orchard Drive, Myrtle Beach (at the front of Carolina Forest). So, when you go to Dairy Queen, mention Celebration and get 10% off and 50 cents will be donated back to the church.

## The Risk of Birth, An Advent Poem

by Madeleine L'Engle (1973)

This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn-  
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn-  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.



From Pastor Tom  
and Linda



A gift has been given in loving memory of Connie Dowd to Celebration by her neighbors: Irene Gregory, Ginny Griffiths, Barbara Howell, Marlene Kasprzak, Annette Krapf, Marilyn Maloney, Linda McCaskill, Judy Melton, Debbie Menchek, Mary Merritt, Beth Quaranda, Eileen Smith, Peggy Turnes, Carole VanSickler, Patty Worley, Joan Vidsens, Sylvia Rasmussen.

## THE BIBLE - THE LIVING WORD

BY DAVID ROBERT ORD

Reprinted from the April 1995 issue of the Presbyterian Survey (now Presbyterians Today)

"You can prove anything from the Bible," a person who knows little about the Bible assures me. As a Presbyterian minister with a deep respect for the Bible, I recognize that there is both truth and error in that statement. Error, inasmuch as the Bible obviously can't be used to support every imaginable viewpoint. Truth, inasmuch as Presbyterians reach different conclusions on the same issue and support their conclusions with Scripture.

For some of us the message of the Bible is consistent from Genesis to Revelation. To say the Bible is inspired is to say it is accurate and factual—and therefore contains only one viewpoint, that of the Creator. If other people arrive at different beliefs from reading the same Scriptures, it is obvious to us that the problem lies with interpretation. Either the scribes who copied the manuscripts misinterpreted what they were copying and introduced error, or the person reading it is misinterpreting the meaning.

For others of us, the Bible can be used to support a variety of different beliefs and ideas because it actually contains, not a monolithic point of view, but different points of view. These differing ideas were expressed, not just by named writers, but by sometimes quite large groups schools of thought such as priests and scribes, cloaked by a particular name like Moses over a period of about a thousand years.

Battling about the meaning of the Bible is not new, not an innovation of the modern division between conservatives and liberals. There have always been a variety of different ways of interpreting Scripture. The apostles themselves actually differed over the interpretation of key Scriptural passages. The great strength of Presbyterianism is its uncanny knack of fostering a fellowship in which people of different viewpoints continue to dialogue. Not only in the same denomination but also in the same congregation it is often possible to find folks who believe every word of the Bible to be absolutely factual worshipping alongside sisters and brothers in Christ who treat the Bible as true in meaning but not necessarily always factual.

None of these viewpoints contradicts our Presbyterian Book of Order. The church is charged with giving full expression to the rich diversity within its membership. Our Constitution requires us to promote inclusiveness, which means including all the different theological positions that are consistent with the Reformed tradition. What that tradition emphasizes is that while the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and conduct, Christ is present with the church in both Spirit and Word. To handle the Word of God responsibly, Presbyterians have always stressed the importance of scholarship. All the way back to John Calvin it has been crucial that our decisions as a church do not rest on the understanding of Biblical novices whose knowledge of Scripture is only surface deep, but on the most thorough and scholarly search for truth of which we are capable.

In seeking to address any issue from a Biblical perspective, under the guidance of the Spirit, Presbyterians have found it incumbent upon them to ask penetrating questions of the kind the early apostles asked. To whom was a Scriptural injunction directed? Who wrote it, and why? What is the context? For what time period is it applicable? Are there Scripturally justifiable exceptions to the rule? How was the statement understood in its own time?

We Presbyterians therefore believe in the importance of listening to each other when it comes to interpreting the Bible. No matter how alien a viewpoint may be to us on first exposure to it, we have a responsibility to hear it fully and not reject it out-of-hand. We Presbyterians believe in ongoing dialogue concerning the Bible because, to people of faith, no idea should be so shocking that it cannot be given a hearing. If our faith is genuine, we have nothing to fear. We do not feel threatened if an opinion we presently hold as Scriptural turns out to be a misunderstanding of the Bible. That is why we welcome what archaeologists, historians and linguists have to tell us about the Bible. We are willing to hear all sides of an issue, studying it closely from every possible angle.

What do Presbyterians believe about the Bible? We believe that through it God speaks to us -- that it is inspired. For some, that means the Bible is inerrant. For others, it means that even though the Bible is culturally conditioned and not necessarily always factual, it breathes with the life of God. In their limited ways, the ancients grasped something of the infinite that we need to hear and dialogue with today. Above all, the Bible points us to the living Word, the Christ who is present in each of us in Spirit, inviting each of us to become the Word enfleshed in the steps of Jesus -- what Paul calls in his first letter to the Corinthians "living letters from God." Terry Pettijohn, Elder

# DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Ladies Christmas Luncheon 12noon
<b>2</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Quilters 10:00 am  Movie Night 6pm <i>An American Christmas Carol</i>	<b>5</b>  Potluck Dinner Music and Mixology 5:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery, He~Brews Café Called Congregational Meeting to elect Elders <b>Stated Session Mtg</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Quilters 10:00 am	<b>12</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>13</b>  Team C cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10 am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery He~Brews Café	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Quilters 10:00 am	<b>19</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  Choir Rehearsal 10 am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  Worship service at 7pm	<b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 5th Sunday Offering	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>					



2300 Carolina Forest Boulevard

Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Phone: 843-903-0308

Fax: 843-903-0345

celebrationpresbyterianmb@gmail.com

www.celebrationpresbyterianchurch.org

Facebook—

Celebration Presbyterian Church

Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor

Sarah Abushakra—Music Director

Linda Berry—Office Administrator



## CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

*We are Christ followers who are open, accepting, loving and welcoming to all!*

**OUR MISSION** is to Proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior, Praise and Worship God, Prepare our hearts to share God's Word, and Provide Love and Service to ALL!

**OUR PURPOSE** is to Celebrate God's Glory by Reaching, Teaching, and Sending People to Love and Serve the Lord.

## VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

### Elder of the Week

Dec 2—Nancy Torcivia  
Dec 9—Priscilla Mulligan  
Dec 16—Carol Butler  
Dec 23—Cecilia Evans  
Dec 30—Ken Krenzer

### Liturgist

Dec 2—Peg Speidel  
Dec 9—Rick Thornburgh  
Dec 16—Anne Brallier  
Dec 23—Priscilla Mulligan  
Dec 30—Carol Butler

### Visitors Table/Greeter

Dec 2—Carol Lagassee  
Dec 9—Priscilla Mulligan  
Dec 16—Barbara Barranco  
Dec 23—Margaret Reeder  
Dec 30—Betsy Hughes

### Pre K –Kindergarten Children's Church—

Tonja Paolini

### Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

### Nursery

Dec 2—Donna Woodard  
Dec 9—Leslie Eckert  
Dec 16—Donna Woodard  
Dec 23—Vicki Jacobs  
Dec 30—Vicki Simon

### Media Shout

Dec 2—Katrena White  
Dec 9—Katrena White  
Dec 16—Bernadine Lamar  
Dec 23—Bernadine Lamar  
Dec 30—Katrena White

### Sound Booth

Dec 2—Nicklaus McIlrath  
Dec 9—Carol Butler  
Dec 16—Carol Butler  
Dec 23—Nicklaus McIlrath  
Dec 30—Carol Butler

### Ushers for the month of December

Bob and Linda Miller, Barb Johnson

### Communion for December

Cecilia Evans, Bernadine Lamar, Nancy Torcivia, Carol Butler

**WE LOVE**  
OUR VOLUNTEERS