

News of Celebration



CELEBRATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR and to GOD BE THE GLORY as we journey together through 2018!

January is typically a time where we explore in worship the Call of Jesus to Discipleship. Both the Old Testament and New Testament lectionary passages involve CALL STORIES in lives of common everyday people. The new year affords us each an opportunity to consider OUR OWN CALL to follow Jesus, to “come and see” for ourselves who he is and what his mission and ministry entails. To understand our lives through the lens of CALLING prompts us to consider how each day, each relationship, each encounter with another person offers us an opportunity to serve GOD and to share GOD’s LOVE with friends, family and strangers too. The Christian Faith is shared in everyday conversation and through our actions and interactions with others.

Churches (like ours) can grow by attraction when one friend shares with another friend (or stranger) why Celebration is such an important part of his or her life. I pray that we can ALL make a concerted effort to live into our call as disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing our faith and extending the welcome and hospitality of Celebration Presbyterian Church with our neighbors and friends and even casual acquaintances and strangers that we encounter in the community. We have a loving and caring congregation of Christ Followers and a warmth and fellowship that are attractive and even contagious. I believe that people are searching for these kinds of connections in a caring community and may well be unaware of who we are and what we have to offer. Let me THANK YOU at the outset of this new year for all the ways GOD will use YOU to reach others and to share GOD’s LOVE and make CHRIST KNOWN in 2018.

My Hymn pick for January is a song of discipleship with a theme expressing a deep desire to be “used by God anywhere and anytime” to advance the work of Jesus Christ. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do and will be inspired by it to be open to every opportunity God provides to share the love and joy and community we have found in Jesus.

Hymn number 700 in our *Glory to God Presbyterian* hymnal is ***I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***. This African American spiritual, while dating back untold years, was arranged in its current musical form by Wendell P. Whalum in 1984.

1 I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

2 I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

3 I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

4 I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

Here's to a Worshipful, Useful and Wonderful 2018!

Pastor Tom



Pastor Tom Dendy

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This month's newsletter is late due to the extreme weather we had last week. Thanks for your patience and understanding. While on the topic of newsletters, we will be looking for your events and articles for the February issue due by the 20th of the month.

SESSION UPDATE

By Nancy Torcivia

Holy Communion will be served January 7, 2018

Next Session Meeting is January 21, 2018 at 12:30pm.

Here are some highlights of the December Session meeting:

- ◆ Elder Mulligan made sure Celebration was visible and present at the Carolina Forest Christmas Tree Lighting. Together with members of the Session and Pastor Tom, Celebration participated in the event and served refreshments and info about our church to approximately 200 folks.
- ◆ Elder Mulligan continued with Movie Night on December 5th when “It’s a Wonderful Life” was shown. In January, Movie Night will be a showing of “The War Room.” This is a free event with lots of fellowship, so please participate and bring a friend.
- ◆ A seminar on “Active Shooter Awareness Training” was attended by Elder Mulligan, and plans are in the works for developing safety protocols for our church.
- ◆ The Worship Committee has updated our media capabilities so we can now play Blue-ray discs. Sarah’s microphone was replaced and updates were made to the Media Shout software we use for worship services.
- ◆ Thanks to all those who helped put up and take down the Christmas decorations.
- ◆ Camp Pee Dee Rally Day is January 27 from 10am-1pm at Celebration. It’s a time for kids grades K-5 to have a mini – camp experience.
- ◆ “Drive thru Ashes” is being planned for Ash Wednesday which falls on Valentines Day. Watch out for details of this new event.
- ◆ The Church Budget has been prepared, and the Session deferred voting on it until the Preschool budget is presented in January.
- ◆ Thanks to all who made extra contributions during the last months of the year. Your support has carried us through to 2018!
- ◆ **We are in need of volunteers to assist with the Nursery and Children’s Church on Sunday.** It is very important to have adequate coverage and sign up sheets for volunteers will be put out shortly. Could you volunteer to spend a Sunday helping with our young disciples?
- ◆ The Polar Express Event was a great success with 80 kids and their families participating. Kudos to Nancy Resnick and Jackie Sinnet for putting this event together and selling golden tickets.
- ◆ Pastor Tom and Session members requested a meeting with New Harmony Presbytery to discuss the future of our land. Now that we are no longer receiving financial support, we are asking for clarity and cooperation for considering future development of the land which is owned by Presbytery. With the widening of Carolina Forest Blvd., changes will be coming to our property and we are working hard to understand what we can do with our land and how we will work jointly with Presbytery on these matters.
- ◆ A Session Planning Day is on the calendar for Saturday, February 3, 9:30am-3:30pm and will include snacks and a light lunch. The Session will take time to look forward and reflect on the goals from the Strategic Planning process.
- ◆ Proposals are being prepared to update our current church sign.
- ◆ Plans are underway for a church-wide 15-year celebration.
- ◆ Please remember the Wechter family in your prayers upon the loss of Mike. Also remember Bo Yates in prayer as he has undergone surgery and has been diagnosed with cancer. Your prayers, love, and contacts with those in need mean so much!
- ◆ Happy New Year! Make it your resolution to get involved at Celebration. There are many opportunities to serve in so many ways. Blessings to you all!

Youth of Celebration

THE SECOND AND
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EACH
MONTH IS OUR
HE~BREWS
COFFEE CAFÉ

CAMP PEE DEE

By Cecilia Evans

Camp Pee Dee Rally Saturday, January 27, 10AM- 1PM Grades K-5

Have you ever wanted to learn more about Camp Pee Dee or share in those fond memories of camp? Well invite your neighbor's children grades K-5 to join us on Saturday, January 27, from 10AM-1PM.

We are so excited to welcome Kelly Sloan and her traveling camp to Celebration to share in a fun-filled day of crafts, worship, games, energizers, and Bible study. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP @ <https://camppeedee.campbrainregistration.com/> or let Cecilia Evans know you will be attending.

MISSIONS

By Cecilia Evans

Drive Thru Ashes - February 14 - Volunteers Needed

Many of us have talked about outreach to the community and how do we get them to come to us or take the ministry to the residents of Carolina Forest.

"Drive Thru Ashes" is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind church doors, and into the places where we go every day. It's a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace."

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we will be serving our local community by offering Drive Thru Ashes from 5-6 PM. We will be meeting after church on Sunday, January 7, for an organizational meeting to plan how we can best share the Ashes with our neighbors.

LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler



The weather prohibited the LadyBugs from meeting on January 4, so they will meet on January 11, Thursday, at Ciao Restaurant in Myrtle Beach at 12noon.

Breakfast Buddies continues to meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at The Early Riser Diner at 9am.



VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week:

Jan 7—Terry Pettijohn
Jan 14—Nancy Torcivia
Jan 21—Rick Thornburgh
Jan 28—Nancy Resnick

Liturgist

Jan 7—Elizabeth Wills
Jan 14—Peg Speidel
Jan 21—Priscilla Mulligan
Jan 28—Carol Butler

Visitors Table/Greeter

Jan 7—Heidi Cherry
Jan 14—Margaret Reeder
Jan 21—Nanette Kelly
Jan 28—Priscilla Mulligan

Pre K –Kindergarten Children's Church— Tonja Paolini

Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

Nursery

Jan 7—Vicki Jacobs
Jan 14—Vicki Simon
Jan 21—Nanette Kelly
Jan 28—Donna Woodard

Media Shout

Jan 7—Bernadine Lamar
Jan 14—Bernadine Lamar
Jan 21—Katrena White
Jan 28—Bernadine Lamar

Sound Booth

Jan 7—Nicklaus McIlrath
Jan 14—Carol Butler
Jan 21—Carol Butler
Jan 28—Nicklaus McIlrath

Ushers for the month of January

Rick and Nancy Thornburgh, Jesse Wallace, Donna Woodard

Communion for January

Joe Alexander, Terry Pettijohn, Cecilia Evans, Bernadine Lamar

Shepherd's Table Teams for 2018

Team A: Nancy Torcivia, Dom Torcivia, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton

Team B: Roy Andrews, Laurie Andrews, Dot Crissey, Nancy Thornburgh, Rick Thornburgh

Team C: Kathy Wechter, Bob Stepanek, Carol Stepanek, Ken Krenzer

Team D: Anne Brallier, Sara Bamrick, Donna Woodard, Gerri Byrne

Team E: Jerry Rashid, Rosie Rashid, Leslie Eckert, Tom Dendy, Paul Youngblood

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THIS YEAR. Your dates will be listed on the calendar each month.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

By Ken Krenzer

The Adult Bible Study Group reconvened on Sunday, January 7. We will begin the journey of discovery through the Gospel according to Mark. Mark is considered the "essential" Gospel and we will witness the life and "humanity" of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to sharing the Gospel and God's word for our lives.

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

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.

2— Carol Butler
3—Billy Moore
9—Jackie Sinnet
10—Jade Bender
12—Myra Burrows
18—Priscilla Mulligan
19—Harvey Dulin
20—Kathy O'Halloran
30—Collin Fox



FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Joe Alexander

December total income including Preschool was \$61,460 vs our total expenses of \$50,825 which left us with a positive cash flow of \$10,634. Your increased offerings, pledges and year end giving helped make this positive cash flow possible and is helping us start 2018 strong.

December YTD total income was \$562,273 vs total expenses of \$540,806 for a net gain of \$21,466. However \$10,000 of this gain is restricted for the Endowment Fund only. Net operating gain was \$11,466 vs a projected loss for the year of \$35,105.

This YTD profit was primarily affected by your increased offerings, pledges and year end gifts. Preschool fees and Lunch Bunch income beyond budget, and a withdrawal from our savings account earlier in the year which supplemented operations during the summer months. The bottom line, we have a lot to be thankful for to have had a strong finish in 2017 which is helping us to begin strong 2018.

Thank you for your faithful giving, keep up your faithful generosity and together we will see God's sustaining grace for Celebration!

PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker

Welcome to 2018, I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday Season. The Preschool enjoyed some time off with our families and we are now ready to move on with our year.

Our preschool staff will attend a training conference this month and we are all looking forward to bringing back some new and exciting activities.

Before the break, all the preschoolers celebrated the holiday season by having festive holiday parties. I think all our parents went above and beyond to make our parties special. We are so fortunate to have such caring and involved parents.

This month, we will be learning about winter. Usually we have fake snow the first week in January, but this year we had the real thing and the children had a few days off from school to play outside in the real snow.

Next month, we will be having registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are a current church member and are interested in registering your child for the fall, please contact the preschool no later than February 19, 2018. All church members registering children will be allowed to register with our staff children. Happy New Year!

Elder Pettijohn reports some information about the Presbyterian Theological Education Fund from the Presbyterian Church (USA) website:

The **Theological Education Fund** is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s best hope of ensuring the church of Christ is prepared to serve long into the future. The fund is housed at the Presbyterian Foundation and is the sole source of denomination-wide funding for the 10 seminaries from the PC(USA).

We rely on donations from Synods, Presbyteries, congregations and individuals to continue our legacy of support. Gifts to this fund help ensure every church has a seminary-trained pastor.

Seminaries are good stewards of the funds we provide. Research shows that 91 percent of Presbyterian seminary graduates are employed in the fields they've been called to serve in within one year. Presbyterian seminary graduates also have less debt than their peers at other seminaries, giving them more flexibility to follow the call of God, no matter where it might lead.

We need these graduates – and need more to see a clear path to seminary. Out of the current clergy serving in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, 85 percent will likely retire in the next decade. The next generation of seminarians is energized, enthusiastic and ready to serve, and it is our vision to use the Theological Education Fund to buoy their service to the church.

Once our donations are collected each year, the Committee on Theological Education proportionately allocates the funds to ensure each school receives a fair share.

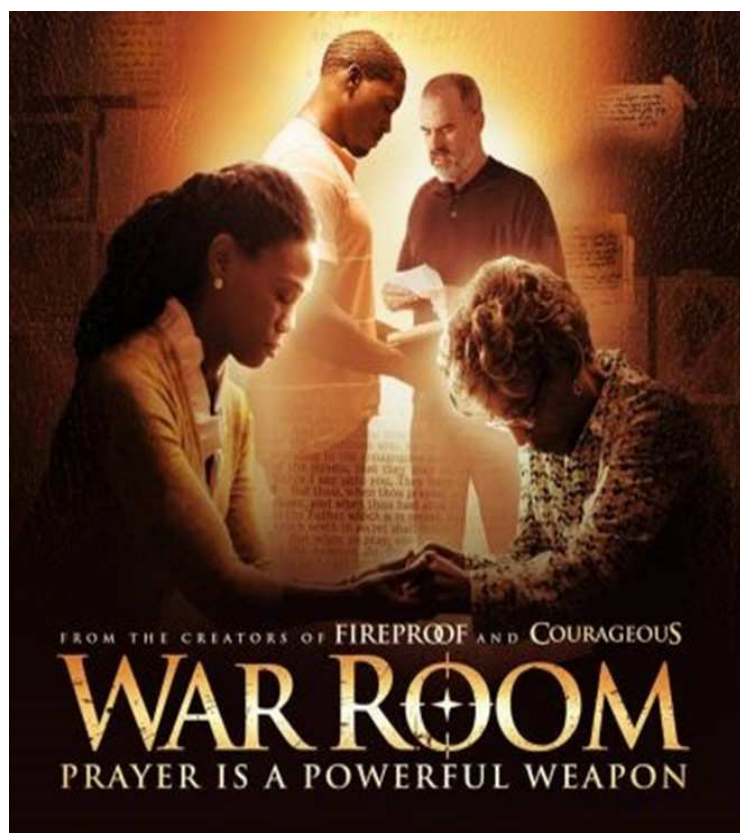
Celebration Presbyterian Church contributes money to the Theological Education Fund each year as our commitment to our Presbytery. In 2018, the money that we contribute comes to \$2,750. If anyone would like to help our church meet its commitment to the important seminaries in our denomination, they can send an additional payment above their pledge and mark it "for 2018 Presbyterian Theological Education Fund". This will allow more money for our ministry and mission.

Movie Night

**Tuesday, January 23rd
6PM**

**Celebration Presbyterian
Church**

**Light Refreshments will be
provided**



JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Church offices open	3	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION Organizational Meeting for Drive Thru Ashes 12:15pm	8	9 Quilters 10:00 am	10 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	11 LadyBug Luncheon at Ciao Restaurant 12noon Team D cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	12	13 Memorial for Mike Wechter 2:00 pm CCU Basketball Game 3:30pm
14 He~Brews Café for Youth	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day Church Offices and Preschool closed	16 Quilters 10:00 am	17 Preschool Board Meeting 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 7pm	18 Team A cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	19 Breakfast Buddies at The Early Riser 9am	20
21 He~Brews Café for Youth SESSION MEETING 12:15	22	23 Quilters 10:00 am Movie Night "War Room" 6pm.	24 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	25	26 Preschool Closed	27 Camp Pee Dee Rally 10am-1pm
28	29	30 Quilters 10:00 am	31 Choir Rehearsal 7pm			

PRAYER OF JABEZ —“Oh that You would bless Celebration, indeed, and enlarge our territory, in your name. That your hand would be with us and that You would keep us from evil, that we may not cause hurt to others.” I Chronicles 4:10 (Adapted for Celebration)



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Celebration Presbyterian Church

Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor

Sarah Abushakra—Music Director

Linda Berry—Office Administrator



*Happy
New
Year!*

**CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT**

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