

CONGREGATIONAL CARE PLANNING TEAM

Ann Rand (nedrandr@yahoo.com) Doris Riggs (dorisriggs@tds.net)

Burns Supper: On January 25, Congregational Care is hosting a Burns Supper from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. This is a traditional Scottish celebration of the birthday of Scotland’s National Poet, Robert Burns. In addition to the Burns meal, there will be music, singing, reading of a poem or two, and even a little easy dancing. Help plan and participate by contacting Lynn Hayes 404-702-0643 lynnhayes18@gmail.com or Doris Riggs dorisriggs@tds.net. All are welcome. Save the date and join us for a fun-filled evening.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=&url=https://www.wheremilan.com/events/culture-burns-night-2019-milan/&psig=AOvVaw3SzBGEv5E1upNccxkhFPcL&ust=1543887536581651>

Day by Day Faithfully Forward	
Faith Groups	Faith Groups and Thursday Study Group resume in January
December 19	Noon: Concluding Advent Lunch and Learn for 2018
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Presbyterian Church in action, December 16-23, 2018

- Today** 9:30 Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 Worship Service – The Third Sunday of Advent - Christmas Cantata
 5:00 Christmas Cantata – followed by refreshments
- Tuesday** 9:30 Session Meeting
- Wednesday** 12:00 Advent Lunch and Learn
 5:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday** 10-12 and 1-3 Faith Serves at Food Pantry
- Friday** 5:30 Jewish Congregation Service
- Sunday** 9:30 Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 Worship – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Monday (Christmas Eve, December 24)**
 4:30 Prelude of Music
 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TEAM

Patty Morris pattymorris1029@gmail.com Frances Young 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 and will continue until December 19. Sign up also to help with providing soup, bread and desserts for the lunches.

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 or call 407-325-3334. 12/16 Patty Morris and Jeannine Lazenby; 12/23 Doris Riggs and Treva Wheatley.

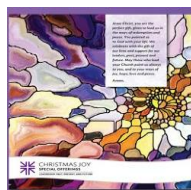


Making Music @ Faith: Want to join the choir? Contact Kathy Cardwell kathymac@gmail.com or call at 828-361-0007. Also, contact Kathy if you are interested in private piano or voice lessons on Wednesdays at the church.

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.

MISSION & OUTREACH PLANNING TEAM

Sylvia Goodyear (smgoodyear@tds.net) Candy Frank (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. During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership: past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ – the truly perfect gift. For more information go to www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

Christmas gift collections: Today is the final day for receiving gifts for the residents of Pruitt Nursing Home. We have plenty of gifts for the crisis center. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

Toys for Tots: We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for ages birth to 17 years, through today. There is a Toys for Tots box in our gathering room. They accept larger items such as bicycles but do not take computer games.

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 or 770-605-0040.

Church Newsletter: To submit an item for the newsletter, email exactly what you want to include to 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

All the children who receive food from Snack in a Backpack received knitted hats from our church knitters last week. Thanks to all you knitters for all your hard work.

ADMINISTRATION PLANNING TEAM

Jim Reich (jimreich72@gmail.com) Bruce Burn (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://youtube/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.

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 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

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.