

THE LINK

December 2018



OLD PEACHTREE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Christmas and the Love of God

When John 3:16, that most famous verse of the Bible, says “For God so loved the world,” we can understand the *so* in a couple of ways. We might understand it to refer the degree of God’s love. In other words, God loved the world *so much* that he gave his only begotten Son.

Or we might take the *so* as indicating the manner of God’s love. God loved the world *in this way*: he gave his only begotten Son.

In keeping with his affinity for double meanings, John may have been happy to be understood either way, or both. After all, both are true: God’s love is great and giving.

At Christmas we often focus on the mystery of Christmas—the incarnation as God became man. Or we focus on the historical details of it—a manger, a star, shepherds, Herod, wise men. Both are appropriate. The incarnation is amazing and mysterious, as God took to himself a human nature and human body without ceasing to be God. The birth of Jesus took place in real time and space on this planet two millennia ago.

Yet how often do we focus on the love of Christmas? Jesus’s birth into this world was an expression of God’s love for ruined sinners. God sent his only Son to save us because he loved us.

As a child, I so looked forward to Christmas morning, when I would finally get to open the gifts that had tantalized me from under the tree. I was glad to get them and enjoyed playing with them, or using them, or wearing them. But I didn’t often stop to consider how those gifts were expression of my parents’ love for me.

How much more with Jesus. As we celebrate his birth, recounting the history of it, marveling at the mystery of it, ponder the Father’s love—his great, giving love—of which Christmas is an expression. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Remember the Father’s love, but more than that—receive it.

Alan Johnson

STILL TIME TO SHARE YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS WITH OPPC

Musicians are still welcome for the Christmas social on Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. If you play an instrument or sing and would like to participate this year, please contact Ann Elmer (ann.elmer@gmail.com).



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL FOOD ITEMS



If you plan to bring food items for the reception after the Christmas program, on December 9, please use the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Barbara Johnson regarding what you might like to bring for this annual event (bbjohnson1988@gmail.com).

LAST CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM RHEARSAL

Our last 2018 children's Christmas program rehearsal is at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 2. . Contact Jennifer Taylor at (taylorkhandan@yahoo.com) if you have questions.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND SOCIAL—DECEMBER 9



Please join us for our annual Christmas Program and Social at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. We will enjoy the children's program, music and songs from members of the congregation, and good food and fellowship after the program. We hope to see you there!

THANK YOU—CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Thank you from the Women's Ministry to all those who filled a shoebox gift for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project that gives and encourages international relief efforts (since 1993).

Please turn in all boxes by December 2. If you have questions, contact Joyce Saylor (nana.saylor@yahoo.com).



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for our annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Missionary Spotlight

Jud and Jan Lamos

MTW Missionaries, Jan and Jud Lamos have the distinction of being the first missionaries ever supported by OPPC about 25 years ago. While the Lamos' have primarily worked with Muslims in Belgium during their time with MTW, they are quite passionate about their new venture, the 18.26 Network. They've seen a significant increase in interest by individuals, couples and families who desire to continue in their lay vocation on the mission field with the intention of supporting local church plants with discipling, evangelism and community outreach. To facilitate the effectiveness of these vocational missionaries, the Lamos' along with MTW launched the 18.26 Network.



The mission statement of the 18.26 Network is “Turning Your Vocation into Mission.” The 18.26 Network currently has 3 people in the field in Chile, Hungary, and Panama with 4 more getting ready to leave for Japan and the Middle East. There are 10 additional people seeking overseas locations as well. The goal of 18.26 Network is to connect, coach, and care for its members. They've received \$50K from MTW to develop an online coaching program. It will be a condensed version of MTW's Global Training and Development material. They plan to connect the vocational missionaries via social networks and peer to peer mentoring.

While Network 18.26 is adding workers quickly, the organization is just getting off the ground. This requires Jud and Jan to wear many hats - CEO, Treasurer, Care Leader, and more for now. In the future, they will need to raise more funds to support an organizational structure that facilitates more and more vocational missionaries in the field. Please pray for the Lamos' as they travel around the world speaking to MTW leaders about this endeavor. Pray also for the vocational missionaries to be lifted up by the Holy Spirit in their jobs and for the Spirit to use their efforts in their work with the local church and other missionaries.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS—THANK YOU



A HUGE “Thank You” to all of our OPPC brothers and sisters who volunteered in November to staff the Duluth Co-op Hands of Christ food pantry.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING COURSE DEADLINE—JANUARY 1, 2019



Please complete the online training from Protect My Ministry by January 1, 2019. If you volunteer with children or youth at OPPC (including nursery), you should have received an email with a link to our new child protection training. Please watch the video and take the short quiz at the end. The course should take approximately 40 minutes to complete. If you did not receive the email, please contact the office (office@oldpeachtree.org).

Your certificate of completion will be logged automatically into OPPC's Protect My Ministry account. Help make our church as safe as possible. Thank you so much for your service to our church and to our Lord. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

DECEMBER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Please feel free to join us at any time as we study Ephesians using the study guide *Reading Ephesians with John Stott*.

- ◆ The Tuesday study meets weekly from 9:45–11:45 a.m. with childcare provided.
- ◆ The Saturday study meets on December 1 from 9:00–11:00 a.m., with NO childcare provided.
- ◆ The Monday evening study meets 6:30–8:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (6:30–8:00 p.m.) (December 10) at the church. All women are welcome to attend! Please contact Jenni Sickert (jsickerts@gmail.com) or Jane Horner (jane@outstand.com) if you have questions.

JOHNS CREEK SMALL GROUP

Please join us for Johns Creek Small Group on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Owen and Tina Malcolm. Childcare is provided. Please contact Owen Malcolm (owen.malcolm@unitedcp.com) or Tina Malcolm (tinammalcolm@gmail.com) if you are interested or need information.

YOUTH GROUP FOOD SCHEDULE

Those who have volunteered to supply food for the Youth Group on Sunday evenings (5:30 p.m.) in December are listed below. Thank you for your help with this fellowship for our OPPC youth. If you are not able to serve on your volunteer day, please contact Jennifer Taylor (taylorkhandan@yahoo.com).

December 16 - Deighton



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Stephanie Cahill - November

OPPC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT—FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019



Paula Miles, Women's Ministry Coordinator, Clemson Presbyterian Church will be this year's speaker for the OPPC Women's Retreat.

Paula is from Anderson, SC, and attended Clemson University. "Studying and teaching God's Word is her passion, as well as encouraging women to understand their unique design and fulfill their individual callings. She is a conference speaker and, also, serves on the national women's ministry team for the PCA as a women's ministry trainer.

Ladies, join us on Friday and Saturday, February 8-9, at the Courtyard by Marriott Sugarloaf Hotel. The cost is \$25 for a commuter, \$75 (hotel double), and \$100 (hotel single).

Registration deadline is January 20.

For information contact Jessica Wilson (jljwils@gmail.com).

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTER BEGINS—DECEMBER 2

Nursery Upper level - Nursery
Disciples in Diapers
Teachers: Mayumi Yamazaki & Vivian Wong

2's & 3's Upper level - Toddler
God's Son
Teachers: Jennifer Taylor & Connie Smith

4's-K Upper level - Preschool
Living in God's Family
Teacher: Helen Park

Grades 1 & 2 Lower level - 1
Knowing Jesus
Teacher: Vanessa Leap

Grades 3 & 4 Lower level - 3
God's Design for Worship
Teacher: Owen Malcolm

Grades 5 & 6 Lower level - 5
Acts—Romans
Teacher: Ashley Deighton

Grades 7 & 8 Lower level - 8
The King Comes
Teacher: Steve & Sandy Butler

High School Lower level - 7
Christian Worldview
Teacher: Carlin Wong

Adult 1 Fellowship Hall
Who is Jesus?
Teacher: Joe Deighton

Adult 2 Lower level - 6
War of Words
Teacher: Kent Elmer

MEETINGS AND GROUPS

First Sunday Lunch

Join us for First Sunday Lunch on December 2. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Communion Week

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the morning service on December 9. We have communion on the second Sunday every month.

Deacons Meeting

The Diaconate will not meet in December. The next meeting is January 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall (the second Wednesday of January).

Session Meeting

The Session meeting has been moved to December 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall (the usual meeting is the fourth Wednesday of each month).

Youth Group

All 6th grade -12th graders, even college students, are welcome to join us for dinner at 5:30 on Sundays except for the first Sunday of each month. Bringing dinner: (Deighton—12/16).

NURSERY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2018

DATE	11:00 a.m.	GREETER (10:45 at table)	6:00 p.m.
12/2	Malin-Davis, Wong, Elizabeth	Julie Schramm	No Service
12/9	Garner, Johnson, Josiah	Meg Garner	No Nursery
12/16	Dunahoo, Meier, Anna Grace	Jennifer Taylor	Foster, Smith
12/23	Kang, Rebecca	Tara Carter	No Service
12/24	(5:00 p.m.) Lessons and Carols Service	Julie Schramm	Schramm (5:00 p.m.)
12/30	Ellison, Arabella	Joyce Saylor	No Service

LINK DEADLINE: Please turn in articles and information for the January *LINK* by Thursday, December 20.

Old Peachtree Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this end, Old Peachtree aims to be a church that is continually growing in vital worship, in theological depth, in true fellowship, in assertive evangelism, and in deeds of compassion. The distinctiveness of Old Peachtree is in its desire to be Presbyterian in government and Reformed in theology, with the vitality that comes from evangelism and discipleship.

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