

**First Presbyterian Church**

**South Charleston, West Virginia**

"Everyday...is the day the Lord has made— Rejoice! and be glad in it!"

*PresbyPress*

DECEMBER 2021



# Christmas Eve Service

**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE  
TRADITIONAL LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Rock Lake Presbyterian Church**

905 Village Drive, South Charleston WV 25309



## Christmas Food Baskets

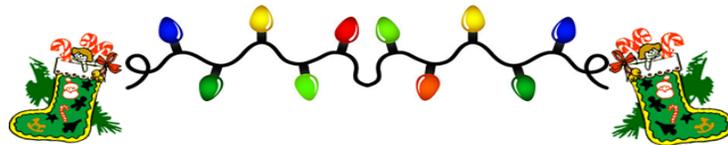
Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been unable to hold our customary Christmas Food Basket fundraising dinners. But the need is great! Therefore, your Session has approved sending funds to Heart & Hand to help them provide Christmas Food Baskets to needy families in our community. The Mission Committee will host one fundraising luncheon after morning worship on Sunday, December 6. On the menu: Hot Chicken Salad, Cranberry Sauce, Croissants, Italian Green Bean Salad, Cake, and Broken Glass Dessert.

**If you are unable to attend the luncheon  
you may call the church at 304-744-2333  
to place a “to go” order.**

You may also make a donation to this much-loved annual mission project on our website: [fpcscwv.org](http://fpcscwv.org), or you may send your check to the church office at 508 Second Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303.

Help spread the love of Christ this Christmas and donate today!

**Merry Christmas!**



## Stocking Stuffers

Nothing about 2021 has been “business as usual”. But we would like to provide stocking stuffers, mittens, and socks for children at Heart & Hand and Sojourner’s Shelter. The Mission Committee has approved some funding for this project, but if you would like to make a donation, Becky Nelson will do the shopping for you! She will also deliver the items to Heart & Hand and Sojourner’s Shelter in plenty of time for Christmas.

Help us put a warm, happy glow on some child’s face! **Give today!**

## The Story of Our Cross

By Laura Gary Buckner

*As I sit in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, I often find myself reflecting on the beautiful wooden cross that is mounted above the choir loft. I marvel at its strong, clean lines, the rich stain of the wood, and the simplicity of its design. I wonder where it came from and who created it. We were fortunate to have received a visit from the Gary Family this summer. They have a personal connection to this cross and were kind enough to share it with us. The following narrative is from their eldest child, Laura. --Becky Smith*



Bill & Petey Gary lived in South Charleston from 1958-1967; three of their four children were born there (middle child Sue was born in Baltimore when Bill was called into Army service as a reservist). Petey had four children in 5 years: Laura is eldest, then Kip, Sue, and Becky. Both Laura and Kip attended kindergarten at South Charleston First Presbyterian Church. Petey sang in the choir and often helped in the kitchen. Laura

remembers learning the Lord's prayer in that sanctuary at 6 years of age and can remember the pew she sat in.

Bill was transferred by Columbia Gas to Columbus, Ohio in 1967. Leaving South Charleston's mountains and neighborly community was hard for the family! Bill wanted to leave a lasting gift to the church that had been such an important part of this young family's life. An engineer by trade and talented woodworker by hobby, Bill designed and crafted the cross that hangs in the sanctuary of South Charleston's First Presbyterian Church. He wanted every member of the family to have a part in its creation; while Sue and Becky were too young to remember much of it, all four children helped sand the cross.

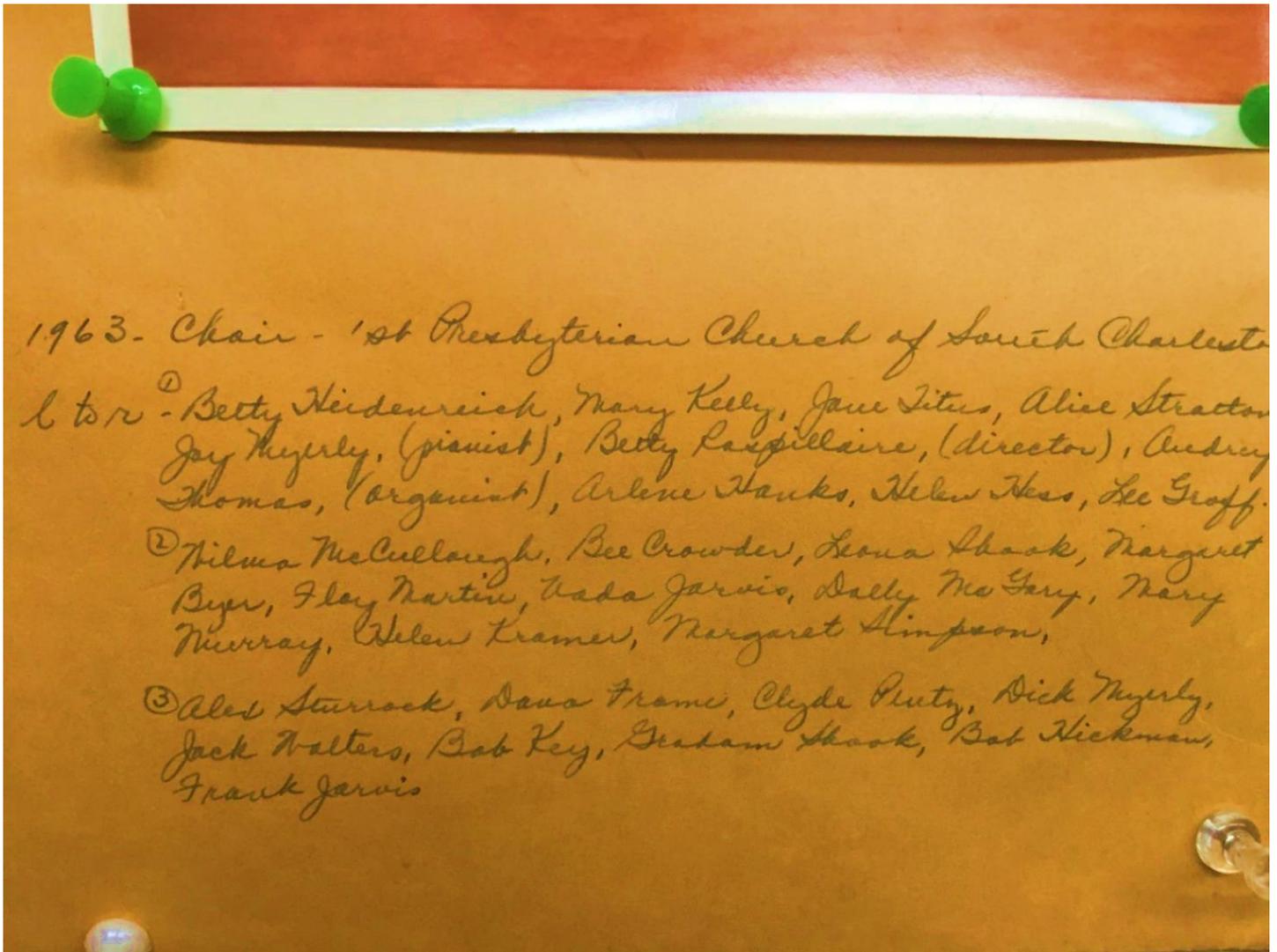
Years passed, and the family moved again, this time to Texas, in 1976. Bill passed away in 2000; Petey is still living (at 90!) and thriving in The Woodlands north of Houston. A small replica of the cross has hung in every family home since we left Charleston. Various family members have had the opportunity to visit first Presbyterian through the years, sometimes even attending church there. It's an amazing and remarkable testament to our family's love of this church to find our cross still hanging where it was designed to hang, fifty-five years after it was built with loving hands! We know it would mean the world to our Dad.

In October 2020, Sue, Laura and Petey drove from Texas to visit Becky and her family in their new home in Albany NY. The route back home to Texas took us back through Charleston, a real treat for Petey (who thought she'd never be there again), Sue (who remembers bits and pieces of our time there) and Laura (who remembers the most as the eldest). We messaged Cheryl Eary, who met us at the church and allowed us in to see Dad's cross and revisit familiar places in the church. Thank you, Cheryl!

Laura and Petey last visited First Presbyterian in the fall of 2016 and attended services there. We were thrilled to find an old photo in the kitchen that had Mom in the choir all those years ago! At that time, she was more ambulatory, and we went to the balcony to touch and admire Dad's cross.



Petey Gary



1963- Choir - 1st Presbyterian Church of South Charleston  
l to r - ① Betty Heidenreich, Mary Kelly, Jane Titus, Alice Stratten  
Jay Myerly, (pianist), Betty Raepillaire, (director), Audrey  
Thomas, (organist), Arlene Hawks, Helen Hess, Lee Groff.  
② Hilma McCullough, Bee Crowder, Leona Shook, Margaret  
Byer, Floy Martin, Vada Jarvis, Sally McGary, Mary  
Murray, Helen Kramer, Margaret Simpson,  
③ Ales Sturrock, Dava Frame, Clyde Plutz, Dick Myerly,  
Jack Walters, Bob Key, Graham Shook, Bob Nickman,  
Frank Jarvis

*This is a copy of the back of the choir photo taken in 1963. Do you recognize any of these folk?*

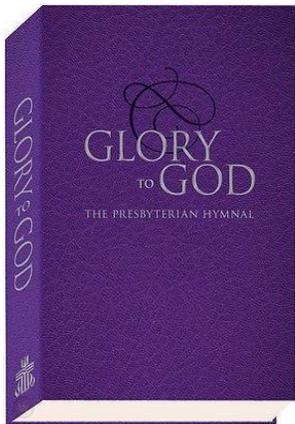


*This is our small replica hanging in Mom's house in The Woodlands, TX*



*Gary family photo 1965  
Petey holding Becky  
Bill holding Sue  
Kip and Laura*

## A Note from your Worship & Music Committee



Session recently approved the purchase of the new purple *Glory to God* hymnal. Here are some interesting things to know about this Presbyterian hymnal from Mary Louise Bringle, chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS):

1. For the first time ever, PCUSA congregations have a choice about the color of the hymnal they purchase to put in their pew racks (either purple or cranberry red; for a small additional fee, a name can be embossed on the front of the hymnal, in silver for purple editions, or in gold for red).
2. The hymnal weighs 2 pounds, 3.5 ounces, making it slightly lighter (and thinner) than the 1990 blue hymnal. It fits easily in our existing pew racks.
3. The hymnal includes roughly 30 pages of liturgical material, including orders of service for daily worship and a service of word and table, with options for prayers and sung responses. The book also includes some responsive readings.
4. The hymnal committee did extensive research so that the words of hymns more often reflect versions being used by others of our ecumenical partners – so that, in other words, even though as Christians we have divided ourselves into different denominations, we can still sing the same words to the same songs!
5. The order of hymns in the book follows the outline of salvation history, from Creation to New Creation. Hymns and songs for the liturgical year are sequenced in this outline from God's covenant with ancient Israel (anticipating the coming Messiah); through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; to the sending of the Holy Spirit into the life of the church.
6. A setting of all but two lectionary psalms is included, but these are distributed thematically throughout the book rather than separated into a distinct Psalter section. These psalm settings reflect a diversity of musical genres, from the Genevan and Scottish Psalters to global and contemporary Praise and Worship arrangements.
7. While hymns and songs written to be sung in unison appear in the pew edition with just the singing part printed (the melody line, without the musical staves underneath for piano or organ accompaniment), most of these have chord symbols that guitar or keyboard players can use. (Where no chord symbols are included, it is because the music comes out of a tradition that does not use chordal accompaniment.) Over two-thirds of the hymns, however, still appear for singing in four-part harmony.
8. Music from churches in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East is amply reflected in the book, as is a wide representation of songs from Asia (especially from places like Korea and Taiwan, where the Presbyterian Church is strong). But in most instances, the English words appear directly under the music, with words from the other languages further down the page.
9. A number of the most respected songwriters of the contemporary worship movement are represented (people like Paul Balouche, Michael Joncas, Graham Kendrick, Rich Mullins, Martin Mystrom, Twila Paris, Martin Smith, Michael Smith, Chris Tomlin).
10. Even more gospel songs and African American spirituals than in the 1990 hymnal are included, e.g.:
  - Just a Closer Walk with Thee
  - Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
  - Lead Me, Guide Me

- Steal Away
- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
- Take Me to the Water
- Walk in the Light (Jesus, the Light of the World)

11. Over 65% of the blue 1990 hymnal is carrying forward, from old standards to “new” favorites (like Here I Am, Lord; Lord of the Dance; God of the Sparrow; Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore; Lift High the Cross). The majority of the hymns from the blue hymnal not chosen for use in *Glory of God* include pieces that had not been widely used by congregations around the country: certain settings of the Psalms, pieces of service music, late 20<sup>th</sup> century texts, and global songs – and so, different examples in each of these categories were sought.

12. A number of old favorites from the 1955 “red” hymnal are making a come-back, including such beloved “heart songs” as:

- Be Still, My Soul
- (God Himself Is With Us, also in 1975, as God, Reveal Your Presence)
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- I Love to Tell the Story
- I Need Thee Every Hour
- Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult (also in 1975)
- Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor (also in 1975)
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
- Sometimes a Light Surprises
- We Praise Thee/You O God, Our Redeemer, Creator (also in 1975)

and some “golden oldies” NEVER or RARELY before in Presbyterian hymnal

- Shall We Gather at the River (only 1874)
- His Eye Is on the Sparrow
- It Is Well with My Soul
- Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
- Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling
- Standing on the Promises

## **We have been invited to join the Rock Lake Handwork for Mission Group!**



The Handwork for Mission Group meets in the Parlor at Rock Lake Presby each Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 pm (except for holidays). They make lap robes, prayer shawls, scarves, and other items for our local nursing homes, police department, Veterans groups, and any who request a need for such items. The group is also a place to learn the art of knitting, crocheting, and other handwork skills. Please plan now to join them for a time of fellowship and working together.



## **Bluestone Camp Fundraiser**

It has been another hard year for camps across the country, and Bluestone Camp & Retreat is no exception. The Friends of Bluestone is working hard to create income to maintain the camp this year, and you can help! They have joined efforts with SaveAround Coupon Books for a win-win fundraiser – you pay \$25 for a coupon book (good now through the end of

2022) and half goes to Bluestone. After you use 4-5 coupons, you have paid yourself back that \$25 investment, and from there on it is pure savings – and you have the pleasure of knowing you also provided needed capital for Bluestone! What is not to love about that?

Best of all, individual books are available for Charleston and Huntington (including the areas between) and another 86 cities in 30 states. These books make great gifts for out-of-town friends, family, and of course, Bluestone fans and supporters who no longer live close by. SaveAround Coupon Books have 260 valuable coupons for local businesses, including restaurants, services, retail, entertainment, recreation, and an additional 60+ coupons for national chains, all worth thousands of dollars in savings.

Included in the cost is a downloadable app for smartphones, so you can redeem coupons with your phone rather than carry the book with you. In keeping with COVID concerns, restaurants are honoring coupons for take-out and curbside pickup as well as dine-in where that is available. Preview the Charleston, Huntington, or any other city books at [www.SAPayNow.com/212394](http://www.SAPayNow.com/212394). Simply visit the link, select a state and a city, and preview the savings. Buying the books is easy: just fill in the requested information, including the seller or Scott Hamilton, [wshamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:wshamilton@yahoo.com)

Want more than one? If for the same location, select number from the dropdown box. If for a different city, select "Add another book." They will all be sent to the same address. Choose "Ship book(s) – FREE SHIPPING" and you will receive them sooner.

Ordering for out-of-town friends or relatives? Just fill in each of their addresses in additional orders. It is all contactless – a simple process during the COVID pandemic.

Sales run through the end of November. We encourage you to sharing this information with families, friends, and neighbors using social media, email, or in person (socially distanced). We hope you'll help Bluestone with this fundraising effort! We think buying a book for yourself and/or others as gifts is an awesome way to support this crucial and beloved camp during this challenging year!

## NUTURING FAITH IDEAS from the Presbytery of West Virginia

*Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.*

### **December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent: Read Luke 3:1-6**

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus. The way must be prepared in your heart for Jesus' coming; only then will you see the true salvation of God.

### **December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent: Read Isaiah 12:2-6**

December is a wonderful time of year, but it is also a very busy time, with shopping to do, presents to wrap, trees to decorate, and more. During all of this, we must remember, first and foremost, that Jesus, the Son of God, is coming soon to bring joy and salvation into the world! Salvation is the gift for all of us! So, despite all the other distractions of the season, remember to put the coming birth of our Savior at the top of your priority list.

### **December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Read Luke 1:39-46**

When Mary greets Elizabeth, her unborn child recognizes that Mary is pregnant with Jesus and leaps for joy in her womb. Do you know Jesus? Do you recognize when Jesus enters your presence, and if so, do you leap for joy? Jesus was sent because God loves each of us, and His mission is to bring hope and salvation to a troubled world. Take some time to reflect on our world and how Jesus gives you hope even during our bleakest moments.

### **December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas: Read Colossians 3:12-17**

Christmas is here. Christ has come! Now we must take the time to think about what that means: to love one another; to forgive; to be compassionate, kind, and faithful; in short, to live our lives following the example Jesus set to the best of our abilities. So, this Christmas, put away old grudges; forgive those who have wronged you; be compassionate and kind to all, especially those less fortunate; and remember to always give thanks to God through Jesus for all these gifts this Christmas!



## **Community Rewards Program**

Through the **Kroger Community Rewards** program, Kroger will donate to First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases YOU make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign us for this FREE profitable program for FPCSC. 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).

**Thank you** to those who donated through Kroger Rewards this quarter: \$225.18.



### Staff Christmas Gifts

You have the chance to show your LOVE for the members of our faithful, hardworking Staff of First Presbyterian. Please place your contribution in the offering plate or church office no later than Sunday, December 19. You may also make a donation on our website. Thank you!



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 5	Jan Powell
December 12	Tina Amburgey Dorsey
December 18	Von Carter
December 19	Beau Luzier
December 20	Bob Cruickshank
December 25	Sharon Titus

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1:00 Handwork for Mission Rock Lake Presby (Parlor)	3	4
<b>5 Communion Sunday</b> 10:00 Sunday School Live & by Conference Call 11:30 Worship Live & Online 12:30 Luncheon for All	6 4:00 Worship & Music Meeting	7	8	9 1:00 Handwork for Mission Rock Lake Presby (Parlor)	10	11
<b>12 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Sunday School Live & by Conference Call 11:30 Worship Live & Online	13	14 6:00 Session Meeting	15	16 1:00 Handwork for Mission Rock Lake Presby (Parlor)	17	18
<b>19 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Sunday School Live & by Conference Call 11:30 Worship Live & Online	20	21	22  (Church Office Closed)	23  (Church Office Closed)	24 <b>Christmas Eve!</b>  7:30 PM Worship Service Rock Lake Presbyterian Church	25 <b>Christmas Day!</b>
26 11:30 Worship Live & Online	27  (Church Office Closed)	28  (Church Office Closed)	29  (Church Office Closed)	30  (Church Office Closed)	31  (Church Office Closed)	January 1, 2022