



# Hartwood Highlights

*A publication of Hartwood Presbyterian Church*

## The Innkeeper

December 2018

Volume 44, Issue 12

The Innkeeper in the Christmas story is often overlooked. First, we should point out that our modern impression of the innkeeper as being the concierge at the last Hilton hotel we stayed at, is probably a bit inaccurate. There was no hotel industry in the Holy Land at the time of Jesus birth. At best it was an extra room on one of the upper stories of a wealthy person's home. Furthermore, hospitality was very important in this culture, which is why the person we have come to know as the innkeeper felt compelled to find some accommodations for Mary and Joseph.

In his book *The Drama of Christmas: Letting Christ into Our Lives* Morton Kelsey retells a legend about the innkeeper from the Christmas story. His name was Nathan and he was a very wealthy person. He owned a large house in Bethlehem with several large upper rooms in it. It was the time of the census and Nathan was already hosting several wealthy persons who were in town to fulfill their obligation to be counted. It was late and the young man standing at the door was tired and dirty. The very pregnant young woman behind him looked miserable. Nathan's heart went out to them, but he could not displace the good (and wealthy) people who were already tucked into his cozy and snugly rooms. Ah yes, there was the stable. It was probably a cave, but at least it was dry and would block the wind. That night Nathan had a strange dream that he heard the most beautiful music he had ever heard. The next morning some of the shepherds who worked for him were excitedly chattering about seeing angels and a baby and something about the Messiah. However, these people were not much better than the animals they cared for to Nathan and he soon forgot about it.

Several years past, Nathan was in Capernaum on a business trip. He heard something about a sensational new teacher who supposedly could heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. Yet another messianic

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pretender who will be dealt with by Rome soon enough. For a moment he thought it might be interesting to go and see this teacher. Then he thought better of it. Hardly worth his time.

Three years later Nathan is back home in Bethlehem and it is Passover. Nathan's servants are chattering about a wild story of another messianic candidate who was just executed by the Romans, but surprisingly was said to have risen from the dead. In fact, he was supposed to have appeared to many. This might be interesting he thought, no just another wild story spread by the likes of servants. Again, not worth his time. After all what is the price of sheep for sacrifice at the temple today. There is money to be made.

Nathan missed the Messiah not once but three times. How often have we or those we know missed the Messiah? It is not too late. Christmas is almost here. Yet another chance to meet the Messiah and to be saved. To find the true meaning of Christmas and the true meaning of life. Yet another chance to secure our eternal destiny. Another chance but perhaps the last chance. Nathan had three chances how many do we get?

Blessings,  
Rev. Scott Fouts



## November 2018 Session Highlights



News from your Session

In the spirit of keeping the congregation informed with the most current information, the Session now submits a summary of the latest Session meeting in the next month's newsletter.

The following are highlights of the session activity during November:

- The roof project is completed and looks great. The bell tower was also repaired.
- We had two Scouts present ideas for their Eagle Scout/Gold Award projects. The projects seem very good and they will start them before next spring.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 6, 2019. We will be electing new church officers at that time and discussing the 2019 Budget as well as Pastor's Terms of Call.
- We will be doing a church clean-up and greening (decorating) for the Advent Season. Please come and join in the fun and fellowship. 9 AM on December 1<sup>st</sup> !!!!
- Happy Thanksgiving to you all. It is nice to stop and count our blessings.
- Remember, during this busy Holiday time, to be safe, keep calm and keep Christ first as He is the reason for this season.
- Happy Holidays and safe travels to you all.

Our next stated session meeting is scheduled to be on January 20, 2019 at 12 noon in the Heritage room.

Submitted by: Gretchen Condon,



Ashton Dye	Frank Tulloss	Margery Schill (Nancy Arnn's sister)
Diana Naatjes	Jennifer Bass (Jim & Lillian Moore's niece)	Steve Momrow (Sue Nelson's cousin)
David Peno	Kathleen Collier	Sue Nelson
Don Reed (Jim & Lillian Moore's son-in-law)	Lucas Vacaflor (Judy Morgan's grandson)	The family of Walter Embrey
Don Reed (Judy Morgan's cousin)		

*Please continue to remember our shut-ins.*



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## *Hartwood Presbyterian Church*

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*November 12, 2018*

*Dear Congregation,*

*The Advent Season is here and it is once again time to thank our staff for all the hard work they do all year. As is the custom here at Hartwood Church we will be giving monetary gifts to our paid staff including the Pastor, Music Director and the Administrative Assistant.*

We realize that this may be a difficult time financially for many of us, but if you would like to contribute, we ask that you enclose your donation in an envelope and either mail it to the church office by December 2<sup>nd</sup> or give it to a member of the Personnel Committee by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make your checks out to Hartwood Presbyterian Church with a notation "Personnel Holiday Gift". Thank you all for your generosity and kindness as you give to those who mean so much to us all.

Warm wishes to you all.

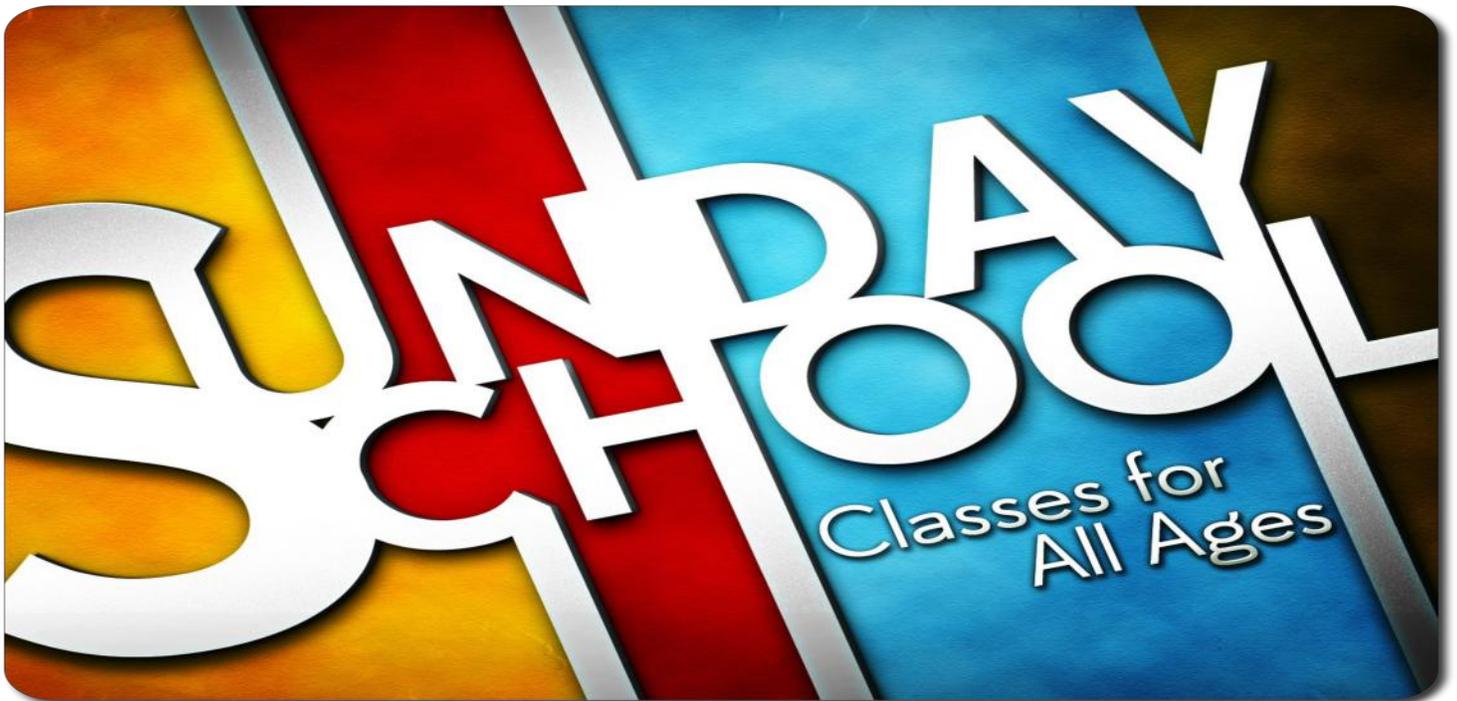
In Christ,

The Personnel Committee,

Gretchen Condon, Chair

Nancy Arnn, Session Liaison





### YOU ARE INVITED!!!

The Adult Sunday School class would like to invite you to visit our room and learn more about God. Our lessons this next quarter center on **LOVE**. Not human love nor romantic love but the love that begins with God! In December we explore how God's love demands our whole and undivided response. We see that response in the advent of Jesus. We continue the following

month with our response to God's love we see in Christ. We finally conclude the quarter in Psalms to see expressions of the love and glory of God.

We are **NOT** your ordinary Sunday School Class!!! We have rousing discussions, disagreements about some interpretations of scripture, a lot of laughter and it's all done in a loving, respectful way. So bring over your cup of coffee and join us!

**” For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”**





## The Middle

Our next meeting will be December 3rd at 6:00 pm at the home of Guy & Betsy Peno for our Christmas Dinner Gathering. Please bring a side to share.

Contact Rebecca Carmody or Betsy Peno for more information.





## Mission & Outreach Report

Reporting Period– Month of November

During November we accepted a family of two for food assistance making a total of 12 boxes for 35 individuals distributed weekly. Thanksgiving meals were provided to clients on November 15th. The Scout Food Drive on November 10<sup>th</sup> yielded 4,047 pounds of nonperishable food for the pantry. This is a record collection. We thank the Boy and Girl Scouts for their participation and help stocking the pantry. The LDS Hartwood Ward has offered to assist in needs we may have and another church member expressed interest in being a pantry volunteer. We are in the process of determining how best to utilize volunteers and address committee needs. We appreciate your patience with this as well as the Angel Tree. Hopefully, the Angel Tree will be in the sanctuary on December 2nd. There has been some delay on the part of DSS getting information to us this year. Kathy Vokes and Emily Sperlazza will be the points of contact for Angel Tree. The committee is in the beginning stages of looking at summer feeding program options and how best we can meet the needs of area children. This may mean partnering with another organization. Food need this month: Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper and canned fruit. Monetary donations are also welcomed.



Contacts: Rebecca Carmody and Guy Peno, co-chairs



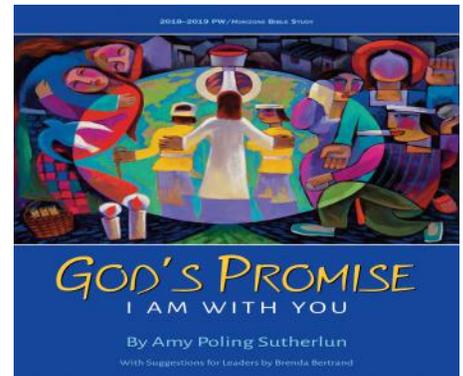
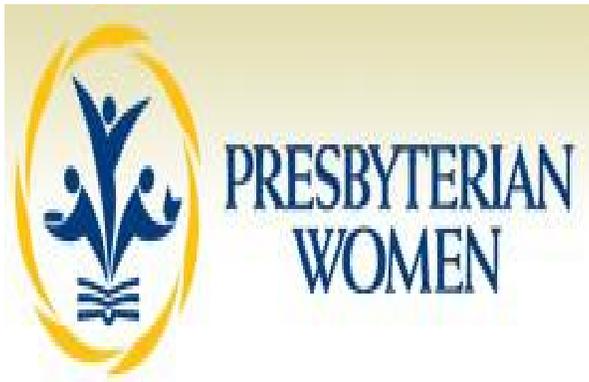
The children will be singing with Lara every Sunday 11:10 am.

After the children get a cookie at fellowship time, they will meet in the sanctuary.

They will learn fun Sunday School songs and now they'll be learning a song to be a part of the Christmas cantata.

Their Sunday School teacher will be with them and they will then go to their classes.





The PW met on Monday, November 12 at 10:00 AM with 8 ladies present. Lauren Sweigart led Lesson 3: God with Us in Our Discouragement based on Scripture from Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Joshua 1:1-9 and Haggai 1:1-15, 2:1-9. The focus of the lesson was that God's promise of presence gives us courage, strength, boldness, and hope, when on our own we would lose heart. In Deuteronomy we find the mantle of leadership being passed from Moses to Joshua. Time for the Israelites to cross the Jordan River into the land that God had promised. Over and over we hear the words "Be strong and courageous" from Moses to Joshua and from God to Joshua in his commissioning. God promises, "I will be with you. I will not fail you. I will not forsake you." When we are dis-couraged – in the literal sense, without courage – God's "I will be with you" promise comes as en-couragement. Our fears and faltering faith do not dissuade God from working with and through us to further God's purposes. In the book of Haggai we find the context is dealing with the rebuilding of the temple. God, through the prophet Haggai, tells the people it's time to rebuild the house of the LORD and God's promise of presence, "I am with you," moves them from self-absorption to active engagement in the work of the Lord. While we are commanded to work, it is not our efforts, our might, our building that matter. It is God's spirit abiding among us, the presence of God with us, that makes all the difference.

The spaghetti luncheon raised \$400. These funds will be used toward sponsoring a family at Christmas.

Nancy Chewing gave a briefing on the Fall Gathering held Saturday, November 3 at The Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church. The Justice and Peace recipient of the Spring Gathering offering will be the Presbyterian Children Homes of the Highlands.

The 30th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women of the James will be celebrated at Spring Gathering.

One of the keynote speakers at the gathering, Betsy Giannuzzi, will be venturing to Honduras as a missionary for 2 years. To aid in offsetting her expenses, a motion was made, seconded and passed to send \$100 to World Gospel Outreach (WGO) to support Betsy and her mission.

In celebration of our Thank Offering during November, PW will be hosting fellowship time on Sunday, November 18.

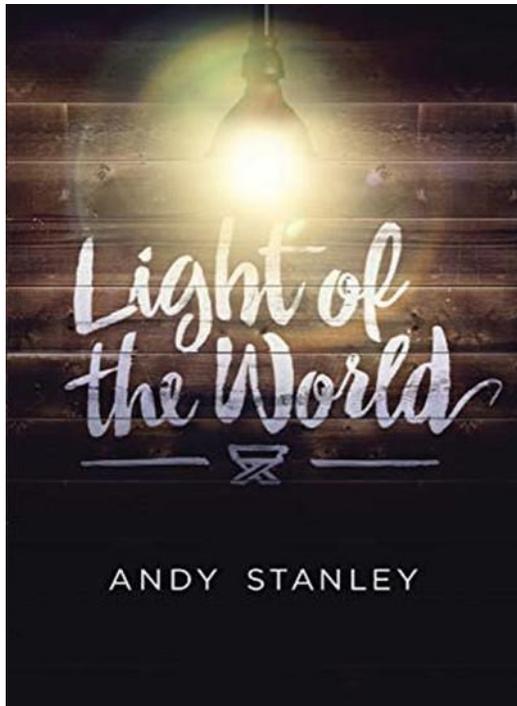
Our next meeting will be December 10, 2018 – Lesson 4: God with Us When We Seek God led by Sue Nelson. Our Christmas luncheon will be on December 10 after our PW meeting.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

*Mondays, 9:15 - 10:30 A.M.*



November 26 – December 17



Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year . . . but not because of all the things associated with the season.

In this 4-part series, Andy Stanley reminds us that the Christmas story—like your story—is complicated. But Jesus, the Light of the World, ultimately overcomes the darkness of anger, shame, and disappointment.

### MESSAGE TITLES

1. Most Wonderful
2. Toddler King
3. It's Personal
4. Like Son, Like Father



*Coming in January, 2019*

*Why in the World*

*(The Reason God Became One of Us)*

Andy Stanley and Jeff Henderson

Why would God leave the comfort and recognition of heaven to live on this ball of dirt called Earth? Why would God want to become one of us and live in a world of anxiety, chaos, and heartache? Why?

We think we know why He died. But what compelled him to live as one of us?

# Happy BIRTHDAY JESUS



Also, happy birthday to:

David Fouts	Dec. 6
Emilie Huebner	Dec. 17
Carey Beverly	Dec. 19
Randy Tydings	Dec. 19
Mary Huebner	Dec. 23
Chris Tydings	Dec. 24



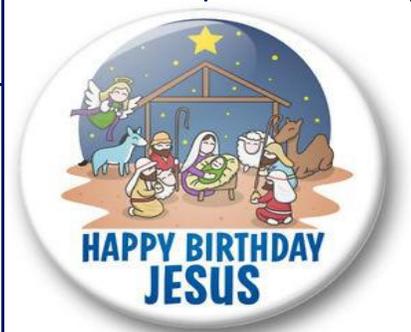
Mr. & Mrs. Al Roe

Dec. 26th



# DECEMBER 2018

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1 Church Cleanup Day 
2 10AM Worship Service 11AM The Present Word Bible Study, Children's Sunday School Class, Parenting Class, Youth Group	3 9:15AM Light of the World 6PM The Middle Christmas Dinner 7PM Boy Scouts	4 9AM HPC Preschool	5 9AM HPC Preschool	6 9AM HPC Preschool 4:15PM Food Pantry Distribution 7PM Adult Choir	7 <b>PEARL HARBOR DAY</b> 6:30PM Cub Scouts	8 4PM Scouts Potluck & Pack Meeting
9 10AM Worship Service / CANTATA 11AM The Present Word Bible Study, Children's Sunday School Class, Parenting Class, Youth Group	10 9:15AM Light of the World 10:30AM Presbyterian Women Circle Mtg. 7PM Boy Scouts	11 9AM HPC Preschool 7PM Yoga	12 9AM HPC Preschool	13 <b>US NATIONAL GUARD BDAY ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b> 9AM HPC Preschool 4:15PM Food Pantry Distribution 7PM Adult Choir	14 6:30PM Cub Scouts	15
16 10AM Worship Service 11AM The Present Word Bible Study, Children's Sunday School Class, Parenting Class, Youth Group 12PM Session Meeting	17 9:15AM Light of the World 7PM Boy Scouts	18 9AM HPC Preschool 7PM Yoga	19 9AM HPC Preschool 6PM Preschool Christmas program	20 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Last day of Preschool for 2018 7PM Adult Choir	21	22
23 10AM Worship Service 11AM The Present Word Bible Study, Children's Sunday School Class, Parenting Class, Youth Group	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9AM Admin Office open/closes at 12 4PM Candlelight Svc. 	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> ADMIN CLOSED	26	27 4:15PM Food Pantry Distribution 7PM Adult Choir	28	29
30 10AM Worship Service 11AM The Present Word Bible Study, Children's Sunday School Class, Parenting Class, Youth Group	31 <b>NEW YEARS EVE</b> 9AM Admin Office open/closes at 12 7PM Boy Scouts					



Hartwood Presbyterian Church  
50 Hartwood Church Road  
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Office Hours:  
Mon-Wed  
12 PM - 3PM  
Thurs.  
9AM - 3PM



For more information contact Hartwood  
Presbyterian Church at:  
540-752-4671  
hartwoodchurch@verizon.net

The deadline for the newsletter is  
usually the second to last Thursday  
of the month by 3PM. Please submit  
your articles and information to  
hartwoodchurch@verizon.net.  
Thanks!

**PASTOR:**

Rev. Dr. Scott Fouts

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

Jon Sweigart, Treasurer  
Casey Naatjes, Financial Secretary  
Lara Brittain, Music Director  
Marilyn Hoffman, Administrative Assistant

**ELDERS:**

Charlie Booth	703-629-4698
David Witte	540-479-6537
Gretchen Condon - Clerk of Session	540-368-3163
Nancy Arnn	540-374-5022
Peter Fichthorn	703-626-9686
Judy Morgan	540-737-4343

**TRUSTEES:**

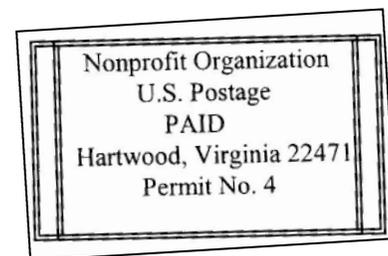
Jon Sweigart	540-361-1607
Kathy Moore	540-220-7615
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**DEACONS:**

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Mary Cain	540-710-4707
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Scott Green	540-786-7865
Teri Pritchard	540-286-0380

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CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND.