



# 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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Volume 48 No 7

JANUARY 2019

## LES IS MORE

For many of us, the holiday season is a lonely time. It hit me a few times this year, so I pulled from my bookshelf a book by Oswald Chambers called Christian Disciplines. It actually contains a chapter entitled, "The Discipline of Loneliness." That's a new one to me – the idea that loneliness could actually be a POSITIVE force in my life. As I scanned down the page, my eyes rested on these words: "Solitude with God repairs the damage done by the fret and noise and clamor of the world (p. 152)." Chambers uses "loneliness" as a synonym for "solitude." But what a reminder that being *alone* does not mean one has to be *lonely*.

We stand at the threshold of yet another new year. Resolutions, resolutions! Once again. Any time is good for starting anew (the mercies of the Lord are new every morning, and anyone who is in Christ is a new creation), but a new year provides an artificial starter's gun for us. Do you enjoy a regular time of solitude with God each day? Have you ever read the Bible in a disciplined, consistent manner? Or even in an undisciplined, consistent manner? The New Year is an excellent time to either start doing so, to continue your practice, or to try once again.

Spend some time alone with God each day, reading the written Word and praying. It takes some time (at least three weeks) to turn a new practice into a habit, so don't get discouraged if you have a "false start" and have to start out again.

With hope and love in Christ,  
**Leslie**

Thank you for the Christmas well-wishes and many remembrances I received from you. You continue to show me your warmth and hospitality, and it is a privilege to serve you in ministry.

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on December 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Through the end of November, operating income is 5% behind budget for the year but regular giving is ahead of last year's giving by 1%. Operating expenses are favorable to budget by 9% for the year. The Session would like to thank the congregation for continuing to give faithfully to support the operation of the Church.

The Business Team presented the budget for 2019 which was approved by the Session. The team also reported that bids for regular maintenance on the HVAC system are being reviewed and solutions are being looked at to better heat the women's restroom in the fellowship hall.

The MOE Team presented that Thanksgiving meals were provided for five families and socks, shoes & underwear were provided for children at Tulip Grove Elementary. The church packed 67 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Barnlofters donated food from their food drive and Old Hickory Presbyterian Church will be collecting food for our food closet. 12 Christmas gift baskets were assembled and given to our home bound members.

A congregational meeting is being called for Sunday 1/27 following worship.

**Jennifer Bingham**  
Clerk of Session

## KUDOS FROM THE SESSION

This month the Session would like to recognize Jeff McCann, Sr. for his hard work as our church Treasurer. Jeff spends hours making sure the church finances are kept accurately, oversees paying of staff and visits with people each week who need our assistance. Much of what Jeff does is "behind the scenes" so the Session wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his faithful service to our church.

Thank you Jeff, for all you do!

## WELCOME VISITORS

Jessica Cunningham

## FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex. Sign up for the date/s you would like to place a plant or flowers in the sanctuary during worship.

You can place flowers/plant in honor or in memory of someone or a special event. Please let the church office know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin

## LITURGIST NEEDED

We still need volunteers to serve as the liturgist during worship on Sunday mornings. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in worship and anyone can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities.

To volunteer, please reply to the church office, or contact Renee Dugger ([ireneedugger@gmail.com](mailto:ireneedugger@gmail.com)).

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Michael Bengtson for successfully completing his Eagle Scout Board of Review on December 16, 2018.

## IN SYMPATHY

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

Sandra and Don Jost at the death of Sandra's brother, Donald Brewer, on December 23, 2018.

Gaye and Ed McFadden at the death of Ed's sister, Joanne Reid, on December 27, 2018.

## THANK YOU

To my wonderful church family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus, your continued support for the choir and for your friendship. I feel very blessed to be part of this congregation and am looking forward to our music ministry in 2019.

Karen Bengtson



Dear HPC,

Thank you for the wonderful gifts you gave me. It is so thoughtful of you! I appreciate each gift you gave me. What a blessing.

You may be a small congregation, but all of you have BIG HEARTS! Again, Thank You!

In Christ we celebrate his wonderful birth and life.

Anne Kent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2019</h1>						
		1 	2 10:00 am - Good Sam	3 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	4 10:00 am - Food Closet	5 9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Barnlofters
6  9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 1:15 pm - MOE & BT 7:00 pm - A.A.	7 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:00 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	8 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	9 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	10 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	11 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	12 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Webelos Pin Day
13 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Fellowship Coffee 7:00 pm - A.A.	14 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	15 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	16 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	17 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	18 10:00 am - Food Closet 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	19
20 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	21 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	22 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, Darfon's 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	23 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	24 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	25 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	26
27 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	28 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	29 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	30 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	31 6:30 pm - Barnlofters		



- 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

January 06 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12  
 January 13 Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
 January 20 Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11  
 January 27 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

## MEET ADULT LEADER: MIKE JONES

Mike is a recovering Baptist and spent 30+ years in social work and focused on helping persons with drug addictions. Mike has his masters in social work from UT and is currently writing a book based on his experiences. Mike enjoys teaching Sunday School because he says he learns as much or more than his students. He also enjoys sharing Biblical truths.



## LITERATURE CLASS



The Literature Class will start the book "God of the Big Bang," How Modern Science Confirms The Creator, by Leslie Wickman, PhD, the first Sunday in January. Ms. Wickman is a former Lockheed Martin astronaut, rocket scientist and an engineer on the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station. She is currently director of the Center for Research in Science at Azusa Pacific University and chair of the Engineering and Computer Science Dept. Dr. Wickman is also an ordained minister.

In this faith affirming book, Dr. Wickman interprets complex scientific discoveries in ways we can understand helping us better discern how scripture, science and creation fit together. Dr. Wickman is not a creationist but a highly trained and educated scientist who shows science is not only not the enemy of faith but the universe is a revelation of a divine Creator.

## FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

**Wishing you and your family many blessings in 2019!** May the joy and expectation of the Christmas season carry through to the New Year.

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Jan. 02               | No Wednesday Night Supper or Bible Study                                    |
| Thursday, Jan. 03                | Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.  |
| Wednesday,<br>Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 | Prepared Supper, 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.                        |
| Sunday, Jan. 13                  | Fellowship Coffee, following worship  |
| Wednesday, Jan. 16               | Dr. Seow will join us again for further study of the Book of Job, 6:45 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 19                | Dinner Club, Alley/Gillie, Cantrell, Robertson host                         |
| Sunday, Jan. 20                  | Session, 1:00 p.m.  |
| Tuesday, Jan. 22                 | Lunch Bunch, Darfon's, 11:30 a.m.   |

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

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|---------|---|---------|--|------------------|
| Jan. 09 | Pizza and Game Night  | Jan 16  | Potluck Supper<br>Dr. Seow                           | Chicken Provided |
| Jan. 23 | Spaghetti and Meatballs<br>Salad<br>Garlic Bread<br>Dessert | Jan. 30 | Taco Bar<br>Refried Beans<br>Spanish Rice<br>Dessert |                  |



Looking for a great summer camp this summer? NaCome begins registration on January 1<sup>st</sup> and has a number of camps for all ages. Go to [nacome.org](http://nacome.org) to check out the great opportunities for camp this summer.

Too old to attend camp and want to help a camper this year? We have a scholarship fund that can help our church family children go to camp this year. If you would like to sponsor a child or give to this fund, simply make checks out to HPC and designate your giving to camp NaCome. Out of the generosity of our members last year, we were able to fully fund a camp fee for one of our youth members. All donations are appreciated and none too little to support this great program for our church youth and children. If you have questions about NaCome camp, please contact Ellen Deathridge for more information.

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

We recently opened our church to a family from out of town wishing to hold a memorial service. This is the note we received.

Dear Rev. Leslie,  
 Words could never fully express how much I appreciate your presence and kindness at my Mom's memorial service, as well as the warmth and helpfulness of the church members there that day! I truly feel that God led us there to be "loved on" as we faced a hard day. Even though we were from out of town, everyone made us feel like family -- as it should be, in God's family!

Thank you so very much for being there with us and for opening your lovely church home to us; it is obvious you have so much going on there and I know God has blessed your congregation for their warmth, patience and hospitality! I got several hugs from the lovely people serving there that day and I hope you will keep our deposit as a donation to your ministry. I hope to visit and worship with you when I come back.

Lisa Bondurant

## FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of January, HPC will be collecting *boxed macaroni & cheese* 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 hand out food bags to those in need in our area.

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## NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Income over (under) Expense</u>
Regular Giving	\$ 11,846	\$ 197,759	
Operating Expenses	\$ 17,574	\$ 175,711	\$ 22,048*
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 741	\$ 16,037	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 1,305	\$ 13,355	\$ 2,682
<b>TOTAL ALL GIVING</b>	<b>\$ 12,587</b>	<b>\$ 213,796</b>	
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 18,879</b>	<b>\$ 189,066</b>	<b>\$ 24,730</b>

**Jeff McCann, Sr.**  
Treasurer

*\*this amount includes \$25,829 in bequests*