



January 2017 Newsletter

**Thyatira Presbyterian Church
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PASTOR'S PAGE

The Four Columns of Thyatira, Past, Present, and Future

As you have probably heard by now, Thyatira has a new Mission Statement that links our church with the first Thyatira church described in Revelation 2: "Thyatira Presbyterian Church – A Living Legacy of Love, Faith, Service, and Patient Endurance." As I shared in October while taking a look at the Biblical passages that mention Thyatira, I like to think of these four virtues as the columns on which rest everything else our church does. They are our foundation.

While on one hand, a Mission Statement is a valuable tool because it helps us always to remember who we are, it is also merely a collection of words at the bottom of the Sunday bulletin if we do not live it out. Our ancestors in the faith at Thyatira have done so for the last 260+ years, and we hope our children and grandchildren will as well, so this generation too must do its part to remain true to the identity God has given us.

During worship in December, members of the Vision Discernment Team, the group charged with involving everyone at Thyatira with uncovering God's dream for our future, have been sharing their thoughts about these four columns. We are reprinting them in the newsletter so, especially if you didn't have the chance to hear them in worship (but even if you did!), please give their words your prayerful attention. Everything we do going forward to fulfill God's desires in this place will depend on how well we practice our love, faith, service, and patient endurance.

The Column of Love by Greg Hager

On behalf of the vision team, I am here to speak to you a moment about the importance of love to the future of Thyatira. We here are blessed to build on our long history as a house of God, but we want to focus on what will allow Thyatira to continue to grow and be relevant in the future. We can't rest on pride in our past accomplishments. We have to decide how to move into the future. There are many questions for the modern church and the answers aren't always easy to sort out. But we have a command from Jesus himself. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

It's essential, not optional. It's a command. Just in case his disciples didn't get it, he showed them by washing their feet. We must love and support and care for each other if we want to be an effective witness to the world. We can't be divided or territorial or selfish. We are called to love each other. We can only show God's love to the world if we live it in our own family here.

"By this, all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The first step to Thyatira's future is to love one another. Jesus said so to his disciples and we can't ignore that command.

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The Column of Faith by Carly Moore

As has been shared with you recently, the session has adopted a new mission statement: Thyatira Presbyterian Church – A Living Legacy of Love, Faith, Service, and Patience Endurance. Now, we must decide what this means to us as a church. This is where our Vision Discernment Team comes in.

Faith is one of the things that gives us our identity, as God’s people in this place. Faith is essential as we move forward in living out the vision God reveals to us. We won’t be able to get where God wants us to go without it, but we must listen and be patient.

As I was thinking about what to say about faith, I started thinking about my own faith. I kept hearing the saying, “Just have faith,” or “Have a little faith” over and over in my head. I want you to think about a moment in your life when someone told you to just have faith.

The first thing that I thought of was the birth of my children. Addy surprised us all being born at 33 weeks. We were all scared and unsure, but have a little faith, Carly, I thought to myself. And, look at her now. Fast forward three years, and I was pregnant again. I was nervous about another early birth, but same story. McGuire was born at 34 weeks. I was angry and scared! How could this happen again!?! But, have a little faith, Carly, and look at him.

Through the years, faith has seen my family and me through many ups and downs. Very big faith moments, and smaller ones too. I want you to think about a smaller faith moment. I think about the deep breath that I take before I help Addy or a struggling student. Or the quiet moments at night when my children are sleeping, that is faith at work!

Now, let’s translate that to our church. A big faith moment like Mwandu. I love hearing the stories of Mwandu and the journey so many took together. I am sure they felt every emotion possible, is this going to happen?!?! But, they had faith. Or smaller faith moments, like when a hymn or piece of scripture, or a point in the sermon hits home. Or, the moment you decide to tutor or drive for meals on wheels, that is all faith.

Lastly, I was listening to the Christmas song “Do You Hear What I Hear?” and the last line says, “He will bring us goodness and light.” And, he will in so many ways, if we have faith :)



The Happy Place Needs Hosts!



Please share some happiness with your fellow Thyatirans by hosting the Happy Place for a month! The Happy Place offers a space to strengthen the ties that bind us together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Happy Place hosts arrive a little early, set up coffee, donuts and a little fruit, welcome guests, and get things tidied up before Sunday School or church. It's that simple!

Happy Place Hosts are currently needed for January, February, and March.

Please contact [Stacey Steck](#) at 704-636-1595 to sign up to host the Happy Place or if you would like more information. Or, just sign up this Sunday while you are enjoying your nice, fresh donut and steaming coffee!

REMINDER.....

Christmas Morning at Thyatira

Join us Christmas morning for worship in Fellowship Hall in front of a roaring fire as we share bread, coffee, hot chocolate, hymns and carols, and a message from Scripture. There will even be a special Christmas art project for kids!

Please bring a loaf of bread to share, or perhaps some butter or jam.

There will not be Sunday School or Nursery for this service, but it is a family-style celebration, so come one, come all, come early, and come casual!

Installation of Officers for the Class of 2019 will be held on Sunday, January 22 during the 11am worship service.

Elder	Deacon
David Hall	Jeremy Deal
Norma Lauder	Daniel Milam
Eric Rouse	Aaron Richmond
Juanita Turner	Steven Wetmore
Chloe Patterson (Y-1 yr.)	Jada Ware-Guy

Thanks to all those who served during the past three years in the Class of 2016:

Elder	Deacon
Debbie Edwards	Jay Bates
Doug Patterson	Bill Bergstrom
Phares Sechler	Jeff Franz
Alice Sloop	Ed Hall
	Greg Hager

And for one year: Claudia Patterson as Youth Elder and Sam Hager as Youth Deacon.



**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Janet Lambert
- 2 Carly Moore
- 7 Paul Gaylor
- 7 Lauren Luther
- 8 Raymond Harcum
- 9 Alexandria Bouk
- 12 Michelle Patterson
- 13 Ryan Sloop
- 14 Linda Gaylor
- 14 Melissa Waller
- 14 Mark Seaboch
- 23 Mariah Watts
- 24 John Cocca
- 25 Belinda Raymer
- 26 Glenn McCorkle
- 26 Jon McCachren
- 26 Ashley Myers
- 27 Jennifer Parish
- 29 Jeremy Thompson

The Children's Choir will be taking a much needed break during the month of January. They will resume practicing at 9:30am on February 5. The preschool kids will practice at 9:50.

GENEROSITY NOTES

Thanks for closing out 2016 on a high note! Your giving reveals your generosity. If you have not already begun giving at the level you estimated on Consecration Sunday, please remember to do so beginning in the new year. The blessings we bring as a church depend on the blessing you share.

Did You Know? The word "Give" appears 921 times in the bible - almost as many times as "Faith", "Hope" and "Love" combined. Giving can be an expression of your faith in God, your hope for the future, and your love for others. Consider expressing your faith, hope and love with a gift to the church in your Will. Information is available from the Presbyterian Foundation or your tax or financial advisor.

Prayer Concerns

Rowan Regional: Hall Steele (Stanback Center)

Brightmoor Nursing Center: Frank Fuller

Lutheran Home: Mullie Varner
Rebecca Morrison

C/O George Calhoun: Mary Alice Calhoun

White Oak Manor, Charlotte: Ruby Erwin

At Home: JoAnn Kerr
Ted Deal
Carol King
Linda McCorkle



- Jerri Seaboch’s brother and former member, Millard Goodnight, is undergoing cancer treatment
- Linda Gaylor’s mother, Barbara Phillips
- Dana Milam’s friend, Stacia Henry in Jamaica
- Nell Fuller’s niece, Mary Jo Wood, is undergoing cancer treatments
- Judy Leazer (co-worker of Sharon Deal) is taking Leukemia treatments
- Drema Clemens’ mother, Bertha Warden
- Millicent Hoffner’s brother, Joe Kerr
- Mike Hawkins who has RA
- Former member, Pat Hall
- Debbie Belk, a friend of Joyce Caldwell
- Jimmy’s mother and father, Ernestine & Bill Hoffner
- Paul Rogers’ daughter and family are missionaries in Pakistan

Session Approved Items from the November 11, 2016 Session Meeting

- Richard Luther, Deacon, reported that the damaged plaster inside the sanctuary, will need outside repair first. The Session approved the Diaconate to begin waterproofing on the outside brick wall which will cost \$684.00.
- The Session approved the Worship Committee’s request to move Communion to the second Sunday in January (Jan. 8) and the Stated Session meeting to the third Sunday, January 15th. The newly elected officers will be installed on Sunday, January 22. The annual congregation meeting will be January 29.
- After reviewing and discussing the proposed budget for 2017, the Session approved the new budget.
- The Session approved Luke Hager’s request to create a natural walking trail through the woods, in the area around the Fellowship Hall and the Resource Building, as his Eagle Scout project.

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JANUARY 2017



"Where the little ones shine"

This month the two year old class has worked very hard on preparing for our Christmas program. They have all done a wonderful job. We also worked on letter E and F. They made fish, and painted their feet for letter F. Our nursery rhyme for the month was Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. We continue to work on our colors, shapes, ABC's and counting. The two year old class would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Bravo for a great performance of "Christmas Show and Tell" by all the children in our preschool. All their practicing paid off and thank you to parents for playing the CD of songs. The 3 year olds made gifts for their parents, decorated stockings and stars and also made a nativity craft. They listened to stories about baby Jesus (the real meaning of Christmas) and also stories of Santa. Our wish for all is a Happy New Year.

The four year olds have been busy little elves this month. We have made gifts for our parents and numerous Christmas crafts and ornaments. We studied the letters K, L & M and learned poems and finger plays for each. We made a Santa count down to Christmas calendar and read fun stories about him and his magic reindeer. We even made reindeer chow! We also focused on the real reason we celebrate this wonderful season. We learned all about Jesus' birth and discussed how we can give him gifts of love by loving and helping others. The highlights of this month for our students were making gingerbread houses and sharing our music during our Christmas Program. Glory to the newborn King!