

# FOCUS

The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

November 16, 2016

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Session Room)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship

"Living With Hope"

Jeremiah 23:1-6      Luke 1:68-79

Introit: *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness*

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing  
*The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune*  
by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Jon Hopkins will accompany on trumpet.

11:40 a.m. ~ Children's Choir in the Choir Room

5:00 p.m. ~ Youth Bells in the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. ~ *Not a Silent Night* in the McLaurin Room

6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Group in the West Building

### ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Brian Frerichs, Scott Williams

### ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Brian Frerichs

### WORSHIP AT HOME

Vicki Goodwin, Ike Jenkins

### TELLER DUTY

John Leasure, Vicki Goodwin

### ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (November 21-27)

Brian Frerichs

### USHERS

Kay Smith, Vicki Goodwin

Junior Ushers: Wilson Frerichs, Jennings Frerichs

### YOUTH READER

Ellie Spencer

### CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

### VOLUNTEERS

**Committee Member** – Nancy Spivey

**Nursery** – Markita Gadson

**2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds** – Jack and Nancy Spivey



Following our emphasis on stewardship over the past few weeks culminating on Stewardship Sunday, you have indicated a strong commitment for 2017. As of today, 134 pledges to the general fund totaling \$ 540,075 have been received thus far or over 70% of goal. There are still many commitments outstanding so please make every effort to get these pledges to the church office this week or on Sunday.



### FROM PASTOR NICK

#### "GRA - Attitude"

Ashley is the bomb. She helps organize our family schedule, makes sure the kids homework is done, puts food on the table every night and keeps me pointed in the right direction... just to name a few things. She is also the queen of creative morning devotions. Every November Ashley initiates a devotion based on gratitude. This year we are reading passages from scripture that speak of thankfulness which are written on leaves. These leaves are then hung on a thanksgiving tree in the middle of our dinner table. Every morning one member of the family reads a passage and shares what he or she is grateful for. It's a reminder that when we have the right "GRA - Attitude" our perspective changes. We walk into the day with a positive outlook that influences our thought pattern, which, in turn influences what we say and how we act.

*Psalm 107*

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Today, give thanks. Practice gratitude in your heart and let it flow into the lives of those around you. See you soon.

*Nick*  
Nick

*Pastor Cheek will be out of the office November 20-26.*



This Sunday, November 20, the Thornwell Thanksgiving Offering will be received (nicknamed the "Turkey Offering" because of the turkey-themed offering cards Sunday school children use to save quarters for Thornwell). 100% of the money received from the turkey cards, along with designated gifts and loose offerings are used to support the Thornwell Home for Children. Because of the generous support of churches and individuals, Thornwell Home for Children has served children in residential care, educated children in their 2-year old kindergarten, kept children with their siblings, helped reunite children with their families, and helped place children into forever families. Thornwell also helps families with nowhere else to turn. Please give as you are able to this worthy outreach of the PC(USA).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

6:30 p.m. Troop 86..... Scout Hut  
 6:30 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

11:30 a.m. Pastor's Lunch..... Covenant Place

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 ~ Preschool Closed**

*Pastor Nick's Lectionary Lunch will not be held this week.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 ~ Church Office Closed**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 ~ Church Office Closed**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

9:00 a.m. Care and Prayer..... Session Room  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship..... Sanctuary  
 11:40 a.m. Children's Choir..... Choir Room  
 5:00 p.m. Advent Workshop .....Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting ..... Session Room

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

6:00 p.m. New Officer Training.....Fellowship Hall

*Please note Youth Prayer Breakfasts will not meet November 22 and 23.*

**ADVENT WORKSHOP  
 November 27 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

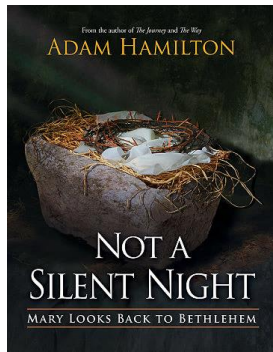


Come make your Advent wreath, play games and make crafts. Please contact Robin Thames (call 803-972-3207 or email nibor9902@aol.com) if you have greenery from your yard that you can share. If you have your wreath from last year please bring it.

*Supper will be served.*

**ADVENT STUDY**

The study of Adam Hamilton's book, *Not a Silent Night* continues this Sunday, November 20. This book is about the story of Jesus as seen through Mary's eyes. The class includes film clips from the author and is a meaningful way to begin the Advent season. The class is 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the McLaurin classroom and is led by Max Goodson.



**CHRISTMAS  
 PIANISTS**

It's time to plan for our young pianists to share their Christmas pieces with the congregation! Please email the title and composer of the piece that your child will play with your choices

of dates! Contact Joni at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or call 803-773-3814. **The available dates are:**

- December 18, 10:30 a.m.
- December 24, 4:00 p.m.
- December 24, 6:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, November 27 ~ 5:00 p.m.  
 Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 4 ~ 3:00 p.m.  
 Festival of Choirs at Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 11 ~ 10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
 Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 14 ~ 5:30 p.m.  
 Service of Comfort and Hope

Saturday, December 24 ~ 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
 Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 25 ~ 10:30 a.m.  
 Christmas Worship in the Chapel

January 8  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Installation of Officers  
 3:00 p.m. ~ Rev. Cheek's Installation

January 22 ~ 10:30 a.m.  
 Kirking of the Tartans

**ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**



The Chancel Choir will participate in the annual Festival of Choirs held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon of Advent and Christmas music.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Tuomey:** Marion Young

**McLeod:** Billy Freeman

**Covenant Place Rehab:**  
 Charles Shaw



**At Home:** Terry Hill, Linda Montague,  
 Helen Brookes-Futrell, Gordon Rettke

*Names added to this list will be removed after three weeks unless there is a continued need or a request to remain on the list.*

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**

Week Beginning 11/6/2016

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$13,964.25	\$590,985.42	\$643,350.97
*Other Sources	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$108,996.54</u>	<u>\$137,156.47</u>
	\$14,164.25	\$699,981.96	\$780,507.44
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$16,564.77	\$732,960.74	\$773,642.94
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	(\$2,400.52)	(\$32,978.78)	\$6,864.50

*\*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year... time to celebrate the coming of Christ, give thanks for our loved ones and share Christ's love with our community. As a congregation we will be using poinsettias to add beauty to our wonderful church during the celebration of our Lord and Savior's coming. The cost per plant is \$12.50. If you do not plan to pick up your plants, we would appreciate you giving us permission to use your money for the purchase of greenery to enhance our Christmas arrangement.

Please return the bottom portion of this form along with a check made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," no later than **Friday, December 2.**

I would like to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase a Poinsettia Plant for \$12.50 each \_\_\_\_\_ plants = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please use for the purchase of greenery \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) to be memorialized: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) to be honored: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail form and check made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" to  
First Presbyterian Church  
9 W. Calhoun Street  
Sumter, SC 29150**