

# PEACEPRESS



## *Pastor's Perspective*

As we enter into the season of Advent, let us do so with intentionality and consciousness. In other words, let us be aware of the season that we are moving into!

Advent ("the arrival"), made up of the four Sundays prior to Christmas, is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. It is a time when we get ready through prayer, worship, ritual, and reflection upon what the birth of Jesus, over 2,000 years ago, means for our lives and world today.

Each Sunday during worship, we will light the Advent candles located at the front of the sanctuary on what we call the Advent wreath. On this wreath there are three purple candles and one pink candle symbolizing hope, peace, love, and joy, all of which encircle a larger white candle

which we call the Christ candle. Each week we light another candle, all of which culminates on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ candle.

While these candles obviously represent the hope, peace, love, and joy that came into the world with the birth of Christ, they also symbolize the light that pierces the darkness of the world. While the gospels of Matthew and Luke are the only two gospels that include the story of Christ's birth, the gospel of John (1:1-5) catches the essence of the light that came into the world with the advent of Christ:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

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This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th. This is not simply the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season, but the beginning of the Christian year, a beginning which makes a declaration of hope about the light that came into the world with the birth of Jesus. This birth is not only a gift, but a challenge for the church to live ever more deeply as people of the light.

Let us get ready...something new is almost upon us.

Pastor Tom

## *A Note from Elisabeth*

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2: 13 -14 (NIV)

Gloria, in excelsis Deo – Glory to God in the highest! Such a familiar phrase during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The often-sung carol, Angels We Have Heard on High, has a beautiful refrain that’s so much fun to sing based on this glorious proclamation.

It was pointed out to me once that in the above Scripture passage, the angels are praising God and “saying” – it does not say they were “singing.” So, please don’t say you can’t participate in all the beautiful songs and carols. Just join in with the congregation whether saying or singing the words. It’s all about making a joyful noise – offering glory to God the best you can is all it takes. Enjoy the Christmas music, and then carry that enjoyment into the new year on all the hymns. Let’s celebrate this season (and all seasons) with enthusiasm and praise to God as we remember the birth and sacrifice of our Savior.

May you all have a very blessed and Christ-filled Advent and Christmas!

# *Mission of the Month*

## THE GIVING TREE

Please notice that the Christmas tree in the Narthex is not just a tree but a "Giving Tree". Select a red paper star from the tree and you will find the name, age, and gender of a child at Lindley Elementary School along with a gift wish. Each child has two stars. One star is for clothing and a second star for toys. The white card attached to the star is to be signed and placed in the bowl on the table beside the tree. Please return gifts (wrapped or in a gift bag, clearly labeled with the name) to the church as soon as possible and no later than December 11. Return receipts or sales receipts with the child's name need to be placed in the bowl beside the tree.



## HEIFER INTERNATIONAL HONOR CARDS

A life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of friends or family is a gift that brings promise to struggling families and the opportunity for a better life to the less fortunate. For more than 75 years, Heifer gifts of livestock and training have changed parents into successful business owners with a steady income to feed their families and send their children to school. For each \$10 toward the purchase of an animal, you will receive a card to send to those on your gift list showing that a gift was made in their honor. Each Sunday in December Heifer Honor Cards will be available in the Narthex.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5th - Rosina Whitfield
- 8th - Jason Goode
- 9th - Ian Myers
- 12th - David Dole
- 13th - John Patterson
- 18th - Ramona Griffin & Daniel Warren
- 22nd - Alexa Dole & Connor Hughes
- 23rd - Toni Tagert
- 26th - Russ Haver & Olivia Jolliff & Laura Small
- 28th - Don Wheeling
- 31st - Deb Shiner



# Recycling - Facts and Fiction

On November 1, 2022, the Women's Fellowship had a speaker from the City of Greensboro to give a presentation about recycling in Greensboro. Masey DeMoss, a Recycling Educator, gave us an interesting and very informative talk about which items are acceptable and which are not and why. She discussed the handling and sorting of our trash by hand and also the machines used to process the recycling items. And, she told us where we can take certain items that the City cannot accept in our recycle cans, such as Styrofoam, Glass, Plastic Bags, and Electronics/hazardous waste.

We would like to share here a few of the highlights from the program and some of the things we learned that we did not know before. Most of us did not realize that just because it has a recycle symbol on it does not mean it can be recycled in the City of Greensboro. Each community has their own regulations depending on their ability to process the items. Perfect examples are the very thin, clear plastic containers that strawberries and other produce come in; these cannot be recycled in Greensboro. Plastic can typically be recycled up to 4 times before the finished product is no longer usable; this is the case with these containers. They are at the end of their useful life.

Plastic is acceptable in three basic shapes, jugs (milk, bleach, detergent), tubs (butter, cottage cheese, cool whip), and bottles. All should be basically clean and dry. If the lid fits tightly, leave it on. If it pops off easily it should go in the trash; the machine will drop it to the bottom and treat it as paper because it is flat. Size matters: small yogurt and snack containers are too small for the machine to process and must be trashed.

We all know to recycle cans, but did you know that if the lid comes completely off of the can then it should go in the trash. Once again, if it falls through and is flat, the

machine thinks it is paper! If it is still attached to the can and can be bent down inside to prevent cutting someone, it can be left on. Paper/pasteboard should be dry, relatively clean, and boxes should be broken down. These items are best collected in a paper bag, not just tossed in loose. If part of a box is too soiled (pizza), consider cutting the soiled portion off and recycle the rest. If we think about how long our trash sits in the landfill before it decomposes, it should make us more aware of what we can do to help. Recycling is easy once we make it a part of our normal routine and there are people like Masey DeMoss at the City if we have questions.

Masey can be reached at 336-373-2342.





# *Special Music for Advent!!*

As part of our preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, Peace Church will welcome some new, and not so new, talented musicians and vocalists to our services.

On Sunday, December 11th (Third Sunday of Advent) Angelyn Gallardo-Fanlo will join us for worship. Angelyn is a professional harpist based in the Raleigh/Durham region. She began her studies on the harp at age 11. She began her studies with Lourdes de Gregorio, principal harpist for the Philippines Symphony Orchestra and continued her studies in North Carolina with Anita Burroughs-Price, principal harpist for the NC Symphony. She completed her undergraduate degree in Harp Performance at East Carolina University where she studied with Emily Laurance and simultaneously affecting with Gillian Benet-Sella with the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music during the summer months. Angelyn has performed in orchestral, choral, and chamber ensemble music and has performed as a soloist for various symphony orchestras throughout the United States. She currently serves as the resident harpist for the Raleigh Youth Choir (formerly the Raleigh Boy Choir) in Raleigh, NC. Angelyn resides in Raleigh where she works full time as a clinical psychologist. Angelyn will be playing Prelude music as well as two solo pieces during the course of our service.

During our Sunday, December 18th service (Fourth Sunday of Advent), our own Doris Yeattes will continue her nearly 70 year tradition of singing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy". This classic Christmas song was composed by Robert MacGimsey and published in 1934 by Carl Fischer Music. Its style is similar to African-American spirituals. Baritone Lawrence Tibbett introduced the song, and it went on to be recorded by choirs and other solo artists. At 98 years young, it is a privilege, honor, and deep joy to have Doris singing as part of our Advent celebration yet once again.

At our Christmas Eve service we will welcome back to our service Ally Randolph. Ally Randolph is a soprano from Park City, Utah. She recently completed her BM in vocal performance from the University of Montana and is thrilled to have started her MM in voice performance this Fall at the University of North Carolina- Greensboro. Ally is a huge opera lover and has performed several operatic roles including Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicci*, and Sesto in *Giulio Cesare*. Ally has sung with us before will sing two pieces for us on Christmas Eve.



*You are invited to a*



*Wednesday, December 14  
12 noon.*

*Come and enjoy food,  
fellowship, and fun!*





# Cuba Study Seminar 2023!



On Friday, February 10th, an early morning flight will depart Miami International Airport

with a group of 18 participants making up the 2023 UCC Cuba Study Seminar. Hailing from as far away as Juneau, Alaska and O'ahu, Hawaii and as nearby as Chapel Hill, North Carolina, this years' group represents the first UCC contingent to visit Cuba since early 2020 at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For nearly three years now Cuba has been struggling with a number of factors that have created very difficult and, at times, painful living conditions for the Cuban people. Covid led to the complete shutdown of the tourist sector, the primary engine of the Cuban economy. The 60-year-old U.S. economic blockade of Cuba was strengthened once again by the previous U.S. administration with over 400 new restrictions placed on the Cuban government, very few of which have been removed by the Biden Administration. Internally, two years ago Cuba made the transition from two currencies to one, which led to deeper economic chaos and stress among the Cuban population. Times have been tough, to say the least.

Despite these troubles, Cuba was able to develop three Covid-19 vaccinations which were made available to their entire population, and which are now being sold to various nations around the world. The tourist trade is opening up again, and new economic deals have been negotiated with various nations for food supplies, fuel, and some medicines. Last week, a U.S. delegation met with their Cuban counterparts to work on an agricultural deal between the two nations. Also, the U.S. embassy in Havana has reopened and is fully staffed again, able to process visas and do other diplomatic business.

So as the UCC Cuba Study Seminar delegation prepares to return to Cuba, it

will be very interesting to see how Cuba has changed in these past few years. Our trip will have many of the components of previous years, including a 5 day stay in Santiago with Revs. Elmer and Gisela Lavastida and the staff at the Lavastida Center. It will be great to be with our Cuban brothers and sisters again, and to re-establish many deep friendships that we have developed over the years.

Our "Mission of the Month" for January will be the Lavastida Center, so the financial contributions given during January will be hand delivered to the Lavastida Center staff when Pastor Tom and Kim and the entire group are down there in February.

This promises to be a great reunion!!

# Women's Fellowship

**The Women's Fellowship will be having their Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 6, at 11:30 at Mimi's at Friendly Center. The luncheon is open to all church members. Please let Debbie Shiner or Abbie Wheeling know if you plan to attend.**

**There will be a regular meeting of the Women's Fellowship in the church parlor at 10:00 on the same day.**

## Amaryllis Plants

Church children were given amaryllis bulbs to grow at home for the Christmas season in early November, look how they've grown!



Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC  
Treasurer's Report as of October 2022 for General Fund

Tuesday, November 29,  
2022

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<b>Offerings</b>					
4001	Pledges	10,326.25	97,215.72	118,228.00	21,012.28
4003	Loose Offerings	140.20	1,078.98	500.00	(578.98)
4004	Initial offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non Pledge Offerings	1,515.00	7,033.00	4,000.00	(3,033.00)
4007	Sunday School	0.00	(29.98)	100.00	129.98
	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$11,981.45</b>	<b>\$105,297.72</b>	<b>\$122,828.00</b>	<b>\$17,530.28</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>					
4102	Jambalaya	0.00	3,430.53	2,500.00	(930.53)
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	60.00	60.00	1,500.00	1,440.00
4121	History Room	540.23	1,540.23		
	<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>\$600.23</b>	<b>\$5,030.76</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,509.47</b>
<b>Special Offerings</b>					
4009	Communion	10.00	47.85	500.00	452.15
4108	Birthday/Thank You	300.00	400.00	100.00	(300.00)
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	20.00	50.00	30.00
4114	Memorials	100.00	223.45	0.00	(223.45)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	<b>Total Special Offerings</b>	<b>\$410.00</b>	<b>\$691.30</b>	<b>\$850.00</b>	<b>\$158.70</b>
<b>Other Services</b>					
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Other Services</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>					
<b>Facility Use Donations</b>					
4124	New Arrivals Institute	0.00	18,050.00	18,000.00	(50.00)
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	784.00	900.00	116.00
4128	Alliance Church	500.00	2,750.00	3,000.00	250.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	900.00	500.00	(400.00)
	<b>Total Facilities Use Donations</b>	<b>\$575.00</b>	<b>\$22,484.00</b>	<b>\$22,400.00</b>	<b>(\$84.00)</b>
4122	Miscellaneous Income	(10.00)	4,137.13	0.00	(4,137.13)
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>\$565.00</b>	<b>\$26,621.13</b>	<b>\$22,400.00</b>	<b>(\$4,221.13)</b>
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4129	Online Worship	0.00	1,000.00		
	<b>Total Offering Income</b>	<b>\$13,556.68</b>	<b>\$138,640.91</b>	<b>\$151,078.00</b>	<b>\$14,977.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Missions</b>					
5001	OCWM	0.00	2,000.00		
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	80.00	167.97	400.00	232.03
5005	Community Outreach events	(91.00)	0.00	100.00	100.00
	<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>(\$11.00)</b>	<b>\$2,167.97</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$332.03</b>
<b>Consistory</b>					
5101	PeaceCare		126.08	288.10	350.00
5103	Membership Growth		185.80	185.80	500.00
5104	Membership Support		0.00	739.66	500.00
5105	Worship committee		39.03	1,537.60	1,600.00
5106	Stewardship		0.00	158.18	250.00
	<b>Total Consistory</b>		<b>\$350.91</b>	<b>\$2,909.34</b>	<b>\$3,200.00</b>
<b>Christian Ed</b>					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies		24.99	(9.24)	400.00
5119	Youth Fellowship		0.00	0.00	500.00
	<b>Total Christian Ed</b>		<b>\$24.99</b>	<b>(\$9.24)</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
<b>Property</b>					
5210	Janitorial		700.00	7,200.00	8,800.00
5212	Grounds		416.67	4,166.70	5,417.00
5214	Property Insurance		938.18	10,929.44	15,000.00
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance		505.00	7,099.82	10,000.00
5217	Boiler Maintenance		2,572.74	12,756.99	3,000.00
5219	ADT Security		48.86	475.85	600.00
5221	Supplies		59.95	630.75	900.00
	<b>Total Property</b>		<b>\$5,241.40</b>	<b>\$43,259.55</b>	<b>\$43,717.00</b>
<b>Administration</b>					
5401	Postage		24.04	707.43	1,300.00
5403	Office Equipment Lease		190.02	2,775.54	4,000.00



5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
5407	Telephone/Internet	249.18	2,495.54	3,000.00	504.46
5409	Office Supplies	154.52	1,110.93	1,500.00	389.07
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	80.00	1,000.00	920.00
5412	Bank Charges	43.96	361.92	500.00	138.08
	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$661.72</b>	<b>\$8,031.36</b>	<b>\$11,800.00</b>	<b>\$3,768.64</b>
<i>Utilities</i>					
5301	Gas	789.00	9,060.14	15,000.00	5,939.86
5303	Electricity	1,756.84	8,983.45	10,500.00	1,516.55
5304	Water	377.56	3,889.80	4,900.00	1,010.20
	<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$2,923.40</b>	<b>\$21,933.39</b>	<b>\$30,400.00</b>	<b>\$8,466.61</b>
<i>Pastoral Compensation</i>					
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	27,908.40	33,491.00	5,582.60

**Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC  
Treasurer's Report as of October 2022 for General Fund**

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	14,166.60	17,000.00	2,833.40
5505	Social Security Reimb.	321.88	3,218.80	3,862.00	643.20
5507	Annuity	336.60	3,366.00	4,040.00	674.00
5509	Insurance	1,616.62	16,166.20	19,500.00	3,333.80
5510	Medical Reimb.	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	318.02	500.00	181.98
	<b>Total Pastoral Compensation</b>	<b>\$6,482.60</b>	<b>\$67,644.02</b>	<b>\$80,893.00</b>	<b>\$13,248.98</b>
<i>Personnel</i>					
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	800.00	8,200.00	15,600.00	7,400.00
5603	Secretary	1,440.00	12,735.00	15,600.00	2,865.00
5605	Nursery Attendant	49.50	609.40	1,800.00	1,190.60
5607	Youth Leadership	702.00	1,944.00	10,750.00	8,806.00
	<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$2,991.50</b>	<b>\$23,488.40</b>	<b>\$43,750.00</b>	<b>\$20,261.60</b>
<i>Personnel Benefits</i>					
5612	Social Security Exp.	228.85	1,796.92	2,713.00	916.08
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	(605.00)	1,300.00	1,905.00
5618	Conference & Meetings	(50.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Personnel Benefits</b>	<b>\$178.85</b>	<b>\$1,191.92</b>	<b>\$4,013.00</b>	<b>\$2,821.08</b>
<i>Fundraising Expenses</i>					
5701	Jambalaya Expense	0.00	1,205.58	1,000.00	(205.58)
5703	Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5705	Brunswick Stew Expenses	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
5707	History Room Expenses	1,193.46	3,772.13		
	<b>Total Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,193.46</b>	<b>\$4,977.71</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$494.42</b>
5107	Online Worship Expense	0.00	97.52		
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,037.83</b>	<b>\$175,691.94</b>	<b>\$220,873.00</b>	<b>\$51,050.71</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(\$6,481.15)</b>	<b>(\$37,051.03)</b>	<b>(\$69,795.00)</b>	

October Income	\$13,556.68
October Expenses	\$20,037.83
<b>October Income-Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,556.68- \$20,037.83 = -\$6,481.15</b>
YTD Income	\$138,640.91
YTD Expenses	\$175,691.94
<b>YTD Income-Expenses</b>	<b>\$138,640.91 - \$175,691.94 = -\$37,051.03</b>
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$151,078.00</b>
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>\$220,873.00</b>
<b>Budgeted Income-Expenses</b>	<b>-\$69,795.00</b>

**We are working on the 2023 budget. Don't forget to turn in your pledge card!**