



Volume 19

December 15, 2016

Dear Church Family,

Christmas teaches us many lessons, but one of the greatest I think is that God's measure of success is not the same as our measure of success. Namely, the world teaches us that success looks like big bank accounts, big cars, big jobs, big houses, and big egos. Christmas, on the other hand, teaches us that to God the greatest success imaginable looks like a little baby born in a little stable in a little backwater town in a little corner of a huge but fleeting empire. And that tiny baby eventually grows up and teaches us that true success is found only in living a humble life bent towards loving, serving, and even dying for others. Pretty sharp contrast, eh?

I mention all of this because I am grateful for all the ways St. Simons Presbyterian Church approaches Advent as an opportunity to live into the latter definition of success. Rather than going off and doing our own things, these weeks leading up to Christmas have been a time of frequent and faithful activity in our church as we come together to love and serve others. Indeed, in just the past two weeks, a great many of us have gathered to serve meals at Manna House, hammer nails at a Habitat home, shop for gifts for those in need, deliver soup and carols to the doorsteps of church members, support our young people at the Children's play, and comfort the grieving. It is a busy but faithful season that we are in as we practice the Kingdom life!

Please take a good look at this week's newsletter as there are many other worthwhile activities coming up between now and Dec. 27. Regardless of where or how often you are able to get involved though, may this Advent season stand as

an enduring reminder for all of us that “success” is not found in the big things of life but rather in the small moments of humble service and kindness shown towards others.

Peace,

Alan



Final Advent Communion Service

5:30 - 6:00 PM | Chapel

Throughout Advent, stations for engaging the season, including meditation on written reflections, music, and art, and opportunities for creative expression, will be available in the chapel.

Live Nativity



**December 16th & 17th
6:00 pm & 7:00 pm**

Come and join us for an island Christmas tradition here at SSPC! For over 50 years, the youth and children of our church have brought to life the true meaning of Christmas by reenacting the Christmas story on the front lawn with music and live animals! Enter into the spirit of Christmas with us at this event that we look forward to each year!

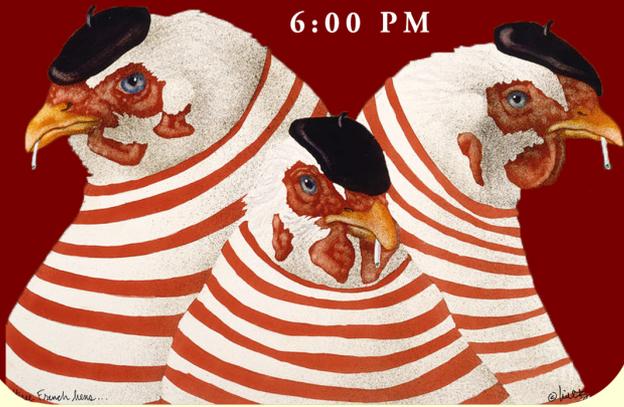
**Fri & Sat, December 16th & 17th
6:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Church Front Lawn**

Third Day of Christmas Party

Adults of SSPC! Do you ever experience the post-Christmas blahs? This year you don't have to! On the third day of Christmas, come to the Britt Room for a fun evening of warm fellowship, great food and a festive atmosphere. This event, put on by the "Try Something New" team, is sure to put a smile on your face! Invite family, friends, neighbors, or guests! All are welcome!

Third Day of Christmas Party

December 27th
6:00 PM



Tuesday, December 27th

6:00-9:00 pm

Britt Room

**\$15.00 per person paid to church office
by December 23rd**

For more details visit our website or contact
Nat Scott at nat@sspres.org.

Register Here!



2017 Mission Trip!

July 12-19, 2017

Must register by January 1st!

Cost: \$1,800

Age: Intergenerational (Students must
have completed 9th grade)

Contact Nat Scott to register
ASAP, nat@sspres.org



Click Here for more info!

[Download File](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 18 (Music Worship Sunday)

8:45 am - **Early Worship** - Sanctuary

9:30 am - **Breakfast** - Social Hall

calendar

2016

9:45 am - Hope Hall Open

9:45 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - **Choir Christmas Program** - Sanctuary

3:30 pm - Magnolia Manor Worship

Monday, December 19

12:00 pm - Men's Noon Day Bible Study - Britt Room

8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room

Tuesday, December 20

5:30 pm - Advent Communion Service - Chapel

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 pm - College Christmas Party - Warner Home

6:00 pm - Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, December 22

7:15 am - Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Britt Room

4:00 pm - Yoga - Youth Suite

8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24th

5:30 pm Candle & Carols Service with
Children's Nativity Tableau

10:00 pm Christmas Eve
Communion Service

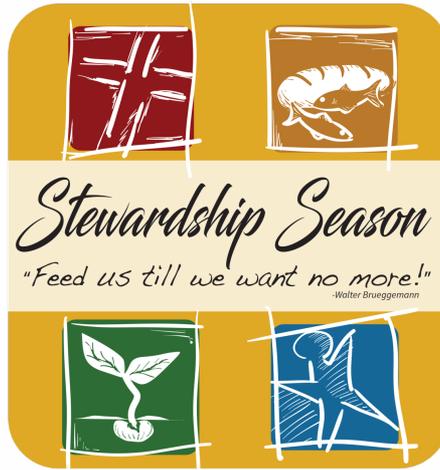


Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Coffee & Fellowship *10:30 am*
Social Hall (No Sunday School)

Christmas Day Service *11:00 am*
(Only service - No early worship)

More Information About Upcoming Events

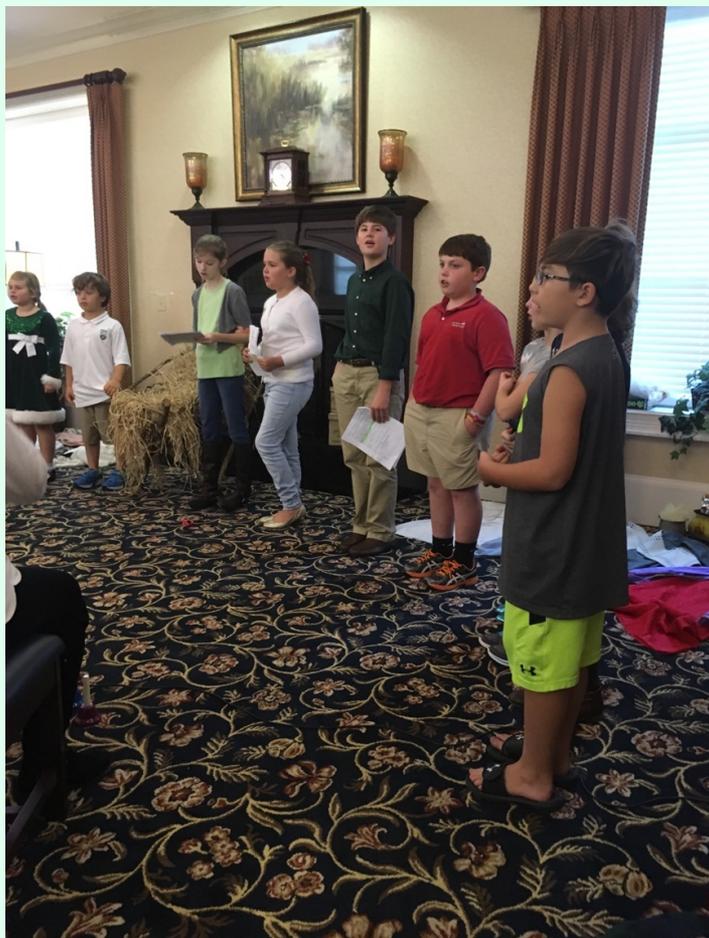


Prayers & Thanksgivings

[*Click here for the Weekly Prayer & Meditation*](#)

Thank you to all who helped spread Christmas joy to those in our community through song!

We had such a great time this year singing carols throughout the community! Here are a couple photos from this family fun event! We sure are in the Christmas spirit here at St. Simons Presbyterian Church!





Thank you to our volunteers!

Habitat for Humanity

BUILD DAY!

Thank you to our volunteers!

We extend our gratitude to the volunteers who dedicated their time and gifts with us during our Habitat for Humanity Build Day this past Saturday! Check out our website for more photos from this event!

Bryan Neill, Coco Bujold, Mark Bujold, Bob Cofield, Pam Cofield, Michael Johnson, Ken Winter, Jackson Warner, Jeremy Altman, Charlotte Zell, and Nat Scott!





Worship This Sunday

4th Sunday of Advent (Music Worship Sunday)

Christmas Joy Gift Offering- This Sunday!

**Benefiting Retired PC(USA) Church Workers & PC(USA) Racial Ethnic
School & Colleges**

8:45 Service:

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16 | Matthew 1:18-25

Preacher

Rev. Bob Brearley

11:00 Service:

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

Special Music

Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra

Hymns

22: Angels from the Realms of Glory

31: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Musical Notes

For the first time in a very long time, my husband Harlan and I were able to sit together in the congregation for the worship service. Seeing things from a different point of view is both refreshing and reassuring. I felt the reverence of all those around me as they prepared for worship. I heard the singing – people were singing all around me. I saw the smiles and gentle looks going back and forth in the chancel and in the congregation. Mary's Song, as Bob preached, was singing all around. It was so nice to be a participant in worship instead of a leader.

Thanks to Beverly Fetter, Amy Bishop, Suzanne Morrison and the Chancel Ringers for their beautiful offerings last Sunday, making that possible.

This Sunday, the Chancel Choir and Chamber Ensemble present "Songs of the Angels" which will include Vivaldi's Gloria, John Rutter's Angels' Carol, and Pinkston's arrangement of Angels We Have Heard on High. Hymns are: 22 Angels From the Realms of Glory; and 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Our soloists are both former voice students of mine: Layla Edwards, a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in vocal performance, is now working in Austin, Texas at a music school teaching piano and voice. Esther Maloof, a graduate of Valdosta State University with a degree in vocal performance, is our church music intern.

They both have extensive operatic solo experience and I am glad to be working with them again. Our instrumentalists include a string quartet from Jacksonville, along with flute and oboe, our own Anne Marie Stirewalt on trumpet, John Morrison on French Horn, Ann Marie Morrison on clarinet, Amy Bishop on organ and harpsichord, Beverly Fetter on piano, and Will Snyder and Harlan Hambright on percussion.

It is our hope that this music of the season will inspire you to spread the love of Christ in more ways than you thought possible. The love that is evident in our sanctuary is a great place to start! See you in church on Sunday.

Love & Gratitude,

Rhonda



[St. Simons Presbyterian Church / 205 Kings Way / \(912\) 638-2220](#)



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