

## PEEKING AHEAD TO MORE HOLIDAYS

Did you know that the Christmas Carol “Silent Night” is 200 years old this year? As I was thinking about all the things that are, and will be, going on in this church, I found myself feeling ready for some of the quiet a “Silent Night” would bring. The silent night of Jesus’ birth, of course... quiet after the child has been safely born and the wee newborn is snuggled into his mother’s arms, or into the clean warm hay in the manger. The quiet of a star shining down and animals lowing softly in the stable. That quiet.

It is my prayer that you will enjoy the busy time that is to come: good company and good food at Thanksgiving, as well as heart-warming visits and messages of friends and family in coming weeks. I hope you will have a little fun creating or shopping, so that you can share a bit of joy with those who may not have much otherwise. But remember to keep some time for Quiet, for reflection, for the peace of Christ to settle into your soul. That’s how we remember the point of it all: That God’s gift of his Son brings us home, home to the heart of God.

And know: I am thankful for you!

Pastor Ginny

# HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS



November 18, 2018

## CHURCH NEWS

**THANK YOU** – to Mary Ellen Nichols for coordinating the many aspects of our Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans. This tradition came to us from Highland Church and has become one of our favorites, including tartans (and kilts), Pipes and Drums, the concert on the lawn, and the reception with scones and clotted cream. Thanks to all contributors! Enjoy!

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed this week on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

**PASTOR GINNY ELLIS** will be on vacation this week, enjoying family who will be here for Thanksgiving.

**THE NEXT SESSION MEETING** will be held on December 2.

**WELCOME BACK** to members and friends who have been away for the hot summer months. *We have missed you.* We hope you will find ways to get involved while you are here: Young at Heart (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays), Wednesday Night Alive, Choir, Bell Choir, Presbyterian Women, Men’s Group, Prayer Group, Sunday School classes at 9:00 a.m. We now have TWO adult classes: The Wired Word class meets in Room 5, discussing current events from a Christian perspective, and we now have an Alternative class, which looks at Biblical or faith topics in a

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“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

**Mother Teresa**

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**STARRY NIGHT** is our Christmas musical. It has been in rehearsal since September and performances will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 13, 14 and 15. Plan to attend one or all of the performances and invite your family and friends. We know you and the church will be blessed. This is a wonderful way to let others know about Hope church!!!

Thank you, Angie Cozens, and all who are on the cast and crew. Thank you for the hard work you have put into this project, in behalf of the church. You are amazing!

relational format, meeting in Room 7. You are welcome in either or both of these classes: Come try them out!

**PLEDGE CARDS** -- If you have not been able to bring your pledge of support for the 2019 budget, cards are still available in the foyer or through the church office. We are committed to following where the Spirit of God is leading us as a church! How can you help?

**COMING UP:** We move soon into the holiday season, with Advent beginning on December 2. Keep some of these things in mind:

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** will be held on Saturday December 1, 9 – 12 p.m. All are welcome to come help us decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

**THE ANGEL TREE** will be in the Sanctuary on December 2, with angel tags indicating gifts for children at Grace House. You will be invited to choose one or more tags, purchase the suggested gift(s) and bring them back to the church, unwrapped, by or on December 16.

**CHURCH OPEN HOUSE** – held each year at Barbara Johnson’s home. This will be on December 8 at 6:30. The address is 13300 Indian Rocks Road, Unit #103. Call (727) 515-1422 if you have questions. All church members and friends are invited. You will especially enjoy seeing Barb’s Christmas village; it takes up a whole room!

**CHURCH MEETINGS COMING UP**

|                 |              |                                       |                          |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday          | 11/18        | 10:15 a.m.                            | Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan    |
| Tuesday         | 11/20        | 07:00 p.m.                            | “Starry Night” rehearsal |
| Wednesday       | 11/21        | 07:00 p.m.                            | Bell practice            |
|                 |              | 07:30 p.m.                            | Choir practice           |
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>11/22</b> | <b>Office Closed for Thanksgiving</b> |                          |
| <b>Friday</b>   | <b>11/23</b> | <b>Office Closed for Thanksgiving</b> |                          |

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