



# The Messenger

December 1, 2017

“Waiting for Christmas”

“Will Christmas ever get here?” I remember asking myself as a young child waiting for that magical day to arrive. I distinctly remember the anticipation I felt each Thanksgiving as stores began their barrage of sales, as TV ads flooded our living room, as multi-colored lights illuminated our neighborhood, and as brightly wrapped presents began to accumulate under the Christmas tree. Ahh . . . those presents. There were many days when I wished I could tear into the wrapping paper to discover what treasures were hidden inside them. Why do I have to wait until Christmas morning to open those presents? What harm was there in opening a couple of them now?

Now that I’m an adult, I don’t think I still have that frantic sense of “How many days ‘til Christmas?” attitude. In fact, as I get older, it seems Christmas arrives faster every year. After Thanksgiving, there does not seem to be enough hours in the day, enough days in the month of December to get all the cards written, all the presents bought and wrapped, all the parties and special services attended and all the dinners cooked. And while all of those things are good, I wonder whether our mad dash to “get ready” for Christmas may in fact hide our inner longing for the deeper meaning of Christmas. In a world filled with sorrow and grief, loss and despair, we deeply desire “Joy to the World.” In a world filled with war and broken relationships, we eagerly await “Peace on earth and goodwill towards all.” In the crazy, hectic and loud world that we live in, we long for the “Silent Night, Holy Night” of our Savior’s birth. We may think that it’s kids looking at the presents under the tree who do all the waiting at this time of year, but deep down inside, we grown-ups are waiting, too.

But alas, such a world of joy, peace and goodwill is not yet a present reality, and Advent is a season that reminds all Christians that we are still waiting, still preparing, still anticipating the arrival of such a world made possible by the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is a season of waiting, of watching, of expectancy. It trains Christians not to buy into the instant gratification mindset of our culture. Advent is a season that reminds us that we still need time to process our sorrow and grief, time to work on restoring fractured relationships, and time to quiet our loud and hectic lives in order to focus on what’s truly important.

And so during Advent, we wait for Christmas, young and old alike. But I pray that God will use this time of our waiting to mend our hearts, our relationships, our lives and our world so that when Christ, the Joy of the World, finally comes, every heart will have prepared Him room and every soul will receive the Christ-child gladly

—Waiting expectantly, Michael

## State of our 2017 Finances

As we have concluded the third quarter of 2017, the Stewardship Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the 9 months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to last year for the same period and to our third quarter budget:

	<u>Sept 2016</u>	<u>Sept 2017 Budget</u>	<u>Sept 2017 Actual</u>
Contributions, etc.	\$223,748	\$200,615	\$226,873
Expenses	246,816	218,269	186,623
Operating (Loss) Income	\$( 23,068)	\$(17,654)	\$ 40,250
Market Increase-Investments	\$41,678	\$0	\$106,980

Our expenses are less than budget because of some facilities projects that have not been paid as of September as well as savings related to not having a full time pastor. Our revenue is currently over our expectations because of an increase in memorials and other non pledge contributions. Our total cash and investments are just over \$1,080,000 of which, \$834,000 are unrestricted. This is due to strong increases in the financial markets recently.

As always, we will have a complete financial report at our next congregational meeting on December 6. If you would like more information prior to that meeting, you may obtain detailed financial statements from the church office or contact me with questions.

Amy Ray, Treasurer

### A Note From Mimi Hermosa

The month of November, 2017, marks one year that I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I would like to thank all the folks at Peakland who continue to pray for me, our family as caregivers and folks who bring meals for one week every 3 weeks during chemo treatments. It has been a year of learning and trusting God's leading and healing in so far as the tumor has shrunk up to this point. I try to keep internet folks updated on my "blog". I thank the Lord for each one of the prayer warriors, card senders, encouragers, meal providers who keep up with us. Christmas Blessings and Love from Mimi Hermosa <http://familiahermosa.blogspot.com>

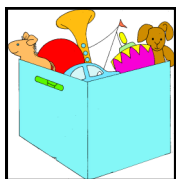
### Bedford Hills Helping Hands

The members of Peakland Baptist Church provided much-needed funds to Bedford Hills Helping Hands (BH HH) with a special love gift in memory of William Painter, the grandson of Karen Painter. The non-profit was very touched with the checks presented to them Thursday, September 28th, which totaled \$920.

The money will be used to feed young ones who are in need of food and school supplies. It is estimated this would provide over 400 meals and snacks in order for the students to have a better quality of life.

Special thanks to those in our church membership who gave of their treasures to help those in need -- all done in memory of William Painter.

### Jericho Outreach Ministries Annual Toy Drive



Please consider buying a toy  
for the Toy Drive!  
Let's make some Christmas joy!  
Deadline is December 10th!!!!

**Men's Breakfast!**  
**Saturday, December 16th**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**Acorn Hill Bistro**  
**2134 Old Forest Road**  
**Come join us!**



## CALENDAR



### **PENCIL IN THE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER**

Saturday, 2nd	10:00 a.m.	Work day - decorate the Worship Room
Sunday, 3rd	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (1st Sun. of Advent)
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Open House - Mary Lee Bell's home
Monday, 4th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Wed, 6th	10:30 a.m.	Advent Study Group - Parlor
	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Dinner/Meeting
Thurs, 7th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 10th	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (2nd Sun. of Advent)
	12:05 p.m.	Church Get-Together, Host: Diaconate
Monday, 11th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
	1:00 p.m.	Circle 1 - Fran Christie's home
Wed, 13th	10:30 a.m.	Advent Study Group - Parlor
Thurs, 14th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 16th	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast, Acorn Hill Bistro
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Room Open House
Sunday, 17th	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (3rd Sun. of Advent)
	12:10 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting - Youth Room
Monday, 18th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Wed, 20th	10:30 a.m.	Advent Study Group - Parlor
Thurs, 21st	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 24th	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (4th Sun. of Advent)
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Monday, 25th		CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday, 31st	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		The Rev. Dwight Mays, Pulpit Guest

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ESTHER KINUTHIA  
FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE  
CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTER COURSE  
THROUGH CENTRA HEALTH!!  
JOB WELL DONE!**

### Come Grow With Us

#### SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.  
*Soul Survivor* by Phil Yancey (9:45 a.m.)

#### RENOVATORS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.  
This class will be scheduled at a later date.

#### THE FORUM

Religion and current events are discussed in  
the Brooks Education Wing downstairs (10:00 a.m.)

#### ADULT STUDY

The Formations - Meets in the Parlor  
*The Herodian Dynasty* (10:00 a.m.)

## Peakland's Worship Room - Community Open

### House of Churches

Peakland is one of ten congregations in the city that will have their worship rooms open to the public on Saturday, December 16th, from 10-2 p.m.

This is a fund raiser for Interfaith Outreach Association.

Tickets may be purchased at the Downtown Visitor's Center, Boonsboro Gladiola Girls, and Aylor's Farm Store in Forest.

Tickets will also be available at each church on the day of the event. Mark your calendar and buy a ticket!

### With Special Thanks

*Peakland has so many people working behind the scenes each week, volunteering their time and talents. We want you to know how much we appreciate each and every one of you.*

### Jim Ray is one of these people!

*Jim is a very much behind-the-scenes kind of person. His willingness and dedication to our church ministry and the building is remarkable.*

*You only have to ask about a fixable problem in the building and he is on it, without question. Thank you, Jim, for all you do. We appreciate you!*

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday,  
Monday, December 25th ~  
Monday, January 1st.  
We will be back in the office  
on Tuesday, January 2nd.  
Happy Holidays!



### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Contact the Church Office (434) 384-2031  
Email: peaklandbaptistchurch@verizon.net  
or Michael Cheuk, Interim Pastor  
(434) 878-2225

Email: michael@michaelcheuk.com

Georgia Willis Fauber, Diaconate Leader  
(434) 386-9672  
Email: willisgeorgia@yahoo.com

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



This year we will celebrate our  
Christmas Open House  
at the home of

**Mary Lee Bell**

on Sunday, December 3rd  
4:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.

(call the church if you need directions)  
Women on a Mission will provide  
the food, drinks, and paper products.

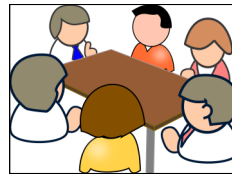
### Volunteers Needed for

### The Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry

Peakland Baptist Church has committed to packing bags of food for one week every ten weeks (two volunteers needed each day) and for completing "starter" bags once every ten months. (Eight to nine volunteers needed) If you are willing to help Peakland fulfill its commitment, please call Leslie Willman, Susan Epling, or Sharon Whitesell for more information. Thank you!

### Congregational Dinner

**Wednesday, December 6th, 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite side dish! Be sure and come to this important dinner/meeting as we will be voting on our 2018 Budget, a message from the Search Team, and more!**



### Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, December 17th  
12:10 p.m. in the Youth Room

## Circle 1



Our Christmas celebration  
luncheon will be

Monday, December 11th,  
1:00 p.m.,

at the home of Fran Christie.

Pastor Michael will be our special guest.



# December, 2017



*and \*Anniversaries*



03 Chris Bailey  
03 Kristen Cook  
05 Harry Haga  
06 Larson Wile  
11 Tracy Moon  
13 Ron Rash  
14 Noah Grabeel  
15 Melissa Dempsey  
16 Craig Ryder  
16 Donnie Sale  
16 Horace Russell  
18 Kelly Dietz  
19 David Garrard  
19 \*Vic and Cheryle Angell

20 \*Spence and Niki White  
22 \*Gary and Fran Christie  
24 Ann Weber  
27 \*Ernie and Amy Sawyer  
29 \*Bill and Rondys Cook  
29 Matthew Williams  
29 \*Tom and Leslie Willman  
30 Janna Russell  
30 George Moseley  
31 Laura Bailey  
31 Bruce Rockwell  
31 Chris Webb

## **CHURCH STAFF:**

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III	Pastor Emeritus
Ms. Debbie Burton	Music Director
Mr. Allan Heer	Organist
Mrs. Donna Johnson	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Judi Handel	Financial Assistant

## **VISION STATEMENT**

*We are faithful and loving servants of God who believe that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord. We are a spiritual, ecumenical congregation, called by God, bound by faith, united in fellowship, dedicated to freedom, and engaged in God's work of mission and outreach.*