



The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
December, 2017



Pastor's Note



Dear friends,

Sometimes we feel bombarded by the messages of fear and anxiety coming at us. Headlines and tweets, a phone call in the night, a test result from the doctor -- even a brief messages can fill us with dread.

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point. Their favorite line was "*Do not be afraid.*" In our Advent worship series, "Angels Among Us," we will explore the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds, and their reactions to them. Along the way, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring more hope, more peace, more joy, and more love to the world. Join us, beginning December 3!

Grace and peace,
Leanne

Angels Among Us: #DoNotBeAfraid Advent and Christmas Worship Series

First Sunday of Advent, December 3

Make Ready a People: #morehope

Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80

It was just another day at the temple for Zechariah, but it turned into something quite different when an angel showed up at the altar. Have you ever had a moment in your life after which you knew nothing would ever be the same? Advent can remind us that God makes us ready for whatever unknown may come our way and calls us to be messengers of #morehope in an ever-changing world.

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

Nothing Is Impossible: #morepeace

Luke 1: 26-56

When an incredible message came to a common girl, Mary's response was simple: "Let it be so." Are you yearning for more peace in your life and relationships? More peace in the world happens when all of us feel #morepeace within ourselves and live out that message each day.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy

Matthew 1: 18-25

Every angel seems to use "do not be afraid" as an opening line, but perhaps no one needed to hear it more than Joseph. He chose steadfast love over keeping up appearances. How can we be messengers of encouragement, as Joseph was, for that which the Spirit is birthing in the world?

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve, December 24

This Will Be A Sign: #morelove

10am - One morning worship service

5pm - Christmas Eve service with lessons, carols and communion

Luke 2: 1-20

Most of us look for great big obvious clues about God's presence, but the angel says that a baby -- a newborn helpless baby in a feeding trough -- was the sign. More love is often found where you least expect it, and perhaps is already there residing in the ordinariness of your life.

First Sunday of Christmas, December 31

Get Up and Go: #morelife

10 am - One morning worship service with the Rev. Shelaine Bird preaching

Matthew 2: 1-23

By now Joseph was used to angels -- and he needed their timely warnings more than ever. Jesus and his parents become refugees, forced from home by oppression and violence. How might we usher in #morelife in the face of that which feels destructive? One last time in this series we hear the message #DoNotBeAfraid to get up and go--leaving those things that weigh us down and moving into the new year with new life.



**Special Service Times: Christmas Eve
and New Year's Eve**

Sunday, December 24

**10 am - One morning worship service only
5 pm - Christmas Eve service with lessons, carols
and communion**

Sunday, December 31

**10 am - One morning worship service only.
The Rev. Shelaine Bird preaching.**

Christmas Day Luncheon

On Christmas Day at 11:00 you are invited to a Christmas Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We are also inviting our friends residing at Safe Haven and the Salvation Army. Please call Lana to make a reservation so that we will know how many will be joining us.

Anyone interested in helping with the food, please see either Augusta Vos or Courtney Brown. There will soon be a sign-up sheet for food contributions outside of the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a monetary donation, just note on the check that it is for "Christmas Lunch."

Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs

December 6: Dinner—Chicken Spaghetti, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert.

Program: Fun Night

December 13: Dinner—Fish, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Guest Speaker from Stillman College, Joe Scrivener

December 20: Christmas Dinner—Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert.

Program: Christmas Concert by Ty Thornton

December 27: NO DINNER

January 3: NO DINNER

The regular schedule for Wednesday night dinner resumes on January 10.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 
- Dec. 2—Susan Brown
 - Dec. 3—Ed Parrish
 - Dec. 4—Rita Helton
 - Dec. 6—John Roddam, Julia Roddam
 - Dec. 8—Tot Blake
 - Dec. 9—Phyllis Kirk
 - Dec. 10—Tommy Fletcher
 - Dec. 11—Richard Lewis, Tricia Harkins
 - Dec. 12—Harry Watkins
 - Dec. 16—Joan Hamilton, Adam Trant
 - Dec. 17—Doug Miller
 - Dec. 19—Jim Kelly
 - Dec. 21—Avery Fletcher
 - Dec. 24—Vicki O'Connor
 - Dec. 25—Bill Kimrey
 - Dec. 26—Dale Warnock
 - Dec. 28—Jon Meacham
 - Dec. 29—Bill Forbes, Callie DeVore
 - Dec. 30—Marley Wade, Audrina Bischoff

From Our Mailbox

Thanks to all the special people, that prayed and supported me in many ways during my recovery from prostate surgery. All is well now and NO CANCER! Much love to all.

Dwight Johnson

**SVPC Presbyterian Women's
Christmas Gathering**

**Tuesday, December 5 10:30 a.m.
Program and Luncheon (\$6)**

Get an early start on the Christmas spirit and invite your friends to hear a wonderful story from our very favorite storyteller, Dolores Hydock. Enjoy a delicious luncheon served by the amiable Blue Apron Bunch. RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 29.

You are invited to attend

A Keyboard Christmas 2017:

"Fröhliche Weihnachten?" featuring carols and hymns from Germany and Austria presented by

Ty Robert Thornton, pianist

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public.

Bikes for Christmas at GBM

Christmas is fast approaching and we are again providing bikes to the Greater Birmingham Ministry (GBM). In the past, we have been able to purchase about 120 bikes, 60 for girls and 60 boys. The bikes will be purchased on Tuesday, November 28th from Academy Sports on 150. The bikes, unassembled, will be brought to the church where they will be assembled over a period of about a week and a half by a group of people ranging from 5 to 15 people. All are welcome to participate in this assembly project. Little knowledge of tools or bikes is necessary.

The bikes will be delivered to GBM sometime during the week of December 11 - 15. GBM will then distribute the bikes to families the following week so 120 girls and boys may have a wonderful surprise from Santa Claus on Christmas morning.

Your support and participation in this yearly mission is greatly appreciated by all. But especially 120 children in the Birmingham area that would not have a bike for Christmas with you.

Birmingham Youth Group (BYG)

Sunday, Dec. 3: Each church will do it's "own thing." Ask YOUR youth person what's in store!

Sunday, Dec. 10: ACE Night: Our ACE facilitators return to Mt. Brook to help us begin the next phase of our service learning project! Meet at Mt. Brook Presbyterian Church 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17: Christmas Party!! Details TBA!



**Intergenerational Christmas Luncheon
at Bright Star Restaurant on Friday, December 8
at 11 a.m. Please RSVP by December 4th
by calling the church office or sign up outside of
the Fellowship Hall. Let us know if you would
consider driving or would need transportation.**

POINSETTIAS

To have a poinsettia placed in the Sanctuary as decoration for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Lana in the church office with information or complete the sheet outside of the Fellowship Hall. \$15 each.



JOIN US AGAIN IN JANUARY!



Below you will see a listing of the books we'll use for our upcoming meetings. We will not meet in

December but look forward to our next meeting on January 10. We typically meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the church library following dinner. If any further information is needed, please call the church office or Nancy Watkins.

January - *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Stroudt

February & March - Lent (no meetings)

April - *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman

May - *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins

Members and Friends Update

Please make note of these new addresses:

Cards and calls are appreciated by Dot and Gene:

Dot Daughtry (Assisted Living)

St. Martins in the Pines

100 Woodside Drive, Apt. 913, B'ham., AL 35210

Phone: 644-4370

Gene Daughtry. (Independent Living)

St. Martins in the Pines

Courtyard Apt. 117

4941 Montevallo Road, B'ham., AL 35210

Phone: 490-5636

New Tele. Number: Sharon Schuler 850-218-2788

Communion Requests

Elders needed to serve communion to members unable to attend church services.

Anyone who would like to be served communion at home or at healthcare facilities.

Notes from the Session Meeting on Nov.13, 2017

Rev. Reed opened the meeting with a devotional and a lesson from Jeremiah about living with God's Word for living with hope.

We had written reports from all Ministry Units, and the Session took the following actions:

- Approved a motion from the Property Team that all future memorials and acknowledgements of past or current church members should be made by purchasing a paver. The church office can be contacted to purchase a paver in memory, or honor, of the designated person, and it will be placed in the Reflection Garden outside of the Sanctuary.
- Approved a motion from the PneuMatrix Team to adopt a logo for the church. This logo will be prominent on our new web site and church stationery. More information about this matter will be provided soon.

Jim Gray reported that they are progressing in the search for choir section lead singers. He also said that the Advent theme is "Angels Among Us" and that there will be a combined morning worship service on Sunday, Christmas Eve, at 10:00 AM and an evening service at 5:00 PM, with Communion at both services.

Rev. Richard Hanna will fill the pulpit on November 19th, and Rev. Shelane Bird will be our Supply Pastor on December 31st.

Laura McDonald said that the Advent study will be "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam," starting November 26th.

Elaine Peavy stated that there will be two outings in December --- December 8th at the Bright Star Restaurant and December 18th to see "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Alabama Theater. Other projects are in the planning stages.

Joe Rives stated that Joe Scrivener, a spokesman for Stillman College, will be the speaker on Wednesday night, December 13th.

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Also, the Blue Jeans and Baskets Bash, a main fund raiser for the Firehouse Ministries, will be held on Friday, Nov. 17. Tickets are \$50 each, which can be obtained from Mike Wade.

The fund raiser for GBM Christmas bicycles is underway. The goal this year is \$7,000 for 160 bikes.

Mark Nelson reported for Property and said that the water tower, a major component of the Sanctuary air conditioning system will need to be upgraded or replaced soon and are getting bids for that now.

The walls in the Sanctuary and both back stairwells need to be repaired and painted, and the playground area needs a facelift --- both items will be addressed in the budget for 2018.

They are adding 4 new hearing devices for the Sanctuary.

The grease trap in the kitchen is rusty and leaking, and they are replacing it.

Ray McIntosh reported for Finance that we are still well ahead of budget through October in reduced expenses for this year and are well ahead of the same period last year, including after all of the painting and refurbishing that has been done so far this year (see the financial summary elsewhere in this Response). However, giving is lagging slightly behind budget and for the same period last year. We hope it will recover to the pledged level by the end of the year.

**Presbyterian Home for Children
Thrift Store Donations at SVPC**

**The next collection date is Saturday, December 2.
Drop off times are from 8 am to 12 noon and the
location is behind the HUT in the basement area.**

SVPC - Summary of Income and Expenses YTD Through Oct. 2017

Income	October YTD 2017	Budget YTD 2017	October YTD 2016
General Offerings			
General Offerings	321,158	329,379	330,862
Interest Revenue	461	63	105
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	958	194
Total Income	321,618	330,400	331,162
Expenses			
Personnel	195,108	200,870	230,420
Operating Expenses	127,649	131,104	132,205
Build, Bond, & Go Beyond	10,196	30,059	10,061
Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm.	298	83	0
Total Expenses	333,251	362,116	372,687
Net Total	(11,632)	(31,716)	(41,525)

NOTE: The Session approved a modest deficit budget at the Session meeting on 3/19/2017 and will work to balance it by the end of the year. Expenses are still under budget despite all the work on the bldg. this year. Giving lags a little behind the same point last year, but we hope it will rebound. Thank you for your continued support.

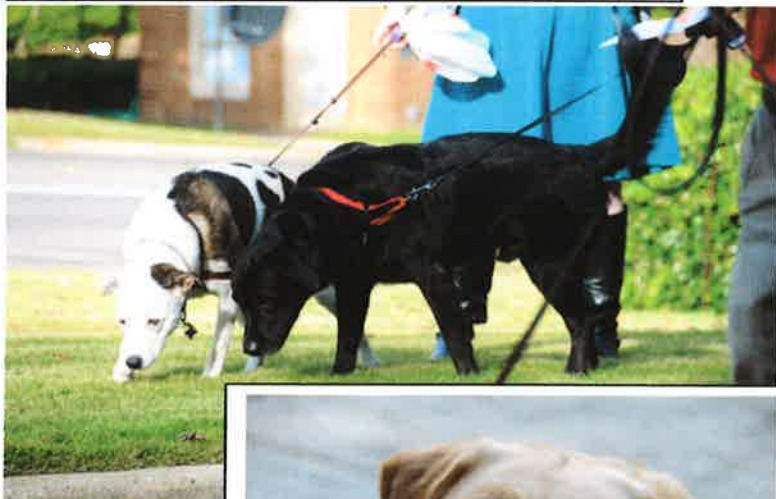
December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	4 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	5 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:30 a.m.—P.W. Gathering 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study	6 3:30 p.m.—Property Mtg. 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	7	8 11:00 a.m.— Intergenerational Luncheon at the Bright Star Restaurant	9 10:00 a.m.—Brookhill Condo Assoc. Meetings Fellowship Hall
10 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 9:30 a.m.—Personnel Mtg.	11 4:00 p.m.—Session Meeting 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	12 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study	13 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	14 5:00 p.m.—Firehouse Shelter Meeting, F. Hall	15 7:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, F. Hall	16
17 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	18 2:00 p.m.—Movie at the Alabama Theater 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	19 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study	20 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	21	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 10:00 a.m.—Worship Svc. 5:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Svc.	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Staff Holiday—Church Office Closed	26 Staff Holiday—Church Office Closed	27 <i>No Dinner/ Program</i> 9:00 a.m.—Aces & Birdies	28 9:00 a.m.—Aces & Birdies	29 Staff Holiday— Church Office Closed 9:00 a.m.—Aces & Birdies	30
31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 10:00 a.m.—Worship Svcs.	<i>Jan. 1—New Year's Day</i> Staff Holiday— Church Office Closed		NOTICE January 3 - No dinner, program, Choir rehearsal			

Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday, November 5

We hope all those who attended enjoyed this special service.

Here are just a few of the pictures to let you see some of our beautiful pets.



Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

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Church Telephone: (205) 871-7309
Church Web Page: www.svpcusa.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The deadline to submit articles for the JANUARY issue of the Response is Wednesday, December 20 at 9 a.m. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next newsletter or used in our weekly congregational emails.

OUR VISION

*Shades Valley Presbyterian Church exists through God's love to
BUILD a strong spiritual foundation,
BOND together in Christian fellowship,
GO BEYOND our walls to serve in Mission and bear Witness
to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ..*

THE SESSION

Moderator, Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Class of 2017: Courtney Brown, Anne Doty, Jim Gray, Mark Nelson, Cindy Tarrant • Trustee: Ed Parrish

Class of 2018: Martha Ann Cooper, John Eagan, Jim Isaminger, Elaine Peavy, Jennifer Riggs • Trustee: Lydia Wilfong

Class of 2019: Mary Wyatt Bowers, Laura McDonald, Ray McIntosh, Dot Riley, Joe Rives • Trustee: Augusta Forbes

Armed Services: Lt. J.G. Erin Bischoff, Lt. Col. J.B. Marshall
Mission Co-Workers in Congo: Bob and Kristi Rice; John and Gwenda Fletcher
