

THE LANTERN

DECEMBER 2019

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1 **First Sunday of Advent**

Worship: 10:30am

Sunday, December 8 **Second Sunday of Advent**

Christian Education: 9:15am
Worship: 10:30am

Sunday, December 15 **Third Sunday of Advent**

Christian Education: 9:15am
Worship: 10:30am

Sunday, December 22 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Worship: 10:30am
Thanksgiving Luncheon 12:00pm

Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve Hike: 9am
Christmas Eve at Umstead Park: 10am
A Service of Carols, Communion,
& Candlelight: 7pm

Sunday, December 29 **First Sunday of Christmas**

Worship: 10:30am

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Office Hours are
Monday-Friday
9am-4pm



A Message from Katherine

Friends,

Our theme for Advent 2019 is “What Can’t Wait.” The theme has been created and developed by the team of theologian-artists at A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org).

Here are their words:

On a superficial level, this theme could be misinterpreted as just another productivity hack to help you discern a more efficient way to tackle your to-do list throughout the holidays. But Advent is not a season for spiritual productivity or unchecked consumerism. On a deeper level, asking what can’t wait requires identifying what can. The laundry, the incessant emails, the shopping cart filled with things you don’t need—perhaps all of these things can wait, for now. What can’t wait might be the child whispering about dinosaurs in your ear, or the ones trapped in shelters at the US southern border. What can’t wait might be the friend who’s going through a tough time, or the unspoken dream you’ve been too afraid to actually pursue. Along with what can’t wait, we might also ask, “Who can’t wait?” Who can’t wait for healing, for a new beginning, for safe passage, for peace? Perhaps these questions will guide us in preparing the way for the One who doesn’t wait for life to be perfect, but who shows up as love anyway.

-Lisle Gwynn Garrity

I was in high school when the John Mayer song, “Waiting on the World to Change” came out. I remember hearing it in grocery stores and on my friends’ car radios, blasting the words, ‘We keep waiting, waiting on the world to change. It’s hard to beat the system, when we’re standing at a distance, so we keep waiting.’”

Although the song was catchy, from day one those words rubbed me the wrong way. As a young person of faith, I had been taught that being a Christian did not mean sitting idly by waiting for the promised day to come, but it meant working day in and day out to be God’s hands and feet in the world. So while Advent is typically a season of waiting, idle waiting is simply not what my soul needs. This year, I need delight and repentance, prophetic truth and courage, hope and reconciliation. This year, I have no patience for standing at a distance. I need the urgency of a love that cannot wait. All that goes to say, you can expect liturgy dripping in the hope of a better day, for somewhere in the urgency — somewhere in the refusal to sit idly by—I always find God, and that is Christmas. May it be so for you as well.

- Sarah Are



We will explore “What Can’t Wait” in worship beginning Sunday, December 1st. We are providing two resources to help you explore at home:

1. An Advent Devotional; it includes Scripture, prayers, art, written reflections and opportunities to respond. Hard copies are available in the narthex.
2. An Advent Calendar; this is a map that suggests simple activities for each day of Advent. Hard copies are available in the narthex.

We will have two worship services on Christmas Eve.

The first worship service will begin at **10am at Umstead Park**. It will follow the 9am hike which is coordinated by Fellowship Ministry. The 10am worship service will be at Crabtree Shelter #1. This shelter is accessible. Enter Umstead Park from Highway 70. Once inside the park, follow Umstead Parkway until it ends. Look for the signs that say “shelters”. Park in the parking lot and walk toward the shelters. You’ll see “shelter 2” first (it is the smaller one!). Keep walking and join us at “shelter 1”.

The second worship service will begin at **7pm at Saint Giles**. The 7pm worship service will include communion and candlelight. We know there are folks who would like to attend the 7pm but do not drive after dark. We are happy to arrange for transportation. Nursery care will be available.

We look forward to welcoming you at one or both Christmas Eve worship services. You can help us by inviting your family, neighbors and friends: All are welcome!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to you and yours,
Katherine

COMMUNITY CARE

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends

Pat Lindsay, Rachel Williams, Sandra Richbourg, Charolette Brown, Libby Morton, Dan Grassi, Dick Grassi, Earl MacCormac, Paula Hagler, Dave Smith, Robert “Mac” Hanks, Carol Pope, Aleta Wheeler, Marie Minani, Inez Ruchte, Andrew Scharfe, **Peggie Bell, Jeane Nagel, Lori Coble**

- Sallie Taylor’s sister, Janet
- Jan Morgan’s daughter, Anna
- Betty Fetvedt’s sister, Peggy
- Marti Ranney’s friend Sherrill
- Teresa Johnson’s cousin, Kaitlyn
- Charolette Brown’s friend, Jaqueline
- Janet Wherry’s sons David and Stephen, and her sister Fran
- Rachel & Rodney Williams’ daughter, Rene
- The Tatum-Carter family’s friend, Matthew
- Pat and Bob Lindsay’s granddaughter, Rebecca
- Chris Zaineddin’s aunt Phyllis, friend Peggy, niece Sourour Dehnadi, and friend Paul Hutter and family,
- Dave & Rita Hart’s friends Bernie, Terry, & Gerhard, neighbor Mary and her family
- Roberta Dibble’s friend Margaret Rothman
- Mary Ellen Jackson’s cousin Betty Turner
- Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine and Maurice Kersey
- Friends of Hess and Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey and family, and Mark Christensen and family
- Jo Lourens’ father Flip Viviers
- Kimberly and Chad Craven’s friend and her family
- Lisa, coworker of Koreen Thomasson, and Lisa’s husband Ed, as he enters hospice
- Sara Monazah’s grandmother Zary
- Carol Pope’s brother, David
- Elizabeth Norris’s grandson
- Kathy & Bob Wolinski’s daughter, Amy
- Nathan Whittle’s girlfriend’s daughter Jen
- John Lavender’s brother Don Allen Lavender, and John and Susie’s niece’s husband Ben Cooper
- **Nicole Goolsby’s mother Lyn Rion**
- **Joe Moody’s sister Mary Lynn**
- **Chris Zaineddin and family following the death of her sister-in-law Holly**
- **Family and friends of Craig Markey, following his death**
- **Family and friends of Johanita Lourens, following the death of her maternal uncle**
- **Johanita Lourens’ paternal uncle as he battles cancer**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jean Goldberg
3	Ashlee Johnson
4	Bill Maxwell
9	Andy Maxwell
13	Will Hopper
14	Polly Watson
15	John Forster
16	Rich DeBenedetto
17	Carol Kussmaul
21	Ellen Goble
23	Mary Bell Hall Cameron McCormick Grady Gospodarek
25	Olivia King Ron Strand
27	Ki McDaniel

*requests in **bold** have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Stewardship Update

The 2018 financial Stewardship campaign is drawing to a close. Thank you for the many Estimates of Giving we have received to date. Your support is greatly appreciated. As of November 19th we have received 68 estimates of giving, but there are still a number of members we have not heard from. Those additional estimates can make the difference in our commitment to continue and enhance the missions of St. Giles. So please respond if you haven't already done so. We need to hear from everyone. All estimates are important, large and small. If you have a pastoral need or would like to speak with one of us directly about the Stewardship program, please let us know.

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... for where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.” Matthew 6:20-21

Stewardship - Ways to Give

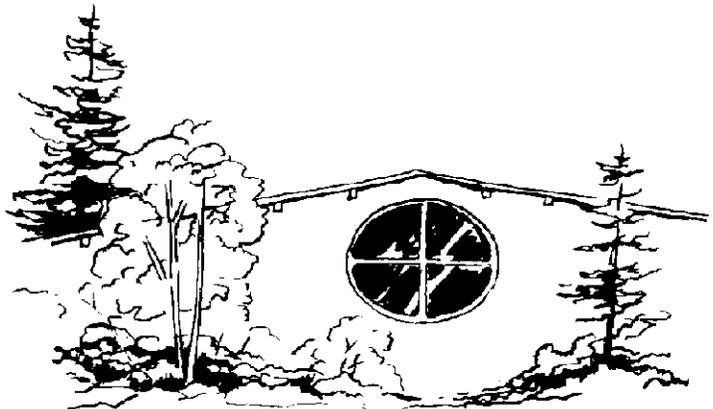
There many ways to give to the general fund at St. Giles. The most common are checks or cash collected in the offering during each Sunday service. Another method many members are now using is their bank's bill pay service to send funds directly to the church. That's typically done by setting up a reoccurring payment on a weekly or monthly basis. The advantages are: it's automatic, there is no writing of checks, no postage and you have a summarized record of payments. To do this set up Saint Giles as a Payee using the following information.

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
5101 Oak Park Road
Raleigh, NC 27612
919-787-4790
Attention: Treasurer

Another method is contributing appreciated securities. If the securities are transferred directly to St. Giles, then church gets the full value of the securities and you get the full value for a donation avoiding capital gains taxes that would be owed if you sold the shares outright. There are special rules and forms to do this correctly, so talk to your financial services company and Dave Gospodarek for specifics.

In addition, we now have a Venmo account for those of your who prefer using mobile payment apps. The church is listed as St Giles @Stgiles with the image of the church window. Just be sure to state what the payment is for in the “What's it for?” section. For example - General Fund.

Look for this logo on Venmo --->



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Saint Giles Mission Garden

In April, Betty Fetvedt and Chris Gospodarek started planning for the 2019 growing season. By early May the soil had been prepared (tilled by Ron Strand) and flowers, seeds and seedlings had been planted. A fence was installed (by Dave Gospodarek) along with green bean tepees, a cucumber trellis, tomato supports, and pathways mulched with straw. By June 18th, a few green beans and green peppers had been harvested. Watering and weeding was done all summer. Once a week produce was delivered to the Raleigh Gardens office for residents there to enjoy. Twelve deliveries were made.

There were: 15 bags of green beans, 18 cucumbers, 45! pints of cherry tomatoes, 14 large tomatoes, 17 summer squash, 1 pint of figs, and 22 peppers.

Many of the cherry tomatoes came from volunteer plants growing in the garden at the entrance to the parking lot. What luck! Thanks to all who helped during this time. Special thanks to Campbell Nursery for supplying the seedlings and flats of marigolds and zinnias.

By mid September the garden was taken down and tilled one more time. In early November, seeds were planted for wild flowers to sprout in the spring. Keep your fingers crossed!

Saint Giles Book Group

We will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 10:30 in the Adult Center. This is before our Circle meeting, so please be on time. Our December selection is *We Fed an Island* by Jose Andres. This is the story of his efforts to feed the people of Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria. We are still looking for a leader for this meeting.

Habitat for Humanity

You can still help build six new homes in Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build!

Saint Giles is helping Habitat for Humanity of Wake County go bigger this year by building a 6-unit townhome. An ambitious project that includes our donation of funds, builders, and food, we will partner with Habitat and other congregations to complete a home for six families in just 16 weeks! We're asked to provide six workers on our building days and to provide lunch for teams of 20 builders on one of those days. **Saint Giles is building one last time on 12/14.** Please contact Tom Augspurger (jillandtom@aol.com, 919-744-8510) to volunteer for building or feeding the builders (or just to learn more) -- you'll be part of an impactful partnership as Habitat Wake built 83 homes and completed 66 home repair projects last year alone!

Christmas Eve Hike

For those who would like to hike before the worship service, we'll meet at Crabtree Shelter #1 at 9am and take an easy hike through the woods. After the hike we can enjoy hot chocolate and coffee before the worship service.

Directions: Enter Umstead Park from Highway 70. Once inside the park, follow Umstead Parkway until it ends. Look for the signs that say "shelters". Park in the parking lot and walk toward the shelters. You'll see "shelter 2" first (it is the smaller one!). Keep walking and join us at "shelter 1".

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Wheels4Hope

Please consider donating to Wheels4Hope!

Wheels4Hope will soon be celebrating our 20th Anniversary here in North Carolina. Because of you, we have repaired and placed almost 2000 cars back into our local community!

We need your help as we roll into this holiday season. With over 60 people currently waiting for a Wheels4Hope vehicle, we need your support more than ever.

What we need:

Cars, minivans, trucks:

We accept any year, make, model, condition, running or not!

(Yes! We will pick it up....for free.)

Financial donations:

The average cost to repair a program vehicle is \$2500, supported mostly by financial gifts from generous community members like you.

To make a vehicle or financial donation today, call (919) 832-1941. No gift is too small and every gift will help us get more cars back on the road! If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please reach out to Saint Giles member Bob Lindsay. Thank you!

Women's Christmas Celebration Lunch

All Saint Giles ladies are cordially invited to join the Esther Circle in the Fellowship Hall for its annual Christmas celebration and hot potluck lunch on **Tuesday, December 10th at 12 Noon**. You do not have to be a Circle member to attend! Just bring a healthy appetite and a dish to share (vegetable, salad, dessert--the main dish will be provided)--we would love for you to share in this festive occasion! If you need additional information, please contact Susie Heath at lsh2@aol.com or (919) 427-5829.

All Church Events Sponsored by Senior Adult Ministry

On Sunday, November 17, sixty church members attended a presentation on books led by Anne Stokes, a representative from Quail Ridge Books. Ms. Stokes talked about various childrens' books dealing with nature and our environment. She also discussed some adult fiction and non-fiction books addressing religious themes, nature, and our changing environment. Quail Ridge has offered a 21% discount to church members purchasing them through the church. For additional details contact Joe Moody(919-710-1815) by December 1.

There will be two other after church activities in December. A discussion of Bart Ehrman's book on "The Triumph of Christianity" will be led by James Ward who has previously offered commentary on other books authored by Ehrman this past summer. This event will take place on **Sunday, December 15**.

The second event will occur on **Sunday, December 22** when youth and adult members will combine to sing Christmas carols to our neighbors in Raleigh Gardens from **3:00 to 4:30pm**. Christmas cookies will be provided to the families we visit. Singing volunteers need to step up and sign up by contacting Joe Moody.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Millbrook Madrigals Benefit Concert

On Sunday, December 8th, the Millbrook Madrigals will be presenting a benefit concert at Saint Giles. We have hosted this group in the past, and our own Eddie Adams is the choral director for this group. Every year, the Millbrook Madrigals put on this benefit to raise funds for students in the program in need of financial assistance. The Madrigals are made up of sophomores through seniors and are an advanced audition-only ensemble. They rehearse for ninety minutes every day. Members of this ensemble are annually accepted into the North Carolina High School Honors Chorus and the East and West Summer NC Governor's School program. The Madrigals were featured in 2012 at the North Carolina Music Educator's Convention in Winston-Salem, NC, and again in 2019 at the NC American Choral Director's Association's Fall conference. They average 25-35 in total membership and participate in 20-30 performances a year. This spring, they have been invited to participate in a national music festival which will be held in Indianapolis. They will perform for, and get to hear, other like programs from Washington State, Florida, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Texas, and more. We are looking forward to learning from some of the finest clinicians in our field as well as from other high school singers from across the country. The concert will begin at 6pm.

Youth Ministry

December is a great month for Youth Ministry at Saint Giles!

Please note—there will be no Sunday School or Youth Group on December 1 due to Thanksgiving break, and none on the 22nd and 29th of December due to Christmas.

However! That doesn't mean we are skipping out on the fun. There's a lot going on!

On December 8th, please join us during the Sunday School hour—we'll be baking Christmas Cookies together!

On December 15th we'll have Sunday School in the morning and then that afternoon is our annual **CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!** Details will be coming in emails from James including info on this year's silly gift exchange and food to bring, but make sure it's on your calendars. This year our party is hosted by the Gospodarek family at their home from 5-7pm. Thanks to them for hosting!

On Sunday, December 22nd, we'll be joining with church members for caroling in Raleigh Gardens. Please sign up with James so he can get your name to Joe Moody who is organizing the event. Caroling will take place that Sunday from **3pm-430pm**. We can't wait to see you then!

Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas!

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Youth Group</u>
December 1	No Sunday School	No YG
December 8	Sunday School—baking cookies	No YG
December 15	Sunday School	Annual Christmas Party
December 22	No Sunday School	Caroling in Raleigh Gardens
December 29	No Sunday School	No YG

Children's Ministry

December Sunday School schedule for Children's Ministry

December 1 No Sunday School

December 8

9:15-9:30 Music Time with Pat and Elizabeth

9:30-10:15 Joy Journeys - Mary and Joseph Show the Way, with Rita Hart/Teresa Johnson
Whirl - Jews and Gentiles, Romans 15:4-13, with Karen Patterson/Roberta Dibble

December 15

9:15-9:30 Music Time with Pat and Elizabeth

9:30-10:15 Joy Journeys - Meeting the Christ Child, with Erin Tracy/Jennifer Gospodarek
Whirl - John's Questions for Jesus, Matthew 11:2-11, with Peg Forster/Roberta Dibble

December 22 No Sunday School

December 29 No Sunday School

Adult Education Ministry

Sunday Morning Weekly Bible Study

Meeting Sunday morning during the Christian Education hour, this class is a traditional bible study that explores the book of Acts. The study is written by Charles C. Williams.

The death and resurrection of Jesus are not the end of the Good News, but only the beginning. In Acts, Luke tells the story of workings of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the apostles and in the early church. The ascension of Jesus becomes, then, the beginning of the life of believers, who are empowered by the Spirit to follow their Lord and make known the message of God's saving acts in Christ.

Faith in Contemporary Life

This class meets in the Adult Center during Sunday Christian Education Hour. This class discusses contemporary topics with the assistance of youtube videos and TEDTalks. They meet in the Adult Center on Sunday mornings.

Another Adult Education Opportunity

Do you drop your child off for Sunday School?

If you drop your child off but do not want to participate in formal adult Christian Education you can stop by the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour for conversation and light refreshments. Jennifer Gospodarek is hosting this informal discussion group. Discussions may include parenting concerns but the content is entirely up to you!

Time and Talent - December 2019

	Sunday, December 1	Sunday, December 8	Sunday, December 15	Sunday, December 22	Sunday, December 29
C.H. Host		Emily Morgan	Sue Moody		
Nursery Volunteer	Elizabeth Abernathy	Lib McClenny	Kathy Matthews	Sallie Taylor	Sallie Taylor
Liturgist	Shirley Sprinkle	Cyndi Bunn	Carol Kussmaul	Johanita Lourens	
Offering Counters	Joe Moody Marilyn Brodd	John Tracy Nicole Goolsby	Mark Evans Jean Rick	Karen Patterson Ron Strand	
Usher			Tom Augspurger		
Sound- board	Mick Wilber	N/A	Ernest Irving	N/A	

December Communion Preparation: Carol Kussmaul

Elders serving communion:

Susie Lavender, Chris Maxwell, Marie Minani, Joe Moody, Karen Patterson, Shirley Sprinkle

A reminder that the two Christmas Eve services will be held at 10am (at Umstead State Park) and at 7pm (at Saint Giles). There will be childcare available at the 7pm service.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Session Packet Deadline: **Monday, December 9th at 12pm**

Newsletter Article Deadline: **Thursday, December 12th at 12 pm**

Annual Report Deadline: **Monday, December 23rd at 12pm**

Session Highlights

At the November Session Meeting, we:

- Received reports from Katherine and Vanna
- Approved a study leave request from Katherine (March 9-15, 2020)
- Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for January 26, 2020
- Approved worship times and locations for Christmas Eve 2019 (see cover article)
- Approved the 2020 Communion Schedule
- Approved non-Sunday worship times for 2020
- Heard a report re our financial support of Community HOPE
- Approved a request to transfer funds from the Endowment Fund to Property Ministry Fund; this request requires affirmative vote by Session at consecutive Session meetings.
- Shared for what and whom we are thankful
- Prayed for and with our congregation and community

December 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

1030amWorship
8pmAA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

5pmMillbrook Madrigals
.....Rehearsal
615pm.....Girl Scouts

7pmBoy Scouts
8pmNA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

4pmVoices Together
430pm.....Community Hope
6pmCHC Rehearsal
7pmGirl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

7am.....Centering Prayer
930amQuilting Group
730pmChoir Practice

8pmAA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

9amTriangle Recorder
.....Society
930amTLC Homeschool
.....Group
430pm.....Community Hope
6:15pm.....Girl Scouts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

915am.....Christian Education
1030amWorship
6pmMillbrook Madrigals
.....Winter Benefit
.....Concert
8pmAA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

**12pm Session Packet
..... Deadline**

7pmBoy Scouts
8pmNA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

12pm.....Women's Circle
.....Luncheon
4pmVoices Together
420pm.....Community Hope
6pmCHC Rehearsal
630pm.....Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7am.....Centering Prayer
930amQuilting Group
730pmChoir Practice
8pmAA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

930amTLC Homeschool
.....Group
12pm.....TLC Homeschool
.....Group Theatre Event
.....Practice

**12pm Newsletter
..... Article Deadline**

430pm.....Community Hope
7pmTLC Homeschool
.....Theatre Event

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

915am.....Christian Education
1030amWorship
5pmYouth Group
.....Christmas Party

8pmAA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

6pmGirl Scouts
7pmSession Meeting
7pmBoy Scouts
8pmNA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

1130am.....Daytime Book Group
4pmVoices Together
430pm.....Community Hope
6pmCHC Rehearsal
630pm.....Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

7am.....Centering Prayer
930amQuilting Group
630pm.....AA Business
.....Meeting

730pmChoir Practice
8pmAA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

930amTLC Homeschool
.....Group
430pm.....Community Hope
615pm.....Girl Scouts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

1030amWorship
3pmChurch Caroling
8pmAA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

**12pm Annual Report
..... Deadline**

7pmBoy Scouts
8pmNA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

9amChristmas Eve Hike
10amChristmas Eve
.....Service at Umstead
7pmChristmas Eve
.....Service of Carols,
.....Communion,
.....& Candlelight

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church Office Closed
8pmAA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

1030amWorship
8pmAA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

8pmNA