



# The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV, Issue 1

January 2025

## Mark's Message

I am hopeful that you remember the January newsletter articles from the previous three years, but I am also a realist, so I understand chances are slim that you do. I have challenged us to attempt incorporating the great Reformed American minister Rev. Jonathan Edwards' list of 70 items he resolved to do each week in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, but again, realistically I recognize it takes time to resolve to do so many things at once. Ergo, you have received the first 15 over the previous three years, and this year we will try to embrace numbers 16-20 (we're making headway!). If you would like to learn more about Rev. Jonathan Edwards and his ministry, please ask me. If you would like to be reminded of the whole list, be sure to look at it online at:

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/edwards/resolutions.htm>

Here are our next five resolutions for 2025. As you read through this list, imagine what life might be like if we are able to accomplish these resolutions in the name of Christ our Savior.

*Being sensible that I am unable to do any thing without God's help, I do humbly entreat him, by his grace, to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.*

16. Resolved, never to speak evil of anyone, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.

17. Resolved, that I will live so, as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.

18. Resolved, to live so, at all times, as I think is best in my devout frames, and when I have clearest notions of things of the gospel, and another world.

19. Resolved, never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.

20. Resolved, to maintain the strictest temperance, in eating and drinking.

In my estimation, it is always impressive to see how God speaks to current conditions. My prayer is that God is able to speak to you through this list and that we are all changed by the glory of God's ways. May we all receive this challenge with grace and humility, and may we all strive to be the Christians that God prepared in advance for us to be. This may be the most challenging section of the resolutions from Rev. Edward's list to date.

Mark



## Communion Set Up and Servers

January 5 – Dave Harvey, set up  
Buck Ivey, Kristi Sutphin, servers

## January Liturgists

5 – Valerie Wade  
12 – Jamie Boyd  
17 – Adam Greathouse  
26 – Holly Greathouse

## January Birthdays

2 – Dustin Resler  
4 – Marion Moir, Felicia Stewart Hoyle  
8 – Kristi Sutphin  
9 – Laurie Turley, Pam Ferrell  
10 – Sally Noble  
12 – Tara Malcomb  
13 – Wanda Bowman  
16 – Pat White  
18 – Hunter Parsons, Raven Lanham  
19 – Jon Holstein  
21 – Ann McCormick, Olivia Hedrick  
26 – Steve Leftwich, Cassie Denison, Paul Romine  
28 – Tyler Walker

## Prayer Concerns

### Congregation Members:

Mike Clark  
Mark Curtis  
Sara Kell  
Alex Dayfield

### Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 106, English Meadows, 5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560  
Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560  
Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-13 2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311  
Phone 304 344-4268

## Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma/stroke (Connie Ivey)  
Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida  
Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)  
William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney  
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)

Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)  
Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)  
Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)  
Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer  
Eloise Waugh, Florida  
Clyde Ellis (Valerie Wade's high school classmate)  
Bruce Kessler (recovering from surgery)  
Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)  
Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)  
Keith Machado, diabetes complications (Laurie Turley)  
Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-in-law)  
Flo Rogers (Jack's wife) recovering from surgery  
Kathy Leftwich's friend and former colleague's husband is in critical condition in the ICU (Iowa) with pneumonia and a variety of other serious health issues.  
David Willoughby, Kathy Weed's brother is recuperating from eye surgery.  
Jennifer Wade Myers, (Jeff's oldest daughter and Valerie's step-daughter) congestive heart failure, San Diego, CA

## Prayer Box Concerns

Please pray for Teresa and Susie to be cancer free and healthy.

## Military

**Captain Allie Curtis**, US. Army (United States)  
**Hunter Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)  
**Mickey Swartz**, Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)  
**Lieutenant Jack Wiles**, U.S. Air Force

## Memorial

Given in memory of Bob & Muriel Frincke by Wini Collis

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## Spiritual Life Committee

Laurie Turley, Valerie Wade, Kristi Sutphin

## Blessing Bags

Glove Drive: Spreading Warmth This Christmas  
Dear Church Family,

As the cold weather has arrived, we are filled with gratitude for the generous contributions we received during our recent Glove Drive. Thanks to your

incredible support, we were able to collect a wonderful assortment of warm gloves, which enabled us to create numerous Blessing Bags for our friends at Christ's Kitchen.

We packed these Blessing Bags to deliver to Mary and her dedicated team at Christ's Kitchen, just in time for their annual Christmas party. Each bag was filled with not only warm accessories but also love and goodwill, embodying the spirit of giving that defines this special season.

The outpouring of kindness from our congregation is a testament to our commitment to serving those in need. With each hat, glove, and pair of socks, we are reminded of the warmth and comfort we can bring to our community. Mary expressed her heartfelt appreciation for our efforts, noting how these contributions will make a significant difference for those they serve, particularly during the colder months.

Thank you for your generous hearts and for sharing the joy of Christmas with those who need it most.

In Christ's Love,  
Abbie Burch

## 2024 Christmas Basket Program

The day was dreary and cold but the warmth of our members during the food basket distribution on Saturday, December 21 made the day special. We delivered our bountiful boxes of food to nine families while 40 families made their way through our parking lot to have our cheerful Presby elves load boxes of food in their cars and trucks. When they got home and opened their, not one but two, boxes they found ham, potatoes, apples, eggs, milk and everything that it takes to make a delicious Christmas dinner with some staples for the next few days or weeks. I know these families are grateful and appreciative. One set of boxes was unclaimed, so Kathleen and Sara delivered those products to Christ's Kitchen so numerous people benefitted from them.

This generous outreach to our community is not possible without help from the entire church with monetary donations and the donation of time. Your monetary donation makes it possible, and I am grateful for the help provided one or more days from DeWitt Bowman, Mel and Abbie Burch and grandson Brian Resler, Buck and Connie Ivey,

Kathleen Jordan, Sara Kell, Raven Lanham, Kathy Leftwich, Michael Maddy, Regina Dayfield and grandson Braxton Hoylman, Tony Dayfield, Mike Merguc, Andi Pease, Mark Boyd and Jack Rogers. First Presbyterian Church has always been generous

**Wednesday Nights**  
**Beginning January 8**  
**Dinner 5:45 pm**  
**Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm**  
**Children and Youth Bible Study and Activities 6:30 pm**

and fully supportive of this program which is endorsed by the St. Albans Ministerial Association (SAMA) and the St. Albans Food Pantry. As coordinator of this important program, I am tremendously thankful and very proud to be a member of our Church. Blessings to each of you.  
Jennifer Burgess, Christmas Basket Coordinator

## LITTLES' STORYTIME TEAM

by Donna Merguc

"HERE'S TO A NEW YEAR WITH MORE GREAT BOOKS!"

Loving and gracious God, we are thankful for the time we have with Littles and their families. We continue to look to you and call on you for guidance and direction with them. May we commence this journey of 2025 with confidence that God will be present with us and will lead us. Amen

We had a wonderful Christmas celebration on December 13. John Jones shared a book about trees and brought logs for touch and feel. He took the children on a tour of the church sanctuary to see items made of wood/trees and to see where we worship and praise God. We invited all the children and their families to worship with us on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 it says Pray continually.

I want to thank all the volunteers who read, prepared crafts, songs, snacks, took pictures, and mostly gave of their time last year. Thank you for

bringing so much joy and energy to our storytime. Your patience and kindness with the little ones is truly appreciated. We couldn't have such a successful storytime without all of YOU! We welcome **Teresa Evans** to the Littles' Storytime Team.

We received some Christmas gift cards from the Littles' parents. We are thankful and grateful for these love gifts. We will definitely use them toward the snacks and craft supplies.

The Nursery carpet will be cleaned on Thursday, January 2. It was previously set for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you Kathi Curtis for donating Oopsie Otter to Littles. They love playing with the otter and listening to the book, Oopsie Otter, A Tale of playful otters by Suzanne Tate.

**Littles will return Friday, January 10 from the Christmas/New Year holiday. We are excited to see them!**



Through the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**, Kroger will donate to First Presbyterian Church 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases YOU make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign up for this FREE profitable program for FPC. You only have to open an account and register your Kroger Plus Card online at: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). OR You can simply telephone Kroger Community Rewards at 1-800-576-4377. They will assist you with registering your Kroger Plus Card. You will need to have handy either your Kroger Plus Card number or your alternate ID (your telephone number).

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

FROM STATED SESSION MEETING Minutes,  
Sun. December 8, 2024, 11:15 am

- A quorum was declared present and meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Mark Boyd at 11:25 A.M.
- Approved utilization of Kroger donations, if needed, for the 2024 Christmas Basket program. (These donations come from the Kroger Community Rewards Program. See the paragraph on how to sign up for this program above.)
- Discussed November 2024 Income and Expense Statements and Balance Sheets.
- Approved sending \$2,000 in designated funds to Friends of Bluestone before first of the year. \$100 in budget line item for Bluestone will be included.
- Set the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 26, immediately following worship for the purpose of electing officers and accepting the Annual Report.
- Rev. Boyd asked for prayer for his friend Michael Murphy who has a recurrence of cancer and for Jason Robbins, pastor of Highlawn Baptist church, who recently suffered a heart episode.
- Approved baptism of Beau David McGrogan, infant son of Makenzie and Matt McGrogan and grandson of Mark and Jamie Boyd, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December or 5<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Next Stated Meeting is January 12, 2025.

## Directory Updates

New apt. number:

Ann McCormick, English Meadows, **Apt. 106**  
5 Bexley Drive, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Add friend:

Brenda Hughes phone: (270)-307-2188  
1 Kanawha Terrace Apt., 712  
St. Albans, WV 25177  
email: [brendahughes1213@gmail.com](mailto:brendahughes1213@gmail.com)

New Address:

Mark and Kathi Curtis  
841 SW 56<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Plantation, FL 33317



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,  
support the mission of the church worldwide,  
work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

**Presbyterian Women Christmas Mission Project wraps up on January 5, Epiphany Sunday!**

Presbyterian Women is still collecting feminine hygiene products for St. Albans High School this holiday season. We are collecting sanitary napkins, under pants, and sweat pants (in all adult sizes) for the school nurse at St. Albans High School. Please place your donations in the box on the stage in the fellowship hall.

**Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation**

*The 2024–2025 Horizons Bible study  
by author Patricia K. Tull*

Presbyterian Women meet each month, September through May, on the second Tuesday and Wednesday for Bible study and fellowship. This year's study is a call to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts.

**Fellowship Lunch for all Presbyterian Women!**

Join us at Shuckers Restaurant on Old Main Wednesday, January 15 at 11:45 am. This is just a fun gathering for table fellowship for all the women of our church. Please RSVP to Kathryn at (304)539-2573 so we can reserve a table.

This month let's talk air. If we are talking air, we are talking life. The air we breathe is a holy gift that enables all that we are. Join us to discover why air is something majestic, holy, and fundamental to all life. Everyone is welcome to join the study whether you read the lesson or not.

**Daytime Circle** meets Wednesday, January 8 at 12:00 noon in person fellowship meal. Bring your own brown bag lunch. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm.

**Evening Zoom Circle** meets on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3>

Clr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680

Passcode: 406332

**We will undecorate the  
Chrismon tree and sanctuary  
after church on January 5th?**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
**Immediately following worship in the sanctuary.**



Best wishes to Kathi and Mark Curtis. Mark recently retired and they have moved to Florida to be near Kathi's mother. We will miss you.



Mel and Abbie Burch and family light the Advent Candle. Trinity and Dustin Resler and their children.

**Officers**

**Class of 2024**

- Jack Rogers (1)
- Laurie Turley (1)
- Holly Greathouse (2)

**Class of 2025**

- Dave Harvey (1)
- Adam Greathouse (1)
- Buck Ivey (1)

**Class of 2026**

- Kathleen Jordan (2)
- Valerie Wade (2)
- Kristi Sutphin (1)

**Church Staff**

- Ministers..... Every Member of the Congregation
- Pastor..... Rev. Mark Boyd
- Custodian..... Mike Merguc
- Musician..... N. David Stern
- Treasurer ..... Buck Ivey
- Tech Team.... Dave/Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Michael Clark

**Trustees**

- Class of 2024: John Jones
- Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
- Class of 2026: Mark Curtis

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