

The Pinecrest Precentor

January 2022

From Our Senior Pastor

Dear Pinecrest Family,

“The Best is Yet to Come!”

Have you ever heard that before? How did you respond? How would you respond if someone told you this? I know that many of us, who have become jaded by life in this fallen world and prepare to head into another new year, would respond with: “How could you possibly know that? Aren’t things just as likely to get worse? Why give people false hope?”

Now it is true that no human, including Christians, can know everything that will happen to someone here on Earth. It is also true that things here on this earth can get worse- we can and will see decline in people’s health, relationships, finances, morals, etc. It is true that we will continue to see the effects of sin in this fallen world through natural disasters, disease, death, and the sinful actions and attitudes of humans.

But as Christians, we can affirm several truths about “The Best is Yet to Come!” that are taught in Scripture and be encouraged by these truths as we head into 2022. First, we can affirm that change for the best is possible for each person spiritually. There is always hope even for the worst of sinners because God has sent his son Christ to earth to deliver us from our sins (Matt 19:23-26). Second, we can affirm that God has a plan for his people and though His plan may include times of trial and temptation, God’s plan ultimately works together for the good of His people if they have Christ as their Savior & Lord (Romans 8:28, Jeremiah 29:11). Third, we can affirm from Scripture that God’s plan for those who are in Christ will one day bring them into the New Heavens & New Earth which is far better than our current world. One that will be free from the trials and tragedies that we experience here as the result of sin and the Fall (Rev. 21:4).

So before you completely write off this next year as more of the same or things getting worse for yourself, your family, your church, your nation- remember that there is hope. There is Hope because God is at work. God can change people, God can work all things together for good, and God will one day bring about a new world. Remember for those who look to and trust in Christ, truly “The Best is Yet to Come!”

I for one am excited to see what God will do for you, for me, and for our church in 2022!

Rev. Rhett Carson

Intercessory Prayer

Norma Eckley, Martha Byrd, Linda Huntsinger, Maria Blevins and Revival in our Church and Nation

Book of Remembrance

The following have contributed towards the General Fund or other fund as noted below:

In Memory of Mr. Henry Arnott from Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds Young, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stanley, Mr. & Mrs. Don Muller, and Mrs. Eleanor Richardson

In Memory of Mrs. Salley Burns from Mr. & Mrs. John Gibson

In Memory of Mrs. Betty Wills from Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stanley

Thank you

I have been so blessed with so many prayers on my behalf, cards, delicious food, gifts, gift cards and love from my wonderful Pinecrest family. Marris and I thank you all for your kindness and care! To God be the Glory! - **Martha Byrd**

To my Pinecrest Family, Thank you for the most wonderful Christmas basket of surprises! I didn’t wait for Christmas to dig in; I’m sorry to say. It was so good to think of you all (in absentia) and the beauty of the church at this time of year, and I will be singing with the choir (in absentia) as we celebrate this most lovely time of year. Thinking of you each and all. Have a Merry Christmas! – **Nancy Boyea**

I wanted to say Thank You to the wonderful family I have at Pinecrest Presbyterian Church for the fantastic Christmas basket. It was great in so many ways! Miss seeing you on Sundays – I love each of you so much! Thank you & God Bless –

Ann Stroup

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me during my recent illness and I praise God that I am feeling much better. –

Dana Russell

I want to thank Rhett and All who helped with my gift basket! Thank you all for thinking of me. I miss my church so much! God bless all of you! – **Wanda Valentine**

Thank you all so much for the generous Christmas gift. Cali and I have felt so loved and cherished by Pinecrest, particularly in 2020 with graduating, moving, a new job, and everything else the year brought. Blessings to you in 2021! - **Christian Beamguard**

I would like to thank each of you for the lovely gifts and goodies that were given me this Christmas Season! I am blessed and grateful to be a part of your church family. – **Melody Burrell**

Thank you once again to our Pinecrest family and friends for loving us and loving on us this Christmas season with cards and gifts. We thank God for you! - **The Carson Family**

Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service

5:00 pm Thursday, December 24th.

NEW Sunday School Time & Coffee Hour

Starting January 2nd, Sunday School will begin at 9AM each week followed by the 10AM Worship Service. One of the main reasons for this switch is so that we can resume having a coffee hour after the service. Please come early to join us for Sunday School each week and plan to stay after for coffee, cookies, and fellowship.

Communion

We will celebrate the Lord's supper Sunday, January 2nd. A Discretionary fund offering will be received in conjunction with our Lord's supper observance. This fund is used to support people in the church and community experiencing hardships.

1st Wednesday Covered Dish & Program

Our 1st Wednesday Covered Dish and Program on January 5th at 5:30pm will center on a presentation from Rebekah Carson who is in the mission field in Germany. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium, please let us know if you can join us and what you will bring to share.

Ladies: Save the dates for Lunch & Learn

Still the third Thursday of the month: January 20, 2022, 12-2:00pm Still bring your own lunch. Still volunteer devotional each month. But new plans for a new year to be determined by you ladies: -different day in the month? -more community service oriented? -who & how could we be helping others? -blend with Bible study? Hoping many more of you Pinecrest ladies will join us in the new year!

Youth Snow Tubing

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 23rd and join us for a trip to Zip and Slip Snow Tubing Park in Mars Hill, NC. We will meet at the church at 12:45 and take the church bus, returning around 5pm. Tubing will cost \$15 per person, and there is a food truck at the park that students may want to bring some extra money for. Contact Christian for more information, and please plan to bring a friend for an afternoon of winter fun!

Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 30th to approve the 2022 church budget immediately following the worship service. Please make arrangements to attend and take part in the business of the church.

Coffee Hour Help Needed

If you would be willing to lead or be part of a team that provides snacks and refreshments after the church service each week, please contact Pastor Rhett or the church office. Your work behind the scenes can help members and guests build relationships for the kingdom over cookies and coffee.

2021 Contributions

All contributions for 2021 should be dated and post marked by December 31, 2021, even online contributions need to be completed by the end of the day. Contribution statements will be available as soon as possible once the deposit has been made but no later than January 31, 2022. In order to reduce the expense of postage, contribution statements will be placed in a file box that will be located in the atrium for you to pick up. If you would like the church to email your contribution statement, please call the church office (after January 3rd) at 828-692-0063.

2022 Flower Calendar

The 2022 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary ready for you to fill in the dates you would like to provide flowers for worship services in memory or in honor of someone you love.

Stamp Ministry

Just a reminder that while you are enjoying Christmas cards in the coming weeks, save the stamps for the missionary project. Put them in the floral box in the atrium. Thank you.

Please share your details with us

The church sends out several mailings each year with information regarding services and happenings at the church and we would like to reach as many members as possible. In addition, we often alert you to weather related worship service cancellations and special services by phone. And, in an effort to reduce expenses, we'd like to be able to email you *The Pinecrest Precentor* which includes updates and important information regarding meetings and events happening at the church. To receive these mailings and messages it's important that we have your most up-to-date details.

Vision Team Presentation & Sermon Series

The Vision Team Presentation from November 21st is now available via email. Email the church office at pinecrestarp@gmail.com and you will be sent a link to the presentation. Also join us in person or online for our worship services in January and February as Pastor Rhett leads a sermon series through the main points of the vision team presentation.

New Mission Statement:

"Walking Together Along God's Pathway to a Fulfilled Life in Christ" In November 2021, the Pinecrest Session, at the recommendation of the Vision Team, unanimously adopted this as the new mission statement of Pinecrest Church. This new mission statement will be further explained during the sermon series starting in January.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Your numbered offering envelopes are available in the atrium of the church. Please pick up your envelopes before the end of this year to ensure proper credit for 2022. The envelope boxes are arranged in alphabetical order so that you can find

your box easily. If you have not been assigned an envelope number and would like to have a boxed set, please call the church office at 828-692-0063.

Wednesday Online Prayer Meetings

Pinecrest will be having an online prayer meeting each week on Wednesdays at 11:00 am using Zoom Cloud Meetings. If you did not receive an email from the church with instructions on joining, please contact the church office. Please email pinecrestarp@gmail.com with any prayer requests and plan to join us online each week as we pray for each other.

Online Giving

During this challenging time, we wanted to make it easy for you to continue your contributions to the church. Please visit our webpage at Pinecrestchurch.com and click on the "Give Online" button in the top right-hand corner. You may use a credit or debit card or opt for direct draft from your bank account. You may also download the Tithe.ly app, create an account, and then search for Pinecrest Presbyterian Church. Or you may opt to mail your check directly to the church at PO Box 421, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Cynthia Sherer | 19 Seth Swift |
| 2 Ruth Jones | 20 Joan Hanna |
| 5 Barbara Hughes | 22 Josh Shelton |
| Betsy McKee | 26 Carol Partyka |
| 6 Susie Roberts | 28 Ann Brice |
| 8 Joy Young | 29 Joseph Sherer |
| 11 Ann Stroup | Scott De Zwaan |
| 13 Elaine Dodd | 30 Eben Carson |
| 14 Frances Ramsey | 31 John Carson |
| Victoria Cambron | |
| 15 Margo Pugliese | |

If your name or family members name is missing and you would like to have it included in future publications, please call the church office at 828-692-0063.

Financial Statement November 2021

*Contributions	Expenses	Deficit
\$19,228	\$34,045	\$14,817

Year to Date

*Contributions	Expenses	Deficit
\$296,257	\$364,788	\$68,531

*Does not include investment income/loss.

Upcoming Events:

In addition to the weekly schedule listed below

- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service
- 12/24 Church Office Closed
- 12/26 No Sunday School
- 1/1/2022 New Year's Day
- 1/2 Sunday School at 9am
- 1/2 Communion
- 1/3 Church Office Closed

1/5 1st Wednesday Covered Dish & Program
1/9 Officer Installation
1/11 Joint Deacon/Session Meeting
1/20 Ladies Lunch & Learn
1/23 Youth Snow Tubing
1/30 Congregational Meeting

Pinecrest Presbyterian Church
Associate Reformed Synod

1790 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, North Carolina
Walking Together Along God's Pathway to a Fulfilled Life in Christ

Sunday School 9:00am

Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

Sunday Youth Group Meeting to be announced

Wednesday Prayer Meeting via Zoom 11:00am

You may visit our webpage at Pinecrestchurch.com or connect with us via Facebook or YouTube to view our Sunday Sermon online.