



Parish Presbyterian Church

615-574-1029 / office@parishpres.org

Newsletter for Sunday, December 15th, 2019

Parish Youth Group Christmas Caroling

Parish youth, please join us as we reach out to our neighbors in McKay's Mill. We will be Christmas caroling today at 4 PM and then enjoying a fun Christmas party at the church afterwards.

Christmas Cookies and Wassail Next Sunday

Sunday School will not meet for the next three weeks, resuming on January 12th. Next Sunday, we will have Christmas cookies and wassail for a time of fellowship between the services during the normal Sunday School hour.

Prayer Board

If we desire for real renewal, revival, and reformation to sweep through our world, our nation, our community, and our church, we will have to be a praying congregation. Oswald Chambers has said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." So, please take advantage of the prayer requests on our board in the lobby. Take one and leave one—and cry out to the Lord to hear our supplications with an outpouring of His grace.

Christmas Eve

Please join us for a Christmas Eve Carol service on December 24th at 5 PM. Come celebrate the birth of the Savior with beloved Christmas Carols, Scripture readings, and a children's sermon from Pastor Grant.

New Year's Day Prayer Vigil

Let's begin 2020 praying together. From dawn to dusk on New Year's Day we will pray in half hour shifts, in our homes, for our world, our nation, our community, and our church. Watch for sign-up sheets and prayer guides in the lobby soon. According to J. Sidlow Baxter, "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." So, let's go before the throne of all grace with our petitions and supplications for the coming year.

Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study on evangelism continues for the winter season, as we complete our study of Scripture with *Learning Evangelism from Jesus* by Jerram Barrs. Join us on Tuesday, January 14th at Susan Comer's home from 6:30-7:30 PM. Contact Karen Grant (karen@parishpres.org) with questions.



Calendar

Today—

Worship 8:30 and 11 AM

Sunday School: 10 AM

Youth Christmas Caroling: 4 PM

Tuesday—

Men's Bible Study (Thompson's Station): 6 AM

Wednesday—

Men's Bible Study (Parish): 6 AM

Nursery Volunteers for Next Week

First Service—Susan Sadler, Blair Crist, and Katherine Crist

Second Service—Jim Soyster, Carin Meerdink, and Ava Meerdink

Emmaus Volunteers

12/15—Jimmy Allen, Rebecca Faies, and Beatrice Farris

12/22—Karen Grant

Linens

December—Karen Grant

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4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067 / office@parishpres.org / www.parishpres.org

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Advent: A Season of Remembering Well

"When I think of Christmas Eves, Christmas feasts, Christmas songs, and Christmas stories, I know that they do not represent a short and transient gladness. Instead, they speak of a joy unspeakable and full of glory. God loved the world and sent His Son.

Whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

That is Christmas joy. That is the Christmas spirit."

—Corrie ten Boom

The holiday season—what we generally just call Christmastime—is actually a long sequence of remembrances, revelries, and celebrations that are collectively known as Yuletide. Beginning with Advent, a time of preparation and repentance, proceeding to Christmas, a time of celebration and generosity, and concluding with Epiphany, a time of remembrance and thanksgiving, Yuletide traditions enable us to see out the old year with faith and love while ushering in the new year with hope and joy. It is a season fraught with meaning and significance.

Unfortunately, it is also such a busy season that its meaning and significance can all too easily be obscured either by well-intended materialistic pursuits—frenzied shopping trips to the mall to find just the right Christmas gift—or by the less benign demands, desires, wants, and needs which are little more than grist for human greed. The traditions of Yuletide were intended to guard us against such things—and thus, are actually more relevant today than ever before.

Hilaire Belloc once quipped, "To comprehend the history of a thing is to unlock the mysteries of its present, and more, to disclose the profundities of its future." Likewise, J.C. Ryle said, "All heaven and earth resound with that subtle and delicately balanced truth that the old paths are the best paths after all." And, the incomparable G.K. Chesterton wrote, "Weak things must boast of being new, like so many new German philosophies. But strong things can boast of being old. Strong things can boast of being moribund." Each of these modern wise men point us to the fact that the remembrances and recollections, the celebrations and gatherings of this season can ground us in the things that matter most—especially if we are able to resist the fog of holiday bustle!

May the Lord give us grace to do just that in this season. May we know the fullness of this good news, these glad tidings, this great joy! And may our time in God's Word be one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to accomplish this. Tolle lege! Take and read!

Sunday

Luke 1:5-17

The birth of John the Baptist is foretold to Zacharias.

Monday

Luke 1:13-25

Zacharias is struck dumb until the fulfillment of Gabriel's prophecy.

Tuesday

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel's annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation.

Wednesday

Matthew 1:18-25

The angel of the Lord comes to Joseph in a dream.

Thursday

Luke 1:39-56

The birth of John the Baptist.

Friday

Luke 1: 67-80

Zacharias speaks a prophecy over the infant John.

Saturday

Matthew 11:1-18

The prophetic ministry of John the Baptist