

Alleluia Newsletter

December 2019



From Me to You:

"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 all on whom His favor rests."

(Luke 2:13-14 NIV)

What is Christmas?

- A "holiday" or a "Holy day?"
- About "lights" or "The Light?"
- About getting or *giving*: gifts or *The Gift*?
- Being together as family or as *God's Family*, the *Church*?
- The coming of Santa the jolly ol' elf or *Jesus the Son* of God?

If you said "well, in practice, it's *both*" you'd be right: today's world and our own culture makes no real distinction between the commercial and Christian celebrations of Christmas—**WHY?**

The answer, in part, is found in Second Corinthians 11:14: "even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." The devil's agenda all-along has been to put himself in place of God, and put his counterfits for God, Jesus, the Bible, and even worship, along with, if not in lieu of, the Truth of the One, True Lord of all (2 Cor. 4:4): *Satan's ultimate goal is to rob God of His glory in Jesus Christ!*

Contrast *that* with the **reason** Jesus came and *became* one of us:

- He came to show us who God *really* is, to glorify the Father, and give us new life to live to His glory:
"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14)
- Jesus came to "save His people—*all of us*--from their--our--sins" (Matthew 1:21)—*thank God He did!* By His death on a cross, Jesus died for us all, and shed His blood to wash-away all our sins! (1 John 1:7). Rising again, Jesus beat sin, death, the devil—and *all the lies of the devil!* Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6)
- And in the power of His resurrection, Jesus makes *us* into new creations, giving us a whole, new, *holy* love-life with *Him*, now and forever!
"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

All of this is God's personal and priceless gift to us in Jesus: it's *ours* if we pray, confessing our sins and need for Jesus as Savior, and ask Him to come into our life as Lord:

"as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,
to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

That's why the first thing the *angels* did when Jesus was born was give *God* the *glory*!

And that's why the angels *still* glorify God and rejoice when anyone is born again in Christ!

"though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him,
you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8)

May the **glory** of the Lord Jesus Christ shine on and show through you, so that you may continue to live for Him, *to His glory*, this Christmas and forever!

In Christ,

Carl

October 2019 Financial Report



General Fund Checking	\$ 43,293.66	
Designated Fund Checking	\$ 149,667.86	
PRESCHOOL Checking	\$ 33,498.65	
PRESCHOOL MM	\$ 5,005.40	
		<u>YTD</u>
OPERATING INCOME TOTAL*	\$ 46,599.24	\$ 326,616.24
OPERATING EXPENSE TOTAL*	\$ 25,941.95	\$ 247,946.42
OPERATING BALANCE (+ or -)	\$ 20,657.29	\$ 78,669.83
Deacon's Fund	\$ 1,506.95	

*Amounts are from QuickBooks reports reconciled to bank statements

A complete copy of the 2019 Operating Budget is available upon request from the Church Office.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



“Give thanks to the God of gods. His love is eternal.” Psalm 136:2

We give thanks to God for all of the bounty that He has provided each of us, and all of us together. I thank you for turning in your pledge forms, to help us with budgeting for the coming year. If you haven't turned in your form yet, you can still give it to the church office. We and our community are very grateful for all of the generosity that God has led you to show the church in time and talent and treasure!

Thomas Smith IV, Stewardship Ministry Chair

**Please Remember *The Dollars For*
Deacons Offering Envelopes in the Sanctuary.**

The Deacon's Developments

The Deacons serve Christ by serving others for His glory and purpose

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS! WE LOVE YOU!!

God loves you and so do we!!

Mary Davis (430-9779)
Nancy Nottoli (215-2164)

Barbara Gonzalez (251-8064)
Terry Odom (510-8224)

Larry Hendry (479-6150)
Alma Oline (415-4477)

PRAISE KIDS CLUB IS A FUN PLACE WHERE YOUR CHILDREN CAN LEARN ABOUT JESUS

Sunday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. we welcome children from 3 years old to 8th grade to come to Praise Kids Club. We offer a time to learn about Jesus using various learning tools such as games, crafts and stories. All this is worked into age appropriate classes. We also include a small snack.

Praise Kids has started its autumn term in the first floor classrooms.

For more information, call the church office (727) 345-0148 and leave a message for Laurie Smith. It's not too late to call and come.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

"Breakfast With Jesus" (Bible Study) Teacher: Larry Oline at 8:30 in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come have breakfast at 8:30am and stay to study God's Word at 8:45am. We are studying 2 TIMOTHY. Class ends at 9:45am.



SESSION DIGEST

The Session met for a stated meeting on October 22, 2019. The following items were discussed or acted on:

1. The Session continued to discuss the "future of PPC" under the leadership of Elder David Pilkington. He listed the most important things that the Session members felt can be done to be effective in ministry. These items were times of prayer together, Pinellas Ministry Center, small groups of one to twelve meeting once a month in homes, determining our spiritual gifts, food distribution ministry, communications, and a web site.
2. Elder Hammond shared about another church of forty members who want to use our Fellowship Hall for their worship time on Sunday morning. The Session discussed this and decided that the matter be tabled for now.
3. The development of a new church name was discussed. Some possible names that were mentioned were "CITY CHRISTIAN CENTER", "LOVING HOPE CONNECTION", and "LIVING HOPE CENTER".
4. There is a possible need for an "after care" class, that may be starting weekday afternoons, operated by our Pasadena Ministry Center. It is expected to accommodate about ten children and have an income of \$2400 per month. It would be biblically oriented.
5. The next Missions Conference will be on March 29, 2020.
6. A joint Christmas Eve service with the Crossbridge Church in the Sanctuary was approved (time will be 7pm). Pastor Drew will give a short message and Pastor Carl will lead the candle lighting. Carol Pilkington will work with the Crossbridge worship leaders to coordinate the rest of the service.
7. The next stated Session meeting will be changed from November 26 to November 19, 2019 due to Thanksgiving and facility tenting treatment.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Oline, Clerk

Session minutes are open records and available to any covenant partner of PPC upon request.

**COME to the LIBRARY RE-DEDICATION in it's new location in the Boswell Room
following worship on Sunday, DECEMBER 1.**

**The CHURCH OFFICE will BE CLOSED
From noon on Dec 24 until Monday January 6.
If you have a pastoral need during that time,
please call 727 368-5588 and leave a message.**

**Also please note:
the last day contributions will be credited to 2019 is Sunday, Dec 22.
All contributions received after 12/22 will be credited to 2020.**



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH – DECEMBER, 2019

Monday, December 2ND WOC Communion @ the Springs – 9:45am

**Monday, December 9th Rachel Circle Meeting at the home of Pat Watts
@ 6:00 pm**

**Tuesday, December 10th Sarah Circle will meet for lunch at O'Bistro
Restaurant at 12:00 noon**

We have one day circle (that meets either at 12 noon or 1:00 pm) and one evening circle (that meets either at 6:30 or 7:00 pm). This is not like a club – all women of Pasadena Presbyterian Church are invited to come to either of the circle meetings. They are open to all women. We have bible study, fellowship and light refreshments. We do have a budget for each calendar year and your offerings help us to contribute to the missions that we support, local and foreign. If you want more details regarding Women of the Church, please contact Pat Watts (727-302-0888) for further information.

**GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AND MAY WE
ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE THE WAY JESUS CHRIST
OUR SAVIOR HAS SHOWN US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER!!!!**

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

Bible Study—Galatians

Everyone is invited to join us for ***Bible study: Book of Galatians*** lead by Pastor Gary in the new Library (*Boswell room*) on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.



SONRISE ECLC

The month of December promises to be a very busy one for all of us, both children and adults alike. Our children are busy learning the story about the birth of Jesus and preparing a Christmas program for their families. We are so thankful for the generosity of the preschool families who gave toys for Trinidad and filled shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse ministry and we pray you are blessed with joy and the presence of Jesus in your life, now and always. Our children are learning to be grateful and generous and to think about others first.



It is a joyous, yet exhausting, season for most. And it can be frustrating, as well, especially when trying to find the perfect gift for those on your Christmas list! In today's society we are surrounded by the attitude of ME and what makes ME happy. This season is a season for giving and doing for the good of others instead of me, me, me! Therein is the challenge for those of us with little ones, who, by nature, are ego centered. Since it is true that children learn much from the actions and attitude (and gratitude!) of the adults around them, we might consider the following Christmas gift suggestions:

- To an enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, our heart.
- To others, service.
- To all, charity.
- To oneself, respect.
- To every child, a good example.

Christmas day is a day of joy and charity. May God make you very rich in both this holiday season and throughout the year. And may you pass that gift on to your children in abundance. Christmas blessings to you and your family from all of us at Sonrise Early Childhood Learning Center.



Shirley McLeod, Director

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
December 29 8:15a Praise Band Practice 8:30a Breakfast w/Jesus 10a WORSHIP 3-5p Praise Kids	December 30 SONRISE PRESCHOOL And CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK	December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	Church Office Closes until January 1st
1 1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:15a Praise Band Practice 8:30a Breakfast w/Jesus 10a WORSHIP w/ Communion Traditional style 3-5p Praise Kids 	2 Sonrise Preschool M-F 9:45a WOC Communion at The Springs 	3 7p AA Closed Meeting	4 1p Bible Study 5:15p Praise Band
8 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:15a Praise Band Practice 8:30a Breakfast w/Jesus 10a WORSHIP 3-5p Praise Kids	9 Sonrise Preschool M-F 6p Rachel Circle	10 12p Noon Sarah Circle 7p EvangeMissions 7p Deacon's Meeting 7p AA Closed Meeting	11 1p Bible Study 5:15p Praise Band
15 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:15a Praise Band Practice 8:30a Breakfast w/Jesus 10a WORSHIP 3-5p Praise Kids	16 Sonrise Preschool M-F	17 7p SESSION MEETING 7p AA Closed Meeting	18 1p Bible Study 5:15p Praise Band 6PM SONRISE PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY
22 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:15a Praise Band Practice 8:30a Breakfast w/Jesus 10a WORSHIP	23 SONRISE PRESCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION until 1/6/20	24 7PM CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION & CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE Church office Closes at noon	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Church office <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-top: 20px;"></div>

IBER 2019



	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office d y 6	Pastor Carl will be on Educational Leave January 6 through 21, 2020. Please call your zone deacon if you have a pastoral need during that time.		
n Boswell Practice	5 7p Women's AA	6 Church Office Closed	7 5pm Sonrise Church 
n Boswell Practice	12 7p Women's AA	13 Church Office Closed	14 8:30a-1p Food Distribution 
n Boswell Practice	19 7p Women's AA	20 Church Office Closed	21
GEANT			
STMAS! Closed	26 Church office Closed	27 Church office Closed	28 Church office Closed
The church office will be closed 12/24—1/5/20. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please call 727 368 5588 and leave a message.			



Library News



LIBRARY HALL OF FAME

We are so thankful to God for the wonderful people who have helped the library. Though we have too many to name, I wanted to take this moment to remember some of the librarians who have helped our church through the years.

A bright star in so much of PPC's ministry, and especially the library, was Esther Bierbaum. Esther had a wealth of knowledge about the Dewey Decimal system and a passion for libraries. Her book donations for all ages helped the library grow. She once told me that when the Library first was created, it was upstairs, in the educational wing and later was moved downstairs.

The Library is officially the Maxine Perry Library since she (and her husband Walter), spent much of their retirement time doing the official stamping and card-making of newly acquired books and audio/visual materials. Before her retirement she was a professional librarian with the St. Petersburg library, and she taught me a lot about cataloging.

When I first came to PPC, our young family, my husband and I were thrilled to discover the Library. At that time Pat McLeod was the librarian. She helped give us the opportunity for our children to get Christian-based fiction and movies. Although we frequented city libraries, it was a blessing that we could access these additional works, both for children and adults. My husband favored the study resources that the Library provided. Later, Pat was the one who wanted to know if I would assume management of the Library.

Most recently, the Library moved to the Boswell Room to allow for an additional preschool class in its former location. The move has allowed The Library to renew the life of the room, and we now have a dedicated reading corner with comfy chairs, along with a section for children, and plenty of resource materials, both in books and DVDs. We have also enjoyed providing the storytelling area and readers for the yearly family picnic for our preschool.

At the time this is published, the **December 1st Blessing/Re-introduction of the Library** to the Congregation will have already occurred. I hope you will have had the chance to come and see all the resources available to all ages. If not, it's never too late!

Laurie Smith, Church Librarian

IT WAS SHOEBOX TIME!!!



"Declare His Glory Among the Nations!" Psalm 96:3

**Thanks so much for packing a shoebox!!
We are making a difference in children's lives.
We will let you know how many boxes we sent.**

EVANGEMISSIONS

A note from our new Evangemissions Team Member:

"Hello, I am Teri Henry, beloved covenant daughter of God. A few weeks ago, as Pasadena Presbyterian leadership team was working out the details of a new Pasadena Ministry Center, I was praying, asking God to set my feet on the path He has for me. The answer to my prayer came that next Sunday when I was invited to join the EvangeMissions team. And isn't that just the way He works; we ask for a road map, and God gives us relationships."

We are extremely happy to have Teri on the Evangemissions Ministry team and as your Pasadena Ministry Center Director. Teri brings many skills and gifts with her including the gift of administration. Teri is exactly right; God does give us relationships and though we may not be able to see it clearly, God has a roadmap for each **one of us**. **In fact, God had a road map (plan) for your life even before you were born!** **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

We know that we are not saved by works but by Grace through Faith. You see here in Ephesians that we are created to do good works. If we are created to do good works don't you think God must also have given us talents and spiritual gifts to accomplish these works?

Romans 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.... (continues telling us about the gifts we are given) So, what are your spiritual gifts? Some of you probably know your gifts but you may be surprised to find that God has given you gifts you are not aware of. If you are not aware of your gifts, do you think it's possible that you are not using them fully to accomplish the purpose God has for you? Would you like to find out more about your spiritual gifts? We hope you do, and we are going to give you the opportunity to discover your spiritual gifts and hopefully put the gifts of everyone who attends this church to work using your gifts so our church can flourish in all the ways God intends it to.

We hope that each of you over the next few weeks or perhaps months will meet with one of us on the EvangeMissions teams and take a spiritual gifts assessment. The assessment won't be perfect of course, but it will help you discover the gifts God has given you to serve in the church. It's your decision if you share the results of the assessment with us but if you do we will provide you with information about where your particular spiritual gifts might be used to help do the ministry God has for our church. No pressure, just information. Something remarkable could very well happen if everyone in our church had a good idea of the gifts God had given them and understood how those gifts might fit together to be a healthy, flourishing Church. That would be pretty exciting, to see our little church rocking our town with the Gifts God gave us – before we were born!

Get signed up for the spiritual gifts assessment! Look for an announcement soon. All you have to do is email Teri or Gene and say; "I want to take the spiritual gifts assessment". We will get back with you and work out a time and place. In fact we can do it by phone or email if your prefer. Below is Teri's and my email contact information or catch us on Sunday morning – or any other time you see us. If you let us know in person write your name and contact information down so we can get back with you.

Teri Henry - terighenry@netscape.net

Gene Hammond – gene@genehammond.com

JAN'S MISSION

Karen Dunham's visit to PPC gave us a great opportunity to learn about her life and the work she's doing in Jerusalem and to help children in Kenya. She knows the value of every donated penny and how to get the most out of it. We are blessed to be able to support her in the mission field.

A former student of mine, Christopher Chacha, started a school in a remote area of SW Kenya. God is leading me to find sponsors to support the education of eleven children whose struggling parents cannot afford to pay a few dollars each month for school fees. To see the children's photos and how to become a sponsor, go to www.lovemymission.com. The child in the photo is Esther.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CHANGES WAY BOX TOPS ARE COLLECTED

More and more we live in a “digital world” and that is going to change the way the Box Tops for Education are collected and counted to help schools. I’m sure you know by now that this program has been a way for Pasadena Presbyterian Church to aid Rawlings Elementary School in St. Petersburg. Other schools have also benefited around the nation from other donors. Each coupon was worth 10 cents for the school and, as one volunteer said the small coupons really added up to a big help.

As the website for the program says, “Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store.” As long as you can find them on the boxes of food, bags, etc., and they are pink and well before the expiration date, continue to bring them in to PPC and we will pass them along. The collection point is the basket in which cancelled stamps are also collected for another charity. It is in the courtyard hallway.

Here is the new digital phase of the program: Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Top label. It is blue and pink instead of pink and white and you only have 14 days to enter each purchase on the app, using your receipt.

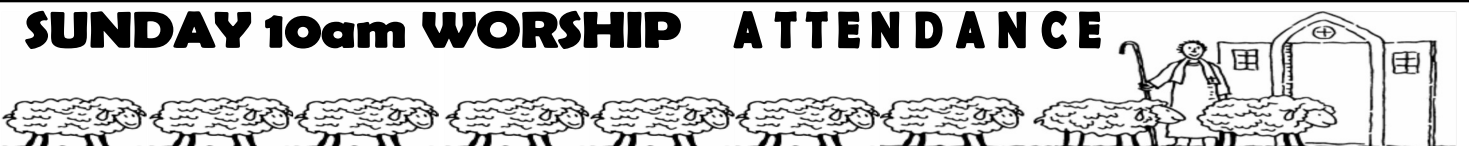
See Laurie Smith if you have questions or see <https://www.boxtops4education.com> Thank you.

A special thanks to Dave Pilkington for his professional courtesy in evaluating, selecting and implementing Pasadena Presbyterian Church's liability insurance policy through Wallace Welch & Willingham Insurance and Risk Management. He not only helped provide PPC with the coverage needed but also provided his expertise to ensure we received the best advice, the most competitive quotes, and the highest personalized service we've ever seen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We try to stay on top of prayer requests and concerns. If you know of someone in our church family who is ill or needing prayer, please let the office know. Even if the office is closed you can still leave a voice mail or email Threse.Hammond@PasadenaPC.com. If you have a pastoral emergency, you can always leave a voice mail at the manse at 727-368-5588 or contact your Zone Deacon.

SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



October 27 61
November 03 68

November 10 59
November 17 50

If your address or phone number has changed, please let the office know. This includes your cell phone number and email address. Many times we are not informed of your new contact information and either we in the office are trying to get in touch with you or one of the elders or deacons have information to bring to you and cannot contact you due to the wrong information. Please drop your new contact information on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or just call the office with an update. Thank you, The Church Office

Format for Submitting Information To Be Printed

- ♦ **Submit information 2 weeks prior to date needed print ready.**
- ♦ **Send information as an Electronic File MS Word Format.**
- ♦ **Newsletter articles are always due by the 15th of the month.**
- ♦ **Newsletter articles should be in Ariel and font no larger than 10.**
- ♦ **Newsletter articles should be titled with ministry, month and year
i.e., "Library February 2020".**

FACILITY USE NOTICE

PPC facilities are **not ordinarily** open in the evening for meetings or groups on **Mondays and Fridays**. If your meeting or group is affected by this new policy, you need to contact the church office to reschedule your use of the facilities to **Tuesday through Thursday evenings until 8:30pm**. If your group can't change to meet on the nights when PPC is now open, you will need to contact the church office to get keys and codes—you will be responsible for locking up and setting the alarm—or find another location off site.

Emails to the Church

If you are attempting to contact us at PPC, please make sure you are using the correct email address for us as listed in the weekly Flyer. If you send an email to us, but do not receive a reply, please call the OFFICE.

If you are not receiving emails from us, please make sure we have YOUR current email address.

Due to on-going technical problems, we have changed our email distributor for our PPC prayer list. We are now using Gmail instead of PasadenaPC.com to send out our prayer concerns by email. We will continue to receive requests using our church *secretary's* email—threse.hammond@PasadenaPC.com. Please do not send in requests using the new Gmail address. Thanks!

**Please bring in your plastic grocery bags for our Food Distributions.
Bags can be put in the containers in hallway by patio. Thank you!**

Pasadena Presbyterian Church
100 Pasadena Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

One
First
Class

ALLELUIA NEWS

LABEL HERE

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PPC'S MISSION STATEMENT **"GLORIFY GOD, BEAR MUCH FRUIT, SHOW OURSELVES
TO BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST" (John 15:8)**

Church Office: 727/345-0148 Preschool: 727/344-1584 Fax: 727/347-6836

Web Site: www.pasadenapc.com E-mail: Threse.Hammond@pasadenapc.com

Please remember Pasadena Presbyterian Church in your prayers, your will and your estate planning.

*Happy
Birthday
December
&
January*

12/8 Gail Stahley

12/13 Barb Hendry

12/14 Paul Galloway

12/15 Patti Strong

12/15 Laura Tomin

12/26 Michelle Aristizabel

12/27 Julie Gull

12/31 Leslie Hughes

1/11 Pat Mancini

1/14 Gina Driggers

1/17 Candace Crawford

1/18 Alma Oline

1/19 Claire Stahley

1/21 Sarah Smith

1/23 Carol Pilkington

1/25 Tom Smith IV