



PeacePress

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST www.peaceucc.com

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A Global Mission Church

January, 2017

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The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.



This is our first month to send the newsletter electronically! It is available on our church website at www.peaceucc.com. Click on the "Newsletter" tab. You will not receive a copy in the mail unless you are one of our members who does not use email

(or computers), and in that case, the newsletter will be printed and mailed to you. A few copies of the newsletter will be available in the Narthex if you are one who likes to "hold it and read it". This is a new venture for us, so please help us work out the details as we go along. If you have suggestions, please send them to Sherri Vestal at peaceucc2714@gmail.com.



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Minister of Music and Organist
- Mrs. Sherri Vestal**
Secretary
- Ms. Rhiannon Kelly**
Youth Director
- Mr. Russ Haver**
Consistory President

Congregational Meeting & Potluck Luncheon Sunday, January 15th ~ 12:00 p.m.

Peace Church Congregational Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, January 15th** following worship in the Fellowship Hall. This will be done as part of a potluck meal and will include the discussion and approval of our 2017 Mission Spending Plan (budget). Bring a dish to share!!



Pastor's Perspective

As we enter into a new year, we do so with the usual combination of great hopes and, particularly this year, anxieties related to an always changing and unknown future. The stability and certainties that we would like for our lives and our world are just not present at this moment in history. It is a moment that can indeed feel a bit frightening.

But alas, the gospels attest to the fact that, on at least a dozen occasions, Jesus said to his followers, "Be not afraid." Fear was clearly present in that first century context as it certainly is today.

So, we are to be a people who are not afraid, or at least not controlled or inhibited by our fears. We are to be bold in our faith, in our zest for life, and in our passion for the gospel. Yet, there is a different narrative that has seeped into our cultural consciousness, and it is indeed one of fear.

In this day-and-time, fear is taking many forms. Mostly, it is taking the shape of a fear of the stranger. The "stranger" is essentially anyone that we don't understand or perhaps feel threatened by. The "stranger" is perceived as different from us, our experiences, or our value system. The "stranger" may be an individual or a group ("immigrants") or even a faceless institution (Big Brother). Whatever form the "stranger" may take, it is perceived as a threat.

In the midst of such threats, we are called to remain faithful, loving, compassionate, and engaged with the world and all the "strangers" that make up our world. We are called to see within the stranger the potential for redemption as we too have been redeemed. We are called to reach out with the healing love of Jesus, and at times, to put on the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6: 10-20) when confronting the powers of death at loose in the world.

Our new year is filled with wonderful possibilities. May we live into our faith in such a way that the strangers we encounter become friends, and the forces of darkness we may encounter become opportunities for God's holy light to break in.

Yes, in 2017, we shall not be afraid...

In Christ's name,

Pastor Tom

WHILE PASTOR TOM IS IN CUBA

Pastor Tom will be traveling to Cuba from Friday, January 20th through Friday, February 3rd as leader of the United Church of Christ Cuba Study Seminar. There are 29 people signed up for this year's trip, with 11 students and 3 faculty members from Eden Theological Seminary as part of the group. While there, the group will spend five days with Revs. Gisela and Elmer Lavastida and the staff at the Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago.

Rev. John Syster (336-905-7475 or 941-374-4417) will be on call if there are pastoral care needs among members and friends of Peace Church while Pastor Tom is away.

Rev. Syster will be preaching on Sunday, January 22nd, and Youth Director, Rhiannon Kelly, will be speaking on Sunday, January 29th. Be sure to come and be a part of these special services!

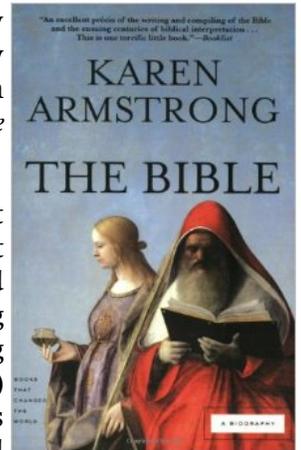
The Bible: A Biography Book Study

Beginning on Sunday, February 5th, the "Out of the Box" study group will begin discussing Karen Armstrong's 2008 book called *The Bible: A Biography*.

This powerful book is part of *Atlantic Monthly's* Books That Changed the World series, and ambitiously undertakes discussing not only the Bible itself (including its history, authorship and origins) but more than 2,000 years of its interpretation by Christians and Jews. In eight short chapters, Armstrong brings the story of biblical interpretation from the early church fathers through the rise of monasticism, medieval Kabbalists, and Renaissance inquiry up to the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

This is a great opportunity to learn about how the Bible became the book that we claim as our own and how it has been interpreted throughout history and up until this very day.

The 'Out of the Box' group is open to all Peace Church friends and members, meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Those who are interested in the class should sign up in the Narthex and purchase a book on their own.





Dear Peace Parents and Guardians,

The start of a new year brings hope, refreshment and joy for the future. It also brings the need for us to resolve- to examine our lives to discover what we want to change and determine what resolution we will set and commit to for the year. Often times resolutions are focused on ourselves- “I will stop eating junk food”, “ I will read more”, “I will save more money”, “I will get organized”, etc. You probably have set some of these this year for yourself and I wish you all the luck in sticking to those!

I would like to encourage you to set a different kind of resolution this year: one that involves your kids, one that focuses on others, and one that involves Jesus. Jesus tells us the greatest commandment of all is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Loving our neighbor can come in many forms and we have opportunities daily, even hourly to show our love to others. Kids of all ages can serve and show love to others and the younger they get involved in service, the more natural it will come to them as they grow older. **On the children and youth bulletin board in the narthex there are fliers with serving ideas you can do together as a family with your preschool, elementary, middle, and high school aged kids.** The ideas are geared towards kids at the phase they are going through and what will make the most impact on them as they begin to develop a servant’s heart. I also encourage you to come up with different ideas of your own and I will be happy to help you think of more ideas and connect you to agencies that need volunteers in the community. Talk with your kids about the importance of service and loving our neighbors and resolve as a family to get out and show the love of Jesus more this year!

As you do these service projects and kind acts take a photo and post it on social media with the hashtag **#pucsserves2017** so we can all share and see what others are doing. In February we will have the opportunity to bring all the children and youth together for a day of service (*details coming soon*).

Wishing you and your family a year full of positive changes, health, happiness, and many opportunities to serve God through showing others the love and care that Jesus modeled.

In His Name,
Rhiannon Kelly
Director of Youth and Children Ministry



And here we are again — looking at 12 months of exciting, new life! How comforting to know that God has everything under control, and He goes before us to lead us.



I want to begin by thanking everyone who participated in the music life of our church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The choir practiced diligently to prepare the cantata and anthems. We were blessed with meaningful and beautiful solos, and the joyful ringing of the handbells. It was also such an honor and blessing on the 18th of December to have the fellowship time dedicated to the choir and bells. Thanks for all you do. (And now ...it’s time to start on Lent and Easter!)

What an added joy it was to work with Rhiannon and the children and youth for the worship on Christmas Eve. We also had involved and helpful parents. The children’s participation was such a blessing in our worship service.

Perhaps it would be good for all of us when we face a mountain, a hurdle, a challenge, or a change in 2017 to remember the thoughts of the songs the children sang. Jesus not only means Christmas, He means everything – life itself – to us as Christians. We must remember to ask Him first when we have a decision – to consult with Him on a daily (hourly, by the minute!) basis. May we all together make 2017 our most Christ-filled and directed year ever!

I want to conclude by saying a huge, “Thank you” to this congregation for all the cards, notes, and remembrances during the Christmas season. You are a very generous and loving group of people, and I am blessed to be a part of this church. I look forward to discovering what 2017 holds for all of us!

~ Elisabeth Penry



Peace United Church of Christ

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Hands-On is happy to approach 2017 when we will celebrate our 10th anniversary. We are also honored to be a January Mission of the Month for the fifth year.

Literally, thousands of pillows have been handcrafted and distributed to Wesley Long Hospital, Women's Hospital, Hospice of Greensboro, Kids Path, Piedmont Crossing, Moses Cone Hospital Pediatrics, and Moses Cone Hospital Palliative Care.

Hands-On appreciates the generous financial support of members of Peace Church, as well as your prayers for the success of our ministry.

You may have read the feature article about **Hands-On** in last month's Peace Press. We recently received the "We Make for Good Award" from Fairfield Processing, our fiberfil provider.

I will share a response I sent to the following question:

At the heart of it all, why do you do this?

"Our focus is people who need comfort. When they receive a pillow, they know that it comes from the hearts of Christians who pray for them and wish them recovery and/or comfort as they deal with illness, death or related problems. Our pillows are well made, they are beautiful, they are soft (a la Fairfield), they are flexible, and they are resilient. We have had notes from people who kept the pillows for years (even after losing the recipient) and tossed them into the washing machine with great results. We have heard of children who found solace in 'Grandma's pillow'. We have even had a church member who, while at Hospice of Greensboro, noticed a cute little pillow below her dying husband's head. She read the tag, and Hands-On had made the pillow.

This is why we do it."

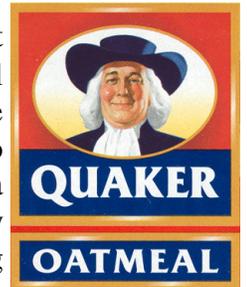
Theo Scott
Hands-On Chair

YWCA Warming Center

With frigid temperatures frequently in the forecast, the YWCA, the Interactive Resource Center, and Greensboro Urban Ministry are operating safe places to escape the cold for those experiencing homelessness who are not staying in shelters. When temperatures drop to a wind chill of 25 degrees or colder for two or more hours, the agencies will declare white flag emergency conditions and open emergency warming centers. A warming center is a large heated space with chairs rather than beds, that allows people to sit indoors out of the cold.

The YWCA is providing a 40-chair warming center for men, women, and families with children. Please consider donating coffee, cocoa, tea, cups, sugar packets, creamer packets, napkins, stirrers, snack bars, individual bars or packets of granola, crackers, pretzels, or chips. There is a collection box in the Narthex designated "Family Shelter" for these items.

Oatmeal Sunday: The first Sunday in every month is Oatmeal Sunday here at Peace Church. One dollar buys one box of oatmeal, so please remember to bring a dollar or a box of oatmeal the first Sunday every month! The oatmeal collected, along with other non-perishable food items, is given to Greensboro Urban Ministry.



Oatmeal Update: We collected 86 lbs. in November, and 72 lbs. were collected in December. Thank you for your generous support of the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank!



Hands On group hard at work!

NEWS & Notes

INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS/OFFICERS



On **Sunday, January 8th**, there will be a Service of Installation for our new Consistory members. This will take place during the second half of our morning worship service. Those being installed include Jeanne Bryan (Vice President), Ken Cressman (Treasurer), David Fesperman, Jane Ford, Linda Forotan, Karen Haver, Russ Haver (President), Mick McGrogan, David Murray, Kentoya Savage, Maria McKinney Smith, and Yvonne Smothers (Assistant Treasurer).

Martin Luther King Day Memorial Breakfast

The Human Relations Commission of the City of Greensboro will hold its annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast on Monday, January 16th. This year's event is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. and will be held at the Koury Convention Center. The keynote address will be given by Oscar Dowdell-Underwood, the Founder and President of Cornerstone Christian Bible College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Peace Church has been invited to this celebration. Any Peace members who are interested in attending should contact Pastor Tom or Theo Scott. Tickets must be purchased by January 6th and are \$20 which includes breakfast. All are welcome!!



All Committee Chairs & Department Leaders

Please get your Committee/Department's annual report in to the church office by **Friday, January 20** to be included in the 2016 Annual Report. The Annual Report will be published and mailed in mid-February.



Peace Church Recipe Corner

Bacon Cheeseburger Soup

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled*
- ¾ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup shredded carrots
- ¾ cup diced celery
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups peeled and diced potatoes
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ cup sour cream



Instructions

Brown the ground beef in 3 quart saucepan. Drain and set aside. In the same saucepan add 1 Tbs butter and add onion, shredded carrots, parsley flakes, basil and celery. Sauté until tender. Add the broth, potatoes and beef and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 10-12 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

In small skillet melt remaining butter (3 Tbs) and add the flour. Cook and stir for 3-5 minutes or until bubbly. Add to the soup and bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in the cheese, milk, heavy cream salt and pepper. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Stir in the cooked and crumbled bacon. Remove from heat and blend in sour cream.



mens fellowship

encouraging • connecting • becoming

Monday, January 16th

7:00 p.m.

**great food • great friends • inspiring and
educational programs • wonderful fellowship**



Women's Fellowship Winter Meeting



The Women's Fellowship Winter Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 p.m.** All women of the church are encouraged to attend and participate in the plans for the Women's Fellowship. Circle #1 meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday after the first Sunday every month, Circle #3 meets on the first Tuesday after the first Sunday at 11:00 a.m., and Circle #4 meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the first Sunday. If you are not presently attending a Circle, please consider joining us on one of these days. If you would like more information, please contact **Yvonne Smothers**, Women's Fellowship President, at 339-9867.

Jambalaya Sale February 25th!!

Ya'll get ready for our 3rd Annual Jambalaya Sale scheduled for Saturday, February 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Orders can be placed by signing up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 5th. More information to come!!

Also, in conjunction with this sale we will have a Mardi Gras Jazz Service on Sunday, February 26th as part of our usual morning worship. This promises to be a hoot!!



Hands-On had a very productive fall making Christmas pillows for delivery. If you saw our display in the Narthex on Dec. 11 (pictured above), you know what we are talking about. This year, we sent out more of the festive pillows than any of the prior years, and we had great fun making them. The December delivery totaled 95 pillows to our 7 organizations.

Our Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 14 was a wonderful event with 19 people in attendance. We had four visitors and one stayed for the work session (Yea, Kentoya).

We are now at "square one" on production. So to get a head start on 2017, let's plan an extended session for January 11. This means we will meet from 1:00 to 2:30.

As always, we welcome new members.

The Love Fund is very low on funds. This fund is used to help people who need emergency financial assistance. If you would like to contribute, please make contributions payable to Peace Church, marked "Love Fund" on the memo line.





Looking ahead To Lent...

As part of our Lenten festivities the following activities are "in the works":

- ✦ Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.
- ✦ A five week **Lenten Bible Study** led by Dr. Jason Myers, Professor of Biblical Studies in the Department of Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy at Greensboro College. He will facilitate a discussion **each Tuesday evening beginning March 14th** on one of the four gospels and then have a wrap-up session on Tuesday, April 11th. Each evening will begin with a meal of soup and bread at 6:00 p.m. followed by the study and discussion session at 6:30p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to come to what promises to be a stimulating discussion of our New Testament gospels and the foundations of our Christian faith.
- ✦ Maundy Thursday service on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.
- ✦ Good Friday Service on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- ✦ Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 15th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. on the church lawn.
- ✦ Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. followed by an all-church Easter Feast at 9:00 a.m. Easter Service at 10:45 a.m.

Dear Peace Church,

Thank you for the years of encouraging words, and always praying for me when I may not have prayed for myself. I appreciate the card and monetary gift.

As always,. I will take your words of wisdom and use them during my daily walk with the Lord.

God bless and thank you all!

Kenneth Savage

Thank
You!



The Men's Fellowship Christmas Dinner was well attended and a great time was had by all! Thanks to David Murray for his hard work getting sponsors for the event.

Church Women United Annual Meeting Friday, January 20, 2017

Hinshaw United Methodist Church
4501 W. Gate City Blvd., Greensboro, NC
2017 Theme: "Kindling New Fires"
Contact Yvonne Smothers for information.



Several substantial items are missing or misplaced. There is a missing door closure that was in the kitchen, and also **FOUR** large stainless steel trays are missing from the kitchen. See **Mick McGrogan** if you know the whereabouts or have any information. Also, **Yvonne Smothers** is still missing her black study Bible.

She said YES!!! Congratulations to **Tyler Vestal**, son of **Mark and Sherri Vestal**, who proposed to his girlfriend, **Gerica Davis**, on Christmas Day! Tyler lives in Nashville, TN, and is the pianist/keyboardist with Ernie Haase & Signature Sound. Gerica is a makeup artist representing the Chantecaille makeup line at Nordstrom in Brentwood, TN. An October wedding is planned.





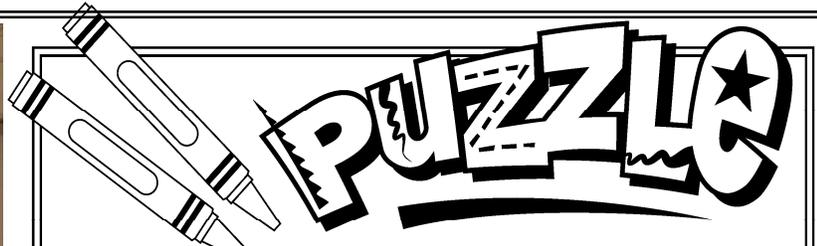
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Thank you to David and Mary Ann Murray for coordinating the poinsettia project for the Sanctuary. The Advent Food Drive for Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank was a great success! We also want to thank **Linda Fesperman and her committee** for decorating the Narthex and the Sanctuary. Everything was beautiful!



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
 Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
 Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F
 TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R
 F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R
 W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."
 J _ H N 8:12, NIV



Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Lois Bell; Dale Benshoff; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; Virginia Graber; Temple Green; Ramona Griffin; Millie Harmon; Karen Haver; Laura Langley; Jim Lillie; Buddy Lippard; Sally McGrogan; Dorothy Meeks; Sharon Mitchell; Jean Morgan; Mary Ann Murray; Gertrude Radford; Pansy Slate; Nancy Thompson; Lucille Waynick; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Doris Whitley; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); Katie Bowen (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); Eric Chapman (relative of Jane Ford); Janet Faucette (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); Sophia Fineron (mother of Karen Haver); Theresa Grill (neighbor of Sue Smith); Gerry Haver (mother of Russ Haver); Larry Haver (brother of Russ Haver); Butch Holt (brother-in-law of B.J. Blocker); Pat Jorgensen (sister of Virginia Graber); Irene King (mother of Sherri Vestal); Betty Larimer (aunt of Trish Larimer); Ann Moran (friend of Susie Cressman); Shirley Morrison (mother of James Baker); Beatrice Rosenthal (mother of David Dole); Michael Shoffner (grandson of Edith Sink); Ralph Stevenson (brother-in-law of Linda Fesperman); Lindsay White (great-granddaughter of David & Nancy Peeler).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING
December 4	No report	89	\$4,840	\$173
December 11	19	75	\$3,266	\$1,780
December 18	16	85	\$1,842	\$1,384
December 25	—	31	\$2,449	\$780

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(Through November 30, 2016)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	17,830	225,248	171,298	15,950
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	16,908	216,674	255,866	(39,192)
GUM Honor Cards, CROP Walk	320			

* The year-to-date income includes additional monies of \$38,000 transferred (YTD) from the Scholarship Fund to the General Fund. These figures are not included in our budgeted income, thus we are under budget based on actual receipts.



January Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Bryan Morgan	3	4 Ellen Mason	5 Kristie Ray	6 Mathieu Freeman	7
8	9 Don Willoughby	10	11	12 Kevin Hege	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Lynn Weddington	23 Jeanne Bryan	24	25	26 Katie Jo Icenhower	27 Dorn Yeattes	28 Femi Quakenbush
29 Kim Miller	30	31 Sophia Lewis				