



The Light

January/February 2025

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

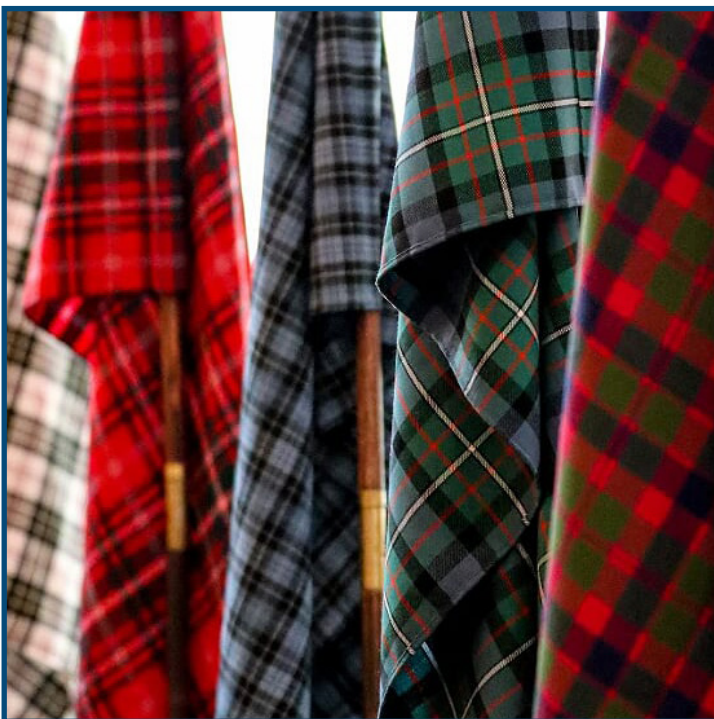
SOUPER BOWL POTLUCK

THOMAS HALL ON WED, JAN 29 AT 6 PM



All members/visitors are invited to join us in Thomas Hall on Wed, Jan. 29 at 6 pm for a potluck of soups/chili, salads, bread, and dessert.

Sign-up in the Narthex, online at lowcountrypres.org/news-events, or call the church office. Wear your favorite NFL or college jersey if you like. Enjoy some football trivia & games. Deadline to sign-up is noon Monday, Jan 27.



Kirkin' O' the Tartan on February 9th

LPC will be celebrating its Scottish heritage with a Kirkin' o' the Tartan during a special service of worship on February 9th at 10:30 am. Kirk is the term in Scotland for church and kirking is considered a blessing. The tartan is a symbol of love and togetherness, no matter what our heritage. The Kirkin' O' the Tartan service at LPC will include a ceremonial procession of tartans, hymns and bagpipe music as we remember ancient times while asking God's help and blessings in the future. Following the service, enjoy Scottish shortbread and tea during hospitality time. Be sure to mark your calendar and wear your tartan on February 9th!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Thank you!

The Worship Ministry would like to thank all the members and friends who helped to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas!



MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

The Fall New Member Class Joined on November 24th!

Back row L-R: Matt & Ellie Quick, Donna Metzinger, Sue & Steve Higgins, Annie & Tim Ehrhart, Connie & Allen Copeland.

Front row L-R: Bob & Rosemary Yakely, Vernon & Jean Wehrung, Joe & Kristen Turino and Tom Snowden.

Not pictured: Marsha Hester

Sheets with contact info are located outside the office.
The next new member class will be in the Spring.



Christmas Potluck

Over 80 LPC members enjoyed a Christmas potluck of turkey, ham, and your delicious side dishes/desserts on Dec 4 in Thomas Hall. Robin and a few choir members accompanied by Karen on piano led us in Christmas carols to end the festive night. Many thanks to our Membership Ministry for hosting a fun time.

Membership Ministry Elves pictured below.



Hospitality Hosts Needed

Hospitality time after worship is an important part of our LPC fellowship life and an opportunity to make our visitors feel welcome. We are looking for teams of two to host this important time once a quarter or just twice a year. Our Membership Ministry provides the coffee and OJ. Your team would provide light refreshments, set up, host, and clean up. Membership can assist with the refreshments, if you like. Contact Carol Hissom at (843) 705-1984 or 600carol@gmail.com or Dale Wilkes (207) 299-6693 or dalewilkes207@gmail.com to volunteer.

Thank you, Bakers!

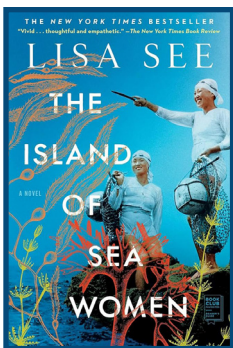
Our Membership Ministry would like to thank the following Hospitality Bakers who provided treats for several LPC functions during 2024: Jan Cantanese, Judy Placer, Pam Davis-Webb, Anne Redlus, Peggy Evans, Patti Rozonkiewicz, Sue Forrest, Dale Wilkes, Karen Johnson and Marjorie Wilno

If you like to bake and would like to become a LPC Hospitality Baker, please contact Dale Wilkes at 207 299-6693 or dalewilkes207@gmail.com. You will be called upon to provide sweets for various functions throughout the year.

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Choir

On December 15th the children's choir participated in the worship service. They did an excellent job and made the entire congregation smile enjoying the enthusiastic singing. The children gave us a bit more Christmas spirit. We thank Tom Smith for volunteering to conduct this choir and Karen Ball for being the accompanist. Members of the choir: Evie Hardin, Jaxson Hardin, Hudson Johnson, Emery Johnson, Millie Meyer and Asher Quick.



Bound Together Book Club

LPC's Bound Together Book Club's next read is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. This historical fiction novel covers a unique culture and time in Korea and centers around two women from different backgrounds as

they begin working in the village's all-female diving collective. All are welcome to join us to discuss the novel on January 23rd at 2 pm. The book club is led by Alane Peragallo and Betty Smith, with assistance from Rev. Herrin.

Our reading and discussions through May 2025 will take us on an exploration of world religions as we seek to answer the question - *How do you let people who believe in something completely different strengthen your own faith?*

A peek at what's ahead:

January 14th - pages 81-100

February 11th - pages 101-120

March 11th - pages 121-138

April 8th - pages 139-174

May 13th - pages 175-223

Contact Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) or Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) for more information.

Women of Faith

Women of Faith are in the midst of a study of "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor and it's not too late to join the conversation! The group meets every second Tuesday at 11 am in the Parlor and is open to all LPC women, friends and visitors.

Women of Faith enjoyed some holiday fun during their December meeting with festive eyewear, treats and a reindeer game!



EARTH CARE

2024 In The Rearview Mirror—and Oh, The Possibilities In 2025!

In the past year, LPC engaged in many Earth Care-related activities which have increased our understanding, broadened our experiences, and strengthened our commitment to caring for God's creation. For Earth Day, we held a special "Celebration of Creation" worship service that celebrated light, water, wind, and earth. On another occasion we enjoyed breakfast outside before worship, and on another, a membership picnic in the park.

We are learning.

We hosted Carlos Chavez, a popular speaker, to give a talk on the life of sea turtles, and paired it with a children's time on the impact of trash on turtles. A book study— Saving Us—provided insights to the future of climate change. In the spring we visited a Pinkney Island rookery to observe nesting birds, while in the fall, an outing on the May River informed us about our local low country eco system. Members who attended an Earth Care seminar at S.T.E.P.S. this past summer got a reality check about our warming earth. We continue to learn and share ideas by participating in zoom meetings with the CAP Earth Care group. Then we share Monthly Earth Care Tips in the bulletin and Friday bulletin board. Electronics recycling and shredding events by Beaufort Co. are also publicized.

We are active.

A group traveled to Charlestown during the summer to tour Water Mission International and learn about the growing water crisis caused by storms that are magnified by climate change. Many LPC'ers joined the Bluffton Walk for Water in September. We distributed mesh bags for produce shopping, and LPC logo cloth shopping bags were distributed to new members with the Earth Care Pledge and ways to volunteer for Earth Care attached. In the fall we joined the May River Clean Up to pick up trash along the river in Bluffton, and throughout the year our Adopt-A-Highway program brought out dedicated LPC members to collect trash along Simmonsville Rd.

We partner with others.

Some attended the International Friendship Lunch at St. Gregory's and joined Temple Oseh Shalom to collect shoes in remembrance of the Holocaust, events that we shared for the common good with others in our community.



With Valentina Palacio, Public Works Environmental Education Coordinator

Stormwater 101
January 14, 10:30am
Bluffton Library | Adults
January 15, 4:00pm
St. Helena Library | All ages
Learn about stormwater runoff management and its impact on our local waterways.

Composting 101
February 12, 1:00pm
Hilton Head Library | All ages
February 22, 11:00am
Port Royal Library | Adults
Learn techniques for creating compost at home and its benefits for soil health.

Recycling 101
March 4, 4:00pm
Beaufort Library | All ages
March 10, 10:30am
Lobeco Library | Kids & Teens
Learn about recyclable materials and how to reduce waste.



Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling is offering a variety of workshops entitled "Go Green" that are free and open to the public. The workshops are entitled Stormwater 101, Composting 101 and Recycling 101. They will be held at Beaufort County Library Branches around the County.

The schedule is as follows:

Stormwater 101, Tuesday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.
Bluffton Branch Library Workshop for adults
Wednesday, January 15 4 p.m. St. Helena Branch Library Workshop for all ages

Composting 101, Wednesday, February 12, 1 p.m.
Hilton Head Island Branch Library Workshop for all ages
Saturday, February 22, 11 a.m.
Port Royal Branch Library Workshop for adults

Recycling 101, Tuesday, March 4, 4 p.m. Beaufort Branch Library Workshop for all ages
Monday, March 10, 10:30 a.m. Lobeco Branch Library Workshop for kids and teens

For more information, contact Valentina Palacio, Public Works Environmental Education Coordinator at 843-255-2827 or laura.palacioruiz@bcgov.net.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MINISTRY

Administration

Christy James, Church Administrator, is responsible for the daily operation of the Church. She answers the phone, opens and distributes mail, orders all office supplies, works with our Pastors on the weekly Bulletin and LPC news blasts, and provides medical equipment to those in need. Christy works with the Pastors, Elders, Members, and non-profit organizations using our facilities to schedule and maintain the calendar of events for the Church and Thomas Hall. She collects information for the newsletter and compiles the annual report. **From time-to-time Christy needs the help of office volunteers. Consider volunteering for a project or a few hours a month. Contact Christy at office@lowcountrypres.org.**

Personnel

The Personnel Committee consists of Rev. Herrin, and six church members: Ernest Bush, John Abernethy, Lori Higgins and elders Jan Alpert, Elaine Branda, and Pam Davis-Webb. The personnel committee oversees the annual appraisal process and salary administration. The committee also administers Employee Appreciation programs.

Building Use

The Building Use Committee consists of the three Elders: Jan Alpert, Administration and Finance Ministry, Anne Redlus, Mission Ministry, and Kevin MacCarthy, Building and Grounds Ministries and Christy James. In 2024 we rewrote the Building Use Policy to help us manage the increasing number of activities in Thomas Hall and the Church. As our insurance costs have increased, we have a new schedule of use fees. We have temporarily paused any new use of the building until the Ministry meetings and events can be scheduled for 2025.

Finance

In 2024 this Ministry consisted of Chair, Jan Alpert; Rev. Chris Herrin; Treasurer, Taylor Evans; Assistant Treasurer, Janit Maguire; and Members Craig Johnson, Tom Catanese, and Tom Bloom. In 2025 we welcome new elder Michael Koch who joins the Ministry leadership as Co-Chair. The Finance Ministry reviews the monthly financial statements, balance



Bookkeeping services are provided by Madison Thomas, May River Bookkeeping, LLC, who works one or two mornings a week for LPC. The Ministry also oversees the Annual Budget Process, Stewardship Campaign, Capital Projects, Insurance, and Records Retention. New member, Tim Ehrhart, who has worked in the insurance industry for more than thirty-years, has volunteered to help with an insurance review.

With the installation of the AV Project in 2022 and the renovation of Thomas Hall in 2023, we recently increased our property and casualty insurance to cover the increased value of our assets. We also developed a Capital Projects Policy and an Endowment Policy which have been approved by Session. Both projects were led by Craig Johnson. Early in 2025, we will be providing more information to the congregation about planned Capital Projects and the Capital Endowment Policy.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

What the Ministry Does:

The Communications Ministry Charter states that the ministry will provide timely and effective communications about church activities within the church family and externally within the broader Bluffton community.

How Is This Done?

Two major responsibilities are the newsletter and the website. The members review the website to be sure it is current, accurate and easily navigated. We work with the chairs of other ministries to promote their activities and assist with promotional materials if requested. Keeping the newsletter "newsy" and helpful to church members is a priority. The new feature "Member Spotlight" is an example of keeping communications fresh and interesting to readers. The Friday eblast of immediate events and deadlines is the responsibility of the communications ministry and ably executed by Christy James, church administrator.

Additionally, posts about church activities are posted on Facebook and Instagram. You may help by liking our Facebook posts.

Within the Bluffton community, the ministry is responsible for the ads in the newspaper for special events primarily associated with Christmas and Easter services. There have also been paid ads in some community publications: eg: Sun City concert programs.

Church members support the Ministry's efforts by writing welcome notes to new residents when we learn who they are. This will vary from community to community, but we would like to increase this effort. If your neighborhood identifies new residents, please let us know. Members also support our efforts by taking photos at church events for inclusion on the website, newsletter, or social media.

The member photo directory is the Ministry's task periodically. Monthly updates to the directory are made available to the church. The update includes new members as well as possible updates to contact info for members.

Who Does This?

The ministry is chaired by Patricia Rozonkiewicz with Rev. Johnson who serves as clergy resource. Rounding out the committee are Lynn Cordy, Christy James, Janit Maguire and Kate McClain. Recent new members, Annie Earhart, Joseph Turino and Robert Oakley have also stepped up to serve.

In 2023, the ministry contracted with a young woman from Charlotte to design and update our digital communications projects. Logan Garbato accomplishes a great deal in just 10 hours each month. Logan attends our monthly meetings virtually and cooperates nicely with Christy James in the office during the month. The Ministry supplies the content, and she does the rest. This has worked out very well as it frees Christy James to focus on other tasks that can't be as easily delegated to another.

What Can You Do?

Join the team to write welcome notes to new residents, agree to take picture with your phone. Join the committee. There is a misunderstanding that one must be a computer wizard. Not true! Truthfully, one who is a bit phobic about websites would be helpful as we tweak the website to meet members' needs and be user friendly.

Coming Soon!

The communications ministry is working to make shirts and hats with the LPC logo available through the Land's End website. These will be both stylish and a great way to begin a conversation about your church. Watch for information about when the "LPC Store" will be open.

MISSIONS

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success! Our total count was 1,190 items! That included 156 Thanksgiving food items, and 78 bags of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Dr Ponchitta Young thanked the LPC Family for their generosity and great timing for their participation in "Feed the Hungry." She is grateful for their partnership with LPC.

The Mission Committee thanks everyone for their support!



Mission Trip

LPC is planning a mission trip to New Port Richey, Florida to help with the Hurricane Milton clean up. We plan on arriving there on Monday, February 17th and returning on Sunday, February 23rd. While there we will be working under the guidance of All Hands and Hearts and staying at their base of operation. We are allowed 10 volunteers, so if you are interested and would like more information, let Sandy Benninger know by January 15th. 843 705-5233 home, 248 756-6666 cell or sbenninger@sc.rr.com.



NOC Christmas Party

NOC had a Christmas party including parents in Thomas Hall Thursday afternoon. Books donated by LPC members were given to the children at the party by members of the Mission Team.

Blessings from our Angel Tree

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity through the Angel Tree, YOU provided gift cards to families of 109 children and a bag of oranges per family at the Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville AND gift cards and books to 63 children enrolled in the Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) program that meets in Thomas Hall after school during the week. But that's not all! The Change Can Make a Change collection for the Angel Tree surpassed what was needed for these gift cards and oranges and we were able to give both Agape and NOC an additional \$1,950.00 each. Thank you all for sharing your Christmas Spirit so abundantly.

MISSIONS

Thank You for Answering the Call

The Mission Ministry would like to thank you for answering the call to the many giving opportunities that were presented to you this Christmas Season. You are an extremely generous congregation.

Mitten Project in partnership with Temple Oseh Shalom. Our members donated 114 mittens, scarves, gloves, and hats.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog - This year 17+ members donated 50+ items for a donation of \$3,190.00 People around the world will be receiving piglets, chickens, sewing machines, farming tools, rabbits, shares of cow, teacher training, bag of moringa seeds and refugee food baskets.

Presbyterian Church USA Joy Offering which provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian relate schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Amount Donated \$2,040.00.

Christmas Eve offering benefitting the World Central Kitchen. Amount donated \$3,396.00.

Blessing Box

Each month the Blessing Box Committee will ask for a different category of donations. Place your donations in the container in the Church Narthex. Thank you for your support of this project.

January – Toiletries – shampoo/conditioner, bar soap/liquid soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant and small packages of tissues. Cleaning Products (smaller sizes so they can fit in the Blessing Box) – All purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant wipes, laundry detergent, individually wrapped paper towels and toilet paper.

February – Protein - canned tuna and chicken, spam, Vienna sausages, corned beef hash, peanut butter (plastic jar), protein bars, Nutella. Canned items – vegetables, chili, ravioli, soup, pasta sauces (plastic jars), black beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, lentils, jelly

Any questions, contact Anne Redlus, anneredlus@gmail.com or call 843-705-6373.

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church LPC Missions Ministry
Change-Can-Make-A-Change
January 2025 - Hopeful Horizons

The January Change Can Make A Change will give support to Hopeful Horizons. HH is a children's advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center that works to create safer communities by changing the culture of violence and offering a path to healing. The organization provides safety, hope and healing to survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault through evidence-based practices, outreach, prevention and education.

Hopeful Horizons

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church LPC Missions Ministry
Change-Can-Make-A-Change
January 2025 - National Alliance for Mental Illness

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Lowcountry (SC)

The February Change Can Make a Change will support NAMI Lowcountry (National Alliance for Mental Illness). Their mission is to improve the quality of life for all those affected by mental health conditions. They advocate and provide educational and support programs promoting recovery with dignity, hope and removal of stigma.

Change-Can-Make-A-Change

January Change Can Make a Change will support Hopeful Horizons which is the leader in the Lowcountry ending child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. Your donations will support their Client Assistance Fund which helps their families put food on the table or pay the electric bill.

February Change Can Make a Change will support NAMI Lowcountry (National Alliance for Mental Illness). Their mission is to improve the quality of life for all those affected by mental health conditions. They advocate and provide educational and support programs promoting recovery with dignity, hope and removal of stigma.

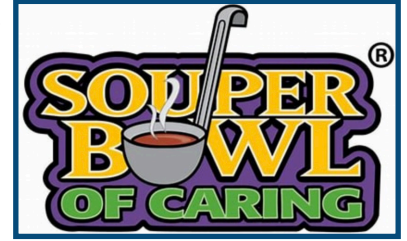
MISSIONS

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering will be taken on February 9th, the day of the Super Bowl.

All money raised will be given to the Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen, which provides assistance and support to underserved families, free of charge. In 2024, nearly 50,000 hot meals were provided in the community. Let's tackle the hunger issue on this day through your donations.

Mission team members will collect your donations in large soup pots as you exit church, marked for either team so you can also vote for your favorite team. Bring your cash and checks made payable to LPC and marked for the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. Thank you for your support.



MUSIC MINISTRY



Happy New Year!

Happy New Year from Robin, Karen, the Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers!

December was quite a busy month for Music Ministry with the Advent Cantata (Welcome the Child of Light) on December 8th (with both the Chancel Choir and the Jubilate Ringers) and, also, their participation at the Christmas Eve services. We are thankful for Tom Smith who sang so beautifully, "Do you hear what I hear?" at both services. We are so appreciative of the incredible music offered by Dr. Karen Ball every Sunday, many of them her own arrangements. She is truly a gift to this congregation and the Music Ministry. Pictures of participants for these services are included with this article.

Now, on to 2025. The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. and will begin singing on Sunday, January 12th. Tom Smith will be providing the special music on January 5th while the choir is on hiatus for the holidays.

The Jubilate Ringers will begin rehearsing on Tuesday, January 7th at 12:30.

On February 23rd, we are looking forward to having John Blevin, tenor saxophonist, participate with the choir and as a soloist for the service.

The Lenten Cantata will be performed on March 23rd, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, March 22 at 10:30 in the Sanctuary.

The title will be: Do not be afraid. Rehearsals for the Cantata will begin on Thursday, January 30th at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

The Music Ministry Team, singers and ringers continue to feel so blessed by the warmth and support we receive from the members, Elders, Pastors and staff at LPC. Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement over the past year and we look forward to adding our musical offerings and blessings to the Sunday Services and spiritual life of the church in 2025.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jim Martin	16	Bebe Blount
2	Judy Barry	16	Karen Couser
4	Sue Dason	16	Donn Randall
6	Ernest Bush	16	Daniel Herrin
6	Nancy Doran	17	Rip Powell
7	Connie Copeland	17	Bill Wilkey
7	Matt Hale	18	Nancy Hill
7	Vera Toulmin	18	Earline Nichols
8	Evelyn Baker	20	Debi Franklin
8	Fran Casperson	21	Ronald Woolston
8	Judy Placer	25	Carol Hissom
9	Lori Higgins	27	Tom Snowden
10	Beth Bleile	30	Debbie Hager
12	Harriet Bender	30	Mark Stauffer
15	Edith Rea		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Lois Lunardini	20	Richard Giebelhaus
4	Janet Lang	21	Larry Tremitiere
5	Kathy Crist	25	Kim Hardin
7	Marilyn Miesner	25	Don Pierce
7	Lauren Robinson	27	Mick Mikkelson
8	Carolyn Alexander	27	Chuck Kreitler
9	Dick Eberhart	28	Maureen Kalmbach
9	Tim Ehrhart		
10	Micki Underwood		
13	Kathleen Casey		
14	John Rea		
14	Rob Webb		
14	Tedi Zaryczny		
17	Becki Hale		
18	Jerri Hanna		



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

The family of Rip Powell who died September 30th. He had moved to Summerville, SC to be near his son.

Jim Dove on the death of his sister, Lois Laskowski

The family of George McCartney. A service will be planned after the new year.

The family of Ellie Smith. A service will be planned for the spring.

Ralph Peters and Robin Lind on the death of his son, Scott Peters.

THANK YOU NOTES

Frank would like to thank all those who sent him a card or an email and prayed for him after his recent surgery. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. Elaine would like to thank the members of Session who identified a need and lightened her responsibilities.

We are so blessed to have a loving church family.

- Frank & Elaine Branda

Jim Dove would like to thank you for all the kind thoughts sent regarding his sister's death.

Many thanks for the lovely bouquet of flowers, the cards and good wishes from the Congregational Care Committee of LPC.

Sincerely, Judy Wells

Thank you for all the cards, messages and prayers for my healing from surgery, I am most appreciative.

- Susan Taylor-Belli

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our former associate pastor Stephanie and her husband James on the birth of their daughter, Micah Elizabeth Shelley on Monday, November 11th, 7lbs. 9 ounces, 19 3/4 inches long.

Stephanie and James are elated and appreciate your prayers as they acclimate to their new family.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

The Session convened called stated session meetings on 11/20/24 and 12/11/24, and a special session meeting on 11/24/24, where they:

- Scheduled ordination and installation of new elders on Sunday, 1/12/25
- Reported on the December Charleston Atlantic Presbytery meeting
- Continued discussion of the book, Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu
- Approved 2025 preliminary budget
- Approved 2025 session meeting dates and changed time from 6:30pm to 11:00am
- Elected Elder Maguire as 2025 Clerk of Session
- Examined and accepted new elders Anne Redlus for Class of 2026 and Sandy Iams, Gigi Johnston, and Mike Koch for Class of 2027.
- Outgoing elders were invited to share reflections on their time of service on the session to encourage those who will be serving next year.
- Jan Alpert was elected to serve as the commissioner to the Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- Called the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting for 1/26/25.
- Approved revised Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure noting criminal background checks for all employees and any volunteer who works with children.
- Received 17 new members into membership.
- Following the December meeting, the Session, including new elders, along with spouses, enjoyed a Christmas dinner together at a local restaurant.

The next two Session meetings are scheduled for 1/22/25 and 2/26/25.

If you have any questions or would like to see the minutes, please contact Janit Maguire, Clerk of Session at janitmaguire@gmail.com or 845-527-6409.

Mission Statement:

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.



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