

BIG COVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MID-WEEK REMINDERS

Week of January 3-10, 2016



WORSHIP LEADERS for *this coming Sunday, January 10:*

9 AM: Greeter: Alaina Harvey

Host/Hostess: Nicole Harris

Worship Leader: Debbie Book

Power Point: Sylvia Romero

11 AM: Usher: Dexter Gentle

Worship Leader: Mickey Sharp

Readers: Todd Worthington (Isaiah 43:1-7), Gail Birdsong (Psalm 29)

Care Center and Wave Team leaders for *the rest of this week, through January 9:*

Care Center Pick-up: Juanice Scrimshire

WAVE Team: Hartwell & Pat Lutz

Care Center and Wave Team leaders for *next week January 10-16:*

Care Center Pick-up: Juanice Scrimshire

WAVE Team: Connie Sharp

The Children's Home Box brought in \$54.00 this week. Thank you!

Brenda Copeland unexpectedly had to return to Duke for some checks and tests (scheduled on Thursday and Friday this week) to see why her lung function numbers had dropped some. Please keep her and Don in your prayers.

THIS WEEK:

- **Immersion Bible study** continues Wednesday January 6 at 6.
- **Thursday Prayer group** will meet at 10 Thursday, January 7.
- **Christian Exploration** for adults will meet this Sunday. The participant sheet is attached.
- **Presbyterian Women** will meet on Monday January 11 at 10:00.
- **Centering Prayer** will meet at 6:00 on Monday evening, January 11. Renay is leader.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **The annual congregational meeting will take place between the worship services on January 17.** In this meeting, the budget and reports from various groups in the church will be presented and new officers for the coming year will be elected. Church officer nominees from the nominating committee are: for elder: Dexter Gentle and Tennent Lee; for deacon: Melinda Harvey and Michele Pepper. (I'm sorry I listed incorrect information about the officers in the January newsletter. This is the correct info!)
- **The ordination and installation of new officers will take place on January 24**—new deacons in the 9:00 service and new elders in the 11:00 service.

- **I unintentionally failed to update the contact list** in the January newsletter to include *Julie Loggins and Clay Weir*, who have taken on the post of liaison to the Presbyterian Children's Home. They have been approved by the session and have already proven their love and ability through the excellent job they did in arranging for so many brand new bikes to be delivered for Christmas for children who live there. Thank you for taking on this important role!
- **Thanks to the many of you have chosen weeks to provide and dedicate flowers for the sanctuary** in 2016. The calendar on the bulletin board in the stairwell vestibule; see if there are empty Sundays you would like to fill! You may leave a check (\$25 for each arrangement) designated "Flowers" in the envelope beside the calendar or place it in the offering. Remember you may take the arrangement with you after the 11:00 service on days you provide them.
- **Many who keep track of the year of each Star Sunday star** have suggested that you might write "2016" on the back of your star since we forgot to label the stars with the year this time! There are stars left on the table in the back of the sanctuary, so you haven't missed your chance.
- **Worship leaders**, I have had to hold off making up and sending the full 3-month-long quarter's schedule of leaders, so *please be sure you have noted the schedule for January which is included in the January newsletter*. There is a copy of the letter posted on the church website, so you can see it even if you deleted the newsletter e-mail. [I think I now have all of the information that I need and hope to finish that list and send it out the first of next week.] Thank you!--Mary

The Session carried out the following tasks at last night's session meeting:

1. Approved a proposed plan for a retreat for the confirmation class.
2. Discussed need for a Christian Education Leader.
3. Approved a 2016 budget presented by the finance team.
4. Approved the use of the facility for May 14 wedding.
5. Approved renewal of internet/phone contracts.
6. Approved Ordination Service for Jan. 24. Deacons will be ordained at 9am service and Elders at the 11am.
7. Planned Ordination training.
8. Approved Julie Loggins and Clay Weir as Presbyterian Home for Children Liaisons.
9. Approved James Glenn as Youth Leader.

Here is important information from your Pastor Nominating Committee:

The newly-formed Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) met in December with the North Alabama Presbytery's Liaison, Sarah Martin, for an orientation about the process for BCPC to follow as the PNC begins a search for our new minister. Sarah, a member of the Guntersville Presbyterian Church, provided a comprehensive overview of the duties required for our candidate search to PNC members Dallas Ferneau, Jeff Harris, Sharon Bell, Michelle Pepper, Todd Worthington, Judy Styles and Don Barnhart. At this inaugural meeting, Don volunteered to Chair the PNC. The PNC will meet again on January 10th to begin defining what kind of leadership we are seeking. The recently completed CAT assessment will be an important asset in discerning our leadership needs.

In the next couple of months, please share your thoughts with PNC members about the type of minister we need to lead and grow our church. As our process unfolds, we will add further information in the monthly newsletters and during the announcement section of our worship services. Keep in mind that this is a thorough process involving our Session, who must approve PNC action, and the North Alabama Presbytery Commission on Ministry before submitting our final search documents to PCUSA. While it is impossible to predict a timeline for this process, it will probably be summer or early fall before our PNC efforts culminate in actual candidate submittals.

Children and Youth Christian Education Report from Linda Wheeler:

At the end of September 2015, I stepped in as your temporary Christian Education Director (CED.) I am pleased to report that the Adult Christian Formation group leaders agreed to continue the stellar program in place. Therefore, my focus was Children and Youth. I met with Session last evening and updated them of Confirmation Class and K-12 and below are highlights for you as we move into 2016.

- **K-12th Grade Students**
 - I reviewed various curricula and have material available for 4-6 weeks.
 - Meanwhile, **we need you to help in areas of teaching or assisting in the classroom** (preparing supplies, etc.) I trust if you were on the Teaching Roster last semester you will continue. **Elder Kathy Barnhart will be contacting you to prepare the 2016 Teaching Rotation Roster.**
- **Confirmation Class**
 - Confirmation Leaders for **Semester 2** will be Neva Beasley and Linda Wheeler.
 - Permission was granted to have a **Confirmation Weekend Mission Retreat**. Neva and I will get with parents to poll a weekend that will work for all.
- **CED for Children and Youth**
 - Session will move toward to filling the position. My prayer is that someone will feel led to say "yes" to continue developing and implementing a program of ministry for Spiritual Growth for children and youth.
- **Teacher Training and Child Protection Training**--I have talked with Karen Madison, recently retired CED of First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville. She is willing to hold a training session in February for current and potential teachers. (date to-be-determined)

From Pastor Linda:

Dear Beloveds,

Thank you all for your awesome Christmas wishes and gifts. The tasty treats, cards and wishes, beautiful artful items, flowers, cash, and donations for mission work blessed me and warmed my heart so very much. You all are the best! And thank you for a lovely Christmas celebration on Christmas Eve. What a gift it was to hear, "This is the best Christmas service ever at Big Cove Presbyterian Church." The glory belongs to God always, and I praise him that you all felt his presence.

I thank Mary Hooper for her very hard and diligent work and help during the so busy time of Advent and Christmas. She put in extra time and a very special effort to make your Christmas joyous and blessed. Plus, she worked hard to help and support your new interim pastor. She is a wonderful Administrator! BCPC is in good hands with Mary. Do make time to thank her and give her a hug.

Thank you to Houston. I love good preaching and it was a special blessing to hear Houston deliver the Word. God has blessed BCPC with a wise and experienced servant of the Lord.

Thank you to all the teachers and conveners of the study groups. You gift us more than you can ever know. You are like farmers, digging, planting, and thanking God when the light shines.

And, thank you to the worship teams for both services, and those who served in any capacity during the Advent and Christmas season. What a gift you are to the people of God who come to BCPC to experience God's presence. YOU are the instruments God uses to reach others.

Thank you to all who give the gift of food. Amazing! The love you give in the art and science of hospitality is divine. We ALL appreciate you so very much.

I have surely missed someone and I apologize. However, space is limited here. Do know, I thank you ALL! See you at worship on Sunday.

Happy and blessed New Year!

Pastor Linda

Happy Birthday this week!

Jeff Harris on the 8th