

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE PLANNING TEAM**

Ann Rand ([nedrandsr@yahoo.com](mailto:nedrandsr@yahoo.com)) Doris Riggs ([dorisriggs@tds.net](mailto:dorisriggs@tds.net))

**Thank you to all knitters - KNITTED HAT UPDATE:** Our goal was 429 hats & WE DID IT! -AND THEN SOME!! Thank you to my Faithful Knitters- Doris Riggs, Frances Thompson, Sylvia Goodyear, Terri Charron, Candy Frank's mom - Marilyn, Kathy Cardwell's friend - Kathy, and Snack in a Backpack volunteer - Nadine. Thank you for the overwhelming donation of yarn - especially Judy Evans, Sherry Scruggs, Brenda Scruggs, & St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Our hats will be packed in Snack in a Backpack holiday bags on December 12th. I'll be sure to get a picture!! Merry Christmas! Kim King

Day by Day Faithfully Forward	
Faith Groups	Wednesday- 12 noon- Advent Lunch and Learn Faith Groups and Thursday Study Group (5:45 p.m.) will resume in January 2019
December 5	Noon: Second of four Advent Lunch and Learns
December 16	10:30 and 5:00 – Christmas Cantata
December 24	5:00 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Prelude of Music at 4:30)

**Faith Presbyterian Church**

**Mission Statement:** By God's love and grace, we are Called, Committed and Led.

**Vision Statement:** Called by God to be Faith Presbyterian Church of the North Georgia Mountains, we welcome all to join together to worship God.

Committed to following Jesus' example, we joyfully share God's love, grace and gifts with all in our church family and community.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to grow spiritually in this community of Faith.

**Church Priorities for 2019** (as adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2018):

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community
- Continue as a spiritual community worshipping God by the sharing of our time, talent and treasure.
- Equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care.
- Develop effective church leaders
- Develop effective communication to include appropriate use of technology
- Construct our new church facility.
- Prepare for the transition to our new church facility.
- Recognize the challenge of the expense of the new building, while maintaining and developing our ongoing life and witness.

**Facebook** – please like and share the posts on the church's Facebook page.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Faith Presbyterian Church in action, December 2-9, 2018**

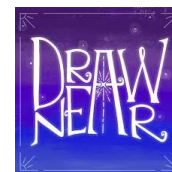
- Today** 9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 Worship Service – The First Sunday of Advent  
Communion  
2:00 Blue Ridge Community Theatre trip
- Wednesday** 12:00 Advent Lunch and Learn  
5:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday** 10-12 and 1-3 Faith Serves at Food Pantry
- Sunday** 9:00 Discovery Class  
9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 Worship Service – The Second Sunday of Advent  
12:00 Second Sunday Lunch  
1:30 Choir at Blue Ridge Assisted Living



**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TEAM**

Patty Morris [pattymorris1029@gmail.com](mailto:pattymorris1029@gmail.com) Frances Young [femyoung26@aol.com](mailto:femyoung26@aol.com)

**Head Usher and Ushers. Please check the sign-up clipboards in the narthex or contact Frances Young or Patty Morris. Head Usher for December is John Thompson.** Please be ready to accept an invitation to assist as an usher Sunday by Sunday.



**Advent 2018 at Faith Presbyterian Church.** Please pick up your copy of our 2018 Advent Devotional Today and help distribute the Advent & Christmas posters around the community.

Sign up to attend the Advent Lunch and Learns which began November 28, help also with bringing soup, bread and desserts.

Sundays: Weekly Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays: Lunch and Learns Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Christmas Cantata – December 16 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 p.m. Monday December 24th. Prelude of Music from 4:30 p.m.

**Children's Church Schedule** Come join the fun!!! Please check your calendar and consider volunteering for just one day, please contact Frances Young [femyoung26@aol.com](mailto:femyoung26@aol.com) or call 407-325-3334 12/2 Frances Young and Elaine Whitley; 12/9 Debbie Peterson and Ann Rand; 12/16 Patty Morris and Jeannine Lazenby; 12/23 Doris Riggs and Treva Wheatley.



**Making Music @ Faith:** Want to join the choir? Contact Kathy Cardwell [kathymac@gmail.com](mailto:kathymac@gmail.com) or call at 828-361-0007. Also, contact Kathy if you are interested in private piano or voice lessons on Wednesdays at the church.

**Women of Faith** – The 2018/2019 study, Twelve Women of the Bible, will continue on the 4th Monday January through May 20 in 2019. Next meeting January 28. Books for the study are available for \$5 from the church office, Frances Young, or Patty Morris.

#### ADMINISTRATION PLANNING TEAM

Jim Reich ([jimreich72@gmail.com](mailto:jimreich72@gmail.com)) Bruce Burn ([bburn4757@gmail.com](mailto:bburn4757@gmail.com))



**New Building Committee...** Asks for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance as we seek to move the new building project forward. The Committee continues its work with Nathan's Construction on the building plans, and with the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program (PILP) to close our approved mortgage.

The video of the Groundbreaking Ceremony is now available either from the church's Facebook page or online at: <https://youtu.be/xjsRwulq-8o>

If you open up youtube and then search for: Faith Presbyterian Church Blue Ridge GA you will get to the video quite easily. Thank you, Jim and Sally Crawford, for producing this meaningful record of a great occasion.

#### Stewardship Drive Update . . .11/28/2018

As of today, 67 pledges totaling \$200,560 have been received from members and friends of Faith for financial support in 2019. There are still 6 giving units who pledged in 2018 who have yet to make their commitment for 2019. While nothing is certain until a pledge is received, we look forward to their support. Assuming those 6 pledges were at the same level as 2018, we would anticipate another \$21,160 to be pledged bringing the total to \$221,720. Of the 67 pledges received, 12 (18%) were new pledgers this year. Thank you to all who have made a pledge for 2019. And let me encourage any who are still considering their 2019 pledge to respond at your earliest convenience.

**End of Year Giving:** This time of the year, many of you ask me for an update on your pledge before the end of the year. If you need this information, please email me at [finsecretary@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:finsecretary@faithpresbyterianusa.org) or call me at 404-694-0441. Also, as you look at year-end giving, it should be noted that there is an advantage to donating stocks/bonds that have appreciated in value. If you have questions, see me or call your accountant or stock broker for details. The congregation has an Account at TD Ameritrade into which stocks and mutual funds can be transferred/received.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Goodyear, Financial Secretary

**Church Newsletter:** To submit an item for the newsletter, email exactly what you want to include to [faithpcblueridge@gmail.com](mailto:faithpcblueridge@gmail.com) We love receiving photographs of church-related events. The deadline for the newsletter is **10 AM on Mondays** or leave written submissions and on the secretary's desk in the church office. To receive the newsletter please send your email address to: [faithpcblueridge@gmail.com](mailto:faithpcblueridge@gmail.com)

**Online Church Directory** The church is transitioning to a new database to handle membership and contact information. In this period the online church directory will no longer be updated. Stay tuned for updates.

#### MISSION & OUTREACH PLANNING TEAM

Sylvia Goodyear ([smgoodyear@tds.net](mailto:smgoodyear@tds.net)) Candy Frank ([cmwfrank@aol.com](mailto:cmwfrank@aol.com))



**The Christmas Joy Offering** – one of the special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be received here at Faith Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 16. See insert in today's bulletin and information from [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

**Christmas gift collections:** The congregation is invited to bring gifts for children at the Crisis Center to give their mothers for Christmas. The children select the gift from our donations. We also collect gifts for the residents of Pruitt Nursing Home. For the nursing home, lap blankets, toiletries, large print puzzles, hats, socks and gloves are suggested. These items should be brought to the church no later than December 16th. None of the gifts should be wrapped.

**Toys for Tots:** we are also collecting new, unwrapped toys for ages birth to 17 years up until about December 17th. There is a Toys for Tots box in our gathering room. They accept larger items such as bicycles but do not take computer games.

**Ready for membership? Like to know more?** Our next **Discovery Class** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 9th**. If you would like to discover more about the life of Faith, or are ready to be welcomed as a member, contact Jim Simpson, [Jim.Simpson@tds.net](mailto:Jim.Simpson@tds.net) and plan to attend the Discovery Class, a one Sunday introduction and welcome to Faith Presbyterian Church, including a welcome to the congregation during the 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.

**Food Pantry:** The December and January signup sheets are on the mission board. Please consider giving two hours a month to help feed the hungry. A training session for food handlers is required but you may volunteer before taking the training. Contact **Hilda Giles** [hjthebb@gmail.com](mailto:hjthebb@gmail.com) or 770-605-0040.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Donations** to help victims of natural disasters may be made to online at [pda.pcusa.org/page/give](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/give) or by mail to: Presbyterian Church USA, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700