



## SteepleTalk

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*Find out what's going on and what's coming up  
in the life and ministry at John Knox Presbyterian Church.*

Visit our Website



**This Sunday's Worship**

**First Sunday of Advent**

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#)  
[Mark 13:24-37](#)

Sermon: "Keep Awake"  
Gordon Turnbull

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# HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 3  
5:00 PM  
Refreshments and fellowship to follow



Please make plans to join us for one of the most special services of the year - the annual Hanging of the Greens on December 3 at 5:00pm. This family friendly celebration incorporates members of all ages as we transform our sanctuary and officially kick off the Advent season. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome - consider inviting a friend as well! A nursery will be provided.



## Come one, come all!

We need YOU to be a part of our Hanging of the Greens Choir on Sunday, December 3! We will be helping to begin our joyous Advent season with traditional Christmas favorites in a combined choir directed by Elizabeth Guest Martin. You don't have to be in one of our current choirs to be a part of this special group! Please come to as many of the rehearsals as you can and you will be ready to go! We will have the following rehearsals to prepare:

Sunday, December 3 from 9:45-10:30

Sunday, December 3:30-4:30

Please contact Elizabeth with any questions at 864-313-0193.

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## Angel Tree 2017

We are helping two agencies this year- United Ministries-GAIHN and Greer Relief. Both are near and dear to our hearts. We are supporting the very families that stay here at John Knox with Interfaith and with Greer Relief we support our very own Caroline Robertson and our local community. With United Ministries we have decided to adopt their New Home Pantry again this year. As the GAIHN families transition into stable housing we are helping with the basic necessities to create a home for these individuals.

We are so excited and know just like years past John Knox is up for the challenge. Our trees will be located outside the chapel and main sanctuary. Find an angel to adopt, sign up with one of our elves and help us make the holidays brighter for our community.

Ways to help....

Some gifts could be pricy so accept a challenge. Get a group together. Do it as a family or as a Sunday school class project.

Ask your friends and co-workers – It is that time of year!

No time to shop – we have a group of Elves that will be happy to help! Cash donations are so appreciated and when we do get to the deadline and there are still angels we will shop for you!!!



Our Deadline is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

We ask all Angel presents to be turned in at the Administration Building. These presents do not have to be wrapped BUT need the Angel tag attached to the present.

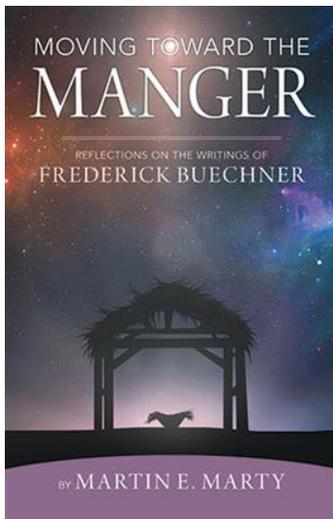
Questions – Stevie Greene

e-mail – [StevieCGreene@yahoo.com](mailto:StevieCGreene@yahoo.com)

cell-864-616-7430

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**If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Flower Fund in honor or memory of someone, please click [here](#), print and fill out the form, and turn in to the church office.**



## **Advent Devotional Booklets**

Moving Toward the Manger:  
Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner

by Martin E. Marty

Available in Narthex and on tables outside of Chapel



## **Advent and Christmas Calendar**

**Sunday, December 3**  
Hanging of the Greens at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 6**  
Christmas Program by our children and youth in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15pm.  
This will be our last WNL until 2018.

**Sunday, December 10** – 2nd Sunday of Advent  
Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM

**Wednesday, December 13**  
No Wednesday Night Live programs

**Sunday, December 17** – 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM

**Wednesday, December 20**  
No Wednesday Night Live programs

**Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
Morning worship services at 8:30 and 11:00.  
5:00 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary  
7:00 PM - Traditional Christmas Eve Service- Sanctuary  
11:00 PM - Casual Christmas Eve Service - Chapel

**Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day**  
Church offices will be closed.

**Tuesday, December 26**  
Church offices will be closed.

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## Wednesday Night Activities

Please join us on Wednesday, December 6, for a performance by our children and youth. Dinner will be served before beginning at 5:45. The menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, veggie, rolls, salad bar, dessert.



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## Young at Hearts

Join the YAH's for a very special Christmas excursion to view the amazing Gingerbread Houses at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Three mini-vans have been reserved for transportation. Space is limited so we **must** have your reservations by Sunday, December 10. Meet at the church at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 14. Transportation will be provided without cost to you. Lunches are estimated at \$15-\$25 at the Hotel Grill.

RSVP to Bessie or Bill Lee at (864) 233-5518



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## First Love, First Fruits

To date we have received 158 pledges toward our ministry in 2018 for a total of \$729,768.00. This amount covers 75% of our funding goal of \$972,000. If we can reach our target, our Session can confidently budget for the ambitious ministry to which we believe God is calling us all.



If you have not yet offered a pledge, we invite and encourage you to do so soon. Pledge cards are available on the tables outside the Chapel and Sanctuary, in the church office, and on bulletin boards throughout the church.

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## From the Nurture Committee

### *YOU ARE NEEDED:*

No special qualifications required. What the Nurture Committee is looking for are a few folks to be Care Companions. What we ask you to do is:

- Pray regularly for members in your care group
- Make occasional phone calls
- Send a card or note as needed

We have several positions open for 2018. Please contact either the church office or Amy Leidheiser at [aleidheiser@gmail.com](mailto:aleidheiser@gmail.com) or 901-9753 if you would like to apply for one of these positions.

*When we seek to be a loving presence in a person's life, when we pray for them, we can rest in the knowledge that God is at work, even when we don't see the immediate impact of our prayers.*



## Youth Ministry News

### **Jr. High Girls Night!**

Come ring in the month of December with a fun and festive night of cookie decorating and Christmas movie watching THIS SATURDAY, December 2 from 7-9pm at 47 Swanson Ct. Let Jessica Meggs ([jmeggs@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:jmeggs@johnknoxpres.org)) know if your student plans to come!

### **Sr. High Girls Night!**

High school girls will have their time too! Come get into the holiday spirit with a night of fellowship, hot chocolate, and a Christmas movie next Saturday, December 9 from 7-9 at 47 Swanson Ct. Be sure to let Jessica know if your students plans to come!

# Middle School Girls Night!

Saturday, December 2nd // 7-9 PM

Jessica's House: 47 Swanson Ct.

Cookie Decorating & A Christmas Movie



# Join Jessica for HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS NIGHT

*hot chocolate & a christmas movie*



Saturday, December 9th

7-9 PM

Jessica's House  
47 Swanson Ct.

## Sr. High Christmas Play Reminders

It's almost time for our high school group's stage debut! The annual Christmas play is NEXT Wednesday, December 6 and we have just ONE practice left! Make sure to be here this Sunday after Hanging of the Greens for dinner and dress rehearsal!



**SR. HIGH YOUTH  
PRESENT**

**THE POLAR  
EXPRESS**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH  
6:15 PM**

## December Service Event

Join us on Sunday night, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7 for a night of Christmas shopping for our Angel Tree recipients! If you're a parent or adult that would be willing to drive and chaperone our shopping excursion, Jessica would love to hear from you via email ([jmeggs@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:jmeggs@johnknoxpres.org)) or phone (864-419-2776).

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# Children's Ministry News

## Parents' Night Out – Friday, December 8

The Children's Ministry program is offering parents a chance to have a few kid-free hours before the Christmas rush completely takes over! And remember – there is no fee! We hope your children can come join their church friends in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 8 from 6:00 – 8:30 for a pizza dinner, Christmas crafts, gingerbread houses, and a Christmas movie! Please have your children wear their pajamas! Activities will be planned for ages K3 – 5th grade. There will be a nursery available for children 3 years old and younger. If you also have a middle- or high-schooler, they are welcome to come as a Youth Volunteer and help with the younger children. Check your Children's Ministry Newsletter for more details, including items to bring for the gingerbread houses. Contact Susan Felton with any questions. Please RSVP by this Friday, December 1. ([sfelton@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:sfelton@johnknoxpres.org))

## Children's Music Program

Our children will be sharing their beautiful voices during several of our Christmas services in the coming weeks. Below is the schedule for their performances:

**Hanging of the Greens** – Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 (meet in Sanctuary at 4:30)

**Children's Wednesday Night Christmas Program** - Wednesday, December 6 (dinner at 5:45; meet Mrs. Susan in Fellowship Hall for practice at 6:00)

**Christmas Eve** – Sunday, December 24 for the Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 (meet in Choir Room at 4:30)



## United Ministries Soup Drive

Please don't forget to bring your canned soup for United Ministries this Sunday! They depend on us to stock their pantry for those in need. Please consider donating. Thanks!

## December Ushers

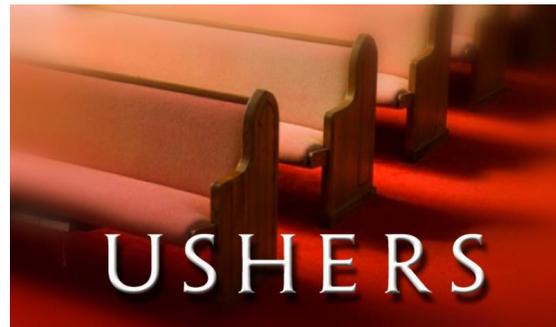
**8:30**

Anna Cain

**11:00**

Head Usher: Dan Drew

Leaders: St. Andrews Class



## A Word about Church Security

The recent violence in a Texas congregation has energized conversations in many churches about security. Members of John Knox should know that our Session remains aware of these concerns and is deepening its study of our facility and procedures to ensure that we are sufficiently responsive.

This year we have already achieved a significant improvement in our security by redesigning and managing access to our buildings. Our plan designates major entrances and controls access electronically. Additionally, these entrances and the entire exterior of the church are monitored with video cameras. We should all be grateful for the foresight and leadership of our Session, its Property & Operations Committee, and our Facilities Manager, Caleb Stephens.

Worshippers should know that the exterior doors are secured during worship services. If you need to leave the church building and re-enter, please find an usher to help you back in!

I am confident that our Session will maintain a thoughtful and deliberate approach to the security needs of our church and to authorize the appropriate responses.

Gordon Turnbull

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## Staff Anniversary



Steve Grant  
4 Years

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### November

30 - Turner Long

### December

- 1 - Marianna Henry, Calvin Hendrix
  - 3 - Ken Bell, Chris Campbell
  - 4 - David Blais, Christian Sims, Sofia Fowler
  - 6 - Louise Penn, Catie Schaaf, Meredith Glass
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## By the Numbers

Attendance on Sunday, November 26

8:30 - 36

11:00 - 171

Weekly Offering Received: \$15,927.75

Weekly Budgeted Offering: \$16,336.85

YTD Offering Received: \$740,663.72

YTD Budgeted Offering: \$784,168.80



Please email all submissions for Steepetalk to [mscott@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:mscott@johnknoxpres.org). For Thursday publication, information must be received by Tuesday at 12 PM.

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