

December





The Church Mouse



December, 2018

Walking with Walter

November is over, and Christmas is right around the corner. There is so much excitement here at Weirsdale Church. I believe everyone associated with our church is experiencing the love of Jesus Christ. I am so proud to be the pastor of such a caring loving church. You all seem to go out of your way to make everyone feel a part of the community here.

Sunday, December 2, is the beginning of Advent. It is an exciting time because Advent draws our attention to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. What a blessing God has given us in sending us his Son. Many times, people think that Advent is just about getting prepared for Christmas. But there is more to it. Though advent prepares us for the coming of Christmas, it also is to be a reminder that Jesus came to die for our sins. Not only that, it also is to help us remember that Jesus is coming again. Advent is all about Jesus!

December is a busy month for all of us. People will be buying gifts for their loved ones, many will be spending time with their families while others may be experiencing times of sorrow and grief. Yes, we do celebrate Christmas, but for some this year will be different. As Christians, we need to be in prayer for those who are experiencing the holiday season in less than a celebratory manner. If the opportunity arises, reach out to those people and let them know they are loved.

As I mentioned previously, December is a busy time. People have taken time to decorate the church for Christmas. For me, it was an amazing experience to see how many people helped in decorating this beautiful church. I hope everyone notices the beautiful wreaths that have been redone. A couple of ladies spent a great deal of time beautifying them.

The deacons have a couple of things that are taking place this month as well. First is the Angel Tree. I am so proud of you all for taking every one of the cards to care for the kids which have special needs at Christmas. On December 7, the deacons are providing a social for the teachers and staff at the Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School. Anyone who wants to help provide food please see Axie. Also, on December 13 we need volunteers to help at the Elementary School. We need between eight and ten people to volunteer for the "World's Fair Day." It will involve several hours between 5:00 through 7:30. If you're interested, please see Glenda.

Ellen and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for the most wonderful year and ministry that we've ever had. Weirsdale Church is, without a doubt, the greatest place in the world to celebrate and to worship God. Ellen and I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas

DR. WALTER G. LASETER is available for pastoral care and can be reached at 352-598-5767.



‘TIS THE SEASON...

*Christmas
Cantata*



CHRISTMAS CANTATA TO BE PERFORMED

Come and enjoy the sounds of Christmas as Choir Director Jill Hayman-Aponte, Organist Jo Ann Hanebrink and our WPC Choir perform a Christmas Cantata on December 16th during our worship service..



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Monday, December 24th
4:30 PM**

POINSETTIAS decorating the church may be taken home after the candlelight service.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE FELLOWSHIP

December 30th Fellowship will be Christmas Cookies! Bring your cookies to share as we say goodbye to the Christmas season.



UNDECORATE
the Church

December 30th, we will remove all the Christmas decorations from the church and put them away until next year.

Please stay a few minutes after the worship service and lend a helping hand.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ There will be a Congressional Meeting on December 16th.
- ◆ Walter will take a vacation from December 9th (after worship) to December 15th, 2018, and at the end of April, 2019.
- ◆ Session approved the purchase of new, liquid burning Advent candles for our Advent season.
- ◆ Session approved the purchase of a new sound system for the sanctuary.
- ◆ Session approved the purchase of new appliances for the manse kitchen.

Called Congregational Meeting December 16th



A Called Congregational meeting of all active members will be held December 16th after worship to receive the report from the 2018 Nominating Committee and to hold our annual elections.

SENIORS DINE OUT

DECEMBER 5th AT 5PM

ORANGE BLOSSOM COUNTRY CLUB

IN THE HISTORIC SIDE OF THE VILLAGES

Call Betty McEuen for a Reservation 352-245-9412.

GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT



We are wondering if anyone would prefer getting their Church Mouse Newsletter through their email rather than through the US Postal Service.

You would enjoy a beautiful, color version, and you might receive it more quickly than the mailed version. It would also save the church a little postage.

The Church Mouse can be seen on the church website as well. The website has recently been revised so that the newsletter now shows up as a full-screen image. Go to www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org and click on the "Newsletter" menu tab.

Linda Spatta will be happy to help anyone who does not understand how to use the website.

Watch for a bulletin insert on which you can make your choices known to the office in the new year.

YOUR SHARING IS A BLESSING FOR ALL OF US

These dates are open for altar flowers and fellowship. Please consider signing up for one or the other.

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 16, 30

All of January & February, 2019

FELLOWSHIP HOST

December 9

All of January & February, 2019

HARVEST HAPPENINGS CRAFT BAZAAR

Debbi McCloskey is organizing Harvest Happenings for the Fall of 2019.

Crafters are needed for the many craft projects.

The group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month from 9AM to noon beginning Dec. 3rd.

You may call Debbi at 330-461-4286 for further information.



Needed items for the Harvest Happenings Craft Show:

Glass Blocks	Canoe Paddles
Fan Blades	Cutting Boards
Glass Jugs/Jars	Used Large Paint Brushes
Old Windows	Solid Bricks (no holes)
Denim Jackets	Christmas Decorations
Wood Pieces	Christmas & Decorative Ribbon
Old Wood Furniture Pieces	Jewelry
Old Iron Skillets	Yarn—orange & apple red (Fall Colors)
Ice Skates	Antlers

STANTON WEIRSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A couple of upcoming events are scheduled at the school.

First, the Deacons will be hosting a Teacher's Appreciation Social and preparing Christmas cookies and punch for the teachers and staff on Friday, Dec. 7th.

Second, on December 13th, the school will have its annual World's Fair event from 5-7PM. They are requesting about 10 volunteers from our congregation to be present to help at the various event stations. Please be there by 4:45 at the latest to get your assignments. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

Stewardship CAMPAIGN

If you are still considering pledging for 2019 and have not yet turned in your pledge card, it is not too late. You have until the end of this year to get your pledge to the office.

Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

An updated directory will be printed early in the spring. Make sure your information is current.

UPDATE INFO Forms are in the Narthex. Please fill in **ONLY** the information that has changed since the last printing.

New members, please get your white contact information forms to me as soon as possible.

Thank you.

"We gather(ed) together to ask the Lord's blessing" with friends and family in Douglas Hall on Thanksgiving Day. Attendance was large and the food delicious.

Thank you to the kitchen crew who put it all together and to all others who shared a dish from their own kitchens.

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COURT OF HONOR SCHEDULED

Justin Tyler Greene earned his Eagle Scout status on July 16, 2018.

His Court of Honor Ceremony will be held at Weirsdale Presbyterian Church on December 16th at 3:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Justin's project was beautifying and planting new Knock Out rose bushes in the area in front of the church.



SCOUT TROOP 113 AIDS FELLOW SCOUTS

Our Boy Scout Troop 113 recently came to the aid of their fellow scouts in the Panhandle area by sending money to two Scout Councils, one headquartered at Pensacola and one at Tallahassee. The summer camp Wallwood was completely devastated by the storm and needs major rebuilding. The other Council is using the money to help scouts replace scouting items lost in the storm.



Operation Shoebox is in full swing downstairs in Douglas Hall. The group is cutting, sewing, knitting, and crocheting ditty bags and Christmas stockings for the troops overseas.

Come join them; they are working for a church mission that reaches thousands. They meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays from 9AM to 12PM.

Diana Harris is the coordinator for the sewing group and delivers the items to Operation Shoebox.

For further information, she can be reached at 352-425-4351 or at 352-625-6021.

Receiving news from our troops is always a gratifying experience, and it is fascinating and rewarding to the sewing group to learn of all the different places in the world that the Operation Shoebox mission reaches as indicated by these letters. Troops love the ditty bags and Christmas stockings, and they return their gratefulness with wonderful letters. Here is one received recently.

Dear Diana,

I just want to send a personal thank you for the awesome bags. The Soldiers that got them were very happy and appreciative of the time and effort you and others like you put into bringing us a taste of home. You guys are what makes America Great!

Thank you so much.

SFC Kristen Wynne

She also wrote:

Thank you so much. Your "ditty bag" brightened my spirit. Many blessings.

**FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH IS "FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY"
COMMUNITY OF GRATITUDE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
October, 2018**

Total Individuals	832
Households	280
Total # Meals	7,488
Children 0-17 yrs.	250

The Community of Gratitude is grateful for our monetary support and food donations. We sent food, bread and monetary donations for an estimated amount of \$2,510.00 in October.



The pantry is always in need of nonperishable food and toiletries and also accepts food for pets.

**SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH IS THE "SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE"
FOR STANTON WEIRSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



Every second Sunday of the month is designated for the school clothing drive. Please consider bringing new clothing, sizes 6-12, for the school closet at that time. Parents will be permitted to walk through and pick out needed items for their children.



Always see the beauty around you. God's creations are amazing!

PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you have a prayer request or are interested in helping on the prayer chain, please call Marlys Forbrook at 352-430-1727 or Axie Grimes at 352-537-0854.



Remember our friends who are homebound or in a care facility by sending them a card to brighten their day:



Remember Our Homebound Friends

Richard Bradley
630 Griffin Ave.
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Robert Lipsner
800 Lake Port Blvd. Apt C505
Leesburg, FL 34748

Betts Mengel
ATRIA Lady Lake
930 County Road 466
Lady Lake, FL 32159

James & Audrey Stangle
4680 Bellwether Ln. Apt. 113
Oxford, FL 34484

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Head Usher: James McKnight
Liturgist: Sara Jane Vincent

Communion Servers Dec 2: Kaye Boyer, Carol Everman,
Nancy McPeck, Angela Pecor, Cindy Strategos
Dec 24: Glenda Bucklew, Tom Hagle, Ilene Newton
Starr Patterson, Linda Spence

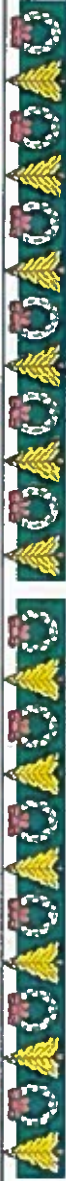
Communion Setup Dec 2: Lorna McKenzie
Dec 24: Starr Patterson




As always, if you are unable to serve as listed above, **PLEASE** find a substitute.
And, thank you for your willingness to serve our church!



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 First Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday 9AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:30AM Fellowship Angel Tree Gifts Due	3 Harvest Happenings Crafters 9AM TTO 11:30AM Seniors Group 5PM Orange Blossom Restaurant 7:30PM BSA	4 TTO 11:30AM	5 Seniors Group 5PM Orange Blossom Restaurant 7:30PM BSA	6 Women's Bible Study 10AM Choir Rehearsal 4:30PM	7 Stanton Weirsdate Teachers & Staff Social hosted by the Deacons 2PM	8 Deacons Wrap Christmas Gifts for Angel Tree Families 11AM
9 Second Sunday of Advent School Clothing Drive 9AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Fellowship 11:30AM Poinsettia Orders Due	10 Operation Shoebox 9AM TTO 11:30AM BSA	11 TTO 11:30AM	12 BSA 7:30PM	13 Women's Bible Study 10AM Choir Rehearsal 4:30PM Stanton-Weirsdate School World's Fair Event 5PM-7PM	14	15 Angel Tree Families Pick Up Gifts & Food 11AM
16 Third Sunday of Advent Sunday School 9AM Worship & Cantata 10:30AM Fellowship 11:30AM SESSION Meets 11:45AM Court of Honor--Justin Greene 3PM	17 Harvest Happenings Crafters 9AM TTO 11:30AM	18 TTO 11:30AM	19 BSA 7:30PM	20 Women's Bible Study 10AM Choir Rehearsal 4:30PM	21	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent NO Sunday School 9AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship 11:30AM	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:30 PM 	25 Christmas Day 	26 BSA 7:30PM	27 Women's Bible Study 10AM Choir Rehearsal 4:30PM	28	29
30 NO Sunday School 9AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship Christmas Cookies 11:30AM Ungreen the Church	31 New Year's Eve 	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed	2	3	4	5

**WEIRSDALE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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Website: www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org



**Our Mission:
Bring People to Christ
Develop our Discipleship**



Weirsdale Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Fellowship: 11:30 AM

Sunday School:

9:00 AM

(October through April)