

# FOCUS

ONE FAMILY

December 7, 2016

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Session Room)  
9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)



**41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SERVICE OF  
LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
**10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

**Featuring the Chancel Choir, the Taylor Strings  
and other guest musicians**

This service is modeled after the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols, first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. We have lovingly woven together sacred music and scriptural texts in an attempt to tell the extraordinary story of Jesus' birth.

There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 3:00 service.

6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Group  
Tacky Sweater Christmas Party (West Building)  
6:00 p.m. ~ *Not a Silent Night* Book Study (McLaurin Room)

**ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP**

John Dunn, Anne Abbott

**ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS**

John Jackson

**WORSHIP AT HOME** John Leasure, Ollie James

**TELLER DUTY** Gloria Coker, Susan D. Osteen

**ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING**

(December 11-17) John Jackson

**USHERS** Susan D. Osteen and Ben Abbott

Junior Ushers: Will Croft, Richard Dwight

**CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE  
VOLUNTEERS**

**Committee Member** – Bronwyn McElveen

**Nursery** – Markita Gadson

**2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds** – Murrell & Macaulay Smith

**GIFTS DUE MONDAY**

Just a reminder that gifts for the Angel Tree must be returned by **Monday, December 12**. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the package.



Every year during this time, I hear folks of all ages mention these familiar words: "I'm so busy!"

I find it interesting that as we prepare for the hope of the world to visit us, we do so by rushing, hurrying and spreading ourselves too thin. When did Jesus ever say he wanted us to celebrate his birthday by adding a gazillion things to our calendar?

Now, some of the busyness is for a good reason – joining with friends and family to celebrate and thank God for all that we have been graced with. Family gatherings and parties is something I look forward to every year. In the Gospel of John, Jesus reminds us of one of the important reasons he came in the first place. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

This time of year often brings with it anxiety and worry about getting everything done while pleasing everyone in our lives. It's an impossible mission. In the middle of a hectic and consumer driven season, the God of peace invites us to slow down and rest. Jesus invites us to embrace the peace that comes through sitting down with loved ones, cuddling with your children during a holiday movie, enjoying a date night with your spouse, listening to grandma or grandpa read the Christmas story to your kids or holding the hand of a loved one who is feeling sick or alone.

Jesus came to give us peace, but we have to make room for it to enter into our lives. My prayer for you and for me as we walk closer and closer to the manger is that we might open ourselves up, moment by moment, to the peace of Emmanuel, God with us.

See you Sunday!

*Nick*

Nick

**SERVICE OF  
COMFORT AND HOPE**

**December 14 ~ 5:30 p.m.  
in the Chapel**

Join us for a meditative service of scripture readings, prayer and music by Kipper Ackerman, Harp.



**NEEDED!!!**

A/V Tech Team to help with sound and video on Sunday mornings! Please contact Ike Jenkins or Matt Stutz if you are interested.

**FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER**

Anyone transferring stock to the church to be credited to 2016 should do so as soon as possible. We ask your help in the following ways:

- Notify the church at the same time you notify your broker;
- Inform us as to the name of your broker and the stock that is involved;
- Please allow 2-3 weeks for completion of any stock transaction.

Any funds to be applied toward your 2016 pledge or to pre-pay your 2017 pledge should be received by noon on December 31. All mailed gifts must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2016 to be credited to 2016.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 6:00 p.m. Deacon’s Meeting ..... McLaurin Room
- 6:30 p.m. Troop 86 ..... Scout Hut
- 6:30 p.m. Pack 86 ..... West Building

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- 7:00 a.m. MSY Prayer Breakfast ..... Baker’s Sweets
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Officer Training..... Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

- 7:00 a.m. HSY Prayer Breakfast ..... Baker’s Sweets
- 12:00 p.m. Lectionary Lunch..... McLaurin Room
- 5:30 p.m. Service of Comfort and Hope ..... Chapel
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

- 11:00 a.m. Preschool Program..... Fellowship Hall

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Caroling
- 6:00 p.m. *Not A Silent Night* Book Study ..... McLaurin Room



**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

**Tuesday, December 20**

Please meet in the parking lot at the Beacon Theater at 5:40 p.m. Cost is \$10/child and includes admission and kids popcorn combo. Pick up will be at the theater at 8:00 p.m.

**FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS**

Allergies to foods that contain nuts or gluten can cause significant problems if ingested. In an effort to promote an awareness of food allergies and alert you to foods at FPC covered dish meals and receptions that contain nuts or are gluten free, we are asking that you label foods that you donate for these events. Please mark your items that contain nuts or items that are gluten-free. The kitchen helpers will then label those foods to alert those with concerns about what they are eating. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**FOOD ALLERGIES**



**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The Church Office will be operating on the following schedule during the holidays:

- December 26 and 27 ~ Closed
- December 28 and 29 ~ Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- December 30 ~ Closed at noon
- January 2 ~ Closed
- January 3 ~ Normal office hours resume



Please remember all end of year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2016, in order to be counted as a 2016 contribution.



Focus will not be published the week of December 26. Please submit any information to Shirley (swood@fpcsumter.org) by Monday, December 19, to be included in the Focus which will be published December 21.

**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 or call 803-773-3814.

**The available dates are:**

- December 24, 4:00 p.m.
- December 24, 6:00 p.m.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Covenant Place:** Marion Young

**At Home:** Charles Shaw, Linda Montague, Gordon Rettke, Helen Brookes-Futrell



**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to . . .

- . . . Suzanne Wates on the death of her mother, Margory Maczka, who died December 2 in Geneva, Illinois;
- . . . Marsha Somheil on the death of her brother, James Mack Cabbage, Jr., who died December 3 in Rock Hill, South Carolina;
- . . . Marie Mills on the death of her uncle, Steve Hughes, who died December 1 in Surfside.

*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 11/27/2016

	Received		Budgeted
	This Week	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$10,263.00	\$633,595.52	\$686,453.88
*Other Sources	\$0.00	\$133,448.51	\$145,173.15
	\$10,263.00	\$767,044.03	\$831,627.03
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$28,293.09	\$780,826.76	\$825,778.28
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	(\$18,030.09)	(\$13,782.73)	\$5,848.75

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