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# *Steeple News*

A Newsletter of  
*Greenwich Presbyterian Church*

**December 2017**



**GREENWICH**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NORFOLKVILLE, VIRGINIA

## ***Worship Schedule***

*8:45 and 11:00 am*

*Sunday School 9:45 am*

*Nursery provided*

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**Greenwich  
Presbyterian Church**  
Church Office: 703-754-7933  
15305 Vint Hill Road, Nokesville, VA 20181

[www.greenwichpres.org](http://www.greenwichpres.org)

**Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM, Mon - Fri**

Church Staff

Don Meeks, Pastor

[dmeeks@greenwichpres.org](mailto:dmeeks@greenwichpres.org)

Eric Beckman, Associate Pastor

[ebeckman@greenwichpres.org](mailto:ebeckman@greenwichpres.org)

Bill Lover, Parish Associate

Lucille Marciano, Director of Congregational Care

[lmarciano@greenwichpres.org](mailto:lmarciano@greenwichpres.org)

Maria Duffus, Office & Hospitality Administrator

[office@greenwichpres.org](mailto:office@greenwichpres.org)

Lon Quinones, Director of Music Ministries

[music@greenwichpres.org](mailto:music@greenwichpres.org)

Joy Yates, Finance & Communications Administrator

[treasurer@greenwichpres.org](mailto:treasurer@greenwichpres.org)

Angela Norman, Nursery Supervisor

Will Keller, Facilities Manager

[facilities@greenwichpres.org](mailto:facilities@greenwichpres.org)

Preschool Staff

Elaine Arbus, Preschool Director / Teacher

[preschool@greenwichpres.org](mailto:preschool@greenwichpres.org)

Cindy McCain, Preschool Teacher

Lydia Peele, Preschool Teacher

Chasity Spittle, Preschool Assistant Director / Admin. Assistant

Alaina Sutton, Preschool Teacher



THE  
Fellowship  
OF PRESBYTERIANS



**Please be in prayer this month  
for our church family & friends...**

**For Recent Healing & Uplifting**

Edith Bailey, Rod Beran, Donna Bloom, Rachel Brewer, JoAnn Clatterbuck, Taylor Coffey, Liam Diley, Martha Duchnowski, Leon Eggers, Margaret Everett, Linda Fear, Lori Horan, Frank Kifer, Bill Lover, Judy Settle, Mary Ann Stetler, Marilyn Taylor, Nancy Thomas, Doug Washburn, Joy Yates.

**For Continuing Care**

Angie Arnold, Bill Barber, Jr., Mary Ann Cockerille, Ayla Cummings, Audrey Ann Edwards, Leon Eggers, Barbara Jackson, Matthew McCue, Jacquie Meeks, Christine Mills, Sheryl Overton, Marie Phillips, Carol Rector, Elsie Shrewsbury, Linda Spittle, Phil Swinford, Charlie Wright.

**Praises**

The engagement of Haley Kroskie & Sam Beals; the birth of Daphne Gimple, daughter of Tim & Leslie Gimple.

**Serving our Country**

Earl Arnold, Joseph Cofer, Ray Franze, Timothy Healy, Richard Hileman, Josh Lewis, Russell McMillan, Sammy Murillo, Rob Price, James Rowe, Paul Sturges, Jason West, Dan Williams.

*To request prayer or join our email prayer team, send a message to our prayer team at [prayers@greenwichpres.org](mailto:prayers@greenwichpres.org).*

# December Birthdays

Dec 1	Daniel Duffus	Dec 20	Bill Barnhart
Dec 2	Jack Arnold	Dec 20	Michael Gilbert
Dec 3	Paul House	Dec 20	Cindy McCain
Dec 3	Jaan Loger	Dec 21	Sara Nickell
Dec 3	Duane Mohr	Dec 21	Julie Lahann
Dec 4	Judy Fretts	Dec 21	Bryce Poole
Dec 4	Ashton Miller	Dec 21	Sawyer Sandifer
Dec 4	Anna Zwirko	Dec 22	Emily Joran
Dec 5	Larissa James-LaBranche	Dec 23	Leah McEvoy
Dec 6	Al Celmer	Dec 23	Ella Scott
Dec 6	Tim Everett	Dec 23	Scott Silvestain
Dec 6	John Harrison	Dec 23	Davis Snoots
Dec 6	Emma Place	Dec 26	Jocelyn Norman
Dec 6	Joshua Johnson	Dec 26	Aidan O'Neill
Dec 7	Marie Phillips	Dec 26	Sam Snow
Dec 7	Suzie Stonbraker	Dec 26	Wyatt Tarr
Dec 8	Anne Thomas	Dec 26	Letcher Woody
Dec 9	Rand Cummings	Dec 27	Melanie Beard
Dec 9	Matt Poole	Dec 27	Cami Moss
Dec 10	Angie Arnold	Dec 28	Dawn Donaldson
Dec 10	Cari Mello	Dec 28	Dillon Spittle
Dec 10	Bethany Norman	Dec 28	Pete White
Dec 11	Kathy Stanley	Dec 29	Sarai Arbus
Dec 12	Peter Joran	Dec 30	Colvin Spittle
Dec 12	Farah Sturges	Dec 31	Pierre Beltran
Dec 12	Sonja Yankey	Dec 31	Silas Foster
Dec 13	Larissa Smayda		
Dec 14	Katie Ivie		
Dec 14	Dorothy Slaga		
Dec 17	Libby White		
Dec 18	Rae Bell		
Dec 19	Abbie Grimes		
Dec 19	Chris Ritter		

# *December Calendar of Events at Greenwich*

*To view full calendar of events,  
be sure to visit the church website: [greenwichpres.org](http://greenwichpres.org)*

<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 1</b>	Men's Bible Study – 6:30 AM
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec 2</b>	Circle 5 - 9:00 AM Women Without Spouses Gathering – 2:30 PM
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Communion</b> Morning Worship – 8:45/11:00 AM Sunday school – 9:45 AM Family Potluck & Christmas Pageant – 5:30–7:30 PM
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec 4</b>	Prayer Group- 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:00 PM
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec 5</b>	Circle 1 – 12:30 PM Session / Deacons – 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study – 8:30 PM
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec 6</b>	Handbell Rehearsal – 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:15 PM
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Dec 7</b>	FFS Dinner – 5:30 PM Farthest Corners Mtg.- 7:00 PM
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 8</b>	Men's Bible Study – 6:30 AM St. Michael's Sr. Lunch – 11:00 AM
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Morning Worship – 8:45/11:00 AM Sunday school – 9:45 AM Woodbridge Flute Choir Concert –3:00 PM
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec 11</b>	Prayer Group- 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:00 PM
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec 12</b>	Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study – 8:30 PM

<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec 13</b>	Handbell Rehearsal – 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:15 PM
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	Circle 2 (offsite)- 6:30 PM
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 15</b>	Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 AM
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Morning Worship – 8:45/11:00 AM Sunday School – 9:45 AM Girl Scouts – 4:00 PM
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	Prayer Group- 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:00 PM
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	Alcoholic Anonymous – 7:30 PM Ministry Reporting / Admin Team – 7:00 PM Men’s Bible Study – 8:30 PM
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec 20</b>	Choir Rehearsal – 7:15 PM
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 22</b>	Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 AM
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Morning Worship – 10:00 AM Christmas Eve Services 5:00 PM/7:00PM/11:00PM
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	CHRISTMAS DAY - Office Closed
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec 26</b>	Office Closed Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30 PM Men’s Bible Study – 8:30 PM
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec 27</b>	Handbell Rehearsal – 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:15 PM
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Dec 28</b>	Women’s Bible Study – 9:30 AM
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	Wedding Rehearsal
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec 30</b>	Wedding
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 31</b>	Morning Worship – 8:45/11:00 AM Sunday school – 9:45 AM



## Church Family News and Opportunities

*We celebrate the baptism of  
the following children on  
November 19, 2017:*



*Rachel Alexandra Crigler  
daughter of Scott and Laura Crigler  
&  
Molly Caroline Peele  
daughter of Charlie and Lydia Peele*

*We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathy to  
the family and friends of Dana Jenkins,  
who passed from this life into life eternal  
on November 10, 2017.*





**Save the Date!**  
**Greenwich Women's Retreat**  
**February 9 – 11, 2018**

Plan to join us for our annual women's retreat in Leesburg. Details to follow! If interested in helping plan this retreat, contact Sarah Desmedt at [desmedt.sa@gmail.com](mailto:desmedt.sa@gmail.com).



Over 460 shoeboxes were collected by us this year! Thanks to all who participated either by bringing a box or joining us for a packing party. We also sent three teams of people up to the Baltimore distribution center where over 30,000 boxes are processed each day and sent directly to the airport to be shipped overseas.



## Scripture Memory Challenge

When Jesus taught his first followers what kind of people will produce fruit in his kingdom, he said it is *“those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”* (Luke 8:15). We want to be that kind of community! Each month, our church family strives to memorize a key verse from the Bible and learn what it means.

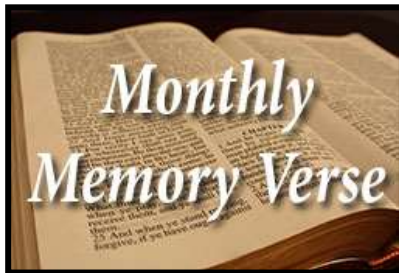
### December Scripture Memory Challenge

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14

*For family devotional ideas, be sure to visit the  
Scripture Memory page on our website:*

*<http://www.greenwichpres.org/ministries--connect--grow/scripture-memory-challenge>*



**Tuesday Women's Bible Study,  
Begins January 9 (7:00-8:30pm)**

Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month for our evening study. For more information, contact Deb Clinard at [d\\_clinard@hotmail.com](mailto:d_clinard@hotmail.com).

**Thursday Women's Bible Study,  
January 4-March 1 (9:30-11:00am)**

Join us for our Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible Study – Luke Part 2: The savior of Sinners (Chapters 17-24). Please contact Debbie Gilbert at [jdgilbert99@gmail.com](mailto:jdgilbert99@gmail.com) or at 540.347.5761 by December 15 so a workbook can be ordered (\$16).

**Thank you to the Class of 2017  
Elders and Deacons!**

**Elders**

Lee Bishop  
Carole Ferrell  
Barbara Jackson  
Rob Place

**Deacons**

Steve Henson  
Michael Jackson  
Jim Lynn  
Jeremy Spittle

*"Well done, good and faithful servant!" -Matthew 25:23*

*Thank you for serving the Greenwich church family with  
"energy, intelligence, imagination and love."*

# ADVENT

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

8:45 & 11:00am

*First Sunday of Advent*

**Regular Services**

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

8:45 & 11:00am

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**Regular Services**

3:00pm

**Woodbridge Flute Choir**

*Join us for a delightful performance of seasonal and classical favorites. This is a benefit concert for Farthest Corners.*

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

8:45 & 11:00am

*Third Sunday of Advent*

**Choir Led Services of Worship**

*The Chancel Choir, accompanied by piano, organ, strings and percussion, will lead worship with a collection of Christmas music.*

3:00pm

**Service of Remembrance & Wholeness  
(Chapel)**

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Christmas Eve Services**

10:00am

**Worship Service**

5:00pm

*An informal family-friendly worship service. Families with younger children are welcome. Nursery will be provided for children under five. (Sanctuary)*

7:00pm

*A service of Lessons & Carols (with the Chancel Choir). Nursery will be provided for children under five. (Sanctuary)*

11:00pm

**A Candlelight & Communion Service  
(Historic Chapel)**

## 2017 Final Greenwich Garden Update

We had another successful year in the Greenwich Garden. In 2017, our garden produced over 8,400 pounds of vegetables that fed numerous people in our local food banks and shelters (Fauquier, Haymarket and Manassas). That brings our five-year total, since inception, to over 95,000 lbs. of donated vegetables.

Needless to say, producing these many vegetables took numerous hours of effort. Almost 700 hours was spent in harvesting this year's vegetables. Although this is almost 200 hundred hours less than last year, we still managed to have a bountiful harvest. Over the past few years, the number of volunteers has been declining. This has taken a toll on the few volunteers that have been working in the garden for multiple days each week from March through October. As a result, we have decided to take a break next year and let the garden lie fallow. This will refresh the land as well as our volunteers. We will re-evaluate the garden ministry in the Fall of 2018 for the following year, starting with a fresh viewpoint and ready for new ideas and volunteers. In the meantime, we can all continue to support gardening for the food bank ministry by volunteering next year at the Fauquier Education Farm. It is a non-profit organization with an extensive (10-acre) garden that also donates its vegetables to local food banks. Like our garden, it needs volunteers to survive.

We thank everyone that came out to support the garden, whether it was people picking vegetables one time or many times; the individuals behind the scenes donating the land and the equipment; or those that spent time preparing and doing on-going maintenance in the garden. God has clearly blessed Greenwich's Church Garden ministry over the last five years!

Blessings to all!

The Garden Committee

## 2017 Financial Stewardship: Finishing Strong

Historically Greenwich “finishes strong” with our giving such that we make up the usual late Summer/early Fall deficit and end the year with a little bit in reserve.

Through October 31, year-to-date offering income is running behind expenses by approximately \$73,000

This year-to-date shortfall is well within our historical giving patterns. Even though our accumulated reserves are more than adequate to cover any potential year-end shortfall, it would be a great witness to God’s blessing in our lives to finish the year “in the black” once again – meeting all our current ministry commitments as well as fully-funding our monthly building mortgage.

As your personal situation allows, we invite you to make a sacrificial year-end contribution to the Operating Fund by noon on Sunday, December 31.

Please be under no compulsion to give, but as you are able to “give cheerfully” we encourage you to make a year-end contribution to our Operating Fund because your gift truly does make a difference in extending the love of Jesus Christ into the community, and to the farthest corners of the world.

### Online Giving and More

Did you know that we are set up for Online Giving? Visit our church website ([greenwichpres.org](http://greenwichpres.org)) to make your secure and timely gift using the online giving link under the “Resources” tab in the upper right hand corner. If you would like more information on how to make a year-end stock or mutual fund contribution, please contact the church office to make arrangements.

# Christmas Memorials

This Advent Season, you can honor or remember someone special by making a donation to our Deacon's Fund to help those in need within our community. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form below and return it with your gift to the offering plate by Thursday, December 21. Checks should be made out to: *Greenwich* and marked "*Christmas Memorial.*" Questions? Contact the church office at [office@greenwichpres.org](mailto:office@greenwichpres.org).

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$20.00

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Advent Mission Opportunities

### Woodbridge Flute Choir Concert, December 10 (3:00pm)

Join us for this annual Christmas concert to benefit our mission partner, Farthest Corners. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken.

### Mitten Tree

We invite you to bring new hats, mittens, scarves and socks to decorate the tree in the lobby of the children's wing. These items will be given to local mission partners to help families in need stay warm this winter.



### Christmas Note Cards

Greenwich Christmas note cards, created by Wendy Atkinson, are now available. Make a donation in support of our mission fund and pick up a set in the lobby.

### December Food Collection

As we remember our neighbors in need, we will be collecting food for local food banks and homeless shelters. Items especially needed include:

boxed mashed potatoes	canned corn	canned green beans
stuffing	canned soups	breakfast cereal
mac & cheese	pasta & sauces	peanut butter

Items can be placed in the collection bins outside the sanctuary entrance or church office.



*Thank you for sharing with those in our community!*