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December 2024 Newsletter

Pinopolis Community Church

1833 Pinopolis Road, PO Box 521
Pinopolis, SC 29469

Dear brothers, sisters & friends:



Pastor Jeff Roper

Let There Be Light...

Often, passages in Scripture will foreshadow those depicting later events. Consider the words that begin our Bible:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated

the light from the darkness.

I feel these words are a foreshadowing of Christ coming into the world to provide salvation for all who would accept him through faith. Obviously, John the Apostle believed this as well. His account of the Gospel is replete with light and darkness imagery. I encourage you each to join me in reading through John this Advent Season. Therein we are there reminded of the depth of God's love for us! John begins with almost a wordplay on the Genesis story of creation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

As we approach Christmas time, we are reminded of the birth of Christ and we celebrate it again as through Advent we anticipate the Second Coming of Christ. The celebration of the birth of our Savior is surrounded by what I like to call the "warm-fuzzy" images. How many Christmas cards are received each year showing the simple manger beneath a night sky with the natal star ablaze in glory! I have often wondered just how brightly that star shined in the sky at the birth of Christ.

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Sunday, Dec. 8



Sunday, Dec. 15



Sunday, Dec. 15

Trustee of the Month:

Don Jones

(843) 693-2977

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In 2008, about this time of year, I had the opportunity to spend a few days in a rustic camp in west Texas. Our small group was 62 miles from the nearest town, which had only 30 residents. There was no electricity, running water, or even homes for 60 miles. There were no paved roads, just desert. I recall going outside our lodging the first night and looking all around. The sky was black--truly black. There was no light pollution like we have all around us most places we live our daily lives. I looked at the moon, a waxing gibbous, which would be a full moon in just six more days. It was big and bright. I looked all around the sky and noticed the stars were so bright. There was no artificial light to diminish their radiance. I thought back on that scene from all those Christmas cards. This was just the kind of sky the artists were trying to depict.

I was reminded of this contrast of light and darkness each time I viewed the night sky along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. There, I glimpsed what seemed to me to represent the vast expanse of the universe and saw how each star was a distinct point of light. These same stars I had seen over Texas, and to a degree even at home in South Carolina for my whole life, sent light out in every direction. Not one star was bright enough to light the entire sky, but collectively they offered enough light to see by. They offered distinct points which would be helpful to a person needing to gain their bearings. The combined light of the stars was much like the true Church, shining pure light to help others see.

As we go through this season of Advent, it is my prayer that each of us will shine the pure light God has placed with us. There is so much artificial (false) light in the world today that prevents people from realizing the depth of their own darkness. There are so many "feel good" teachings that say we can make it alone or that we can be saved in some other way. There are many places where theology a mile wide but only an inch deep is being presented (light pollution). Much of this light pollution is based on self-improvement or the power we have within ourselves. Christ is the only true light!

We as Christians are given the opportunity to share our faith with others. We are called to shine our light to participate in the building of God's Kingdom. My prayer is that each of us will allow God to shine through us this season and collectively the light we give will bring hope to others.

May God bless us as we serve him! --Jeff

The Bible. New Revised Standard Version. Genesis 1.1-4

The Bible. New Revised Standard Version. John 1.1-5



2	Kennedy Mills	19	Gene Villeponteaux
10	Nickie Linville	19	Charlie Bryant
11	Emma Cooper	19	Marc Jennings
11	Tyler Owens	25	Georgie Ford
14	Billy Kodama	29	Debbie Andrus
19	James Bunch	30	Nan Cline



Pinopolis Community Church
Wednesday Women present

Cookies with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 8, from 2-4 pm

Pinopolis Community Church
1833 Pinopolis Road
Pinopolis, SC 29461

RSVP to 843-499-2327 to
reserve a time slot



ARREST THESE MERRY GENTLEMEN



December 15
at 6 pm



IN THE
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

PCC KIDS
CHRISTMAS PLAY

REFRESHMENTS
TO FOLLOW



Join Us For A

Holiday Meal

Dec. 15, 2024

In the Fellowship hall directly after the service.
Please bring a covered dish to share. Meat will
be provided.

Pinopolis Community Church Angel Tree 2024

Be a
Blessing



Adopt an
Angel

Sign Out an Angel from tree in Ed. Building
Spend \$60 on Angels
Please return gifts by Dec. 10
See Nancy Phillips for more info

December

- 8 Cookies with Santa
- 10-13 Angel Tree
- 15 BLAST Christmas Play
- 24 Christmas Eve Service



DECEMBER 2024

BLAST NEWS



My favorite time of year is here! I love the watching the smiles that come across my childrens' faces as they take in the sights of Christmas lights and decorations. As we "ooh and aah" over these things, let us not forget the true light of the world: Jesus. Join us as we celebrate Christ with our annual Christmas play on December 15th at 6 p.m. The kids of PCC have been working hard to bring you the true Christmas story. We will have refreshments following the performance. Donations of finger foods are greatly appreciated.

Wednesday nights have been a BLAST these past few months. The youth have been learning the disciples and studying the ways they followed Christ. Wednesday night gatherings have paused for the holidays and will resume on January 8th. We will jump back into the disciples studies when we come back together in January.

We are always in need of volunteers! If you are interested in helping with the BLAST groups on Wednesday nights, please reach out to Jaclyn Gatlin. We would greatly appreciate the help!

Upcoming Dates:

No Wednesday Night gatherings this month. We will resume January 8th with Wonderful Wednesdays.

12/07: 5 p.m.: Dressed rehearsal

12/15: 6p.m.: Christmas Play

Youth Needs:

Volunteers for events and Wednesday Nights! Please call or text Jaclyn for more information!

Contact Info:
Youth Director- Jaclyn Gatlin
(843) 749-2137
blastyouth.pcc@gmail.com

OUR MISSION: TO GROW YOUNG LIVES IN CHRIST; GUIDING THEM TO DISCIPLESHIP, EVANGELISM, AND FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE.



Announcements for December

WEDNESDAY WOMEN

The Wednesday Women will meet on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall.

COOKIES WITH SANTA

Cookies with Santa will be on Sunday, December 8th from 2-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Cindy Riley (843) 499-2327 for more information and to sign up for a time slot for the event.

TRUSTEES

Trustees will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 pm in the Viv Ingle classroom.

ANGEL TREE

Our Angel tree is up and in the educational building for the time being. Please be sure to sign out your angel. They are to be returned by Dec. 10th. This year they are asking to spend \$60 per angel. See Nancy Phillips for more information.

ALABAMA THEATER TRIP

Those interested in attending the Alabama Theater for a show on Wednesday, Dec. 11, should contact Sarah Hare at (843) 899-5238. We will be leaving the church at 10 am. The show is \$35 plus dinner at Original Benjamin's is \$28.50, for a total of \$63.50 if attending both. We will take the bus, and some will drive their cars.

HOPE REPAIR

Hope Repair will meet on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 am at Pointe North Church.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Choir's Christmas Cantata "For Unto Us A Child Is Born" will be during the worship service at 10 am on Sunday, December 15th.

HOLIDAY MEAL

You are invited to join our Church Family for our traditional Holiday Meal on Sunday December 15, in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship hour. Meat will be provided and we ask that you bring a covered dish or dessert to share. We hope you'll plan to come!

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Join us as we celebrate the gift of Christ through our annual Christmas play on December 15th at 6 p.m. The kids of PCC have been working hard in their roles to retell the story of the day our Father gifted us the Son. After the performance we will join in fellowship as we serve refreshments. Donations of finger foods and desserts are greatly appreciated. So spread the word and invite friends and family to see the performance of 'Arrest These Merry Gentlemen!' by PCC Kids! We look forward to seeing you there!

PCC MEN

PCC Men meet on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to submit information in the January 2025 newsletter is Thursday, Dec. 19.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held on December 24, at 11 pm in the sanctuary.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our first Red Cross Blood Drive of 2025 is scheduled for Sunday, February 2 from 11:30 until 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendar and sign up soon to support the Red Cross with your donation. You may donate a Whole Blood Unit at any other location until December 7, 2024 and still be eligible for this Blood Drive. If you have donated a Power Red Unit since October 12, you will not be eligible. You may schedule your appointment by going online to redcross.org or call Robin Austin (843) 761-4730.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wonderful Wednesdays are finished for 2024. They will begin again January 8, 2025.

UPPER ROOM

Copies of the November/December *The Upper Room* in both regular and large print are available in the Fellowship Hall. Past issues are available in the library. If you need a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office at (843) 761-8477.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am: Sunday School 10 am: Worship 5 pm: BLAST	2 <i>FH Reserved</i> 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7 pm: Boy Scouts	3 <i>FH Reserved</i>	4 <i>FH Reserved</i>	5 <i>FH Reserved</i>	6 <i>FH Reserved</i>	7 9 am: WW (FH) 5 pm: BLAST play practice
8 9 am: SS 10 am: Worship 2-4 pm Cookies w/Santa 5 pm: BLAST play practice FH	9 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7 pm: Boy Scouts	10 Angel Tree (FH) 6 pm: Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Trustees (VI)	11 FH Reserved Alabama Theater Trip	12 <i>FH Reserved</i>	13 <i>FH Reserved</i>	14 7 am: Hope Repair (Pointe North Church)
15 9 am: Sunday School 10 am: Worship Holiday Meal after Worship 6 pm: Christmas Play	16 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7 pm: Boy Scouts	17 6:30 pm: PCC Men (FH)	18	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20	21
22 9 am: Sunday School 10 am: Worship (FH)	23 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7 pm: Boy Scouts	24 Christmas Eve 11 pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 9 am: Sunday School 10 am: Worship (FH)	30 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7 pm: Boy Scouts	31 New Year's Eve				