

Green Spring Presbyterian Church
22007 Green Springs Church Road
Abingdon, VA 24211

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Church, Abingdon, VA

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GLEANNINGS



Number 10

The newsletter of Green Spring Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, Virginia

December 2015

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12:2-3

Pray for our Missionary Kate Taber

Kate is serving on the ministry team of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. She assists U.S. Presbyterians visiting the Holy Land and facilitates Presbyterian involvement in volunteer opportunities. In addition Kate helps build relationships between U.S. Presbyterians and church partners in Israel and Palestine.

I want to help U.S. Presbyterians know and engage with Palestinian Christians: their lives, their ministries, their joys, and their struggles, Kate says. I hope our denomination might be a faithful Christian witness in and about the Holy Land.

Learn more about Kate as well as our other PC(USA) mission workers at presbyterianmission.org

Watch the service live every Sunday morning...



Join us at greenspringchurch.org
Archived videos are available, too.

Presbyterian Web sites

Denomination: pcusa.org
Presbytery: abingdonpresbytery.org
News: pcusa.org/news/
Relief: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/
Mission: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/
Education: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/education/



Green Spring Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the PC(USA) in Abingdon Presbytery equipping people for service to Jesus Christ.

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Pastor
Rev. Jon Elliott Martin

Office Manager
Mrs. Barbara King

*Accompanist and
Choir Director*
Mr. Jamie Eggleston

The Session
Jon Martin, Moderator
Grace Garrett, Clerk

The Board of Deacons
F.L. Villiard, Moderator
Jane Hilt, Secretary

Groundskeeper
Roby Stewart

My Notes from the Field

Last Sunday (November 29) I mentioned the wisemen during worship. Of course we also know them as Kings and Magi but ordinarily they don't show up until early January. They are the last people to visit the newborn Jesus, and they traveled all the way from Persia following the star that led them to Bethlehem. I admit their appearance this year on the first Sunday of Advent is a bit unusual. Did you see them? If not, take a look at the photo on the right.

Last Sunday they were in the back of the church quietly standing there with an elephant and a camel—carrying their luggage, I presume. The wisemen are slowly making their way forward, one window sill per week, and will arrive at the manger under the Christmas tree in the front of the sanctuary on Sunday morning, January 3, 2016! There they will present their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I encourage you to find them each Sunday of Advent and also on Christmas Eve and track their journey.



What journey are you making this Advent Season? Journeys to the store to buy food for holiday visitors? To the Christmas tree lot to get a tree? Back to stores to buy gifts for family and friends? To the church to help with a Christmas party for widows? To the rest home to help deliver presents? To warmer weather somewhere south? To doctors offices? School Christmas programs?

What spiritual journey are you making this season? A pastor once offered this counsel to a congregation: Journey wisely. I offer the same counsel. Does it amaze anyone else that these Advent days go by so quickly? I want them to slow down a bit so I can enjoy them, but if I intend to journey wisely maybe I should slow down.

A journey takes us to an end point. In the season of Advent that end point is the incarnation—a baby in a manger, God with us. The time has come for God to become more than a voice on a mountain top that may or may not sound like thunder. The time had come for God to come near to creation to be heard and seen and touched in person.

A journey also takes us to an end point by a certain way. The way of our journey is following an ancient path of Scripture with simple candles lighting the way. What God has done in Jesus' birth is new, but it was long-promised. Advent is a season to be reminded of those promises. It is a simple, but glorious season.

I look forward to our Advent and Christmas days together with you, Jon

December and January

Birthdays

Dec. 3- Zachary Brown
Dec. 5- Jessica Wimmer
Dec. 7- Erin Evans
Dec. 8- Marie Arrington
Dec. 17- Tia King Hensley
Dec. 19- Joann Kilbourne
Dec. 20- Betty McConnell
Dec. 27- Bobby Lowry
Dec. 29- Holly Briscoe
Jan. 6- Jarred Eller
Jan. 7- Tom Deaton
Jan. 8- Josh Jessee
Jan. 13- Branson Quesenberry
Jan. 15- Mary Ann Sprinkle
Jan. 20- Tim Briscoe
Jan. 20- Melissa Eller
Jan. 23- Sue A. Gibson
Jan. 24- Rebecca Collins
Jan. 25- Andi Brown
Jan. 26- Pat McConnell
Jan. 26- Patsy Neel
Jan. 31- Connie Hope

Anniversaries

Dec. 11- Bobby & Ann Lowry
Dec. 13- Paul Reed & Patsy Neel
Dec. 14- Bob & Gerri Gillespie
Dec. 20- John & Patty Clark
Dec. 22- G.T. & Ginger Harris
Dec. 22- Miller & Ann Liston
Dec. 24- Bucky & Patsy Buchanan
Dec. 24- John & Sue Gibson
Dec. 27- Malcolm & Claudia Sprinkle
Jan. 16- Irvin & Sally Brown
Jan. 29- Mike Catron & Karen McClanahan

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



Choral Christmas Program

Adult and Children's Choirs
Sunday Morning, December 20



Join us and ride over to Green Spring Rest Home for
Caroling and a Christmas Party
December 13 at 5:00pm



Christmas Eve
Candlelight, the Christmas
Story, and Communion
5:00pm

The Flower Chart for 2016 is available in the Church Office.
Come by and choose a date to place flowers in the sanctuary for
worship.

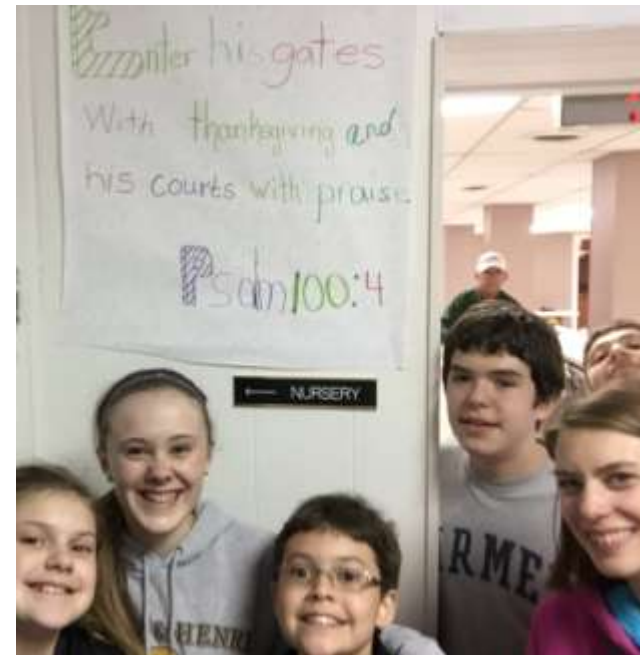
2015 Budget Report

Considering that we accomplished a major restoration project and have continued all of our regular mission and ministry. Giving has been generous. As the year comes to a close, please consider the remaining expenses ahead for 2015.

Operating Expenses and Income through Nov. 30

All Expenses	\$203,268.
Offering, Cemetery gifts, and interest	\$176,837.
Amount to cover expenses	\$26,431.

Thank you. Your offering will cover current and remaining expenses for 2015.



The Youth Group Selfie! Have you seen the poster the youth made for the lower entrance? It's a verse from Psalm 100.



Men's Breakfast
December 15 at 6:30am at Shoney's in Abingdon
(Every third Tuesday)

Session Highlights

The Session met last on November 10 for a stated meeting. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

- Approved Jamie Eggleston as interim choir director.
- Reviewed the current budget amounts. Plan to inform congregation about current deficits.
- Reflected on the positive comments Green Spring received from hosting presbytery on November 12.
- Discussed options for maintenance and repairs at Watauga Chapel.



CareMinistry Rest Home/Angel Tree

GSPC has been ministering to the Green Spring Rest Home, our neighbor, for over 30 years. Each resident is adopted by one of our church families who gives them presents on their birthdays and Christmas as well as visits and sends cards at other important times. Once a month a church group such as the elders, scouts, deacons, circles, choir, CE, and CareMinistry sponsor a birthday party. We celebrate the birthdays of the month with music, a Bible story, food, and games (they love to play bingo). For Christmas we have about 70 people who buy gifts, furnish food, and/or help with the church wide Christmas Party with Santa. The Angel Tree is an additional way that our church family can give to the Green Spring Rest Home residents. Each resident is represented by an angel placed on the tree in the narthex. You can choose an angel and buy the suggested gift. To join this ministry please call Mary Jane Crosby at 676-0663.