

**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**


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Church Staff

The Rev. Gerald Thomas

Pastor

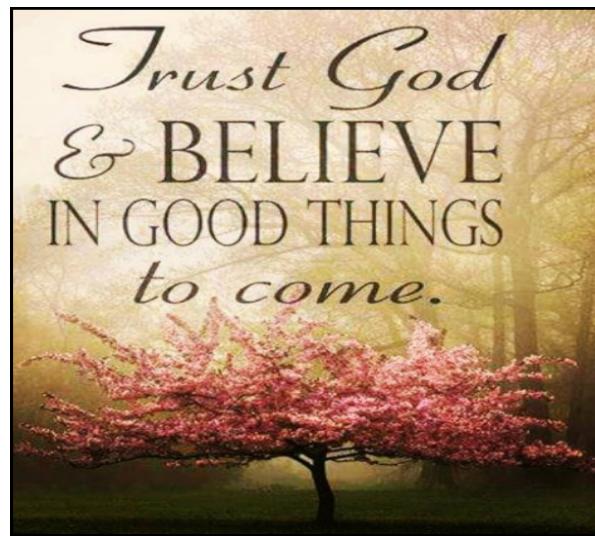
The Rev. Tim Shoaf

Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter, Office Administrator

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We look back and thank God...we look forward and trust God.

THE VISITOR



Volume 4, Number 7

January, 2021



Thank you! Thank you!

Meet Chris and Bailey Miller from Fitzgerald, Georgia. Back in the late winter, when COVID caused our congregation to share Sunday mornings on-line rather than in-person, I called Chris and Bailey because of their talents with computers. And because they love to care for people. Chris and Bailey set up our means of sharing on-line. Since March, I've been able to produce Tim's music and my sermons, right up to the recent offering of the Nativity memories, because of Chris' and Bailey's kindness.

Thank you, friends, for allowing our congregation to continue in fellowship. Your care makes me happy and our lives filled with hope. Parishioners have found this opportunity so meaningful we've received requests to continue this offering beyond the season of COVID. Therefore, when we return to in-person worship, we will continue to post music and the sermon each Sunday.

If you would like to express your appreciation to Chris and Bailey, here is their mailing address: 163 Wenona Way, Fitzgerald, GA 31750. - GT

Advent Do-At-Home Workshop



These are some photos from our Do-At Home Advent Workshop for 14 kids of our church and community. On the 4 consecutive Sundays during Advent the kids enjoyed learning about the themes of HOPE - PEACE - JOY - LOVE. With each lesson they made six crafts along with an Advent Nativity Calendar. On Christmas Day they unwrapped a special terra-cotta Nativity as a gift to remind them of God's true Gift of Love - the Christ Child.

As Way Leads On To Way

As Christmas gives way to the Epiphany, I am reminded of Pastor Howard Thurman's *The Work of Christmas*.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

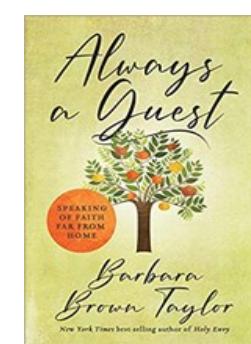
During this season, our church has joined with others to feed wonderful meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of the observations about these meals brings a question: "So you fed persons two meals, but what happens after the goodwill of Thanksgiving and Christmas?" It's a valid question.

The hopeful answer is that we at Pfafftown Christian Church continue to feed and clothe, to help with the expenses of shelter and friendship beyond any one day. Before the 2020 holidays, we were reaching out. Now the "work of Christmas" continues our work, every day, in every season.

Last year, you provided food and needed finance for the Crisis Control Center. The New Communion Mobile Food Pantry arrived in various neighborhoods, carrying food from your sponsorship. Meals have traveled On Wheels. Old Richmond Elementary students were provided gifts that will follow them throughout the schoolyear. In the course of the year, our reach was felt in various agencies in our local community. It was also felt in Liberia, where medical and nutritional needs were answered because you arrived in a hurry to give to urgent calls.

For all the ways we don't want 2020 to mimic 2020, I look forward to our carrying out the same work of Christmas in the same, determined fashion. We are here to "make music in the heart." Play it again, Pfafftown.

- GT



Off the Shelf

Always a Guest
Westminster John Knox Press, 2020
By Barbara Brown Taylor

Taylor is a gifted pastor, preacher, teacher, and author. Her various books have given people inspiration to share their lives together in faith with understanding. *Always a Guest* invites us to find common ground through which to honor one another. Just published this autumn, I am pleased to bring this book to your attention. This offering stands to bring us to consider health and happiness, especially in these difficult days. - GT



During this season, if you should have a need (such as someone to pick up medications or food and drop them at your door) or would simply like to talk during this time, do not hesitate to contact one of the persons listed below.

Gerald Thomas: 336 504-8206

Tim Shoaf: 336-6925214

Traci Canter: 336-407-1277

Elders: See your Yearbook



January 2021

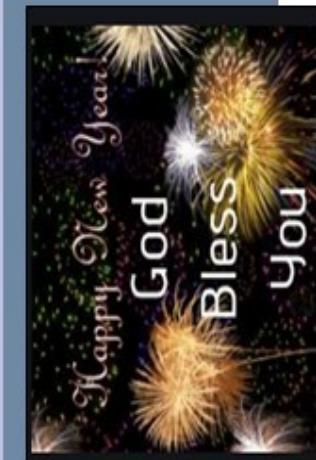
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January Memory Verse:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Birthdays

- 2 - Brian Smith 10 - Kevin Bell
3 - Kent Doub 15 - Richard Yarbrough
6 - Alan Fletcher 20 - Tommy Timmons
7 - Evelyn Nifong 21 - Chris Luper
Mike Showers 31 - Betty Barker
8 - Debbie Fletcher
9 - Pat Barber



Pfaftown Christian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through October 2020

	<u>Jul - Oct 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Rhein Annuity	4,234.72		
Contributions Income	45,572.68	59,396.00	-13,823.32
Loose Offering	140.00	480.00	-340.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	336.00	-336.00
Building Rental	0.00	164.00	-164.00
Investment Earnings	1,296.75	2,404.00	-1,107.25
R G Flynt Endowment	753.97	1,024.00	-270.03
Yard Sale	2,460.00	1,736.00	724.00
Total Income	54,458.12	65,540.00	-11,081.88
Expense			
Administrative Expense	45,257.59	49,108.00	-3,850.41
Christian Education	193.10	464.00	-270.90
Building and Capital Improv Fc	0.00	664.00	-664.00
Evangelism	0.00	36.00	-36.00
Membership	223.75	136.00	87.75
Fellowship	0.00	336.00	-336.00
Childcare	0.00	64.00	-64.00
Property	10,200.90	12,816.00	-2,615.10
Worship	247.21	1,100.00	-852.79
Total Expense	56,122.55	64,724.00	-8,601.45
Income over expenses	-1,664.43	816.00	-2,480.43



wishful thinking, but the exercise of examining ourselves---with God's help---and seeing where we fall short is actually very important.

Second, making a list of resolutions can actually turn us to God. If we are honest, we know we fall far short of being what we ought to be---and because of that, we need God's forgiveness. We'll also realize that we can't live the way we should in our own strength. We need God's help.

Begin this year by making resolutions---especially the resolution to open your heart and life to Jesus Christ even more than you ever have before.

* Wisdom Each Day- Billy Graham



Mission Hospital: Merle McAllister (Debbie Fletcher's friend)

Recuperating: Graham McAllister (Debbie Fletcher's friend) Harry Nifong, Pat Millsaps, Betty Tilley, Betty Clodfelter, Alan Fletcher, Jan Everton, Patrick and Sue Simpson, Sue Terry

Homebound

Brighton Gardens: Edna Williamson

Rose Tara: Vallie Cline

Willowbrook Rehabilitation: Bud Barker

Church Family: Frank & Pat Barber, Craig Bracken, John Grice, Jodi Saunders, Garland Terry, Julie Tilley, Tommy Timmons, Richard Yarbrough

Others:

Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groffs' friend

Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend

Tommy Disher: Traci Canter's Uncle

Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel's granddaughter

George East: Traci Canter's friend

Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher's aunt

June Fulton: Jill Robertson's friend

Elaine Grice: John Grice's sister

Betty Haddock: Sharon Binkley's mother

Cayden Kingsbury: Rodney Stilwell's grandson

Chuck Kolstad: Evelyn Nifong's son-in-law

Sue Miles: Jo Stanley's friend

Plemons' Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher's friend

Pam Reynolds: Traci Canter's friend

Kent Shropshire: (Paul Shropshire's cousin)

Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher's sister

Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson's niece

Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson's sister

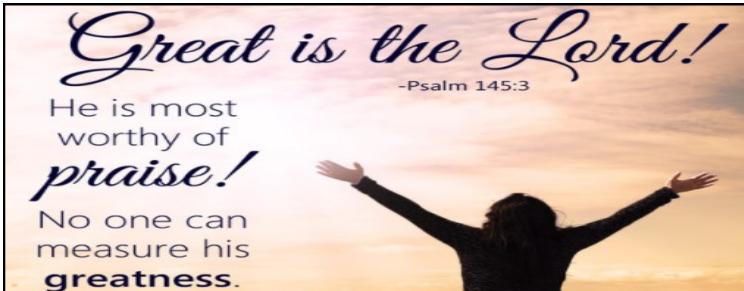
Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin

Loved Ones in the Military:

Joshua Hughes, Norfolk, VA.; Chase Lee, Guam; USS Key West; Major Hope Poster, NG, Texas; Cpt. John G. Van Hoy IV, Fort Campbell, KY

Pray without ceasing...

1 Thess 5:17



Graham McAllister has been moved from Mission Hospital and is at home recuperating

Jesus was born, died, and rose again to give us all eternal life!!

Vaccine for COVID19 was approved and is being distributed!!

We give thanks and praise to Him for hearing our prayers!

What are you thanking and praising Him for today?



CWF NEWS

The Senior Services Meals on Wheels Program continues on during COVID19 by delivering a five pack of frozen meals once a week to Meals on Wheels participants. This policy will remain in effect until it is safe enough to resume daily hot meal delivery. We have collected \$550 for the program. Checks will be delivered to Senior Services office last week in December. Our Dinner Party will be held at a later date.

CWF will not meet in January due to Covid-19.



May the faith of God be with you this year.
May the peace of God surround you,
and may you be blessed each day!

Happy New Year

From: Traci Canter
Tim Shoaf
Gerald Thomas



Crisis Control Food Box

Thank you for your contributions in the Advent/Christmas seasons! During the month of January, we will be collecting Beef Stew. Thank you, PCC family, for your giving hearts and for always stepping up to help others in need.



New Communion Mobile Food Pantry

In December, PCC delivered 789 cans of food to the New Communion Food Pantry. Thank you to Fred and Irma Muetzel for sponsoring our effort.

January's Sponsors:

Bob & Beth Faircloth



The Difference You Make

Thank you to PCC for responding to emerging needs in our community---and around the world.

Faced with a last-minute opportunity to join with area churches and feed 150 persons at Christmas, you stepped up and contributed immediately. This has been a very successful event because of your generosity.

Last week, a pastor and friend in Liberia suffered the death of his mother. In Liberia, such a time is an enormous hardship. My friend is the oldest son and is responsible for all funeral costs and the travel/lodging/feeding of the entire family. Your response came alongside others in the U.S. and is helping lift a bit of the load for this pastor. Thank you. -GT

We have enjoyed receiving your monthly newsletter and will miss our Christmas visit this year. (donation given).

~Susan and Mike Sowers



Sam Meyer with the Gideons International delivered this beautiful poinsettia to PCC to honor the Christmas season.



Thank you so much to the Gideons for your thoughtfulness and for always being the light of Jesus in this world.

Dear our church congregation,
Our family is just overwhelmed with the many expressions of sympathy and words of love for Bill that we have received since his awful illness and death. Your calls, food, cards, memorials and prayers have all been so appreciated by me and our family. Bill loved Pfafftown Christian Church and would have felt so humbled and honored by your many kindnesses.

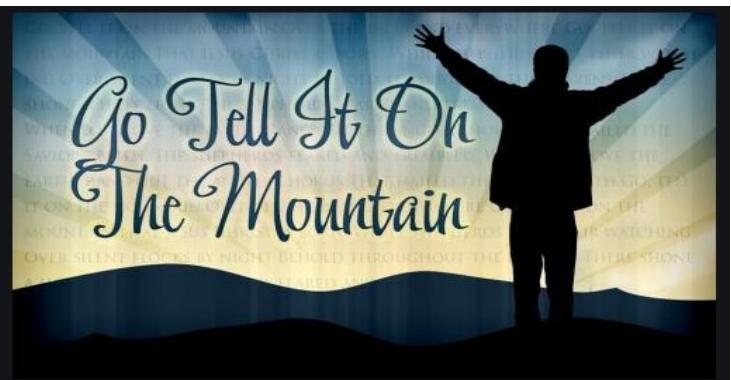
With love to all of you, Betty

We would like to thank Kyle Faulkner (husband of Paige Simpson) for tilling the Church Community Garden on December 12, in preparation for next Spring's planting season. The PCC church family thanks you! -Tim

Dear Pfafftown Christian Church,
Words cannot express how grateful we feel for your gift of \$1,320. of gift cards to help Old Richmond Elementary families in need! Your support lifts the burden of families who are struggling to pay bills and some of these families have experienced crisis situations in recent weeks due to things like mental health challenges, and trying to manage work and their children's remote learning. I have heard from many that they have had their working hours reduced which has caused a lot of stress. Your sacrifice and love are deeply felt. The visit we received from Timothy Shoaf, sharing your very generous Christmas gift, once again lifted our spirits and will certainly lift the spirits of our families in need!

Sincerely,
Christine Orgnon, Guidance Counselor
Old Richmond Elementary

Notes from Tim



The spirited Christmas song "Go Tell It On The Mountain," like the best American spirituals and southern gospel hymns, is a work of sophisticated simplicity, with crisp action verbs, strong nouns, colorful phrases, a tight narrative structure and a fun, singable melody. Some scholars think Frederick Jerome Work (1880-1942) wrote "Go Tell It On The Mountain." Work was a composer and scholar who collected and arranged spirituals, including this one in 1907. Whether Work wrote "Go Tell It On The Mountain" or found and preserved it, the Christmas song didn't attain its current popularity until the mid-20th century. The energetic, driving rhythm and lyrics of "Go Tell It On The Mountain" made it a favorite of young Americans. *Go Tell It On The Mountain* begins with the simple refrain which draws from two verses of scripture:

"Go up on a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news. Raise your voice loudly, O Jerusalem, herald of good news. Lift it up, do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" (Isaiah 40:9) "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7) The song exhorts us to tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere/ that Jesus Christ is born." Then the first verse sets the scene:

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The focus is on the shepherds tending their sheep, when the word "Behold" screams for our attention: A mysterious light from the heavens! Then notice how the strong, active verbs bring the shepherds' scene to life in verse two:

The shepherds feared and trembled
When low above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

"Feared/ trembled/ rang/ hailed" draw us into the story. This isn't a gentle *White Christmas* lullaby — this is an Action-Adventure. And the music keeps its end of the bargain, with a driving rhythm and rollicking melody. Now the story advances:

And lo! When they had heard it,
They all bowed down to pray,
Then travelled on together,
To where the Baby lay.

Again, the short, direct lines work because of the descriptive action verbs (heard, bowed, travelled). And again, though the only end rhymes occur on lines 2 and 4, other poetic devices help make the song easy to memorize and pleasurable to sing and hear:

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

When this writer uses an adjective, she or he uses it well. The *humble* Christ. We can use many adjectives to describe Christ, but "humble" is the best one for this setting: God the Son, present with the Father in creation, by whom all things were made and without whom nothing was made. King of heaven, now come as an infant. And not to a cradle of gold in a palace, but to a manger — a *lowly* manger. We reach the climax in the final verse: the end of our shepherds' travels, the lowly manger, the humble Christ — our salvation, delivered on that blessed Christmas morn.

As we begin this new year and rejoice in the birth of our living Lord and Savior. May we proclaim this good news to others so that they may believe. May we live out this good news so that our communities and our world may be transformed!

Grace and Peace to you. *Tim*

*Some information taken from article HYMNARY by Michael Hahn

Jesus Christ is Born