



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

Thank you to everyone who helped make our sanctuary beautiful this Christmas season with your purchased poinsettia either in honor or in memory of someone. Thank you also to our hard-working Operations Department for making our entire worship center beautiful with all of the Christmas decorations! Poinsettias may be picked up immediately following the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, and the remaining poinsettias will be taken to Carrington Place.

We give these poinsettias in honor of

Peggy Dear

by Scoggin Jones

Matt Gidney Family

by Alona Weddine

Darrell Hargett, my husband

by Becky Hargett

Given by Bosco Jen

Jane Price

by Jimmy Price

Julia Rhino

by Rhonda & Danny Rhino

Donn & Dottie Toney

by Ross, Stephanie, Olivia & Abbie

Bennett

Robert and Becky Shames

Dorothy Upchurch and Janice Lilly

by Janice Upchurch

We give these poinsettias in loving memory of

Lee and Andy Andersen, Brent's parents

Ilma & Herb Rogge, Jill's parents

by Brent & Jill Andersen

My husband, Bob Branson

by Dot Branson

My dear husband, Granville Broome

by Toni Broome

Hank & Joan Botzko

by Susan Botzko

Dr. and Mrs. David Cayer

by David and Karen Cayer

My husband, Doug Clark

by Tricia Clark

Meme Davis

by Caitlin Curl

Martha Depp

by Fred & Jean Depp

Peggy & Jack Everidge

by Rhonda & Danny Rhino

Anna Gooch

by David and Karen Cayer

My wife, Evelyn Guinn

by Robert Guinn

Mitch and Micah Gurley

by Caitlin Curl

Mikael G. Harry

by Karen Harry

My dear husband, Tom Henson

by Vicky Henson

Ruth Hood

by Hoods Crossroads Covenant Group

Pat McKissick

by Covenant Group

Chappell Rhino

by Rhonda & Danny Rhino

William & Lorene Rhodes and

Robert & Linda Sutton, our parents

by Jim & Donna Sutton

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Roach

by David and Karen Cayer

Curtis & Josie Sanders

Richard & Patricia Schleicher

by Dean & Gatha Schleicher

Christopher Neal Underwood

by Joe & Gene-Ann Underwood

My beloved husband, Gordon Wilson

My dear mother, Estelle Wittholz

by Lisa Wilson

Dorothy Henry Woodall, my mother

by Becky Hargett

YEAR-END GIVING

Gifts to the church in December are a significant part of our annual income and help support more than 50 ministries. Generally, gifts to the church in the form of checks or cash that are mailed (and postmarked) by December 31 or delivered in person to the church office by 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 31, should be deductible for tax purposes.

You may also take advantage of our secure online giving (under the Members tab on our website). God blesses Christ Covenant through your gifts, and they are greatly appreciated. Call the Church Finance Office at 704-847-3505 with any questions or for more information, including details on handling stock/fund or IRA transfers.

A TAX BENEFIT FOR SENIORS

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be eligible for a significant tax savings when making gifts to the church. Here's how that works. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from an IRA account are typically subject to income taxes; however, payments made directly from an IRA to the church (trustee to trustee transfer) will not be subject to income taxes for many qualifying Seniors. If you are interested in making a financial gift to the church, this may be an opportunity for you to give and save taxes at the same time. This is a great idea for 2020 December giving as well as good planning for next year. Be sure to check with your tax advisor to see if this is right for you, and please be mindful of year-end deadlines (see Year-End Giving). For church-related questions, contact the Church Finance Office at 704-847-3505.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Andrew and Ginni Larkins
on the birth of their daughter,
Margaret Jane Larkins.

SYMPATHY TO:

Drew Gustavson on the loss of his
father, George Gustavson.

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Are you a guest visiting with us today,
or did you meet a guest this morning?
We encourage all our guests to stop by
our Guest Kiosks in any of our lobbies
after worship. We have a free gift for
you and would like to meet you!

PRAYER REGARDING ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS

Beginning December 27, 2020, and for
the entire month of January, the Session
of our church will receive and consider
nominations for the offices of elder and
deacon. Through these offices Christ
rules and shepherds his church. Would
you prayerfully consider who you
believe could serve our church well as
an elder or deacon? All nominees must
be male and a member of our church
for at least two years by his election
(June 2021).

WINTER/SPRING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Registration is now open for select
winter/spring Women's Bible Studies.
Small Group Bible Studies will meet
at a variety of times throughout
the week. The Winter Short Study,
taught by Sarah Ivill, will meet on
Thursday mornings. To learn more
about these studies and register,
please visit the Women's Ministry
website at <https://christcovenant.org/womensbiblestudies/>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST COVENANT

Current opportunities at Christ
Covenant include:

- Pastor of Evangelism & Mobilization
- Assistant Director of Middle School Ministry
- Assistant Director of High School Ministry

Details: christcovenant.org/aboutus/employment

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING - PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS MINISTERIAL RELIEF

Once again this year our Christmas Eve worship services will include a special offering designated for the help of PCA pastors, pastors' widows, church employees and their families who need assistance with financial, spiritual, and emotional needs. The work of Ministerial Relief is 100% funded through the generosity of individuals and churches.

Established in 1973, the PCA Retirement and Benefits Ministerial Relief fund uses offerings from congregations like ours to assist pastors and their families. These ministry workers often find themselves in seasons of hardship in addition to the emotional and financial constraints of pastoral work. The relief fund can partner with pastors and churches to support ministry employees and their families in need by extending both help and prayer.

Those eligible for assistance from the fund include pastors, widows, retired or disabled pastors, missionaries, pastors' wives, RUF campus pastors, and church employees. Their need for ministry services grows from year to year. Every month the wife of a PCA pastor becomes a widow who may need ongoing assistance. In addition, the number of PCA pastors retiring without sufficient savings will double in the next five years, and 80% of pastors' wives would access Christian counseling if offered.

The fund provides financial assistance to PCA church servants and their families to help with basic expenses like food, housing, medical costs, and more. This help can be for a brief period or as needed for the care of widows or the disabled. The fund also provides access to affordable and confidential Christian counseling services to pastors and pastors' wives through ministry partners. Ministerial Relief is known as a trusted ministry of compassion to PCA church servants.

To read the stories of individuals who have been helped or to learn more visit <https://pcarbi.org/relief/>.

ADVENT AT CHRIST COVENANT

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol Service was on Sunday, December 6. If you missed the service or would like to enjoy it again, you can find it on our Vimeo and YouTube channels.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Both the 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be livestreamed on all our digital platforms. You can find the replay of these services on our digital platforms after each service.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This list shares notable events for this week. See our website at christcovenant.org. Weekly and monthly prayer guides can be found at christcovenant.org/prayer.

THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 20-26)

Dec 20 • In-person morning worship at 9:00 am*

Dec 20 • In-person and livestream morning worship at 10:45 am*

Dec 24 • In-person Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 pm*

Dec 24 • In-person & livestream Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm*

* Those with asterisks require signups prior to event/worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 24 & 25 • Church office closed

Dec 31 • Church office open till 4:30pm

WATCHING OUR BUDGET

Thank you for your tithes and gifts to all of the ministries of Christ Covenant. Please continue to pray for God's provision throughout 2020.

<i>Inflow 1/1/20 – 12/13/20</i>	<i>Actual \$</i>	<i>Budget \$</i>	<i>Difference \$</i>	<i>% (-) or +</i>
Operating Budget	5,393,813	5,720,000	-326,187	-5.7%
Faith Promise Budget	398,168	305,574	95,594	30.3%