

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

3323 Transou Rd.

PO Box 130

Pfafftown NC 27040

Phone: 336-924-9925 Fax: 336-924-2501

E-mail: office@pfafftownchristian.org

www.pfafftownchristian.org

Church Staff

Rev. Rodney Stilwell

Minister

Rev. Tim Shoaf

Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter

Office Administrator

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Pfafftown NC
Permit #2



January

THE VISITOR



A Word of Appreciation

PCC and guests have experienced another musical blessing from our outstanding Chancel Choir, Bells, Soloists and Orchestra. You have once again outdone yourselves with your presentation of "An Evening of Christmas Music" which was under the direction of Rev. Tim Shoaf. Each of us who attended the Cantata left with our hearts filled with the Christmas message of Love, Joy, and Peace. We thank all of you who participated and shared your musical talents! We are so grateful to Betty Kiger, the CWF, and others for their hard work decorating and preparing delicious food for the Reception held after the Cantata. What a wonderful opportunity to reach out and enjoy our neighbors and each other. Also, our Christmas Elves were at it again this year making our Sanctuary beautiful for the Advent and Christmas season. We thank each of you!

We thank each of you who attended the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Your presence made it very special and it is always nice to see those of our church family that have come home to celebrate Christmas with their families.

Once again, it is time to look ahead and be thankful for each other and our many blessings we have shared at PCC.

Your Worship Committee wishes you joy and the many blessings of the new year!

We are so grateful for each of you!



Come join us as we celebrate everyone's birthday at our Annual Birthday Luncheon on Sunday, January 26 following the 11:00AM Worship Service. Lunch provided will consist of a salad bar, baked potato bar and, of course, delicious birthday cake for everyone!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would be willing to make or bring a cake for all of us to enjoy. Thank you!

Taste and See That the Lord is Good

A great way to kick off 2025 is simply by digging into God's word with your friends and church family!

Join us at **11:00AM** on **Wednesday, January 8th** in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up in the Narthex.

January Worship Leaders

ELDERS: Steve Clodfelter, Leader
Ruth Saalweacher, Back-Up

GREETERS: Bob & Beth Faircloth

COMMUNION STEWARDS:
Bob & Beth Faircloth

*Wishing you a year filled with God's grace,
peace, and unending joy.
Happy New Year to you and your family!*

We would love to have you come and worship with us!

A NOTE FROM RODNEY

1 Peter 5:7, tells us –
**“Cast all your anxieties on Him,
 for He cares about you.”**

Our grandson stays with us through the week to attend school. On Sunday afternoons as we prepare for him to arrive, sometimes it's a difficult transition for all of us. We worry about groceries, his sleep and clothes. He worries about school, homework and missing his brother and sister. All of us get anxious about what the next week will bring. We don't know what is out there coming our way.

It's a new year. Most of us carry some fear after Christmas as we face a new year, 2025. Many of our leaders are new. Some of our families face challenges with grands and great-grands. And frankly, a new year reminds us that we are older than ever before. And our health requires more of us to do less than ever before. Just like my 12 year-old grandson - we don't know what is out there coming our way.

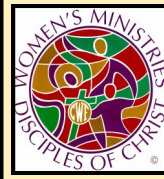
Let's try to focus on what we **do** know instead of what we don't know. I know that God understands all of this. In the teaching verse above He asks us to turn, or exactly, THROW, everything that worries us over to Him. He loves us and knows that His strength is greater than ours. God can handle these things much better than we do. Let's start the year off by talking more with and turning more over to God. He will always be able and willing to show us He cares by sharing our burdens.

Thanks be to God! *Rodney*



Mark your calendar for
Saturday, January 18th
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come out and support
 our local Girl Scouts as
 you indulge in their
 delicious cookies!



CWF NEWS

Many thanks to all who helped with our Cantata reception—about 180 church members and guests gathered for the reception after the Cantata.

We had 12 members and 1 guest at our Christmas luncheon and enjoyed a potluck meal and gift exchange.

January meeting will be **Tuesday, January 21 at 2:00 PM in the DFH**. We will be cooking a meal for the Salvation Army Center of Hope (providing shelter, meals and support for homeless children and their parents/caregivers).

Looking forward:
 February — blanket project for Western Carolina.

All ladies are welcomed and encourage to come and join us! We would love to have you!



Christian Men's Fellowship

Men, come on out and join us for a delicious breakfast coupled with wonderful fellowship at Mama Zoe's on Reynolda Road on
Tuesday, January 21, 9:00AM

Angel Tree 2024

The PCC Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for your wonderful response to our "Angel Tree" project this year.

There was \$1,820.00 collected and divided equally between Old Richmond School to assist with gifts for children; and to ASHE COUNTY OUTREACH CENTER located in Creston, NC, for financial assistance to families both in Creston and Lansing, NC, that were affected by Hurricane, Helena.

Your loving generosity helped to brighten the lives of these children and their families during the holy Christmas season. Thank you again for sharing your monetary gifts of love to others.

Notes from Tim

Epiphany and the Carol "We Three Kings"

*We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we
 traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and
 mountain, following yonder star.*

Included in the Christmas season is the *Feast of the Epiphany* which we celebrate on the Day of the Epiphany, January 6th each year. This holy day celebrates the arrival of the three men from the East, we refer to as the *Wise Men, Magi, Kings, etc.* as they brought gifts of gold frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child.

This carol was composed by the American John Henry Hopkins, Jr. for the 1857 Christmas pageant at the General Theological Seminary in New York City where, at that time Hopkins was the seminary's music director. The carol wasn't published for public use until six years later in 1863. Both the words and melody of this carol are stirring as they describe the arrival of the Magi which marked the first approach to Jesus by gentiles. While Jesus was born Jewish and was hailed as the *King of the Jews*, his message was for the entire world and the story of the arrival of the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew is the first mention in the Bible of gentiles coming to worship Jesus.

In this carol, Hopkins begins by describing the Magi traveling with their royal gifts in the first verse. While the guiding star over Bethlehem is described in the chorus between verses, each of the next three verses describe an individual gift and its significance. *Gold*, is offered to represent Christ's kingship. *Frankincense*, which is mentioned frequently in the Bible as being used in religious rites, is given to recognize Christ's deity. Finally, there is the myrrh also used in religious rites but mostly for funeral rites in times past. *Myrrh* is mentioned in the Gospel of Mark where Mark describes Christ, just before his crucifixion, being offered, and refusing, a cup of wine laced with myrrh — something that was intended to deaden the pain of his crucifixion. The image of Christ's future crucifixion is made even more vivid as the third and fourth lines of the verse

continue with: *Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb*. This is followed by the fifth and final verse that joyfully proclaims Jesus' glorious resurrection which will follow his crucifixion. In these five short verses, Hopkins ties the two holiest days of the Christian calendar, Christ's holy birth at Christmas and his resurrection at Easter, together in one lyrical and very moving carol.

As we together reflect on this carol as we sing it in worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, may we, as the Kings from the Orient, be led to follow that wondrous star to Bethlehem and kneel down before the Christ Child offering our hearts, and our lives to him as our *treasured gift*, as he comes to dwell in our hearts, and again fill us with the love and joy that only he can offer, and in turn share that experience with others!

-Tim

PRAYER REQUESTS



Bereavement: The Family of Scott Stanley,
 Son of Skip and Jo Stanley

Church Family: Betty Barker Jack Groff,
 Helen Johnson, Evelyn Nifong, Jo Poplin, Doug
 Ramsey, Skip Stanley, Sue Terry, Betty Tilley, Julie
 Tilley, Mary Timmons

Others:

Ken Barker: Friend of Rodney & Beth Stilwell
 Mike Booth: Friend of Pam Backi
 Ed Campbell: Brother of Betty Kiger
 Jerrie Connelly: Sister-in-law of Betty Barker
 Isaiah Johnson: Great-Grandson of Helen Johnson
 Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of Rodney &
 Beth Stilwell

Sue Miles: Friend of Jo Stanley
 Regina Perry: Friend of Dan & Sharon Binkley
 Pamela Reynolds: Friend of Traci Canter
 Scott Richmond: Friend of Betty Barker
 Jan Ritchie: Sister of Jo Stanley
 Penny Shepherd: Friend of Traci Canter
 Wes Snuffer: Son of Ed Snuffer
 Heather Stokes: Niece of Jill Robertson
 Joy Stokes: Sister of Jill Robertson
 Mike Stokes: Friend of Pam Backi
 Shay Whitehead: Daughter of Steve &
 Betty Clodfelter