PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Church Staff

Rev. Rodney Stilwell
Minister

*Rev. Tim Shoaf*Minister of Music & Programs

Traci CanterOffice Administrator



PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

... and come see the wonderful things happening at Ffafftown Christian Church



Pfafftown Christian Church Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

presented on

Sunday, December 8

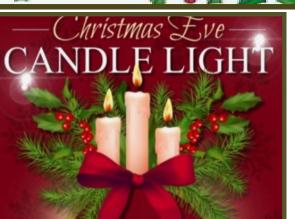
5:00 p.m.

accompanied by Strings, Harp, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Trumpets, Timpani, & Percussion.

Jill Gardner, soprano soloist

A Reception will follow in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall.

Please invite your family and friends!





If you would like to place a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out an order form in the Narthex \$15 or call the church office. Forms are due by Wednesday, December 4th.

Please join us at 5:00 PM as we gather in the Sanctuary to sing carols of praise and thanksgiving as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will hear the wondrous Christmas story in God's Holy Word and celebrate the Lord's Supper. This heartwarming service will close by lighting candles as we open our hearts to God's loving grace and prepare ourselves to go out into this broken world to be His light to others.



A NOTE FROM RODNEY

But encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "today," Hebrews 3:13

Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. I know it is crazy and stressful. But I have loved giving and getting gifts as far back as I can remember. There is nothing quite like seeing a child opening a present. Even after all these years, opening gifts with our grand-children is so fun.

Yet God has taught me that the greatest gifts are those that we give and receive all throughout the year. They don't appear on my credit card statement and don't need to be gift-wrapped. But the greatest gifts bless my life each and every day.

Encouragement. I'm talking about a kind note from a friend, someone's prayer, a text message saying, "thanks," a smile on a stranger's face, or a warm hug from a loved one. These gifts of encouragement don't wait on December 25th to be opened but they come just when we need them - from our Father who is the Giver of all good things, all of the year.



Let Jesus' birthday remind us to celebrate the gifts of encouragement we receive every day. And let Christmas remind us to give others, near and far, the gift of encouragement today – and every day.

Thanks be to God! Rodney

DECEMBER Worship Leaders



ELDERS: Tony Bryant, Leader Judy Gillespie, Back-Up

GREETERS: Pam Backi & Doug Ramsey

COMMUNION STEWARD: Gerald Fletcher

CWF NEWS



Many thanks to all who helped with our Chicken Pie/Baked/Frozen Foods and Holiday Shop.

To date we have collected \$5,349. After workshop expenses, remaining funds will be used to fund our Outreach Budget.

Our Christmas meeting will be a potluck luncheon on **December 17 at 12:30 pm** in the <u>Downstairs Fellowship Hall</u>. Please bring a \$20 gift if you would like to participate in a Secret Santa gift exchange.

Looking forward:

January Outreach - Meal for Salvation Army Center of Hope (providing shelter, meals and support for homeless children and their parents/caregivers).

Angel Tree 2024 The PCC Outreach Commi

The PCC Outreach Committee will be collecting monetary gifts for a family at Old Richmond Elementary School as well as collecting monetary gifts for a family in Lansing, NC near West Jefferson, with three

young children ages 11, 8, and 3.

The total monies collected for our Angel Tree offering will be divided equally to support both families.

If you would like to help make the holiday brighter for these two families, please make your checks payable to PCC (with memo: Angel Tree Fund) by **Sunday, December 8th**.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that donated, helped, and purchased items at our Fall Yard Sale. We were blessed to collect \$2300 which will go towards our local, outreach ministries throughout the upcoming year.

Notes from Tim

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

In Luke 2:14, we find this canticle of the angel's song --one of the most famous and frequently sung of the Christmas canticles. The refrain of "Angels we have heard on high" is taken directly from this verse. Reflecting a common theme found throughout the history of Christian hymnody, a cosmic chorus resounds in the first stanza. The chorus begins in heaven with the angels. Then the "mountains in reply" echo back in response - antiphonally, symbolizing the participation of earth.

The entire hymn is a traditional French carol that originated as early as the eighteenth century and was published in North America in 1819. The original hymn appeared in French - "Les anges dans nos campagnes" in eight stanzas arranged in a dialogue from alternating between the shepherds and the angels. The carol first entered in an anonymous version from the play, The Nativity. The English translation by James Chadwick (1813-1882), Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle was taken from Crown of Jesus (1862), subtitled, "a complete Catholic manual of devotion, doctrine, and instruction." The carol was found in the section headed "The Twelve Mysteries of the Sacred Infancy" with the title "Christmas Hymn" reduced to our four stanzas in English.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" is a song invitation from Christians to others to come celebrate Christ's birth with them. The carol begins in a festive spirit, but then, in the second stanza, asks why there is a celebration. In the third stanza, an invitation is given to join the celebration. The fourth stanza concludes the carol with the observation of Christ's birth and the Christian's joyful response. Technically, this is a macaronic carol because it uses two languages: the local vernacular and Latin. The carol uses the effect of a refrain and is one of the few texts that congregations sing regularly in Latin: "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" It is unusual for congregations to sing a long *melisma* (many notes on one syllable). The melisma on the refrain also adds to the exuberant and joyful celebratory feel of the entire carol.

I wish for each of you a wonderful Christmas! ~ Tim

PRAYER REQUESTS



Church Family: Betty Barker Mel Blakley, 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

Scott Stanley: Son of Skip & Jo Stanley 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

* Depicts new prayer request

It is during the most difficult moments in life, that God will send His Disciples to provide comfort and support to others.

PCC collected new and gently used blankets, coats, sleeping bags, and heavy duty work gloves for our brothers and sisters in Ashe County, and WNC. PCC will continue to provide support and relief efforts in the upcoming months.

