



Parish Presbyterian Church

615-574-1029 / office@parishpres.org

Newsletter for Sunday, December 8th, 2019

Advent Choral Service Today at 3 PM

Plan to attend the Advent Choral Service at 3 PM today. This service will feature Scripture, congregational singing, and special musical selections by the Parish Adult and Children's choirs. Join us as we celebrate the joyful Advent season, singing along with the angels, "Glory to God in the Highest!"

Prayer Board

A. C. Dixon has wisely said, "When we rely upon organization—we get what organization can do. When we rely upon education—we get what education can do. When we rely upon eloquence—we get what eloquence can do. And so on. But when we rely upon prayer—we get what God can do." Let's take advantage of the opportunity to pray for one another so that we're not relying on ourselves, but on the God of all grace. Stop by the prayer board and take a request to pray for during the week—and please, be sure to leave any requests that you might have.

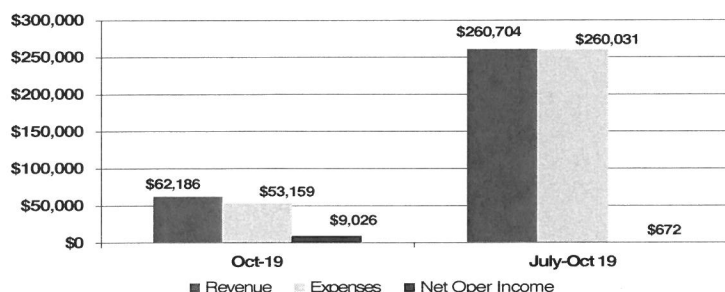
Parish Youth Group Christmas Caroling

Parish youth, please join us as we reach out to our neighbors in McKay's Mill. We will be Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 15th at 4 PM. Afterwards, there will be a fun Christmas party at the church.

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.

PPC Financial Status



Calendar

Today—

Worship 8:30 and 11 AM
Sunday School: 10 AM
Advent Choral Service: 3 PM
Youth Bible Study: 6:30 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—Mary Jo Tate, Chase Haws, and Amery Goodin
(Charlie's Buddy—Candas Goodin)
Sunday School—Katrina Keidis, Clara Soundara, and Mya Soundara
Second Service—Abby Ragsdale, Ray Ware, and Ella Herrenbruck

Emmaus Volunteers

First Service—

12/8—Jonathon Mastroberti and Jamie Parolini
12/15—Charissa Ragsdale and Family

Second Service—

12/8—Helen Soyster
12/15—Jimmy Allen, Rebecca Faires, and Beatrice Farris

Linens

December—Karen Grant

Parish Presbyterian Church

4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067 / office@parishpres.org / www.parishpres.org
615-574-1029 / Twitter: @parishpres / www.facebook.com/ParishPresbyterianChurch

The Second Week of Advent

"Merry Christmas." It is likely that we will both say and hear that phrase more than a few times over the next three weeks. For us as believers, it serves as far more than a simple alternative to "Seasons Greetings" or "Happy Holidays." We know only too well that true merriment of the heart depends upon grasping the profound reality that Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem for our salvation. So, we joyfully declare: "He has come to make His blessings flow as far as the curse is found."

Merry is a word that usually connotes good humor, cheerfulness, and joy. This is how it is often used in the Bible. In the Book of Proverbs we read, "A merry heart is good medicine." And, the Prophet Jeremiah declares, "Adorn yourself with tambourines and go forth in the dances of the merry" (Jeremiah 31:4). But, this certainly does not exhaust the word's meaning.

Originally, merry comes to us from the old Anglo-Saxon word, myryer. It was used in various contexts to mean pleasing, fine, and agreeable. It could also mean melodious, comforting, and sweet. Sometimes it conveyed the idea of bountiful, fruitful, and prosperous. Very often though, it was used to mean illustrious, mighty, and brave.

So, to be merry was not simply to be joyful, cheerful, and gleeful, but often, strong, bold, and gallant as well. It was in this sense that courageous soldiers were called "merry men." Favorable weather was called "merry weather." Brisk winds were called a "merry gale."

Thus, the word merry carries with it the double thought of might and mirth.

As Christians, we are able to engage in spiritual merriment as we remember that, through the redemption wrought by the grace of the Lord Jesus, we have been made "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). So, "God rest ye, merry gentlemen" and merry, merry Christmas!

Several folks asked for a copy of the poem Pastor George read in his sermon last Sunday. Here it is:

The Whip of Advent

By Tristan Gylberd

The pitch of the stall was glorious
Though the straw was dusty and old
The wind sang with orchestral beauty
Though it blew bitter and cold

The night was mysteriously glistening
Though the earth was fallen, forlorn
For under the eaves of splendor
A child-The Child-was born

Oxen Sheep and doves
Crowded round Nativity's scene
Though the world still failed to grasp
T'was here that peace had been

Cast out into a cave
When no room was found for Him
His coming was a scourge
That cleansed a robber's den

While the Temple's become a cattle stall
Where beasts and such are sold
The Child's turned Manger into Temple
And changed the base to gold

Tis the paradox of the ages:
Worldly wisdom will ne're relent
To notice signs of visitation
Nor the cords of the whip of Advent

Sunday

Exodus 20:1-17 The Law of God, which we in our own strength cannot keep.

Monday

Joel 2: 12,13 The Lord desires a repentant heart.

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort ye my people.

Wednesday

Romans 3:21-28 Righteousness by the Law of Faith through Christ.

Thursday

Romans 8:1-4 The fulfillment of the Law through Christ.

Friday

Isaiah 60:1-4 Arise, shine! for your light has come.

Saturday

Hebrews 10:1-10 Christ came to fulfill the need for an all-sufficient sacrifice for sins.