

The Poinsettias

are given

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

by

Lynn Black
Frances & Tom Loughran
Cherry McPherson

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Our parents by Anne & Bill Alston

Mr. & Mrs. William Anderson by Lynn Anderson
Black

Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Bowen, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs.
George L. Bowen

Our granddaughter and niece, Stephany Brooks,
by the Lovingoods

William Daniel Burroughs by his family

Matthew Clark by Mr. & Mrs. John Clark and Jason

My wife, Emily H. Crittenden, by Col. (RET) Robert
N. Crittenden

My husband, Dimon I. Driggers, by Loulie Driggers

Mr. Glenn Dunlap by Debra & Billy Hatcher

Dorothy W. & John W. Dunsmore by Diane &
John Dunsmore

Our parents by Ruth Ann and Carl Fliermans

Bates Folley by Martha Folley

Doris & Paul Fowler by Jackie & Dennis Hillesland

Our parents, Catherine & Geza Gojda, by Anne &
Gene Gojda, Sr.

Our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Hagood and Mr. &
Mrs. Donald Townsend, by Jenny & Don Townsend

Mrs. Marion Harris Hatcher by Debra & Billy
Hatcher

Mr. William G. Hatcher, Sr., by Debra and Billy
Hatcher

Ethel & Charles Heintz by Diane and John
Dunsmore

Ellen & Charles Hillesland by Jackie & Dennis
Hillesland

Mr. & Mrs. Rollin A. Jackson, Mrs. C. A. Webb
and Mrs. Jim Chinik by Linda & Warren Jones

Heather Joiner, Todd Joiner and Aunt Hazel by
Jordy & Bob Rihl

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie W. Jones by Linda & Warren
Jones

Susan's parents, Evelyn & Charles Kyle, by Mark,
Susan and Rachel Walters

Patrick Lammie by the Lammie family

Our parents by Pat & Don Lewis

Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Mauldin, Sr., by Mr. & Mrs.
Oliver Brown and family and Mrs. Carol Mauldin and
family

William S. Mauldin, Jr., by Carol Mauldin and
family and Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Brown and family

Ed & Cass Mehr and George McClure by Cathie
& Charles McClure

John T. Meredith & E. R. Russell, Sr., by Maria
& Ed Russell

Loved ones by Marita Myers & family

Parents and grandparents, Mildred & Kenneth
Norkus and Mary & Roger Rossman; dear family
friend, Patricia Johnson; by the John Norkus family

Anthony P. Nunziato and Micah A. Nunziato by
Thelma I. Nunziato

Ora's father, Nick Parish, by Natalie & Ora Parish

Jan and Dan Perrow by a friend

Kimberly Pierce by Joanne Pierce

Our parents, Jane & Al Rihl and Delores &
George VanDeventer, by Jordy & Bob Rihl

David Adam Russell by Maria & Ed Russell

Our grandparents by Maria & Ed Russell

William Ryans and Dorothy & Bill Clarke by
Carol Ryans

Daughter and sister, Danielle Seward-Horne, by
Martha and Elizabeth Seward

Charles H. Seward by Elizabeth Seward

Mr. & Mrs. James Lee Smalley by Mr. & Mrs.
George L. Bowen

Sarah Walters by Susan & Mark Walters and
Sarah's sister, Rachel

Natalie's grandparents, Beverly & George Wells,
by Natalie & Ora Parish

Our parents, Nell & John C. Yearty, by Anne &
Gene Gojda, Sr.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF

Carter Heaton Boyd by Monica & Michael Boyd

Jennifer & Josiah Jones by Nancy Parks

Bennett Elizabeth Lyday by Monica & Michael
Boyd

Martha G. McClure by Cathie & Charles McClure

Natalie's parents, Laura & Jack News, by Natalie
& Ora Parish

Sydney Catherine Reinking by Great Aunt Linda
Fleming

Martha Seward by Anne Bowen

Our children and grandchildren by Jenny & Don
Townsend

Our daughter, Rachel Walters, by Susan & Mark
Walters

This Week at Christ Church

Week of December 15 – 21

SUNDAY, December 15

8:00 a.m. WGAC, 580AM and 95.1FM Radio Broadcast

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Nursery (Birth–23 mos.) Nursery 1

Preschool (24–48 mos.) Nursery 2

K–4 – K–5 Covenant Hall

Grades 1–3 Children's House

Grades 4–5 Children's House

Middle & High School Youth Youth House

Special Education Deacons' Room

College & Career Upper Room

Adult Covenant Hall

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Sanctuary

On the second hymn, children in K4 through Grade 3 may exit for Catechism.

3:30 p.m. Christmas Choir Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting Covenant Hall

6:00 p.m. Christmas Festival Service Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, December 18

There will be no Choir Rehearsal this evening.

FRIDAY, December 20

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast Covenant Hall



The Lord's Day Morning Christ Church, Presbyterian

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2013 – 11:00 a.m.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. – Revelation 1:5

What Christmas Means

All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is.... He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn. That is what Christmas means – to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.

–Michael Card

The Order of Worship

† indicates the congregation standing; • indicates seating for those detained

To avoid distractions during worship, please silence all cell phones and pagers.

Parents of young children are encouraged to take advantage of the nurseries and Cry Room.

- **The Organ Prelude** – Sheep May Safely Graze (from Cantata 208)Bach

Mrs. Laura Lowe, organist

The Prelude is a time set aside for quieting our hearts before God in preparation for worship.

The Choral Call to WorshipSouthern Harmony, 1835

Come, Thou long–expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us, Christ in Whom our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation, born salvation to impart;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart!

The Scriptural Call to Worship Isaiah 40:3–5

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord;

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Pastor: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

People: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Pastor: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

People: And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Prayer of Invocation..... The Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor

- † **The Hymn No. 193 (Trinity Hymnal)** PICARDY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Assisting in the Services

Elders greeting at the doors before this morning's service are Glynn Dyer & Mel Jewett.

Ushers are Will Boyd, Wade Caldwell, Mark Goodell, William Jewett & Ed Russell.

The Deacon on Duty is Ora Parish.

Elders greeting at the doors next Lord's Day will be Gene Gojda & McDonald Law.

Ushers next Lord's Day will be Lamier Adams, William Jewett, Charles Kimbrell, John Norkus & Mark Walters.

The Deacon on Duty will be Charles Kimbrell.

Staff

The Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor

Dr. Mark Nabholz, Director of Music; Mrs. Laura Lowe, Morning Organist;

Mrs. Becky Saxon, Secretary/Bookkeeper; Mr. Mark Dickens, Evening Organist;

Mr. Scott Doss, AV & Social Media Director; Mr. Charles Caruso, Sexton

Christ Church, Presbyterian

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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† **The Confession of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic* Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. (*universal)

† **The Doxology** (*Trinity Hymnal No. 731*) OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession The Rev. Jones

The Private Confession of Sin

The Scriptural Assurance of Pardon (Micah 7:18-19)

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:1-7 (*page 573*)

The Response Isaiah 40:8

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

People: But the word of our God stands forever.

The Offering and the Prayer of Dedication

(Please record your attendance in the green Friendship Register.)

The Offertory Anthem Tradition American Carol, arr. Thornett

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

It will lead to the place where the Savior’s born; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Leave your ewes and leave your rams; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Refrain: Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Follow the star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow!

If you take good heed to the angel’s words, rise up, shepherd, and follow!

You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Leave your ewes and leave your rams; rise up, shepherd, and follow! *Refrain.*

† **The Hymn No. 20** (*Family Songs*) – Comfort, Comfort FREU DICH SEHR

On the final verse, children in K4 through Grade 3 may exit for Catechism.

The New Testament Reading Galatians 4:1-7 (*page 974*)

The Response

Pastor: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to Thee, O God.

The Prayer for Illumination

The Sermon – CHRISTMAS FREEDOM The Rev. Jones

† **The Hymn** FESTAL SONG

(sung to the tune of “Rise Up, O Men of God”)

In bondage to the Law, we groaned beneath its yoke;

But God our heavy burden saw, and sin’s strong fetters broke.

In fullness of the years He sent His only Son,

To save us from our guilty fears by deeds which He hath done.

The virgin bears the Child; angelic hosts rejoice;

We hail Thee Jesus undefiled, named by the angel’s voice.

Mercy and truth are met, within our hearts to dwell,

And God most high is with us yet, our own Emmanuel!

In bondage now no more, we trust Thy faithful Word

And heirs of God, Thy grace adore through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

† **The Benediction**

† **The Benediction Response** (*sung by all*) – Threefold Amen DANISH

(Trinity Hymnal No. 740)

The Organ Postlude – To Shepherds as They Watched by Night Manz

Scripture Memory

As we review the verses from Scripture for sharing the Gospel, this week we focus on the following verses: “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6); and “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also the the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship today! Our hope is that as the Word is preached, as prayers are lifted up, and as hymns and anthems are sung, you will be blessed by the corporate worship of the triune God and will return to worship with us again soon. One of our Elders will be stationed near the piano following the service should you desire to know more about Christ Church, how to become a member here, or how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Advent Wreath

The rose candle, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, is called the “Shepherds’ Candle.” It reminds us that the angels announced the most glorious news of the birth of the Savior to simple shepherds outside of Bethlehem. Upon hearing the message, these shepherds departed immediately to find Mary, Joseph and the newborn baby. “*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger*” (Luke 2:15-16).

Christmas Festival Service

Be sure to return this evening at 6:00 and invite friends to join you for this year's Christmas Festival Service. The Christ Church Choir, accompanied by members of the Lyra Vivace Chamber Orchestra, will present “Christmas at Christ Church,” featuring the beautiful “Magnificat” of Franz Schubert and carols old and new by Dan Forrest, Mack Wilberg and John Rutter. Our pastor, The Rev. Josiah Jones, will bring the homily from Hebrews 2:14-18 entitled “The Wonder and Why of Christmas.”

Christmas Eve Family Service

Celebrate the history-changing event of the Incarnation in glorious, candlelight worship on Christmas Eve at 5:00. Bring the entire family and invite friends to herald the uniqueness of the Lord Jesus Christ at the central function of our Christmas observance. The choir will sing, Pastor Jones will preach and the Christmas favorite, “Barrington Bunny,” will be read. An offering will be received to benefit Jews for Jesus. How fitting for our Christmas giving to our Jewish Messiah to give generously to reach His kinsmen!

Officer Elections

The election of officers to the Session and Diaconate classes of 2016 will be held in a congregational meeting following Morning Worship on Sunday, January 5. Elder candidates are John Dunsmore and Mark Walters. Deacon candidates are Will Crews and Barry Smith. Biographical information on each of these candidates will be provided closer to the election date.

Other Announcements

Thanksgiving Day Service and Offering – What a joy it was to gather as a church family on Thanksgiving Day for a God-honoring, heart-gladdening service of praise and thanksgiving to God Triune! We rejoice in the strong participation of Christ Church in attendance (138 present), testimony, and giving in support of the Palmer Home for Children (gifts totaling \$1,428). If you did not have the opportunity to give toward this wonderful ministry for children and would like to do so, we will receive gifts for the Palmer Home for Children through today, December 15.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast – All men of Christ Church are invited to enjoy a homemade breakfast followed by a brief devotional and time of prayer this Friday at 7:00 a.m. in Covenant Hall.

Christmas Festival Service CDs – Compact disc recordings of this year’s Christmas Festival Service will be available in the next few weeks at a cost of \$12 each. *Orders may be placed using the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table.*

Stewardship Report – The Session and Diaconate would like to thank all in the congregation who have given pledges toward the kingdom work of Christ Church, Presbyterian for the fiscal year 2014. The Lord has blessed our church with a total of \$452,253 in giving commitments, which is an increase of 16% compared with the prior year, to further His work throughout our local community and the world! If you were unable to do so earlier, you may either place your pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Additional pledge cards are available on the Deacon’s tables at the back of the sanctuary.

Year-end Giving – Please remember that, in order for gifts to be credited to fiscal year 2013, contributions must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2013.

Young Families & Young Couples Small Group Bible Study – All young families and young couples are encouraged to attend this twice-monthly Small Group Bible Study in the home of Natalie and Ora Parish, 609 Woodwalk Lane in Martinez. This study will begin on Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. and will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month. *Childcare will be provided.*

Share Your Faith Workshop – Do you feel comfortable sharing your faith? Do you wish you had a tool that would make it easier? Through the Share Your Faith Workshop, you will learn a simple memory tool that you can use to share the Good News. Share Your Faith Workshops help you discern where God is working and show you how to join Him in the work. You’ll learn how to engage people spiritually and pleasantly. The workshop will be held on Saturday, January 25, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. here on our campus. For Christ Church, Presbyterian members who register to attend by January 11, the registration fee is \$10, which includes all materials and lunch. To register please visit www.christchurch-pres.org and visit the ‘Share Your Faith Workshop’ tab. Renew your passion for witnessing and discover ways to cultivate friendships into opportunities to share the Gospel!

Pray for Our Missionaries

Remember these missionaries and organizations designated for special prayer in our worship services today and in your daily prayers this week:

Eliseo and Paula Guadagno, *Operation Mobilization, Italy*

Heritage Academy, *Augusta, Georgia*

Tim and Lana Higginbotham, *NAIM, Vancouver, Canada*

Kermit and Cheryl Horn, *World Team, France*