

Comforted and Encouraged by the Faith of Others

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

I. Faith and Faithfulness and the Encouragement they Bring. 6-10

A. Comforted through their faith.

B. Rejoicing because of their faithfulness.

C. Thankful for the joy of their faithfulness

II. Established in the Faith Now and Forever. 11-13

A. May God bring us to minister to you.

B. May God cause your love to grow.

C. May God prepare you for His coming.

Welcome To Fifth Street Presbyterian Church

Our purpose for meeting together today is to meet with our Lord as a body of believers. We meet that we might hear Him speak in the reading and preaching of His Word. And, we meet to respond to His voice in our songs, prayers, and affirmations. In the ordinary worship of God we find extraordinary grace, encouragement and reason to hope. This corporate worship of God is the most important thing that happens upon the earth and we are delighted to have you with us as we approach the Father in Christ's name by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week at a glance:

Sunday	9:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 12:30 P.M. 5:00 P.M.	Sunday School Worship Service Cantata Practice Evening Service
Tuesday	6:00 P.M.	Conversations with Men
Wednesday	7:00 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Reading Calvin Women's Morning Study
Thursday	7:00 P.M.	Deacons
Saturday	10:00 A.M.	Women's Christmas Brunch

If you are visiting today, we would appreciate a record of your visit, which you can provide by filling out one of the visitor's cards that you will find in the pew. Please place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 4, 2016

Help us decorate our sanctuary with beautiful red poinsettias! The order form will be included in this Sunday and next Sunday's bulletin. You may collect your plant(s) after the Christmas Morning Worship Service on December 25th to enjoy in your home.

The Women's Morning Study on Philippians will conclude this Wednesday, December 7th. We will reconvene in the spring once a new study and schedule have been determined.

A group of writers including J. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis who called themselves "The Inklings" would meet regularly at The Eagle and Child Pub to talk about things that were of importance to them, things that mattered. This is why we meet monthly at T. G. I. Friday's as the men of the church, we meet to talk about things that matter and to develop the habit and skill of talking about those things. Men, we would love to have you join us this coming Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Friday's on the loop at Broadway. Bring a friend if you like and come ready to talk about things that matter, things that are of importance now and forever. This week's discussion will be on the "ins and outs of church membership" including but not limited to discussion of: joining a church, when to leave a church, excommunication, and the importance of a church. A good place to start would be chapters 25 and 30 of the Confession of Faith and chapter 27 of the Book of Church Order, both can be found on the PCA website.

We believe that your giving to the church of tithes and offerings is a matter that should not need a great deal of external motivation since we put our monies where our love is. So our financial "campaign" has always been and continues to be the use of the ordinary means of grace to assist your growth in your love for God and His church. However, there are two additional offerings that we call your attention to yearly because they are good works that might otherwise go unnoticed. The Gideons is one and that offering comes early in the year. The other is the Christmas offering to the Ministerial Relief Fund which is a fund to assist widows of pastors as well as pastors who are retired and disabled. We would encourage your consideration of this offering which will be received at the end of the service on December 18.

All ladies are invited to a Christmas Brunch at 10 a.m. on December 10th at the Wiesinger's home! Bring your favorite Christmas brunch item along with a wrapped ornament or Christmas trinket for a fun gift exchange. Please see Kim Covington or Rebecca Wiesinger if you need additional information.

Our Christmas Cantata service is December 18th at 10:30 a.m.. There will be no Sunday School on this day.

As you pray please remember:

- Greg and Sonya Joyce as they look forward to the birth of their firstborn.
- Nathaniel Adawonu and Family and the work in Togo
- Charity Botse and the Kwaku family at the loss of Charity's sister.
- Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary as they train men to be faithful ministers of God's Word.
- The 2017 General Assembly of the PCA meets in June. Your Session is rightly troubled about some of the issues that may be on the table at this General Assembly.

As you prepare to come to the Lord's Table today here is a portion of Article 35 of the Belgic Confession to aid you as you think about the nature of this meal. While the style of writing is a little cumbersome it is well worth consideration.

Now, as it is certain and beyond all doubt that Jesus Christ has not enjoined to us the use of His sacraments in vain, so He works in us all that He represents to us by these holy signs, though the manner surpasses our understanding and cannot be comprehended by us, as the operations of the Holy Spirit are hidden and incomprehensible. In the meantime we err not when we say that what is eaten and drunk by us is the proper and natural body and the proper blood, of Christ. But the manner of our partaking of the same is not by the mouth, but by the spirit through faith. Thus, then, though Christ always sits at the right hand of His Father in the heavens, yet does He not therefore cease to make us partakers of Himself by faith. This feast is a spiritual table, at which Christ communicates Himself with all His benefits to us, and gives us there to enjoy both Himself and the merits of His sufferings and death: nourishing, strengthening, and comforting our poor comfortless souls by the eating of His flesh, quickening and refreshing them by the drinking of His blood.