



# Presbyterian Courier

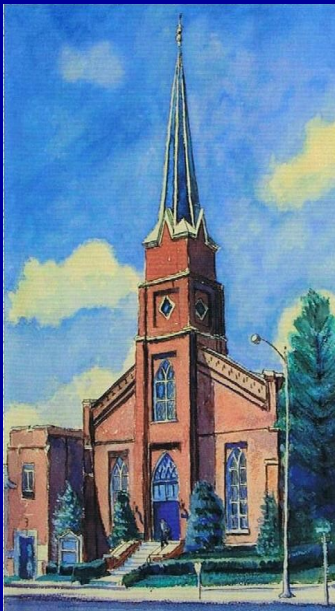
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



Volume 22

January 2018

Issue 1



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## Pastor's Column

Once upon a time, 2018 seemed like the future; but now it's here. In April, our congregation will have its 199<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we will be able to begin our countdown to being 200 years old.

### **What's the best thing you can say about our church, in 2018?**

It's got to be the way our children's contributions are valued. Beginning with infant baptism, it is understood that each child is known and loved by God. Children are involved in worship regularly, where they don't merely perform but have roles that support the worship themes of the day. The Children's Center is the brightest, most colorful place in the church. During the year there are many enrichment programs, art and crafting events, and the like.

It's got to be the music! We are blessed with a talented choir, which likes to try interesting music, and a variety of music. An extraordinary choir director, Wayne Pope, leads them. We often have guitar and mandolin music. During special seasons we have a brass ensemble. On the third Sundays of each month, our Children's Choir sings or chimes. It's a program for all ages and musical tastes!

It's got to be the people! We don't come to church alone. We gather with folks who are wise, and often funny. The people in our congregation are generous, and encouraging of each other. It's pretty hard to get "lost" in our church, because people care for each other.

Worship makes sense. We worship God, who is almighty, and we do so with dignity and reverence. We employ some of the best creative forms of music and speech to give thanks to God, and to praise God in the highest. Worship has a definite order, with the reading and hearing of God's Word at the center.

Reformed and Presbyterian Theology gets it right, mostly. Our branch of the Christian faith has roots! We start with the absolute sovereign freedom of God. God can do anything, and God wills to rescue and deliver us. Our response is thankful service in the world and among the people God loves.

Oh! It's got to be our thorough-going democratic form of government! Because the people of our congregation elect their officers and ministers, everyone's voice/vote counts. Committee structures preserve this idea that no one person is more important than another. God calls us to ministry together. The Spirit of God works through us all for the common good.

The church's staff is excellent. We're fortunate to have people who know their jobs, have been together for several years, and who care about the church. Most of the time, the church runs like a top, thanks to Cheryl, Tom, Richard, Wayne, Leslee, Cedric, Dana, et al.

The New Year promises changes. We are eager for new opportunities. In recent years, we have concentrated on our connections to the wider Bowling Green community, and on making welcome and compassion our hallmarks. We need to learn to express our faith to others more effectively. Others need to be invited to enjoy what we have discovered at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and State, and in the presence of God here.

Know you are loved,

Matthew

# Christian Education



Join us Sunday January 7, 9:00am for a special **EPIPHANY CELEBRATION**. This is a **POTLUCK BREAKFAST**, followed by a celebration of the visit of the Magi to Jesus. We will have visitors and participate in a special Blessing ceremony for the new year. Please bring a dish to share for breakfast – fruit, breakfast casserole, bagels/cream cheese, pastries, etc. We will have coffee and juice here. All ages. Child care for age 3 and under. **Please bring a donation** for our food pantry-canned goods, rice, beans, etc. Not sure? Check with the office for needs.

It is a New Year! As we make those resolutions, let us ALL commit to one for our church: invite a friend or neighbor to join us for AT LEAST one worship service, special event, Sunday School class, etc., this year. Most new members in a church join because they were invited by someone they know. We will ALL be richly blessed when we reach out in love to our community!



## Education Update



**Our regular Sunday schedule** resumes on January 15. Join us for Coffee Fellowship at 8:30am, Children's choir and chimes meets at 9:00am and then classes for all ages at 9:30am.

**Adults** have three options: **The Ellis Class** begins a study of Philippians, meeting in Room 201. Books are available in the office for \$8.

**The Christian Thought Class** will be using DVD materials from Great Courses to explore Science and Religion (meets in the Conference Room).

**Coffee and Conversation** gathers in Room 203 and will be reading through the Bible. They will read a set number of chapters each week and then discuss those the following Sunday.

**Children** age 3-4 will gather in the Preschool room and learn about God's love with Deep Blue Bible study materials. In January they will learn more about Jesus, the Greatest Prophet. Elementary children meet in Room 20 (Godly Play) and will learn more about important Old Testament people and stories. Each Sunday the worship inserts lists the specific scriptures for each class. Parents are encouraged to read these scriptures at home and discuss them with their children between Sundays.

**Youth** (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) gather in the Youth Suite each Sunday to study the Bible and how it impacts our daily lives.

## Some upcoming events to note:

**SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON** – Sunday, February 4, 11:30am following worship. Delicious soup and sandwiches, with all donations benefiting our Food Pantry. This is a Youth Mission fundraiser.

**6th Interfaith Dialogue on Earth Care: Sustainability and Social Justice Workshop**, February 16-17. Registration required (forms in office and on website).

**I Know My Bible Class** for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade children, culminating in Bible Presentation in Worship – dates to be determined!

**Parents of Preschoolers (POPS)** resumes Thursday January 11, 9:00ish in the Nursery. All who parent young children are welcome. We share hot coffee, light refreshments and warm conversation. Questions? See Leslee Kirkconnell. We are grateful for members of our Presbyterian Women who provide yummy treats each month!



*Parents of Preschoolers*

# Christian Education



**Have you visited our Library lately?** We have an outstanding collection of books to help you in your faith journey, including devotionals, Bible study helps, theology and more. We also have a subscription to ***The Presbyterian Outlook***, which provides insight into our denomination, celebrates the church and more. Some recent acquisitions include:

**The Art of the St. John's Bible.** If you had the opportunity to see the Bible in Montreat, this book shares about how it was created, from the 15 year production time to now.

**The Revised Dictionary of Theological Terms**, by Donald McKim, is an excellent reference when you wonder what 'that' word means.

**Feasting on the Word.** This is a lectionary-based commentary series. Each scripture text is presented through four avenues – exegetical, homiletical, pastoral and theo-logical. Not just for those preparing sermons, it is handy for any who study the Bible and can enhance your understanding of worship, since our sermons are lectionary based.

A few new books for potential class or individual study:

**Renounce, Resist, Rejoice – Being Church in the Age of Trump**

**Living into God's Dream – Dismantling Racism in America**

**Still Christian – Following Jesus Out of American Evangelicalism**

**What does a Progressive Christian Believe? A Guide for the Searching, the Open and the Curious**

**The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear**

Our faithful Librarian, Arnie Petrus, helps keep our Library running smoothly. Do visit and check out a book!

**Did you know we have a well-stocked Children's Library!?** Parents are the primary faith educators for their children, and the books in our library can help! Three new books for parents and grandparents to share:

**The Memory Box – A Book About Grief.** It is hard to know how to help children understand death and grief. The author gives a child's perspective and tells the story of a child who creates a memory box to keep mementos of their loved one.



**Our Father** shares The Lord's Prayer. Beautiful illustrations and simple language enable even young children to begin to understand this central and important prayer. It does use 'trespasses' rather than 'debts/debtors,' but that is a teaching moment!

**Maybe God is Like That Too** tells of a young boy wondering how to find God in the city.

**GROW YOUR FAITH! VISIT ONE OF OUR LIBRARIES!**



# Church and Community

*A reprinting of the poinsettia and donations list from Christmas Eve.*

*To represent light and love that come down at Christmas these  
Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God.*

***In Memory Of:***

*John E. Anderson  
Adam and Jeanette Backfisch  
James Dale Bartley  
James Dale Bartley II  
Bill and Rosamond Beard  
Bryan Bartley Chandler  
Roger Jennings Coates  
Pennie and Hewitt Covington  
Floyd Hays Ellis  
D. A. and Mary Ann Faxon  
Bruce Ford  
Darren Golnitz and Chad Harper  
Martha Farr Haynes  
Martha Farr Haynes  
James G. Hines  
Mary Barr Humphrey  
Mary Barr Humphrey  
Ivan and Opal Johnson and Roy Flowers  
Jody Johnson  
Jody Johnson  
Tom Kelley  
Jim Lucas  
Jim Lucas  
Jim Lucas  
Dr. Echo Moore  
Echo Megan Moore  
William Kenton Mullins  
My Parents  
Stella O. Odo  
Peggy Pack  
Skeebo and David Rabold  
Ruth and Earl Rabold  
Dorothy Ewing Reeves  
David Rosdeutscher  
Jeannie Survant  
A. L. and Mary Miller Temple  
Connie Williford*

***In Honor Of Given By:***

*Tom Moody*

***Given By:***

*Jeff and Alisa Anderson  
Sheila and Alan Reeves  
Madelene, Don, and Jamie Chandler  
Madelene, Don, and Jamie Chandler  
Bob and Wanda Hunt  
Madelene, Don, and Jamie Chandler  
The Coates Family  
Kim and Lloyd Ferguson, Lisa and Bobby Rabold  
Sarah Ellis  
Cindy Tanner  
Jeff and Alisa Anderson  
B. Heath, Melody and Evan Harper  
The Haynes Family  
Dr. Robert Haynes  
Mae Etta Hines  
Doug Humphrey Family  
Nancy and Russell Moore  
Jim and Lynda Johnson  
Russell and Nancy Moore  
Cindy Tanner  
Mary Lee Kelley  
John and Lucas Marshall  
Mary Lucas  
X Lucas  
Doug and Ann Humphrey  
Nancy and Russell Moore  
Wayne, Sharon and Jonathan Hendrix  
Janet Schwarzkopf  
The Njoku Family  
Larry Pack and Family  
Their Family  
Their Family  
Alan and Sheila Reeves  
The Rosdeutscher Family  
Joe, Ashley, and Alex  
Ruth Hines Temple Estate  
Cindy Tanner*

*Helen and Bob Bueker*



# Church and Community

*To represent light and love that come down at Christmas, the following persons have given  
Donations to CUICHM, the Emergency Assistance Fund, the Local Church Pantry,  
Uspiritus/Bellewood, Manna Mart,  
and /or H.O.T.E.L. INC.*

## ***In Memory Of***

*Ruth and Bill Allender  
Hewitt Covington  
Jerre Nelson Fitts  
Jerre Nelson Fitts  
Dr. Waite Scott Kirkconnell  
Charles Long  
Our Parents  
Our Parents  
Our Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Rawlins and  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. McFarland  
Dorothy and Henry Pearson  
David Rosdeutscher  
Antonia Brooks Thomas  
John and Evelyn Watson  
David Morris Wedge*

## ***Given By:***

*Carol and Denny Wedge  
Steve Todd and Pam Kiely  
Elizabeth, Nelson, Evelyn and Alice Fitts  
Margaret, Jeff and Nate Stein  
Leslee and Glenn Kirkconnell  
Margaret, Jeff and Nate Stein  
Gary and Mary Ann Hext  
Carol and Denny Wedge  
  
Alicia and Joe McFarland  
Carol and Denny Wedge  
The Rosdeutscher Family  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Harris, Jr.  
Debbie Trickey  
Carol and Denny Wedge*

## ***In Honor Of Given By:***

*The Church Staff  
Edith Flowers  
Wes and Cathey Green*

*Bob and Sandy Franklin  
Jim and Lynda Johnson  
The Davenports*



***Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following members  
and friends of this church who have recently lost loved ones:***

***Cedric Whitney in the recent death of his cousin  
Thelma Baker in the death of her brother James Hampton  
Sarah Johnston in the death of her mother  
Muriel Kanan in the death of her brother  
Faye Patton in the death of her sister***



# Youth Ministry

**Montreat Youth Conference** for High School is July 14-21. A \$100 deposit is needed by January 15 from EVERY YOUTH AND COLLEGE student wishing to attend. The cost for the trip is \$500. Limited scholarship assistance is available. All who wish to attend must pay the deposit to hold a spot. Two additional fundraisers are planned and participation will give a \$50 discount for each one worked.

**Our Angel Tree Mission Project** was a huge success this year! Many, many thanks to all in the congregation who brightened a family's holiday. Our youth worked to decorate Angels, put up the tree and then deliver the gifts, along with a food basket, to every family. We supported 18 families, including a refugee family from Somalia, and three independent living young adults from Uspiritus. Thanks to our Deacons for providing the funds for the food baskets. The Youth are grateful for the congregation's support!



Coming Soon is **SOUPER BOWL!** Sunday February 4, 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. We seek donations of your best soup (enough for 20 good servings), as well as sandwiches and sweet treats. Come gather in Fellowship Hall following worship and enjoy delicious soups and donate (suggested amount is what you might spend on a meal out) for our Food Pantry. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to contribute their cooking talents to this event – Visit here for the Sign Up:

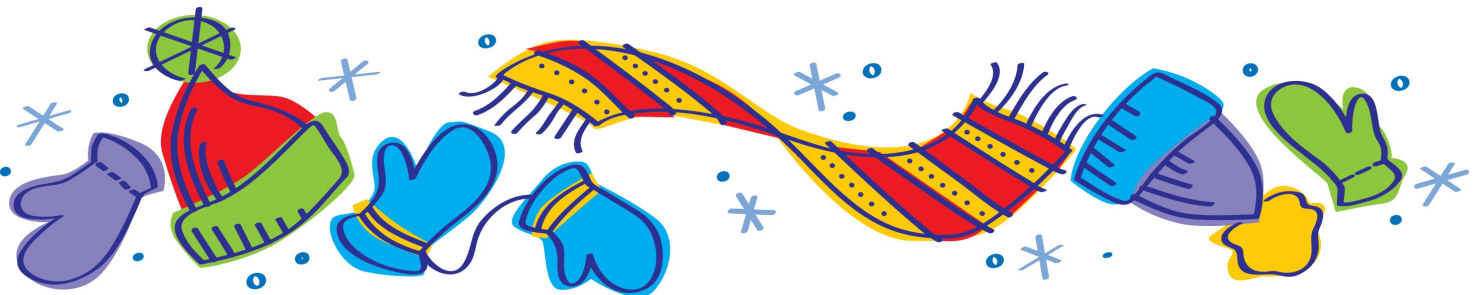
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-souper>

On that morning we will also have youth with soup pots to collect dollars from those who can't join us for lunch.

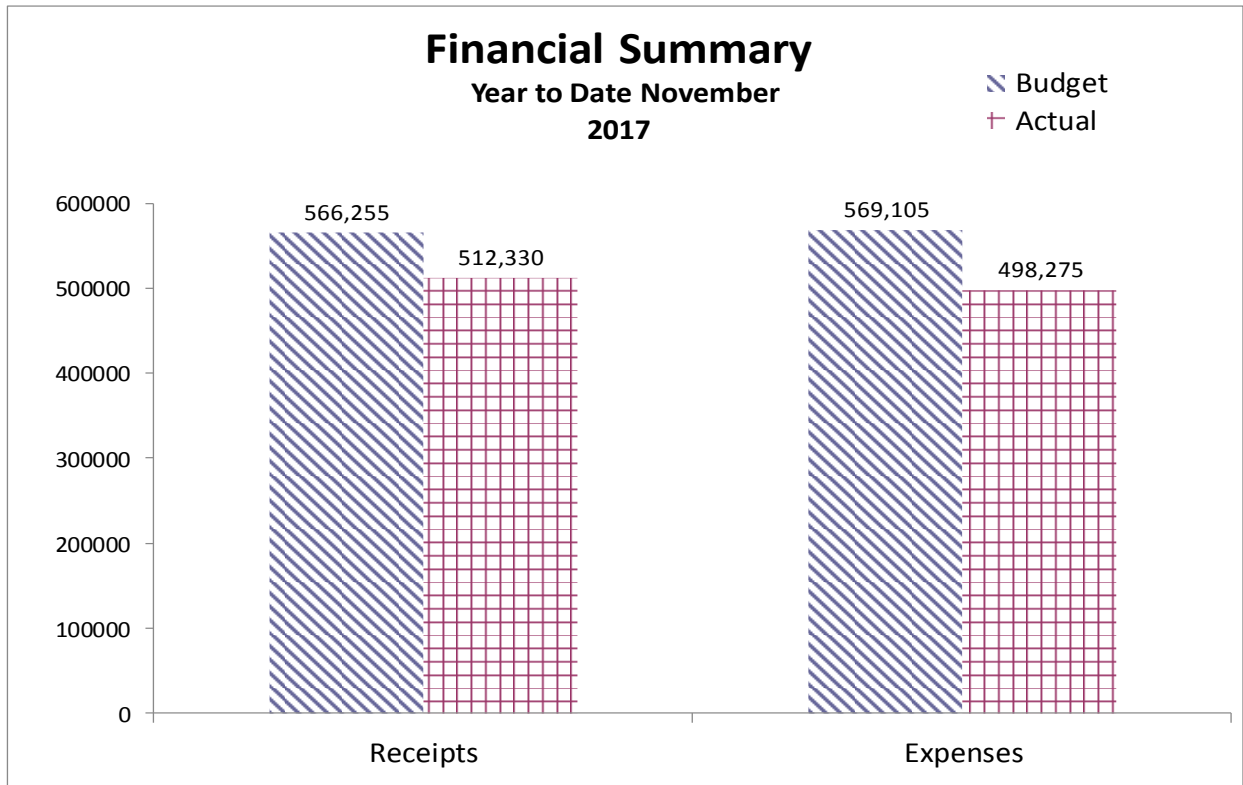
**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RESUMES** Sunday January 7, 5:30pm. The family meeting originally scheduled will be held at a future date – watch for that information. We need cooks to provide meals each week! Visit here for the sign up- <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-winter>

**Presbytery High School Mission Trip** will be June 16-23 to Florida, where we'll participate in Challenge to Change, a project of Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. All youth who will be rising 9<sup>th</sup>-graduated seniors are eligible to attend. \$150 deposit is due February 9 (total cost \$500). Visit here for the registration form and more information- <http://storage.cloversites.com/thepresbyterianchurch/documents/summer18highschoolmissiontrip.pdf>

Leslee Kirkconnell is leading this trip for the Presbytery.



# Financial Report



**Our church elders:** Pam Bratcher, Franklin Berry, Charlie Capito, Sam Evans, Jim Harris, Fred Higgins, Brad Howard, Nancy English, Bobby Rabold, Wanda Rosdeutscher, Diane Simmons, Margaret Stein, Larry Warden, Denny Wedge. **Our church deacons:** Karol Ahmed, Rider Allen, Barbara Brindle, Peggy Carthrae, Shannon Dyche, Kim Ferguson, Kelly Goad, Sheryl Goad, Larry Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Wayne Hendrix, Frederica Kernohan, Nathan Love, Marilyn Mattingly, Donna Meredith, Charlotte Prow, Kevin Reber, Ken Royse, Ann Rudolph, Janet Schwarzkopf, Diane Simmons, Debbie Trickey, and Judy Whitson.

# Missions

## 6<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Dialogue on Earth Care –

**Interfaith Workshop on Sustainability & Social Justice** is February 16-17<sup>th</sup>.

The Presbyterian Church Mission Committee is co-sponsoring this event, along with Western Kentucky University and a number of other area faith communities. On **Friday February 16**, beginning at 6:00pm at Jody Richards Hall on the WKU campus, there will be a screening of the film *Dirt*, a 2009 documentary, and a panel discussion following. On **Saturday February 17**, we gather at the Islamic Cultural Center, 2140 Morgantown Road, beginning at 8:00am. A day of workshops, plenary sessions and discussion to follow. Dr. W. Glenn Kirkconnell will be one of the presenters. Registration is open and should be done early. The cost is \$25 which includes all food and materials. See the registration form on our website here:

or visit our website: <http://storage.cloversites.com/thepresbyterianchurch/documents/interfaithregistration.pdf>

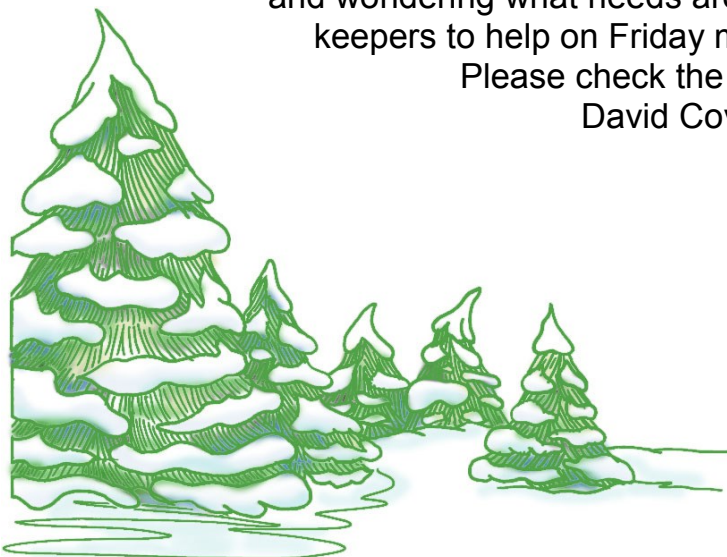
**Thank you for your generous** response for our Macaroni and Cheese drive for Saturday meals, as well as rice and beans for the food pantry. We give out an average of 100 bags of food each month to the hungry in our community. Your donations of canned goods, big bags of rice and beans, saltines, peanut butter, soups, fresh fruit, potatoes, etc., make a big impact and are much appreciated. There are drawers under the stairs for your items and we are grateful for your help!



**Saturday Meals returns** February 3. Help will be needed with bread pick up as well as gathering to sort and pack and deliver. Watch for details soon.

**Room In The Inn** Are you looking for an opportunity to assist with RITI, and wondering what needs are still unmet? Room In the Inn is seeking housekeepers to help on Friday mornings, from 6am to 7 or 8am after our hosting.

Please check the signup sheets in the lobby or send a message to David Coverdale at [dmcoverdale@gmail.com](mailto:dmcoverdale@gmail.com). Thank you!





# Session Report

The Session met for its regular meeting on December 19, 2017 in the Church conference room. These items highlighted the meeting.

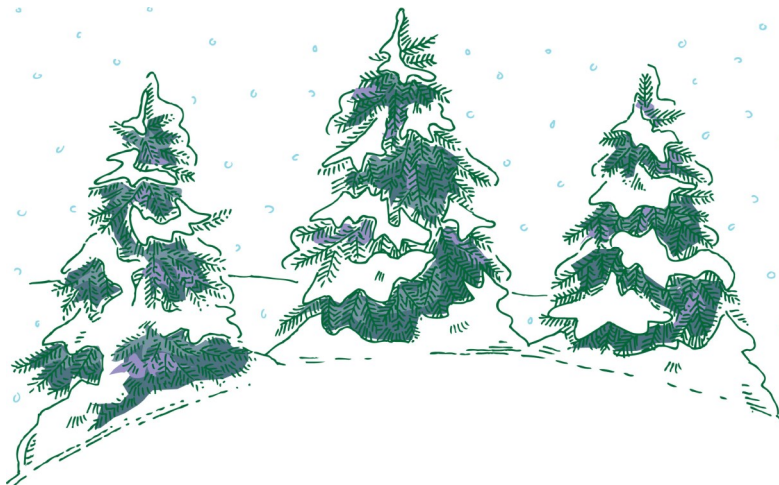
Matthew Covington opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved on proper motion. Katie Thomison was interviewed as part of the process of becoming an Inquirer for Ordination. She was affirmed by the Session on proper motion. Newly elected Ruling Elders and Deacons were announced. Incoming Ruling Elders are Pam Bratcher, John Kernohan, Mary Evans, Tim Leigh, and David Sears. Incoming Deacons are Ray Elms, Sally Calkins, Shannon Dyche, Linda Leigh, Ken Royse, Melody Harper, and Susan Thomison. Those present were examined as to their personal faith.

Matthew advised and the Session called a Congregational Meeting after worship on January 7 for the purposes of presenting the budget, affirming the call of the Minister, and election of the incoming officers. The meeting will be followed by a called meeting of the Session during which the completion of examination of the incoming officers will occur. Additionally, a second called Congregational Meeting will occur on February 18 following worship. There will be a luncheon and the meeting's purpose will be to have an overview presented concerning the purposes of the Church's ministries and committees. Following, the business agenda was taken up.

Leslie Kirkconnell, Director of Christian Education reported on the upcoming Christmas events. There were several Ministry reports. Personnel reported that the staff was hosted to a Christmas lunch. Worship advised and moved that the downstairs doors be locked during worship and that a greeter or usher remain in the downstairs area during worship for security reasons. The Finance Chair reported the current budget status a good with a probable surplus at year's end and presented a proposed balanced budget for 2018 at a bit under \$650,000. That proposal was adopted.

Business having been completed, the Session meeting was adjourned with prayer.

James D. Harris, Jr.  
Clerk of Session



# January Birthdays

January 1

Nathan Moore

Nolan Moore

Allison Willian

January 4

Robert Dickey, Jr.

Harvey Johnston

January 5

Christine Burkeen

January 6

Matt Hunt

Brittany Maslowski

January 7

Debbie Trickey

January 8

Les Pfahl

Margaret Stein

Jane Wilkinson

January 11

Jennie Lou Hagans

Tom Moody

Ann Rudolph

January 12

Jim Stites

January 13

Tricia Just

Julia Roberts

Miles Small

January 14

Benjamin Crocker

Mary Lee Kelley

January 15

Page Beard

Paul Clark

Judy Gerhardt

Tony Wycihowski

January 16

Duffy Hayes

Sarah Maurer

January 17

Madalene Chandler

Chris Davenport

January 18

Mame Stone

January 19

David Rabold

Calvin Small

January 20

Margaret Bruner

William Moore

January 22

Jim Stickles

January 23

Rawley Evans

January 25

Blake Moran

January 28

Benjamin Davenport

January 30

Evan Goad

Joe McFarland

Katie Thomison

January 31

Stone Begley

Nick Johnson

John Van Ness



# January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  Office Closed New Year's Day	<b>2</b> 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Room in the Inn	<b>5</b> 10:30am Morning Prayer	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Childrens' Music 9:00pm Epiphany Celebration 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Group/ Family Potluck	<b>8</b> 11:00am Circle 3 11:30am Circle 9	<b>9</b> 8:00am Staff Planning 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Evening Circle 7:00pm Camera Club  Presbytery mtg.	<b>10</b> 9:15am Wed Morn. Circle 10:00am Circle 6 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Room in the Inn	<b>12</b> 10:30am Morning Prayer	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Childrens' Music 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Circle 10:30am Worship 11:30pm CE Ministry 5:30pm Youth Group	<b>15</b> <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>  Office Closed	<b>16</b> 11:00am Special Care 11:00am Finance 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Chairs mtg. 7:00pm Session	<b>17</b> 5:00pm Uspiritus 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Room in the Inn	<b>19</b> 10:30am Morning Prayer	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Childrens' Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Group	<b>22</b> WKU opens	<b>23</b> 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Missions	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Room in the Inn	<b>26</b> 10:30am Morning Prayer	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Childrens' Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>31</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir			

**The Presbyterian Church**  
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Bowling Green, KY 42101  
(270) 843-4707

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*"Our reason for being is to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed so that disciples are made by means of inspiring and engaging worship, relevant and reliable education, compassionate and caring fellowship, meaningful and magnanimous outreach, to the glory of God."*

The full-color newsletter is online at [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org).  
January 15 is the deadline for the February 2018 newsletter. Please send your information to the church office at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org)

## **The Presbyterian Church**

Bowling Green, Kentucky  
(270) 843-4707  
[www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

### **The Presbyterian Church Staff**

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Director of Christian Education  
Choir Director  
Financial Administrator  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Clerk of Session  
Director, Preschool Learning Center  
Custodian  
Sunday Sexton  
Children's Music