



ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Church

104 Newberry Street, NW

Aiken, SC 29801

803-648-6891 www.stjaiken.org

Loves, serves and worships with PASSION

December 3, 2017



You may notice that the Christmas trees are missing a few Chrismons and that they are not lit. Tonight, **December 3**, we will complete the decorations and light the tree for the first time as our children and youth present music and readings in a *Hanging of the Greens* service at **6pm** in the **sanctuary**.

Hanging of the Greens is a service that traditionally begins the Advent season and celebrates the Christian symbolism of the greenery, Chrismons, trees and candles within our worship space.

After the program, please plan to stay for fun and fellowship in the gym at a covered dish supper.

The sign-up link for the covered dish supper is

www.PerfectPotluck.com/KZJE3349



December 3, 2017
 God Dwells With Us
 John 1:1-14
 Jesus is God.

Hanging of the Greens Service & Potluck
 Sanctuary 6pm
 Dec. 6 Choir performance at Azalea Place



December 3, 2017
Family Event!!

Hanging of the Greens Service & Potluck Supper

Program at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
 HS Girls Bible Study—Wed. Dec. 6 at 7pm
 Brotherhood—Wed. Dec. 6 at 7pm
 in The Faith Center

St. John's Missions News



Our **LIFE FOR CHILDREN** mission partner in Kenya provides food, shelter, education, healthcare, and spiritual nourishment to orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. Please pray for this mission partner.

TOUR On December 6, there will be a guided tour around the church, led by Peggy Thome. Meet at 5:45 at the elevator nearest the receptionist's desk where the Coffee House is set up each Sunday.

This brief tour will familiarize visitors, new members, and even long-timers on some basic locations such as the Columbarium and Prayer Garden, Chapel, music rehearsal area, Faith Center and SEED.

Why not come for Wednesday Night Supper and then join the tour?

It won't take too long and you may learn something interesting.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 6 - Wednesday night supper 5pm
Dec. 6 - Church tour at 5:45 pm
Dec. 17 - Christmas Cantata (8:30 & 11)
Dec. 21 - Longest Night Service
Dec. 24 - Worship services (9:02 & 11)
Dec. 24 - Family Christmas with Children's Pageant—5 pm in The Faith Center
Dec. 24 - Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir & brass—7pm
Dec. 24 - Candlelight with choir, wind ensemble and communion—11 pm
Dec. 31 - Church-wide communion & Wesley Covenant Service
Jan. 12 - Primetimers Travel Talk
Jan. 26-28 - Revolution Retreat (youth)
Jan. 27 - Saturday of Service
Jan. 28 - MIC Sunday (one service at 10:30) with lunch following

WELCOME VISITORS!

The members of St. John's welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to return often.

Announcements

The flowers within the chancel are given to the glory of God and in honor of **Kathy Hargett** by **Archie Hargett** and in loving memory of **Duncan and Mary Ellen Randall** by **Lenore, Eric, Esther, Cindy & Judy**.

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE:

If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge card, you can call Nancy Fairgrieve at 803-648-6891 ext 217 and give her your pledge over the phone. You may also email her at nfairgrieve@stjaiken.org and give her your pledge that way.

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER December 6 from 5 to 6:30

MENU: Turkey Tetrazzini, Carrot Soufflé, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Hawaiian Rolls and Apple Crisp

News of the Family

Our sympathy to:

Ann Jones on the death of her mother, **Mary N. Sherlock**, on Nov. 25 in Little Valley, NY. Mrs. Sherlock was grandmother to **Heather Jones**.

Our congratulations to:

PJ and Kim Burke on the birth of their son, **Colin Walker Burke** on Nov. 28 in Aiken.

Scott and Erin Truitt on the birth of their daughter, **Rowan Elizabeth Truitt** on Nov. 23 at University Hospital in Augusta.

Thank You

Thank you so much to the youth team that came to our house for the Rake and Run. They did so much more than rake. In a short 45-minute time period, they absolutely transformed our yard! They raked, trimmed bushes, dug a trench, and spread mulch. At our age, it's difficult to take care of yard work. We are so very grateful to Jason Lewis, Bobbi Timmerman, and Ada Carpenter, as well as Jimi Whitesell and Jackie Hyche. We were complete strangers to these young people, but they showed us we are all the same church. What a wonderful youth program St. John's has.

Marvin and Shirley Rosine

EPWORTH ANGEL GIFTS

Last day for collection is December 10.

Please place **unwrapped** gifts in the bin outside the church office.

CHURCH HOSTS

Hosts the week of December 3, 2017

Sunday AM	Paul Musick
EVENING	
Sunday	Kevin Buchanan
Monday	Jim Shaver
Tuesday	Brent Boore
Wednesday	Joel Ray
Thursday	Jim McNulty
Friday	Charles McKeel
Saturday	Dennis Fish
Dec. 10 AM	Will Chafin

Year to date tithes and offerings for what God is asking us to do: \$1,808,313.34
Year to date ministry expenditures: \$1,652,588.57
Year to date variance: \$ 155,724.77

We thank you for your generous support of the ministries of St. John's

2016 Faith Promise Carryover \$ 10,357.64
Year to date Faith Promise offerings for our missions: \$ 135,372.81
Year to date missions disbursements: \$ 132,050.00

We thank you for generously supporting the missions of St. John's!

Current Loan Balance \$ **574,300.00**
11/29/17 Principal Payment \$ 1,400.00
Loan Balance \$ **572,900.00**



December
Tuna

Collection bins located in the narthex and the Faith Center.

Attendance 11/26/2017

8:30 122
9:02 153
11:00 422
Total 697



Orders for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and The Faith Center will be taken on December 3 and 10 before and after all the services. Please stop by the table in the lobby outside the main office, or in the lobby of The Faith Center, to make your purchase in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The cost is \$20 each. Please make checks payable to St. John's UMC.

Thank you so much for your yearly support of this beautiful ministry.
Our thanks also to the volunteers who work the tables at all the services.

UMW Circle Meetings for December

- Tues. Dec. 12** Circle 11 - 10:00 am - Shadow Oaks
Circle 6 - 12:30 pm - Alice Allington's
223 Society Hill Dr.
Circle 9 - 12:30 pm - Ward Hall
Circle 10 - 2:00 pm - UMW Room
Circle 1 - 6:30 pm - Mary Lou Wallace's
110 Idlewild Drive RSVP 649-6116
Circle 8 - 6:30 pm - TRIO's
- Tues. Dec. 19** Circle 3 - 11:30 am - Red Pepper Cafe
Wed. Dec. 20 Circle 7 - 6:00 pm - Room 119



SAVE THE DATE
January 27, 2018
Saturday of Service

JOY will meet on Monday, Dec. 4,
from 10:30-noon in Ward Hall for Christmas
food, fun and fellowship.

No gift exchange, but you are invited to bring
household items costing no more than \$5 for
My Father's House.

50 Year and New Member Celebration



SUNNY MONDAY—December 11

A program of Christmas music, with
M'Aiken Music, will be presented in the
Faith Center beginning at 10:30 am.

A lunch of ham, scalloped potatoes, lima beans, biscuits
and key lime pie will be served at noon in Ward Hall.

The program is free, lunch is \$4.

Please call the church office to make a reservation.



MY BOOKSHELF Book Club will meet in room 119 on Dec. 18 to discuss *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. *A Wrinkle in Time* is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. Pick up a copy and start reading!

EVERYONE is welcome to this group of readers. Contact Sharon West at bishwest@bellsouth.net for more information.

SERVING THIS WEEK

8:30 – Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; Music - Sonrise Choir; Organist - Christopher Nash

9:02 – Dr. Tim McClendon; Worship Leader-Harry Sampson; Music-Jane Timmerman & The 9:02 Band

11:00 - Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; Music Director - Catherine Stapleton Nance; Organist - Christopher Nash

Crucifer - Palmer Rowan ; Acolytes - Bobbi Timmerman and Jared Uhle

December Worship Support - Keenan Kizer and Peg Robinson

Order of Worship-8:30 AM (First Sunday in Advent)

GREETING AND WELCOME

Let us use the music of the prelude to center ourselves and to prepare for worship, silencing all cell phones and pagers.

PRELUDE

From Heaven to Earth the Angels Came

Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 569

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Message

OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Gracious God, as we await the birth of the Christ Child, enter into our hearts. Let us throw off our distractions and allow the chaos to settle. Through your Spirit, enable us to watch for the signs and listen to the messengers. In the name of the One for Whom we wait. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sabrina, Nathan and Charleigh Stewart

Response is 1st stanza of #211, O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

Fidgeting About Christmas

Dr. Tim McClendon

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (p. 881)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

MINISTRY MINUTE from Heather Yeh

OFFERTORY¹

People, Look East

Arr. Rutter

People, look east, the time is near of the coming of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. Love the Guest is on the way. Stars keep the watch, though earth is bare. One more seed is planted there. Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. Love the Star is on the way. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word the Lord is coming. Love, the Lord is on the way.

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Sung to tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above, all angels who comprise the heavenly host!
Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!*

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER and CHORAL RESPONSE

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (p. 12)

(For the Great Thanksgiving we will use musical setting C for our responses...p. 20)

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Albrecht

¹ You may text your gift to St. John's by texting *stjaiken* to 73256 and following the instructions

Order of Worship – 11:00 AM (First Sunday in Advent)

GREETING AND WELCOME

Let us use the music of the prelude to center ourselves and to prepare for worship, silencing all cell phones and pagers

PRELUDE

From Heaven to Earth the Angels Came

Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP

E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who frees us from our sins; who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is and is to come, sing holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 569

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Message

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pam and Tim Bennett

(Congregation sings Response—Vs. 1 of #211, O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Gracious God, as we await the birth of the Christ Child, enter into our hearts. Let us throw off our distractions and allow the chaos to settle. Through your Spirit, enable us to watch for the signs and listen to the messengers. In the name of the One for Whom we wait. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS AND MINISTRY MINUTE

ANTHEM

Could This Be the Day?

Martin

Could this be the day, the moment, that our darkness turns to light? Long we have waited; long we have pleaded, long we have wandered in darkness and sin. Could this be our miracle, our music in the night? Long we have waited for your song to begin.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (p. 881)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER and CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY¹

Sleepers Wake

Bach

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Sung to tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above, all angels who comprise the heavenly host! Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Children K3-2nd grade will follow the Crucifer to depart for Children's Church in the chapel. Thank you to the choir members who also participated in the 8:30 Sunrise Choir and are now departing.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

Fidgeting About Christmas

Dr. Tim McClendon

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Albrecht

***Please stand, as able.**

Texts used with this service permission granted under CCLI #2220845.

Please silence all electronic devices during the service. This service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 pm. One week delay.