

THE NEXUS

Presbyterian Church
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December 2017

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” Well, not quite yet. This Saturday, December 2nd, we will be decorating the church for the Advent – Christmas – Epiphany seasons. Our Advent Church Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3rd sponsored by the Fellowship Committee with the congregation bringing sides and desserts. On Sunday, December 10th, we will ordain and install our newly elected Elders. We will convene our monthly Session meeting following worship. On Sunday, December 17th, we will be blessed by *The Wondrous Story*, our Choral cantata. Also on the 17th, in the season of Nativity, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism for two of our children. On Sunday, December 24th, we will have two services. Our 10:00 am service will be a casual worship service of Christmas carols and Scripture. Our Christmas Eve worship service of candles, carols and Holy Communion will be held at 7:30 p.m.

“Yes, it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” Busy...busy...busy...and rich in meaning, joy, peace and love as we celebrate God’s amazing gift to us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Freeborn

Communion Dates for 2017

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

Sponsor

This issue of the Nexus is being sponsored by **Kathryn Forbes**. We thank you for your support. Please let the church office know if you are interested in sponsoring a future issue of the Nexus.

Treasurer and Stewardship Report Through October 31, 2017

Income	\$200,907.00
Expenses	\$197,876.00
Net	\$ 3,031.00
Year-to-Date Giving:	
Pledge Giving:	\$119,062.00
Non-Pledge:	\$ 12,681.00

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the January issue is **Tuesday, December 26th**.

Women’s Circle

The Women’s Circle group will meet on Tuesday, **December 12th** at noon. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch.

Koinonea

The Koinonea group will meet on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays during **December:**

Jenny Collins, Mary Dressel, Ann Healy, Gregory Menio, Jr., Larry Desko, Adam Demetros, David Braithwaite, Zoey Delaney, Hollie Falzone, Bob Huffman, Ronald Bruce, Margie Staffaroni, Daisha Kintz, Kelli Burlingame, Crista Mehringer, Mike Rosso and Chris Dudley.



Wedding Anniversaries

Celebrating wedding anniversaries during **December:**

**Steve and Ann Healy
Ron and Connie Powell
Allan and Elda McCoy Erbe**

Men's Lunch

The next Men's lunch will be held on Wednesday, **January 10th** at noon in the church lounge. All men are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Choir Cantata

On Sunday, December 17, during worship, the choir will present the cantata entitled, *The Wondrous Story*. The story of our Savior's birth will be told through song and narration. We will retell the story in a reverent, simple way, focusing on the perspective of those who were present on that holy night. We hope that *the Wondrous Story* will help capture the boundless joy of Christmas for you.



If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia plant to help decorate our church for the holidays, please fill out the form in the week's bulletin and return to the church office, **along with your check made payable to E.S.P.C.** for **\$10.00** per plant.

Once the holidays are over, you may take your plant(s) home with you.



Brighter Christmas

Once again, the Mission Committee is hoping to provide a "**Brighter Christmas**" for several local East Stroudsburg families. In the past, we have had an excellent and generous response from our congregation and we are hopeful that this tradition will continue this year. We have been given the age, sex and a list of suggested gifts for the children of our local families. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex each Sunday. Your wrapped gifts should be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 17, this allows for delivery of the gifts to the families before Christmas. As always, your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Rev. Edmund T. Freeborn

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Barbara Braithwaite, Kathryn Forbes,
Judy Schreck, Linda Schaller

The Woodlands

My comfort, my joy... my escape- to that secret place to where I run away. The seasons each have their special and unique hidden wealths. Today, I watched the tulip tree slowly undress summer's opulence of leaves. In silence of early morning, those now brown jewels release and seem to find pleasure in slowly drifting; bouncing off limbs in their descent. As if to have a last conversation of farewell.

Touching, kissing numerous twigs until reaching the white frosted ground. Their life job not yet finished, each leaf lands and tucks itself (with others) into and forming a soft blanket. Sheltering their mother's roots, covering the home of earthworms and insects. That all may safely await far away spring.

I've stolen many. Their shapes, the solid colors or speckled patterns catching my eye and heart. Brought into my home. Tucking them with other trees' leaves. Oh, how grand this leafy collection, that now rests inside my giant aged wood bowl upon the table.

Mine; they're mine. Dried and curled in wondrous ranges of tans and browns- touched with splatters of dark. A month more; if luck prevails. The sky informs me impending snows are soon; soon. Those white heralds of winter's official arrival.

The formal ritual of returning my horde of leaves is part of this witnesses' obligation. What I stole to revel in, must now be returned to the rightful owner. Move on, turn and seek the oncoming beauty and thrill that arrives with winter's nestling itself into the gardens and woodlands.

~Kathryn Forbes

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Church decorating, 9:00 a.m.
3 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Advent Ham Dinner, following worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Session Mtg. Youth Fellowship	11	12	13 K-Group, 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Choir cantata Deacon's Coffee Hour	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Candlelight service, 7:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas! Church closed	26 Nexus Deadline	27	28	29	30
31 Worship, 10:00 a.m.						