



SteepleTalk

*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

Second Sunday of Advent

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

Sermon: "Clearing the Path"
Gordon Turnbull

PREPARE

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 17th

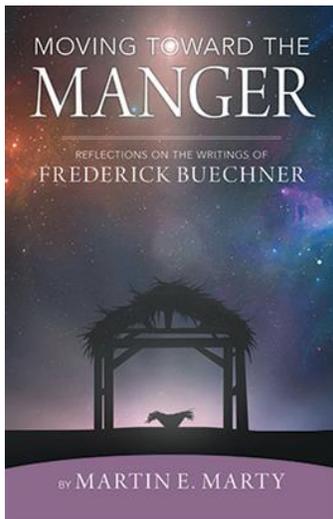
We ask all Angel presents to be turned in at the Administration Building. These presents do not have to be wrapped BUT need the Angel tag attached to the present.

Questions – Stevie Greene

e-mail – StevieCGreene@yahoo.com

cell-864-616-7430

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 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.

Please note: the church is not offering a dinner as part of our Christmas Eve schedule this year. The annual challenge of securing the catering for this event is compounded this year by the fact that December 24 falls on a Sunday. Thank you for understanding. We hope that each member and friend of John Knox finds ample opportunity for worship and fellowship through the schedule of five different worship services on December 24.

**Wednesday Night Activities
will resume in the New Year. We'll see you on
January 10, 2018.**

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



First Love, First Fruits

To date we have received 168 pledges toward our ministry in 2018 for a total of \$748,508.00. This amount covers 78% 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.



Youth Ministry News



Sr. High Girls Night

We had a wonderful night with our middle school girls last weekend and this Saturday it's High School girls night! Any high school girls are invited to Jessica's house (47 Swanson Ct.) for a sentimental Christmas movie and festive hot chocolate bar from 7-9PM. Can't wait to see you!

Sunday Night Youth Group: Service Event

Instead of our regular Sunday night schedule, we're switching things up to shop together for our angel tree recipients! Both Jr. and Sr. Highs should meet in the Youth Center at 4:30 to go shopping followed by dinner and fellowship back at the church until 6:30!

Youth Christmas Parties

Join us next Sunday for our last Sunday Night of the year as we celebrate Christmas with a gift exchange and other holiday fun! Jr. Highs from 4:30-6, Sr. Highs from 5:30-7. Don't forget to bring a gift for the white elephant exchange that is no more than \$5.



Children's Ministry News

Parents' Night Out

This Friday, December 8 is Parents' Night Out. For those that are signed up, please have your children meet us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for a pizza dinner and holiday crafts. We will also be making gingerbread houses! *Remember to bring a few of the suggested items to help the children decorate their houses: cans of vanilla icing (we need lots of these!!), peppermints, M&Ms, gumdrops, and licorice.* Please have your children wear their pajamas for lots of festive holiday fun! A nursery will be available for children three

years old and younger. Our evening will end with a Christmas movie in the Youth Center. Parents may pick their children up in the Youth Center at 8:30.

Children's Music Program

Our children did a beautiful job singing during our Hanging of the Greens service. Our next holiday performance will be on Christmas Eve. The children will be singing during the Family Christmas Service which begins at 5:00. Please have your children wear their Christmas outfits, and meet Mrs. Martin in the choir room at 4:30 to prepare. Parents can go ahead and get a seat in the sanctuary. After their practice, we will bring the children to the sanctuary to sing at the beginning of the service. The children will join their families in the pews after they sing.



Clerk's Report

The Session of John Knox Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM, in the Kirk Room for their regular monthly meeting. The following are some of the items discussed:

- Ryan O'Sullivan gave an update on the Stewardship Campaign. Average pledge size is up from last year. We have slightly fewer pledges during the first two weeks, but the dollars match last year.
- Gordon Turnbull advised that David Howell, the new Associate Pastor, will start on the 27th. In addition, the new Elder training was finished yesterday.
- Adult Sunday School options for curriculum after we finish with 'The Jesus Storybook Bible' were sent out by Gordon Turnbull to all classes. Folks have been reminded that curriculum must be reviewed and approved by CE.
- CMO has reviewed the schedule and purpose for special offerings in the coming year. They propose reducing the number of special offerings by eliminating the Blanket Offering as well as the offerings on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Additionally, the Gideon greeting card display will be removed from the Narthex.
- Two of the three donation bins in the Office Building will be removed. The remaining one will be designated for food.
- Maury Purcell advised that 13 people attended the inquiry for repeat visitors and that 8 new folks joined on 11/12.
- The digital directory is coming along and they hope to start pulling it together after 12/1.
- Stevie Greene has agreed to lead the Evangelism committee going forward.
- The WNL 'Who is my Neighbor' series has finished up to wonderful feedback.
- Homecoming was a huge success, with 250 folks attending.
- Basketball season is off to a great start. Steve Meggs thanked Jon Nelson and Caleb Stevens for their extra efforts.
- Jeanne Peak advised that M&W met last Monday to start planning for next year.
- Folks were reminded that the Hanging of the Greens will be on December 3rd this year.
- They will order enough poinsettias to deliver to our homebound members and coordinate their early delivery.
- Readers and Communion servers have been pretty well all lined up for Christmas Eve Services.
- Kitty Olson, of Nurture, reported that the eight Care Group Companions have all been assigned and training should take place in February.

- Rich Falasco reported that the Transportation Ministry is doing well, with two folks served this month.
- The WNL meal delivery is going smoothly.
- The report from the Seminar on Aging was shared. Over 120 people attended and the feedback was very positive. They received 11 suggestions for future programs.
- The Women's Retreat will be in February.
- Jim Barnett reported for P&O that a new water fountain was installed in the Gym.
- The sound booth plans and pricing will be brought to the Session soon.
- The renovation of the Old Parlor is progressing and they hope to bring final numbers to the Session for approval soon.
- The monies for the Kirk Room Chairs are in hand. Their purchase is underway.
- The Sanctuary HVAC system has been repaired which should help with the humidity problems.
- Repairs are complete to the Fellowship Hall roof.
- The Committee proposed and the Session approved changing the locks on two more doors, the Choir entrance and the Youth Center doors, so they will be on the new electronic system. The cost will be \$ 7,000 and come from the Capital Improvement Funds.
- The Session agreed to schedule the ordination and installation of the new Elders for January 14th at both services.
- The Session agreed to schedule the installation of Rev. David Howell, as our new Associate Pastor, for January 28th, if it works for the other folks that will be participating.
- Dr. Turnbull led a discussion of security on our campus. The consensus was that it is good for the Congregation to know that the Session has been thinking about protecting the flock, even before the recent tragedy in Texas. Going forward the question is: Are there things we can do better? The Administrative Committee proposed and the Session approved a motion that: The Moderator appoint a team of 5 to 7 people to study and come back to the Session with a report and recommendations regarding security by March 23rd. They will be charged with reviewing our current practices and looking into options, including classes that are available to educate our folks.
- Glenda Wickstrom gave the Session an update on her studies and her service at John Knox for her CPE requirement. She thanked the Church for the opportunity to serve. Glenda spoke about her passion, particularly the stories of women over 55, who live alone and have problems getting to church. She explained the theological component of her passion for serving and caring.

Dick Powers
Clerk of Session

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

- 7 - Cindy Muldrow, Amanda Wilson
- 8 - Joan Bourdon, Laura Herd
- 9 - Phyllis Nolan, Kenneth Cates
- 10 - Jean Fontaine, Stan Tew, Joy Grayson
- 11 - Carol Phillips, Jeremy Meggs, Beth Pratt
- 12 - Tenison Stokes
- 13 - Dorothy Watrous, Troy Tipton, Cooper Nyvall

By the Numbers

Attendance on Sunday, December 3
8:30 - 57
11:00 - 244

Weekly Offering Received: \$17,665.35
Weekly Budgeted Offering: \$16,336.85
YTD Offering Received: \$758,329.07
YTD Budgeted Offering: \$800,505.65



Please email all submissions for Steepetalk to m.scott@johnknoxpres.org. For Thursday publication, information must be received by Tuesday at 12 PM.

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