



11933 SE JUNO CRESCENT HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33455

PHONE: (772) 546-5043



MESSENGER

SUNDAY SERVICE
December 18, 2016

10:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Sam Rutland

Old Testament:
Isaiah 60: 1-6

New Testament:
Matthew 2: 1-8 and 13-21

Sermon:
"Battling Herod"



Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Hobe Sound Community
Presbyterian Church**

6:00 PM

Saturday, December 24.

With beautiful Christmas hymns accompanying the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, it will be a special evening of celebration and fellowship. The children of our Church will have a various roles in the service. Come, and bring a friend.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SAM

Friends in Christ,

Again, let me say that it is a joy to serve as your Stated Supply. One of the reasons being that you are Christians who know how to express joy. Yes, indeed you do... in ways that amplify and point to the joy of Christ Jesus at Christmas. Let me mention one important way. :

You sing! You sing enthusiastically, joyfully, and yes LOUDLY! Not a big deal you might say? Well, the greatest theologian of the 20th century, Carl Barth put it this way: "The true church of Jesus Christ SINGS. The dead and dying church does not. In worship our voices join the voices in heaven in thankful praise to God." Barth says that the health of a church is easily measured not by how well people sing, but how joyfully, or loudly. That said, Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian is a joyful, healthy church. Healthy enough to run a marathon. The theme of Christmas Joy is abundant in the pews.

Let me mention our upcoming Christmas Eve Service, Saturday at 6:00 p.m. It will be a time of familiar carols, the lighting of the candles, hearing the voices of children, and celebrating the joy of Christmas Eve. If ever there was an opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to church, this is it.

The next morning, December 25th is Christmas on Sunday. I would encourage you to come in your most casual attire and continue the Joy of Christ's birth. I would even say to kids, "come in your pajamas! If children are present I'll have a special "Blessing of the Toys" time, so bring the best toy you received to church on Christmas.

Finally, remember the Christmas Angel Offering for needy families, the House of Hope and our local homeless program.

Joyful, enthusiastic, SINGING Presbyterians, I love serving you as Stated Supply, I'll see you Sunday.

Joyfully,
Sam

DECORATING THE SANCTUARY WITH POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias that grace the front



of our church sanctuary are still available for purchase by members and friends of the church. The cost of each plant is \$8.00. The poinsettias have been donated, so when you buy a plant you will be making a donation to the funding of our Memorial Garden.

The insert included in the bulletin gives directions for use in ordering your poinsettia(s). The plants will remain in place through the worship service on December 25 (Christmas Day). and you will be able to take your plant home with you at the conclusion of that service.

AN UPDATE ON THE CHRISMONS DECORATING THE "CHRISMON TREE" IN OUR SANCTUARY

Last week we asked if anyone had information about the origin of the Chrismons on our sanctuary "Chrismon Tree".

Apparently Pastor Chip Falcone requested the Chrismons when he first came to our Church, in 2006. Linda Croyle reported that her husband, Todd, "labored over those decorations", spending many hours of tedious cutting with an Xacto knife. Foam board did not cut as easily as one might think. Todd did all of the "prep" work, and then the children added the glitter.



Obviously the work was done carefully and with much love, because the Chrismons have certainly held up well over the years, and we will continue to be blessed with them on our "Chrismon Tree" for years to come.

If you want to delve further into the Chrismon tradition and symbols, the following two websites are excellent sources:

www.umcs.org/chrismons/patterns/index.htm

www.whychristmas.com/customs/chrismons.shtml



The Christmas tree in the social hall is a lovely new addition this year, donated and decorated by the **Girl Scouts** who meet there on Thursday evenings. They enjoy it during each meeting, and we are so very fortunate to be able to enjoy it during our Sunday morning social hours following the worship service.

Many thanks to the girl scouts for sharing this beautiful symbol of Christmas with us.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL OFFERING

The Christmas mission project this year is the Christmas Angel Offering, which will be used to provide help to local families, and to benefit the *House of Hope* and *LAHIA* (a Martin county program to aid the homeless). Angel offering donation envelopes can be found in the pew in front of your seat, and your donation can be placed in the offering plate. Donations can also be mailed to the church office.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE and will be placed on the Sanctuary porch for you to pick up starting this Sunday. A box of envelopes is provided to each individual, or family, that has used these prepared envelopes for their offering during the past year. When you use these prepared envelopes for your weekly offering, a record is kept for you by the Church for tax purposes. If you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on it, and you want one, please see Milla Fincham (Church Treasurer).

The first envelope in your 2017 box is for your **PER CAPITA** payment. This payment is your portion of the Church's financial commitment to the Presbytery. Each year the Church must contribute to the Presbytery a given amount for each active member on its rolls. This is called the PER CAPITA.

This money goes to support the work and ministry of the larger Presbyterian Church. Each governing body of the Church beyond the local church has staff members and expenses that support the work of the local churches. Your PER CAPITA payment is divided among the General Assembly, the Synod of South Atlantic and the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

This year the PER CAPITA amount is \$32.24 per active member. Our church, with an official active membership as of January 1, 2016 of 115, must pay \$3707.60. It is an individual, not a family, responsibility to pay your share of this amount if you are an active member of our Church. Any PER CAPITA payment not made by the active member must be taken out of the Church treasury.

JOB OPENING IN THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Karen Kienzle and Cindy Fucigna, co-chairs of the Christian Education Program, are very excited to announce that the Session has approved a Part-Time position of “coordinator” for our Christian Education Program. They anticipate the position to be 5 hours a week at \$15.00/hour.

Our church has a great group of volunteers working with the children. If you are interested in becoming involved in our Christian Education Program as Coordinator, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please reach out to Karen Kienzle (karenkienzle@hotmail.com) or Cindy Fucigna (rioluna3@yahoo.com)

Election of Elders and Deacons: The nominating committee is now in the process of selecting nominees for the very important roles of *Elders and Deacons*. If you know of someone that you believe possesses the gifts of faith and leadership (including yourself) and might be called to be an Elder or Deacon in the coming year, please make it a point to convey this to **Jan Norrish**, chairman of the Nominating committee.

Worship Service Lay Leaders: We are returning to the custom of including Lay Leaders in our Worship Services. Jan Norrish compiles the schedule and asks that anyone wishing to serve the Church in this capacity contact her to volunteer.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 5 - Isabella Fucigna
December 13 - Bob Atkisson
December 14 - Mary Wilburn

- December 20** - Tom Fucigna
- December 21** - Katherine Hobson
- December 25** - Audrey Ruggier
- December 27** - Hazel Stackhouse
- December 31** - Victoria Hobson

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- December 7** - Jonathan and Holly Pratt
- December 16** - Jim and Jan Norrish
- Steve and Kimberly Anderson
- December 21** - Bob and Diane Atkisson
- December 31** - Terry and Judy McCloy

PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ric Nichols and family • Brian Tobin • Jim White • The Heimann Family • Terry McCloy • Barbara Gaus • Katie Ide and infant son Jacob • Deborah Hobson and Family • Jim and Lori Cox • Doug Bent • Joyce Spengler • Jennifer Bellintoni • Dave Reeves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Benedict • John Strudwick and the Altman family • Alex Lopez-Estrada • Rita Skojec • Patrick Corr • Angel Nichols • Arline Holloway • Earlene Thompson • Meghan Daley • Roy Kindberg • Sandy Delagio |
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Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless a request is made to keep them on. This request can be made to Karen Metzger.

WHEN YOU WANT TO MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST: To request prayers through the Prayer Circle, for yourself or someone else, contact Jan Norrish, 772-486-5514, jannorrish@hotmail.com, To have a prayer request included in the Church Sunday bulletin, fill out the prayer request card found in the Church pews or contact Karen Metzger, 772 220-4678, or kmmetz@bellsouth.net.

HSCPC WEBSITE: TheMESSENGER is posted on our website each week. If you want to check content from a previous week, just go to www.hscpc.org and click on the Newsletter link.

Visit our website: www.hscpc.org

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