



The Opequon Spirit

“Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations to be Christ’s Hands, Heart and Feet in the World”

DECEMBER 2016

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Worship Information

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, December 6

Dinner–6:00 p.m.

Provided by Congregational Care
Ministry Team

Suggested donation \$3 per person

Come enjoy soup, sandwiches and
dessert with your church family before
beginning the work of your ministry team.

Devotions–6:45 p.m.

Ministry Team Meetings 7:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS FOR EVERYONE!

The Advent season is upon us and with all the hustle and bustle it brings, wouldn't it be nice to take an evening off and share the joy of Christmas with others? Our LOGOS and Congregational Care ministries are teaming up to lead the way, and they invite you to join them on Wednesday, December 14 when we will be caroling to shut-ins from our church family. After caroling, EVERYONE will reunite and gather in the Fellowship Hall for a soup and sandwich dinner prepared by our LOGOS kitchen crew. Everyone is invited to come along as we share the familiar sounds of the Christmas season and give the gift of joy and fellowship. Please gather with us at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact David Witt at 662-1843 or pastor@opequonchurch.org.

STAFF VACATION SCHEDULE THIS MONTH

Cathy Richard ----- December 9
 Carole Witt ----- December 26-31
 David Witt----- December 26-31

COLLECTING FOR CCAP



CANNED FOODS

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close at noon on December 23rd and will remain closed until Wednesday, December 28th at 8:30 a.m. It will also be closed on January 2nd in observance of New Years. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:
“Why Do the Shepherds Sing?”**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I greatly enjoy singing with our choir, especially during the fall, Advent, and Christmas seasons, as our anthems focus on God’s blessings and our response, significantly upon the greatest Gift of all, Jesus Christ. Each year, as we begin practicing for our annual cantata and Christmas Eve services, we always observe that the “shepherds get all the fun songs,” the uplifting, jaunty, rousing songs that end with a joyous fanfare. The anthem, *Hurry, Shepherds, Run*, that has become a tradition for us on Christmas Eve, along with another song from a recent cantata called, *Run, Shepherds, Run*, reflect the enthusiasm of those who hurried to the manger with resolve: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15) And after they found Mary and Joseph and the child and made known what had been told them about the child, “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Luke 2:20)

A humble, probably smelly and tired, cast of characters who spend all their time watching and tending sheep become memorable stars within this unfolding story of our Savior’s birth. We celebrate their dedication, energy, and adventure each year as we remember their discovery, their testimony, and their worship. We also are privileged to sing their fun songs, this year, within our cantata on December 18:

*Shepherds were living out in the field,
keeping their watch one night.
When suddenly splitting the eastern sky,
there shone a heavenly light.
Running and shouting, they came into
town, proclaiming with joyous mirth.
Telling the people what they had heard,
about a glorious birth.
What was the vision the shepherds had
seen? What was the gleam in their eyes?
Why were they singing and dancing
around, joyously filling the skies?*

*Why do they sing? Why do they shout?
What is this celebration about?
What is the meaning of the news they
bring? Why do the shepherds sing?
‘Jesus is born!’ they sing, ‘Praise to the
newborn King!’
That’s why the shepherds sing!
(Why Do the Shepherds Sing? from Morning Star)*

The shepherds sing because of the birth of Jesus. We should do no less! Like the shepherds, through our discovery, testimony, and worship, may we give witness to how Jesus has touched our lives and made a difference. May we glorify and praise God for what we have seen and heard. And with dedication, energy, and adventure, may we joyously serve God and our neighbors, giving our best in response to the greatest Gift of all, Jesus Christ. That is what we shall bring in this season of giving!

Together in Christ’s Service,

David



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
November 15, 2016 Stated Meeting**

- Session welcomed the newly elected elders to their first Session meeting.
- Session met with prospective member Amy Tucker (and 2-year-old Katherine) and welcomed her into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church.
- Session received a report from Jack Youngblood on his Eagle Scout project to irrigate the Memorial Garden. The well is complete and he is working on resolving issues of bringing electricity to the well.
- Mission Ministry reported it is working closely with the Youth Council on the Motel Ministry. Currently, we are visiting two motels. We would like to expand.

- Hopefully, Mission Ministry will be able to sponsor two “Stop Hunger Now” events in 2017.
- Thirty Thanksgiving boxes will go to families of students at Orchard View Elementary School.
- Evangelism reported we will advertise our Christmas services in the Winchester Star.
- The Personnel Team is working on 2017 staffing expansion.
- Building & Grounds is meeting with a property management firm to discuss the potential of renting the manse.
- Stewardship & Finance distributed a first draft of a 2017 budget. We are still wrestling with revenue shortfall issues.
- Worship Ministry said that planning is complete for Thanksgiving and Christmas services.
- Christian Education said that this year’s Trunk and Treat event was the most successful ever.
- Session approved a request from Gerson Medina (violin) and Anna Dye (viola), Shenandoah University students, to hold a recital at Opequon Tuesday December 13 at 6:00 p.m.
- This year the Community Garden provided 2,255 pounds of produce to the Highland Food Pantry.
- Session decided that the Thanksgiving offering will go to the Motel Ministry.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

It is December—a month of celebrating Christ’s birth. Let us live this month with joy that Christ was born! The Older Adult Ministry team will be meeting on Monday, December 5, 9:30am in the Bageant Room. The team enjoys friendships, morning goodies, and time for planning as they look ahead to Happy Days programs and future trips. The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to attend.

Happy Days this month occurs on Wednesday, December 14 at noon. This is our older adult fellowship group that is full of spirit as they have great times together. The

gathering begins with a covered dish lunch followed by a Christmas celebration program led by Carole Witt. Enjoy a silly skit, try your skill on the HO! HO! HO! challenge and much more. Come on out for a great Christmas celebration.

Our December trip to see “Our Christmas Dinner” at the Bird-in-Hand Stage and Restaurant is set for Wednesday, December 7. Those who have signed up for this trip are asked to be at church by 7:15 a.m. that day. It will be an early start to a great day!

THE LATEST IN LOGOS

LOGOS Wednesdays are happy times as participants and staff come bounding through the door each week. We were so pleased to welcome 20 teachers and administrators for our annual Teacher Night at LOGOS. The theme was “Royalty Night” as we aimed to treat our guests like Royalty. WE also had fun with “Light UP the Night” and “Mix & Match Night” as themes. A special project in December for our LOGOS young people and staff will be the contribution of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens on December 7, our “Warm & Fuzzy Night”. These items will be donated to Washington D.C. for those needing these cold weather items. We will also be Christmas caroling to our shut-ins through LOGOS on December 14. There are always exciting times at LOGOS! There is always room for more, so come join us on Wednesday 4:30-7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Carole Witt or Kristi Cooper.

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN EACH SUNDAY MORNING



WORM is a creative and interactive style for the Sunday morning educational hour for children preschool-5th grade. No more just sitting in a chair to listen. Kids are experiencing lessons through Science, Drama, Art, Cooking, and Games! Most recently, WORM workshops have offered our children a closer look at Communion and Baptism as well as some great fun with the popular book “The Giving

Tree” by Shel Silverstein. Children love the workshop experiences on Sunday morning.

This month the workshops will be focusing on Advent with “Advent Idol”, a Madlib Advent Story and a Nativity movie. WORM workshops are for all children preschool-5th grade, on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Has your child been here to enjoy it? Let the children come!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY



The marriage enrichment sessions continue this month with a gathering being held on Sunday, **December 4, 9:45 a.m.** in the church office suite. Each session stands alone and thus you can ‘pop’ in whenever the sessions are convenient for you. The session this month will focus on “Being an Encourager” to your partner. Sessions have been great fun for the participants along with gaining insight for even healthier relationships with one another. Look forward to what’s in store at each gathering. Come join us. These gatherings are for couples of any age or stage!

ADVENT ITEMS FOR YOU

Advent is a most meaningful time of the year and we all know it brings with it much hustle and bustle. Advent began on Sunday, November 27, four weeks prior to Christmas. A great gift for us during Advent is our annual ADVENT DEVOTIONAL. The title of this year’s devotional is “What Will I Bring Him?” with pages full of writings by our own Opequon people! It is a treasure to read each day’s devotional. It is full of WORDS WORTH READING! Pick one up anytime you are in the building. It is worth a special trip by the church to pick one up! This daily devotional will enrich your Advent season. Advent booklets are available in the Gathering Area and Dell Room.

Children are encouraged to stop by the **CHILDREN’S CORNER** by the elevator to pick up a weekly item that they can use during the following week as they go through the season of Advent too. Instructions are provided for

each weekly item. Let’s get ready for the birth of our Savior!

You are invited to the annual
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST
Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.
Theme: “It’s All in How You Wrap It”

*Delicious breakfast

*Carol Singing

*Hilarious Game and a
Game with a Purpose!

*Outreach to Evans Home: Bring holiday wrapping paper, scotch tape, gift tags, ribbons and bows. These will be donated to the Evans Home.

** Special token for children to take home and ‘pay it forward’.*

ADVENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS

The “Faith in Families” adult Sunday school class has started an Advent study and invites everyone to come and join them. The class meets in the Assembly Room at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. *Down to Earth* is a DVD-based study that focuses on “the greatest miracle,” Jesus’ birth. Using story and scripture, our weekly conversations will challenge us to respond during Advent with down-to-earth love, humility, lifestyle, and obedience. In a season of preparation, Sunday school helps us grow! Please come and check out “Faith in Families” this year.

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

The Confirmation Class has been moving along steadily with their class lessons. Recently, they have studied God’s providence, God’s choosing of us for service, creeds and standing up for what we believe, sacraments, and God’s grace. The students volunteered at Highland Food Pantry on November 29 and next month they will participate in the Confirmation retreat. Continue to remember Paige Clark, Cameron Ritter, and Reagan Tibbs in your prayers as these young people participate in the journey of confirmation.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM

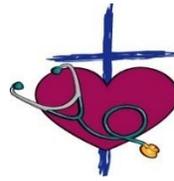
All of us on the Congregational Care Ministry Team are happy to do whatever we can to extend the ministry and mission of Opequon Presbyterian Church as our hearts expand. In general terms, our work is defined by our name. We care for the congregation. Working with Pastor David Witt and the church staff, we serve at times of bereavement, care for those who are sick or shut-in, maintain a prayer chain, and help provide health ministries to the entire congregation.

When there is a funeral in the church our team coordinates the planning and serving of a meal or reception to support the bereaved family. Our entire church family has been very good about providing food and assisting on such occasions. Our team also sponsors grief boxes to provide families with much needed supplies.

Much of our work consists of visiting those who are unable to attend church. This includes visits to hospitals and nursing facilities as well as family homes. When informed of the need, we take family meals into homes. We visit those who have fallen away from church attendance to let them know they are missed and loved. We welcome newcomers and urge them to become active in our church.

Patty Klinefelter, our faith community nurse, has met regularly with our team so we can assist in the vital health ministry she provides to our congregation. This consists of monthly blood pressure screenings, as well as occasional health education seminars. Our team members are pleased to benefit from her programs as well as to assist in presenting them.

As you can see, the work our ministry team does is very important to the ministry and mission of OPC. All our members are pleased to participate. Please continue to take advantage of the services we offer, and consider joining us to multiply our efforts. We would be happy to have you join us as we expand our hearts and extend our ministry.



DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

November is diabetes awareness month. Did you take the test located in last month's bulletin to see if you were at risk for diabetes?

Diabetes is a problem with your body that causes blood glucose (sugar) levels to rise higher than normal. This is also called hyperglycemia. Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, and was previously known as juvenile diabetes. Only 5% of people with diabetes have this form of the disease. In type 1 diabetes, the body does not produce insulin.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes. If you have type 2 diabetes your body does not use insulin properly. When you eat, your food is broken down into a sugar called glucose. Glucose gives your body the energy it needs to work. But to use glucose as energy, your body needs insulin, a hormone that helps the body use glucose for energy. When you have type 2 diabetes your body does not make enough insulin or use it well. Since your body's cells can't use the glucose from your food as energy, the glucose stays in your blood, where it can cause serious problems.

There is no cure for type 2 diabetes, but it can be managed. Many people with diabetes live long and healthful lives. You can manage your diabetes by: choosing what, how much, and when to eat; getting physically active; taking medicine (if your doctor prescribes it); checking your blood glucose; going to your appointments and learning all you can about diabetes.

Some healthy eating tips include eating a variety of foods, including vegetables, whole grains, and fruits; trying not to eat too much food; trying not to eat too much of one type of food; spacing your meals evenly throughout the day and not skipping meals.

Being active is another part of living healthy and managing diabetes. Any type of physical activity you do helps lower your blood glucose. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about which activities are right for

you. Examples of different types of physical activity include: aerobic activity (walking, biking, and swimming); being active throughout the day (taking the stairs instead of an elevator); strength training (lifting weights or using resistance bands) and flexibility exercises (stretching and yoga).

Please feel free to see me with any question you may have.

Patty Klinefelter
Opequon's Faith-Based Community Nurse
Reference American Diabetes Association



COOKIES NEEDED FOR CHURCH COFFEE

Our December fellowship coffee following the choir's cantata has become a wonderful festive occasion

and an opportunity to showcase your homemade cookies. On December 18 after both the 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship services, we will enjoy holiday treats. Please sign-up on the chart in the Gathering Area to bring plated cookies ready to serve.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE MEN OF OPEQUON

The Men of Opequon's (MOO) December gathering will be at the home of Mac McNichols (426 Handley Boulevard, Winchester) on Monday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a type of finger food to share, sweet, salty, snack, hors d'oeuvres. We will enjoy seasonal devotions and the always popular "Thieves' Christmas Gift Exchange" (a \$10 or less gift). All men are invited. You won't want to miss this holiday tradition and all the fun it holds!

READ 'EM AND REAP!

December's book to read is "The Name of God is Mercy" by Pope Francis and Tonielli.



GOD-LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

The Opequon's women's group, known as GLOW, meets monthly for great gatherings of friendship, support, enjoyment and spiritual nourishment. Women are invited to December's gathering on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm for an evening of "Christmas Ornament Making". You can make one of these adorable ornaments to keep and one to give away! Please bring \$1.00 to help defray the cost of supplies. Come join the girls for this evening of devotions, ornament making, and some festive treats.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION NEWS

Friday, December 2nd, 6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
MIDNIGHT GLADNESS!

Join us for a time of fun and service as we spread Christmas cheer to three families in need! Dinner, devotions, shopping, wrapping and much more. Bring one roll of wrapping paper and scotch tape roll per family and a drink and a snack to share.

Sunday, December 11th - 12:00 noon
"WARM BUNS" & LUNCH OUT

Preparing and handing out cinnamon buns in downtown Winchester and lunch at Roma Downtown.

Sunday, December 18th - 5:00 p.m.
PYC Christmas Dinner & Thieves' Christmas
Come share a delicious Christmas dinner while enjoying special activities and exchanging Christmas gifts. Bring \$10.00 unisex gift. Be creative. In this game, you ARE allowed to STEAL!

NO PYC - Christmas Day & New Year's Day
Looking Ahead into January:
Movie Night, Stop Hunger NOW, Ice Skating

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

The Community Garden at Hedgebrook Farm produced 2,255 pounds of fresh organic produce this year. That is a record! Thank you to everyone involved!

We are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity to grow and enrich the lives of many through our community garden. The community garden is currently accepting donations. With your donation, if we can raise \$600 and we are one of the quickest organizations, we have the opportunity for an additional \$400 grant.

With your assistance, we ask that you please use the link below to view the OPC Community Garden Campaign Fund page to learn more and to donate:

<https://www.seedmoney.org/campaign/354/opc-community-garden>.



“TY HEADLEY TREE OF WARMTH” Blankets for Church World Service

The church will soon be trimmed for Advent and Christmas, which means that the chrismon tree will soon rise within the Sanctuary. Of course, initially the tree will only be decorated with lights. It is up to us to make it glisten with sparkling white bows, creating a symbolic “tree of warmth,” donating \$5 per blanket for our annual blanket drive for Church World Service, marking our 10th year. Someone, somewhere, needs shelter and warmth. Yes, shelter. Sometimes, your CWS blanket is all they have to shield them from the elements. You can help! When tragedy strikes – war, flood, and fire – your blanket will be there. You can help! Our Opequon congregation has generously supported this Christmas mission project each year, reaching the \$5,000 mark eight of the past nine years. Let’s do it again! We continue to remember and honor Ty Headley, who before his death, facilitated this drive with an inspiring personal message and a persistent challenge. December 18th is the deadline to purchase blankets for recognition in the Blanket Booklet that will be available on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; however, donations will be gladly received through the end of the year. Fill out the special envelope located in the pew racks, include a check made out to “Opequon Presbyterian Church” and drop it in the offering plate. You can buy multiple blankets in the name of your loved ones and to the glory of God, who

shares the greatest gift of all with us – Jesus Christ. You can give blankets as alternative Christmas gifts for those who already have so much. Please give generously, giving the warmth of your heart through a warm blanket to those in need.



Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.
Memorial Sanctuary

Opequon’s WATTS Week is
December 26, 2016-January 2, 2017

Volunteer sign-up sheets can be found in the Gathering Area, Dell Room and in Sunday bulletins.

Contact Volunteer Coordinators with questions:

Graham Taylor, 540-247-4663 or
gtaylorgofishing@gmail.com

Heather Burton, 540-771-0121 or
mcpitch5@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING RECEIVED DECEMBER 18TH

Advent asks us to open our hearts to God’s love and grace, and by responding to that call through the Christmas Joy Offering, PCUSA church workers and racial ethnic students in need receive support. You may have heard the stories - of the retired minister who, after years of living independently, had a critical need for care he could not afford. Or the elderly missionary who, after years of earning modest wages, has outlived her savings. Or the church administrator who, flooded out of his home, watched the bills mount along with his worries. There are hundreds of such church workers in need each year - a key reason the PCUSA established the Christmas Joy Offering many years ago, and why Opequon participates. This years’ offering centers on “A Gift from the Church to the Church.” Thank you for your compassion and commitment to our connectional church.

OPEQUON’S THANKSGIVING MISSION MINISTRY PROJECT

110 banana boxes filled with Thanksgiving meal items were collected during November for Orchard View Elementary School and CCAP. The delivery crew, **Mike Birchenough, Jack Treece, Matt Cooper, Chip Blake, Gene & Robert Walker, Dick**

Crane, Graham Taylor and Bill Robinson delivered boxes to CCAP on November 18th. Bill Robinson, Blaine Homan, Matt Cooper, Dick Crane, and Dave Kelly delivered boxes to OVES on November 21st. Thank you to Happy Days and Mission Ministry for donating the funds for turkeys. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

DID YOU TURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD IN?



“Expanding Our Hearts, Extending Our Ministry” is the theme for this year’s stewardship emphasis. As it says in 2 Corinthians 9:6: “God blesses us financially when we give generously.” Dedication Sunday was two weeks ago; however, you can still submit your pledge card by dropping it in the offering plate, stopping by the church office, or even mailing it in. Thank you.

TAX BENEFIT TRANSFER FROM IRA TO OPC

Last year Congress passed the Tax Increase Prevention Act which makes permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover. The provision allows individuals age 70½ or older to make tax-free gifts totaling up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA account directly to qualified charities, (such as Opequon Presbyterian Church). You can do this provided the transfer is completed by December 31, 2016. If your spouse has an IRA account, you may each make gifts of up to \$100,000 from these accounts. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for IRA gifts, this distribution from your IRA counts towards your minimum required distribution for the account and does NOT trigger income tax for you. Yes, you can make a tax-free transfer to OPC and not have to pay any tax on it. Contact your IRA administrator to have a distribution sent directly to Opequon Presbyterian Church, but insist it be done by December 31, 2016.

END OF YEAR TAX SAVINGS FOR GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

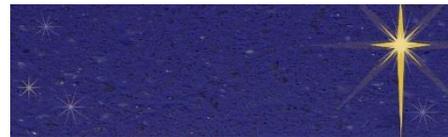
Generous people can make a difference in the world and Opequon supports an active outreach program that makes a difference in people’s lives. “Giving people” with grateful hearts help to reach people who need God’s help. Are you a “giving person?” There is not much time left to make charitable donations qualifying for an end of year tax deduction. Is your pledge up to date? Did you get a Christmas bonus from your employer and

wish to make a special donation to Opequon? Did you have a wonderful year, and now realize that when we give, others are blessed and God is glorified? God blesses us financially when we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:6). The white envelopes in the pew racks are for donations to the General Fund. Simply write General Fund on the envelope and insert your check. Checks can always be left during the week in the church office, and all donations received by the end of 2016 will be credited to your account, thus qualifying for the charitable deduction on your income taxes. All extra donations will be credited to your envelope number and shown in your end of year statement.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Children ages Pre-K through 5th grade will be singing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, November 30 and December 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A quick rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 4:20 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall before Christmas Caroling. Stay and come join us for caroling!

Questions? Contact Susan Homan at 540-665-9844 or srh1305@verizon.net.



“MORNING STAR” CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Come and join the choir in singing this year’s Christmas Cantata, “Morning Star”, on Sunday, December 18th at both 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship. This cantata, written by Lloyd Larson, celebrates the everlasting light of Christmas...hold fast to the promise that even in the darkest of nights, the Morning Star will rise! *“Arise, shine for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.”* (Isaiah 60:1) Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Cantata practice CDs are available! If interested, please contact Susan Homan at 540-664-8781 (text/call) or email srh1305@verizon.net.



We express our Christian love and sympathy to...

The Opequon Church Family upon the death of **Barbara Reese** on November 17

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me shall never die.”

John 11:24-25

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On All Saints' Sunday, we celebrated our great communion with the saints and honored the memory and lives of those who have died in the past year and joined the Church Triumphant...

Roy Bayliss	Ronny DeHaven
Robert Dobler	Betty Lee Foulk
Edward Golightly	Harry Nissen
Marian Patton	George Tubbs
Tena Willemsma	

like Bach, Walton, Ernst, Piazzola and a few seasonal songs.



Carrie Butler
423 W Whitlock AV
Winchester VA 22601

Dave & Laurie Yost
112 Buttercup DR
White Post VA 22663

To acknowledge your recent loss...
To remember a loved one...
To offer support in this holiday season...

You are Invited to Our Annual

"Blue Christmas—Longest Night Service"
A Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, December 18, 2016
2:00 p.m. Memorial Sanctuary

Please join us for this time of prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance.

PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS ARE AVAILABLE!

Purchase a comprehensive church history book (\$20), a beautiful Opequon Christmas ornament (\$5), or a fascinating church cookbook (\$15, 3 remain) for someone special in your life. Available each weekday and Sunday at your church! Cash and checks ("OPC") are accepted.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE! The hosting of the Presbytery on November 1st was a huge success!! While it takes many willing hands to pull off a successful event, the participants at Opequon did just that! Whether you served in the logistical areas of setting up or cleaning up the church, directed parking, helped with registration, greeted attendees, donated, prepared or served the food for both breakfast and lunch, decorated the church, or were involved in the Worship Service, we say **THANK YOU!!** We appreciate your time and willingness to make the day so enjoyable and awesome.

Allison Blake and Edwina Johansen
Co-Chairs, Hosting of the Presbytery

Dear David, Susan, Jennie, Jay, Mitch, and all of my Opequon Family.

Thank you so much for the heartwarming surprise recognizing my twenty-five years at the organ bench. I was very moved by everyone's expressions of gratitude. I didn't have a clue this was in the works and so was very surprised. I received so many cards that I decided to open only one each day so as to fully appreciate each of your messages. For those who were curious as to what was in the gift bag Mitch handed me at the 11 o'clock service—it was a gift certificate to Cracker Barrel and a 2017 Annual Popcorn Bucket from Carmike Cinemas. Thanks again, and maybe I'll see you at the movies.

William Heavner



The Shenandoah Valley Chorus (Sweet Adelines Chapter) performs and teaches four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. They will present a

Christmas Concert in the Opequon's Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.**

The Chorus presently has more than 20 members from all walks of life. They are nurses, teachers, housewives, business women, and many other occupations, all sharing a love of music. Four-part barbershop harmony and this love is what brings them together. For more information, check out their website—shenandoahvalleychorus.com.

The Blue Ridge Singers directed by Dr. Jeffrey Alban will present "There's a Song in the Air" at Opequon on Sunday, December 11 beginning at 4:00 p.m. For more information, go to blueridgesingers.com.

"Cultural Expressions" is coming to Winchester! Students from Shenandoah University will hold a recital on **Tuesday, December 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m.** in Opequon's Sanctuary. A free will offering will help fund a trip with Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Tour to Argentina They will perform a classical repertoire including composers

Words are inadequate when thanking my OPC family for the care and love expressed to me and my family over the course of the last two years. Beginning with the sudden passing of my sister, then illness and passing of my parents, hospitalization of my son, Scarlett's surgery, and finally my two surgeries, at times I felt overwhelmed. I had a lot of pity parties that were quickly quashed with a card found in the mail, or a call from David, a visit from Bekah and David, a meal delivered, a group card from Happy Days, or a visit from Debbie. It all has meant so much to me and has taught me that a little greeting or act of kindness can certainly push those clouds of depression, doubt, and sadness far away. The strength of our OPC family demonstrates that we are never alone. There is always someone to hold our hand, walk with us, help us to recognize our blessings and give us a firm foundation of others who share our faith in God. I hope that my life will settle down a bit and I won't need the cards, visits, meal delivery any time soon, but wow, it is so meaningful and a blessing that I know I have friends and family in Christ that will help me through anything that life throws at me and my family. Thank you all for your steadfast friendship, love and kindness.

Marj Praml and Family

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers and cards of support and encouragement. (And the one-on-one times, and the food too!). The past nearly three years have been especially challenging for me. Now that the worst is over, I'm looking forward to opportunities for paying forward the many blessings I've received from my OPC "family".

God Bless You All! Dom Cafaro

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your visits, cards, and food during my recent illness. Everything was very nice and greatly appreciated.

Hazel Spriggs

GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

I am seeking the talent of anyone familiar with graphic design as I embark on publishing manuscripts of children's picture books and intermediate reader works of fiction on Amazon. Please contact Marj Praml via email: writersitchmp@gmail.com or teachandwritemp@gmail.com, text or call at 540-327-2667. Thank you!

- 1 John Sherman,
Robert Sydnor
- 2 Ann Nordeen
- 3 Dave Arnoldy
- 5 Phyllis Gamble,
Grace Morgan,
Ethan Wilson
- 8 Jean Steidel,
Stephanie Sousa, Pam Stevens
- 9 Dawn Arnoldy, Allison Blake, Jordan Clark,
Owen Connors, Donna McKeever
- 10 Jordan Hartman, Shari Urena
- 11 James Kelly
- 12 Breanna Daggett, Sara Gomez,
Tyler Sweeney, Jennie Wright
- 13 Carol Tubbs
- 14 Samuel Covert, AnnMarie Kelly,
Cole Owens, Emily Venskoske
- 15 Mike Kibler
- 16 Gary Kain, Finn McCarty, Cameron Veach
- 17 Katy Nelson, Jim Youngblood
- 18 Carter Cooper, Sarah Shade, Mike White
- 19 Sabrina Lunsford, Nancy Rodgers,
Jack Treece, Jaxon Venskoske
- 20 Jason Brown, Andy Gray
- 22 Jack Drumheller
- 23 David Daggett, Hazel Spriggs
- 24 Richard DeHaven
- 25 Heather Burton
- 26 Wendy Ganoe
- 28 Abi Callahan, Stephanie Hicks
- 29 Michael Usa
- 30 Jeff Shiley
- 31 Shaw Paterson



- 3 Jason & Emily Brown
- 12 Mike & Sara Birchenough,
Mike & Vicki Crites
- 17 Dan & Ellie Cammer
- 20 Kirby & Julie Covert,
Gary & Carolyn Rutherford
- 23 Dave & Ana Ervin,
Daniel & Abigail Ervin
- 24 Bob & Denise Weidele
- 26 Cody & Beth Barr,
Mac & Paula McNichols,
Dave & Tonia Sweeney
- 29 Bill & Pam Bayliss





SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Acolytes

8:30
4 McKenna Williams
11 Megan Triplett
18 Audrey Saunders

11:00
4 Nicholas Hott
11 Ben Newhouse
18 Addison Williams

Beadles

8:30 Alan McKay
11:00 Shirley Tomblin

Bell Ringers

8:30 Mo Mohler
11:00 Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper,
AnnMarie Kelly

Greeters

11:00 Kirsta & Ben Weber

Hospitality

8:30
4 Dom Cafaro, Heide Mohler
11 Betty Chicklo, June Malone
18 Lisa & Bill Frye

10:00
25 Robert & Ina Walker

11:00
4 Nadine DeHaven, Debi Hodgson
11 Jack Drumheller, Annemarie Matthews
18 Martha Fulton, Betty Ganoe

Liturgists

8:30 Mike Butler
11:00 Kevin Reed

Nametags

Week 1 Pat deButts
Week 2 Dulcie Reed
Week 3 Nancy Rodgers
Week 4 Kail Barbe

Ushers (Head Usher in bold)

8:30
4 Vicki Schmidt Crites, Ainsley DesMarais,
Dulcie Reed, **Graham Taylor**, Bryce &
McKenna Williams
11 Jacob Gaul, **Pat Heavner**, Reese Tibbs,
Megan Triplett, Dick Widell,
Jim Youngblood
18 Emma Abell, Terry Hartman, **Heide Mohler**,
Audrey Saunders, Payton Shanholtz,
Carroll Youngblood

11:00
4 Jenna Arnoldy, Jim Butler, Nicholas Hott,
AnnMarie Kelly, Annemarie Matthews,
Travis Morgan
11 Jason Hathaway, Kyle Homan,
Ben Newhouse, Brady Noll,
Bill Robinson, Cameron Veach
18 Jason Brown, Brady & Carter Cooper,
Andy Homan, Addison Williams,
Joel Witt



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 25
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m. ONLY
"Service of Lessons and Carols"
No Sunday School
Comfy & Casual Attire Acceptable!
"Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!"

Opequon Presbyterian Church
217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“The Opequon Spirit” is the monthly newsletter of:
Opequon Presbyterian Church
217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421
Phone: 540-662-1843
www.opequonchurch.org

Newsletter deadline is the Wednesday after the Stated Session Meeting.
Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

David Witt ----- Pastor
Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education
Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music
William Heavner ----- Organist
Robert Sydnor ----- Sexton
Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse
Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor



We wish you a most Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year!

David Carole Susan
 Bill Cathy
Robert Laurie

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
October 2016

EXPENSES	2016 Budget	Net Expenses Current Month	Net Expenses Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Administrative Ministry	415,048	35,693	357,393	57,655
Christian Education Ministry	13,900	-196	8,596	5,304
Congregational Care Ministry	300	0	997	-697
Evangelism Ministry	600	0	548	52
Fellowship Ministry	1,600	193	2,296	-696
Mission Ministry	47,000	5,091	33,319	13,681
Worship Ministry	5,000	172	3,498	1,502
Capital Expenses	115,025	9,584	95,838	19,187
Total Budget	598,473	50,537	502,485	95,988

INCOME	Current Month	Year to Date
General Fund Pledges	37,657	451,366
Loose	365	3,704
Total Operating Income from Offerings	38,022	455,071
Adjustments to Income (YTD)		
Checking Account Interest		47
Transfer from Building Fund		0
Room/Facility Usage		350
Wedding Fees		0
Operating Income After Adjustments		455,467

Expenses (YTD) **502,485**

2016 Operating Balance as of October 31 **-47,018**



LOOKING INTO THE NEW YEAR:

- Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day Worship - 10:00 a.m.
- Friday-Saturday, January 6th-7th - Confirmation Retreat
- Saturday, January 7th - Officer Continuing Education - 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January 8th - Ordination/Installation/Commissioning of Ruling Elders, Deacons, & Trustee
- Monday, January 16th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Stop Hunger Now at SU

SAVE THE DATE

Young Family/Young Adult Gathering
Saturday, January 14—5:00 p.m.
 Dinner & Conversation
 Meat & Drink Provided
 Bring a Covered Dish to Share
 Bring the Kids Too!

Home of Sara & Mike Birchenough, 1945 Kathy Court, Winchester

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4th Sunday in Advent	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fair Trade Coffee 8:30 & 11am Worship, Communion, CCAP Offering 9:45am Marriage Enrichment & Sunday School 5pm Officer Orientation 7pm Shenandoah Valley Chorus	9:30am Older Adult Team 3pm Covenant Study Group 6:00pm MOO Christmas Gathering 6:30pm PS150 Rehearsal 7pm Blue Ridge Singers Rehearsals	1:30pm LOGOS Leadership 5:15pm Technology & Communications Team 6pm Ministry/Team Night	7:30am OA Trip to Lancaster, PA 4:30pm LOGOS 7:30pm Choir Practice	7pm Read 'em & Reap 7pm Scout Pack 1 7pm Scout Troop 1	6pm-1am Midnight Gladness	9am Christmas Breakfast 8am Men's Lectio Divina 8am Women's Lectio Divina
11th 3rd Sunday in Advent	12	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15	16	17
8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 12pm PYC 4pm Blue Ridge Singers 6:30pm Open Door Worship	3pm Covenant Study Group 6pm Adult ESL Class 6:30pm PS150 Rehearsal	9:30am Tuesday Morning Mission 6pm Cultural Expressions Concert 7pm GLOW	12Noon Happy Days 4:30pm LOGOS 4:30pm Caroling 7:30pm Choir Practice	6:30pm Scout Christmas Banquet 7:15pm Court of Honor		8am Men's Lectio Divina
18th 4th Sunday in Advent	19 WATTS Furniture Move	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
8:30 & 11am Worship, Cantata 9:45am Sunday School 2pm Blue Christmas Worship 5pm PYC Christmas Celebration	6:30pm PS150 Rehearsal	7pm Session Meeting	9:30am Staff Meeting 10am Winchester Newcomers 7pm Choir Practice		Church Office Closes @ Noon 9:30am Staff Breakfast	5pm Family Service 7:30pm Traditional Service 11pm Late Night Service
25 Christmas Day	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28	29	30	31 New Years' Eve
10am Lessons & Carols	7pm-7am WATTS	7pm-7am WATTS	7pm-7am WATTS	7pm-7am WATTS	7pm-7am WATTS	7pm-7am WATTS