

# THE ISLANDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

A Season of Waiting...

We really don't like to wait anymore. Our society is more and more geared toward what is instant. We don't have to wait for photos to be developed anymore, we see them immediately on our phones. We abhor traffic or delays, we want to get there now. Doctors now communicate via email and text so we get our diagnosis and prescriptions promptly. Even at the Sanders house we have signed up for a food delivery service that sends meals directly to our home, little effort needed, instant food.

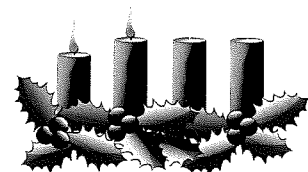
And then we enter Advent, an intentional season of waiting. Advent goes against our sense of wanting and needing it now. We all know what the surprise is on Christmas morning, why do we have to wait for it anyhow?

In the digital age of photography, another pastor, Magrey DeVega,<sup>1</sup> likened Advent to the darkroom. The photo has already been taken, the event has already occurred, we know what we will see when that print develops, but we can't hold it yet. We've got to wait for it to go through the process of the darkroom.

The event of waiting creates a tension between the event of the past and the future. While we wait for Christ's birth, it's not that we believe that Jesus has not been born. Each Sunday we proclaim Christ's resurrection and our participation in his new life. Advent does not erase any of that. Nor is Advent a time to pretend Christ didn't already come. But, Advent is a season of waiting... waiting in hope that Christ who came will come again, into our lives and into our hearts.

de Vega explains that the event of Jesus' birth was captured by our four evangelists. These 'photographers' explored every angle, focusing and zooming in on the events that fascinated them about Christ's birth. And together these four photos convey the narrative of our faith. As we journey through Advent this year and await the coming of our Lord, let us consider each of these photos and with the thrill of hope of what is to come at their conclusion, let us boldly enter this season of waiting.

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley



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<sup>1</sup>de Vega, Magrey. *Awaiting the Already*. Abingdon Press; Nashville. 2015.

## MISSIONS

### Food Pantry



The Thanksgiving deliveries to families being served by our Food Pantry was a big success. Thanks to everyone who helped with the distribution and a special THANK YOU to all our bakers for baking those wonderful blueberries cakes!

### Alternative Christmas Giving

Sunday, December 6th, members of the Mission Committee will be on the church patio before and after worship for you to give a donation to purchase "Christmas GIFT CARDS" for the Edisto Island Food Pantry and for HUG. Stop by our table to fill out an Order Form that lets us know how many gift cards you want and the amount of your donation. Checks are payable to The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island. Christmas Gift Cards not only help support our church's two mission projects but also demonstrate your love of service to your family and friends.



### Keep the Promise for the Christmas Joy Offering on December 20<sup>th</sup>

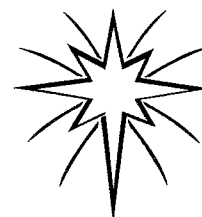
What is this promise? The Christmas Joy Offering gives us an opportunity to support church workers in their time of need and to develop and educate racial-ethnic leadership for the future of our church.

First, we need to remember that pastors spend a career sharing the Good News of Jesus in word and in deed. Some of these pastors and church workers, who serve small churches or have retired, may face difficult circumstances when the rising cost of daily living turns even small challenges into financial crisis.

A retired pastor shared how the Christmas Joy Offering helped him to purchase a van to accommodate his wife's wheelchair. For years he had lifted his wife, who has multiple sclerosis, from her wheelchair into their car and vice versa. All of this lifting took a toll on his back! Having the van allowed him and his wife improved mobility with the many doctor and physical therapy visits. They are now hoping to add to the quality of their lives with the newfound flexibility that the van allows.

Secondly, with your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges can continue their mission to help minority students of color to grow spiritually and intellectually. The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors to quality education in Presbyterian-related colleges and high schools for minority students. PC(USA) has a long standing commitment to education that forges deeper connections to our faith.

On December 20th help keep the promises of our denomination by giving a donation to the Christmas Joy Offering.



## SESSION

- The 19th new member came before the Session. Welcome Richard Rowe!
- Session is busy doing end of year work... moving forward with a stewardship program; formalizing the 2016 budget; updating the Policy Manual; evaluating employee contracts.
- The Endowment Committee presented their report. John McAlhany was elected for a term on that Committee. Thanks, John, for your willingness to serve!



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Groups of dedicated members have...

- Removed shrubs from the right side of the E & F Building to promote better drainage on that side of the building
- Swept off the roof of E & F Building
- Cleaned and painted the two upstairs Omni classrooms to enable children's Sunday School to meet in those rooms by the first of the year
- Moved a piano into the Fellowship Hall
- Outside lights in front of the church are operational and reset for standard time
- Replaced the HVAC motor in one of the E & F units
- Assessed and repaired many of the leaks in the Omni roof.

## 2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2016 offering envelopes will be available for pick-up on the Church porch each Sunday from December 6th through December 20th. Envelopes will also be available each weekday in the E&F building for pick-up. Please pick-up your envelopes and save the Church approximately \$2.50 each in mailing cost.

## JOIN THE PARADE!

PCEI will participate in the Edisto Beach Christmas Parade on December 12th! Our church will be stepping out for a bit of fun and to benefit the FOOD PANTRY.

If you would like to participate, please attend the meeting Wednesday, December 2nd at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. If you can't participate, please contact Susan Frick at [susanfrick@bellsouth.net](mailto:susanfrick@bellsouth.net); 843-869-9195; or Bess Kellett at 843-743-8909; [lilbess-watson@gmail.com](mailto:lilbess-watson@gmail.com) with any questions.




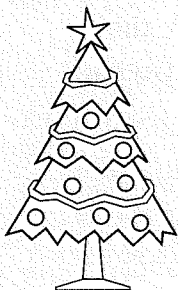
## IN SYMPATHY

Our deepest Christian sympathy to the Green family for the loss of Nancie Green of Edisto Island, SC.

Our deepest Christian sympathy to the Murray family for the loss of Linda's brother, John McDaniel of Maryland.

# DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Merry Christmas</b>		1  Session Mtg. 5PM	2  9AM Bible Study  Choir Practice 5:30PM	3	4  PW Wreath Making 10AM	5  8AM Men's Breakfast
6 Breakfast: 8:30 SS: 9:00 AM Worship & Communion: 10 AM	7 Presbyterian Women 10AM Decorate E&F  Home Communion	8	9  9AM Bible Study  Choir Practice 4:00M  Family Night Supper 6PM	10	11	12  2PM Christmas Parade
13 Breakfast: 8:30 SS: 9:00 AM Worship: 10AM  Christmas Music Program	14	15  6PM Preschool Nativity Program in Omni	16  9AM Bible Study	17	18  Christmas Drop-In at the Manse 4-6PM	19
20 Breakfast: 8:30 SS: 9:00 AM Worship: 10AM	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7PM	25  Christmas Day	26  50th Anniver- sary Reception in Omni
27 Breakfast: 8:30 SS: 9:00 AM Worship: 10AM  Wedding Recep- tion in Omni	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve		



## MANSE CHRISTMAS DROP-IN

Presbyterian Woman and the Sanders family will be hosting a Christmas drop-in at the Manse, Friday, December 18th from 4-6PM. Come celebrate the holiday season in Christian Fellowship.

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet Wednesday, December 2, 9, and 16. We will finish up our study of the Book of John. Join us at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

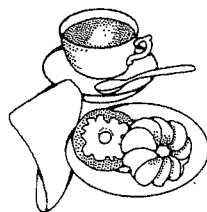
## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 - Jordy Johnson  
Beverly Sandifer
- 3 - Steve Johnson
- 14 - Jean Reid  
Tommy Yeargin
- 16 - Ashley Burns
- 17 - Susan Roberts
- 20 - Pete Blair
- 25 - Carolyn Hammond
- 26 - Frankie Flowers  
Buck Griffin

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held Saturday, December 5th, at 8AM in the fellowship hall. All men are invited. All remaining



dates are taken for the rest of the year so no one will be after you to be chef, so come relax and enjoy!! The dates for men's breakfast for the remainder of the year are:

- December 5th - chefs Bob Foster and Jimmy Barnhill
- January 9th - chefs Sam Lybrand and Charles Hallex
- April 2nd - chef Weldon Burns
- May 7th - chefs Newton Hornsby and Jim Bishop.

Special thank you to all who have served and those listed above for their future service!

## WELCOME

Welcome new members Richard, Sarah and Ansley Rowe! The Rowe Family moved to Edisto in July, but has been visiting for decades. Richard and Sarah have 2 children, Ansley and William. Having been very active in the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, Sarah and Ansley have jumped into service here at PCEI as chairs of the Christian Education Event Committee!

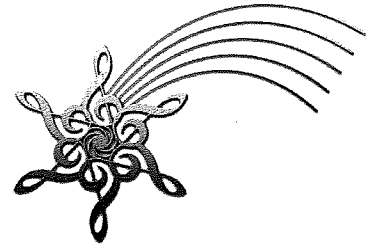
## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning in January, some Sunday School Classes will have new meeting locations. Be sure to attend Sunday School and look for the classes in the following areas:

- Infants - The Nursery in the E&F
- Young Children - NEW location, Classroom 1 in the newly decorated Upstairs of the Omni
- Older Children - NEW location, Classroom 2 in the newly decorated Upstairs of the Omni
- Grapevine Adult Class- NEW location, Classroom in the E&F hallway directly next to the Covenant Class
- Covenant Adult Class - Covenant Classroom

A BIG thank you to all who helped clean, paint, and decorate the children's classrooms. They look GREAT!

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



### Welcome!

We welcome Linda Murray to our “merry band of music re-creationists”...otherwise known as the Choir! Welcome aboard, Linda! We are delighted to have you with us!

### December 13th:

As is our tradition here at the Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island, our annual Christmas Music Program will be offered at the 10:00 worship hour on December 13th. The Choir has been working hard to prepare some wonderful new anthems and polishing up some “oldies” that we hope will be a blessing to all present. In word and song we hope to focus your minds on the greatest gift of all... the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### First Word:

Each year I look and listen for the first word of advertising for Christmas. This year I was SHOCKED to hear the first Christmas ads in JULY!!! I cannot understand this mind set.

### POP:

Recently, I came across a showing of the old movie from 1961...“King of Kings” starring Jeffrey Hunter. The film has its 60's “flavor” to be sure, but I find it rather enjoyable. The movie brought to mind a most wonderful anthem by Randall Thompson entitled “The Last Words of David”. You can find renditions of this timeless anthem on YouTube. Funny how a single word can trigger wondering thoughts. I began to think about the many names given to Jesus. But there is one that to me, at least, is where my mind and heart “rests” during our Seasons of Christmas. That name is “Prince of Peace” [POP].

In today's world we need the Prince of Peace so desperately. Peace seems so illusive in today's environment and we long for it ceaselessly. Below I quote David's last words. Would that these take root in the hearts and minds of the leaders of our world. So mote it be!

### 2 Samuel 23:

*3 . . . He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. 4... And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.*

jim

pax

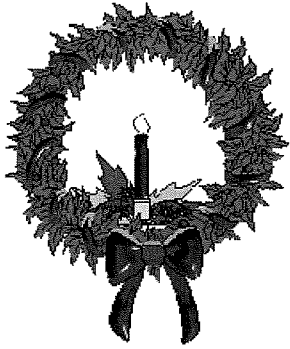
## MOBILE HEALTH UNIT

Looking for a convenient way to have your mammogram? The Hollings Cancer Center Mobile Health Unit is coming to Jane Edwards Elementary December 4th from 8:45-3PM. Appointments are required. Contact Kathy at 843-869-4805 or [ZEkathryn\\_zemp@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:ZEkathryn_zemp@charleston.k12.sc.us).



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

This month the Presbyterian Women are busy with several projects. Some of us are baking blueberry cakes for the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving baskets. We will be preparing wreaths and decorating the church and E&F building for the Christmas season. Also, we will decorate the Chrismon tree, help with the Christmas drop-in at the Manse, and fill boxes for the Samaritans Purse project.



Our November meeting was well attended with 21 members present. Dee Moseley led the Bible study, which continues the emphasis on water stories and its symbolism. This month dealt with physical thirst, soul thirst, and thirst for community in ancient times as well as in today's time.

We will have a workshop on December 4 to make window wreaths and another on December 7 for decorating the Chrismon tree.

## PRESCHOOL

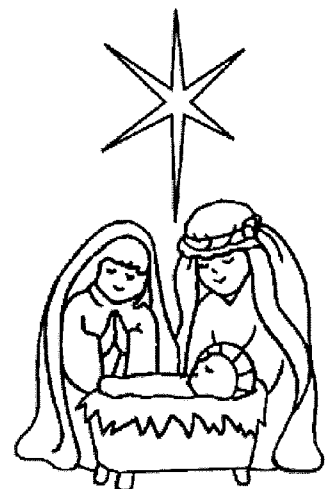
This Preschool year has been amazing so far! We are still growing and welcomed 2 new students in the month of November! They keep us on our toes but we wouldn't want it any other way!!

On Tuesday, December 15, at 6:00pm, the preschoolers will be doing a Christmas Nativity Program in the Omni. All are welcome to come!

Thank you to all who support this wonderful program!

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In January Presbyterian Women will begin a new ministry—a Prayer Shawl ministry—in which we will knit (or crochet) shawls or lap robes to give to others. As the shawl is knitted, the knitter will stitch into it prayers, well wishes, blessings, and loving thoughts for the intended recipient, who may be someone who is ill, home-bound, or bereaved or someone experiencing a life changing event, such as marriage, an addition to the family—really anyone the knitter chooses to reach out to in compassion and love. Or shawls may be given to a “helping organization” such as the Samaritan Medical Clinic for distribution. We will meet for the first time on Tuesday morning, January 19, at the Manse at 10:00. You will be given easy instructions for making a simple shawl and will learn the use of symbolism in its pattern. Or you may use a pattern of your own choosing. Notices will be in Sunday Worship bulletins closer to the time of start-up letting you know the supplies you will need to bring. Mark your calendars now for January 19 to participate in this exciting new opportunity of service.



Miss Krissy

THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH ON  
EDISTO ISLAND

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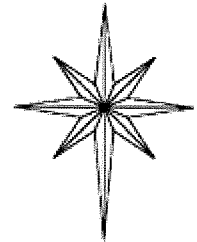
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Edisto Island, SC

Permit #7

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ON EDISTO ISLAND  
*December 2015*



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|--|--|
| 1st- Session Meeting 5PM   | 12th - Christmas Parade 2PM                  |
| 2nd - 9AM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall                             | 13th - Christmas Music Program               |
| Choir Practice 5:30PM in Sanctuary                                   | 15th - Preschool Nativity Program 6PM        |
| 4th - PW Wreath Making   | 16th - 9AM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall    |
| 5th - Men's Breakfast 8AM  | 18th - Drop-In at the Manse 4-6PM            |
| 7th - Presbyterian Women Mtg. 10AM<br>followed by Decorating the E&F | 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7PM |
| 9th - 9AM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall                             | 25th - Christmas Day                         |
| Choir Practice 4:00PM in Sanctuary                                   | 31st - New Year's Eve                        |
| Family Night Supper in E&F 6PM                                       |  |