



1804 GUILFORD
COLLEGE RD.
JAMESTOWN, NC
27282

336-454-3718

jamestownprezoffice@gmail.com

Worship Schedule

9:00 am Contemporary

11:00 am Traditional

Rev. Dr. Jay D. Smith,
Senior Pastor

SESSION

Class of 2018

Anne Barts
Debra Catto
Charles Graham
Pam Hjelmquist
Mike Pendleton
Bill Pleasants
David Schoepske

Class of 2019

Bob Craver
Jim Gonsiewski
Teresa Griswold
Brent Ham
Frank Morris
Becky Robinson
Heather Shaw

Class of 2020

Becky Brown
Amanda Coles
Linda Honeycutt
Betty McCray
Kerry Miller
Rob Mitchell

CHRISTMAS



2018

Christmas Joy and Excitement or Bah Humbug?

This Advent season is going to be a little different. Change is sometimes difficult for us. I struggle with it personally, but most times find that it was for the best after the fact. We like our traditions. Doing things, the way we always have is a Presbyterian Creed passed down for generations. We are guilty of finding comfort in the familiar here at JPC. We are such creatures of habit that we have a picture filled manual that we use to ensure that we get the church decorated the same each year! While this makes the process easier and makes for consistency what does it do to new ideas or excitement really? I think we can all be that way to a certain extent. We rationalize that it keeps us safe when it might only hold us back?

I have to admit I am sometimes resistant to change or trying new things. On Sunday we had a float in the parade. Sunday afternoon is often sacred space for me. I use that time to rest from the awesome responsibility and gift of leading the portion of the body of Christ that I have been entrusted to shepherd in worship. That's a fancy way of saying I nap on Sunday afternoons! The Jamestown Parade was not convenient for me. The Jamestown parade was not comfortable for me. I would have much rather been a grinch and stayed home in bed. I had a foul attitude when my kids woke me up to go to the parade. I tried desperately to crush their excitement but I couldn't so I woke up and went to the parade. I complained the whole way from the van to the float staging area. When Kim told me that I should get a bag of candy and march with the group I said, "I couldn't because I wasn't wearing a belt and my pants would fall down!" That's when she told me I could ride on the float with the little kids! Boy did that whole belt excuse back fire!

I took my place at the rear of the float and started eating candy. But a funny thing happened as we pulled out to begin our trip down main street, the excitement and joy of those kids wore off on me. I started throwing candy. I called out to people I knew in the crowd. I smiled and waved and modeled the spirit of Christmas, even when I was convinced I didn't want to. I am so thankful that Kim Schoepske insisted we have a float in that parade. I am equally thankful that George Wissmiller was willing to build a float for us so that I could get a wake-up dose of Christmas joy! That's what can happen when we are willing to try something new, take a chance, let God work in us!

This year our angel tree is going to work a little differently. You aren't going to wrap the gifts. You might be wondering, "Why?" Well the answer is that the parents of the families we are working with through Family Services of the Piedmont are going to come to JPC on December 16th to have a festive time wrapping presents. This is a departure from the way we have always done it, but it will mean that moms will know what their children are getting on Christmas morning. They will get to feel a part of the joy on Christmas morning in a way we take for granted.

We are also going to offer a Longest Night worship service on Friday, December 21st @ 6:30 PM. This is something new for us too. Christmas is a time of Joy. We wish each other Merry Christmas and we smile. Some folks struggle this time of year. Some have lost loved ones, lost jobs, struggle with depression, and have difficult decisions to make. This service is a modern Christian religious service designed to temper the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. I would encourage you to give this service a try if you are struggling this Christmas season.

It is easy for us to do the same old thing. It is sometimes tempting to let the grinch out in us. As Christians we are called to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and prepare for His return. We are called to live as people full of joy because of God's grace. Make the choice to spread the joy this holiday season even if that means sharing in someone's sorrow in encouraging them to come to the Longest Night service. On a side note this is also known as a Blue Christmas service. We will not be singing any Elvis to my knowledge!

I want to share one last story with you about change. This year we decided to retire the nativity scene in the front yard of the church. It is made of plywood and was starting to warp and show its age. Because I felt like we needed something in the front yard I contacted the Joy House Committee and asked them if we could put the "Joy to the World" sign in the front yard this year instead of in front of the Joy House yard where it was last year and where it was purchased for. As you can see when you drive by the church at night, they agreed. On Saturday the sign was put in the front yard. On Sunday a man came to the 11 o'clock service with his granddaughter. He and his grandkids were literally going to relocate to Michigan that afternoon. He was looking for a church to go to for prayer before he left on this life changing journey. They decided on JPC. They were as much a blessing to us as we were to them as she danced around in worship. It was a joy to have them in worship. In fact, the three-year-old came forward during the service and wanted to sit in my lap. I obliged. Perhaps the greatest message of that service was not the music nor the sermon? It was an African American toddler sitting on the preacher's lap! After worship some members of the church and I met with the grandfather, prayed with him, and gave him some assistance for his journey.

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In talking I asked him why he chose to come to our church. He explained that he got lost looking for another church and chose ours when he saw our "Joy to the World" sign. It was at that point that he said to his granddaughter, "Joy, that's where we are going to church today." Her name was Joy! Change is good. God works in change. Don't be as afraid of it as I am sometimes tempted to be. Let your Christmas joy shine as brightly as that sign in our front yard! Merry Christmas! See you in church.

\$Money Matters\$

Report from Your Resource Management Committee

(October 31, 2018)

Actual Income	\$436,531	Budgeted Income	\$470,770
Actual Expenses	\$447,717	Budgeted Expenses	\$470,780
Difference (\$11,136)		Difference (\$10)	

JPC MEMBERS CAN MAKE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT!

- 1. Set a goal to improve the fuel economy of your next car over your current car by 15 percent.**
- 2. Avoid buying video games or movies that promote violence. (If sales decline, maybe fewer violent products will be produced and fewer violent crime will occur.)**
- 3. Maintain a lifestyle many rungs below that of others earning the same income as you currently earn. (Think what this extra income could do if used to address poverty and social injustices.)**
- 4. Give an amount equal to what you spend on your family at Christmas to outreach projects that expand God's ministry at JPC and the community.**

Suggestions from Adam Hamilton in **THE CALL**

PLEDGE CARD REPORT

(as of November 29, 2018)

JPC church members were invited to turn in their pledge cards on Commitment Sunday, November 18. If you want to pledge to the work of this church, please bring your card to the church office, mail it or place in the offering plate when next you attend church.

Pledges to date total \$362,480. Since last year's budget was approximate \$565,000 we still have a long way to go in reaching the amount needed to finance our operating expenses and special projects.

To help us in developing our 2019 budget, it would be very beneficial if you could turn in your pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you!



CONNECTING... with the Cub Scouts!

On Monday, November 26th, the Connections Committee served cookies and hot cocoa to the Cub Scouts and their families to connect them with the church and have special fellowship. We are appreciative to the Cub Scouts for collecting and donating over 250 items for our food pantry. Connections will meet with the Boy Scouts later this month to treat them as well!

CHEESE!



2019 JPC Directory

The Congregational Life Ministry committee is planning for a new pictorial directory for 2019. Mark your calendar now for late January and early February for family portraits. Watch the weekly Eblasts and bulletins in December and January for additional information.

DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Congregational Life Fund
In Memorial of May Mead by
Jo Brech
Doug Mead

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund
In Memorial of Alice VanHoy, Patsy Johnston's mother,
by
Jo Brech
Al & Kathy Van Dorp

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund
In Memorial of Pat Below by
Jo Brech



PENNIES FOR HUNGER

November Collection:
\$448.69

2018 Total:
\$4,862.93



The JPC Ladies Morning Circle will hold its Christmas luncheon on Dec. 17th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30. Church staff and the Evening Circle ladies are invited as well.

DECEMBER SAVE THE DATES!

Dec 9th– Christmas Cantata (9 am and 11 am both Services in the Sanctuary)

December 12th– Children's Christmas Pageant (5:30 pm dinner followed by the program)

December 16th– Angels and Elves (2:00 pm Family Services Wrapping Party)

December 21st– Longest Night Service (6:30 pm Service in the Sanctuary)

December 24th– Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm CLC)

December 30th– Combined Service (10:00 am Sanctuary. 9:00 am continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall)



JPC KIDS & YOUTH NEWS



JPC Children's Choir

We've only got a few practices left until our Christmas play on Wednesday, Dec.12! We need you to be listening to your CD's to learn the words to songs! Children with speaking parts need to be memorizing please!

Practice times are:

December 8 - 12:30 pm til 2:30 pm - CLC

December 9 -12 pm til 2 pm -CLC (Pizza lunch)



FROGS

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm to go Christmas caroling at the homes of some of our homebound members! It is always so much fun to spread Christmas joy in this way!

YOUTH GROUP

Christmas is right around the corner and you know what that means! Christmas Parties!



There will be a **combined Youth Group Christmas Party on December 16th at 6:30 - 8:30** in the **Fellowship Hall!** Students are encouraged to bring a \$10 gift for a game of Dirty Santa, to wear an ugly Christmas Sweater, and to bring a dessert or appetizer to share with everyone else! This will be a great time to celebrate the Christmas Season, enjoy some great food, as well as play some fun games! If any other church members would like to contribute to the appetizer and dessert tables please feel free to do so. Email Brian Stroud if you have any questions!



Give the Gift of a Foundation in Learning



Do you need a last-minute gift for a loved one?

What do you get that one person who has everything?

Give an honorarium to the Avery Snead Memorial Scholarship Fund!

What's that you say, you didn't know we had a Preschool Scholarship? Why yes, yes we do!

The Avery Snead Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the Snead Family: Dennis, Joy, Ashley their son, and Ashley, their daughter-in-law, Conner and Josie, their granddaughters to honor the life and memory of their beloved son Avery who passed away in 2012.

The Sneads always knew how important a great education was to Avery; he believed in the importance of a good foundation and saw the impact Jamestown Presbyterian Preschool had on his nieces, Conner and Josie. He witnessed them receiving building blocks of education and spirituality here at JPP.

In the last 5 years we have awarded approximately 11+ scholarships to Preschool Families in need from our church family and the community. These needs come from job losses or changes, medical needs and sometimes genuine poverty. All scholarships are awarded based on need; some for the short term, a month or two, and some for the school year. Families complete a comprehensive application and they are assessed by the scholarship committee. Mrs. Joan is then able to award those scholarships. All scholarships applied for and awarded are completely confidential, but the families express to Mrs. Joan their genuine appreciation and gratitude.

Help a child get a great start on their education and a foundation in their Christian journey by donating to the AVERY SNEAD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND this year. All donations are tax deductible. You will receive a certificate to present as your gift.

Make a difference in a child's life this holiday season.

QUARTERLY PRAYER BREAKFAST



Please join us for our quarterly prayer breakfast this Saturday, December 8th. Our breakfast will feature Matt Winters, former Greensboro Hornet, major league baseball player, and baseball star in Japan. Matt will entertain and inspire us with his testimony. Coffee at 7:45, breakfast at 8:00, Matt at 8:30, followed by prayer. Please RSVP to Ned McMillan after worship, or directly to Jen in the office by Thursday, December 6.

The Christmas Nail[®]

*It's Christmas time at our house
and we're putting up the tree.
I wish I could find some simple way
to remember Christ's gift to me.
Some little sign or symbol
to show friends stopping by,
The little babe was born one day
but He really came to die.
Some symbol of His nail-pierced hands,
the blood He shed for you and me.
What if I hung a simple nail
on my shining Christmas tree?
A crimson bow tied round the nail
as His blood flowed down so free,
To save each person from their sin
and redeem us for eternity.
I know it was His love for us
that held Him to the tree,
But when I see this simple nail
I know He died for me.*



by John Patton, creator of The Christmas Nail[®] product



STAFF LOVE OFFERING

We again this year would like to recognize our Staff who do so much for us here at JPC.

We would like to give the Congregation the opportunity to participate in a Love Offering which we will give to the Staff in time for Christmas. To participate, please make your checks payable to JPC and indicate "Staff Love Offering" on your check. You will have until Monday, December 17th to get your gifts into the church office.

Thanks for sharing in this special Christmas Love Offering for our wonderful Staff!



Jon Brotherton and Friends will sing for Leisure Fellowship December 20th. Join us for this wonderful Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall! Bring a dish to pass (a little extra for our guests). We will meet at 11:45. See you then!



50TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

WE'RE LOOKING FOR 50 STORIES!

A MEMORY! That's right! We know that each of you has a special JPC memory and we are hoping that you will share it with us.

***YOUR STORY** could be why you joined the church many years ago*

Or maybe you will tell about a special group like Sunday School, the scouts or Presbyterian Women/Men

Or Bible School, a Mission Trip or Outreach Project

Or when the church closed its doors to go to Camp New Hope for the weekend

Or the funniest thing you have experienced at JPC

Or a JPC member who has greatly influenced your life

Or when you had a problem and the JPC members came to your rescue.

Or . . .well, the subjects are innumerable... covering 50 years!

CAN'T WRITE? OKAY So you confess that you can't write very well. NO PROBLEM!

Just jot your thoughts down in bullet points and one of our three editors will write your story for you. OR you can tell your story to Vashti Forrest, chair of our History Committee, who will see that it gets written.

HOW LONG? It can be 2-3 sentences or 2-3 paragraphs but NOT 2-3 pages. Your stories will be collected and printed in a booklet which we will call our celebration booklet. And yes, we will ask for editorial privilege so don't worry about grammar or how it looks on paper. If you have a picture to back up your story that would be wonderful.

THANKS FOR APPLE PIES

Fifty-two church-made apple pies involve many of us, doing lots of tasks which include: carrying boxes of fresh apples, washing and drying apples, peeling, coring, slicing apples, putting together dry ingredients, assembling pies, and finally, baking the pies – (in my opinion, this is the best part, because the wonderful aroma surrounds us)!

And then . . . pies go into the assembled pie boxes and are closed with a colorful and prayerful sticker that has a short, loving message from Jamestown Presbyterian Church. The pies were delivered to the families along with a box filled with other food!

All tasks were happily completed by our congregation, and the preparation provides an opportunity for many of us to talk together, and work together toward a common goal.

Our hope and prayer is that the recipients enjoyed the pies, while knowing that Jamestown Presbyterian Church is a caring and giving church, and that it is JPC's great joy to include a freshly made pie in our Thanksgiving food boxes!

Thank you, all who participated in the sweet apple pie tasks, and a special thanks to Erin Smith, who shared her family Dutch apple pie recipe (which we altered a bit for our mass purposes). Thank you, Erin, and THANK YOU, EVERYONE, who helped in so many ways.

Sweet Blessings,
Peggy Purcell



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Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

CHURCH STAFF:

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Rev. Dr. James Wagner, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Brian Stroud, Interim Youth Director, jamestownprezyouth@gmail.com

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