



Orange Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Perspectives

December 2012

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Orange Presbyterian Church

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Anticipating Advent...

and Christmas!



We prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child. Throughout Advent you will want to refer to activities listed here and the many opportunities to prepare our hearts to receive the Savior into our lives.

Advent Study - *When God Comes Down*. The class meets in the Prayer Chapel at 9:45 am on the four Sundays of Advent. Page 7 for information.

Sermon Series - The Gifts of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. For each Sunday the sermon will focus on the week's theme and offered to you as a gift during this holy season.

Nativity Exhibit - in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, December 9. See page 6 for more information.

Sounds of the Season - Music! Music! Music! See page 5 for lots of musical offerings in our community.

Harpist - as part of our worship on December 16, we will have special choral music and harpist, Virginia Bethune, from Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Christmas Joy Offering - "*Good News of Great Joy*" is the theme for this year's offering. The Joy offering provides financial assistance for church workers and provides scholarships for those attending Presbyterian racial/ethnic colleges. We will receive the offering on December 23.

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service on Monday, December 24, at 7:00 pm. For our worship on Christmas Eve, we will have a

Service of Lessons and Carols, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and close the service with candlelight and the singing of "Silent Night" with guitar accompaniment by Lyle Sanford. Join us on this holy evening.



The Savior is born!

From the staff of the Orange Presbyterian Church:

*We wish you a most joyous holiday season and a
Merry Christmas!*

Denise

Melanie

Al

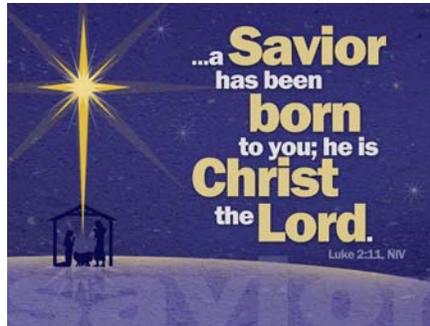
Theresa

Eileen

Kim

Rebecca

Veronica



Jeresa

The Art of Christmas

How can we best keep Christmas?

- *By following the star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a manger.*
- *By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.*
- *By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.*
- *By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.*

by Wilferd Peterson, from The New Book of the Art of Living

Preschool Corner

Busy, busy, busy, just like the fall animals – that's preschool in November. We're filled to the brim with activities. The older children have concentrated on learning about the pilgrims and the Indians for their Thanksgiving Feast. They made cornucopias, turkey callers, and the Mayflower. We also decided that we would contribute to the Christmas Bazaar this year, so the children made dog biscuits. The recipe smelled so delicious baking that I'm not certain that some weren't nibbled on! We were also fortunate enough to catch a bit of the performance in Taylor Park on Veteran's Day.



The younger class has been growing in numbers and our new students seem to feel right at home. The class has painted with cranberries, learned about Indian instruments, and made fabric headbands.

We ended the month with Pastor Denise coming to read to us and we also discussed hibernation. Both classes have chosen their favorite animal to put to sleep in the caves. (Thank you, Gene Whitaker, for the bog boxes!)

Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Ski

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 - 3:00 Christmas Bazaar
2 <i>Grace Kendall</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	3	4 <i>Betsy Reid</i> 10:30 Morning Circle 12:30 Knitters	5 <i>Carole Sue</i> <i>Graves</i> 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	6 <i>Taylor Munger</i> <i>Committees</i>	7 <i>Christopher</i> <i>Wynkoop</i> 4:30 AWOL Trip to see <i>Glorious</i> <i>Christmas</i> <i>Nights</i>	8 <i>Billie Mills</i> 9:00 Decorate Sanctuary 10:00 - 2:00 Nativity Scene Drop-off
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Nativity Scene Display 12:15 Admin. Mtg.	10	11 12:30 Knitters	12 6:15 Bell Choir 7:15 Evening Circle 7:30 Adult Choir	13 6:30 Finance	14	15
16 <i>Veronica Tucker</i> <i>Rod McLeod</i> <i>Derek Garner</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3:30 Community Chorus Concert	17	18 12:30 Knitters	19 <i>Hannah Frobom</i> 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	20 7:00 Session	21 <i>Margaret</i> <i>Thompson</i>	22 <i>Gregory</i> <i>Wynkoop</i>
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	24 <i>Christmas</i> <i>Eve</i> 7:00 Christmas	25 <i>Theo Haberland</i> <i>Christmas</i> Office Closed	26 <i>Charles Torian</i> <i>Mike Lewis</i> Office Closed NO PRACTICES	27	28 <i>Margaret</i> <i>Samuels</i> <i>Eva Graves</i>	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	31 <i>Alice Parcell</i> <i>Pat Stewart</i>	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 NO PRACTICES	3 <i>Anne Somerville</i> <i>Karen Tinsley</i> <i>Committees</i>	4	 Indicates Birthday

Greeters

- 2 Lee and Linda Nash
- 9 Wendell and Kay Nix
- 16 Jeff and Connie Norberg
- 23 Lloyd and Alice Parcell
- 30 Cynthia Pedersen

Nursery Helpers

- 2 Ellen Kendall and
Jim Reid
- 9 Sharon Mohrmann and
Allison Norberg
- 16 Linda Nash and
Lynn Clements
- 23 Denise Samuels and
Grace Kendall
- 30 Rachel Gibson and Ann
Taylor Mohrmann

Acolytes

- 2 Hannah Frobom
- 9 Grace Kendall
- 16 Allison Norberg
- 23 Jackson Warmack
- 30 Lyndsey Norberg

Children's Church

- 2 Dawn Phillips and
Melanie Rose
- 9 Lori Mills and Ann
Taylor Mohrmann
- 16 Karen Tinsley and
Jacob Barragan
- 23 Connie and Allison
Norberg
- 30 Lynn/Anne Clements
and Jennifer Ernst

Lectionary Readings for December

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

The lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading to prepare for worship on Sunday.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 2</u></p> <p>Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 9</u></p> <p>Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 16</u></p> <p>Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 23</u></p> <p>Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 OR Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 24</u></p> <p>Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 30</u></p> <p>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52</p>
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Session Meeting Highlights

- Approved minutes for the October 18 Stated meeting and the November 11, 2012 Called meeting.
- Approved the Sexual Misconduct Policy.
- Approved that the balance of Mission and Outreach payments be paid from the Hamilton Fund/Money Market if there is not enough to cover these payments on December 15.
- Approved the withdrawal of \$750 from the Mission Benevolence Fund to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the hurricane and flood devastated areas.
- Agreed that OPC participate in the CROP Walk for Hunger on Saturday, January 5.
- Approved the request by Alexis Standish (our former nursery worker) to use our fellowship hall on Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for her wedding reception. All fees were waived.
- Approved Christmas Eve Communion be served in the pews.
- Approved purchasing new lights for the Bell Choir members to use in the Sanctuary with money from the American Century Fund.
- Approved that the money collected to date for the Clean Water Fund be sent to Living Waters for the World and designated for Appalachia.
- Elected Jim Reid and Winifred Higgins to the Class as 2015 of the Endowment Committee.
- Approved a Congregational Meeting for January 6 to elect elders for the class of 2015.
- Approved a letter to be sent to the congregation regarding the unauthorized use of the church directory. See the letter on page 5 of the newsletter. A letter will also be sent to *The Layman* to inform them of the session's dissatisfaction.
- Approved pastor's time away (Dec. 27 - Jan. 2), and the Rev. Al Moreau, retired pastor to preach and lead worship on December 30.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra McLeod, Clerk

Treasurer's Report as of October 31

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,422.39	Other Funds:	
Income	\$16,038.25	AWOL	\$ 110.50
Expenses	\$17,187.59	Christmas Bazaar	\$ 100.00
Ending Balance	\$ 4,273.05	Lobster Dinner	\$ 648.17
Tax Liabilities	\$ 784.44	Clean Water Fund	\$2,453.79
Other Funds	\$ 3,312.46	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$ 158.48
Available Funds	\$ 176.15		

ORANGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Dr. Denise M. Hall, pastor

December, 2012

TO: Members and Friends of the Orange Presbyterian Church

FROM: The Session of the Orange Presbyterian Church

In the last six months or so, it has come to the attention of the session that members and friends of the Orange Presbyterian Church have started receiving a copy of a publication called, *The Layman*. *The Layman* is not published by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and does not express the views of the PC (USA). *The Layman* is an independent publication that expresses strong views on decisions made by the General Assembly.

Only the Session has authorization to release your name and address. In this instance, the Session did not receive a request to do so. Further, neither the Church Office nor the Presbytery of the James gave your information to this publication. It is disturbing to the Session that an Orange Presbyterian Church mailing list has somehow been sent to this publication.

There are magazines and newspapers that are published by our denomination and present the views of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For example, if you are receiving a copy of *The Vine*, that is a newsletter published by the Presbytery of the James and is printed after each Presbytery meeting. You may also be familiar with *Presbyterians Today* or *The Presbyterian Outlook*. If you would like to learn more about subscribing to these publications, please contact the pastor.

The session has submitted a letter to *The Layman* expressing our dissatisfaction with the fact that our membership list was shared without the session's approval. Some individuals have contacted the *Layman* and asked for their names to be removed from their mailing list. If you would like to have your name removed, please contact the church office by the end of December, and we will contact them for you. Feel free to contact Denise if you would like to discuss any of the views or articles you have read.

Water Works

One of the big threats to our water supply is pollution such as pesticides, fertilizers and cleaning chemicals. Reducing pollution is a job for you and me, as well as for governments and large companies. The next time you are drinking a tall cool glass of water, ponder ways to reduce pollutants.



- Reduce the amount of fertilizer put on lawns.
- Minimize use of pesticides
- Baking soda and vinegar clean well. Use harsh chemicals sparingly
- Opt for scent and dye-free laundry detergents that are better for the environment and for your nose
- Don't flush medicine. Instead put in a bag with kitty litter and discharge into the trash.

For more information, check <http://www.ewg.org> and <http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/>. If we all work together, we will keep the clean water flowing.

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.

Over the past couple of months, the session has struggled to meet our financial obligations. If you have not fulfilled the pledge you made for 2012, your generous gifts during December could help us to meet our budget for the year.

The session is also putting together the budget for 2013 and encourage you to make a pledge if you have not already done so. Pledge cards can be found in the narthex and can be placed in the offering at any time. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Thank You Note

Dear Shirley,

Thank you and the members of OPC for the contribution to our Clean Water Ministry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

Lee Brown and I enjoyed visiting with you and your church last Sunday. It's exciting to see your interest in Clean Water and hope you take the next step by sending someone to the Clean Water University to learn about the problems and solutions.

Blessings,

George Morelock

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Sounds of the Season

The Singing Christmas Tree

Saturday, December 8

Sunday, December 9

5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Orange Baptist Church



Messiah Sing-Along

Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 pm

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Orange Community Chorus and Band Concerts

"Comfort and Joy"

Band Concert

Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 pm

Orange County High School

Chorus Concert

Sunday, December 16, at 3:30 pm

Orange Presbyterian Church



Nativity Display Sunday, December 9 Following Worship

We are having a Nativity Exhibit on Sunday, December 9, after worship. We invite everyone to bring your crèche, whether it is the one you got as a Christmas gift from your spouse, one you made in kindergarten for your mother, a set you made at woodworking class, or bought for yourself on a trip to the Orient.



Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Bring your crèche to the Fellowship Hall with the completed information card. Cards are available in the narthex. We will have tables up for you to display your items. (For anyone who has a particularly valuable item – such as an antique from the holy land – and would prefer, you may bring it to the fellowship hall just prior to worship on Sunday.) Also, we will have a table just for any nativity that the children may touch or play with.

Sunday, December 9, following worship: We will go to the fellowship hall for our coffee fellowship and view the display. You may take your crèche home with you when you leave that day.

Christmas Eve Service



On Monday, December 24, we will gather for a special Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00 pm.

There will be a Service of Lessons and Carols as we hear of the prophecy and birth of our Savior in scripture and song. And the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

Just as the worshipers in Obendorf, Austria, sang the first *Silent Night, Holy Night*, we will also sing this beloved carol with guitar accompaniment. (However, we will sing it in English rather than in German.)

Honor Roll



The Honor Roll recipient for the month of November is our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Denise Hall. We all know that Denise plans worship and preaches the sermon every week, but let's think about the other things she does for our church.

Denise, as the Teaching Elder for Orange Presbyterian Church, is "responsible for studying, teaching, and preaching the Word... and for praying with and for the congregation." (*Book of Order*. To accomplish this, Denise, plans and provides each worship service (Sunday, Advent, Lenten, funerals, weddings, etc.) and coordinates with the Choir Director to ensure that our musical offerings are appropriate for each service. She teaches one of the adult Sunday school classes, administers communion the first Sunday of each month and at other services as appropriate, and works with families or individuals who need support dealing with the struggles of daily life.

We can tell Denise loves kids. She works with them from baptism through confirmation to guide them through their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church. She serves as one of the Youth Connection coordinators, works with the preschool classes, reading to them on a regular basis, and helps plan and work at Free Friday Fun.

All of us know that when we see a hot air balloon, the first person we think of is Pastor Denise.

Denise serves as Moderator for the session and attends committee meetings serving in an *ex officio* capacity providing valuable advice and assistance. She also develops and teaches two or three Bible study series each year and has gone on mission trips.

On the Presbytery level, Denise is on the board for our Presbytery camp, Camp Hanover, and attends all the meetings of the Presbytery of the James.

In the community, Denise serves as the treasurer of the Ministerial Association and a member of the Orange County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.

Pastor Denise, thank you for all you do for our church and our community. And watch out for the hot air balloons!

A Stamp Reminder!

Mrs. Reinhold is still collecting stamps for the mission in the Congo. Recently her group sent \$12,000 for Bibles. Hymnals sent earlier are all in use and need to be reprinted for a new supply.

As you receive your Christmas mail, please cut off any foreign or commemorative stamps (1/2 inch border, do not soak). There is an envelope of the bulletin board near the office and a box in the Narthex to collect them.



Mrs. Reinhold expressed an interest in Christmas stamps for 2012 – Holy Family, Sleigh, Reindeer, and Christmas 2011 (baubles). She is also interested in the flags with Equality, Freedom, Justice, and Liberty. Other collectibles include Herbs, Working Dogs, 20 cent George Washington, Flags of Nations/States, Big League Ball Players, Music Legends, Scientists, any large commemorative stamps, and all foreign stamps.

Thanks in advance for remembering this mission.

Lavinia Phillips

Sanctuary Decorating

Saturday, December 8 - 9:00 am

The Worship and Music Committee will be heading up the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season on Saturday, December 8 beginning at 9:00 am. Come and help us trim the sanctuary with pine and berries, candles and poinsettias. Volunteers are also needed after worship on Sunday, December 8 to help us set up the trees in preparation for the decorating.



Advent Study -

When God Comes Down



Sundays in Advent at 9:45 am

Prayer Chapel

Join us as we reflect on the Incarnation through the eyes of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and the Innkeeper!

Christmas Poinsettias

For our Advent/Christmas decorations you are invited to bring a poinsettia to the sanctuary. Bring the poinsettia(s) by the church on Saturday morning, December 8. You can then take it home after the Christmas Eve service. (Or you may want to leave it in the sanctuary until January 6.)

Please use the tear off form below to let us know that you are placing a poinsettia in honor of/or in memory of a loved one.

Turn in your forms by Sunday, December 9 – either in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.

I/ We would like to place a poinsettia *In Honor of* or *In Memory of*: (circle one)

Your Name _____

(We will place a listing in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23, 2012.)

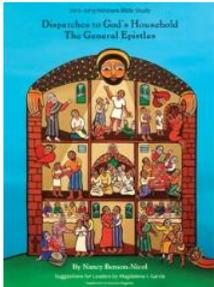


Christmas Poinsettias



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Presbyterian Women



◆ The Morning Circle meets on Tuesday, December 4 at 10:30 am in the East Room. Join us for worship, fun, food, and fellowship. Please contact Shirley Newman at 672-1023 for more information.

◆ The Evening Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:15 pm in the Prayer Chapel. Note the evening change! Please contact Lynne Clements for more information.

WITH
Gratitude 

To All My Friends at OPC,

Thank you for your e-mails, your cards, your kind thoughts, and especially your prayers as I have struggled with health issues this fall. The prayer shawl is beautiful and since I am often cold, it will come in very handy.

Cindy Reid

Prayer Requests

- Wendell Nix
- Mike Lewis
- Cindy Reid
- Maruchi Moreth, recuperating from surgery
- Jean Berckman



- Carole Sue Graves
- Billy Fitch, Louise Lord, Margaret Chewning, and Richard and Thelma Sanford at Dogwood Village
- Pat McCauley at America House