



# Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings!

December 9, 2019

Updated news and other resources available online at: [www.faithpresbyterianusa.org](http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org)  
 This link will take you to the Faith Presbyterian Church Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge/](http://www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge/)

**Physical Address: 56 Mountain Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513**

**Mailing Address: PO Box 2668 Blue Ridge GA 30513**

**Church Phone: (706) 374-5912**

**Church Email: [office@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:office@faithpresbyterianusa.org)**

**Due to problems with Gmail we are transitioning to a new email system and today and moving forward you will receive the Newsletter from this address: [office@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:office@faithpresbyterianusa.org)**

<p><b>Monday, December 9</b>  <b>DUE TO THE RAIN – NO STEEPLE RAISING TODAY</b>  <b>Church Office: Elaine Whitley</b>  <b>Newsletter: Chris Chambers</b>  <b>3:00 Administration Planning Team</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 10</b>  <b>Church Office: Janice Cary</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 11</b>  <b>Church Office: Suzanne McWay</b>  <b>12:00 Noon Advent Lunch and Learn</b>  <b>2:00 Burns Meeting</b>  <b>3:00 New Building Committee</b>  <b>3-5:00 p.m. Piano Lessons</b>  <b>5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 12</b>  <b>Church Office: Lynn Hayes</b>  <b>Food Pantry:</b>  <b>10-12:00 a.m. Gilda Hobbs</b>  <b>Elaine &amp; Jim Whitley</b>  <b>1-3:00 p.m. Nancy Goodson &amp; Ann Ireland</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, December 13</b>  <b>Church Office: Treva Wheatley</b>  <b>10-1:00 p.m. Crafty Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday, December 14</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. Instrumentalist</b>  <b>9:00 p.m. Parade helpers meet at church</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. Singers</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, December 15-Advent 3</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. Worship-Christmas Cantada</b>  <b>5:00 p.m. Christmas Cantada</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, December 16</b>  <b>Church Office: Elaine Whitley</b>  <b>Newsletter: Chris Chambers</b>  <b>1:00 Operational Team Meeting</b></p>

**December 1st. Worship Attendance: 113**

**December Head Usher: Carl Riggs**

Ushers for December 15, 2019

Harry and Chris Chambers

Dorothy and Mark McLain

## Information at Faith Presbyterian Church

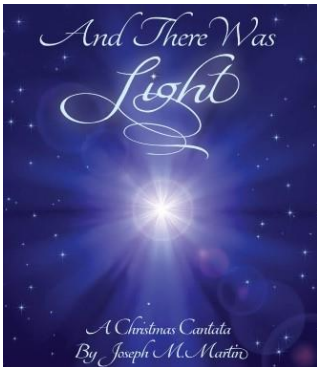
### Advent 2019



#### Wednesday, December 11 at Noon: Advent Lunch and Learn

Come enjoy delicious soup, bread and dessert, and an Advent Reflection from Pastor Jim Simpson. Bring friends and neighbors. It is a great help if you are planning to attend to add your name to the signup list in the Gathering Room (also on December 18.) or call in your “reservation” to the church office volunteer or send your “reservation” via email to: [office@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:office@faithpresbyterianusa.org)

#### This Sunday .... December 15, 2019 - The Third Sunday of Advent



#### WHAT CAN'T WAIT 3. Delight Can't Wait (Joy)

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year:  
Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

The Choir present the 2019 Christmas Cantata: “And there was Light” by Joseph M. Martin  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata: “And there was Light” by Joseph M. Martin – reprise Presentation

#### The Sunday after next.... December 22, 2019 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### WHAT CAN'T WAIT 4. Courage Can't Wait (Love)

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Title: “Do Not Be Afraid”

## Looking a little further ahead.... Tuesday, December 24 is Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

(Prelude of Music from 4:30 p.m.)

Scripture Readings: Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon: "Good News of great joy for all the people"

### **From Pastor Jim Simpson's December 8 sermon: "Turn!"**

"...Turn! is the message of John the Baptist as we hear it again today in Matthew 3. While the culture around us hurtles to or is already engaged in so many celebrations of the birth of Jesus, here we are in church, pausing for longer, seeking to hear all that God's coming with us and for us and among us means by entering the wilderness to hear the message of this wild-eyed, somewhat eccentric preacher with some strange dietary habits, as John looks us all in the eye and says, Repent! Turn! Turn to God's way, turn to God's plan for living and going. Turn from the way you are headed and go in a new direction. The word for repentance in Hebrew can be translated as just this, to turn. In Greek the metanoia – means to take on a new mindset, to think and act differently, to turn from one course of action or direction, to go in a different way. Thus John's message "Repent" can be delivered, "Turn!" ....

The turning we need to make is aligning our living in accordance with the life of our Savior and Lord.....

We need this message, the message of John: TURN! in our lives and our church this Advent. We need to know that we are always being asked to Turn. To TURN to God, to turn away from any other path, to keep on turning in devotion and dedication. God wants us all to TURN not because God wants to heap upon you all the guilt that the church has so often done. The church has used guilt as its currency, which the church has traded in especially towards certain people and certain aspects of human behavior for way too long!

Within this fellowship today, as in other churches like Faith, we have the joy and privilege of welcoming some who are recovering from some misstatement of or some mistaken application of the faith of Jesus Christ. We have people recovering from Christian judgment. People who were raised to know only their guilt in each and every moment of their daily or weekly lives and despite their best efforts and despite their practice of their faith in the Church tradition in which they were raised, ended up sensing only judgment not grace; condemnation, not forgiveness. We have people were victims of those who had the audacity to stand behind some pulpit somewhere, imposing their own singular, "narrow" interpretation of Scripture, as the only sure and certain truth about God which had to be accepted, take it or leave it, rather than it being open to genuine intellectual, emotional and reasonable questions. We have people who are here because of who they are in themselves or who their family members are, as the people God made them to be, who knew the keen and hurtful edge of human banishment in the name of the God they knew and loved.

We have people within our congregation and present today who have experienced all these rejections from the church, and others excluded in other ways. They are present here in part because they have heard us say, and they have seen us seek to practice, "AT Faith, ALL are welcome." Let this word go out, that "At Faith all are always welcome" not because we are super good or real kind people; not because we are in any way better people than others but because of who we are discovering God to be in Jesus Christ.

Knowing Jesus, seeking and following Jesus implores us to state and live that here at Faith All are FULLY welcome, because we have discovered that in our TURN to God, there is never less room for others to make the same TURN, but more room. In our TURN to God there is a place for each and all. In our TURN to God, God has care for us all, and for any and each.

By now I trust and hope that all of you realize just how crucially and vitally important our experience of God's grace and welcome is in who we are as a church and all we seek to be and do in the community and surrounding world. I also trust and hope that all of you realize exactly how much our expression of that grace and welcome matters... because that grace and welcome is needed in the lives of people, people we know, and people we will come to know. The late William Muehl, long time Divinity Professor and author relates this gentle story, a reminder of what matters:

"One December afternoon ... a group of parents stood in the lobby of a nursery school waiting to claim their children after the last pre-Christmas class... As the youngsters ran from their lockers, each one carried in his hands the "surprise," the brightly wrapped package on which they had been working diligently for weeks. One small boy, trying to run, put on his coat, and wave to his parents, all at the same time, slipped and fell. His "surprise" flew from his grasp, landed on the floor and broke with an obvious ceramic crash.

The child ... began to cry inconsolably. His father, trying to minimize the incident and comfort the boy, patted his head and murmured, "Now, that's all right son. It doesn't matter. It really doesn't matter at all." But the child's mother, somewhat wiser in such situations, swept the boy into her arms and said, "Oh, but it does matter. It matters a great deal." And she wept with her son."

What we do here matters! Who we are matters! The experience of God's grace for all matters a great deal! It matters to God, it matters to all who come together and have a place and a church family here within which all are safe, accepted, welcomed and encouraged in our life and faith and service to others, all of us together, offering and extending God's welcome as the people we are!

Who we are matters! What we do in Advent matters! Our Advent worship, our Advent expectations, our Advent hymns matter! This ADVENT we are singing, "The World is about to turn"! John the Baptizer has one foot in the old age that is coming to a close and the other foot in the new age that is being born and comes inviting us once again to Turn! Turn to God! Turn to God's grace! Turn to God's people! Turn! Turn and see that there is room for you and a place

for all! Turn and invite and seek to draw others in. John the Baptizer makes it so clear. His message comes to us from the wilderness to all. We would listen, it does matter. We do matter. What we do matters! Turn! Amen.”

**Our first Discovery Class of 2020 is scheduled for, Sunday, January 26, 2020.** If you would like to discover more about the life of Faith Presbyterian Church, or are ready to be welcomed as a member, please contact Pastor 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.

At this time, we are not able to set a definitive time for the “The Raising of the Steeple”, We do know it will not be before Wednesday of this week (12/4). The excited expectation we all share while waiting for updates from the contractors and our Wood and Stone Committee members should be satisfied soon! Everyone will be notified via email as soon as we have the good news. As ever, we pray for safety and best work on our steeple and the entire building!

**May the raising of the steeple, remind us to continue to raise our prayers to God for the entire project and every aspect of the life of our church in service to God and others, “Beyond the Wood and Stone”.**

### **New Building Gift Donation Program**

As we move into the Season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas the Session and New Building Committee has shared the current New Building Gift Donation list. This document lists several items that will be a great asset in our move into the new building and allow individuals or families to consider donating some or all of the cost of these identified items. You can access the document online at the GIVING page on our church website:

<https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/giving>

Potential donors interested in donating towards a specific item are asked, in the first instance, to contact Pastor Jim Simpson, or the two co-chairs of the New Building Committee, Jim Reich and Bill Young, to be sure that item has not yet been contributed and in order to hear more about how a specific item will add to the overall usefulness of our new building. After Thanksgiving, the current document will be updated to show gifts received and items donated.

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From First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Point, Oregon.

“Thank you so much for the stone you sent to our congregation via Al and Diane Green. We are pleased to be bound in the name of Christ to Faith Presbyterian Church.



We have received a greeting from Nick Demuynck and his wife Savannah. Both attend the Austin Presbyterial Theological Seminary. Nick is very thankful that he has had the opportunity to learn from such amazing professors such as Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer. Rev. Dr. Aymer visit Faith as part of our Summer Learning Series in 2019.





# WHAT CAN'T WAIT

## FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Invites everyone to celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas with a number of events that are always open to everyone!

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
56 Mountain Street  
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513  
(706) 374-5912

[www.faithpresbyterianusa.org](http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org)

Facebook:

FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge



## FAITH Presbyterian Church Advent and Christmas 2019

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Weekly at 10:30 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH & LEARNS

December 4, 11, 18

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

*Enjoy hot soup, bread and delicious  
desserts.*

### “And There Was Light”

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15

At 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Prelude of Carols from 4:30 p.m.

“All are ALWAYS WELCOME!”

Advent is very much on our immediate horizon, with Christmas just beyond.

Our 2019 Advent theme is:

“What Can’t Wait”

In our weekly Services of Worship, Advent Lunch and Learns and other special events we will be seeking to identify those things that really matter to God and are “What Can’t Wait”.

Things you can be doing....

Look for your copy of the Advent Devotional guide;

Sign up for the Advent Lunch and Learns;

Take and share copies of our 2019 flyer/poster in places in the community;

Plan to be part of as much of Advent 2019 at Faith as you can!

**SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR NEEDED FOR CHOIR CANTATA-** The Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and later that day at a 5:00 p.m. Community Service.

If you have an interest in sound systems and are willing to help during this year's Choir Cantata, we would like to hear from you. The various instruments and keyboards we will be using require someone to attend the sound board. Training will be available.

You must be available for dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 and morning and afternoon presentations on Sunday, December 15. This very important job will greatly help bring our musical message of Christmas to all.

If you are interested, contact Harold Wills: cell: 404-786-7330 email: haroldwills@hotmail.com

**Make a Joyful Noise!** Please be sure the dress rehearsal for the cantata is on the calendar for Sat. Dec.14, 9AM - noonish.



**If you are interested in singing in the choir, call or email Kathy Cardwell at [kathymac@gmail.com](mailto:kathymac@gmail.com) or at 828-361-0007 for more details.** Kathy Cardwell, our Music Director, is also able to offer **private** piano and voice lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Church. Contact Kathy to discuss further.

This Sunday is Cantata Sunday, **“AND THERE WAS LIGHT”**, newly composed by Joseph Martin. The Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service and later that day at a 5:00 p.m. community service.

## **Mission and Outreach-Mission and Outreach Christmas Giving Opportunities**



**New Toy Collection Box in Gathering Room for donations Now through Sunday, December 15**

We are grateful to all who have come out to work on Kristen Haley's house. We are making steady progress but will need help in the coming weeks to try to get this house completed and dedicated before Christmas so that she and her children can be "Home for the Holidays"! SOOO, we will be needing much touch up painting and caulking and cleaning in the coming weeks. We will dedicate the Habitat for Humanity Haley house next Sunday Dec 15 at 2:00 pm. Please us for this joyous occasion! Address is 378 Number 20 Mine Road, McCaysville Questions? Debbie Peterson 770-656-0237



### **The Church email system new email addresses are here!**

To stop our dependence on "Gmail" and thereby avoid the problems which have now returned and seem likely to persist preventing us from being able send all church emails from the "Gmail" account, we are moving our church and office email to our own domain name. This domain name is the same as the church website [www.faithpresbyterianusa.org](http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org) This means we will all have to get used to seeing new email addresses using the church address: "@faithpresbyterianusa.org" (This email address is available to us because this is our church website "domain name" over which we have exclusive rights!) In the transition time both current and new email addresses will be in use to help keep everyone in contact and avoid any break in communication. New addresses now in use include: For the general church office: [office@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:office@faithpresbyterianusa.org)

For items for the newsletter: [newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org)

In due course other new email addresses will be created and communicated. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as this technology switch is underway. If you or anyone has a concern regarding if your email has been received, please ask or double check.

Ministry-To-Children



*Volunteers are needed. Please check your calendar and consider serving one Sunday or as needed.*

**December Children's Church Teachers**

**December 15:** Shirley Copeland/ Sharon Brewer

**December 22:** Doris Riggs/ Treva Wheatley



**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT  
FAITH GROUPS**



**Women of Faith "For Such a Time as This-Study of the book of Esther". Frances Young-Facilitator-1 PM 4th Monday of the month** The WOF offer a study each year and support a chosen mission. This study is August through May, except December and **Resumes Monday, January 27, 2020. Please join us.**

**"Unafraid" An Adam Hamilton Understanding and Countering Fear of Contemporary Issues We Face Today.** Sylvia Goodyear-Facilitator-**Final class in January.**

**"ONE ANOTHERING Faith Group" - Elaine Whitley-Facilitator-Wednesday's 10-12 PM** How we relate to each other as the body of Christ/discussion group. "One Anothering" has started and is on Wednesdays 10-12 PM, **Resumes classes on January 8, 2020.** This is a great way for new members to experience a faith group.

**Mission and Outreach-Mission and Outreach Christmas Giving Opportunities**



**New Toy Collection Box in Gathering Room for donations Now through Sunday, December 15**

**Wrapped items can be placed in the Gathering Room November 25-December 8. Please mark the package, male, female or either. Thank you!**

Pruitt Nursing & Rehab Center – adult personal items such as blankets, slippers, socks.

We are grateful to all who have come out to work on Kristen Haley's house. We are making steady progress but will need help in the coming weeks to try to get this house completed and dedicated before Christmas so that she and her children can be "Home for the Holidays"! SOOO, we will be needing much touch up painting and caulking and cleaning in the coming weeks. We will dedicate the Habitat for Humanity Haley house next Sunday Dec 15 at 2:00 pm. Please us for this joyous occasion! Address is 378 Number 20 Mine Road, McCaysville Questions? Debbie Peterson 770-656-0237



**North GA Crisis Center** – small ladies' personal gifts such as jewelry, perfume, scarfs, gloves for the children to give to their mothers who are staying at the center.

**Beautiful day for a parade! First time participating in the McCaysville/Copperhill Parade.**





GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF NORTH GEORGIA  
Fannin County

Fannin County has a large latchkey population in our school system. The Boys and Girls Club is working hard to bridge that gap and provide, not just care, but help with homework and instructions in arts, crafts, sports, etc. for our children after school.

The Boys and Girls Club is working hard to bridge that gap and provide, not just care, but help with homework and instructions in arts, crafts, sports, etc. for our children after school. With gratitude the generosity of Faith Presbyterian Church is acknowledged both in their contribution to our organization and the wonderful assistance provided during our summer session of food and snacks for our summer students.

**The Boys and Girls Club has been given a challenge grant** which will double any new child sponsorships the local organization can arrange until the end of 2019. A child sponsorship is \$1,200. for the year. Any monetary donations will be put together to total sponsorships to meet this challenge. Contact Faith member Hope Burns if you would like to donate towards this challenge.

### **Christmas carolers needed for Friday, December 13.**

The Lake Blue Ridge Civic Association requested that our church choir sing for a party that they are having at the new INOLA event center located on Hwy 5 before Merciers' Orchard. However, since it is the weekend of the cantata, the choir members will not be able to participate. They have asked for singers for about an hour to sing from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the party and to sing carols to those from the public who will be enjoying the Skating Rink on the property. They are happy to have the Faith and Friends carolers to make "A Joyful Noise" for them! Since the choir is not available, they have said that they would take others who enjoyed singing carols who aren't in the choir.



I have gotten a commitment from several people and I'm looking for anyone else who might like to join us for some Christmas carol singing! It will be a good chance for us to see this newly renovated property while spreading some good cheer. Please let me know if you will be able to volunteer for this. We will be making copies of Carols. Guitars and tambourines also welcome! Any little (big) drummer boys out there?? Contact We will meet at 6:45 at Blue Ridge Adventure Gear located at 661 East Main Street to carpool to INOLA on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. Call or text to let me know of your interest so we can have enough carol books prepared. Debbie Peterson at 770-656-0237.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Please participate in the Christmas Joy Offering: Fifty percent of undesignated receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide critical financial support to retired and active church workers and their families. The other fifty percent supports education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and leadership development opportunities for people of color through the Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. **December 1 - December 22, 2019**

### **The Christmas Joy Offering will be received at Faith on Sunday, December 15.**

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some

of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

## **Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

**The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us,  
through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us --  
retired, present and future -- who have pointed us to God.**

For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ -- a perfect gift from a gracious God.

In Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We know that in Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift, the gift of ... being with. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to support and be with our past, present and future leaders in their time of promise and their time of need.

Come check out the Light Up Blue Ridge Gingerbread House Village at the Blue Ridge Art Center through December 15! Our own Denise Burn won first place for adults. And remember to vote for People's Choice while you are there!



### **Family Connection Opportunity--Food Bank volunteers are needed for all community-minded folks!**

For everyone interested in volunteering, there is a food handling class which new volunteers will be given after sign-up. You may work before you receive the training. Registration is now online at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) but I have been using the church signup sheets and registering Faith Presbyterian. If you need to get in touch, my contact information is **Hilda Giles** [hjthebb@gmail.com](mailto:hjthebb@gmail.com), 770-605-0040. The food bank is now located on Industrial Park Road.

### **Please consider volunteering at Blue Ridge Assisted Living**

Faith has volunteers calling Bingo on Wednesday afternoon. There is a signup sheet in the gathering room

### **Online Church Directory**

The new system is now in use and we are continually correcting typos and errors in our data. If you see any edits, please let us know. The latest Directory is available on the church website. Go to this page and scroll down until you find the Directory <https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/publications-1> **Password is: Faith**

**Click to get to the Faith Facebook page** If a story or post or photograph receives 5 or more likes, shares or comments hundreds more people will see that item on their Facebook feed, so please be encouraged to react to the posts you see on the church Facebook page.

**\*\*Church Newsletter and Bulletin: Please** - Email articles and photos for the newsletter to [newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org) by 10 AM on Monday for publishing in that day's Faith Happenings. For the newsletter, type "For Newsletter" into the email subject line. If you want something in the Bulletin, type "For Bulletin" in the subject line. We welcome articles and photos that directly relate to church activities and to events and people involving the charities that we actively support

## New Hearing Assist Program Needs Assistance



Our new Hearing Assist System uses smart phones to receive and transmit improved sound to those who are using it. It can be used with hearing aids or ear buds connected to smart phones or to ANY device that has Bluetooth and Wi-Fi capabilities. *This means that if anyone wants to donate an older smart phone or other device currently sitting in a drawer at home, it can be used for visitors or others who may not have a smart phone.* We are obligated to have a few extra devices available so donations will also save some money. We can use any device that has both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. It can be an older phone, and iPod, iPad, etc. If you would like to donate, please see Harold Wills or any member of the AVLH committee, or you may place the devices in Kathy Cardwell's mail slot in the church office.



A package arrived at the church from Virginia. What was inside?? HATS, HATS, & MORE HATS! A friend of Doris Riggs had heard about Kim King's hat project for Snack In A Backpack and wanted to help. Not only did she send hats, but she sent more yarn! Thank you, Carol Hoglund,! Yarn donations & hats accepted year-round. "Live your mission and your neighbors will join you." (From one of Pastor Jim's sermons)

## Wood and Stone Committee (New Building and Capital Campaign Committees) . . .

- Ask for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance.
- Check out our plan drawings, decorator boards, and monument (main sign) drawing in the gathering room.

### The Wood and Stone (WAS) Committee (formerly New Building Committee)

has hardworking sub committees focused on specific needs of our new facility. The following is a list of those subcommittees and their members. Several are looking to add members so please review these and see where you could contribute. Contact the subcommittee chairperson to join open subcommittees. The remaining subcommittees are much farther down the road having been working for months – and while they do not need more members are always open to input.



### Open Sub Committees:

- **Landscaping: Sally Crawford, Chair** (Peggy Reich, Terri Charron, Jane Giddens, Owen Reich, horticulturist, gratis consult) Open to add members with this background. [shcrawford52@gmail.com](mailto:shcrawford52@gmail.com) They will be planting the parking islands first.
- **Audio/Video/Chancel Lighting/Hearing Assist (AVL). Harold Wills, Chair.** Jim Crawford, Garrett Frank, Bruce Graham, Jim Simpson. Open to add members with this background. The Building Committee approved hiring a company to design and install sound equipment for the new church.

- *Safety and Security* **Harold Willis, Chair.** Jim Reich, John Silva, Thom Potito, Bill Hecker, Jim Simpson Open to add members with this background.
- *Church Signage:* **Catherine Branch, Chair** (Bill Young) Open to add members with this background.
- *Office Furnishing/Storage:*  
**Janice Cary, Chair** (Peggy Reich, Brenda Scruggs, Nancy Goodson) Open to add members with this background.
- *Cabinetry:* **Bill Young, Chair** Open to add members with this background.

**Existing Sub Committees:**

- *Interior/Exterior Design:* **Barbara Schmus, Chair** (Debbie Peterson, Denise Burn, Randy Borden) complete but open to input and comments
- *Kitchen:* **Peggy Reich, Chair** (Barbara Schmus, Tim Huffstetler, Danny Mellman, restaurateur, gratis consult) complete but open to input and comments.

<b>New Building Committee (NBC)</b>	<b>Capital Campaign Committee (CCC)</b>
Bruce Burn	Janeese Glascock
Candy Frank	Bill Green
Tim Huffstetler	Tom Barrentine
Jim Reich	Grace Thomas
Carl Riggs	Rick Borden
Barbara Schmus	Carl Riggs
Bill Young	Lynda Ray
Catherine Branch	Catherine Branch
Rita Oberle	Reverend Simpson serves, Ex-officio, both committees.
Harold Wills	
Mike Roberts	



During office hours (M-F, 9-1), please call the church office or at other times, please email or call Candy Frank at [cmwfrank@aol.com](mailto:cmwfrank@aol.com) (706) 632-5920. Prayer requests for immediate needs relating to persons directly connected to members and friends of Faith are circulated via email and others are included and published weekly in the Prayer List circulated via the Newsletter.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Requestor</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Maggie March		Please pray for Maggie and the medical team looking to care for her. Maggie is now in Wellstar Keneestone Hospital in Marietta and is having a procedure today (12/9). Ask that Maggie rest in God's love and care; pray for wisdom for the medical team and pray that Maggie will receive the strength she needs to face this challenging news.



Jim Whitley	Elaine Whitley	Please lift up Jim Whitley in prayer as he has a procedure on December 12 to determine cause of blood changes.
Bud Wheatley		Following concerning biopsy results Bud will have further doctor appointments to figure out a treatment plan
Eric Morris		Praise Update: Eric is recovering well from recent gallbladder surgery and it was great to see him in church Sunday.
Konda Williamson		Konda Williamson was accidentally knocked down by a large dog while standing in her driveway and suffered a dislocated right ankle, a fractured right leg, and a fractured right wrist. Please pray for a speedy and complete healing of her injuries.
Mary Thompson (Connie Griggs' aunt)	Connie Griggs	Please pray for Mary Thompson, Connie Griggs' aunt. Mary has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Tests are being done during the next 2 weeks to see if it has spread beyond the lungs. Our prayers are greatly appreciated.
Bill Green		Praise Update: Bill's back surgery Nov. 21 went well. Jamielee reports that Bill is doing great; he only wears a collar in the car. He is wearing ice pack to reduce swelling at home. Our prayers for strength and healing continue to be appreciated.
A Faith Member		A Faith member requests prayer for a close family member who is facing a devastating diagnosis of an incurable brain disorder which has no cure and is quickly terminal, and whose husband has recently undergone chemotherapy for cancer and is awaiting upcoming pet scan results to determine if his chemotherapy has been effective in curing his cancer. They are both in their mid-60s.
Judy Evans		Please pray for relief and healing for Judy Evans as she is treated for painful venous insufficiency in her lower legs, and also on the death of her brother-in-law, Fred Bettress.
Gerrie Jones		Please keep Gerrie in your prayers as she works with her doctors to maintain her health; she truly appreciates our continuing prayers
Richie Smith		Please lift up Richie Smith in prayer as he continues to deal with numerous health issues. Our prayers are greatly appreciated.
Dick Mather.	Joe Oberle	Dick received a left lung transplant, please continue to pray for his healing.
Allie Willis		Please pray for Allie as she faces ongoing health challenges.
Virginia McPhee		Virginia continues to greatly appreciate our prayers.
Peggy Zinsli		Prayers for patience and peace of mind as she anticipates possible knee surgery.
Nance Huish		"Praise for answered prayer".

**"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Legacy" Faith's Capital Building Campaign:**

**Join your prayers of joy and prayers for a safe and speedy construction process.** Let us pray for the response to our Capital Campaign as we plan for our future building: Our Loving God, by your love and grace, may we run, and not be weary. May we rise up on the wings of eagles. May we know that You, our everlasting God, are always with us! Amen.

**Please pray for the process to identify an additional staff person to strengthen response to new people, and all the future opportunities to serve.** Our Session is looking to identify and appoint a Pastor or Lay person familiar with, and in sympathy with, the witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and our congregation, who has the balance of relevant education and background, and range of gifts, skills and expertise, to partner with the congregation and our Pastor, to help our church maintain, strengthen and develop its ongoing mission and ministry. Pray that God prompts and/or leads us to the right person. Those elected by the Session to assist in this search are Chuck Huckleberry, Frances Young, Candy Frank and Lynn Hayes,



## 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 2020** (adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2019):

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community.
- Continue as a spiritual community worshiping 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.
- Expand effective communication to include appropriate use of technology.
- Transition to our new church facility.
- Prepare and launch our mortgage reduction campaign. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) in support of our ongoing life and witness.
- Recruit additional staff member to aid our pastor in pastoral care/program duties.