



Our Christmas Card Post Office

is open for sending cards to your church family. Cost for "mailing" is 25 cents per card. All proceeds go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please remember to pick up the Christmas cards you receive.

Christmas Baskets

Our Deacons will again be providing gift baskets to several families this Christmas. The church will furnish hams, and you can help by bringing **UNWRAPPED** canned goods and other meal items. You may place them in the box by the Christmas tree.

FACTS AND FIGURES, NOVEMBER 2016

Tithes & Offerings	\$30,086.62
Designated Funds	4,794.16
Total Receipts	\$34,880.78
Average Attendance	– 173

COUNTING COMMITTEES

December 4	#2 Cathy Brown
December 11	#3 Sheila Gahimer
December 18	#4 Bridget Coffman
December 25	#1 Terry Edens

Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will have one combined worship service at 11 am on

December 18, 25, and January 1

There will be no 8:30 service these days

Women On Mission

Monday, December 12, 10 am

Come join us for a Bible/Mission study about Lottie Moon and prayer time. Refreshments will be provided!

Hearts In Service

Tuesday, December 13, at 6 pm

Please join us for *Hearts in Service*, an intentional gathering of Christian women who want to go and do life as commanded, hold each other accountable, and lift up one another in prayer.

Christmas Caroling Service

Sunday, December 18, 6:30 pm

Join us for a night of worship as we sing Christmas carols and hymns. Suggest your favorite Christmas tunes, and we will sing them together.

Christmas Cookie Fellowship

Sunday, December 18, 7:30 pm

Join us after the Christmas Caroling Service for our annual Christmas Cookie Fellowship! Bring your favorite Christmas treats to share with family and friends!

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

is underway with Doorway's goal being \$12,000. The missions board at the front of the sanctuary has 300 lights, and one is turned on each time \$40 is received. Please pray for international missions.



THE CONTACT DECEMBER 2016



Pastor: Dr. Peter Beck

Associate Pastor: Rev. Bob Stephenson Youth Pastor: Rev. Zack Sims

Our Vision

To share hope with the Charleston area as we celebrate life in Jesus Christ through meaningful worship, fellowship, encouragement, and nurturing relationships.

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From the Pastor's Pen . . .

Time does certainly seem to fly. Another year has passed. God has continued to bless us as individuals and as a church in ways seen and unseen.

During that time we have spent a considerable amount of energy examining the Church Covenant in pages of this newsletter. Some of you have wondered why on earth we would spend 11 months looking at the Church Covenant when most of our members had never even read it before. Did we really need to spend so much time on this? Does it really matter? The answer to both of those questions is, in a word, "yes."

Did you realize that the concept of covenants can be found throughout the Bible? If that's true, it must be important.

Did you know that Jesus talked about covenants? He did.

Have you ever noticed that there's an entire book in the Bible about covenants and covenant renewal? There is. The entire book of Deuteronomy is about God's covenant with Israel and His calling them back to a faithful commitment to Him as expressed in that covenant.

The Church Office will be closed December 23, 26, 30, and January 2.

Moses begins Deuteronomy by reminding the people of who God is and His saving grace. He tells the new generation of Israelites of all that God has done for His people and of their constant rejection of God's will for their lives. As they stand on the far side of the Jordan, finally ready to enter into the Promised Land, Moses calls on them to remember God's goodness, to recommitment to God's plan, and to rest in God alone for their salvation. As the New Year quickly approaches, we must do the same.

Remember God's goodness. While the past year has been peppered with ups and downs, spiritual highs and spiritual lows, births and deaths, God's grace has clearly been showered upon us. Knowing that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, we as His people should give Him thanks for all that He has done. There is no better way to remember the year now ending than to render God the praise for all that He has done.

Recommit to God's plan. Just as Moses called the Israelites to dedicate themselves anew to their covenantal responsibilities, we as a church must periodically recommit ourselves as well. As worship is a proper response to God's goodness, so too is covenant renewal. Periodically renewing our covenant as a church is a means of thanking God and proclaiming our intent to faithfully serve Him for another year.

Rest in God's salvation. We are who we are as believers and a church because of God's

grace. He has saved us from our sin in spite of our sin. He has blessed in innumerable ways. He has brought us together as a church and shown great favor to us. Thus, while we are called to remember and recommit, we must never forget that the basis for all that we are and are to do is God's grace. If we are to be the kind of church God has ordained for us to be, the best that we can do is lean fully upon God, asking Him to do and provide as He sees fit for our good and His glory.

So, we cannot let the year pass without thanking God as a church. We must not enter the New Year without dedicating ourselves to God's church and glory again. And, we must not ever forget that it is by God's grace and for His glory that we exist and succeed. Let us enter the New Year a committed people of God.

By His grace and for His glory,
Your Pastor



Please join us for our Vesper Service and Celebration of the Lord's Supper at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve!

Thoughts on Pastoral Care

Many of us have found ourselves not only in the spirit but also in the chaos of this holiday season. All the activity planning, and participating that comes with the holidays can result in us feeling more stressed than blessed.

We are cautioned in I John 2:16 of the dangers of becoming caught up on consumed by "the cares of this world." John goes on to say that the cares of this world will choke the Word of God in us to the point that it becomes unfruitful.

The Christmas season is meant to be a time of joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (John 3:16). He is Immanuel, which means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14).

Stop!!! Take a deep breath! Take a moment to think about the meaning of that! Do you sense the joy rising up in your heart at the thought? All else is just superficial wrapping, worldly trappings, and pretty bows.

May God bless each of you this Christmas Season and may the joy of Christ's birth fill each of your hearts.

Merry Christmas,
Bob Stephenson

Join us for our Christmas Cantata Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm, and Sunday, December 18, at 11 am. Please plan to attend and bring a guest!