

Gathering



Sharing



Growing



Serving



## ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 5, 2019

This past Sunday marked the beginning of Advent. Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the year because it is a time when the church calendar invites us to do something very different than the things that normally dominate our schedules every December (i.e., parties, eating, shopping, more eating, etc.). It is not that those things are inherently bad, but they can sometimes be distractions from the ways God is seeking to move in our hearts during these weeks leading up to Christmas.

A prayer once offered by the late theologian Howard Thurman comes to mind:

*May the sounds of Advent stir a longing in your people, O God. Come again to set us free from the dullness of routine and the poverty of our imaginations. Break the patterns which bind us to small commitments and to the stale answers we have given to questions of no importance. Let the Advent trumpet blow, let the walls of our defenses crumble, and make a place in our lives for the freshness of your love, well-lived in the Spirit, and still given to all who know their need and dare receive it. Amen.*

Thurman's prayer is my prayer for all of us this Advent: that the trumpet will sound again for you and for me and stir something fresh and wondrous in all of our hearts this Advent season.

Enjoy your newsletter. Of special note are two happenings this Sunday. At 5P the chancel choir, youth ensemble, and chamber orchestra will be leading us in **The Longest Night** service. This service of hope and healing offers comfort in the midst of the grief and general heaviness that sometimes accompanies the holiday season. Also on Sunday, the children will present a brief **Christmas musical** during the 11A service with a musical retelling of the Christmas story.

Finally, I want to lift up the sad news of the death of **Helen Alexander**. In addition to being a member of the church, Helen dedicated many years of service to SSPC as a beloved member of the church staff. Although she retired from her role as our Church Administrator in 2015, the legacy of her faith and ministry very much lives on. Helen was a remarkable person of

abounding love and steadfast generosity both at work and in life. She will be dearly missed. Please keep Helen's family and many loved ones in your prayers.

Advent blessings. See you at church. Come as you are. Invite a friend. Casual is fine.

Peace,  
Alan

## Advent at SSPC

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### *Advent Calendar*

WED, DECEMBER 4

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - 11:30 AM

SAT, DECEMBER 7

MESSIAH (WESLEY UMC) - 5 PM

SUN, DECEMBER 8

KIDZ CHRISTMAS MUSICAL - 11 AM  
THE LONGEST NIGHT - 5 PM  
YOUTH TRIP TO JEKYLL - 6:30 PM

SUN, DECEMBER 15

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION - 11 AM

WED, DECEMBER 18

CAROLING ON THE TROLLEY - 4:30

FRI, DECEMBER 20

LIVE NATIVITY - 6 PM & 7 PM

SAT, DECEMBER 21

LIVE NATIVITY - 6 PM & 7 PM

SUN, DECEMBER 22

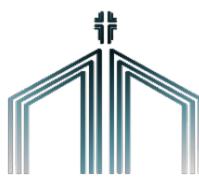
CHANCEL RINGERS - 11 AM

TUES, DECEMBER 24

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE - 4:00 PM  
LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE - 5:30 PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION - 10 PM



## Stewardship Update



# BUILDING

Stewardship 2020

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

To Serve  
To Worship  
To Connect

\$710,735.42

63.4%

\$1,121,000

OPERATING BUDGET



## FUN FACTS OF PLEDGES RECEIVED....

10 ARE NEW PLEDGES.

41 INCREASED THEIR PLEDGE BY  
10% OR MORE OVER THE  
PRIOR YEAR.

3 DOUBLED THEIR PLEDGE  
OVER THE PRIOR YEAR.

BUDGET PLEDGED AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MISSION &  
MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH.**

[Submit Your Pledge by Clicking Here](#)

## Events & Happenings

*The Longest Night*

A WINTER SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING  
WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR, YOUTH ENSEMBLE,  
& CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday, December 8  
5 PM | Social Hall

# Jekyll Lights & Dinner

SSPC YOUTH HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

There's no better way to wrap  
up the year than with  
Christmas lights, good food,  
and great friends!

All youth are invited to join for  
a holiday adventure to Jekyll  
Island this Sunday.

*Dress warm and bring a friend*

**SUNDAY, DEC 8 | 6PM**  
**MEET IN SSPC PARKING LOT**

# Joy Has Dawned

EIGHT ANTHEMS TAKE US THROUGH MESSAGES OF JOY

WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR & CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 11AM WORSHIP

# Caroling

ON THE TROLLEY

All are invited to join us as we trolley around St. Simons to spread Christmas cheer and deliver a warm treat to members & friends of our congregation! We will meet on the front steps at 4:30 and will return by 6:30 PM. We hope you can join us as we share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors and friends!

DECEMBER 18 | 4:30 PM

MEET ON THE DELEGAL LAWN (BY PLAYGROUND).

PLEASE JOIN FOR OUR

Christmas Eve  
CANDLE & CAROLS SERVICES

WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU

TWO FULL SERVICES

4 PM & 5:30 PM | SOCIAL HALL

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

10:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL



Worship This Sunday

MUSICAL NOTES

There are so many events coming up! So that you have some idea about the musical ones that involve our SSPC members are ahead, here are some brief descriptions:



**Lights of Love** – Hospice of the Golden Isles,

Thursday, December 6, 5:00

pm – A beautiful and meaningful service – the entire campus is lit with white lights as music is sung and played. I'll be there once again, singing favorites.

**Handel's Messiah** – Saturday, December 7, 5:00 pm, Wesley United Methodist Church at Frederica – 4 soloists, 74 member choir, chamber orchestra (including our harpsichord!), lasting approximately one hour. Nancy Matthews, Jane Drake, Frank Lea, Richard Hathaway and myself are participating from our church. There are 29 churches represented and this is the 40<sup>th</sup> year!

**Psalty's Christmas Chaos** – December 8, 11:00 am, SSPC – Children's Choirs present during the Word for Children.

**The Longest Night: A Winter Service of Hope and Healing** – December 8, 5:00 pm, SSPC – Chancel Choir, Youth Ensemble, and Chamber Orchestra, lasting approximately one hour. The comforting voices of Nat Scott and Mary Avram will lead you in worship. We will be sent out into the world with a benediction by Kate Buckley, our new Parish Associate. Here's a quote from the composer: "As Christmas approaches, the whole world seems to be alive with anticipation. Yet, against this cheerful backdrop of sparkling lights and festive music, there are many for whom this time is a tearful reminder of the harshness of life. While all around are the strains of "JOY TO THE WORLD," there are hearts breaking with despair and loss. And so, we gather at this sacred time to worship, acknowledging our sorrow and embracing our grief: Lord, we are wounded and weary. Our hearts are an empty manger waiting for a promise. Our scars long for healing and comfort. Tonight, we gather not to forget our pain but to remember it with honesty, and to seek Your beauty in our brokenness, and to reclaim the light that is found only in Your grace."

**Joy Has Dawned** – Sunday, December 15, 11:00 am, SSPC – Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra (includes our Chancel Wind Ensemble) – Eight anthems take us through messages of Joy. With the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Joy to the World" and the lighting of the candle of Joy on this Sunday, it is appropriate that we break forth in song with Joy! Even though things might not seem exactly joyful, we have to find a joy that is rooted in something more solid than life's fleeting challenges. The Psalmist said it this way: Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5). We hope to convey this message in song to you.

More to come.....

Love & Gratitude,  
Rhonda

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**Hymns:**

**8:30 am Service Hymns:**

- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - 88

**11 am Service Hymns:**

- Prepare the Way, O Zion - 106
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - 88

# The Weeks Ahead

**Sunday, December 8th**

- 8:30 am **Chapel Service** - Social Hall  
9:00 am **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Britt Room  
9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations  
11:00 am **Traditional Service** - Social Hall  
3:30 pm **Marsh's Edge Worship** - Marsh's Edge  
5:00 pm **The Longest Night** - Social Hall  
6:00 pm **Youth Trip to Jekyll** - Meet in Parking Lot

**Monday, December 9th**

- 8:00pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room  
8:00pm **Al Anon** - John Law

**Tuesday, December 10th**

- 7:00 am **Chick-fil-A Youth Breakfast** - Chick-fil-A  
9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room  
9:30 am **Yoga Class** - Chapel  
2:00 pm **GIYO** - Upper Room

**Wednesday, December 11th**

- 10:00 pm **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room  
6:30 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Youth Suite  
7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Music Attic

**Thursday, December 12th**

- 7:15 am **Men's Bible Study** - Britt Room  
10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Marsh's Edge  
1:00 pm **Grief Counseling** - John Law  
3:00 pm **Women's Video Bible Study** - Chapel  
4:00 pm **Yoga Class** - Youth Suite  
8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room  
8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

**Friday, December 13th**

No Activities Scheduled for This Day



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## SIGN UP FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS 2020



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ON A SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP DURING 2020, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SPECIFIC WEEK ON THE FLOWER BOARD IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN HALLWAY. PLEASE BE SURE TO EMAIL ADA OWENS WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN A WEEK PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY YOU SIGN UP FOR! (ADA@SSPRES.ORG)

## Get Involved



### Meal Delivery

One way to offer our Christian love and care is by providing a warm meal to our family and friends in Christ during their time of need.

Members of our congregation who

could use a meal this week include: *Fred Griffith & family.*

If you or someone you know could use some help with meals, don't hesitate to reach out! We're here for you.

Contact Molly Macaulay for assistance: [mmmpm@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmmpm@bellsouth.net)

[Click Here to Bring Fred & Family a Meal!](#)

# Usher Ministry

# TRAINING

## Following worship on Sunday, Dec 8

PRAY  
OBSERVE  
INITIATE  
SMILE  
SERVE

If you feel called to join our Usher/Greeter ministry or have already signed up, please join us for a training session on November 10 and/or December 8 following worship in the Social Hall.

Questions: [tater56@bellsouth.net](mailto:tater56@bellsouth.net)



*The Season of Giving is Upon Us*

# **HOPE WALL**

**GIFTS FOR THE GREATER GOOD**

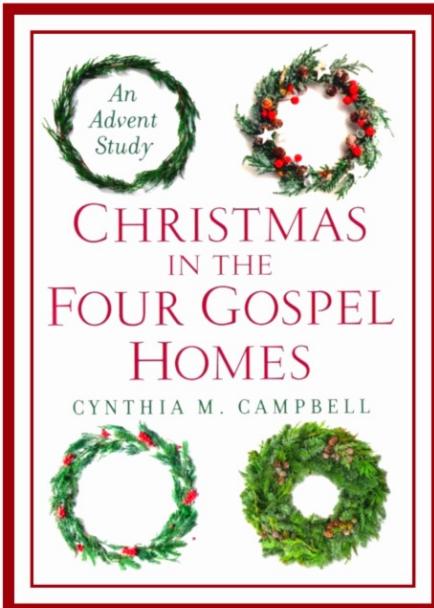
**BEGINNING DECEMBER 1st IN BRITT ROOM**

Giving opportunities will include Serrv Shop, Heifer Project,

Reverse Advent Food Drive, Fleece Blanket Drive, Coastal

Coalition Angel Tree, Santa Express and more!

## Christian Education



## Combined Sunday School Advent Study

***Beginning December 1***  
**SUNDAYS | 9:30AM**  
**UPPER ROOM**

**How do you decorate your home for Christmas?  
Your invited to "visit the homes" of the Four  
Gospels to experience what Christmas means from  
each Gospel perspective. Experience and  
discuss Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes based  
on a Presbyterian pastor's sermon series and an  
architect's reflective illustrations.**

# Looking Back



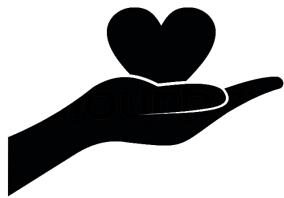
*The first Sunday in Advent - Lighting of the Wreath*



*Be sure to visit the Hope Wall in the Britt Room & Children's Hall!*

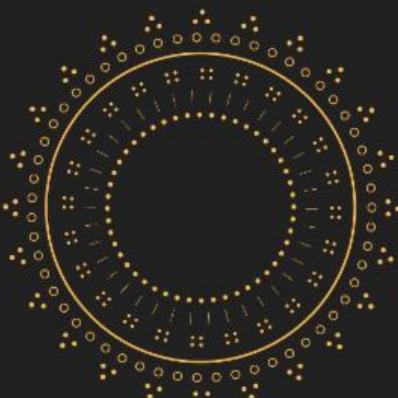


## Giving Opportunities



**[Click Here to Give Online](#)**

Giving online is easy! Just follow the link above to tithe and donate online. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (912) 638-2220.



Stay connected with the Church

**TEXT: SSPRES  
TO: 555888**

We will provide occasional updates on church activities, event/meal RSVP reminders, and other timely information.

[912-638-2220] [ada@sspres.org] [sspres.org]

Follow Us

