

HENDERSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 91346  
Henderson, NV 89009

# The Sunshine News



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE HENDERSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR LEE STYER

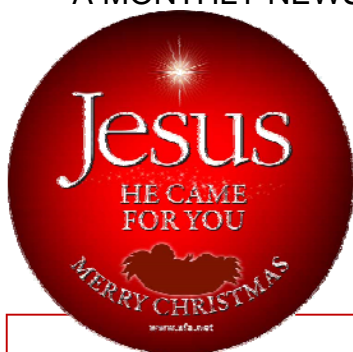
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Located right next to Morrell Park on Major Avenue.

**DECEMBER 2015**



## *Advent and Christmas*

December 6<sup>th</sup>

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent the sermon will be called "Magnifying". We will take a look at the "Magnificat"—Mary's "Song of Praise" as written in Luke 1:46-56. The Lord's Supper will be shared during the service.

December 13<sup>th</sup>

The children of our church will present their Christmas Pageant during the Worship Service. Also, Pastor Lee will share some thoughts called "Prophesying" regarding Zechariah's prophecy about his son John. Luke 1:66-80 will be the Scripture passage.

December 20<sup>th</sup>

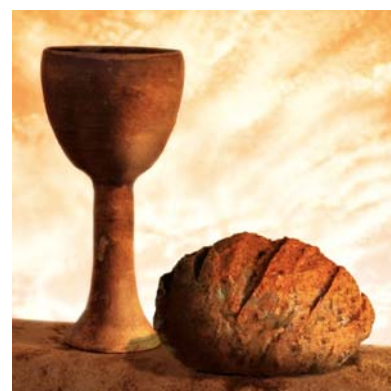
Christmas Sunday! "Expecting" will be the sermon title. Invite friends and family on this special Sunday as we delve into Luke 2:1-5 where we read that Joseph and Mary—expecting a child—traveled to Bethlehem.

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve! We will have our traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. on this wonderful evening celebrating our Savior's birth. The Christmas message will be called "Delivering" with Luke 2:6-20 as the focal passage. Come and praise God for sending the Deliverer to the world.

December 27<sup>th</sup>

On this last Sunday of 2015, the Sermon will be called "Naming." There will be just one Scripture verse—Luke 2:21 where we will examine the significance of Jesus' name.



| December 2015 |                                |   |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1             | 12:00 PM                       | Head, Heart, Hands Craft Group                                |
| 3             | 7:00 PM                        | Choir Practice  |
| 5             | 8:00 AM                        | Men's Fellowship Group  |
| 6             | 9:00 AM                        | Youth Sunday School/Bible Study                               |
|               | 10:00 AM                       | Worship Service/Kid's Sunday School                           |
|               | 11:15 AM                       | All Church Potluck<br>Commission Meetings                     |
| 8             | 10:00 AM                       | <i>Women's Bible Study</i>                                    |
| 8             | 12:00 PM                       | Head, Heart, Hands Craft Group                                |
| 8             | 6:00 PM                        | <b>Joint Session/Deacon's Meeting</b>                         |
| 9             | 7:00 PM                        | Adult Bible Study   |
| 10            | 7:00 PM                        | Choir Practice  |
| 13            | 9:00 AM                        | Youth Sunday School/Bible Study                               |
|               | 10:00 AM                       | Worship Service<br>Children's Christmas Pageant               |
|               | 11:15 AM                       | Deacons' Meeting  |
| 15            | 12:00 PM                       | Head, Heart, Hands Craft Group                                |
| 15            | 7:00 PM                        | Session Meeting   |
| 16            | 7:00 PM                        | Adult Bible Study   |
| 17            | 7:00 PM                        | Choir Practice  |
| 20            |                                | Angel Tree Gifts Due  |
| 20            | 9:00 AM                        | Youth Sunday School/Bible Study                               |
|               | 10:00 AM                       | Worship Service/Kid's Sunday School<br>Christmas Joy Offering |
| 22            | 10:00 AM                       | <i>Women's Bible Study</i>                                    |
| 24            | 7:00 PM                        | Christmas Eve Service   |
| 25            | <b>Merry Christmas To All!</b> |   |
| 27            | 9:00 AM                        | Youth Sunday School/Bible Study                               |
|               | 10:00 AM                       | Worship Service/Kid's Sunday School                           |
| 29            | 10:00 AM                       | ☞ ♥ ✎ Craft Group   |
| 31            | <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>         |   |

## December Birthdays

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Michelle Grevich       |
| 1  | Carlea Miller          |
| 2  | Virginia Jacobs        |
| 11 | Garrett Kerr           |
| 15 | Howard Null            |
| 20 | Dan Chandler           |
| 21 | Savanna Millholland    |
| 24 | Trisha Casey           |
| 25 | Happy Birthday, Jesus! |
| 26 | Diane Mancha           |
| 28 | Karen Fallon           |
| 28 | Iline Mayrose          |
| 29 | Sierra Shepherd        |



**If you don't see your name listed in the birthdays or anniversaries, please let the office know so we can add you to the list!**



## Celebrating an Anniversary

- 10 Karen & Albert Fallon
- 15 Elinor & Paul Spaulding
- 26 Sandy & Rick Willson
- 27 Susie & Marshall Hanson
- 30 Janis & Paul Millholland



## SCOUTS THIS MONTH

- Tuesdays 5:30 PM, Girl Scouts
- Wednesdays 5:30 PM, Cub Scouts
- 6:30 PM, Boy Scouts
- 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30 PM, Sea Scouts

Answer to Drop Quote, page 6

~Benjamin Franklin  
"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!"

## “Pastor-Lee” Thoughts

# CA

Advent. In Merriam-Webster’s dictionary Advent is defined as: “the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas and observed by some Christians as a season of prayer and fasting; the coming of Christ at the Incarnation; the Second Coming of Christ.” [<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/advent>]. Advent is also defined as: “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” The definition I like best is the last one: “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or

event.” Of course, the most important Advent in history is the arrival of Jesus Christ a little over 2000 years ago. Had it not been for Christ’s historical arrival—as well as His resurrection—we would not be a church at all.

For most of this month we are in the Advent season. Throughout our Worship Services we will be singing hymns and songs celebrating the coming of Christ into the world. We will also delve into various Scripture passages that look forward to—as well as celebrating—the Messiah’s birth.



This is truly an exciting time of year for all Christians. But, as we celebrate Advent in our church and homes, let us also remember the Christians that are being persecuted for their faith throughout the world. They are very special people—people that will never deny their faith in Christ even though they are facing death, imprisonment, or other forms of persecution by those that do not believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Yes, this is an exciting time of year. It’s a time we get together with family and friends. It’s a time of singing Christmas Carols. It’s a time of sending out Christmas cards and letters. But, most importantly, it is a time of “looking forward” to celebrating, once again, the birth of Jesus Christ.

*In His Service,  
Pastor Lee*



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will meet at 7:00 p.m. on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be studying various passages regarding Advent—the time we look forward to celebrating Christ’s arrival.

All are welcome to attend. If you have never come to the Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study we would love to have you join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thank You, Thank You!!

The Board of Deacons wishes to express its gratitude in the response of all members and friends who provided for the



Thanksgiving Baskets Project. Once again Henderson Presbyterian Church reached out with love to the community to ensure that others would have a blessed Thanksgiving. In all, 125 baskets were prepared and distributed.

# PLEDGE CARDS NEEDED!

Please fill out your pledge card for the coming year and turn it in as soon as possible to the church office. The pledge cards are used to create the church budget. Without pledges of support for the upcoming year, the session is unable to make a budget. Fill out and clip the form below and either place it in the offering plate at church, send it in the mail, or scan and email the form. Please help as you are able.

Henderson Presbyterian Church  
Financial Stewardship Commitment  
2015  
To support the mission of our church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per ( ) week ( ) month ( ) other

Commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances.

## 10th Annual Handel's DIY Messiah

Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
7:00 PM

Green Valley Presbyterian Church  
OR

December 6, 2015  
Mountain View Presbyterian Church

## SAVE THE DATE

January 3rd Stay after Worship and help put away all the Christmas Decorations

January 10th Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons

Annual Congregational Meeting after the Worship Service

## Order Your Poinsettias

Annual Christmas poinsettias will again decorate our sanctuary the weeks before Christmas. Then, after our Christmas Eve Service you may take them home. More information will be given at church services. Or, call Craig Sell at 702-249-1718 for more information.



## MEN'S GROUP MEETING

The Men's Group will meet at the church on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 am. Come join in a great breakfast and good fellowship with the guys!



**There are many opportunities to help at HPC!!**

**Be a Lay Leader**--Help lead the worship service. It's not as hard as you might think!

**Coffee Fellowship**—Provide coffee fellowship snacks while we touch base with our friends.

**Be a Greeter**—Doesn't it feel good to be welcomed to church with a hearty hello? You can brighten someone's day, simply by saying hello on Sunday morning and making sure they have a bulletin for the church service.

# DEACONS, COMMISSIONS, AND SESSION MEETINGS

The Deacons will meet on December 13<sup>th</sup> immediately after the Congregational Meeting and Coffee Fellowship.

The Commissions will meet **during** the Coffee Fellowship on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This will make it easier for all that are interested in participating in the Commissions to do so since the meetings will be immediately after our Sunday morning worship. Fill up your plate and bring it with you to the Commission of your choice. Look for announcements in the bulletin regarding where each Commission will meet.

The annual Joint Session-Deacon Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This is a required meeting by the Book of Order and gives the two elected boards of our church the opportunity to not only fellowship together but also have some training together. This year there will be two trainings: Parish Associate and Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro will share what her new position entails and Pastor Lee will share what the Ruling Elders and Deacons are to do when taking the Lord's Supper to those in the hospitals, hospice, and those that are shut-ins.

The Session of our church will meet on December 15<sup>th</sup> at their regularly scheduled 7:00 p.m. meeting time. All are welcome to attend and give their input at this meeting.

## CHURCH OFFICERS 2015

The following have been elected as our church officers:

### Ruling Elders (Session)

Barbara Gillaspy – Clerk  
Karen Chandler – Christian Education  
Michele Grevich – Mission  
Marshall Hanson – Membership & Evangelism  
Tom Mack – Stewardship & Finance  
Paul Millholland – Building & Operations  
Craig Sell – Worship  
John Shepherd – Personnel

### Deacons

Karen Fallon – Moderator  
Rob Bumann  
Harriet Cox  
Sue Lednicky  
Anne Mack  
Toni Purtill  
Merry Schick  
Rita Yeager

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD

The Congregation held a specially called meeting after the Worship Service on November 8<sup>th</sup> to elect Ruling Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2018.

The members elected at the meeting were:

### Ruling Elders

Alice Cain  
Nancy Sprague

### Deacons

Karen Fallon  
Richard Frassato

Serving as a Ruling Elder or Deacon is a tremendous responsibility and commitment. Support our newly elected officers—as well as those continuing in their office—to do the task God and the congregation has called them to do.



# Christmas Quotzfall answer on page 8

Draw from the letters above each column to fill in the spaces in the grid below. Only the letters in each column may be used in that column. Looking at the grid, you see clear squares and solid squares. The clear or white squares indicate missing letters in the grid. The solid squares indicate the end of a word or, looking at it another way, the space between two words. Words can wrap around from one row to the next, so the end of a row DOES NOT mean that is the end of the word. ONLY a solid square indicates the end of a word. Once the puzzle is solved, the message reads horizontally, from left to right, across each row—as if you're reading a book.

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## NUMBER FILL-IT-IN

| 3 Digits | 4 Digits | 5 Digits |       |
|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| 164      | 1472     | 14369    | 51943 |
| 218      | 1692     | 16324    | 56218 |
| 285      | 1859     | 18234    | 69784 |
| 317      | 2674     | 18324    | 71658 |
| 375      | 3157     | 23156    | 72691 |
| 376      | 3427     | 24753    | 93781 |
| 418      | 3491     | 34159    |       |
| 436      | 3571     | 36179    |       |
| 529      | 4126     | 37416    |       |
| 569      | 5864     | 41398    |       |
| 651      | 7283     | 45217    |       |
| 952      | 7681     | 49321    |       |

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## A SOLDIER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
and to see just who in this home did live.  
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
a sobering thought came to my mind.  
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,  
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,  
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play,  
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,



"Santa, don't cry; this life is my choice."

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more;  
my life is my God, my country, my corps.  
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,  
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch and I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

~~Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

# Music of the Christmas Season

F D O Y O U H E A R W H A T I H E A R Q V I Q O Q S  
L Q E J W F Y R M D J O Y T O T H E W O R L D F G Y  
J U T C Y E D R M W H S B I T G B O L D Q Q H Q N Y  
J V N U K V A P V T P O T E S U O H E H T N O P U O  
T H G I N T N E L I S F L L E O N T S R I F E H T B  
D U R N X Q H U O V Z R J H D R X H T K N K P Q T R  
M E H E L H T E B F O N W O T E L T T I L O T B I E  
X A W C V M F L H B D H F X O P X H B F Z M I A N M  
Q N Y B A B A T N A S M A D A D I V A N Z I L E F M  
S K X V B C Y R A C L E E R T S A M T S I R H C O U  
G N I S S L E G N A D L A R E H E H T K R A H J R R  
F F S I L V E R B E L L S L L E B E L G N I J E C D  
H D O F K N L L F W K Y V Z T J R J P S Y Y H U H E  
O Q R M D N A L R E D N O W R E T N I W F Q O Z R L  
W E W I S H Y O U A M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S I T  
G O D R E S T Y E M E R R Y G E N T L E M E N R S T  
R A E L C T H G I N D I M E H T N O P U E M A C T I  
S A N T A C L A U S I S C O M I N G T O T O W N M L  
A M R O A V Z B O M F R O S T Y T H E S N O W M A N  
J X A W A Y I N A M A N G E R E D I R H G I E L S C

Away in a Manger

Silver Bells

Jingle Bells

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Feliz Navidad

Frosty the Snowman

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Up On the Housetop

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

The First Noel

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Deck the Halls

Silent Night

O Christmas Tree

Joy to the World

Little Drummer Boy

Sleigh Ride

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Nuttin' for Christmas

Santa Baby

To find the answer to the trivia question, look for a word or phrase that is hidden in the puzzle, but not in the word list.

**Trivia:** In what Christmas song would you sing about Parson Brown, a circus clown, a bluebird, and a new bird?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_