



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Last night our family gathered around a bonfire. It was in the low 30s and the cold went right through our layers of clothing.

If we gathered close to the fire, kept the fire tended just right and chatted away in conversation, the cold seemed to leave our minds.

There's a bit of the church family in that picture.

It's a cold world outside the church walls. Winds that blast. Chills that will take your breath away. Even dangers that can freeze one to death.

We gather as a church to warm by the fire. To ready ourselves for another week of chilly life in the world.

If you've been around a fire, you know it takes all sorts to get up a flame and keep it going. You need those who can gather wood, collect kindling, arrange the fire just right for lighting and then there are those who constantly tend it - moving logs, raking the coals to the center and adding more fuel.

Others simply gather around the fire. They are mesmerized by the flames, the varying colors of heat, the changes of the direction of the smoke.

A few are so cold from the winter night that a 2,000 degree fire can't seem to warm them.

Some are always so near the flames that the warmth never seems to leave them. They're always present, always at the place of heat and fellowship.

A fire is a gathering point. It's glow and warmth are attractive, even life saving. The cast of characters around it make it special as well.

Consider our church a warming station, a bonfire of sorts in the midst of a cold world. We gather twice weekly to warm ourselves in worship, discipleship and community.

Don't stay out in the cold! The fires of morning and evening worship, as well as Sunday School and other special events are times of refreshing in the Lord.

This Christmas, especially don't stay away. Make Christmas Eve at 5 PM a priority for your Christian growth. We'll also have worship on Christmas Day at 11 AM.

See you by the fire!

Bogren

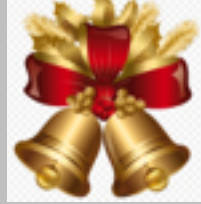


CHRISTMAS EVE

Make plans to join us on December 24 at 5 PM for our Christmas Eve service. The Lord's Supper will be served.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Join us for worship at 11 AM. We will not have Sunday School or Sunday Evening Service.



END OF YEAR GIVING

All offerings to be included in your 2016 contribution statement must be given by Sunday, December 25, 2016. All offerings placed in the offering plate on January 1, 2017, even if dated 2016, will be recorded on your 2017 statement.

MISSIONS TRIP

In January 2017, Connie Bennett will be sent on her seventh trip for medical missions in Trinidad. Her gifts are well-utilized on the trip. You may participate in sending Connie by your prayers and financial support. The Presbyterian Church in America's (P.C.A.) Mission to the World is hosting the trip and provides all necessary administrative support for the trip. If you wish to contribute financially to the mission, please do so by sending your check to: MTW, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024-0982. Note in the memo Account #10865 and all proceeds will support our sister's trip. Her financial goal for support is \$2,100. The Congregation will be commissioning Connie on Sunday, January 8.

Pray for Connie Bennett's Upcoming Trip to Trinidad with Medical-Evangelism Team

1. Safety in travel, arrival of all supplies and health for the team. Something seems to happen every year and the prayers keep us safe from Satan's attacks.
2. For financial support needs for every team member to be met!
3. Pray that we will faithfully minister to each person we meet - physically and spiritually - in our travels, medical clinics and in-country interactions.
4. For personal health concerns not to be a hindrance to the mission.
5. For Clay McPherson serving as caretaker of Connie's animals, especially to make friends with Buckwheat.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

December

- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day

January

- 1 Lord's Supper
- 7 Workday to take down Christmas decorations
- 9 Men's Lunch
- 9 Joint Officer Meeting
- 16 Men's Evening Gathering

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Arie Wright | 1/1 |
| Steve Walton | 1/4 |
| Mark Sanderson | 1/9 |
| Janice Ward | 1/9 |
| Stephen Dobbins | 1/10 |
| Andrew Newton | 1/10 |
| Mark Vestal | 1/12 |
| Alex Constable | 1/14 |
| Jessica Richardson | 1/15 |
| Grady Pack | 1/19 |
| Julie Snow | 1/20 |
| Jennifer Spaulding | 1/20 |
| Elizabeth Barber | 1/23 |
| Ava Ickes | 1/24 |
| Dottie Latta | 1/24 |
| Theo Baulding | 1/25 |
| Bryan Jones | 1/26 |
| Eliana Ickes | 1/29 |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Phillip & Frankie Beaman (17) | 1/9 |
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2017 Contributions Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Please be sure to pick yours up.

The office will be closed December 26th and January 2.

Nursery:

Dec 25: John Robinson & Vicki McPherson
Jan 1: Jimmy Smith & Vicki McPherson

Counter:

Dec 25: Ferald Mann
Jan 1: Bill Haynes

Deacon Duty:

Dec 25: Stephen Robinson
Jan 1: Glenn Owens

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