

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 31, 2017



John Wesley believed that Methodists, and all Christians should reaffirm their covenant with God annually, so he created a service in which an individual renews his/her covenant with God.

In 1755 Wesley held his first covenant service using words written earlier by Richard Alleine. Wesley published this service in a pamphlet in 1780, and this form was used without alteration for nearly a century in England. It has been modified somewhat in more recent years.

The covenant hymn, "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine," was written for this service by Charles Wesley. The service is included in The Book of Worship under the title "An Order of Worship for Such as Would Enter Into or Renew Their Covenant with God--For Use in a Watch Night Service, on the First Sunday of the Year, or Other Occasion."

This covenant service is often used in United Methodism as a Watch Night Service on New Year's Eve. The covenant service is observed in some local churches on New Year's Day or on the first Sunday in January. The service focuses on the Christian's renewing the covenant of response to the grace of God in Christ.

New Bible Study Opportunity

"Romans: First-Century USA" will be our first church-wide Bible Study for 2018. We will meet in the Chapel for 6 weeks, January 17-February 21, in this verse-by-verse study by Dr. Tim of this important letter by the Apostle Paul. There will be two opportunities on Wednesdays: 10-11:30am and 6-7:30pm. Join us as we listen to God's Word to modern day America. Invite your friends!

**The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.*



December 31, 2017

John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

God sent Jesus.

GROVE is in recess until Jan. 7, 2018.

Children's Choirs in recess until Jan. 17.



December 31, 2017

Sunday Night Youth & Confirmation Classes are in recess until January 7, 2018.

Register for REVOLUTION retreat today!

St. John's Missions News

Made by Loving Hands serving Christ:

- Shawls
- Lap robes
- Chemo hats
- Baby blankets
- Layettes

If you want to help, call the Church Office for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mar. 2-4 - Confirmation Retreat (youth)

Mar. 11 - Confirmation Sunday

April 1 - Easter Sunday

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

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 loving memory of **Mary Frances and Archie Hargett, Sr.** and **Eva and Guy Elder** by **Archie and Kathy Hargett.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 10.

The Worship Support Committee would like to thank ALL those who helped with decorating and taking down of our Christmas decorations. So much time and energy was given and each of you are so appreciated.

Also, much gratitude to each of the ladies who serve on the monthly Worship Support Teams. Your efforts and dedication are also greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

The January book for MY BOOKSHELF Book Club is *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France. Grab a copy of the book and see for yourself.

The book discussion will be held on January 15. **EVERYONE** is welcome to this group of book lovers!

Contact Sharon West at 648-3824 or bishwest@bellsouth.net for more information.



If you are grieving the death of a loved one, join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 4pm in Room 214 in The Faith Center to learn more about the GriefShare Bereavement Group. Contact Rev. Nancy Reed at 803-648-6891 or 803-522-2009 if you have any questions or wish to register.

2017 YEAR END FINANCIALS TO FOLLOW

REMINDER FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE:

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TAX BENEFIT IN 2017 ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **DECEMBER 31, 2017**. IF USING THE MAIL, ALL ENVELOPES MUST BE POSTMARKED **DECEMBER 31, 2017** TO RECEIVE A TAX BENEFIT FOR THE YEAR.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT NANCY FAIRGRIEVE

WE ARE NOW WORKING ON 2018 BUDGET. IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR 2018 PLEDGE CARD, YOU MAY TURN IT IN ANYTIME.

News of the Family

Our Congratulations to:

Jerry & Billie Johnson who celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31.

Welcome our newest member:

Tammy Mitchell

New Young Adult Small Group

Sunday, January 7th at 10 am

Dr. Tim will teach the group. It will meet in **Room 121** next to the Resource Room, diagonal from the church office. Whether you're single or married, invite your friends and plan on a good place of learning and fellowship.

CHURCH HOSTS

Hosts the week of December 31, 2017

Sunday AM	Bryan Staubs
EVENING	
Sunday	Rick Endler
Monday	Jeff Crenshaw
Tuesday	Don Hayes
Wednesday	Kevin Buchanan
Thursday	Jim Shaver
Friday	Brent Boore
Saturday	Joel Ray
*Jan. 7	Virgil Sauls



January
Cereal/grits/
oatmeal
Collection bins
located in the
narthex and
the
Faith Center.

Attendance
12/24/17
9:02 256
11:00 511
5:00 403
7:00 854
11:00 388
Total 2412

**Order of Worship – 8:30 A.M.—First Sunday After Christmas
December 31, 2017**

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. The prelude is the call to silent meditation and preparation for worship.

PRELUDE

THE GREETING

Leader: Grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ

People: Amen.

Leader: Come let us worship the Lord who established a new covenant through his son Jesus Christ.

People: We come in Spirit and in truth.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #246**

Joy to the World

Antioch

THE OPENING PRAYER (prayed together) Let us worship our Creator, the God of love; God continually preserves and sustains us; we have been loved with an everlasting love; through Jesus Christ we have been given complete knowledge of God's glory. You are God; we praise you; we acknowledge you to be the Lord. Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

THE SERMON

Turning the Page

Dr. Tim McClendon

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE OFFERTORY

The Work of Christmas

Forrest

***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!

THE COVENANT

Leader: In the old covenant God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant and we bear his name. On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God. Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God. ***(The people stand)***

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with God's people, and accept the yoke of Christ. This means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, considering him our only reward. Christ has many services to be done—some easy and some difficult. Some make others applaud us, while others bring reproach; Some we desire to do because of our own interests and others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our needs while at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves. Through it all, Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in God's promises and relying on God's grace.

People: **I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation. Let me suffer for you. Give me the work you would have me do. Give me many tasks or have me step aside while you call others. Put me forward or humble me. Give me riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you. And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen.**

***Please stand, in body or spirit**

This service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 pm. One week delay.

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

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

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION p. 12

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

Response 1:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

Response 2:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Response 3

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

HYMN OF DEDICATION #256

We Would See Jesus

Cushman

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you.

People: Amen.

Leader: May Jesus Christ who sealed the new covenant with his sacrifice on the cross bring you peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!



SUNNY MONDAY—January 8

You won't want to miss this program
by Dr. Tim McClendon.

Lunch: Spaghetti, bread sticks, Caesar
salad, coconut cake served at noon in Ward Hall.

The program is free; lunch is \$4.

Please call the church office to make a reservation.

UMW Circle Meetings for January

Tues. Jan. 9	Circle 11 - 10:00 am - Shadow Oaks Circle 6 - 12:30 pm - Ward Hall 1 Circle 9 - 12:30 pm—Red Pepper RSVP Denise Hayes 706-231-5118 or email denisehayes@gmail.com by January 7th.
Wed. Jan. 10	Circle 10 - 2:00 pm - UMW Room Circle 1 - 6:30 pm - Parlor
Tues. Jan. 16	Circle 8 - 6:30 pm - UMW Room
Wed. Jan. 17	Circle 7 - 6:00 pm - Room 119 *Circle 3 - Not meeting in January

New Men's Bible Study

The 1960's and early 70's were pivotal for the United States, and the ramifications are still affecting us today. The Vietnam War and pop culture, the music, drug scene, sexual revolution and partisan politics merged into one of the most formative eras in US history. There's so much that we can learn from it from a Christian perspective, and we have our own St. John's heroes who didn't get accolades back then, but who can help us with their first-hand perspective today. The Men of St. John's are invited to join a 10 week study every Tuesday from January 30 to April 3, 2018. We will meet in the Faith Center from 6:30-9 pm. Invite your friends!

SERVING THIS WEEK

8:30 – Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; 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 - Rhett Taylor; Acolytes - Ethan Parker and William Parrott

December Worship Support - Jean Geiger, Keenan Kizer and Peg Robinson

**Order of Worship – 11 A.M.—First Sunday After Christmas
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Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with God's people, and accept the yoke of Christ. This means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, considering him our only reward. Christ has many services to be done—some easy and some difficult. Some make others applaud us, while others bring reproach; Some we desire to do because of our own interests and others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our needs while at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves. Through it all, Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in God's promises and relying on God's grace.

People: I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation. Let me suffer for you. Give me the work you would have me do. Give me many tasks or have me step aside while you call others. Put me forward or humble me. Give me riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you. And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas

Forrest

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE OFFERTORY

Jesus, King of Angels (Tim Bennett, solo)

Ortega

***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!*

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