

FOCUS

ONE FAMILY



December 7, 2016

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship "The Law of Love"

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Matthew 1:18-25

The Youth Bells will provide special music for our service on Sunday, December 18:

Prelude: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
arranged by Kevin McChesney

Introit: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
arranged by Kevin McChesney

Offertory Anthem: Reverend Nick Cheek will play and sing "Joseph's Lullaby".

Our guest organist will be Frances Webb.

6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Christmas Caroling
(Meet in the 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 James, III

WORSHIP AT HOME Gloria Coker, Kyle Osteen

TELLER DUTY Jimmy Ezell, John Leasure

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING

(December 18-24) John James, III

USHERS John Leasure, Becky Owens

Junior Ushers: Madison White, William Cooper

YOUTH LITURGIST Duncan James

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS

Committee Member – Nancy Spivey

Nursery – Markita Gadson

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Chris and Kimberly White

JOY GIFT OFFERING



This Sunday we will receive the annual Joy Gift Offering. This offering is received during the Advent season each year in gratitude for God's gift of Jesus Christ. The gifts are divided equally between two worthy efforts. Half goes to assistance programs to meet identified and emerging needs for retired professional church workers and spouses through the Board of Pensions. The other half is allocated to minority education and leadership development through Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries.



WELCOME HOME!

Many of you recall my first Sunday here. The Cheeks were greeted with a big sign that said "welcome home." We most certainly felt welcome then and we feel welcome today.

In the middle of this season upon us, as we welcome the Christ child into our midst, feelings of warmth often fill our hearts. It is certainly a miracle that we celebrate! Christmas reminds us that we belong to a God who decided to come down to earth and invite us to make room for Christ in our world and in our hearts.

I wonder how many people there are who desperately need to know that there is room for God in their own hearts. I might just be one of those folks. We all need to know that God so loved the world that a Son was given - unending hope, peace, love and joy in the palm of our hands.

Church, receive the warmth of the season into your heart. But don't let it stay there. Share it. Share it with everyone we meet because we all need to experience what it feels like to welcome Emanuel home.

See you Sunday!

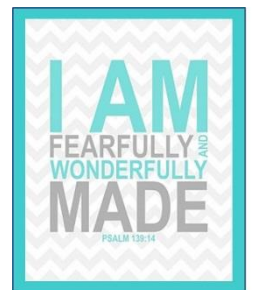
Nick

Nick

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE
27TH ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
RETREAT !!!
February 17-19, 2017**

Doubletree Resort
(formerly Springmaid Beach Resort)
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Registration forms can be found on the table outside the church office. Registration deadline is January 11, 2017!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. ~ Family Service
with Children's Nativity
6:00 p.m. ~ Traditional Service

*Both services will be
Candlelight Communion
Services.*



Focus will not be published the week of December 26. Please submit any information to Shirley (803-773-3814 or swood@fpcsumter.org) by Monday, December 19, to be included in the Focus which will be published December 21.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 5:45 p.m. Children’s Gathering Meet at Beacon Theater
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Movie Night West Building

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary With Children’s Nativity
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary
Both Services are Candlelight Communion Services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 10:30 a.m. Worship..... Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 ~ Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 ~ Church Office Closed

**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.



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.

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.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. ~ Family Service with Children’s Nativity
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Traditional Service
- Both are Candlelight Communion Services.*

Sunday, December 25

- No Sunday School*
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Informal Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 1

- No Sunday School*
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 8

- 10:30 a.m. ~ Ordination & Installation of Officers
- 4:00 p.m. ~ Installation of Reverend Nick Cheek

Sunday, January 22

- 10:30 a.m. ~ Kirking of the Tartans

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.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Lexington:** Joe Kuhlmann
- Tuomey:** Betty Crosby
- At Home:** Charles Shaw, Linda Montague, Gordon Rettke, Helen Brookes-Futrell



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 12/4/2016

	Received		Budgeted
	This Week	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$22,357.60	\$655,953.12	\$700,422.41
*Other Sources	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$133,448.51</u>	<u>\$147,771.11</u>
	\$22,357.60	\$789,401.63	\$848,193.52
Disbursements	\$11,852.06	\$792,678.82	\$843,257.29
Surplus (Deficit)	\$10,505.54	(\$3,277.19)	\$4,936.23

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*