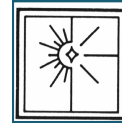


December 2018 Newsletter

The Morning Star



Lectionary Gospel Texts

December 2, 2018
First Sunday in Advent
Communion served
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
Hanging of the Greens after worship

December 9, 2018
Second Sunday in Advent
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6
MSPC Session meets
December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent
Communion served
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18
December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2018
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
5:30 and 10pm worship times

December 30, 2018
First Sunday After Christmas
Colossians 3:1-17; Luke 2:41-52



Pastor's Corner

Winston Churchill once noted that: *The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.* That is not terribly uplifting. Did he think that the average voter was not very smart, was misguided, or simply not committed? The first two reasons in any country might combine to play. But the third reason...uncommitted...come over to America. For it should be noted that in the election just passed, it seems that a lot of "average voters" wanted their voices to be heard and their votes counted. It seems that democracy is alive and well in this nation. The sheer numbers of voters which came close to equaling what would be expected in a presidential election year were encouraging. People felt that it was important to vote, for whatever reason and for whatever political end. There was a lot of talk and "conversation," but also a lot of action, as the number of votes indicated. But let's change the observation by Mr. Churchill to a religious context. That is, could it be that the best argument against church is a five-minute conversation with the average church member? We sure hope not. One would hope that Christians in particular would have something wise and engaging to say in a normal conversation about faith and discipleship. That is, as normal as any encounter in faith discussions might be. And of what would those engaging and inviting parts of the conversation be, to say in a five minute conversation with those outside the church? What do we have to say? For elections come around every couple of years, but the calls to faith are here all the time.

Faithfully,
Steve Mitchell

MSPC's Appalachia Service Project
Team 2018

Our team is back. MSPC is sent a work crew to Jonesville from November 1-4, VA to help a family get ready for the winter. Echoing the youth work crews that went to West Virginia several years ago, this years team of adults went to work hard for two days to help a needy family have their house a bit warmer, drier and safer, with specific attention to putting in a living room floor, and a new set of stairs on the side of the home. The team included: Session Elders Tom Clifford and Clara Hoeffler, as well as Don Kesler, Lisa Pianka, Tricia Bunn and Steve Mitchell. Donations toward the trip made a lot of difference. Most of all the team thanks the congregation and others for their funds and prayers. There will be lots of story to tell over the next few months.

The MSPC Scrapbook

For those with an interest in our congregation's history, take some time to drop by the parlor behind the sanctuary and browse the scrapbook that is located in the room. There are some pictures and such that you find educational and heat-warming. You even might recognize some faces in the album that look a bit younger than they are now. Just saying...

May your *Home* be warm,
your *Holidays* grand,
& may your *Heart* be
held gently in the Lord's hands.

dazzlejunction.com

Through December 9 we will be having a Toy Drive for Servants Heart of Mint Hill. The toys must be new, unwrapped and have the price included.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS GATHERING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018 AT 6:00 PM
AT THE HOME OF SHARON MEREDITH
11117 HALLMARK DRIVE, MATTHEWS.
BRING A FRIEND!



Order a poinsettia for the worship area during the Advent/Christmas Season in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. The cost is \$12.00. Forms are available at church. You may take them home After the Christmas Eve Service. Ordering deadline is December 9.



BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 16. Please join us at 8:30 am for breakfast before the Lessons and Carols. We will have breakfast casserole, coffee and juice.



SYNOPSIS OF REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION of MSPC - NOVEMBER 11, 2018

PRESENT: Moderator: Steve Mitchell Elders: Jerry Cole, Linda Horky, Clara Hoefler, Curtis Moore, Tom Clifford, Nancy Hamilton, Kathy Jones, Sharon Browning and Dianne Dalto

DEVOTION: Tom Clifford opened the meeting with prayer.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

Approval of minutes: October 24th (regular); October 28th (called); approved as read.

TREASURY REPORT – (Mary Miller)

Mary Miller (Financial Assistant) supplied hard copies of the financial balances as of 11/11/18.

BB&T Checkbook balance: \$ 1,253

BB&T Savings balance: \$18,173 (designated funds included)

MINISTRY GROUPS –

OUTWARD – No Written Report (Clara)

Linda Horky has done research on a website Charity Navigator and wanted session members to be aware that all charities are not equal as far as their rating and that we should be mindful of this as we try to support various charities as a church.

Time Out Youth project: After Clara explained this project for those that were absent at the last meeting, it was felt that she should also explain this project to the congregation. **A motion was made by Tom Clifford and seconded by Sharon Browning that, for those members who would like to contribute, we collect a special offering monthly to support and show our Christian love for the LGBTQ community. It is felt that this offering would begin to be collected in January 2019. All approved.**

UPWARD/INWARD – Written report (Sharon/Kathy/Nancy)

Outdoor banner for Advent has been designed and will be ordered at approximately \$100. Hanging of the Greens will be Dec. 2nd following the worship service. That same morning prior to the worship service coffee & donuts will served during a time of fellowship. There will be two services on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm and 10:00 pm. Clara has volunteered to be the nursery worker during the early service. On New Year's Eve at 7 pm, there will be a fellowship time with everyone bringing white elephant gifts to exchange and finger foods to share.

FORWARD – No Written report (Jerry Cole/Tom Clifford/Curtis Moore)

The security of the church during morning worship was discussed within the committee. Forward will come back to the next session meeting with a proposal regarding this issue.

OLD BUSINESS –

Clara reported on the last Presbytery meeting at 1st Monroe PC on Oct. 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS –

Small discussion regarding Stewardship drive follow-up.

CALENDAR REVIEW –

Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday November 21st Thanksgiving

Covered Dish: Sunday November 18th after worship.

Ministry Group Night: Monday November 26th @ 7:00 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens: Sunday December 2nd

Next Session Meeting: Sunday December 9th @ 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services: Monday December 24 @ 5:30 & 10:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Fellowship @ 7:00 p.m.

Calendar Reminders

- 2 First Sunday in Advent; Communion
Hanging of the Greens
- 4 Girl Scouts at 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Second Sunday in Advent
Last Sunday for Toy Collection
Last Sunday to order Poinsettias
- 10 PW Christmas Gathering at 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Girl Scouts 6:00 pm
- 12 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- 16 Third Sunday in Advent; Breakfast,
Lessons and Carols, Communion
- 18 Girl Scouts
- 19 Choir Rehearsal
- 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Christmas Joy Offering
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 p.m. and
10:00 p.m.; Communion
- 25 Christmas
- 30 1st Sunday After Christmas Day
10 cents a Meal Offering
- 31 Bingo 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

- 1 John Owen
- 15 Jordan Berry
- 17 Lynn Cole
- 17 Judy Crane
- 19 Linda Anderson
- 20 Don Kesler
- 26 Kasey Loomer
Sharon Browning



Volunteer Schedule

BEADLES GREETERS

- Dec. 2 Travis & Sharon Meredith
- Dec. 9 Nancy Hamilton/Brenda McIntosh
- Dec. 16 Randy & Kathy Jones
- Dec. 23 Tom & Lynn Clifford
- Dec. 30 Lisa Pianka & Clara Hoeffler

COUNTERS

- Dec. 2 Lynn Cole/Mary Miller
- Dec. 9 Jerry Cole/Skip Smith
- Dec. 16 Jan Davis/Linda Horky
- Dec. 23 Tricia Bunn/Robert Hamilton
- Dec. 30 Mary Miller/Sharon Browning

LAY LITURGIST

- Dec. 2 Linda Horky
- Dec. 9 Deb Smith
- Dec. 16 Deb Smith
- Dec. 23 Clara Hoeffler
- Dec. 30 Clara Hoeffler

NURSERY

- Dec. 4 Skip & Gloria Smith
- Dec. 11 Carmine Dalto/Mary Miller
- Dec. 18 Deb Smith/Alexis & Savannah
- Dec. 25 Travis & Sharon Meredith
- Dec. 30 Joe & Nancy Mestor

THANKFUL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SO VERY

