

# PETERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN PRESS

## CHRISTMAS 2019



### A MESSAGE FROM HAROLD ....

Here we are in the midst of Advent and readying ourselves for Christmas. We will decorate the sanctuary, practice for and perform a cantata, light Advent candles, sing and hear familiar and favorite Christmas carols, and remember Christmases past. I think it is fair to say that most of us cherish Christmas more than any other time of the year and more than any other church-related event. A good part of our enjoyment is tied up with remembering people who have been a part of our celebration. Many of us have celebrated Christmas with family for years. We have established our own traditions and memories.

We are learning, however, that such memories are not part of everyone's past. More and more there are people in our communities who do not share our memories. More and more there are people in our communities who do not have families with whom to celebrate.

We celebrate the birthday of one who came, if I may phrase it thusly, to side with the downtrodden, to encourage the ones who have no one to encourage them, to save the sinners.

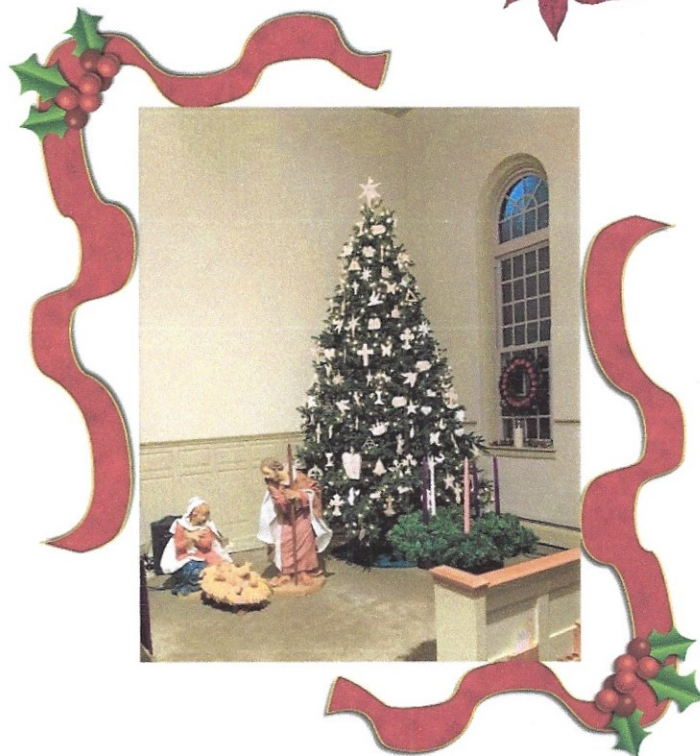
Perhaps this year we might include someone in our celebrations who has nowhere else to turn. One could do that by inviting someone else to church. How long has it been since you invited someone to church? This year let's find some way to include others in our celebration.

### SCHEDULE OF CHURCH EVENTS .....

- Sunday, December 1** First Sunday in Advent
- Tuesday, December 3** Hanging of the Greens
- Wednesday, December 4** Bible Study 10:30 A.M., Presbyterian Women; 6:30 Choir Practice
- Sunday, December 8** Second Sunday in Advent; Retirement Celebration 2:00-4:00 for Harold Tongen
- Tuesday, December 10** Session Meeting 5:30
- Thursday, December 12** Choir Practice 4:00
- Sunday, December 15** Third Sunday in Advent; Christmas Cantata presented by the Choir 11:00 A.M.
- Sunday, December 22** Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Tuesday, December 24** Christmas Eve Communion Service 8:00 P. M.
- Sunday, December 29** Worship Service with Dr. Bruce Stevens

### PETERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WEBSITE....

Thanks to Mike Hannum our website is available to access again. It can be found at <https://www.petersburg-pres.org>.



### KINDNESS AT CHRISTMAS BOXES ....

The Mission and Ministry Committee is again planning to prepare food boxes for needy families in the area. If you know of a family that is down on their luck, falls through the cracks to get assistance or just needs a helping hand this time of year, please let Betty Inskeep or JoAnn Harman know. We will begin collecting food next week; slips with specific food items will be available at Dec. 8th worship service. If you won't be at church but would like to contribute food, we try to include things to make two complete meals, one with canned white meat chicken and one with canned ham. Call Betty if you have questions, 304-257-1928.

### FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE .....

Help is needed for a drive-through mobile food pantry to be held on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 9:30-noon at the parking lot of the ball field. Additionally, our church will be serving clients at the Interfaith Pantry on December 9, 11 and 13. Thank you for contacting Rod or Donna if you can help or if you have questions.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE ...

Our final service with the Rev. Harold Tongen will be candlelight communion on Christmas Eve. A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. As we share our candle's light with one another in this service, may it symbolize the light which he has brought to our church family through his brief ministry with us. We wish him well in his retirement. May God bless him with good health and happiness.

