



VOLUME 127

JANUARY 2016

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

By Pastor Tom



Pastor Tom Dendy

REVIEW AND RENEW -- Grace and peace to you all in the Lord Jesus Christ!

LET'S REVIEW: 2015 was a year of wonderful transitions for us at Celebration beginning with the clearance of the church property of bombs and bomb debris left behind from the former Conway Bombing Range that operated during World War II. We are deeply grateful to our Presbytery Executive and Stated Clerk, Dr. Bruce Ford, for his pastoral care and support for our Session and congregation throughout this process of clearance. We also thank the presbytery's legal council, the property committee of presbytery, presbytery's member churches, and the Seres Group out of Mt. Pleasant that performed the clearance work safely and professionally. Most of all we thank GOD for bringing us safely through 13 years of occupying this hazardous site without an incident of personal or property injury! The clearance of all the trees that began the overall process of removing the bombs and fragments has given us a new view of our neighborhood and has given our neighbors a new view of Celebration. We hope to continually reach out, attract and welcome our neighbors into the life, worship and witness of Celebration. We are seeking God's wisdom for how to best utilize and care for the land that we have been blessed with for ministry in Carolina Forest. We offer our thanks again to the entire Presbytery of New Harmony for clearing the Celebration property!

A second transition of 2015 was the move to a Called and Installed solo Pastor of Celebration. This has been a great next step in our relationship of shared ministry. My fifth year of serving with Celebration began in November 2015 and I am very grateful for this wonderful congregation and the leadership of the Session. In 2015 our Session began a study of Joan Gray's book, *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*, and we began a new practice of scheduling intentional time during each Session meeting for generative thinking and discussion. We have prayed and played together as a Session and grown in grace and spirit. As leaders we are grateful that God is continuing to add new members to our congregation and our fellowship. We welcome each and every person for the *gift of God* that they each represent and we are blessed by their presence, participation, and many talents to be shared in the ministry and mission of Celebration. Perhaps you have been considering taking a next step in your involvement at Celebration by joining the Active Membership of our church. If so, I would welcome an opportunity to discuss Active Membership and the process of joining with you. Please contact me through the church office (843-903-0308) or speak with me following worship on Sunday.

A third transition in 2015 involved new developments in the area of stewardship at Celebration. We established an **Endowment Fund**, set up the means to accept **electronic giving** for general giving, special offerings and the endowment, and moved our Stewardship Emphasis and Pledge Season to September for the first time. Olanda Carr from the Presbyterian Foundation spoke on Endowment Emphasis Sunday in early October 2015 and met with members and participants after worship to share in-life and estate-gifts planning information. Our 2016 pledges have seen many in our congregation accepting a Session challenge to increase their current level of giving by 10%. We have seen both a Session and congregational commitment once more to help increase the level of generosity and giving as we assume more and more responsibility for the full operating cost of Celebration.

(Pastor's column continued on Page 8)

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SESSION UPDATE

By Nancy Torcivia

Holy Communion will be served
January 10.

Next Session Meeting is Sunday, January
17 at 12:30 pm.

The Session met for their monthly stated
meeting on December 14.

Here is what the Session worked on at
the December meeting:

Training for the Elders Elect continues.
They will be examined at the
Session meeting on January 17 and
Ordained and Installed on January
24, 2016 during worship.

A special Finance Forum was scheduled
for February 1, 2016 at 6:30pm.
The purpose of the Forum is to
discuss our church financial
information in detail and elicit
information and have any questions
answered regarding the finalized
end of year financial statements. As
part of the ongoing desire of the
Session to be more informed about
our financial position, the meeting
is an opportunity for Finance
Chairperson Jan Coulter to provide
training to the new and existing
Elders on how to read financial
statements and understand what
they tell us.

You all should be aware that
Celebration has been receiving
financial support from the
Presbytery of New Harmony since
it was formed. Each year, the
amount of support has decreased,
and in the near future we will no
longer be receiving this financial
support and will need to be self-
sufficient. For 2015, Celebration
received \$64,000 in support from
Presbytery. In 2016, the amount
will be \$44,000 and the finally, in
2017, we will receive the final
support for \$24,000. Celebration
has grown in both monetary

support and membership each year
thus far in an amount adequate to
make up for the reductions in
Presbytery support.

Resurfacing of the parking lot has been
completed. As part of the warranty,
the company that did the work will
come back at six months and at one
year to check for any repairs that
need to be made.

A new set of commercial doors has
been ordered for the entry into the
church. They will be installed as
soon as they are manufactured and
delivered.

Alan Perry was received into
membership by affirmation of faith
on December 13. Peggy O'Neil
was received into membership by
letter of transfer on December 20.

Landscaping around the church
building and parking lot will be
installed between Christmas and
New Year's Day. Additional bids
have been requested for the
irrigation part of the project.

A Congregational Meeting was called
for January 31, 2016 to receive and
act on the recommendation of the
Session for a change in the Terms of
Call of Rev. Dendy related to his
compensation.

The Session elected Nancy Torcivia to
serve as Clerk of Session for 2016.

The Session elected Katrena White to
serve as Treasurer for 2016.

Rev. Dendy is finalizing assignments of
Elders to various church
committees. The Nominating
Committee, which was elected by
the congregation, will consider the
nomination of Deacons in 2016.

The Session approved the Schedule of
Special Offerings for 2016. The
Mission and Outreach Committee

was tasked with devising a method
to begin a children's offering for the
children's church kids. Funds from
the offering would be used on a
mission project determined by the
children.

The Session will hold stated meetings
in the New Year alternating
between the third Sunday of the
month and the third Monday of the
month.

On January 22, 2016, we will be the
host site for training for the South
Carolina Vulnerable Adult
Guardian Ad Litem program.
Following First Wednesday potluck
in November, we learned about the
program and the need for
volunteers to receive training and
act as guardian ad litem for seniors
who are involved in court
proceedings over their well-being.
Anyone from the congregation
interested in volunteering is invited
to attend the training from 9:30 am
to 3pm.

In February, the Session will present
year-end financial information to
the congregation in the form of an
annual report.

For our generative time, the Session
talked about our thoughts for the
coming year. We are opening our
sails so the Holy Spirit may move us
in the direction that God has in
mind for us. Please continue to pray
for our Presbyterian denomination,
The Presbytery of New Harmony,
Celebration Presbyterian Church,
Pastor Tom, and your Session.

On behalf of the Session, we wish you
all a very Happy New Year!

BREAKFAST BUDDIES

By Pat Teal

THE NEXT
BREAKFAST
BUDDIES WILL BE
HELD ON
JANUARY 15, 9AM
AT THE SEA
CAPTAIN'S HOUSE



December being a month of getting ready for Christmas, thinking of what presents to buy for those special people in your life, is also a precious time to remember the birth of Jesus, and for the special gift He gave us. How very fortunate to know the blessings we have, sharing time with each other, with love and

laughter, as we did at IHOP for our Christmas breakfast get together. Our secret Santa had gifts to give, but the best was the fellowship and laughter.

Ricki, our waitress wore her reindeer ears, and the food she served, was as pleasant as she was.

Our next breakfast is January 15, 9:00 am at the Sea Captain's House on Ocean Blvd., with Judy Leonard as our hostess. All are welcome. Please sign up in the Narthex so we have a count for the restaurant.

BLESSINGS AND A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

WORSHIP TEAM

By Bernadine Lamar



Thank you to Jeanne Bredbeck and Ken Krenzer for volunteering to ring the chimes at the beginning our worship service.

Heads up! We are forming an Acolyte Cadre with our young

disciples that will be lighting the Christ candle throughout the year.

Thank you to the Celebration Choir, St Anne's Choir and Kingston's Choir for a wonderful combined

Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 16. It was a wonderful way to combine voices and celebrate the spirit of Christmas. Thank you to Kingston Presbyterian for hosting this event.

LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler

THE NEXT
LADYBUG
LUNCHEON WILL
BE AT
LONGHORN
STEAKHOUSE
JANUARY 7
12NOON

There was not a luncheon in December, as that month is reserved for the annual Ladies Christmas luncheon. The luncheon was held on December 12 at the Pine Lakes Country Club. Those who attended had a lovely time.

The next lunch will be Thursday, January 7, noon at Long-

horn Steakhouse in front of Coastal Grand Mall. Mary Ann Bowie will be our hostess. Sign up in the Narthex if you know you can make it. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invitedhope to see you there.



YOUTH NEWS

By Cecilia Evans and Jackie Sinnet

Youth of Celebration

HE~BREWS CAFÉ IS NOW OPEN ON THE 2ND AND 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

In December, the youth hosted the first Breakfast with Santa at Celebration. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped us organized the event and shared their time and talent for us to host 94 guests. The guests were greeted by an elf then ushered into the beautiful adorned hall where signs of Christmas were everywhere from a candy cane lane, poinsettias, a nativity scene and Jolly Old St. Nick waiting to talk to each and every guest. The guests were then treated to a scrumptious breakfast prepared by Chef Mike and served by our hospitality team. Then off to crafts where the children made picture frames and a treat for the reindeer.

Speaking of reindeer, there were even a few games to commemorate the season, the Reindeer Pokey and Buck Buck Reindeer.

The youth held their own Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 20. The youth enjoyed snacks, holiday games and a gift exchange. Who would have thought Skittles and plastic wrap could help share the reason for the season.

During He~brews Café, the youth were discussing New Year's resolutions. We discussed the top five resolutions and losing weight was the number one

resolution. The premise of the lesson was with all these resolutions we need something to help guide us. The author suggested that prayer was a way to keep our resolutions.

In the New Year, the youth are looking forward to Bowling on January 24, *God's Not Dead* Part 2, Camp Pee Dee, Energizer Sunday, and He~Brews.



Youth Christmas Party with Fallon Tomlin, Nicklaus McIlrath, Katelyn Burrows, Alexis Tomlin, Ashlyn Burrows

Breakfast with Santa with Chelsea Bramble, Ashly Burrows, Fallon Tomlin, Santa, Katelyn Burrows, Emmy Cicala, Jade Bender, Nancy Resnick and Mary Ann Bowie



VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week

Jan 3—Jan Coulter—236-7970
 Jan 10—Carol Butler—234-1573
 Jan 17—Cheryl Dulin—457-3290
 Jan 24—Bernadine Lamar—234-1935
 Jan 31—Nancy Torcivia—390-4376

Liturgist

Jan 3—Carla Baker
 Jan 10—Laurie Andrews
 Jan 17—Paula Jansson
 Jan 24—Nancy Torcivia
 Jan 31—Kathy Wechter

Visitors Table/Greeter

Jan 3—Linda Miller
 Jan 10—Paula Jansson/Carol Lagassee
 Jan 17—Carol Lagassee
 Jan 24—Lynn Bastian
 Jan 31—Jade Bender

Ushers

Bob and Linda Miller, Barb Johnson and Beth Bruton

Nursery-Trudy Miller and

Jan 3—Donna Woodard
 Jan 10—Nanette Kelly
 Jan 17—Vicki Jacobs
 Jan 24—Vicki Simon
 Jan 31—Leslie Eckert

Pre K –Kindergarten Children’s Church– Tonja Paolini and

Jan 3—Mary Ann Bowie
 Jan 10—Karen Williams
 Jan 17—Sharon Hills
 Jan 24—Cindy Bramble
 Jan 31— Tiffany Bowie

Children’s Church Grades 1-5

Mary Kait Jones and

Jan 3—Emmy Cicala
 Jan 10—Leslie Eckert
 Jan 17—Emmy Cicala
 Jan 24—Emmy Cicala
 Jan 31—Emmy Cicala

Sound Board

Jan 3—Neil Carter
 Jan 10—Harvey Dulin
 Jan 17—Neil Carter
 Jan 24—Harvey Dulin
 Jan 31—Neil Carter

Media Shout

Jan 3—Bernadine Lamar
 Jan 10—Katrena White
 Jan 17—Bernadine Lamar
 Jan 24—Katrena White
 Jan 31—Bernadine Lamar

Communion for January

Nancy Torcivia, Lynn Bastian, Bernadine Lamar, Paula Jansson



Celebration has a very active Prayer Chain. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain and receive the prayer requests by email, please email Linda at celebrationpresbyterianmb@gmail.com and she will give your information to Pat Teal. Pat sends out the weekly prayer requests that are given in church on Sunday. It is a privilege to go to our Lord in prayer for others. When you have a prayer request, you can also email Linda at the church and she will add it to the list.

THE NEXT MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

MISSION COMMITTEE

By Cecilia Evans

The Mission Committee will kick-off the New Year with a meeting after church on Sunday, January 10, for 20 minutes.

If you are interested in participating in existing mission projects or have ideas for new mission projects please come to the meeting or reach out to Cecilia Evans to share your

ideas. Looking forward to a great year in missions.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS MONTH

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 in your month, please contact Linda in the office to be included.

Jan 2—Carol Butler
 Jan 9—Jackie Sinnet
 Jan 12—Myra Burrows
 Jan 18— Priscilla Mulligan
 Jan 19—Harvey Dulin
 Jan 29—Britney Brennan



HOSPITALITY

By Laurie Andrews

December was a busy time for Hospitality starting with First Wednesday International Pot Luck, quickly followed by Breakfast With Santa, Celebrate the Child service and ending with a wonderful Christmas Ladies Luncheon at Pine Lakes Country Club. A special thank you to all the ladies who brought toys for the Georgetown Salvation Army. Tabitha Wallace, who came to represent the Salvation Army was very touched by our generosity.

We have several activities planned for January and February. First, there will be a church-wide bowling party on Sunday, January 24, from 2-4pm at the Waccamaw

Bowl. The cost is \$7 which includes two games of bowling and shoes. Soft drinks will be provided by Hospitality. The youth have challenged the old folks (that would be anyone over the age of 21) to a contest. Prizes will be awarded in several categories! Please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex so we know how many lanes we will need.

On February 3 we will have our first Wednesday Night Potluck of the year followed by a short program from Farrah Dickerson on Neighbor to Neighbor. Finally, we will have a "birthday party" for everyone in the church on February 20,

Saturday. We will be asking for volunteers to decorate tables and make a dessert that go along with the theme for each month. We're asking those who come to bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$5 for the gift exchange. More information will be coming later in January.



PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker



Happy New Year everyone! It is hard to believe it is 2016! We all enjoyed a couple weeks off to celebrate Christmas and bring in the New Year. Now we are ready to get started. January is very busy around the preschool. There are so many days off school that it is hard to fit in everything we want to do.

We will start the month off talking about the winter weather (not sure if mother nature is going to help us with

that plan or not) but no worries; we will bring the winter weather in. Rumor has it that during our first week back everyone will get a chance to play in the snow. It is always so much fun to watch the children get so excited. Many of them have never seen snow much less gotten to play in it.

Looking ahead to February, we will have registration for the 2016-2017 school year. As a church member, you are able

to register with currently enrolled students. If you are interested in registering your child, please let me know by the beginning of February so I can be sure to keep you updated on what needs to be done. If you know of anyone interested in registering their child that is not a church member, please have them get in touch with me at the preschool and I will give them all the information they need.

JANUARY 2016

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)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Hallelujah Bible Study 9:15am Worship 11am	4	5 Quilters 10am	6 Men's Breakfast IHOP 8am	7 LadyBug Luncheon Longhorn Steakhouse 12noon	8	9
10 Hallelujah Bible Study 9:15am Worship 11am Communion He~Brews Café for Youth	11	12 Quilters 10am	13 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	14	15 Breakfast Buddies Sea Captain's House 9am Preschool Closed	16
17 Hallelujah Bible Study 9:15am Worship 11am He~Brews Café for Youth SESSION	18 Martin Luther King Day Church and School closed	19 Quilters 10am	20 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	21	22 Training for the SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian ad Litem Program 9:30-3pm	23
24 Hallelujah Bible Study 9:15am Worship 11am Elder Installation Church-wide Bowling 2-4pm	25	26 Quilters 10am	27 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	28	29	30
31 Hallelujah Bible Study 9:15am Worship 11am Congregational Meeting	1 Finance Forum 6:30 pm	2	3 First Wednesday Dinner and Fellowship 5:30 pm	4	5	6



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 Myrtle-Beach

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!

(Pastor's Article Continued from page 1)

We are mindful that 2016 and 2017 will be our final years to receive New Church Development financial subsidy from our presbytery (\$40,000.00 in 2016 and \$20,000.00 in 2017). We will continue to grow in our stewardship and generosity to offset the reduction of these final subsidies and to realize a new level of financial stability and growth. We are very grateful for the many years of New Church Development financial subsidy and prayerful support we have enjoyed in this new church partnership with the Presbytery of New Harmony.

A fourth transition in 2015 was in the area of leadership. Our Session experienced a turnover of five of our nine members for the first time since my arrival. The face and culture of the Session continue to change as we embrace new members into leadership. I mentioned our shared reading and study of a book on leadership in the Spirit by Joan Gray. Together we are learning how not to be a "row boat church" and how to be a "sail boat church" powered by the winds of God's Spirit. We have been intentional to work on building our relationships as leaders and building trust for our shared work of discerning God's plan for the future of Celebration. We have laughed together, worked together, cried together and shared our lives in the joyous and the sad times. In 2015 our Session sponsored a Leadership Forum and invited anyone participating in the church who had ever served as a church leader or pastor no matter what church affiliation or denomination. At the forum we shared the current work of the Session with this wonderful group of diverse leaders and invited each of them *to partner with us to pray for Celebration and to pray intentionally about God's will and direction for our growing church* as we continue to reach out to our neighbors in Myrtle Beach. The response was very favorable and the sharing very delightful. We plan to hold other Leadership Forums in the future with this resourceful and growing group of leaders at Celebration. We are blessed to have many talented members (and potential members) with prior church leadership experience and we are grateful for their prayerful support.

A fifth and final transition in 2015 that I'll mention, was our cooperative choir for Christmas. In 2014, our Music Director, Sarah Abushakra, led us to partner with St. Anne's Episcopal Church Choir for a cooperative Christmas Musical. We had a blast! In 2015 Sarah expanded the cooperative choir to include the Kingston Presbyterian Church in Conway. Collectively, we formed a choir of 40 voices. We had a wonderful time getting to know each other and singing with great gusto as a combined choir. Our Cooperative Christmas Musical was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 7:00PM at Kingston PCUSA and was shared with a near capacity crowd made up of members from our three churches and the larger community!

I close by saying THANKS BE TO GOD for ALL the MANY BLESSINGS of 2015 and I look with great anticipation to see the blessings and opportunities that God will reveal in 2016! LET'S RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD'S MISSION AND MINISTRY IN 2016! COME SHARE THE JOURNEY WITH US AT CELEBRATION!!!

In Christ's Service, *Pastor Tom*