

# December



November, 2015

Volume 37 No. 9



# The Church Mouse



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**Chatting with Charlie – November, 2015**

This coming Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and in the Church Year. Advent means coming and is a time when we wait and watch for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also look forward to both the birth of Christ and the time when he will come again and make all things new. Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation when we are called to keep our light burning as we look for the coming of the Lord.

We decorated our sanctuary with evergreens last Sunday which reminds us that God is everywhere and everlasting. There are also strings of light, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world and encouraging us to shine with the light and love of Jesus Christ as we have been strung together in community.

This Sunday we will light the Hope candle of the Advent wreath as we prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of Jesus' coming. On the second Sunday of Advent we will light the Peace candle as we remember that Jesus is the only giver of lasting peace and is always with us. The next Sunday we light the Joy candle as we praise God for the fulfillment of His promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. On the Fourth Sunday in Advent we light the Love candle as we strive to follow in Christ's footsteps and know God's love and show it in our lives.

The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Recognizing that this world can be dark and cold, we look forward to the coming of the light that brings both light and warmth. At the end of the service on Christmas Eve we will use the Christ candle to light our own individual candles as the light and love of God fills the room. We recognize that it is the light of Christ that expels the darkness from our lives and fills us with the warmth of the love of God. Therefore let us share the light and love of God in our homes, communities, and all of creation. Let us shine our lights as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Elaine, BB and I pray that you will have a blessed holiday season while reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas and giving thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us and will in the future. Indeed as brothers and sisters we should be the most joyous people on earth. May you have a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year. Charlie

Douglas Hall was transformed into a shopping wonderland on Friday and Saturday, November 13th & 14th. Shoppers were delighted with the beautiful merchandise, delicious lunch and baked goods and friendly atmosphere. The show will provide funds to update the church parlor.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the show such a success.



# Harvest Happenings

BOY SCOUT



BREAKFAST

## FELLOWSHIP BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST

The boy scouts of Troop #113 treated us to one of their famous breakfasts for fellowship on November 8th. They served all of our favorites—eggs, bacon, ham, biscuits and gravy and pancakes smothered in syrup!! Everyone ate everything and left quite satisfied. Thank you, boys, for a great breakfast.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—NOVEMBER, 2015

- The study on Romans is progressing well.
- We welcomed Henry & Mary Holly into our membership on Nov. 15th.
- Stewardship Campaign kicked off Nov. 8th.
- Congregational Meeting was held on Nov. 22nd to adopt a change in the by-laws and to elect church leaders for the upcoming term.
- Officer training for Elders and Deacons will be held on Dec. 12th, and we will have the Ordination/Installation during worship on Dec. 13th.
- Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:30 PM this year.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle

## 2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The Session and the Stewardship and Finance Committee are preparing their ministry and financial plans for 2016. With fewer annual pledges each year and an aging congregation, we especially need your help this year.

We're asking all of our worshipers, both members and non-members, to make a formal financial commitment. We request that all of you present a pledge card for the upcoming year so that we may continue to faithfully serve God and His people as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Corporately, we thank God for our beautiful buildings and grounds that along with our ministries and staff provide us with a meaningful worship service each week as well as other discipleship and fellowship opportunities. Individually, we give praise to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us and our loved ones. We have all had times when we didn't think we would make it through this or that. But here we are by the grace of God. May we ever be grateful for God's gracious love. (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

Share our blessings: God has given us our time, talents, and financial resources to help us soar through life. (Isaiah 40:31) It is clearly more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35) When we give of ourselves we touch many lives, particularly our own as we receive the true joy of giving.

We are convinced that with God all things are possible and that in the final analysis we can never out give God. As we faithfully return a portion of the blessings He has given us, God will continue to bless us in untold ways.

We kicked off our Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, November 8, 2015. Please review and complete the enclosed "2016 Financial Faith Statement" and present it to the Lord on or before Consecration Sunday, November 29, 2015. Your prayerful consideration and continued faithfulness is a blessing to us all.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Your brothers in Christ,

Elder David Vincent, Chairman  
Stewardship and Finance Committee

Rev. Charlie Rumpel  
Moderator, Session

## DECEMBER 6th WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist: Jim Bowers  
Communion Set Up: Linda Spatta  
Communion Servers: Bobbi Lytle, Diana McDonald,  
Ann Myers, Alice Ralph,  
Sara Jane Vincent

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!

## New Members

We welcome and celebrate the new membership of Henry and Mary Holly in our congregation. They have a long history with our Boy Scout Troop #113.



## COMMUNITY OF GRATITUDE REPORT October 2015

Total Individuals	807
Number of Households	318
Equivalent:	7,477meals
Children 0-17:	214
Adults over 60	217

## SENIOR SINGLES

The seniors will be visiting Kotobuki Japanese Steak House in Ocala for dinner on **Thursday, Dec. 10th** at 5:00 PM. If you want to carpool, please be at the church by 4:00 PM. More info to follow. Call Betty McEuen at 245-9412 for reservations.



### Angel Tree

All of the cards on the Angel Tree were claimed the first Sunday the tree was placed in the Narthex. We ask that all unwrapped gifts with the gift receipts and cards attached be placed in the corresponding box that matches the number on the card by December 6th. The boxes are in Douglas Hall.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission to help families and their children have a merrier Christmas.

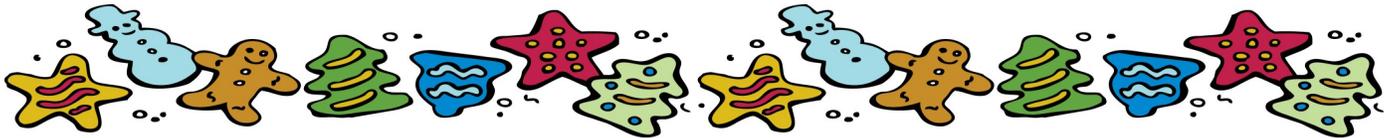


### POINSETTIAS

We are taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Order forms will be in the Narthex and should be turned in by Sunday, December 6th.

### FELLOWSHIP COOKIES POTLUCK

Save a few of your Christmas cookies for the Christmas Cookie Potluck Fellowship on December 27th!



### POLAR EXPRESS

#### STANTON-WEIRSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Stanton Weirsdale Elementary School will be holding their Polar Express Night on December 15th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. They are asking for volunteers from Weirsdale Presbyterian Church to help.

If you are available and would like to participate, please call Linda in the office at 821-2757 or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Volunteers will be meeting in front of the Manse at 4:30 that evening to carpool over to the school.

### ALTAR FLOWERS for 2016

With the new year approaching, there are many Sundays available for the sponsorship of altar flowers. Reserve that special date before it is no longer available. The 2016 flower forms are in the Narthex and the church office. The flowers are still only \$25.00.

### CHURCH COOKBOOKS

The WPC cookbooks that you donated recipes for are available for \$5.00 each. You can get yours in the church office during office hours (Mon-Thur, 9AM-1PM) or after worship on Sundays.

### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2015 Church Directories are being distributed. If you have not received yours, contact Linda Spatta in the church office at 352-821-2757 to pick up yours. We ask that you take one per family.



### INDIVIDUAL HEARING AMPLIFIERS

Hearing amplifiers can be found in the Narthex for your use during the worship service. If you have any questions, ask the head usher or the person at the audio/visual cabinet.



The sewing group that makes the ditty bags and Christmas stockings for our troops stationed overseas meets in Douglas Hall on the second and fourth Monday each month. They are concentrating on Christmas stockings from now until the holidays. The group will meet only once

in December on the 14th.

Cutters, sewers and crocheters can all help; your efforts are appreciated.

Diana Harris coordinates sewing sessions at church and delivers the items to Operation Shoebox. She can be reached at 352-425-4351 or at 352-625-6021.

Receiving news from our troops is always a heart warming experience. They love the ditty bags and Christmas stockings that are put together with such care and love for them, and they return their gratefulness with wonderful letters. Here are a couple from last

*My Friends,*

*We received several care packages with stockings, candy and wonderful letters this week, just in time for Christmas. Please pass the thanks to all who volunteered their time and efforts to help our men and women in uniform feel remembered during this Holiday Season. It really is great to read the notes, and all the items and treats are greatly appreciated! Thanks!!*

*Warm Regards,*

*Matthew J. Foley, Col, USAF  
Commander*

ALSO:

*We just wanted to take some time to say Thank You for the gifts. They arrived two days before Christmas so everyone got a Christmas gift this year. We greatly appreciate it. So Thanks Again, God Bless, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
2Plt 71st Chemical Company*



**Wishing everyone a  
Blessed Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!**

Please pray for our members who have ongoing health problems and for those who will be having surgery in the near future.

Renee Owens  
Donna McNutt  
Bob & Maisie Lipsner

Walt Roland  
Bob Newton  
Don Cunningham

For prayer requests, contact the following:  
Ann Myers 352-653-3319  
Robbie Bourque (H) 352-391-9538 (C) 352-350-3750



### PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you have a prayer request, please call **Ann Myers** at 653-3319 or **Robbie Bourque** on her cell at 350-3750 or at home at 391-9538.

Also, if you would be interested in helping on the prayer chain, call either Ann or Robbie and let them know.



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

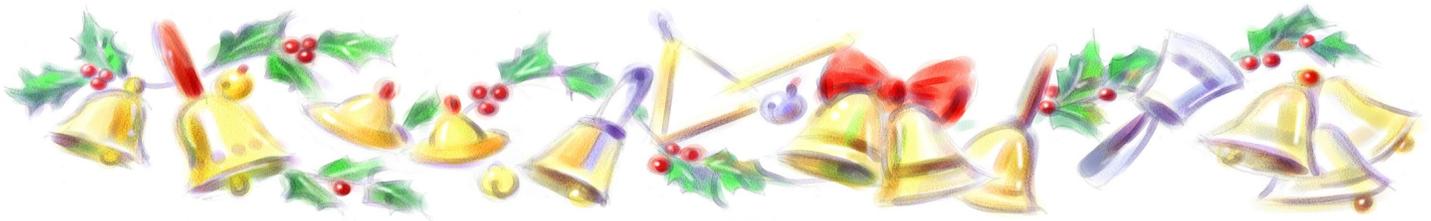
Gene Pratt  
3131 TCU Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32817

Eleanor Redding  
P.O. Box 96  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Marilyn Smith  
15020 SE 140th Ave. Rd.  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

### GIFTING THROUGH THE YEAR

1. The forms for **Altar Flowers** are in the Narthex. If you are so moved to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday service, please fill out a form and return it to the office or put in the collection plate on Sundays. The flowers are only \$25.00 and add to the beauty of the sanctuary and service.
2. The **Love INC** gas cans are always conveniently located in the Narthex and Douglas Hall so you can drop your change in them as you are coming or going. The little amounts that you leave make such a big difference to those in need of your help.
3. The first Sunday of each month is **Food Pantry Sunday**. Please put your items in Douglas Hall in the designated area. They are always in need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, applesauce and personal toiletries.



## *Dates to Remember*

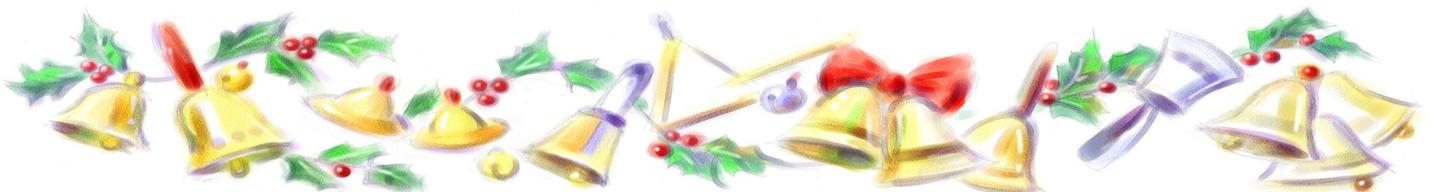
Dec 1, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM, Douglas Hall  
Dec 2, Romans Life Study, Stonecrest Area, 1:30 PM  
Dec 2, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM  
Dec 2, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Dec 3, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall  
Dec 3, Roman's Life Study, Men's Group, 5:30 PM, Douglas Hall, Upstairs  
Dec 4, Roman's Life Study, Del Webb Area, 10:00 AM  
Dec 5, DEACONS Meet, 9:00 AM

Dec 6, Food Pantry Sunday Bring donations to D.H.  
Dec 6, Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, 10:30 AM  
Dec 6, Deadline all Angel Tree gifts to Douglas Hall  
Dec 6, Deadline all Poinsettia orders turned in  
Dec 8, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall  
Dec 9, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM  
Dec 9, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Dec 10, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall  
Dec 10, Sr. Singles, 5:00 PM, Kotobuki Japanese Restaurant, Ocala  
Dec 12, Officer Training Class, 9:00 AM, Douglas Hall, Downstairs

Dec 13, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM  
Dec 13, Ordination and Installation Officers  
Dec 14, Operation Shoebox Sewing Group Meets, 9:00 AM, Douglas Hall  
Dec 15, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall  
Dec 15, Polar Express, Stanton Weirsdale Elem., School, 5PM-7PM  
Dec 16, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM  
Dec 17, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall

Dec 20, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM  
Dec 20, SESSION Meets, 11:45 AM  
Dec 22, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall  
Dec 22, DEADLINE newsletter announcements to office  
Dec 23, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM  
Dec 24, Christmas Eve Worship Service w/ Holy Communion, 4:30 PM

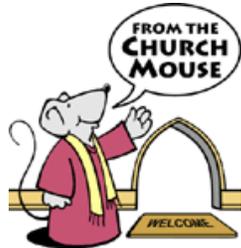
Dec 27, Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, 10:30 AM  
Dec 27, Fellowship—Christmas Cookies Potluck, 11:30 AM  
Dec 27, Remove the decorations from the Sanctuary, 11:30 AM  
Dec 29, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall  
Dec 30, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM  
Dec 31, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall



**WEIRSDALE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

16303 SE 137th Court  
P. O. Box 269  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Phone: 352-821-2757  
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E-mail: [weirsdalepres@gmail.com](mailto:weirsdalepres@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org)



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



## **Weirsdale Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**

**Fellowship: 11:30 AM**

### **Study Groups:**

**Sundays 8:55 AM Men's & Women's: Church**

**Wednesdays 1:30 PM: Stonecrest**

**Thursday's Men's 5:30 PM: Douglas Hall**

**Fridays 10:00 AM: Del Webb**