

Volume 18
January and February 2019

The Newsletter

New Wappetaw Presbyterian
Church

New Wappetaw
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Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

This year, for the first time, we paid more attention to the ending of Charles Dickens' novella, "A Christmas Carol." Why is it that we automatically think of Scrooge as the person he was at the beginning of the story, one who symbolizes greed, selfishness and malice? Ebenezer Scrooge is a name no one wants to carry around all their days. Yet, there is an ending to this story that shows a transformed person who embodies the very spirit of Christmas.

It is clear that author Charles Dickens is a person of faith. He believes that change can come to even the greediest and meanest person on earth. But most people want Scrooge to be Scrooge. It is telling by the way his reputation clings to him like skunk smell even to this day! But Dickens sees hope even for Mr. Scrooge! This hope is to be seen, for one, in his nephew, Fred Holywell: "I knew you would eventually come to our Christmas Feast!" Fred went to his uncle's office every year with this Christmas invitation. He was joined in that faith by employee Bob Cratchit. These two remained with Ebenezer, and I believe their faith made a difference.

Jacob Marley, Ebenezer's partner in business was the first visit to Scrooge's home. He came pulling a heavy ball and chain as penitence for his neglect in life. He didn't see that 'his real business in life was humanity!' This hints that hope exists even beyond the grave. If there was penitence there must be hope.

A Christmas Carol—Dickens' novella—is a window into a grand theology. We try our best to reduce it to something that fits our world view: ghosts are scary, especially the future Christmas ghost with the bony finger and black robe, and some people are beyond changing. This scary apparition came like the others, though, intent on helping Ebenezer, doing him some real good. Our idea is mostly that ghosts bring bad news, or harm. Scrooge thought so at first, but came to realize how much good they did him. God's kingdom had entered a very dark place and time. Dickens realized that God is Sovereign. Darkness and evil and greed do not have the last word, God does. We focus our faith on God, not on the corrupt person Mr. Scrooge, despairing at the thought of him initiating a change. He can't do it, but God can! We can therefore take on the roles of Fred Holywell and Bob Cratchit.

From now on, we're going to focus more on the ending of this wonderful Christmas story, and hopefully allow our imagination to be seasoned by this all year long.

God bless you in this New Year. I love you.

Steve Souther

Remember these members and friends in prayer: Hugh Wilson, Terry McKnight, Debbie Hattaway, Bob Aldrich, Ronnie Hutto, Landon Holloway, Dickie Hills, Peggy Williams, Jackie Sease, Caroline Harkleroad, Charlotte Armstrong, Bill Archer, Bruce Rector, Andrew Brunson, David Marcinak, Sarah Sadler, Frances Avinger, Jerry Hicks, Jerry Sexton, Bob Gannon, Carolyn Page

January Birthdays

Claudia Kornack	January 4		
Caroline Taylor Hurteau	January 5	Rutledge B. Leland, IV	January 20
James Avinger	January 7	Payton Garner	January 21
April Morrison Zorn	January 8	Leigh S. Scott	January 22
Rebecca Capps Porter	January 9	Tanner Marcinak	January 23
Hugh Baker DuPre, and Will Lofton	January 12	Allston Leland	January 25
Orion McClellan,		Drew Westergard	January 27
L. Palmer McClellan, III	January 17	Jackson Porter, and Jonah Benjamin Wine	January 28
Grier Cotesworth Scott	January 18	Pam Morrison	January 29
and Tyler Ellis	January 18	Rutledge B. Leland, III and William (Will) Leland	January 31

February Birthdays

Lionel Lofton	February 1	Connie Graham, and Anne Frances Scott	February 16
Diane Racine, Margy Leland	February 2	Callie Olivia Cooper	February 18
Brenda Hutchinson	February 5	Allison Elise Morrison, MD	February 19
Samuel Crocker	February 7	Carlin Elizabeth Garner	February 22
Mimi Morrison, Eddie Stroman	February 10	Kenny Keith	February 23
James Scott, IV (“Jack”)	February 14	Susan Watkins	February 28

The Theocademy -- A convenient source of information about the Presbyterian Church (USA). Beginning in 2014 the church has developed a group of video classes with accompanying study guides led by Presbyterian pastors or seminary professors. The classes are especially helpful for new church members and for the training of newly elected elders but all persons interested can enjoy a review of the subjects. Subjects include Preparation of elders and deacons, New members, Confirmation, Introduction to the New Testament, “Love An Other,” and Biblical interpretation. Classes last 9-13 minutes. Seek *theocademy.com* to take advantage of the availability of these studies.

Benjamin Wilson McMillon -- Ned and Lucia Jaycocks would like to take the liberty of informing the congregation of the recent death in Charleston of BENJAMIN WILSON MACMILLAN (BEN) at age 88 following cardiovascular issues and related surgery. Ben introduced Lucia and Ned in 1970, was in our wedding in 1971, and was a dear friend ever since. He was a loyal member of First (Scots) Presbyterian Church and rarely missed a service. He was also interested in New Wappetaw and made several generous donations to the Building Fund in recent years.

In large measure Lucia and I acquired our interest in sailboat racing from Ben, and for 20 years we all enjoyed racing on the Y-Flyer regatta circuit throughout the southeast. One of our most cherished possessions is our wedding invitation with a painting of us sailing in Lucia’s first boat superimposed on it.

Especially in view of Ben’s interest in New Wappetaw, we thought it would be appropriate for the congregation to know about this.

Ned and Lucia

Oyster Roast -- All are encouraged to attend the now annual oyster roast at 4-6 P.M on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at the home of Andrew and Allen DuPre. Bring a dish and invite a guest. Let Huger McClellan know if you would like to help gather or help roast the oysters.

Bible Studies – Weekly Bible studies will resume at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 16th at New Wappetaw. Find weekly Bible readings on line – Presbyterian Lectionary: 2019 Revised Common Lectionary Readings.

Men's Supper – All men are invited to attend the Men's Supper at New Wappetaw – Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 P.M. This will be the annual fish fry. The men continue to be active in monthly delivery of food to needy persons in our area and in biweekly collection and disposal of recyclable items from homes in town. Men are also now arranging the repair of steps to the mobile home of one of the ladies to whom we deliver food.

The Service of Ordination and Installation of Elders – will be held at worship on Sunday, January 6th. Andrew DuPre and Russell Tyler will be ordained and installed for three years of service on the session, and Townsend Warren will be installed for completion of three years of service.

Cemetery Care – New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church cares for two lovely cemeteries: (1) – Our familiar one, in McClellanville, and (2) The “Old Wappetaw” cemetery on Fifteen Mile Landing Road in Awendaw – a few hundred yards behind the Sewee Restaurant.

The land for our local cemetery was donated by the Skipper family soon after New Wappetaw was founded in 1872. In 1877, Old Wappetaw, actually The Wappetaw Independent Congregational Church, was officially closed, as most of its members had moved to McClellanville or Mt. Pleasant. New Wappetaw was given the cemetery in Awendaw plus the mother church's communion silver. We still have both.

Our session wants all members and friends to know that both cemeteries have been lovingly cared for, as any visitor can tell. It is important to know also that continuing care is expensive – routine care costs a lot and removal of a dead tree can cost hundreds of dollars. Elders will be leading others in donating volunteer time and effort in maintenance of the lands, while encouraging families to contribute funds for care. Send any donation to the church, marked For Cemetery Maintenance.

The Sunshine Choir

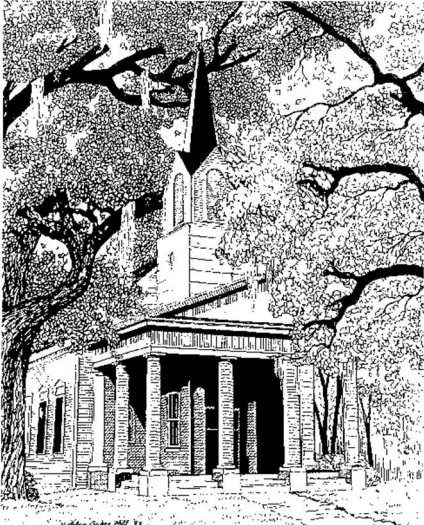
The Sunshine Choir performs frequently at our worship services, bringing enthusiasm and joy with their singing. They follow with obvious interest in and response to the children's sermon. Thanks to the Sunshine Choir for its contributions, and thanks to Becky Sellers and Kathy Leland for their leadership and support.



At the Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree



Giving their leaders presents of gift cards



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Welcome New Members



Lynn and Bill Godwin with Rev. Steve Souther

New Wappetaw Services, Fellowship Gatherings, and Meetings

Community social coffee every Wednesday morning 9-11AM at Morrison House Annex of Episcopal Church. All are welcome.

Soup luncheons at noon, Wednesdays, January 9th and February 6th, at New Wappetaw. All are welcome.

Bible Study Wednesdays at 1PM at New Wappetaw, beginning January 16th. All are welcome.

Afternoon circle 3PM Tuesday, January 8th with Beverly Bonner

Evening Circle – Monday, January 14th, 7PM at the church

Men's Supper – 6:30 PM, Thursday, January 24th at the church. Bring a friend.

Quarterly Communion Service – at worship, Sunday, January 20th

Congregational Dinner – after worship – Sunday, January 27th. Bring a dish and a friend

