



# Orange Presbyterian Church

## *Presbyterian Perspectives*

December 2017

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## *Advent and Christmas 2017*

**Friday, December 1 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm) and Saturday, December 2 (8:00 am to 3:00 pm):** Holiday Bazaar (Fellowship Hall)



**Sunday, December 3:**  
The First Sunday of Advent - *Hope*

**Saturday, December 9:**  
9:00 am Hanging of the Greens



**Sunday, December 10:**  
The Second Sunday of Advent - *Peace*  
12:15 pm Lectionary Discussion Group

**Saturday, December 16:**  
7:30 pm Community Chorus Winter Concert (Sanctuary)



**Sunday, December 17:**  
The Third Sunday of Advent - *Joy*  
12:15 pm Lectionary Discussion Group  
3:00 and 3:45 pm Dogwood Village Services  
3:00 pm Community Band Winter Concert (OCHS)

**Sunday, December 24:**  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent - *Love*  
Christmas Joy Offering Received  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service



**Monday, December 25:**  
Christmas Day



**Saturday, January 6:**  
9:00 Sanctuary Undecorating

### Orange Presbyterian Church

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Orange, VA 22960  
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opc@orangepc.org

Website:  
orangepc.org

## **Congregational Meeting - Dec. 3**

The Session called a Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on December 3 for the purpose of electing two session members and one new trustee. The Nominating Committee will make the following recommendations:

- Pat Stewart for a two-year term to Session
- Mike Saxton for a three-year term to Session
- Robert Kendall, Trustee

## From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you as we enter the season of Advent together. Advent is a time of preparation; the liturgical calendar requires our preparation. We could also call it the season of expectancy. Some people have asked me, quite aptly, "Why are we waiting for the baby Jesus when he already came?"

I like this question. Why ARE we waiting for what already came? No one from the Buddhist tradition waits for the Buddha to be born; Jews don't wait for any of their ancestors in faith to be born. For Christians, however, the coming of Jesus is a coming not just once, but a continual coming. Christians refer not just to one coming of Christ but three: the birth in Bethlehem, the coming of Christ in our hearts, and the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time.

Chances are, without preparation, we won't be prepared! Our lives are like soil, and what we do with our lives creates fertile soil for our spiritual lives; or not. Any farmer will tell you (paging the Haberslands!) a lot of work goes into the birth of the grain. If we leave the earth to tend for itself, if we go away and come back on a certain date and expect a harvest, without putting in the prep time, we will be disappointed. And the world won't be fed.

Advent is our time to prepare for Christmas, which means we consider over the course of four weeks what Christmas means to us spiritually, not culturally. Lots of people celebrate Christmas, but practicing Christians prepare for it, such that when it comes, we know that it means more than Frasier firs and gift-giving. Christmas means that a refugee baby

of an unwed mother came into the world to light it up! Our lives are illumined by more than electricity and more than the love we share with others. Our lives and the earth itself will never be the same, are transforming, by this COMING.



Like Mary waited expectantly for her new baby, so we wait. We also wait as a church community for a new chapter. We pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue their work through the end of this year and into next. Please include them in your daily prayers. My suggested spiritual practice for our season of Advent is borrowed, in a way, from Lent. What if, during Advent, we gave up anything this season that adds to the stress of the holiday? Give up any expectations this holiday that turn our attention to things instead of relationships. Give up the expectations others have for you, and simply expect to be led by God. Give up the focus on NEEDS and reorient our gaze on what we already enjoy. To make this a practice, let's do this at dinnertime, wherever you are, whoever you're with, take time to give up what no longer serves, and give thanks for what makes our life already rich and bright. The light of Christ came, and is coming.

Hallelujah!

*Liz*

## Preschool Corner

The fall is whizzing by in preschool. Of course, November meant lots of Thanksgiving preparations for both classes. We constructed a life-sized teepee in the classroom, made turkey headbands, and ornaments.

The older group continues to master their letters and sounds, with name writing being at the top of our academic list these days. They have been practicing the pledge and made flags for Veteran's Day. Their Thanksgiving Feast was in the Fellowship Hall. They were given Native American names, made turkey calls, and played turkey in the parachute.

The younger children helped make dog biscuits for the Holiday Bazaar. We set up a true Native American feast in our classroom and topped the celebration with a bear hunt! Both groups ended the month with an introduction to hibernation.



Happy Friendsgiving!

Mrs. Ski

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 Holiday Bazaar	2  Grace Kendall Reese Wynkoop 8:00 Holiday Bazaar
3  Colton Thomas 11:00 Worship Communion 12:15 Lectionary Group	4  Betsy Reid	5  Carol Sue Graves	6 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	7  Chris Wynkoop 2:00 W&M 6:00 Property	8  Billie Mills	9 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
10 10:15 Session 11:00 Worship - Sacrament of Baptism 12:15 Lectionary Group	11	12 11:00 Morning Circle 6:00 Finance	13 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	14	15	16  Veronica Tucker Rod McLeod 7:30 Community Chorus Concert
17 11:00 Worship 12:15 Lectionary Group 3:00/3:45 Dogwood Village Services	18	19  Hannah Frobohm	20 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	21  Margaret Thompson Leah Roop 7:00 Session	22  Greg Wynkoop	23
24 11:00 Worship Christmas Joy Offering 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25  Theo Haberland Christmas Office Closed	26  Charles Torian Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28  Eva Graves Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30
31  Alice Parcell Pat Stewart 11:00 Worship 5 Cents-a-Meal	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3  Anne Somerville Karen Tinsley 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	4 2:00 W&M 4:00 CC 5:00 M&O 6:00 Property	5	 <b>Indicates Birthday</b>

Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery Helpers	Pray Station	Counters
3 Millie Tyner	3 Nathan Norberg	3 Jennifer Ernst Melanie Rose	3 May Saxton	3 Connie Norberg Cindy Reid
10 Robert & Ellen Kendall	10 Matthew Gibson	10 Ralph & Carole Sue Graves	10 Jennifer Ernst	10 Dianne Haberland Ralph Graves
17 Anne Somerville	17 Anne Clements	17 Robert & Ellen Kendall	17 Karen Ulan	17 Louise Whitaker Ted Sherwin
24 Buckshot & Margie Clements	24 Ryder Rose	24 Rachel Gibson Lynn Clements	24 Ellen Kendall	24 Shirley Newman Cheryl Lewis
31 Jim & Cindy Reid	31 Taylor Gibson	31 Martha Clements Karen Ulan	31 Rachel Gibson	31 Buckshot Clements Karen Ulan

# Lectionary Readings for December

These readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and are often the basis for the sermon and anthem. These readings are offered to help in your preparation for worship on Sunday.

While we don't necessarily have four readings on Sunday, the lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading to prepare for worship.

## December 3

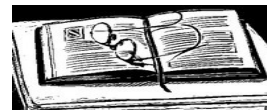
Isaiah 64:1-9  
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13:24-37

## December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11  
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
 Mark 1:1-8

## December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11  
 Psalm 126 OR  
 Luke 1:46b-55  
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 John 1:6-8, 19-28



## December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14  
 Luke 2:1-20

## December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
 Psalm 148  
 Galatians 4:4-7  
 Luke 2:22-40

## Session Meeting Highlights

In November the Session took the following actions:

- Heard a report on the results of 2017 Covenant Review Survey Results.
- Discussed a Presbyterian Weekday School proposal to have volunteers from Orange County High School build a fence for the playground.
- Heard a progress report from the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ralph Graves  
 Clerk of Session



## Spaghetti Dinner - Hurricane Relief

After the spaghetti dinner fundraiser, our committee talked with Pastor Mike Umbendaur of First Presbyterian Church of Orange, Texas. He reported that he and his session had just approved a mechanism to receive monies to use in rebuilding their community. I was amazed to hear that 80% of their congregation had sustained damage to their homes. They were using contributions to get family homes "mucked out," do minor repairs to help families live in their homes until more significant repairs were able to be completed, or help find places for families to stay until they could completely rebuild. He reported that Presbyterian Disaster Agency was already working in the community with them. He was appreciative of our interest in helping them with their efforts.

For more information about the church, visit their Web site at [firstpresorange.com](http://firstpresorange.com). We sent First Presbyterian \$3,070 to assist with their work in rebuilding their community.

## Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$ 18,707.97	Other Contributions:	
Income	\$ 12,658.00	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$ 332.51
Expenses	\$ (11,060.54)	Music Fund	\$ 1,682.98
Ending Balance	\$ 20,305.43	Memorial Fund	\$ 4,743.44

## Lectionary/Sermon Discussion Group

Our Lectionary/Sermon Discussion Covenant Group will meet immediately after worship on December 10 and 17. We will take a break over the holidays and resume meetings on January 7. Due to several schedule conflicts, we have pushed the start date back. We will share reflections on the Lectionary scripture reading of the day and the Sermon. We will conclude by 1:00 pm. Please sign up in the Narthex.



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

Join us for our traditional candlelight service with communion by intinction on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm. We will include a Service of Lessons and Carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus and recommit to our faith.



## Christmas Joy Offering

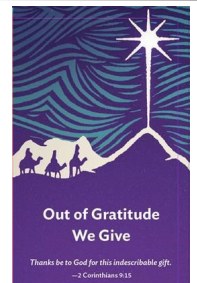
Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provides critical financial and housing assistance to qualifying retired members of the Benefits Plan, and financial and vocational assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It provides a way for caring Presbyterians to support those who serve the Church during their times of need, where plan benefits end.

Racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have provided quality education to people who have contributed immeasurably to the church at large and to the world. Students are educated for the professions of their choice in an environment which supports and nurtures racial and ethnic heritage.

Racial Ethnic Leadership Development helps plan, coordinate and promote racial ethnic and women's leadership institutes. Leadership institutes identify, equip and connect racial ethnic women and men, who are teaching and ruling elders, with leadership opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We will collect the Christmas Joy offering on Sunday, December 24 during worship.



## Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to host the Coffee Fellowship on Sundays after worship. The sheet to sign up is posted in the East Room. Feel free to make it a group effort. Shepherds are encouraged to have your flocks host a coffee fellowship and any other church groups are welcome to host as well, such as your covenant group or committee. This is a way to show hospitality to each other and to visitors to our church.

## End of Year Giving

As we approach Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the most precious gift we have from God, we pause to consider the gifts we bring to God.

If you have not fulfilled the pledge you made for 2017, please submit it by Sunday, December 24.

The session is also working on the budget for 2018. If you haven't already done so, please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible. Please see Melanie Rose in the church office if you need a pledge card. Thank you for your support!

# A Brief History in Commemoration of our 172<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

On November 8, 1845, in response to a request from “a number of citizens of Orange and Madison Counties, who were desirous of having a Presbyterian church organized within the bounds of said counties,” the Church of Orange and Madison Counties was organized by the West Hanover Presbytery with twenty-two charter members. A number of the petitioners were from families who had been strongly influenced by the ministry of James Waddell, the blind preacher.

The first minister of the Church of Orange and Madison Counties was Reverend Daniel Blaine Ewing, who served the church from 1845 to 1864. In 1854-1855, three church buildings, almost identical in size and style, were erected in Gordonsville, Madison, and Orange. The church grew and prospered in the early years. Then came the Civil War, during which Rev. Ewing and the congregation of the church played an active role in caring for the families of the church and the soldiers who were encamped in Orange County.

The Madison congregation became a separate church in 1858. The Gordonsville congregation became a separate church in 1870. In 1874, two elders from the Orange Presbyterian Church, Dr. Andrew G. Grinnan and Henry T. Holladay, led a campaign to erect a church at Rapidan as a memorial to James Waddell. In 1876, West Hanover Presbytery organized Waddell Presbyterian Church.

The first Presbyterian Church building erected in the town of Orange was located on Byrd Street. The congregation worshipped there until 1910. At that time, a new structure was erected at the intersection of West Main and Caroline Streets. An education wing was added in 1923. In 1952, the education wing was expanded to its present size. The sanctuary now used by the congregation was erected in 1971. In 1991, the congregation renovated the old sanctuary for use as a fellowship hall. At the same time, the education building was renovated and modernized.

During the 172 years of its life, Orange Presbyterian Church has been led by a distinguished group of dedicated ministers and lay persons. Its ministry has been a positive influence in the Orange community and in the world beyond. In between the lines of recorded facts and figures run the faith and life of a people who value worship, nurture, and service. We, as a church family, are on the threshold of a very hopeful future as we continue that legacy and search for a new pastor. As we celebrate our 172<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, we celebrate our heritage and our hope for the future of our church family.

## From the Orange Presbyterian Church Membership Register 1907-1979

*Twenty-seven individuals who joined OPC between 1938 and 1979 are still active members.*

<b>Membership Roll</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Membership Roll</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Evelyn Hill Scott</i>	<i>July 3, 1938</i>	<i>Anne Carter Somerville</i>	<i>April 3, 1966</i>
<i>Marjorie Elizabeth Bartley Clements</i>	<i>Dec. 19, 1943</i>	<i>Shirley Newman</i>	<i>April 7, 1968</i>
<i>Peggy Sue Bartley Fitch</i>	<i>Sept. 1, 1946</i>	<i>William Austin McClellan, Jr.</i>	<i>April 7, 1968</i>
<i>Lorris O. Clements</i>	<i>April 5, 1953</i>	<i>Nancy Crowder</i>	<i>May 19, 1968</i>
<i>Carol Ann Hebrance</i>	<i>Dec. 13, 1953</i>	<i>Lorris Lynn Clements</i>	<i>March 30, 1969</i>
<i>Elizabeth Woolfolk Holley Goodwin</i>	<i>Oct. 24, 1954</i>	<i>Frederick Wise Sherman, Jr.</i>	<i>March 30, 1969</i>
<i>Mrs. Frederick W. Sherman (Lulu)</i>	<i>Feb. 19, 1956</i>	<i>Susan Ward Sherman Southard</i>	<i>April 5, 1970</i>
<i>Joan Elizabeth Hebrance</i>	<i>April 18, 1956</i>	<i>Margaret S. Thompson</i>	<i>Dec. 12, 1971</i>
<i>Robert F. Vasquez</i>	<i>Oct. 22, 1961</i>	<i>Dr. Jack F. Thompson</i>	<i>Dec. 12, 1971</i>
<i>Mrs. Robert F. Vasquez (Elinor)</i>	<i>Oct. 22, 1961</i>	<i>Winifred Hutchinson Higgins</i>	<i>Jan. 21, 1973</i>
<i>Jacquelin Earl Samuels</i>	<i>April 8, 1963</i>	<i>Sharon Elizabeth Callahan Mohrmann</i>	<i>April 15, 1973</i>
<i>Stephen Richard Sanford</i>	<i>April 21, 1963</i>	<i>Ophelia Wright McClung</i>	<i>May 5, 1974</i>
<i>Robert Wayne Modena</i>	<i>April 11, 1965</i>	<i>Amy Douglass McClung</i>	<i>June 2, 1974</i>
<i>Jennie Grey Hill Robinson</i>	<i>April 3, 1966</i>		



## Holiday Bazaar – Upcoming Events

**Greenery Workshop** - November 30, 10:00 am - We will prepare wreaths and other greenery displays.

**Bazaar Days** - December 1, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm  
December 2, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Clean Up Day** - December 3, 1:00 pm - We will pack up items that didn't sell and take things to Goodwill.

## Alternative Gifts at the Holiday Bazaar!

At this year's Holiday Bazaar, you will have an opportunity to experience a different kind of shopping experience! You can purchase gifts in honor of family, friends, and others. In doing this, you will be supporting two local nonprofit organizations, Orange County Habitat for Humanity and Christian Emergency Council. Upon choosing a gift, you will receive a holiday card to present to your family, friends, and others describing the gift you made in their name.



### Orange Presbyterian Church ALTERNATIVE GIFTS SHOPPING LIST

Organization	Gift	Price	# Gifts	Amount
<b>Christian Emergency Council</b>	Gasoline purchase to transport patient to medical appointment	\$10		
	Groceries to assist family in need of food	\$20		
	Prescription for medication for someone with no insurance	\$30		
	Emergency heating or electricity assistance	\$50		
	Rental assistance for family to avoid eviction	\$100		
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	8' 2x4 lumber to build a sturdy frame	\$5		
	Box of nails to hold things together	\$10		
	Porch light to welcome a family home	\$20		
	Gallon of paint to brighten walls	\$25		
	Box of vinyl siding to protect those living within	\$50		
	Window through which to see God's world	\$100		
		TOTAL		
		Paid		

Make checks payable to "OPC" with "Alternate Gifts" on the memo line. All donations are tax deductible and will go directly to the organizations you have selected above. Thank you for your support! Together we are making the world a better place!

You may purchase these alternative gifts before, during, or after the Holiday Bazaar. To make a purchase, ask a question, please see or contact May Saxton at [saxton-family@comcast.net](mailto:saxton-family@comcast.net).

# Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 am

Christmas is coming and we will be getting the church decorated. First will be the Advent wreath and the poinsettia tree at the front of the sanctuary. Then the Presbyterian Women will decorate the Chrismon Tree in the narthex.



After church on December 3, the tree candelabras will be placed in the sanctuary. We need a few helpers to stay after the service to move them from the downstairs closet to the sanctuary.

Finally, on Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 am, we will put up the greens in the sanctuary. Please come help make our church look beautiful and have some fun with your friends!

# A Hanover Christmas

A Magical Night of Music and Drama Celebrating the Birth of Jesus  
 Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9  
 6:00 to 9:00 pm

A candlelit trail winds through the woods, transporting you back in time. Along your journey, meet other travelers, shepherds, kings and angels. Immerse yourself in the greatest story ever told.



Open to the public from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm each evening, this event is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. More than just another live nativity, you'll experience musical performances, dramatic re-enactments, and fellowship with others while leisurely strolling a candlelit wooded path. A donation of \$10 per person to the Annual Fund for Camp Hanover is appreciated.

# Winter Concerts

The Orange Community Chorus will perform Saturday, December 16, at 7:30 pm in the OPC Sanctuary. The Orange Community Band will perform on Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 pm at the Orange County High School auditorium.

The concerts are free, but donations are accepted. The Community Chorus and Band is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



# Christmas Poinsettia

You are invited to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary for our Advent and Christmas worship.



Please use the tear-off form below and indicate whether the poinsettia is in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Attach payment of \$10 to the slip of paper, cash or check made out to Orange Presbyterian Church and in the Memo section note "Poinsettia." The Worship and Music Committee will purchase the poinsettias and place them in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10.

A listing will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

**Turn in your forms by Sunday, December 3** – in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.

I/ We would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary:

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

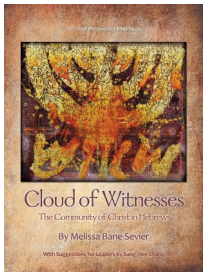
Name(s) of those being remembered: \_\_\_\_\_  
*In Honor of* or *In Memory of* (circle one)





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## Presbyterian Women



The Morning Circle will hold a holiday potluck meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:00 am (note time change) in the East Room. All are welcome to join us as Ellen Kendall leads the lesson "In Community with God's Messengers," followed by lunch.

We are collecting items for the Blessing Box as our mission for December. There will be a basket in the East Room for all contributions.

For more information, contact Ellen at 672-3081.

## Prayer Concerns

- Carol Woolfrey
- Sydney St. Clair
- Dwight Calhoun
- Betty Veruete (Melanie Rose's mother-in-law)
- Lori Holmes
- Kyria (Hannah Adam's friend)
- Mike (Karen Ulan's brother)



- Nancy Osmond (Lavinia Phillip's friend)
- Joe Taylor at Dogwood Village
- Mildred Butts at Dogwood Village
- Elizabeth Goodwin at Dogwood Village
- Bill Taylor at Dogwood Village
- Harold McCauley
- We extend our Christian sympathy to Gene and Louise Whitaker upon the death of Gene's brother, Bill, on November 19.