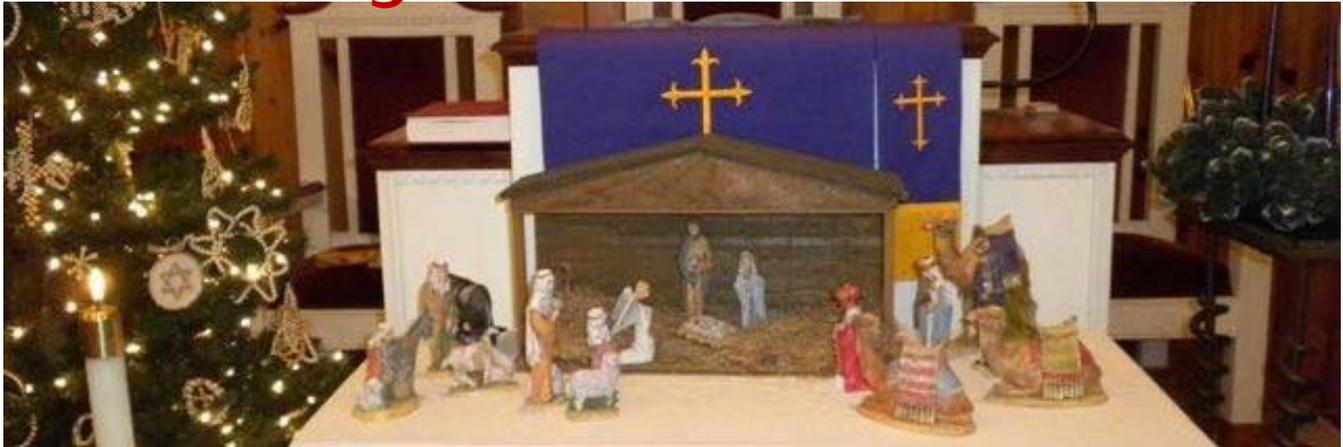


# ClaytonPres Press



Clayton Presbyterian Church  
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

December 2017 - January 2018

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## Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Nov. 30, 2017

Receipts	\$78,955
Expenses	\$61,613
Fund Balance	\$86,311

### THANK YOU!

With your help, we have donated over \$2600 to PDA - Hurricane Relief.

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## Continue the Message of Joy!

On that particular early evening the fields around Bethlehem were busy with shepherds tending and guiding their sheep. These men had gathered for a moment of greeting and quick conversation with their fellow shepherds before continuing on to separate areas for the night grazing.

Suddenly the sky filled with dazzling luster and bright as day. These simple men were extremely afraid. Quickly an angel from God said, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-12)

Take a moment to image the scene! Perhaps a feeling of frozen panic coupled with a depth of amazement and strange security. As the angel told the shepherds where they could find this newborn child, suddenly all around them became filled with a multitude of heavenly host, music and chorus praising God and giving Him the glory of peace to men of goodwill who have a good will towards God.

The men were instructed to seek and told where to find the Child. We are told in verse 16, "that they came with haste." The shepherds of that day were plain, honest men who knew of responsibility of protecting the lambs, yet at this most startling moment, because their souls believed the words of the angel, they quickly left the fields to go and find the Christ. From that moment on these shepherds had a driving focus to share the things that had been told to them (Luke 2:17).

## The Pastor's Pen

Just like today, those men knew their duty was to spread the Good News so all could know the glory of the Lord. We must ask ourselves if we go "with haste" when we encounter an opportunity to serve or witness for the Lord's glory or do we linger hoping 'someone else' will step forward. We must not be a closed island when it is required of us to seek and share the Word with others.

A short 33½ years later, before ascending into heaven, Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21)

Be a good shepherd and want all of God's lambs to know His promise and that message is to be the soul-winning work we must continue to do today. . .with great joy!

Suzanne Holcomb

### *Inner Peace*

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful,  
ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining  
and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food every day  
and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your loved ones  
are too busy to give you any time,  
If you can take criticism and blame without  
resentment,  
If you can conquer tension without medical  
help,  
If you can relax without alcohol,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
  
Then you are probably the family Dog or Cat.

Here we are again. Another calendar year is coming to a close. We have been blessed with new members, great fellowship, excellent dinners, wonderful visitors, game nights, and meaningful worship opportunities. With dedication and faithful service, we can look forward to all that and more in 2018.

Unfortunately, there has been violence, terrorism, natural disasters, personal injury and death. Our nation, along with countries near and far, has suffered through emotional upheaval caused by individuals and groups. We may wonder why on earth these terrible events take place. We may be hard pressed to find answers that even begin to make sense.

But as a community of faith here in our part of God's country Northeast Georgia and surrounding areas, we will continue to pray for and with those who suffer. As we realize that it is just that closeness and support that we may one day need that helps us to keep praying when our own personal issues seem to be more than we can handle, when our own faith struggles to stay strong.

That is when friends, family, and perhaps even strangers step up to help. And that is when we most clearly see the hands and feet of God here on earth - when a heartfelt outpouring of assistance and love overwhelms our sadness and grief.

We look forward to a new and exciting year. One filled with joy and gladness, happiness and well wishes. But most of all, we look forward to sharing all that will be with each other.

Blessings, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year,  
Fred

## Women's Word

The Presbyterian Women are enjoying the Women of Faith Bible Study Series on Leading a Life of Balance. January 2nd's lesson is Chapter 4 - Balancing Work and Rest, as well as Chapter 5 - Balancing Faith and Sight. Can't wait for those insights! We will also be putting away our Christmas decorations - bring a sandwich!

On January 23rd we will be making blankets to replenish our Blanket Ministry supplies. Donations of flannel blanket material are welcomed.

February 6th's meeting will be Chapter 6 - Balancing Love and Obedience, and Chapter 7 - Balancing Faith and Works.

No matter what we are doing, it's a great time of rapport. Looking forward to being together.

## Coming Events

**Christmas Cantata** will feature special anthems by the choir during the worship service on Sunday, December 10.

### Christmas Eve Service

Our annual Carols, Communion and Candlelight worship service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> will begin at 6:00 pm.

### Game Night – Food, Fun and Fellowship

Wednesday, January 10, 5 – 8 pm



Susan Smart celebrates her birthday!

## Birthdays

### December

6 - Richard Boyle  
10 - Rick Spivey

### January

14 – Phyllis Murphy  
20 – Ginny Fagen  
20 – Bill Farr  
23 – Sam Chalton  
24 – Helen Roberts  
27 – Frank Holden  
29 – Jef Fagen  
30 – TC Williams

The "volunteer card sender" for our congregation is retiring. If you feel moved to do this type of ministry, please contact TC Williams or Pastor Fred. Information and explanations gladly given.



# Clayton Presbyterian Church December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elder of the month – TC Williams</b>  <b>December 10 – Christmas Cantata and Elder Installation</b>					1  Open for Personal Prayer	2
3 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11:00	4	5  NA group 7:00	6	7  Choir 4:00 NA group 7:00	8  Session – 10 AM  Open for Personal Prayer	9
10 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11:00 <b>Cantata</b>	11	12  NA group 7:00	13	14  Choir 5:00 NA group 7:00	15  Open for Personal Prayer	16
17 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11:00	18 RCFM Food Delivery 8:30 AM	19  NA group 7:00	20	21  Choir 5:00 NA group 7:00	22  Open for Personal Prayer	23
24 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> No Bible Study Worship – 11:00 <b>Christmas Eve Service 6 pm</b>	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26  NA group 7:00	27	28 Office closed No Choir NA group 7:00	29  Open for Personal Prayer	30
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">                     Pastor Fred and Carol will be out of town December 25 – 30.                 </div>						
31 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11:00						