

From the Prayer Calendar
December 10

Covenant, Rock Hill, SC
(110 members)

IN THE KNOW

Providence Presbytery Weekly News

Vol. 14 Issue: 45 12.04.2017

Prepared to Serve: A workshop for Elders and Deacons to be held January 6. The Committee on Ministry is sponsoring a day of Officer Training for the congregations of Providence Presbytery at First Presbyterian Rock Hill on January 6 from 9AM-4PM. Join us for an introduction to the elegance of Presbyterian Polity as it reflects what we believe about the church and God's presence in and through it. New Officers or previously ordained elders and deacons beginning a new term of service are welcome. Lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. RESERVE YOUR SEAT. Email Inez at iglasgow@providencepres.org today! [Download the flyer for your leaders.](#)

Family Movie Night December 8. Tirzah (York) 180 Tirzah Rd York SC, Family Movie Night Friday, December 8th, doors open at 6PM with free popcorn and drinks with movie "Polar Express" starting at 6:30PM. With the earlier start time please feel free to bring you dinner with you to eat during the movie! Admission is free to community. For additional details see church website www.tirzahfellowship.org or call Hope Moore at 803-389-6210.



Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders. This five-day training is intended to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. It includes lectures, discussion, and guided practice in role plays. Active and practical in focus, the sessions emphasize hands-on skills training and real life role-plays, based on the types of conflicts faced by participants. This training is useful for pastors, COM members, Presbytery staff, lay leaders, and others who serve with churches and church ministries. Join us on March 12-16 at Forest Lake Presbyterian, Columbia, SC. [Find out more and Register.](#)

This Year-End Be a Part of New Vision for Honduras. In 1985 Providence Presbytery sent the first team of travelers to Guatemala and Honduras to learn more about the mission programs that we support in those countries. Through August, 2017, there have been a total of 55 trips. Since 1992, most trips have had some type of medical component. Dr. Bill Oliver has been on many trips to examine eyes and fit glasses. He realized that many of the people in remote communities have cataracts. It has been his hope that our presbytery could set up a semi-permanent, free clinic where cataract surgery can be done several times a year by visiting ophthalmologists. Three years ago Bill and Barbara Kurz visited Honduras to gather information about the feasibility of setting up an eye clinic. There is definitely a need and support for us to move forward. We have raised about two-thirds of the money needed. \$30,000 more will make the eye clinic -- and restored sight -- a reality. [Join with your fellow Presbyterians to finish this much needed project.](#)



The Georgia Cluster is hosting Interim Pastor Training, January 22 – 26 at Calvin Center (Atlanta). This event is perfect for quality individuals looking to expand their skill set. Please find the attached brochure (below) describing this information packed five day event. For details, check out the website at <http://calvincenter.org/programs/interim-pastors>

Tree of Hope. The Presbyterian Giving Catalog Tree of Hope Activity provides church leaders with everything needed to kick-off this Season of Advent activity that encourages members to give a new kind of gift - tangible gifts of practical and lasting benefit, such as chickens, goats, or garden wells, using the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. [Order your Activity Kit today.](#)

Affirmation of York County: Please join us as we celebrate our LGBTQ members, families and friends. It has been a wonderful journey and we encourage pastors, Christian educators and other church leaders. Come to a meeting and see for yourself the work that we do. If you can't be physically present for a meeting, we ask that you offer support by praying for us, our children and our communities, telling others about us and working with us to provide compassionate care. Meetings are held at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 2370 West Main St., Rock Hill on the second Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30PM. The last meeting for this quarter is December 12. For more information, call Ellen at 803-417-0954 or Melissa at 803-547-6042 or email AffirmationofYC@gmail.com [FB:www.facebook.com/AffirmationofYC](https://www.facebook.com/AffirmationofYC)

BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER



Sign up today for another day of **Craftin' Crazy's** at Bethelwoods on December 12th, to make Pine Cone Elves! Join us for a morning of fun crafting and lunch! 803-366-3722

Call to reserve a Christmas party today at Bethelwoods! Check it out at Bethelwoods.org under Family Programs! Parties are available from December 1st to December 20th.

Last week to sign up for December 19th **TTT Christmas Dinner and White Elephant gift exchange!** Call today to make your reservations 803-366-3722.

Looking for something for the kids after Christmas? Send them to **Christmas at Camp** December 28-30, this annual retreat offers the chance to experience camp during the holiday season! [See the Flyer.](#)

Date	Event
12/24-1/1	Presbytery Office Closed

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Five SC Presbyteries Statewide COM-CPM-PJC Retreat coming January 26-27. The five SC Presbyteries Statewide COM-CPM-PJC Retreat will be held on Jan. 26 and 27, 2018 at the White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC. Please let Mark (markverdery@providencepres.org) and Inez Glasgow (iglasgow@providencepres.org) know if you register so we may have an accurate count of how many will be attending from our presbytery. [Check out the flyer online.](#)

Chocolate and coffee—oh my!! Stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts for your family and friends will benefit farmers working hard to make a living. Delicious, fair-trade Equal Exchange chocolate bars and coffee from Café Justo, a farmer-owned coop in Chiapas, Mexico (founded in part by Clover, SC, native and PCUSA missionary on the Mexican-US border, Mark Adams) are for sale at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church. Coffee is \$9.25/pound; chocolate bars are \$2.00 each. Church office is open 8AM – 4PM, Mon-Fri. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christ's birth!

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Mission Haven Newsletter available online. Presbyterian Women of Providence Presbytery supports Mission Haven, an organization offering Housing, Hospitality, Clothing and Prayer for missionaries coming home from mission service or in-between assignments. [Read the newsletter to find out how you can be a part of serving missionaries in foreign lands.](#)

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Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team Seeks new Leaders. Are you interested in serving the larger church? Do you want to promote issues important to women? Are you interested in growing the Presbyterian Women organization within Providence Presbytery? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, we would like to speak with you about becoming a member of the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team 2018. Contact Shirnetha Belk at belk3@comporium.net to find out more.

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Conference for Smaller Congregations scheduled for March. Association for Smaller Congregations 31st Annual Conference will be held on March 16-18, 2018 on St. Simons Island, GA. Join us and re-energize with worship, relaxation, workshops & prayer as we explore "Welcome Home: Great Hospitality for Smaller Churches" [Brochure available Online](#) or Registration is open [online.](#)

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Presbyterian College Emerging Leaders Scholarship Application is Open. College is a huge commitment both academically and financially. I am excited to share this opportunity with you that can make college more affordable for students in your church. The Emerging Church Leader Scholarship is an easy way to secure \$1,000 toward your student's education at Presbyterian College. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage church-going young adults to join the Presbyterian College student body. PC does a fantastic job of providing students with a solid liberal arts education in the context of a Christian faith community. You can learn more about PC at <https://www.presby.edu/admissions/> or email me (Rev. Beatrix Weil, baweil@presby.edu) for more information. Fill out this extremely simple form to provide a student in your church with a \$1,000 scholarship to PC: <https://www.presby.edu/campus-life/religious-life-service/emerging-church-leader-scholarship/> (Some restrictions apply)



Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team needs you! If you are longing for a valuable experience that guides you, nurtures you and brings your faith walk to a creative path, come and join other Sisters in our Presbytery! The Presbyterian Women of Providence PC USA, needs you to help continue its work in caring, maintaining, seeking, learning, and investing time in ministry for the Lord. As the song "He Has Made Me Glad" goes, the Lord is our shield, our strong tower, our protector, our very present help in time of need! (HILLSONG). And, as we go to the Lord in prayer, we long for new members who will strengthen the PWCT in many ways! It may be YOU! Our mission statement validates this each time we repeat it. We have several positions open as we move forward into 2018. The Moderator position will be open, the Vice Moderator position is open, the Moderator of Search is open, the Spiritual Development position is open, the Liaison position for District 4 is open, the Racial Ethnic position is open and the time is now! The members of this team are spiritually talented in sharing the Word of our God and searching for new ways to engage other Sisters as we all need the love of Christ in our daily walk. The team is made up of women in all facets of life, different ages, different lifestyles from all over.... York, Chester, Lancaster, Clover, Rock Hill, Kershaw, Smyrna, Camden, Van Wyck, Fort Mill, and Sharon. We welcome you to talk with any of us if you are interested in joining. These positions need to be filled by April 2018 as we conclude with the 2018 Spring Gathering in York at the York First Presbyterian Church. For further information, look to the Moderator of your PW, the PW handbook and/or call to talk with us; we are waiting for your call to witness in this world today! Shirnetha Belk- Wilform, 803-287-0111, Lee Barnwell 803-628-8342, Arlene Harder 864-492-2922, Pat Oglesby 803-517-0775, Ann White 864-426-7744, Judy Sherer 803-372-1318, and Wanda Collins 803-377-8968.



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The Presbytery's 2017 books will close on January 10, 2018 at 5PM. Any monies that should be included in the 2017 calculations should be delivered to the Presbytery office before that cutoff time. Thanks.

Board of Pensions December Newsletter is [available online.](#)

NEST (Near East School of Theology) December Newsletter is [available online.](#)

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South Carolina's "Stand Up Sunday" Scheduled for January 21. Join the congregations in our state that are participating in Stand Up Sunday by simply [emailing us](#) with your place of worship's name, contact name, phone number and the subject line, "We're in." We'll be in touch with materials that will help you: 1. Include Stand-Up Sunday in your bulletin. 2. Craft a sermon or statement about gun violence. 3. Offer your congregants the opportunity to get more involved. We look forward to hearing "We're in!" from you! info@aminarmsc.org As always, we appreciate your time, knowledge and talent. Together, we can make South Carolina a safer place to live, learn, play and worship.

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BOP Announcement Regarding new Tax Law. The tax legislation signed into law last week will not require changes to the Benefits Plan or its core benefits. Other tax-advantaged employer benefits and individual deductions are affected by the far-reaching law. Most of the law's changes, including the tax rate changes, are effective January 1, 2018, demanding that employers and individuals take action early in 2018, once the Internal Revenue Service releases implementation guidance. We will share this information and other outside resources as they become available. The Board of Pensions will post educational resources for church employers and members on its [Board University site](#) throughout the transition. We will promptly update our tax and financial planning resources and publish Q&A's as needed. We intend to develop an updated Tax Tips webinar for employers and make it available to employers and members. As always, employer services and member services representatives are available to provide guidance Monday through Friday at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN), 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. ET.

All on Board Presents Opioid Summit. An Opioid Summit is scheduled for **January 25** in the Magnolia Room 4017 Laurel Creek Dr., Rock Hill, SC 29732. We will discuss ways to combat the opioid/heroin epidemic that is affecting us locally. Questions or to register? Contact All on Board Coalition, Bob Norwood at bnorwood@allonboard.org or 803-493-6950.

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GA Overture 10 Regarding Responding to Syrian Crisis available for Review. The tragedy of Syria is overwhelming. Amid the crisis and the suffering, our Presbyterian partners of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon continue their witness and work with many others in the region, both Christians and Muslims, for peace. Read [Overture 10, Responding to the Current Syrian Crisis](#) online. It will be considered at the 2018 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in St. Louis, Missouri, June 16-23.

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1/6	Prepared To Serve: Elder and Deacon Workshop	9AM-4PM	First Presbyterian, Rock Hill
1/10	Presbytery 2017 Books Close		
1/12	Kid's Night Out	5:30PM	Bethelwoods

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