



# The Mustard Seed

".... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,  
nothing shall be impossible to you."

Matthew 17:20

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The newsletter of The Hermitage Presbyterian Church, 421 Highland View Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

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**JANUARY 2018**

## **LES IS MORE**

Happy New Year! Of course this is the time of resolutions. Lose weight? Be a better parent? Clean out that closet I've long ignored? Deep clean one room of the house each month? Put money into savings every month? Resolutions are just good intentions unless they are stated in measurable terms. How many pounds by when? How much money by when? On which day will I write that letter or pick up the phone?

We rarely examine and rarely make resolutions about our church membership. The Book of Order (*note: there are parts of our Book of Order that are down-right devotional in nature*) encourages us to consider the privileges and responsibilities of church membership. As you reflect over your life – what you learn from 2017, and to what you aspire in 2018, consider what church membership means – both the privileges and the responsibilities (from our Book of Order):

- *proclaiming the good news in word and deed,*
- *taking part in common life and worship of a congregation,*
- *lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,*
- *studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,*
- *supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,*
- *demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,*
- *responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,*
- *living responsibly in the persona, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,*

(Continued)

- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- caring for God's creation,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful. (G-1.0304)

No, nothing on that list about losing weight or working out. But when it comes to our spiritual health, this is a superb list to guide us to make resolutions for 2018. It is never too late to set a goal and work for it. God's mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23).

Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Leslie

## NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	Year-to-Date Income over (under) Expense
Regular Giving	\$ 15,020	\$ 167,692	
Operating Expenses	\$ 16,328	\$ 156,450	\$ 11,242
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 1,232	\$ 58,652	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 1,774	\$ 52,711	\$ 5,941
<b>TOTAL ALL GIVING</b>	<b>\$ 16,252</b>	<b>\$ 226,344</b>	
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 18,102</b>	<b>\$ 209,161</b>	<b>\$ 17,183</b>

**Jeff McCann, Sr.**  
Treasurer

## WELCOME FRIENDS

Nancy & Larry Spalluto  
Brock & Donna Courtice  
Mel Shoaf

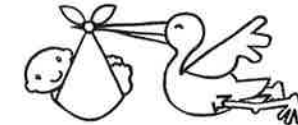


## WEDDING

Congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth Alley and Corey Ethridge on the occasion of their marriage on December 30. Elizabeth is the daughter of Lew and Amy Alley.

## FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted and ready for you to sign up to provide flowers/plant in the sanctuary during worship. Sign up now so you can get the dates you would like!



## NEW BABY GIRL

Congratulations to Malinda Burns on the birth of her first great grandchild, Carter Reneé, born December 4 to granddaughter, Amanda Carpenter in Louisiana.


## LITURGIST NEEDED

We are in need for people to sign up to be the liturgist on Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity to participate in your church and anyone (even youth) can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead the worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; we welcome you to do this, but it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities. Please reply to the church office, or to Renee Dugger ([lreneedugger@gmail.com](mailto:lreneedugger@gmail.com)) to volunteer or for more information.

## MEMORIAL BRICKS

We are still taking orders for Memorial Bricks to be placed around the fountain. Order forms are located in the narthex or request a form from the church office.

You can purchase a brick in honor or in memory of someone or just as a celebration. There are two sizes of brick to choose from. We need several other orders so that we can get free shipping. Place your order now!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2018</h1>						
	1 	2 7:00 pm - BSA Roundtable	3 10:00 am - Good Sam 7:30 pm - Choir	4 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	5 10:00 am - Food Closet	6  11 am - 5 pm - Private Event
7 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 12:15 pm - MOE 7:00 pm - A.A.	8 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	9 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	10 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	11 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	12 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	13
14 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Fellowship Coffee 12:15 pm - Business Team 7:00 pm - A.A.	15 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm BSA #263	16 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	17 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	18 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	19 10:00 am - Food Closet 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	20
21 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 12:30 pm - Session 7:00 pm - A.A.	22 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm BSA #263	23 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, Cracker Barrel 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	24 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	25 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	26 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	27
28 9:45 am - Sunday Shool 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Congregational Mtg 7:00 pm - A.A.	29 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm BSA #263	30 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	31 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir			



- 02 Diane Thurston
- 04 Angie Carpenter
- 09 Pat Gillie
- 12 Joyce Ramsey
- 19 Brandon Riggan
- 23 Shirley Woodroof
- 25 Melanie Carter
- 26 Sandra Byrd
- 27 John Robertson

*In order to keep our birthday list accurate & up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections & additions.*

## JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Jan. 07 Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- Jan. 14 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- Jan. 21 Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- Jan. 28 Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on December 17, 2017 following worship. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Hank Sweetman was elected Clerk of the Session, replacing Kathy Johnson who had resigned due to moving to Indiana.

The Session decided not to fill the Elder vacancy created by Kathy's resignation, but to operate with five Elders until the Class of 2021 is installed in June.

The church operating budget for 2018 was approved. The total budget will be \$224,534, and will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on January 28.

A Medical/Permission and Release form was approved. This will be used for the Youth when they are having an off-site event.

Recently the Church has been using gluten free communion wafers. These wafers are considerably more expensive than the regular wafers, and tend to spoil if not stored carefully. The Session decided that the Church will return to using regular wafers on the communion trays, but will offer gluten free wafers to any who so desire.

The January Session meeting will be on January 21 following morning worship.

**Hank Sweetman**  
Clerk of the Session

## FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of January, HPC will be collecting *canned tuna* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase needed supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help.

## FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

We begin a new year! Come see what's new and exciting in the life of Hermitage Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, Jan. 4	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Epiphany
Sunday, Jan. 7	M.O.E., 12:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31	Wednesday Night Supper, Study, and Youth, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 14	Fellowship Coffee following worship
Sunday, Jan. 21	Session, 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Lunch Bunch, Cracker Barrel, Hermitage, 11:30 a.m.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS, STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 P.M.

Jan. 10	Publix Chicken Potato Salad Salad/Rolls Dessert	Jan. 17	Chili & Baked Potatoes Hot Dogs Salad/Toppings Dessert
Jan. 24	Lasagna Salad Garlic Bread Dessert	Jan. 31	Creamed Chicken & Veggies Biscuits Salad Dessert

## THANK YOU NOTES

- ◆ Y'all are wonderful!

Because of your generosity, American Veterans were honored and remembered in a very special way at the Field of Honor. We sincerely appreciate the use of your church property to access the Field. It made a big difference in the number of people who came this year.

Desha L. Hearn, FOH Chair

- ◆ Thank you so much for all the loving and caring things you did as a church for our Uncle Rhea Williams. He loved his church and all the people that worshipped there. Pastor Leslie is a keeper.

Butch & Patsy Burnette

- ◆ Christmas Spirit came to me with a generous basket of goodies. As I use the many items, I will have a warm, special feeling for my church – Hermitage Presbyterian.

Midge Missimer

- ◆ Thank you all for remembering me at Christmas with a Gift Basket delivered by Shirley Woodroof. I'm enjoying all the goodies.

Cathy Hunt

- ◆ To all the wonderful Christian loving family of Hermitage Presbyterian Church, thank you for thinking of me at this time. I really miss the church. The gifts are perfect. God bless you all.

Ann Kent

## THANK YOU NOTES

- ◆ Thank you to my church family for the Christmas Gift Basket.

Arlene Brown

- ◆ Rue VanMiddlesworth would like to thank the church for giving her a Christmas Gift Basket! Thank you for making winter days fun for her, as Rue discovers each surprise, tastes each treat, wraps up in the beautiful, cozy lap blanket, reads and rereads the cheerful cards, mixes up the yummy drink packages, and recycles every colorful piece of paper and cardboard in her new artwork projects! Your thoughtful gift basket gives Rue special joy for Christmas, for her Christmas Eve 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, and for the whole winter season! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- ◆ Thank you to the church for my Christmas Basket. It is full of so many wonderful items that will last many months. Wishes to all for a healthy New Year in 2018, my 89<sup>th</sup> year.

Mildred Carter

- ◆ Thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers and visits during my recent hospital stay. May you have a healthy new year.

Also, thank you for the generous Christmas gift.

Sandra Riggan

- ◆ Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity this Christmas. I feel so blessed by this church and fortunate to have the opportunity to serve. And to the choir – I am so grateful for your commitment to our ministry of music. You are a hard-working, talented, joyful group and I look forward to the coming year!

Karen Bengtson