



The Wood-Burner



Woodburn Presbyterian Church Newsletter November & December 2021



We Welcome all to come worship with us!

Woodburn Presbyterian church

Session and contact info

Class of 2021

Pat Cross 910 371-2404

John Crowder 910 371-9921

Class of 2022

Pam Butler (910) 399-1668

Kathy Blair (412) 999-9592

Class of 2023

Janet Morris 408-1295

Nancy Smith (703)-400-7702

**Pastoral needs?
call Pastor Scott
(910) 269-1442**



Give thanks for all the blessings God has given us. We are also thankful for all the health care workers and first responders that are working tirelessly though this pandemic.

**Happy Thanksgiving to ALL (November 25th)
From your church family.**

Find us on Facebook and on our Web page

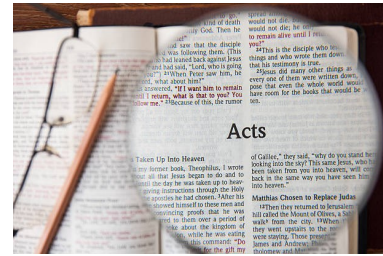
The BOOK OF ACTS bible study

Study in the **Book of Acts** starting November 17th at 10:00 AM at the church. Please let the Pastor know if you are attending. 910 269-1442

The Book of Acts covers the history of the beginning of the Christian Church and is designated or divided into periods. Chapters 1-7 covers the Jerusalem Period. In these chapters, is the recorded account of the Resurrection of our Lord and the infusion of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the recognition of the first Christians, which were not referred to by that title until later. They saw themselves as Jews still. Chapters 8-12 cover the Palestinian Period. The focus of these chapters involves the spreading of the Word into Samaria. There are many interesting questions answered here: Was the evangelistic work limited to the



Apostles, or even to them and the demons? Who and how was the leadership to the Samaritans or in Samaria determined? How does Satan's ambassador himself become a witness to the Resurrection and finally how did Satan withstand the leadership? In chapters 13-15 is the Asia Minor Period. This is the account of Paul's missionary journey. The fifteen chapters here deal with the first Counsel of the Church. Then chapters 15: 36 begins the Greco-Macedonian Period, which tells or describes Paul's second missionary journey. His third missionary journey is where Paul visits to Phrygia and Galatia which subsequently follows. Chapter 21 gives us the all-important journey to Roman and the most profound theology and witness to who Christ is. This will be a wonderful time for us to get together and share in this study.



-Christmas—!

yes —just around the corner

By John Birkenheuer

There are actually two different Christmas stories (not counting popular later add-ons like the Little Drummer Boy, Santa, and Rudolph). Matthew and Luke differ in significant ways in their versions of the birth of Jesus. Matthew traces Jesus' roots back to Abraham to emphasize his role as the Jewish Messiah. Luke traces him all the way back to Adam, to emphasize the universal importance of his life and message. Matthew says the birth was in Bethlehem because that's where



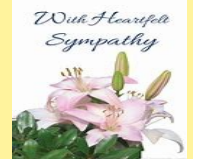
Mary and Joseph lived. He has them fleeing from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape Herod, then later returning and deciding to live in

Nazareth because it was a safer distance from Jerusalem. Luke says they lived in Nazareth, went to Bethlehem for a census and were forced to stay in a manger. Luke has the shepherds, Matthew has the Wise Men.

The point is neither author was intending anything like an accurate, historical description of an event. Neither was either deliberately fudging facts. They were both—in their own ways and for their own readerships—telling the “spiritual truth” about an event of tremendous significance—an event whose importance could never be expressed or understood with a simple recitation of human facts.

Both Jewish and Greek traditions were filled with stories of “miraculous” births. It was an accepted and effective way of alerting people that someone important had come on the scene. In our collective consciousness, we have understood that through the years. We cheerfully ignore the

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This newsletter begins again after a period of suspension due to the covid virus We really need your input as to what you need to have in this newsletter. send me your message at

Email comments at thelnr.crowder@gmail.com Or call 910 371-9921 Would you like to help with this newsletter? Call me

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Birthdays for November and December

November

Cathy Wilson (11th)
Josie Lang (25th)
Susan Floyd (26th)
James Wickwire (28th)
Scott Reeves (30th)

December

Helen Best (13th)
Marty Smith (18th)
Brooke Thomas (24th)
Clara Chadwick (30th)



Current Shut-Ins:
Please keep them in your prayers

Helen Best
Klara Chadwick
Doris Field
Jake & Rosemary Shepherd
Barbara Smith
Mike & Sally Sprinkle

Anniversaries

Anniversaries for November

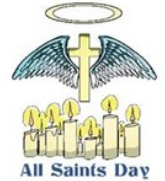
James & Abby Williamson (7th)
Arthur & Jody Herman (8th)
Eric and Nancy Forbach (21st)

Anniversaries for December

Sue and Dan Bollinger (5th)
Cathy and Charlie Wilson (6th)
Pam and Todd Butler (8th)



All Saints Day was November 1st and is celebrated on the first Sunday of November during the season of Pentecost. It is a universal festival of the Church when Christians give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the lives of all people. All Saints Sunday is a day for remembering and giving thanks for the unending goodness of God. As a lesser festival, this occasion marks and celebrates events in the life of Christ and Christ's presence in the lives of the saints. Observing these lesser festivals is a way of recovering and upholding the sense of the communion of saints that is so important to our understanding of the church. The liturgical color of the day is white.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION BIBLE STUDY STARTING ON WEDNESDAYS TIME 10:00 AM and...

*We will be studying the **Book of Acts of the Apostles**:

Wednesday at 10:00 AM beginning 11/17/2021. Acts of the Apostles **gives an account of the deeds of the Apostles**. The message of The Good News went to the Jews first then the Gentiles, **because Jesus was a Jew; it also our story how the Christian Church got its beginning**. Acts has been called a transitional book because it serves as a bridge between the gospels and the epistles. ... Acts shows us how the church is to respond when living in a predominately pagan culture. Please come study and pray with us. Let Pastor Bunting know you can attend, Praise God!!

*We will also be offering a **new members class for four weeks, at 10:00 on Sunday** mornings starting the second Sunday in **January**; followed by a study in the Gospels.

***Wednesday at 5:30 PM 11/17/2021 we are starting our Bible study on the Book of Revelations.**

The Apostle John wrote Revelation, addressing it to the seven churches that were in Asia Minor, from the island of Patmos. The purpose of the book was **to strengthen the faith of the members of these churches by giving to them the assurance that deliverance from the evil powers arrayed against them was close at hand**.

Come join us for this pertinent study for the Church in the end times.

***2 - Cents a Meal Zomba School in Malawi Africa**

We take up an offering quarterly on the second Sunday of the month for this program (May, August, November, and February). Our last offering, we collected \$ 220.00 Next Sunday we will be taking up this collection for this quarter.

The Zomba CCAP School in Malawi Africa receives support from the Two-Cents-A-Meal (Cents Ability) offering collected throughout our presbytery. This report is from the Associate Pastor at St Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wilmington who recently visited the school.

Bryant Holmes is the chair of our hunger committee that oversees this and how you can apply for a hunger grant fund disbursement. Learn more about our other recipients at

presbycc.org/2014/hungerinfo/

Zomba School are orphan, and otherwise desperate children who were just homeless. When they are taken in by the school they receive an education, uniforms, shoes, two daily meals, jackets, and blankets. They also receive the gospel and hear of God's love for them. These funds through the Cents-Ability program is the only money supporting this mission. Thanks be to God for churches like ours that support this program.



Candlelight Service

The session approved a candlelight service for Friday December 24 at 5:30. More info on this to come!



Web News and Giving via web site

From the finance committee



Some of us pay our bills on line and this will be a great way for you to give to the church. There will be several ways that you will be able to do this and keep track and no worry about writing a check. If you prefer to write a check or give cash this will not effect you.

We are in the process of setting up a giving page on our website (www.woodburnpcusa.org). This website will be safe, and secure. The options for giving will be General Offering (Default) and some special offerings. We also plan to set it up for recurring payments that you will not have to go through the giving process each month, but we will provide a stop time for this so that you do not grant access forever.



We expect the process to take a couple weeks. to properly set up, and 'go live'. We will keep you informed when this on line giving is available to everyone.

Feel free to visit our website any time and we welcome any suggestions and recommendations to make it better.

Woodburn Presbyterian Church Why We Give

Rodney McCoy / Finance Committee

We respond in generosity to the way Jesus has been generous towards us. Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We want our hearts to be with Jesus! We encourage our church to give towards what is important to Him, to accomplish His mission.

Join us to have a healthy, Christ centered church that is a family of believers, and advances the Gospel of Jesus. Your generosity enables this to happen. We are grateful for what God is doing through your obedience. and we invite you to continue making this a regular rhythm in your life.

Giving at Woodburn Presbyterian Church, Leland, NC is simple and secure. Whether you'd like to give a single gift, or schedule ongoing giving, just click the link (Or complete the information below= not sure which) below to get started.

Note; if you have any desire to give any real property, this would be through the Session to insure correct handling. ###

Special Offerings from Jan 2021 to October 31, 2021

Special offering receipts Jan 2021 to October 31 2021					
Month	2 cents/meal*	Manna Ministries**	Building Fund/ Memorials	Cemetery	Bereavement fund***
Jan			\$101.00	\$75.00	
Feb		\$100.00		\$50.00	
March	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
April	\$189.00	\$140.00		\$450.00	
May		\$40.00			\$250.00
June		\$130.00			
July		\$130.00			
August	\$220.00		\$800.00	\$50.00	
Sept		\$30.00		\$75.00	
October			\$50.00		
Nov					
Dec					
total to date	\$409.00	\$570.00	\$951.00	\$700.00	\$250.00

* 2 cents per meal is a fund to help fight hunger both in this community and world wide. These funds are snet to Coastal Presbytery

** Manna Ministries is a fund to support only our local families in this community

***Bereavement Fund is used to pay for food cost for feeding the families of the deceased after funerals or for family needs after the funeral at the church provided by the women of the church.

Building Fund Balance\$17,823.40
 Cemetery Fund.....\$1,610.12
 Overall giving aver..\$7533.96 expenses average per month is \$8271.00 (Jan-Oct 2021)
 Budget will be presented Dec 11 during the congregation meeting more info will be shared at that time

Christmas —cont. from page 1

inherent conflicts between the two versions and weave them together into one magical Christmas story—with shepherds and Wise Men and angels and animals, and a stable and an angry king—and yes, a drummer boy if we feel like adding one. We intuitively know that the story is really being told at a deeper level.

So what is the story about, metaphysically? Some say it's about the birth of Christ, but that's not possible. The Christ is the Light and Love of God, present in each of us. It is our true spiritual identity, the creative power of God seeking to express himself through us. It is, therefore, as eternal as God—it can't be born.

What can be born, however, is our awareness of our true Christ nature. And what can be—and is—reborn every Christmas is our personal surrender, allowing more of the Christ to begin to express Himself through us. It is metaphysically true that the birth of Christ awareness is always a Virgin Birth. Its source is never the tangible world around us; our willingness is embraced and implanted by divine awareness. It's interesting that the two men involved in the story—Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, in Luke, and Joseph the husband of Mary in Matthew—both try to understand things from a limited human perspective. Zechariah “knows” that Elizabeth is too old to give birth. Jo-

seph “knows” that if Mary is pregnant, it's not by him and she must have been unfaithful. Both are visited by angels—symbols of divine guidance—assuring them that what is occurring, while not believable to mortal minds, is an expression of divine Presence.

So metaphysically what we celebrate each Christmas is not the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, and not the birth of the Christ, but the birth of Christ awareness. What Jesus brought to us was a spark of new light, new possibility—light that shines through the darkness of human confusion and illuminates the spiritual truth of who we are. And it doesn't just happen once. Every Christmas is a new birth—a new opportunity for each of us to give birth to more of the light—and to commit ourselves to nurture that light, trusting it, believing in its Presence within us, sending it forth with every choice we make to bring more of itself into expression—to create more, and more again, of the new consciousness with which we, each of us, is miraculously filled with the consciousness Jesus describes as “the kingdom of heaven.” Blessings! John



Other News —and What Else is Going On!

From the Clerk’s Desk—

Our Annual Congregation and Corporate Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, immediately following service. As part of this meeting we will, of course, review the Financial Report, the Clerk’s Annual Report, Worship Reports, Major Accomplishments, Committee Accomplishments, Election of New Elders, etc.; election of the nominating committee. We will also be discussing the full opening of the church including men’s and lady’s breakfast, passing the collection plates including full participation of communion and pew pads and other regular pre-covid issues including Church to full service and fellowship beginning January 1, 2022.

Session Meeting Minutes are available for your purview at any time. Please contact Kathy Blair to schedule a time as they must be kept secured.

Jane Miller Angel Tree

Angel Tree. The angel tree will be setup in the fellowship hall. It will have 14 “Angels” on it to be picked by you. These angels are those kids (and their families) that are students at Lincoln Primary school (Leland) . These kids have been chosen because they are some of the more underprivileged in our community. Each year some of our members pick an angel bag. If you would like to participate just pick a bag and purchase those items that these angels are in need of and or want for Christmas. Keep in mind these bags will be returned to the church no later than December 12. If you have nay question please ask Jane.

To Teaching Elders, Sessions, Educators, Colleagues in Ministry, other Pastoral Voices, Congregations and Friends of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina:

From the Presbyter

“It is with deep sadness that we share with you that Molly Lowry, wife of our General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, the Reverend Jerrod Lowry, has entered the Church Triumphant following a long struggle with complications from the Covid-19 virus. Her family said their goodbyes to Molly on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Molly was Jerrod's college sweetheart and best friend. She loved, supported and encouraged him throughout his ministry.

Additional information will be provided on the Presbytery's website and Presbytery's Facebook when it is available.

For now, we encourage you to hold Jerrod and the children, Kerryn, Kaleb, and Blake, and their entire family, in your hearts, praying that God will give them peace, comfort and strength now and in the days to come. And while we all mourn her loss, we rejoice with confidence in her glorious resurrection.”

James V. (Jay) Bender, Jr. QRE

Mary Sue Floyd —Recently Mary Sue went to her heavenly father in heaven. She was the cornerstone of our church and our long time secretary. If you needed anything she was there for us. We are saddened by her passing but we know that she is where she belongs -in heaven. Mary Sue was Woodburn Presbyterian Church. Please continue to pray for her and her family. Mary Sue’s Daughter , Susan now lives with Mary Sue’s sister Phyl Forbes. If you would like to send her a card you can mail it to:

*Susan Floyd
206 Water Lilly Road
Coinjock, NC 27923*

jcrowder