



THE BELL AND THE WELL

December 2013/ January 2014

Volume 47
Number 12

Reassess, Repent, & Resolve

All spiritual emotions and high resolves die unless nourished. We are sometimes surprised and chagrined at our own loss of zeal and piety and at the inability to pray as we once did. One day, like the startled bridesmaids of the gospel, we wake up and see smoking wicks instead of brilliant flames. The snuffed flame is a result of our doing nothing; luxuriating in a status quo, just sleeping, like the bridesmaids. Most lives are not ruined through wickedness, but through the gradual gathering of grease and scum when not stirred by sacrifice. (William McNamara, "Spiritual Life Institute")

The season of Advent is an opportunity to *reassess* one's spiritual health through an examination of one's personal relationship with Christ. Advent marks the church's New Year. We begin a new church year (Dec. 1) with each day that leads us to the celebration of Christ's birth. Christians are not "calendar people"; we are followers of Christ. His leading, through nights and days of Advent, point us to Christmas and, then, to new opportunities to follow. Using Advent as a time to assess one's spiritual health allows one to prioritize how the days of a New Year will be spent.

Advent does not necessarily call for dramatic action, although some may find such action to be appropriate. Preparing to celebrate Christ's birth may cause some to make specific changes in their spiritual behavior. Such change is known as *repentance*, a turning around to head in a new direction. A new direction affords opportunity to see the life of faith from a *new* perspective; it also affords a chance to avoid making the same mistake, again. An example of gaining a new perspective is the reading of *The Story*. If you were not involved prior to the Advent, discern the Lord's nudge to become involved in 2014. Reading scripture together and with an openness to see the Bible's big picture (God is with us) is a way to be open anew to the Lord. Such openness to the risen Lord will often find us responding with a 180 degree change in attitude, direction and appreciation for being people of faith.

Each New Year comes with a call to live in a new way. Such new ways come with *resolutions*. There are important reasons to be resolved to change and to be changed, and there is good reason to grow suspicious of convention, the *status quo*. For one, the *status quo* becomes tasteless and uninspiring. How is flavor restored to the life of faith? One way is to accent (think "spicing up") life with sacrifice, giving over to God more of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure. Note carefully: God's use of sacrifice is never to deny but to enhance. The Lord does not use sacrifice to strip us of things; rather, through sacrifice we notice how the Lord uses things in *new* ways, ways we often overlook.

There is a seamless quality about the life of faith. Seeking to avoid compartmentalizing faith is helpful. Our God's sovereignty spans *all* of life, not just "here," not just "there," but everywhere. For now, notice how Advent can guide us where to place our heart, hands and feet in a New Year. Notice, as well, the ways God already has claim over those days of a New Year.

Faithfully,
Gus Succop, Pastor

Hangings of the Greens/Covered Dish Dinner — December 1, 5:30 p.m.

Live Nativity — December 14 & 15, 6:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship — December 24, 5:30 p.m.



News,
Events,
& Happenings
in and around
Quail Holla



December 2013—January 2014



Welcome to Winter Quarter!

This special edition of our newsletter will preview what we'll be doing in all of our programming areas for Winter Quarter (December 2013—February 2014):

Church School

In Church School this quarter we'll be taking a look at *Jesus with Dirty Feet*. The last time we covered JWDF it took us a couple years to get through all of the thought-provoking and challenging re-definitions it presented. The short story of the book is this: over the centuries Christianity has been encumbered by excess baggage that has gotten us away from the simple truths that exist at its core. JWDF strips away all the extra stuff and gets us back to who Jesus is, who we are in Jesus, and what that means for our lives. Join us Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 am as we go through this special book!

Small Group

Is it crazy to believe in God or miracles? Is it nuts to trust in the Bible? Is it closed-minded to think that Christianity might be the only true way to get to know God? These are the questions that determine whether or not we think Christianity is worth our time and maybe *you* have asked all or some of these questions yourself at some point. These very questions are the ones we'll be taking up each Wednesday (6:45-7:45 pm) in Small Group during Winter Quarter so that you can know that Christianity is reasonable for yourself and when you are answering friends and strangers about your faith.

Youth Group

With all the special stuff going on during December on Sundays, we won't actually be having any Youth Group. But in January we'll resume once again and pick up with *The Story*. Each week we'll talk about a selected tale of a person or people from the Bible and think about how what goes on in their lives (the lower story) is really part of God's master plan to close the gap in the human-divine relationship that was opened in the Garden of Eden. Fun videos, thoughtful discussion, and a greater understanding of where our story fits into *God's* story will happen on Sundays from 4-6.

Special Events

Live Nativity (December 14-15)

Annual presentation of the Christmas story on the front lawn! Also join us for rehearsal on December 8.

Souper Bowl of Caring (January 1)

Annual fundraiser and service project to provide a "bowl of soup" for those who wouldn't usually have it on Super Bowl Sunday.

30 Hour Famine (February 21-22)

We experience hunger while learning about it around the world to find out how we can make the difference in poverty that God calls us to. Overnight event with GSPC.

facebook.com/quailholla qhpc.org/youth

PW NEWS



Ladies, mark your calendar!

Quail Hollow Presbyterian Women Annual Joy Gift Luncheon and Silent Auction

Saturday, December 7, 11:00 a.m.

Johnston Hall

Bring a salad to share. Desserts and drinks will be provided. Carol Hassel will be our guest speaker. The tote bags made by Dawn Ridley will be filled with collected toiletries and readied for delivery to Dove's Nest.

Also, if you wish, bring an item or two or three for the Silent Auction. This year, we are accepting and would appreciate donated items from anyone in the Church, not just PW. Items should be put in the small kitchen in Johnston Hall and marked for the PW Silent Auction.

All proceeds from the auction will go to the Joy Gift recipients. Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or providing opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related colleges and schools, our generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Gift Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance and spirit. For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). The Offering dates back to the 1930s when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and to provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

All ladies are invited. Bring a guest and join us for this very special event.

No Circle Meetings on Tuesday, December 10th

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, January 14. The Morning Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. The Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 pm. Both Circles will meet in the Betty Lambeth Parlor.

For the month of January, the PW will collect items for the Health Unit at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School. See the PW directory for a list of needed items.

Each month, the QHPW receives a special offering, *The Least Coin Offering*. The Offering is an ecumenical prayer movement focused on peace, justice, and reconciliation. As each of us offers prayers, we should set aside a least coin as a symbol of our prayers. As they are collected, these coins join many others from all parts of the world to advance the causes of justice, peace and reconciliation while supporting a variety of projects to help women and children know a better life.

December Scripture Lessons

Indeed, the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.
(Hebrews 4: 12)

December 1, 1st Advent (Holy Communion): Isaiah 2: 1-5

Pastor Succop preaching: *The Empty Bag*

December 8, 2nd Advent: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Pastor Succop preaching: *The Surprise Bag*

December 15, 3rd Advent: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Pastor Succop preaching: *Pack Your Bag*

December 22, 4th Advent: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Pastor Succop preaching: *In the Bag*

December 24, Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Pastor Succop preaching: *Holding the Bag*

December 29, 1st Sunday in Christmas: **The Story** resumes: I Samuel 16: 1-13

Pastor Succop preaching: "David -- *The Least of These*"

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

January Scripture Lessons

The Bible is alive -- it speaks to me; it has feet -- it runs after me; it has hands -- it lays hold on me.
(Martin Luther)

January 5, 2nd Sunday in Christmas: Psalm 23

Pastor Succop preaching: "David -- *A Personal Credo*"

January 12, Baptism of the Lord (Holy Communion): Proverbs 2: 1-5

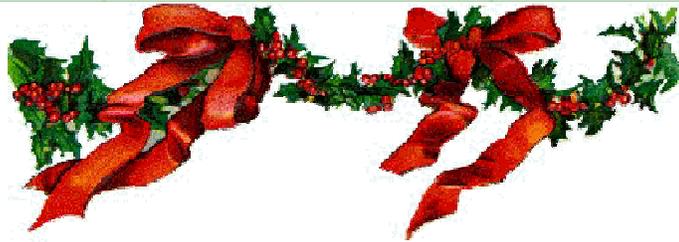
Pastor Succop preaching: "Solomon -- *Timeless Advice*"

January 19, 2nd Sunday in Epiphany: I Kings 12: 1-11

Pastor Succop preaching: "Kingdom Asunder -- *Recipe for Disaster*"

January 26, 3rd Sunday in Epiphany: Hosea 4: 1-10

Pastor Succop preaching: "Hosea -- *The Slippery Slope*"



Hanging of the Greens Service & Advent Covered Dish Dinner

Sunday Evening, December 1st

Worship at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Covered Dish Dinner

Drinks and Dessert will be provided

An evening of fellowship and joy to begin the season of Advent.

P.S. Please bring your greens and a dish (or 2) to share.

You are Invited!

ADVENT CRAFT

For Advent each family is provided with a "take home" Advent Craft. In preparation for Advent and the "Hanging of the Greens" service, Chrismon ornament kits (look for them in the Narthex) have been prepared.

The Chrismon Tree is decorated with the symbols that tell the story of God's love. The word Chrismon is a combination of two words, "Christ" and "monogram." Therefore, a Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. All Chrismons are made with white and gold. White refers to Christ's purity and perfection. Gold refers to His majesty and glory. The white lights in the tree refer to "Christ, the Light of the World."

Each kit contains two Chrismons to decorate along with directions. Please bring *at least* one of your decorated ornaments to the "Hanging of the Greens" service on **Sunday, December 1st**. If you cannot come to that service, return them to the Narthex. These will be used to decorate the Chrismon tree that is traditionally placed in the Narthex during Advent and Christmas.



The Angels Are Coming!



The Christmas season seems to be right around the corner. While we are reminded of our many blessings this time of the year — our health, loving families, supportive friends — for the kids of Alexander Youth Network the holiday season can feel lonely and hopeless. As a faith community, we are called to help those in need, especially the children.

Your generosity last year was appreciated by the children and staff at Alexander’s. We hope you were blessed in your role by helping the children. We ask for your support again this year. Now is the time to prepare to reach out.

Be on the lookout for our beautiful *Angel Tree* standing strikingly in the Narthex. From the tree, you may choose an Angel, purchase your gift, and return it to the tree *unwrapped* on Sunday, December 8. Toys, games, and books are commonly requested by the children. Gifts of necessities such as winter pants, boots, and sweaters are also needed.

Through your generosity and kindness, the children of Alexander Youth Network will have reason to smile during the Christmas season and throughout the winter. Please help to make Christmas a celebration they will remember for years to come.

Questions? Speak with Jan Federal
704-544-1625
jgf331@carolina.rr.com

2014 Pledge Update



2013 Pledges
104 Pledges
Pledge Total: \$282,844

2014 Pledges to date
81 Pledges
Pledge Total: \$231,582

In order to effectively be the church that God has called us to be, we need full participation of all members of QHPC in **joyful giving**. As the above numbers reflect, we are still quite a ways from matching our current pledge totals. If you have not yet turned in a 2014 giving card, please do so. Giving cards are available in the Narthex.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

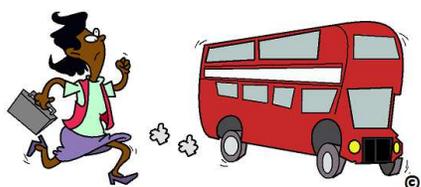
As I reflect on the 2013 Preschool year, I continue to be amazed of all the blessings we have here. Most of our blessings are due to the caring community that includes our staff, our Preschool families, and church members. Allow me to share some of the wonderful ways they have all touched each other this year. In November, a few of our children have been out of school for extended periods for various reasons. Their Preschool friends made them cards and teachers sent them home activities to keep occupied. The Preschool community is even active over the summer when our staff was in support of a few of our teachers who experienced some trying times. This included childcare, food, and transportation. Teachers have also served as leaders for the Quail Hollow Presbyterian VBS! On several occasions it was brought to my attention that Preschool families were in prayer for other Preschool families. Once, a student (age 5) handed me a nickel to donate to our church. Notably, our church family has often welcomed Preschool families at "Rally Day," in the nursery on Sundays or at other events. I have had church members contact me sometimes to offer toys for the Preschool to use or sometimes just to tell me how wonderful they think our Preschool is. I could not agree more! I look forward to *more* blessings in 2014!

Erin Gillis
Preschool Director



Magic of Christmas at the Blumenthal

For those of you who signed up to attend the *Magic of Christmas* on Thursday, December 5 at the Blumenthal, the bus will depart the QHPC parking lot at 6:30 pm. Please be on time!



O Mystery of the gathering Dawn

10.6.10.6

O Mystery of the gathering Dawn,
Thy light to us belong.
By grace Thy people know blessing and gain;
No more will darkness reign.

Purify our smallness and our error,
Thy peace sought in favor;
We know true life lived so generously,
Found in Thy poverty.

O Advent song that angel host still sing,
New life to us they bring;
'Til one by one we stand at Thy manger,
Friendship born from stranger.

Lift up from rubble the call to intone
A love for foe alone;
What joy! What stars! when all to Christ we choose,
Full of glory our news!



Ladies Lunch Out.....January 28



Please join us for a delicious lunch at Trio Restaurant, Pineville Matthews Rd. New Members, come join us! We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday , January 28th at 11:30 a.m.

Please call Carol Crumbley ([704-542-6273](tel:704-542-6273)) by January 24 if you plan to attend.

A Live Nativity

Please bring your family, friends, and neighbors to see the Live Nativity on December 14 or 15. Presentations are 15 minutes long beginning at 6 and 7 pm each evening. After each presentation, the cast mingles with the audience to visit and answer questions. Bundle up, pray for clear weather, and bring your lawn chairs!



“... God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity ... down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.”

CS Lewis (**Miracles**)

December Birthdays

Sue Kusel	December 1
Josh Aelick	December 3
Susie Baker	December 3
Colin Brandt	December 6
Lee Dempsey	December 7
Lenore Foote	December 7
Lynn Jenkins	December 7
Janet Stephens	December 7
Scott Kusel	December 8
Sherrie Young	December 8
Dorothy Andre	December 9
Hal Philips	December 9
Samia Kurani	December 13
Lynn Boger	December 14
Mary Hice	December 14
Sook Bae	December 19
Fred Geiter	December 19
Allecia Adams-Cobb	December 21
Lauren Warstler	December 23
Charlie Succop	December 24
Phyllis Brown	December 29

January Birthdays

Jackie Page	January 1
John Walters	January 5
Ed Sellers	January 6
Rich Bonnell	January 7
Larry Ferguson	January 7
Joann McMeen	January 7
Grace Mitchell	January 7
John Federal	January 8
Alyssa Bartholomew	January 14
Kathryn Gill	January 19
Dawn Ridley	January 23
Gale Bonnell	January 27
Phyllis Dempsey	January 27
Freda Gummerson	January 28
Anna Cheney	January 29



Inclement Weather Policy



According one noted Christian, G. K. Chesterton, there is an appropriate correlation between a faith that *defies* the world and an act of worship that *defies* the weather. Although worship will not be canceled, postponed, delayed or deleted, please take *extreme* caution if you choose on a wintry morn to set out to attend the 11 a.m. worship hour. **Remember:** worship is not something we have to do. Worship is something we choose to do, and to the glory of God.

December Ushers

Cheryl & Sarah Robertson
John & Trish Simpson
Nancy Geiter
CJ & Peggy Warstler
Peggy Nelson

January Ushers

TBA: Watch the weekly email.

Usher Coordinators: Allen Smith & Steve Nelson

YEAR-END GIVING

Please note that all giving you wish to have credited to the 2013 tax year must be received at the church office no later than Tuesday, December 31 or postmarked no later than December 31, if mailed.



**VISIT THE
 CHURCH WEBSITE
 AT
www.qhpc.org**

October 2013 Financial Report

October Tithes and Offerings	\$ 22,034
YTD Tithes and Offerings	\$276,118
YTD Budget for Tithes & Offerings:	\$279,066
YTD Actual Tithes & Offerings vs. Budget	-\$ 2,948

YTD Total Church & Preschool Actual Revenues (offerings + other revenues) versus Expenses: + \$36,838

Please note the church office schedule changes:

December 24, 25-closed
 December 26- 8am-3:30 pm
 December 27-closed
 December 31, January 1- closed

Room in the Inn 2014

Jan. 11 & 25
 Feb. 8 & 22
 March 8 & 22

2014 WOMEN'S RETREAT * May 16-18
Valle Crucis Conference Center

Save The Date!

**February Newsletter
 Articles/Information**

Deadline for Articles:
Friday, January 10



*Submit your articles to
qhpcnewsletter@gmail.com*



Quail Hollow

Presbyterian Church

Loving God...loving neighbor

Active Elders

Class of 2013

Mark Bartholomew
Ron Blake
Lee Dempsey
Cheryl Mims

Class of 2014

Rich Bonnell, clerk
Reid Johnson
Waldo Miller
Bill Navarro
Janet Stephens

Class of 2015

Jan Federal
Sherrie Young
Stephanie Burns

Moderator: Gus Succop, Pastor

Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church (USA)

Learning Hour 9:45 a.m.
11 a.m. Worship

Church Office: 704-554-5714
Preschool: 704-553-9614
Office Fax: 704-554-0054

VISIT US ON THE WEB! www.qhpc.org

Visit us on Facebook! www.facebook/quailhollowpresbyterian

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 to 1:00 p.m.