



Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 63

December 2007

No. 12

From the Senior Pastor...

For a number of years I have found December to be a formidable challenge. What was once a simple, happy, and peaceful observance of the Incarnation has become a frenetic, excessive, and gaudy holiday. Not everywhere of course; not in every home or in every community, but in enough places to affect many people. As Wordsworth said, "The world is too much with us." In short, that means our tranquility is threatened by consumerism and the anxious pursuit of pleasure.

The good news, at least for me, is that the events of November 13 – 18 have so profoundly touched my heart that there's hope of recapturing the peace and purpose of Christmas.

On November 13, Judge Randy Butler spoke at the Men's Breakfast and described the transformation in his life from "head knowledge" of Christ to "heart knowledge." He spoke of the shattering of a casing around his heart that allowed Christ to come in and dwell. We who heard him will not forget his story.

On November 14, Tom Tarrants, president of the C. S. Lewis Institute, spoke to a packed Fellowship Hall. His story was shocking and inspiring. From being a member of the KKK to belonging to the Body of Christ, from a life of hatred, violence and imprisonment to a life of peace and love, Tom described an extraordinary journey of bondage into the grace Christ gives. When he finished, he was immediately confronted by a man (a visitor to our church) whom Tom had assaulted over 40 years ago. The man recalled the fear and humiliation he had suffered as well as the hatred he had borne for Tom. Then he said, "But on Yom Kippur, while praying in the synagogue, I heard the voice of God saying that I must forgive Tom Tarrants, and ask Tom to forgive me for hating him." In front of everyone, he forgave Tom and asked for Tom's forgiveness. The two men, once enemies, embraced; and the walls of the room almost shook with the power of God's presence.

On November 17 and 18, Eric Metaxas spoke to us of God's amazing grace. The timing of Eric's being here was by God's design. God knew that many of us needed what His Spirit would accomplish on that preceding Wednesday in order for us to receive fully the message Eric would give. Those who saw "Amazing Grace" on Saturday night and heard Eric on Sunday, especially on Sunday night, will not forget how God used him to convey His truth and grace.

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So I wonder how I could possibly go into Advent with a jaded attitude. Even the remembrance that the “world is too much with us” cannot eclipse the fact that God delights in giving grace and performing miracles. I’m far too grateful for what I’ve witnessed at Spring Hill to be anything but eager to celebrate the miracle of the Savior’s birth. I hope you feel the same; and I pray with all my heart that your Advent and Christmas will be filled with joy and peace.

In His love,
Norman

Molly’s Musings Called to be a Wilberforce!

What a week it has been in the life of this church - from the Wednesday night miracle with Tom Tarrants to Eric Metaxas and *Amazing Grace* to the conclusion of Beth Moore’s Bible study on the fruits of the Spirit to our first ever Girls Night Out! My head is swimming and my heart is overflowing with gratitude to our God for His goodness, mercy, grace, and abundant blessings! As the dust settles and I ponder what I’m going to do tonight since there’s nothing going on at the church, I can’t help but think (like many of you) where do we go from here?

In my mind, I keep going back to a single question Edwin Lamberth asked Eric Metaxas last night, “In your opinion, why don’t we see many Wilberforce types today?” I think what he meant by this question was this; why don’t we see many people today who are so compelled by their faith that they allow it to pervade every area of their life and are willing to sacrifice everything – reputation, financial security, and even life – for the cause of Christ? Great question! Why not? Maybe William Wilberforce understood a few Biblical principles most 21st century, American Christians have failed to truly realize.

As I am writing, I am reminded of two Scriptures. The first Tom Tarrants mentioned as being meaningful to him during his time in prison. Mark 8:36 says, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet **forfeit** his soul?” There is no doubt that we live in a culture that is interested and driven by “gaining the whole world.” We are immersed in a society that is not only obsessed with materialism but also self absorption. It is a battle to, as Philipians 2:3-4 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Is it possible that we don’t see many Wilberforce types anymore because we live in a world where people are too busy looking out for their own interests? I’ll confess, I know I’m guilty!

The other Scripture I am thinking about has new meaning for me after hearing Tom Tarrant’s story. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the **new** has come!” Both Tarrants and Wilberforce understand/understood the Biblical truth of this Scripture: true faith in Jesus Christ transforms. Let us all allow this

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Scripture to sink in to our souls. If we believe in Jesus Christ, WE ARE a NEW creation and therefore called to a NEW life. What does that new life look like? It's a life of living counter to the culture, a life of carrying the burdens of the others, a life of standing up for justice no matter the cost, a life of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world, a life of submitting self every day to the will of God, a life of serving, a life of sacrifice, a life of forgiveness, a life of peace, a life of love! It is a crucified life in which your old self no longer exists but your new self proclaims to the world day in and day out the resurrected Christ.

Where do we go from here? As I sat listening to Eric Metaxas answer Edwin's question, I received my answer. If you're a Christian, you are called to be a Wilberforce type. We are all called to allow our faith to invade every dimension of our lives, and if we do so, it will change our worldview. If we allow our faith to control our perspective, then we will find our own corner of the world to change for the cause of Christ. If you are unsure how God is calling you to be a Wilberforce, then pray. Pray that He will show you where your world needs to be changed then pray for persistence and perseverance to see the work through to its end – after all, it took Wilberforce 20 years!

From one Wilberforce Wannabe to another,
Molly Broders

Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Circles will meet on Wednesday, December 12 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 at the home of Sylvia Weinard (1601 Woodspointe Circle)
- #2 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. We will stuff Christmas bags then go to the Mulherin Home for a Christmas Party (Nursery provided at the church)
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor
- #4 at 7:00 a.m. at the home of Edith Abrams (4916 Princeton Drive)

First Thursday Lunch

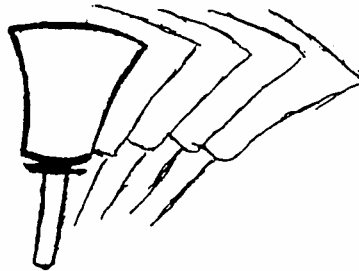
First Thursday lunch will be December 6 at 11:45. Join us for a Christmas "sing-a-long" and enjoy fellowship, singing and good food prepared by chef Pat! We will play "Dirty Santa" (please bring a gift \$10.00 or less). Please call the church office by December 4 to make reservations. Cost is \$5.00.

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.

– Anonymous

Announcing the Return of
Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass
Collaborating with our Chancel Choir in Christmas Music
In our Morning Worship Services
Sunday, Dec. 9
Music begins 10 minutes before each worship service

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
Concert of Christmas Music for Handbells by **BellFest**
Pensacola's virtuosic community Bell Choir



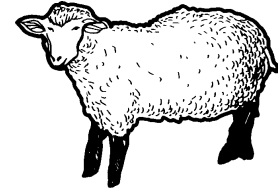
Sunday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Reception at 6:00 pm preceding the concert
Free Admission; donations accepted
Sponsored by the Religious Arts Committee

Worship Schedule During Advent/Christmas

- Sunday, Dec. 2** (8:30, 11:00), Holy Communion
(Handbell Choirs present Christmas Voluntaries)
- Sunday, Dec. 9** (8:30, 11:00), Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass with our
Chancel Choir in "Gloria in excelsis Deo" (music begins at 8:20 and 10:50)
- Sunday, Dec. 16** (8:30, 11:00), Children's Choirs and Youth Chorale
present Christmas Music
- Sunday, Dec. 23** (8:30, 11:00), Lessons and Carols
(congregational carols; Chancel Choir)
- Christmas Eve**
6:00 p.m. Carols and Candlelight (Children's and Youth Choirs)
10:00 p.m. Carols, Candlelight and Communion (Chancel Choir)
- Sunday, Dec. 30** One worship service at 11:00 a.m.

Global Missions Committee

The Global Mission Committee will hold the annual fund drive to support Heifer International following each service on December 2, 9 and 16th. Heifer International provides animals to poor and underserved peoples around the world. Animals provide work offspring; give milk, meat and other products and also monies to families who otherwise would have great difficulty supporting their families. Please make all checks payable to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, attention Heifer International and designate the animal(s) you wish to give. "There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread" Proverbs 22:9 (and in animals).



Library News

As promised last month, there has been a flurry of new acquisitions with which to end the year. These include DVDs depicting God's house in the desert (the Tabernacle) which according to scripture was very detailed and which provided an understanding of the design on which Solomon's Temple was constructed in the tenth century BCE. King Herod enclosed and made more elaborate the Second Temple constructed in the Post Exilic period during his reign in the first century BCE. This then became the temple which Jesus would have known.



These DVDs vary in quality and clarity, but those acquired which tell stories from the Old Testament are very detailed and would be useful to teachers and classes focusing on the lives of *Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samson and Delilah, David, Solomon, Esther or Jeremiah, and Paul*

The Apocalypse and Genesis are two more productions which came in the package purchased to complete the library's holdings.

DECK THE HALLS!!!

Everyone come to the annual *Hanging of the Greens* day at SHPC. The day is Saturday, December 15. We meet in the Bullard Building at 9 AM where we will make wreaths that will adorn the walls of the sanctuary. It is always lovely with the poinsettias, candles and greenery on the ledges all around the walls.



We bring simple finger food that is enjoyed by all at lunch time. We are usually finished by early afternoon. This is a fun time of laughter and fellowship. The beauty of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas is truly a blessing.

Blessings for Christmas

Copies of "*Blessings*," the Spring Hill Presbyterian Cookbook are still available for \$18.00 in the church office, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. You may contact Jeff Stoll at 610-4289 to arrange for a special pickup after a Sunday service.

Corrections for the cookbook - Oops!

Call it what you will, *Errata*, *Goof*, *Oversight*, but mistakes do happen. We apologize for the following errors in the cookbook and trust they will not diminish your enjoyment of it and its recipes.

- MISSISSIPPI SIN** (Page 19): The 16-oz. carton should be Cream, **not** Sour Cream.
- POPPY SEED DRESSING** (Page 63): Add 1 ½ cups of oil to the ingredients list.
- PORK CHOP CASSEROLE** (Page 141): "... *layer the pork chops, onion, tomatoes, and green pepper.*"
- "MAMAU'S" CHICKEN SPAGHETTI** (Page 161): Before preparing the sauce, the chicken should be floured, seasoned with salt and pepper, and fried in ½ c. oil. Set aside to drain. Due to the additional cooking time in the sauce, the chicken needed not be fully cooked before adding to the sauce.
- PEACH COBLER** (Page 225): Add ¾ cup of milk to the ingredients list.

Christmas Wish List

Our church will again participate in the Christmas Wish List program sponsored by Catholic Social Services. We have the names of 30 children and ten elderly adults who will be counting on us for Christmas gifts. The plan is for each child to receive at least three gifts and the elderly to receive a package of personal items plus one special gift. Cards are posted on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall beginning today. Please check it out and help provide smiles and happiness on Christmas morning. Deadline for delivering the wrapped and tagged gifts to the parlor is December 16.



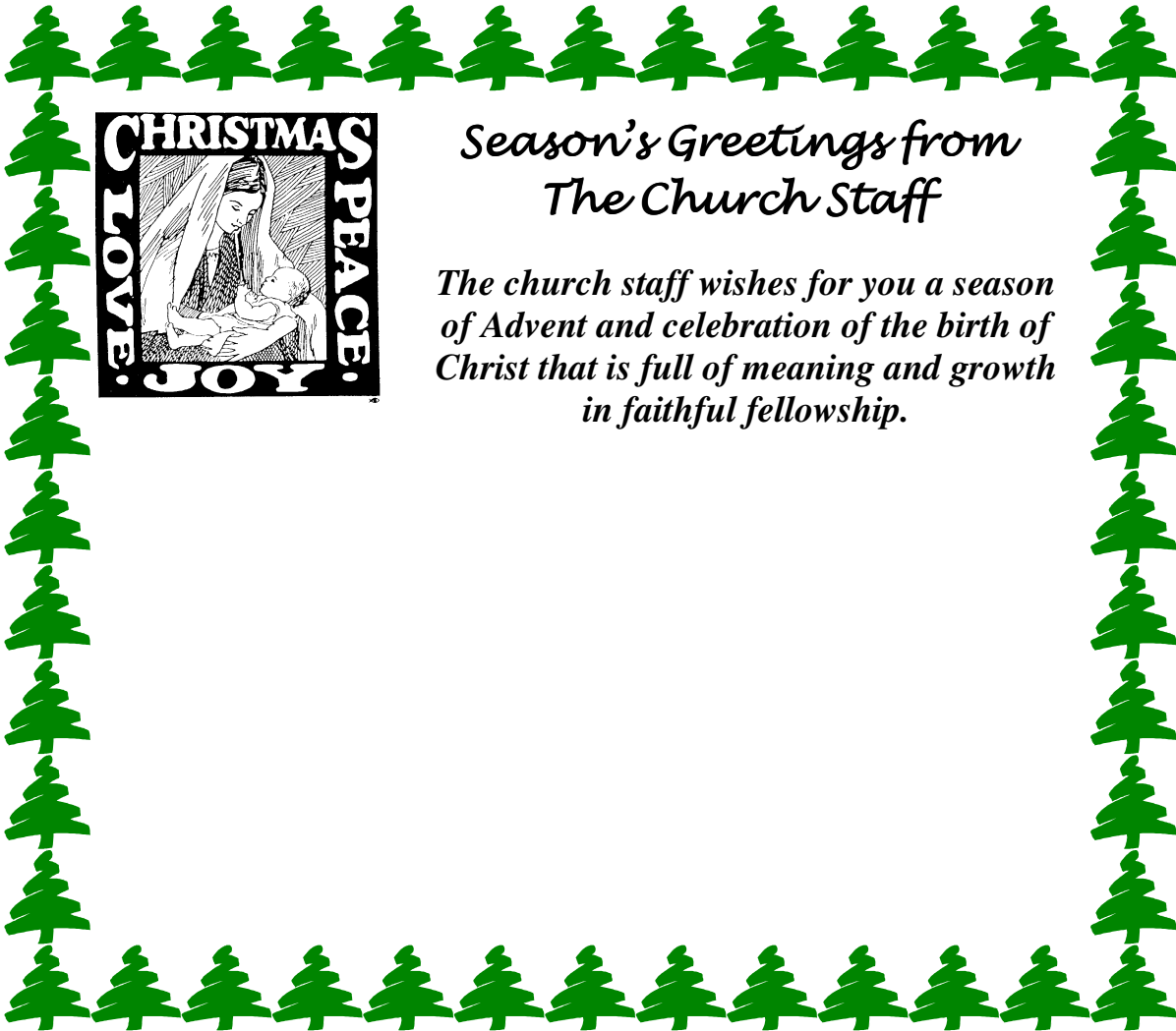
**The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in
worship on Sunday, December 2,
the 1st Sunday of Advent.**



SHPC
Young & the Rest of Us
Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 8 * 6:00 - 9:00
Missy & Mike Dunnam's * 17 Drury Lane

Call Missy (341-5507) for food assignment
Bring your own beverage
Reserve childcare by Dec. 4 (344-4202)



*Season's Greetings from
The Church Staff*

*The church staff wishes for you a season
of Advent and celebration of the birth of
Christ that is full of meaning and growth
in faithful fellowship.*

**Stillman College Choir
In Concert**



Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m.

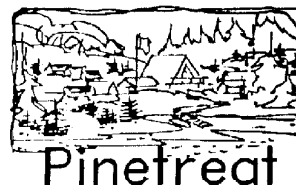
**Festival of Trees at
Westminster Village**

The 5th annual Festival of Trees Open House at Westminster Village will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2007 from 2-4 p.m. Featured will be 50 Christmas trees, each decorated with different themes. The trees may be bid on through a silent auction up to December 17. The Open House will also include Christmas music and refreshments. Contact Kay Brown Korb at 626-2900 for additional information.

News from Pinetreat

Camp Pinetreat will have a winter camp again this year!

The Presbytery of South Alabama's Camp Pinetreat will have a New Year's Camp for children in the 3rd – 8th grades. The date of the camp are December 29th – January 1st and the cost is \$150.00. Activities include Bible study, archery, ropes course, basket weaving, drama, night hikes, worship, basketball, campfires and much more. Many of our awesome counselors from this past summer are returning for this event! Ring in the New Year with your friends at Camp Pinetreat. For a brochure or more information, contact Kathryn at 251-937-8401 or camppinetreat@gmail.com.



The Joy Gift Offering is taken annually at Christmas by Presbyterian congregations to support the Board of Pensions for their Assistance Programs and for the committee on Higher Education to support the Presbyterian, racial and ethnic schools and colleges. Special envelopes will be in the pews on December 9 and 16.



Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers
and catnip-laced eggnog
for Ti Amo and Al E.
Cat. Cheers!



News from the Financial Office

2007 Pledges

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church members will receive a contribution statement in early December. Please review your statement and notify Nena Smith in the financial office of any discrepancies as quickly as possible.

2008 Contribution Envelopes

The contribution envelopes will be mailed quarterly directly to you. The first quarter envelopes should be received in December. Each year new envelope numbers are assigned, **please use the appropriate envelope.**

Year-end Gifts

Current IRS regulations dictate that contributions received in the office **after** December 31, 2007 must be posted to the 2008 tax year regardless of the date on the check. In addition, if you are mailing your check, it must be post marked no later than December 2007 in order to receive tax credit for the current year.

Holiday Schedule

The financial office will be closed on December 24 and reopen Thursday, December 27. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and December 31 from 8:00 to noon to receive year-end gifts. If you are considering a gift of stocks or mutual funds, please start the process early. It is helpful to inform Nena Smith prior to transferring stock. These procedures sometime take longer than expected, especially if complications occur.



Advent, Christmas and New Year's Day Schedule

- Sun. Dec. 2** First Sunday of Advent (Communion – both services)
Children's Christmas Play – 9:30 – 10:30 .m. Light breakfast served in Bul-
lard Building (The entire congregation is invited)
- Sun. Dec. 9** Tom Zimmerman and The King's Brass with our Chancel Choir
(both services)
- Sun. Dec. 16** Children's Choirs and Youth Chorale present Christmas Music
(both services)
Concert. Christmas Music for Handbells. Bellfest – 7:00 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 23** Service of Lessons and Carols (both services)
- Sun. Dec. 24** 6:00 p.m. Carols, Candlelight Service (Nursery provided)
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
- Sun. Dec. 30** 11:00 a.m. service (no 8:30 a.m. service)



We rejoice with George and Jo Barton in the birth of a granddaughter, Anna Katherine, on November 16. (Parents and Brett and Angie Barton).



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Nancy Walton in the death of her father, B. C. Tanner on November 10; with Janie Sims in the death of her mother, Elizabeth Carson, on November 10 in Philadelphia; with Mike Hofto in the death of his mother, Joyce Hofto, on November 17; and with Marianna Parker in the death of her mother, Sammie Moore, on November 18.

Memorial Gifts

*We have received memorials
for the following:*

Frances Curry
Elizabeth Firster
B. C. Tanner
Charles Harry Smith
Lucille Spieth
Elizabeth Carson
Ted and Annie Ayres Terry

From the following:

Sharon and Eddie McDonough
Betty and Dick Allen
Ruth Fitzgerald
Same and Judy Strada
Tut Smith
Stony & Virginia Price
Dick Bradley
Dorothy Smith
Pat and Royce Ray
Sara Long
Ellen Johnston

Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Sue and Billy McLean
Tamara and Michael Clancy
Mitch and Lexie Barnett
Andrea and Bob Wilson
Chris and Ashley Brown
Phyllis Feibelman
Mrs. Thomas St. John
The Fink Family
The Tucker Family
The Pierce Family
Red and Mona Ferguson
John and Liz Ferguson
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Jim and Carol Harrison
Kevin and Pat York
Brian and Karen Rosenow
The Stoll Family
Mack and Betty Graham
Bill and Ruth Coats
Alene Powell
Charles and Linda Langston
Bill and Anne Sherren
Jane and Louis Williams

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives.

— Rich Miller

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

December 2007

- 2 *1st Sunday of Advent*
Isa. 2:1-5; Ps/ 122' Rom. 13:11-14
Matt. 24:36-44
- 9 *2nd Sunday of Advent*
Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19
Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12
- 16 *3rd Sunday of Advent*
Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10 or
Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10;
Matt. 11:2-11
- 23 *4th Sunday of Advent*
Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25
- 30 *1st Sunday after Christmas*
Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18
Matt 2:13-23

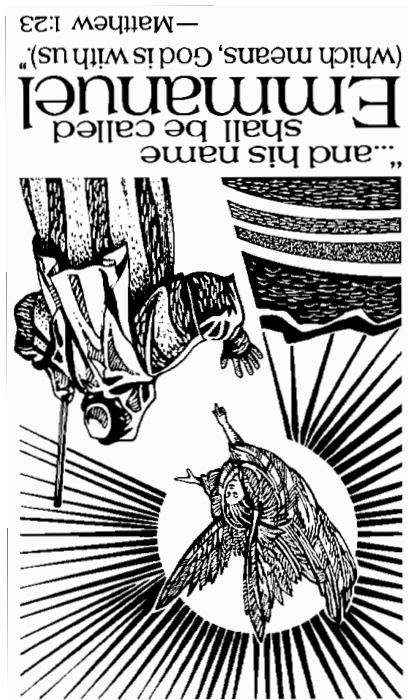
January 2008

- 6 *Epiphany of the Lord*
Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7 10-14;
Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12
- 13 *Baptism of the Lord*
Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 29; Acts 10:34-43;
Matt. 3:13-17
- 20 *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
- 27 *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isa. 9:1-4; Ps. 27:1, 4-9;
1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23

| December 2007 | <i>Church Calendar</i> | January 2008 |
|---|------------------------|--|
| 2 Lord's Supper Children's Christmas Play – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | | 1 Church Office closed |
| 4 Committees | | 2 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m. |
| 5 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m. | | 3 1 st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m. |
| 6 1 st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m. | | 8 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Committee Kickoff Banquet & Meetings – 6:00 p.m. |
| 9 The King's Brass with Chancel Choir (both services) | | 9 Circles Supper & Bible Study – 6:45 p.m. |
| 11 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Diaconate – 7:00 p.m. | | 10 Thursday morning Bible study begins – 9:15 a.m. |
| 12 Circles | | 11 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m. |
| 14 Meals On Wheels – 10:30 a.m. | | 11-12 Officer Retreat at Camp Beckwith |
| 15 Hanging of the Greens | | 13 Men and Women's Sunday evening Bible study starts – 5:00 p.m. |
| 16 Christmas Music for Handbells. Bellfest – 7:00 p.m. | | 15 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m. |
| 18 Session – 7:00 p.m. | | 21 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m. |
| 23 Service of Lessons and Carols – (both services) | | 22 Session – 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 Candlelight Service – 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service – 10:00 p.m. | | 27 Stillman College – 3:00 p.m. |
| 26 Church Office closed | | |
| 30 Worship Service – 11:00 a.m. only | | |

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December Newsletter