



GBC events

Visit the website for a full schedule

December

- 2 Buddy Break Christmas Party
3:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 3 Hanging of the Greens
Worship Service, 6:30 PM,
Sanctuary
- 10 Special called Church in Conf.
12:00 PM, Sanctuary
Christmas at Greystone
6:30 PM, Sanctuary
- 17 Service of Hope and
Remembrance, 6:30 PM,
Gathering Room
- 20 Living Nativity
6:00, 6:30, 7:00 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
5:30 PM, Sanctuary
- 25-28 Church office closed
Happy Holidays!
- 31 Coffee and Doughnuts
10:00 AM, Gathering Room
10:30 AM Joint Worship
Service (no 8:45 service, no
9:45 Sunday School)

worship@GBC

Sunday, December 3

11:00 AM Joint Morning Service
6:30 PM, Hanging of the Greens
Worship Service

Sunday, December 10

11:00 AM Joint Morning Service
6:30 PM, Christmas at Greystone

Sunday, December 17

11:00 AM Joint Morning Service
6:30 PM, Service of Hope and
Remembrance, Gathering Room

Sunday, December 24

11:00 AM Joint Morning Service
featuring Children's Nativity
5:30 PM, Christmas Eve Service

MY ADVENT HOPE FOR GREYSTONE

By Randy Ashcraft

Like it or not the Christmas rush is upon us. Our lives are often overwhelmed in this season with gift buying, events to attend, church responsibilities, and the unexpected interruptions that seem to always appear during this busy time. I was asked recently by the person who cuts my hair if I was "into all the Christmas stuff." "It depends on what you mean by "stuff," I said. She talked about the gaudy decorations and the crazy Black Friday stampedes, the feelings of guilt that emerge in a parent who cannot buy the right presents, and the relentless droning on of the canned "Christmas" music. I sensed in her no connection to Christmas as a time of worship or celebration. I confessed to her that I identify with the excessiveness of the Christmas season but that I find a deeper meaning for this time of year. This conversation will hopefully continue and the topic will give me the opportunity to learn more about her life and her challenges. While her outlook on the season is not unusual in our culture our conversation did make me a little sad. It reminded me of a sign I saw once in a grocery store window. It read, "Artificial Trees with Authentic Christmas Spirit!" So much of what we chase after in this Advent season is artificial. Our mission, if you please, is to keep things as simple and real as possible. What if all we set out to accomplish this Advent only included "loving God and loving our neighbors?" How might this change our investment of time, money, and work? I know this proposal sounds too simple and unrealistic. However, keeping it simple might be the start of something new and more peaceful. To be honest my goal for this year is to find a couple of things I can eliminate from the "ought" or "should" list that constantly plays in my head.

My hope for the Greystone Church community this Advent 2017 is that

collectively and individually we find renewed strength, energy, vision, and focus for serving the Christ who, as Eugene Peterson says paraphrasing John 1:14, "became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." Peace, Randy

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT STUDIES

Join us on Wednesday nights in December for Adult study and fellowship. There are three options for your consideration. John Vestal will continue his study in the prophetic book of Jeremiah. This small group is enjoying so much their discussion and reading of this major prophet. Elaine Hansen will gather a group to write cards this Advent and Holiday Season. Amanda Atkin will lead a group in an Advent study that offers a different way to move through the season. Thanksgiving-to-Christmas is often experienced as a marathon and we find ourselves hurtling toward the finish line. But there is an alternate route. Explore a different path to Christmas morning. Classes December 6 and December 13 at 6:30 PM.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Wednesday Nights in January for our Winter Bible Study. Dr. Jennifer Bashaw, Assistant Professor of New

(continued on back page)

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you wish to have tax credit for contributions in 2017, please note that they should be left at the office, in the drop box outside the office, or mailed to the office postmarked no later than December 31.

If you plan or would like to make a contribution in the form of stock, please remember, any stock contributions for 2017 must be received by Greystone, in Greystone's account, by December 31 to be counted as a 2017 contribution.

Contact the financial secretary for the information you will need to complete the transfer of stock to Greystone, by calling 919-847-1333 or emailing finance@greystonechurch.org.

DECEMBER

- 1 Greta McMillan, Alan Oudjit
- 2 Stephen Hollingsworth, Cierra Sellers
- 3 Kim Craig, David Alston
- 5 Eileen Trawick, Sylvia Goulding, Kathy Deming, Laura Kanai
- 6 Sheila Brewer, Mark Franz
- 7 Travis Eason
- 9 Lindsay Baker
- 10 Will Moody, Ayden Hale
- 11 Nicole Moorefield, William Tatum
- 12 Christian Steiner, Sarah Steiner
- 13 Barbara Parker, Ellen Sineath, Greg Beard, Melissa Langston
- 14 Brian Top
- 15 Katie Dillinger, Steve Jones, Sallie Mueller

- 16 Mitch Daughtry, Rachel Clark, Georgia King, Emma Muncie
- 17 Donna Naeser, Jennifer Phillips, Hannah Conley
- 18 Steve Rose, Chris Allen, Mark Stephenson, Heather Gardner
- 19 Bryant Morton, Brittany Morton
- 20 Larry Poirier, June Millikan, Tana Grace Alston
- 21 Cheryl Grimes, Jenna Ostendorff, Zach Dreitzler
- 22 Wayne Smith, Baxster Ogden, Anderson Burris
- 23 Barry Jones, Jane Cregger, Blair Andrew, Sam Craig, Lauren Ammons
- 24 Joy Croom Griffin
- 25 Barbara Crabb

- 26 John Clark, Leigh Ammons
- 27 Lisha Stewart, Andrew Mabe
- 28 Archie McFadyen
- 29 Brooks Long
- 30 Sandra Hunt
- 31 Mike Newton, Becki Moore

90+ BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER!

Eileen Trawick (12/5)
Ellen Sineath (12/13)

Children's Ministry

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

This will be a busy day at Greystone. We get the unique opportunity this year to present our Children's Nativity on Christmas Eve as part of our morning worship service. Elementary students will gather at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast snack, a telling of the Christmas Story, and to prepare for our part in worship. Children are encouraged to wear a costume to be a part of the Nativity. Costumes can be simple - white clothing for angels, neutral colors and a bathrobe for shepherds and wisemen. Our preschoolers sometimes enjoy dressing up as the animals in the stable. We have some costume pieces here to add to what you have. We will spend some time on costumes during the Sunday School area as well. Children will

present the Nativity during the early part of the service. Our children's choirs will present their Christmas music during this service. After, students will return to sit with their parents and preschoolers can move to worship care.

Evening Worship @ 5:30

Join us for this family friendly worship service with candlelight communion. As a part of worship, we will share communion and offer a blessing for children who do not yet take communion. We have battery powered candles for children during the candlelight portion of the service. During the children's message all children present will be invited to join Mike and sing Away in the Manger. This service is designed for families to worship together so there is no childcare provided during the service. We will have quiet toys in the back corner of the sanctuary for our youngest worshippers.

GREYSTONE NUMBERS

Worship

[8:45] [11:00]

Nov. 5: 102 198

Nov. 12: 47 157

Nov. 19: 89 138

Nov 26: 64 166

Generosity (10/31/17)

2017 General Fund

\$989,791.82

YTD General Fund needed

\$824,826.50

YTD Operating Receipts

\$679,605.23

YTD Operating Expenses

\$706,693.80

Music Ministry

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (WAM!) THIS DECEMBER

Children's Choirs (K-5) will be singing for the *Children's Nativity* on Sunday morning, Dec. 24th (11am). This program was originally scheduled for Wed., Dec. 13 but has been moved to that Sunday morning with the hopes that more of our congregation can experience this special child-led worship experience.

The Children's Choir (K-5) will be preparing that morning during the Sunday School hour, including getting on their costumes for the Nativity.

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Adult Choir will meet on Wed., Dec. 6 (7:15 PM) and Sat., Dec. 9 (9 AM) in preparation for the Dec. 10 music program. Also, there will be an abbreviated rehearsal on Wed., Dec. 13 (7:15 PM) before taking a break for the holiday.

HANGING OF THE GREEN SERVICE — DEC. 3

On Sunday, December 3 at 6:30 PM, we will usher in the Advent season with a meaningful Hanging of the Green Service. In this time of worship and celebration, we'll take part in decorating our worship space, highlighted with Advent songs and readings. Make plans to have your family join us for this special service to begin the season of Advent.

CHRISTMAS at GREYSTONE — DEC. 10

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 10 (6:30 PM) for this special music program featuring the Adult Choir, Soloists, Grace Tones Ensemble, with Narration and Orchestra. This evening of music will include a presentation of Dan Goeller's *The Word Became Flesh*.

It is our prayer that your whole family will be inspired to allow this season to be a time of healing, transformation and worship!



Student Ministry

YOUTH SHOW-OFF AT VARIETY SHOW

This year's Grammy-themed Youth Variety Show was a great success as those in attendance saw students singing, playing piano, dancing, and acting out commercials. Who knew that our own youth were so gifted?!?! It was a special night to celebrate the current youth while also remembering the ministry of Cindy Vestal with so many students who call Greystone home. Thank you to the students for sharing their giftedness with the church, and thank you to the many adults who helped to make the event happen.

SHOEBOXES FOR HOPE

This year, Greystone Youth are sponsoring this as a church-wide mission project. This will be the 18th year Greystone has provided shoeboxes filled with gifts for the students of Hope Elementary School and gift cards for the staff. Look for the signup table outside the sanctuary. We will dedicate the shoeboxes in our services on Dec. 17. We want to show Hope Elementary that we support the special things they are doing and the leaders they are creating. Contact Pam Ouzts at 919-931-9507, pouzts@cisco.com, or Leigh Ammons at 919-637-6881.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Stay informed of all youth activities by subscribing to our weekly email, *"Happenings This Week"*. Subscribe by emailing the church office at office@greystonechurch.org.

RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS

Sign up to receive text message reminders through Remind. Text the message @a963fd to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @a963fd to (919) 336-5052.

Other Ministry News

SENIOR ADULT SPONSORED TRIP

Saturday, 12/16, we will travel to Wake Forest to Pipers Christmas Light Show to view the lights, ride the train, visit their candy shop ... maybe Santa will be there. We will dine at Shucker's Oyster and Sea Food Restaurant. Meet in the Sawmill lot at 5:00 PM.

SOLOS FOR LUNCH

This is for any adult who is single or whose spouse is out of town, etc. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary after the 11:00 service. December schedule: 12/3-Carrabba's, 12/10-Red Lobster,

12/17-Winston's, 12/31-Sawmill Taproom

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Greystone's Christmas Eve Offering is traditionally dedicated to a Missions Project. This year's offering will go toward a 2018 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging event (formerly Stop Hunger Now).

Our goal is \$11,600 which will allow us to package 40,000 meals for those in need around the globe. Please consider donating an amount equal to taking your family out for an evening dinner so that others will be able to

have a hot and nutritious meal. A \$60 donation will provide over 200 meals for those in need. Thank you for your generous support!

Community in Prayer

PRAISE

- Kyle and Teresa Dilday on the birth of their granddaughter, Rosemary "Rosie" Powell Dilday, 11/29/17
- Lou and Marcia Ostendorff on the birth of their grandson, Magnus Shepherd Killingsworth, 11/18/17
- Skip and Jill Pike on the birth of their grandson, August John Bagwell, 11/22/17 to parents Joshua and Isabel Bagwell

HOSPITAL

- Bethany Roberts, Bill and Pam Weis's granddaughter, Wake Med Children's Hospital
- Duane Long, Duke Hospital

HEALTH CONCERNS

- Amy Vandersip
- Martha Castleberry
- Lisha Stewart's mother, Delores Griffith
- Milton Whann, Heather Choplin's dad
- Eileen Trawick
- Virginia Creamer's son, Jack Creamer
- Linda Peterson's friend, Finlay Judy
- Vercie Eller

- Ron Thompson's friend, John Darr
- Amy Vandersip's sister, Jill
- Joanne Thompson's brother-in-law, Tim Marshall
- Dottie Thompson's grandson, Edward Thompson
- Cathy Perkinson
- Karen Brewer's sister, Nancy Jones
- Elizabeth Cregger
- Sylvia Goulding
- Roger Gardner
- Deanna Choplin's friend, Emily Kinlaw

RESIDENTIAL/HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Abbottswood: Jean Brown **Rex Nursing Care:** Nancy Godwin
Springmoor (SHC): Vergie Baxley, Lib Daniels, Sallie Greene, Pauline Noble, Juanita Register

SYMPATHY

- Pam Phillips' family on the death of her cousin, Gregory Aaron, 11/21/17
- Joan Murphy's family and the Williams family on the death of Joan's cousin Bill Williams, 11/15/17
- Erich Brewer's family on the death of his mother, Margaret Kestner Brewer, 11/13/17
- Brad Ouzts' family on the death of his father, Larry Ouzts, 11/10/17

Greystone contacts

Main Office

Hours: 8:30—4:30 pm (M-Th)
Phone: (919) 847-1333

Minister On-Call

Phone: (919) 817-8975

Pastoral Staff

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ADDRESS SERVICE

REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

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Raleigh, NC

Permit No. 2427

The deadline for the January
2018 **CONNECT** is noon,
Tuesday, 12/19/17.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY *(continued from front page)*

Testament and Christian Ministry at Campbell University will be leading our discussion. Our focus will be on Biblical interpretation throughout the New Testament. We will explore the different tools that can help us in our understanding of different types of scripture. This study will begin on January 10 and continue through the month. Join us as we examine texts from Matthew to Revelation.

UPDATE ON PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE PROCESS WITH THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY CHURCHES

-In mid-October, Bill Wilson from The Center for Healthy Churches facilitated his first onsite meeting with the diaconate guiding us on best practice for healthy process for identifying a Pastor Search Committee. Following that meeting, the deacons prayerfully discerned, individually and as a group, nominations for the committee. Since mid-November, we have been actively forming the search committee and excited to report that we will bring a committee to a special called church conference following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday December 10 for approval from the church. In deliberate effort to move the process forward, an orientation for the committee is already planned for January 15 and 16, and will be facilitated by Bill Wilson.

We look forward to the early months of 2018 when we, as a congregation, will attend meetings as a part of our self-study process. As a result of those meetings, we will have opportunity to consider the past, present and future of Greystone as we develop our Congregational Profile and Pastor Profile. Through this work together, we will deepen our understanding of who we are as a church and enhance our readiness for our next pastor. It is an exciting time for Greystone! Look for details in early 2018 on the ways you can be a part of the process as all voices are valued and needed.

Grace and Peace through this Advent season.

—Jennifer Walker, Chair of Diaconate

...where every member is a minister
and is equipped to express God's
love by word and deed to all people.



If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe by calling the church office.