



DECEMBER

THE MEETING HOUSE NEWS

680 Nazareth Church Road, Moore, SC 29369

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

1765 Meeting House



MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

To worship and glorify God and to make disciples for Christ.

Dear friends,

It seems as if our society takes a flying leap over Thanksgiving every year and springboards right into Christmas. But there is another problem that I would like to tackle in this letter. To quote The Rev. Robert Childers, “The liturgical season of Advent has an identity problem. A big part of this identity problem lies in the fact that its much larger sibling, Christmas, overshadows it.”

So what is Advent? It comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning arrival and was first celebrated as a period of preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus. In time, it began to refer to the time of remembrance of Christ’s first arrival and was meant to be a time of prayer and preparation for the celebration of his birth.

In our modern day society, it has basically become a time of frenzied activities, parties, shopping, cooking, decorating and singing. So how can we be more intentional about Advent in a way that will impact our joy on Christmas morning? Of course, this will be up to each of us as individuals, but here are some thoughts. While we did not put together a congregational Advent devotion book like we did last year, there are plenty to be found. I encourage everyone to slow down, pace yourself and find a few moments each day to be aware of the reason for our celebrations. Choose a special Advent devotional that will help open your eyes to the Holiness of the Season. Or read through the Gospel of Luke, a little at a time each day. Of course, any time you can share your blessings with others, you are spreading the message of the Good News of Jesus’ birth, but even THIS can become frenzied if we are not careful. Maybe every time you give of yourself or your resources to a particular charity or event, you can stop and say a prayer for that person, organization, or cause before the activity begins.

As we journey to Bethlehem this year through all of the “Holy Chaos”, may we take time to end each day by praying for God to slow down our minds and our hearts as we listen to Christ in the world. My prayer is for each of you and your families to see Christ being born again into the world and into our hearts in a way that helps us discern the movement of the holy in our midst.

Blessings,

Julie

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. “
Luke 2:11*

WORSHIP



| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| December 1 | First Sunday in Advent |
| December 8 | Lessons and Carols |
| December 22 | Handbell Choir Rings |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Communion |

Service 5:00

Session Highlights

- **Approved moving ahead with landscape improvement plan as submitted by Building & Grounds Landscape subcommittee. Proposed plan is a 5-phase project with a total cost of \$21,870.**
- **Approved adopting the Family Life Center usage policy as presented by Building & Grounds Family Life Center use subcommittee.**
- **Approved Building & Grounds request to spend \$6,000 to update/replace lighting in Family Life Center with LED lights.**
- **Approved request from Building & Grounds for Cub Scouts to buy a trailer and transfer ownership to Nazareth with Nazareth providing insurance at a cost of \$100 per year. Nazareth will require an annual inspection of the trailer.**
- **Approved request from Building & Grounds for Eagle Scout project. The project will involve building 4 wooden bases for tents. The bases will be located near the Scout Hut but out of view.**
- **Approved budget for 2020 as presented by Administration Committee. The approved budget makes our Christian Educator, DJ Wall, full-time. Budget total is \$372,208.**

Session will move forward with plans to make 2020

“The Year of the Child” at Nazareth.

This is a concentrated effort to involve the entire congregation in our Children’s Ministry. Stay tuned for more information as this ongoing project develops and please be in prayer about what your role will be.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

I hope everyone had a wonderful, safe, and joyous Thanksgiving. I hope you all have had time to reflect upon what this season and the upcoming Christmas season means to you and you have had time to appreciate all that God has blessed you with. This holiday season, we will join together as a Nazareth community and spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-in members on December 15. Please join us in showing our members the love and company of Jesus. We will leave from the Fellowship Hall at 3PM in a 15 passenger van, carol to our shut-ins, and meet back at the Fellowship Hall where pizza, cookies, hot chocolate, and a secret Holiday surprise will be waiting for us!! This is an intergenerational event, meaning that the whole church is invited to sing with us and bring some Christmas cheer to our beloved Nazareth family members who cannot worship with us regularly!

The Youth will ring in the Christmas season with our Christmas party on December 8th at 5:30 PM at the Campbell's home. We will each bring our gifts for the Angel Tree (wrapped) and one gift for our White Elephant Exchange. Pick up will be at 7:30 PM.

The CE committee will meet on December 9th at 6PM in the session room.



A Youth bulletin board is located outside of the sanctuary. There you will find pictures, our schedule, and a place for you to sign up to bring dinner for our youth meetings! The January sign ups will be posted soon!

Dates for TCT will change in January: we will serve on the first Saturday of each month. Thank you to all the youth who come out and help!

Nazareth Youth Schedule

December 8:

Christmas Party 5PM @ the Campbell's home. Bring Angel Tree gift and White Elephant gift!

December 15:

Caroling to Shut-ins 3PM - 5PM Fellowship Hall Pizza, Cookies, and Hot Chocolate! Oh my!



Missions



The Carpenter's Table

is a great place of opportunity to enjoy fellowship while serving the needs of others. Our day to work is Saturday, December 14, from 9:00 to 1:00.

Please note that our day to serve at TCT will change starting in January. We will be serving on the first Saturday of the month instead of the second. So our first change date to serve will be Saturday, January 4th.

The Spartanburg Soup Kitchen

is where Nazareth volunteers can lend a helping hand and make a difference in the lives of those in our community! Our day to serve is Saturday, December 28, from 9:00 to 1:00.

The MISSION FOCUS for DECEMBER

will be the Soup Kitchen / Angel Tree. All of our Angel Tree gifts are taken. If anyone is still interested and would like a name, please notify Debby in the office and we will see if we can get some more.



PENNIES FOR HUNGER

offering will be received on Sunday, December 29th and will go to the Soup Kitchen.

Presbyterian Women

“Ladies Who Lunch” will meet Friday, December 13th at 11:30 at the home of an 'as-yet-undisclosed' hostess! Please bring sweet and/or savory finger foods. Please notify marionstephen@gmail.com when you know if you can or cannot join us. Our time will be very festive! All are welcome!

“Back Porch Circle” will meet on Tuesday, December 10, @10:00 am, at the home of Debbie Balltrip, 192 Woodridge Drive, Spartanburg.

CIRCLE # 3 will have their Christmas Dinner and Fellowship time on Tuesday, December 10th at the home of Leslie Stuermann, 119 Riveredge Drive, Moore, at 6:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish to share and donations toward our Christmas giving to Heifer International.

Come, enjoy the fellowship and bring a friend!



Fellowship

Friendship Club will not meet in December.

We will fellowship at the Advent Meals this month!

***Join us on December 4, 11, and 18 at the Family Life Center
for our Advent Dinners at 6:00 pm.***

***Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so we know how many
to plan for.***



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

The Nazareth Church office has many resources for our members to have access to that are very helpful. We want to make everyone aware of these:

Updated Nazareth directories

NPC Activity Calendar for the FLC and Fellowship Hall

Standards of Procedure

Historical information and booklets

Reading materials and cookbooks

Various catalogs for ordering church related items

Request for payment forms and account codes for all committee moderators

Lost and found

NPC decals

Buildings and Grounds action forms

Copying and laminating for church related purposes

Coffee order forms

**** Please note: we are asking everyone to write separate checks for contributions to different accounts for the offering (such as General and Building). This makes it much easier. Thank you very much!**

**** Remember that Mondays are 'money counting' days for the church office. Everyone is always welcome, but please try to plan visiting the office anytime other than Monday mornings. Thank you!**



Buildings and Grounds

Building and Grounds is looking for people to become involved with our committee. If you have an interest please join us. We meet on the first Sunday of each month at 8:15 in the Bridges classroom. If you are interested, please let Chuck Holmes or Dwayne Pergrem know.

If you see things around Nazareth that you think need attention, please fill out one of the slips for B&G, so we can take a look at it. The slips can be found in the church office or on the table at the back door of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Evangelism and Nurture

Our group works to make sure new disciples are mentored and assimilated into the life of Nazareth. Mentors are assigned and follow each family. Look at the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for pictures of our new disciples and introduce yourselves to them. We also acknowledge them at our annual New Disciples' luncheon. Our committee also assists Julie in providing communion to those who can no longer worship with us. We also make periodic visits and send cards through our card ministry to members who are hospitalized, grieving or sick, and to our college students.

The Front Porch committee: We meet and greet first time visitors by taking bread and jam after their visit. We also provide information about our church and a letter of welcome. The name front porch describes our visit; meant to be brief and nonintrusive.

Clinton Presbyterian Community

Please contribute to the Presbyterian Community in Clinton for gifts bags that are put together by their staff. Gift ideas are:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Postage stamps | Deodorant | Kleenex | Mouthwash | Small Umbrellas | Toothpaste |
| Post-it notes | Nail polish | Socks | Knee hi hose | Flashlights with batteries | |
| 2020 calendars | Greeting cards for all occasions, especially birthday cards | | | paperback books | |
| Shower caps | Shaving Cream | | Large print puzzle and word search books | | |

Please bring unwrapped items to the Fellowship Hall and place in red bin by December 8.

EXCITING NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Many of you may have heard that I was approached by Parson's Porch Publishing about putting together a book of my sermons. After much cajoling on the part of the publisher and prayer on my part, I decided to go for it. The book, More than Chocolate, is available on Parson's Porch website and on Amazon so please tell your friends and family. It features the three series that I have preached during Lent while I have been at Nazareth and I am hopeful it can be used for personal devotions and study during Lent. I have ordered some copies so see me if you would like one at the Nazareth special price. It might make a nice Christmas gift! <https://www.parsonsporch.com/presbyterian-books/more-than-chocolate-julie-schaaf?rq=Schaaf>

We are thankful for our New Disciples.



Marlene A. Cutler



Karen Ann Carter



Ben and Katie Friday, Ginny & Rock



Tyler and Kim Evans

Cemetery Matching Funds Campaign

Given by

William and Carolyn Berry

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Given by

William T. Robertson

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Given by

Daniel and Donna Roddy

In memory of

David O. Edge

Given by

Homer and Jan Ellis

In their names

Given by

Gene and Kathy Cothran

In their names

Given by

Judith Taetz

In her name

Given by

Gerald Broome

In his name

Given by

Debbie Ritzo

In memory of Joyce Caldwell

Given by

John and Martha Bainbridge

In memory of Joyce Caldwell

Given by

Cecil and Barbara Brown

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Cemetery Matching Funds Campaign

Given by

Mrs. Dean Cox

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Given by

Connie B. Nelson

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Given by

Debbie Ritzo

In memory of

John A. Ritzo

Given by

Carolyn and James Anderson

In memory of

The Nesbitt Family

Given by

Kerry and Laura Henderson

In honor of

Mrs. Robert A. Daniel

Given by

Joan Cothran

In memory of

Joyce Caldwell

Given by

Clyde and Debbie Fowler

In honor of

*James Hampton Nesbitt
& Annie Mae Nesbitt*

Given by

Clyde and Debbie Fowler

In honor of

*Betty Nesbitt Fowler
& Marlowe Steadman Fowler*

Given by

Kerry and Laura Henderson

In memory of

*Mr. & Mrs. Tony R. Henderson
and Mr. Robert A. Daniel*

Finance Figures ~ Why A Pledge Card?

While tabulating the responses to our Pledge Card mail outs and distribution this year, we received what we believe was a sincere concern about making pledges to the church. The biblical passage that was quoted in the response was Matthew 6:1. "Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men."

We believe that this is true, wise and holy. We should not give to receive credit or recognition. It gains us nothing. We should give to assist those who are in need and to willingly practice personal acts of charity through empathy to our fellow man.

But, to act in order to appear righteous is not in any way the intent or purpose of a pledge card. The pledge card is a tool that allows us to determine what resources to expect in the coming year. There is no other hidden agenda or purpose. It is a planning tool that aids the church in making informed decisions and to be good stewards of our assets.

There are very few people who see the Pledge Card information. The person who gathers and totals the information sees the card. Our Administrative Assistant receives and saves the information in order to send out reminders of pledges made at mid-year. The Finance Committee sees only the total of pledges made. None of them ever see the individual pledges. Even the Pastor does not see them. So, only two people see the individual pledge information. That is as confidential as possible, and we do not feel that our left hand has any idea of what our right hand is doing.

The Pledge Card is merely a tool. No one has ever been coerced to fulfill their pledge at the end of the year. That is between you and the Lord. It is simply a piece of paper with an honest intent written on it. That is as far as it goes.

Please, take a moment to fill out a card and let us know what we can expect in 2020. Thank you to all of you who have returned a card already. It is greatly appreciated and so helpful.

Michael F. Baier, Administrative Moderator



Remember To Remember
Throughout the Year
Give to the Cemetery Fund
Matching Funds Campaign runs through
December 15th. All donations doubled.



Our Church Family

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Members and Friends of Nazareth

Sheryl Anderson's friends,
Dennis and Jo Goode
Katie Barath's father, Robert Williams
Catherine Beach
Gerald Broome's grandson, Adam Broome
Mary Brady
Buddy and Angelee Berry
Simon Cairns' sister,
Grace Dalhoff
Carroll Caldwell's son,
Aaron Caldwell
Jenny Collins
Margaret Culclasure
Fran Deer

Jayne Deurksens' friend, Alex Butler
Jan and Homer Ellis' friend,
Baby Jack
Joe and Martha Fox
Lisa Hayes
Jenny Lindman's sister
Gladys Mills
Irene Powers
Larry Powers
Debbie Ritzo and family
Julie Schaaf's aunt, Mary McRae
Julie and Danny's grandson Hayden and his
other grandmother, Angela Jackson
Amelia Senn and family



In the Armed Forces:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Steven Alverson | Doneven Derner |
| Eric Gallman | Dorothy Ellis |
| Mike Roberts | Joey Menendez |
| Shelly Roberts | Albert Bianco |

Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford

Concerns of the World

People affected by wildfires in California and the firefighters

Earthquake victims in Albania

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
2 Chron 7:14

Please call the church office when a concern needs to be added to or taken away from the list.
Thank You.



Sunday Morning Coffee and Conversation
Time: 9:00 - 9:30
December 1,8,15,22—Wagner Class
December 29—GIFT Class



Thanks to everyone who shows up early on Sunday mornings to serve coffee and snacks. If you know someone who doesn't participate in this time of fellowship, reach out and invite them to join us.

OFFICE HOURS - Debby works in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. Julie is in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 4:30 pm. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Julie at 864-421-2750.

UPDATED WEBSITE

Check out our updated website with weekly sermons available and a church directory.

Please Like us on Facebook

FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is hanging in the hall behind the sanctuary. Please consider this wonderful way to honor someone as well as contribute to the beauty of worship.

FLOWER CALENDAR



| | | |
|----------|----|--------------------------|
| December | 1 | Communion |
| December | 8 | Advent |
| December | 15 | Advent |
| December | 22 | Advent |
| December | 29 | Melanie and Jay Campbell |
| January | 5 | Communion |
| January | 12 | |
| January | 19 | |
| January | 26 | |

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

The deadline for the Newsletter for January will be Monday, December 23rd
Please have all information to Debby (debby@nazarethpresbyterian.org) by that time. Ample time is needed to complete the newsletter and have it to you by the end of the month. Please adhere to this time frame. Thank you!

Dear Nazareth Family,
 Wow! What a blessing to have a close church family! From all of the cards, messages, food and of course hugs I have received, Nazareth folks know how to make a person feel loved and motivated. I've completed 5 of 12 chemo rounds and have learned a lot about what to expect. Even with the setback of being hospitalized for blood-clots, the treatment is going well and I feel your prayers. Thanks to all!

Love, Lisa Hayes



Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

02 Elfriede Henry
04 Paula Cash
05 Matthew Mathis
08 Kim Cansler
10 Rick Duerksen
13 Dale Wright
13 Brian Kern
16 Deb Gray
16 Bill Stuermann
18 Tiffany Nobles
22 Angelee Berry
22 Jennie Lindman
23 Barbara Melton
25 Pat Smith
27 Lou Buttino
27 Lily Cairns
27 Phyllis Powers
31 Kathy Cothran



JANUARY

04 Mila Barath
04 Peggy Landers
05 Bob Hatchette
10 Steve Riggio
13 Liam Maul
15 Aletha Misenheimer
18 Neil Houghton
18 Doug Hughes
19 Jamison Franklin
20 Leslie Stuermann
21 Carolyn Berry
22 Marian Stephen
23 Roy Oates
23 Pat Sykes
25 Ashley Whitfield
27 Drew Cash
27 Carol Tesh
28 Judy Taetz
29 Mandy Mathis
30 Susan Baier
30 Joan Cothran
31 Kaushik Kotecha

DECEMBER

01 Louis & Cindy Womble
11 Jay & Melanie Campbell
13 Dave & Lois Weneck
16 Charles & Stephanie Heath
19 Lane & Molly Barker
21 James & Tina Cantrell
22 Bill & Leslie Stuermann



JANUARY

06 David & Marian Stephen
07 Jerry & Marian Johnson
17 Larry & Phyllis Powers
26 Blake & Emily Collins



DECEMBER



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 B & Gr 8:15 Worship 8:30 Evan & N 8:30 First Sunday in Advent No Youth | 2 Handbells 6:00 | 3 | 4 Advent Meal @ FLC 6:00 Choir 7:00 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Fellowship 8:30 Missions 8:30 Lessons and Carols Youth Christmas Party @ Campbell's 5:00 | 9 Christian Education 6:00 Handbells 6:00 | 10 Back Porch Circle 10:00 Circle # 3 7:00 | 11 Advent Meal @ FLC 6:00 XMAS BINGO Choir 7:00 | 12 Cemetery Committee meeting | 13 Ladies Who Lunch 11:30 | 14 The Carpenter's Table 9-1 |
| 15 Intergenerational CAROLING 3:00—5:00 | 16 Handbells 6:00 Session 7:00 | 17 | 18 Advent Meal @ FLC 6:00 Choir 7:00 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Handbell Choir Ringing | 23 | 24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Communion Service 5:00 | 25 Office Closed | 26 | 27 | 28 The Soup Kitchen 9-1 |
| 29 Pennies for Hunger | 30 | 31 | | | | |