



Orange Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Perspectives

January 2020

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Ponderings</i>	2
<i>Matthew 25 Events</i>	2
<i>Preschool Corner</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>Lectionary Readings</i>	4
<i>Session Meeting Highlights</i>	4
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	4
<i>Bazaar Update</i>	5
<i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	5
<i>History Covenant Group</i>	5
<i>Thanks from the Staff</i>	5
<i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i>	5
<i>Winter Weather</i>	5
<i>Undecorating the Sanctuary</i>	6
<i>Poinsettias</i>	6
<i>Thank You, Al</i>	6
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	7
<i>Prayer Concerns</i>	7

Epiphany

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ. Below is a prayer for epiphany:



*God of endless light, you sent a star
rising from darkness,
guiding seekers and sages,
overwhelming us with joy.
Let the splendor of your
dawning light grow in us
and in all the world
until the whole creation
shines with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our light.
Matthew 2:1-12 / Years ABC*

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Orange Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, following Worship. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to review the ministry of the Orange Presbyterian Church for the past year. At the meeting, we will receive reports from our various session committees and other groups to highlight our work and ministry from 2019. We will have a presentation of the 2020 budget. The congregation will be given the opportunity to vote on the 2020 Terms of Call.



**Congregational
MEETING**

Packets will be available in the narthex on the two Sundays prior to the meeting - January 12 and January 19.

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Church**

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Pastor's Ponderings

I recently read a book called "The Happiness Project." Author Gretchen Rubin realizes that by making small changes in her everyday life, she can transform herself into a happier person. This book follows a year in her life as she makes changes in her outlook on her work, marriage, children, and hobbies. Overall she makes the conscious decision that in everything she does, she is going to be herself, instead of an idealized version of who she thinks she should be. Her theory is that by being herself she will be truly happy.

As the New Year gets into full swing, I cannot help but ponder this theory. Will being truly myself make me truly happy? Maybe. It might be worth the effort to try it out. But that begs the question: who am I, truly?

In order to answer that question, I need to start

with another question: Whose am I, truly? I want to be able to answer those questions for myself as a person and as a pastor. That is why, this year, my resolution is to spend more time in prayer. Prayer is a conversation with God. Prayer is how we commune with God. Prayer starts with God. Through prayer we understand better who God is and who we are. Prayer comes in many different shapes and sizes that I want to explore. Therefore, I will be dedicating an hour each week to prayer. On Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 am, I will be in the sanctuary, praying.

I encourage you, in this New Year, to answer for yourself some of these same questions: Who are you, truly? Whose are you, truly? And if you would like, please join me in prayer.

Blessings,

Pastor Rebekah

Matthew 25 Events

Our Blessing Box, which is a Matthew 25 project, is getting a workout. It needs to be restocked several times a week. The Preschool students have restocked it often in November and December, but we are running low on basic supplies such as soup, applesauce, cereal, and canned fruits and vegetables. It would also be nice to add some snacks like cookies and brownie mixes. Families also need shampoo, toilet paper, Tylenol, lotion, and dish soap. We would love your help restocking our closet.



The Blessing Line went up on December 31. We are accepting hats, scarves, and gloves. There is a basket in the East Room for new or gently used donations.

The Presbyterian Women are collecting diapers and Ensure to donate to the Food Pantry. There is a basket in the East Room for your donations.

Preschool Corner

December was a very short month for our preschool. Our children spent the month making Christmas crafts, decorating gingerbread cookies and sugar cookies for snack, and we ended the month with small Christmas parties in the Fellowship Hall, singing songs for parents and enjoying Christmas treats. Both of our classes also had an extended day where they stayed with us for an additional hour and could wear their pajamas. We were able to squeeze in two fun walks to the library for the older class. We also welcomed Carol Roop as our surprise guest reader at the end of the month.

Our weather in December was chilly and sometimes rainy. Thankfully, we had no weather related closings to contend with. We will, however, be focusing on snow and more winter related themes in January. I wish everyone a very happy and blessed year ahead.



Yours truly,

Mrs. Kim

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Indicates Birthday			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Office Closed	2 1:30 Blood Drive	3 <i>Anne Somerville</i> <i>Karen Gibson</i>	4
5 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	6 <i>Carol Roop</i> <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	7	8	9 11:00 W&M 5:30 Covenant Review 6:00 Property 7:00 Finance	10 5:00 Session Retreat 7:00 Game Night	11
12 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship 12:15 PB&JAM	13 6:00 Spiritual Formation 7:00 History Group	14 10:30 Morning Circle	15	16 <i>Matthew Gibson</i>	17 <i>David Woolfrey, Sr</i>	18
19 <i>Kim Dukes</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship	20 <i>Gene Whitaker</i> <i>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</i> Office Closed	21 7:00 Session	22	23	24 <i>Ron Rose, Jr</i>	25
26 <i>Ted Haberland</i> <i>Wyatt Mills</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Mildred Butts</i> <i>Rebekah Tucker-Motley</i>	1 <i>Charles Motley</i> <i>Isaac Motley</i>

Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery Helpers	Counters	Youth FE
5 Buckshot and Margie Clements	5 Taylor Gibson	5 Lynn Clements	5 Connie Norberg Anne Somerville	5 N/A
12 Sharon Mohrmann	12 Anne Clements	12 Jim Reid Anne Clements	12 Dianne Haberland Ralph Graves	12 Melanie Rose
19 The Gibson Family	19 John Huerta	19 Rachel Gibson	19 Louise Whitaker Karen Ulan	19 Ellen Kendall
26 Karen Ulan	26 Ryder Rose	26 Melanie Rose	26 Cheryl Lewis Ralph Graves	26 Rachel Gibson

Lectionary Readings for January

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 have four readings on Sunday, the lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading to prepare for worship.

January 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 John 1:1-18

January 12

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

January 19

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

January 26

Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

Session Meeting Highlights

Highlights of the December 17, 2019 Stated Session Meeting:

- OPC will contribute \$2,730 as our 2020 Covenant with the Presbytery of the James, as support for the POJ budget including staff, office expenses, committees, ministries, Camp Hanover, synod, and General Assembly.
- A Resolution of Appreciation was approved for Rick Sherman, who has gone above and beyond to help OPC with various HVAC and electrical issues. We are greatly appreciative of his helpful faithfulness.
- Online Giving will be available for all members of the congregation starting January 1.
- The 2020 Budget was discussed and approved.
- Use of the Fellowship Hall by the Girl Scouts and the 4H educational program was approved.

Take a look at the bulletin board in the Narthex for the approved minutes of our 2019 Stated Session

Meetings. Please direct any questions to May Saxton, Clerk of Session.

Please contact any member of session at any time with questions, concerns, and/or suggestions.

Joanna Davies, Carole Sue Graves, Ralph Graves, Ted Haberland, Amy McClung, Anne Somerville, May Saxton, Mike Saxton, Pat Stewart, Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley (moderator).

Remember that you are always welcome to attend our open stated meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.



Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$	28,574.86	Other Contributions:		
Income	\$	9,458.76	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$	207.00
Expenses	\$	10,062.70	Memorial Fund	\$	5,871.00
Ending Balance	\$	27,970.92	Mission Fund	\$	318.13
			Music Fund	\$	238.79
			OPC Weekday School Fund	\$	5,027.50
			Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$	7,145.68

Bazaar Update

Thanks to all who supported the Bazaar this year! We raised \$4,989.70 to give to our selected organizations this year!



Many thanks for all of your support of Alternative Gifts at the Holiday Bazaar! We collected a total of \$1,540; \$470 for Christian Emergency Council, \$770 for Habitat for Humanity, and \$300 for the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Your support goes a long way in making our communities, near and far, better places!

The members of the Mission and Outreach Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in this year's Bazaar. It wouldn't have been a success without you. Thank you to all the crafters who met all year long developing items for sale. Our thanks to those who baked goods and soups for sale, and to those who made beautiful fresh arrangements, and the alternative gifts opportunities. Our thanks to those who helped throughout the setup, the sale days, and the take-down of the event. Lastly, thanks to all the shoppers and those who helped promote this year's event. The success of this yearly event is based on the love we all share for this church, and the support we give each other makes the event a success.

Adult Spiritual Formation Update

The Adult Spiritual Formation Group that has been meeting on Sundays between 9:45-10:30 am will take a break during January and will resume on Sunday, February 23 in preparation for Lent, which starts on Wednesday, February 26. We will be discussing "Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross," and will be following the "Stations of the Cross." Watch for more details in the February newsletter and in bulletins!



OPC History Covenant Group



Church History

Join us on Monday, January 13, at 7:00 pm in the Leland Lord Library, for our next meeting as we plan for our 175th anniversary on November 8, 2020!

Thanks from the Staff

We all appreciate your generosity year-round, and especially at the holidays, both in your gift and in allowing us time off to be with family and friends to enjoy this special time. We hope your holidays were merry and bright!



Thank You from the Staff

Souper Bowl Sunday

Join the OPC Souper Bowl competition! Plan to bring cans of soup to add to the team boxes on January 19, January 26, and February 2! Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins!



Winter Weather Schedule Changes

In the event of winter weather affecting our area, Orange Presbyterian Church will make every attempt to hold Worship at 11:00 am. We will do our best to clear our parking lot and walkways to ensure the safety of members and visitors. If the weather situation becomes unsafe, we will cancel services and activities at the church. Our practice is that the Pastor confers with the Clerk of Session to make the decision about cancelling the service. Shepherds are immediately notified to contact the members of their flock. We make every effort to contact the local radio and TV stations. You should check these television stations: WVIR TV - Channel 29, NBC; WVAW TV - Channel 16, ABC; WCAV TV - Channel 19, CBS. Radio station: WJMA - 103.1 FM.



Undecorating the Sanctuary - Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am

Join us on January 11 at 9:00 am to remove the decorations from the sanctuary.

The Worship and Music committee would like to express its appreciation to all of those who participated in the decorating of the church. From the wreaths outside with their jaunty red bows to the candles aglow inside, the church has been made warm and welcoming. A special thank you to the Presbyterian Women for decorating the Chrismon Tree, Anne Somerville for creating the Advent Wreath, and Al Packard for coordinating the fresh poinsettias. These additions always add a finishing touch to the sanctuary.

The Worship & Music Committee

Poinsettias

*Gifts were made to the
Glory of God
and in Honor of:*



Al and Lee Packard by Ophelia and Amy McClung

*Gifts were made to the Glory of God
and in Memory of:*

*Joseph and Ida Hebrance
by Carol and Joan Hebrance*

Lewis Hutchison by Winnie Higgins

Lee and Mary Winifred Brown by Winnie Higgins

Our loved ones by the Kendall Family

Dan and Shirley Sale by Latane Sale

Carlene and Harry Saxton by Mike and May Saxton

Rachel Saxton by Mike and May Saxton

Etzell and Virginia Stewart

by Pat and Jonathan Stewart

Ed Tyner by Millie Tyner

Thank You, Al

Following Worship on December 22, we celebrated Al Packard's many contributions to OPC and our music program throughout the last 18 years. The letter below was given to Al in response to his letter of resignation/retirement.

Dear Al,

In response to your December 1st letter of resignation/retirement, the entire Session, Covenant Review team, and, no doubt, members of our church family to follow, would like to express our sincere appreciation for your many years of faithful service to our church. Not only has your devotion been noted through the years, but also your leadership in everything from children's musical ministries and re-starting a bell choir to your role as a community music leader. While we will miss your role as our music director, we look forward to your continuing role as a member and friend to many.

As a more concrete expression of our appreciation, and as a noteworthy historical first in our church's history, we are delighted to inform you that Session unanimously passed a motion to provide a voluntary retirement recognition payment equal to 18 months of salary.

As you transition into full retirement, please let us know where we can be of assistance.

With fond appreciation,

Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley, Joanna Davies, Carole Sue Graves, Ralph Graves, Ted Haberland, Amy McClung, May Saxton, Mike Saxton, Anne Somerville, Pat Stewart - Members of Session

Ralph Graves, Dianne Haberland, Lloyd Parcell, Mike Saxton, Suzanne Sherwin, Bob Vasquez - Members of the Covenant Review Team

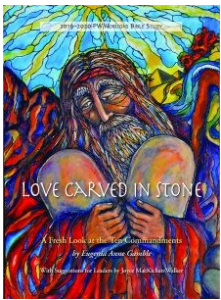


Thanks to the **MUSIC
DIRECTOR**



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Presbyterian Women



The morning circle will meet on Tuesday, January 14 at 10:30 am in the East Room. We will be discussing Lesson Five, *Don't Kill Each Other*, from Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments. Carole Sue Graves will lead the lesson and Louise Whitaker will provide refreshments.

Remember to bring donations of diapers and Ensure to the East Room to be given to the Love Outreach Food Pantry.

Prayer Concerns

- Alice Parcell
- Nan Hawkins
- Bob Vasquez
- The Joiner family
- Rev Lin Hutton
- Rev. Pat Nabers



- Mildred Butts at Dogwood Village
- Elizabeth Goodwin at Dogwood Village
- Bill Taylor at Dogwood Village
- Congratulations on the birth of Flora Aline Reid, born January 2 in Blacksburg. Flora was welcomed by parents Rachel and Leighton, big brother Clark, grandparents Jim and Cindy Reid, and great-grandmother Martha Clark.