



**Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Communique**

**JANUARY 2016**

The month of January brings with it the beginning of a new year filled with new hopes and dreams and visions of what may be in the days ahead. The birth of the baby in the manger brings us hope with which we step forward faithfully into the unknown of this year. Whatever lies before us, one thing we can be confident of, is that Emmanuel—God is with us.

Likewise, as we look back over the past weeks, I would like to thank the Covenant family for your faithfulness and service in many ways that, to me, continues to be evidence of your living out the Christmas hope.

During the Advent and Christmas season, you have helped to feed the hungry, either through your participation in the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen or donating items to our own food pantry at the church. We always see an increase in those needing food during these winter months, and you have provided assistance. Your gifts have also provided Christmas gifts for children around the world through Operation Christmas Child, and also here in town through our own Christmas Child project in Spartanburg. The Presbyterian Women provided gifts and fellowship to Sara Jo Cottage at Thornwell. Your gifts to the annual Joy Gift Offering bless retired church workers and our racial ethnic education and leadership development. The Christmas Cantata and sound of caroling across town together, visits and fellowship together in church events have strengthened our ties in faith as we celebrated the birth of Jesus, our hope and salvation.

The light of your faith and love to the Covenant family and to the many mission projects of this church continue to be evidence of where your light shines in the world.

As Epiphany season draws near, we are reminded to let the light of our faith continue to shine, so that others will see the goodness and love of God. May God continue to shine through each of our lives this new year and always.

*Peace,  
Robert*

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Kathryn Bridges	Taylor Goode (M)
Velma Brown	Lala Patterson
Les Bullman	Caroline Smith
Susan Clark & family	Esther Waldrop

Remember our shut-ins  
Families who have lost loved ones  
Our President and Officials in Washington  
World Peace  
(M) indicates Military

**JANUARY Special Occasions!**

**Happy Birthday**

3 Ann Cole  
4 Callaway Alford  
6 Donna Polston  
11 Cindy Meeks  
27 Nancy Biggerstaff  
28 Emily Bleiler

**JANUARY Servers**

**Ushers/Greeters**

3 Bob McMichael  
Carole Sanders  
Jim Bleiler  
10 Russ Sanders  
Nancy Biggerstaff  
17 Callaway Alford  
Henry Polston  
Terry Terawaki  
24 Cynthia Bridges  
Jim Fraley  
Bill Tart  
31 Bob McMichael  
Carole Sanders  
Jim Bleiler

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**as of November 30, 2015**

Nov Income	\$14,024	YTD \$141,631
Nov Expense	\$12,972	YTD \$141,613
Net Totals (YTD)	\$1,052	YTD \$18

Our congregation, at its congregational meeting during December, elected the following individuals to serve as Elders in the Class of 2018: Kristie Wade, Paul McChesney, and Spencer Gainey. A service of ordination/ and or installation will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> during worship. We thank the Elders, Class of 2015, for their service: Bill Tart, Nancy Biggerstaff, and Russ Sanders.

The Keenagers will meet on Tuesday, January 26 at 11 a.m. in Edwards Hall for a luncheon together and a program. Please let the church office know if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

The Session would like to thank everyone for your faithfulness in your pledges and commitments to the church for the New Year. Our commitments to the church are above where they were at this time last year. Thank you, also, for returning your inventory of gifts of your time and talents to be used for the glory of God in the life of our church. The 2016 church budget will be available on the hall table for all to have.

Our **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** will take place on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our fourth Sunday luncheon in Edwards Hall. At that time, our reports of the past year will be given out and discussed. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

During 2016, the Session has approved a new format for our Wednesday evening food and fellowship time together. Beginning in January, we will meet once a month, on the second Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will be January 13, at 6 pm in Edwards Hall.

*We will take down our Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. If you can help, please come on out!*

Remember that our church has Soup Kitchen duty every first Saturday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. If you can help, please come!

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to our special offering for our Christmas Child this season! Your gifts were delivered and greatly appreciated!

We received a message from Phil Nelson, former member, who now lives in Vermont. He says "hello" to all the good folks at Covenant. He had a bout with pneumonia, but is on the road to recovery, and he hopes all the folks at Covenant can stay healthy in the New Year!

***THANK YOU's***

Dear Covenant family,

Our deepest thanks for all of your expressions of sympathy to us after our son, Derek, passed away, was very much appreciated. You are all so very thoughtful and kind.

Love, Carl and Ann Cole

Robert, Ann, and Miriam would like to thank the Session and Congregation for your gracious gift to each of us. We wish each of you a Happy New Year in 2016,

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**December Session Update**

- Approved the 2016 budget.
- Thank you to Elders Class of 2015 rotation off the Session.
- Remember year end committee reports.
- Received church membership roll, and letters to be sent to non-active members.
- Received committee reports.
- Prayed for church pastoral concerns.
- Next meeting—January 18, 2016 at 6 p.m.

