



Happenings



Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church

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www.R H P church.com

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Our South African mission pictures and notes

The following is an email from Eva at the Phumlani Massaphumalele RHPC's South African Mission project

On Friday evening we had the Graduation Ceremony of the Grade R class and today Father Christmas came – the end-of-year business is almost over!



At the Graduation Ceremony all the children are presented with stationery for Grade 1, so that they can start with good tools rather than some else's leftovers. St Kieran's church members donate food for the rest of the year, but in December they give money which goes to giving each little graduate their own Xhosa "first-read" Bible. Here you can see David presenting a child with the Bible. It is an awesome thought that for most of them this Bible will be the first book they own.

Each year we receive toys from the Toy Run, a motorbike event where each biker donates a toy. Often there are quite a few that need to be washed and repaired, doll's clothes need to be made and 55 gifts need to be wrapped and labeled: the "elf" is kept out of mischief the weekend before! We had a wonderful Father Christmas this year: he sang, danced and joked with the children and made each one feel special, as well as often having the adults in stitches with his antics. What impressed me was the easy and natural way with which he wove prayer into the program: one of my most precious Phumlani pictures ever is the one where the kids are thanking God for their presents.



The rule is that the children should wait with unwrapping till everyone has their present, but this year, about halfway through, the temptation was too great. Oh, the joy on their faces, the instant love affairs of girls and their dolls and soft toys, the awe at which the boys looked and tried out their very own cars! I had allocated the two balls I had been allowed to choose from the Toy Run very carefully to two little soccer enthusiasts. Their gifts were at the bottom of the bag, and when they at last received their gifts their joy knew no bounds when they found out that they had both been given balls!

[Click here for more recent news of this mission](#)

From the Pastor:

A New Year, with new and renewed priorities

January is a time of fresh starts and new hopes. This is the season for New Year's Resolutions. When our calendars roll over from one year to the next, certain advertisers sense a primed and ready audience – have you noticed how the new diets and new exercise plans and the fitness clubs clamor for our attention the week before and the weeks after January 1? If Oprah were still on TV, she'd have a week-long series on how the new year can be your best year ever. If Regis still had his show, he'd be sharing tips and techniques and motivation on "A New Year, A New You".

These are all fine, and a significant number of people use the dawn of a new year to change, drop bad habits, or improve their health or their relationships or something that was lacking last year. Still, human nature the way it is, it sure seems like most New Year's Resolutions have faded into lost intentions by Ground Hog Day.

However, there is one one-named "celebrity" who can truly bring a fresh start to us this month. Yes, *Jesus* is always in the business of redemption, renewal, and improved lifestyles. Whether in early January or any other time, Jesus can overcome mere human nature and bring us the spiritual power to change and be enhanced. The start of a new year is a blessing, where God gives us a prominent opportunity to stop, reflect, assess and begin anew. My prayer is that we will discover (or re-discover) that *spiritual* strength which will help each of us – whether we are seeking to improve our physical health, overcome the anxiety and dread that surrounds us, or to live with purpose and with joy. With Jesus in our hearts and as our guide, we need not settle for small steps of bland, temporary change. This powerful Lord invites us into amazing, long-lasting transformation.

I hope that this becomes true and real and powerful for you individually, and we will be attentive to how this will become even more evident in our shared life as a congregation. The elders of our session recently underwent a discernment process with Pastor Stephen Williams of Savannah Presbytery, who coached us to clarify priorities for the upcoming year. Out of eight areas which all congregations have as mission and ministries, our elders have chosen these for primary focus for RHPC during 2012:

- ▶ Member care and supportive groups
- ▶ Stewardship and resources
- ▶ Evangelization and invitations
- ▶ Leadership and communication

These will be my areas of concentration during the year ahead. Our elders, deacons and ministry teams will align our activities with these priorities. Plus, we will be asking that everyone connected to this church – from longtime members to relative newcomers to our extended family of friends – find one or more of these "zones" of ministry where you can enhance what we do. (These priorities are also represented on the *50 Days of Prayer Calendar*. I hope you'll join me in intentional prayer for Christ's Church here on Sterling Creek.)

Not to limit God's influence and our response, but one specific example for each: "Take Your Pew to Lunch" will help us to know each other better and give opportunities for friendship and care in addition to our prayer ministries. We'll help our members know effective ways to invite a friend to worship. Our leaders will ask you to step up as possible, to fully fund our very realistic budget for 2012, to carry out our internal ministries, external mission, and our ongoing support of Presbytery programs like summer camp and leadership development. We will notch up our communication throughout the congregation, so that everyone knows which people and teams to contact when you have ideas, concerns or suggestions.

RHPC truly is primed to launch into a fruitful year. With God's help, we'll find more joy and peace as we carry out God's intentions for us. The people around us will notice our newly renewed life too!

Jesus' Peace and Joy to you!

Pastor Greg

Presbyterian Women

On behalf of the Presbyterian Women we would like to wish each of you a blessed new year. As outgoing moderator, I would like to thank all who have supported the Presbyterian Women and me the past two years and ask that you continue your support for the upcoming officers.

Our last two projects for 2011 were very successful. *The Advent Calendar* was published in ample time for the beginning of Advent. Thanks to all who helped with publication and wrote devotions. The Collections for the *Swainsboro Presbyterian Apartments "Be An Angel"* program was well received again this year. I am sure that all the gifts given were appreciated by the men and women living at the apartments. In addition to these two projects we also supported:

- ❖ *The Living Vine, a home for unwed mothers*
- ❖ *The Least Coin, a Presbyterian project for the needy*
- ❖ *Mother's Day cards, for Malaria Prevention Nets*
- ❖ *Samaritan's Purse, Shoebox ministry*
- ❖ *The Ways Station, food pantry*
- ❖ *The Soup Kitchen, provides meals for needy*

We also provided light refreshments for registration and lunch for the Presbytery meeting hosted by our church on May 24, hosted a Gift of Women service on May 1, provided lunch for the youth and leaders going on their Mission Trip July 3rd and held bridal showers for David and Becky Day and Scott and Nikki Turner. Our fundraiser this year was a tea on April 16 which allows us to support all the above ministries.

The Christmas gatherings, lunch at the Manse and dinner at the home of Lisa Yackel, were enjoyed by many ladies with good food, fellowship and devotions.

Join us either morning or evening for Bible study and fellowship. The morning group meets at 10:30 a.m. and the evening circle meets at 7:00 p.m. Contact Betsy Wilson at 727-2241 or Debbie Sisco at 756-3992 for more information. Both groups meet at the Bryan Neck Manse that is located by the Historic Bryan Neck Presbyterian Church on Belfast Keller Road. If you need directions, please call.

~Debbie Sisco

PRIME TIMER NEWS



We're stepping back into time with a day trip to **Beaufort SC** on **Friday, January 20**. We'll car pool to Beaufort and then meet with guides in period dress who will give us an introduction followed by a van tour of this beautiful historic coastal town. After the tour, we'll have lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon with options of strolling the beautiful waterfront park and marina, browsing the many retail, antique, and consignment shops (including the bookstore where Pat Conroy does his book signings and has autographed copies available), or visiting other particular points of interest.

Please be at the church parking lot by **9:00 am** to car pool. Cost for the van tour is \$15 per person. As always, guests are welcome. For more info or to RSVP, contact Susanna at 248-470-0664 or susannakirby@yahoo.com

Prime Timers is a ministry of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church for adults of all ages. We want keep you informed about the group and planned events. We hope you'll find opportunities to participate. Guests are always welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11 am except when an alternate activity is planned for that month.

Congregational L I F E I n v o l v e m e n t

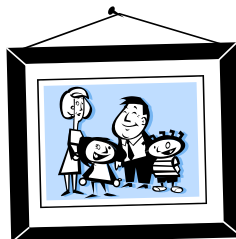
How would you like to take part in the life of your church?

The start of the New Year marks a new opportunity for all of our members to help make our church's life together even more enriching and outreaching. Much of the activity is centered around the eight areas aligned with our eight Ministry Teams.

Please offer your willingness to help and to serve. (You'll likely find your own life will have blessings returning back to you, as you take part!) Some of our members will be able to help as a year-round participant in one of these teams. We need others to step up to help with a short-term project or two during 2012. Speak with an elder, a deacon or the pastor, and you'll get connected with the rewarding work which matches your abilities and your availabilities.

- ⌘ **Worship & Music:** Worship services, Communion
- ⌘ **Mission:** Answering needs, locally and globally
- ⌘ **Newcomers & Outreach:** Evangelism, Hospitality
- ⌘ **Planning & Personnel:** Discerning God's Future
- ⌘ **Congregational Life:** Prayer, Care, Friendships
- ⌘ **Stewardship & Finance:** Giving God thanks
- ⌘ **Education & Faith Development:** Bible study, classes, children's and youth ministries
- ⌘ **Buildings & Grounds:** Property care and upkeep

**Plan to join
us for
Summer
Vacation
Bible School
Evenings,
June 3-7**



Are you pictured in our "Family Photo Album"?

Our congregation created our latest Photo Directory about a year and a half ago. There are a number of people who weren't included in that book, either because you became connected with RHPC after the 2010-11 directory was published, or perhaps you weren't available to have your portrait made at that time. *We're not quite ready to create a whole new directory yet, but we do want to print supplement pages to include our recent newcomers.*

If you weren't photographed in that book, may we take a snapshot of you (and your household) before or after worship on January 22 or 29. It doesn't need to be a formal photo – just a picture so you can be more included in the total life of this church. We hope that everyone will have these snapshots taken, whether you're a newer member, a newcomer who has not yet joined RHPC, or someone who has been here a long time.

Also, we hope that everyone will double-check the contact information listed in the current book. If your e-mail, phone number, or address has changed, we want to print that in the update. E-mail the church office (459-pray@coastalnow.net) or call 756-2339 with any updates.

SAVE THE DATE!

RHPC Youth Group YARD SALE Fundraiser

Saturday, March 3

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(rain date will be Saturday, March 10)

- ⊕ \$20 to rent booth space/table to sell your own stuff (Booth space is "first come, first served")
- ⊕ Accepting donations of items beginning 2 weeks prior to the sale
- ⊕ Contact Holley Bensman or Karen Martinez

**Proceeds benefit our Youth
Summer Mission Trips**

RHPC YOUTH!

Youth Fellowship Calendar for

January and February

January 4, 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesday Nights

7:00 - 7:15 Fellowship

7:15 - 7:30 Snacks & Music

7:30 - 8:00 Program

All 6th – 12 graders are invited!

Looking back to Christmas and New Year...

The Christmas season was very busy this year for our youth beginning with the Youth "Greening of the Church" service on Nov. 27th and followed by our annual musical this year titled "Happy Holidays from Hollywood" on December 11th. On the 18th the youth participated in the Church Christmas Dinner, Caroling and hayride at the Manse as well as our own movie night. We also caroled at the Richmond Hill Nursing Home on the 21st by board games. The youth also made and signed Christmas Cards for delivery to many of our elderly or convalescent church members.

Skatefest - January 2nd

The Youth went on our annual "Skatefest" at the Civic Center on Monday, the 2nd of January. We had a host of youth, college students and adults skating and watching. We followed up our skating adventure with dinner at the Mellow Mushroom. A great time was had by all!



"Super" Weekend BBQ

The weekend of the Super Bowl has become the weekend for the big BBQ fundraiser for the RHPC Youth. If you're having a Super Bowl party, this is an excellent opportunity to purchase barbecue for the party! If you are invited to someone else's party then – bring barbecue! You can order a whole Boston butt, chopped BBQ or a ready-to-go dinner with all the fixings.

Please plan on purchasing your tickets this month, and spread the word to others in your neighborhood or work place. Our youth will be selling tickets to their friends, family and neighbors, as well as after Church Services during the month of January. **In addition to the Saturday pick-up on February 4th, we will also have Friday lunch delivery in Richmond Hill and southside Savannah, which is great for providing lunch at offices.** All proceeds will support this year's annual mission trip for our high school students. This year's trip will be to Caguas, Puerto Rico through the Group WorkCamps Foundation, the organization with which we've partnered for many years.

Cooking will begin Thursday night, February 2, and continue on through Friday, February 3, and we need volunteers to come out and enjoy fun and fellowship as part of the cooking crew. If you are able to help out with the cooking crew, please contact Jeff Wood.

Thank you for your support!



Whole Butt (pre-order only)..... \$25

Pork by the pound \$ 7/lb

Pork or Chicken plate & 2 sides... \$ 6



S.S. Disciple Ship

Sunday School for Grades K-5

Our church engages in several joyous Christmas activities during the month of December. We added something different for our K – 5th grade SS Discipleship kids this year.

Our rotation focused on the season of Advent in which we used Isaiah, Matthew & Luke to discover the full meaning of Advent.

We learned how Advent means ‘coming’ or arriving’ and that it is a time of preparation or getting ready. We talked about how Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus & his second coming. We talked about the significance of the color purple, what Christmas trees remind us of, gift giving, the Advent wreath & all its parts as well as hope, love, joy & peace. Christians should do something every day during Advent to prepare.

Our December bible memory verse was: “*Today in the town of David a Ssavior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord*”. Luke 2:11

In the **Anchors Away**, our mission rotation, we demonstrated compassion for others in a time of need by creating simple but beautiful Christmas cards for the families who have children staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Savannah. To show hope for those with sick children, each of our kids wrote a sentiment to a special family in need during a difficult time.

In **Jonah’s Fish Tales**, our story telling rotation, we learned about the Jesse Tree & how it reminds us of the stories of those people faithfully waiting for the Messiah throughout the Old Testament and what it represents during Advent. We created ornaments with pictures of what is represented on a Jesse Tree and decorated a Jesse Tree with those ornaments.

The next rotation, **Noah’s Art** (art) was where we gained a better understanding about the parts of the Advent wreath & what each part signifies. We had fun creating cinnamon ornaments to remind us of what the four candles in the Advent wreath represent. We made hearts, doves, bells, and Christmas trees to take home & put on our own trees.

Finally, on Christmas morning we hosted **Wave Runners** (our games & movement rotation) where we gathered all our Sunday school classes, from the youngest through adults, into the fellowship hall for a birthday party for Jesus – complete with cake & candle as well as other goodies. Of course, we sang the birthday song for Jesus and also created a sticker nativity scene. We played a quiz game to see how well we know the Bible story of Jesus’ birth & the

difference between what it says and what people think it says. The two teams (Kids verses Adults) took turns spinning the game wheel and answering questions. It was wonderful to know you can still get the adults thinking! It was a close game & all went away with a little more knowledge in their heads & a candy cane in their hands.

January 8 begins our new rotation about the **Baptism of Jesus**. We look forward to sharing Jesus with your children. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in our Sunday school program. We would love to have you whether you can give a little or a lot. Our kids are such a blessing!

Many blessings to each of you for the new year!

Karen Martinez, Julie Nelson,
Cyndi Scarboro, and Lisa Weinstein

*Don’t forget to save your soda can pop tops for the
Ronald McDonald House*



The Joshua Tree



Cards for the Ronald McDonald House families



Youth Group Skate Night

Invest part of a weekend at Epworth, and help build our church's vitality & outreach

Now's the time to get registered for Savannah Presbytery's *Leadership Development Conference*, a weekend of insightful workshops, invigorating worship, and in-person connections with others from the 43 Presbyterian congregations in southeast Georgia.

This year's theme is on outreach and evangelism, featuring keynoter Lynette Hawkins. There are several dozen workshop choices in addition, some focused on specific topics for church officers, and others for anyone who wants to grow in their personal faith or their service in the local church.

This year's LDC also has added activities for youth, YOUth Connect. They also provide child care and activities for children, so entire families can attend. Registration is through your local church office, and is due January 22 for early-bird discounts. Congregations can also provide scholarship money to help anyone attend who would like to.

Many of the programs are especially helpful for ordained officers (thus the "Leadership" is in the name), however anyone from every congregation is invited to attend.

The conference at Epworth-By-The-Sea begins with Friday evening dinner, and continues through mid-afternoon Saturday. Register through your local congregation for discounts and scholarships. Full details and registration forms are at savannahpresbytery.org.



Congregational Meeting

The elders ask that we hold a **congregational meeting** Sunday morning, January 22 near the end of the 11:00 worship. This is our annual meeting on financial matters. You'll hear a report on our anticipated income and expenditures. Congregational action is also required to approve the "terms of call" between the pastor and the church (the only part of our budget that must be voted on by the full membership). The Session will recommend an overall outlay equal to last year: \$54,830 salary, housing and 403(b) contributions; \$18,456 insurance and pensions; and up to \$7,062 in reimbursements. All active members are encouraged to take part in this meeting, which usually runs 10 minutes or so. Guests and newcomers are welcomed to stay too.

Plan now for Summer Camp at New Ebenezer ~ June 18-23

The calendar may say it's winter, but Summer Church Camp is really just around the corner.

Christians consistently recall Summer camp and other outdoor and retreat ministries as one of the most significant events of their life and faith. Each summer, RHPC and Savannah Presbytery provide a week of those experiences at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center near Rincon.

This year's camps will be June 18-23. Various age groups attend various parts of the week, from an overnighiter with parents for grades K-1, to several days for older elementary through teens. Older youth can also apply to serve as counselors, crafts assistants and other helpers. Those selected would serve the full week. Adult volunteers will also be recruited. RHPC has a long tradition of being well represented on the camp staff.

The registration brochures will be out this spring, but we wanted to get the dates to you now, so that you can plan ahead. Final costs have not yet been set, but the presbytery tells us to expect the price to rise some this year, due to congregations' reduced giving to the presbytery. Still the presbytery – and RHPC – have prioritized Summer Camp, and we will find scholarship money to assist, so that everyone who wants to attend can.

Giving thanks, with a grateful heart

May God bless all the people who have empowered a full range of meaningful experiences throughout the four weeks of Advent and the twelve days of Christmas. So many volunteers have blessed our congregation and the community with music, meals, musicals, ministries, programs and decorations. We had a meaningful, memorable December around here!

► We give thanks to Norma Royals, Mary Lee Pennington, Joshua and Elizabeth Hanafin, Shannon Scarboro, Claire Weinstein, and each member of our adult choir who provided music to glorify the Christ Child. Our “Tinsel Town” Christmas musical was so wonderful! Our thanks go to each member of the cast, those who worked behind the scenes, and to those who served in particular leadership roles: John and Michelle Wilson, Fred and Sharla Taylor, Norma Royals, Cheryl Hahn, Susan Davis, and each of the families who provided rehearsal lunches.

► Our Presbyterian Women decorated the Bryan Neck Manse and the historic Church building, which were included in the community’s Tour of Homes. Lisa Weinstein, Holley Bensman, and our children and teens Sunday School classes carried out the Greening of our Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, with help from our deacons and others who helped to set up and take down decorations. A number of our households provided poinsettias.

► Getting to the heart of Christmas’ deepest meaning, many of our members reached beyond us to bring Christmas joy to people in need. We can be grateful for all who supported our missions with the Salvation Army’s “Giving Tree”, the local food pantry, Thornwell Home for Children, “Be An Angel” for the retiree at the Swainsboro Presbyterian Apartments, and Operation Christmas Child. Through our Deacons’ Fund, the pastor was also able to provide emergency housing and food assistance to several of our neighbors during December.

Ben Mathes of ROW brings world mission stories to us

International evangelist Ben Mathes makes a return visit to Richmond Hill on the last weekend of January. Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hosts Mathes for a weekend celebrating the Christian witness and humanitarian development projects of the "Rivers of the World" organization.

"ROW" is active in projects as diverse as economic development, construction of safe water wells, polio prevention, and supporting local churches in more than two dozen countries. Typically, these are centered around a river or other waterway; hence the name "Rivers of the World".



Ben was a guest speaker at RHPC about two years ago. The Rev. Dr. Mathes, an ordained Presbyterian minister, founded ROW in 1978 as his response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He typically is in a different country each month, and then uses personal visits, radio, and internet communication to tell how ROW is spreading the Good News, saving lives, fostering international peace, and enhancing communities. The ministry has an extensive website at www.row.org, and more details on its [Facebook](#) page. The ministry, which sends many hundreds of volunteers to river basins around the world, is headquartered in Dawsonville, near Lake Lanier north of Atlanta.

Dr. Mathes will preach at RHPC's 11:00 worship on Sunday morning, January 29. Earlier that morning, the congregation will host an informal time of storytelling and questions and answers at 9:45.

On Saturday evening, January 28, there will be a youth-oriented World Missions Night at the Presbyterian Church. While particularly geared for middle school and high school students, this program will certainly welcome younger children, college and career ages, and adults of every age. A meal will be offered at 6:30 (\$5 suggested donation to cover the cost of pizza.) The Saturday evening program and conversation will run from 6:30 to 9:00. *Please RSVP through the Youth Group's Facebook page, or contact the church office by e-mail or phone. Indicate whether you will attend the pizza dinner or program.*

We welcome a new member

Mary Lee Pennington is the newest active member of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church. She is a music educator and substitutes as an organist for us and other nearby churches. Our elders formally welcomed her into the fellowship of this congregation on December 12.

Her address is 1211 King George Blvd. Apt 22, Savannah, GA 31419, and her phone number is 921-8642.



Save the dates!

- Feb 3-4 Super Weekend Pork BBQ
- Feb 17-18 Leader Development Conference
- Feb 17-18 Presbytery Youth Event
- Feb 26 Communion / First Sunday in Lent
- Apr 5 Maundy Thursday Worship
- Jun 3-7 RHPC Vacation Bible School
- June 18-24 Summer Camp Week (New Ebenezer)
- 6/30 – 7/9 High School Mission Trip (Puerto Rico)
- July 14-22 Youth Mission Trip (Manassas, VA)
- July 18-22 National PW Gathering (Orlando)

2011 Contributions

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, experts in church and charitable tax regulations advise that you do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Your year-end statement have been mailed. Please contact Bobbie Lynes at 756-2339 if you have any questions or you have not received your statement.

Cub Scout Work Day

Cub Scout Pack 400 turned out on January 7 for a wonderful and productive morning of work on the grounds at RHPC. These young Scouts (grades 1-5), their parents, and Pack leaders did a major yard clean-up around our property as a way to thank the congregation for its support each year. The grounds look fantastic. RHPC appreciates your hard work and we appreciate each of you! *Thank you for a job well done, Cub Scout Pack 400!*

February 5 will be Boy Scout an Cub Scout Sunday at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lois Collum	b.1/2
Melinda Exley	b.1/2
Maryann Jones	b.1/3
Maria Brown	b.1/4
Isaac Novinski	b.1/6
Andrew Benjamin	b.1/16
Brice Ladson	b.1/18
Sib Haley	b.1/19
Noah Novinski	b.1/22
Jamie Parker	b.1/22
Al Hardy Jr.	b.1/24
Deb Hollis	b.1/24
Patsy Miller	b.1/24
Nicole Sisco	b.1/25
Keith Sisco	b.1/26
Dianna Scott	b.1/28
Jan Stover	b.1/29
Jim & Bobbie Lynes	w.1/31
Anthony Martinez	b.1/31

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tommy Denmark	b.2/2
Lexie Lynes	b.2/2
Roger Jones	b.2/5
Holley Bensman	b.2/8
Tom Hollis	b.2/8
Forester Scarboro	b.2/9
Louise Chapman	b.2/11
Michael Johnston	b.2/11
Norma Royals	b.2/13
Fred Taylor	b.2/13
Courtney Fisher	b.2/19
Lilo Connor	b.2/20
Brian & Happi Beisser	w.2/21
Emily Brown	b.2/24
Thelma Considine	b.2/24
Stephanie Reeve	b.2/25
Jack Barwick III	b.2/27
Richard Colwell	b.2/28
Claire Weinstein	b.2/28
Allison Sheppard	b.2/29

RHPC Weekly Schedule

Sundays

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Worship Celebration	11:00 AM
Lunch Bunch	12:15 PM

Mondays

Magnolia Manor Bible Study	10:00 AM
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Wednesdays

Youth Program	6:50 PM
Adult Choir Practice	7:00 PM

Thursdays

Soup Kitchen at RHUMC	1:00 PM
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“Word of Hope”, 459-7729 (PRAY) everyday

RHPC Sunday School offers Biblical knowledge and Christian living insights

Classes and groups are 9:45 to 10:30
Here are the current themes and topics

Adult Seekers	The Beatitudes
Adult Disciples:	1st and 2nd Peter
High School	“Spice Rack” Bible study
Middle School	“We Believe”
Elementary.....	“Jesus’ Baptism”
Preschool.....	Age-friendly activities
Toddler & Nursery.....	Child Care

Financial Update

(through December 29, 2011)

General Fund	December 2011	Year to Date
Contributions	\$17,790	\$197,645
Expenditures	\$22,404	\$236,807

New deacons and elders join RHPC’s leadership boards

Three new elders and three new deacons were ordained at worship on January 8, the next group of members to lead Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church.

Tami Garrett, Joan Chase and Thelma Considine will join the Session. (“Session” is the name for the board of elders in a Presbyterian congregation). They and the returning elders take the role of overall spiritual shepherds of the congregation, its life and its ministry.

New deacons are Friedrich Sedlak, Cyndi Scarboro and Gary Forbes. Primary among their tasks, deacons are those charged with carrying out compassion, mission and service – and teaching the full congregation to ministries of compassion and care.

One-third of these two boards rotate off each year. The congregation extends its appreciation to the leaders in the Class of 2011 for all the work they have carried out during their terms: deacons Graham Garrett, Lauren Bensman, Lisa Weinstein, Karen Martinez and Catie Bell; and elders Bob Wilson, Carol Benjamin and Janie Moore. While these members will take a break from active service on the boards, they will continue to hold their life-long ordinations, with the Christian responsibilities they hold within and beyond the church.

The New Year

*Dear Lord, as this New Year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.*

*Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,
Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,*

*It matters not—my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!*

*I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!*

--Martha Snell Nicholson

50 Days of Intentional Prayer for Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church 2012

From the beginning of the year, to the First Sunday of Lent, we join together to praise the Lord, seek God's blessings, and raise our commitment to God's church.

Sun	M	Tue	W	Thur	F	Sat
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 8 Pray for our Faithfulness	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 May God give us spiritual growth	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 for our witness and outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 We pray for our older members	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Pray for Savannah Presbytery	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Give thanks for our history	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 May our attitudes display our faith
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Pray for our Fruitfulness	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May our worship glorify the Lord	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Pray for our next 10 new members	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 We're grateful to be about mission	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Pray for our pastor & family	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Give thanks for current status	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 God, we celebrate the music you give
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Pray for our Passion	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Pray for RHPC's financial strength	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 May God bless our women's ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 for wise use of these facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 May God's will be done in us	<input type="checkbox"/> 27 May God guide upcoming years	<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Give God thanks for our church staff
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Pray for our Compassion	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 We pray for our younger members	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Pray for RHPC's Sunday classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1 May God raise up men's ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 May neighbors ask us about faith	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 our ministry to military families	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Pray that God's Truth is told daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Pray for our Fruitfulness	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 May God's will be done for us	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 for deepening friendships	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 May our ministry reach outward	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 for members & friends in pain	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 God, help us learn from the past	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 that <i>Membership</i> leads to <i>Discipleship</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Pray for our Passion	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 that God blesses church leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 that the national church is faithful	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Pray for all of RHPC's volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Give God praise for good health	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 God, help us bask in our present day	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 May God's will be done through us
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Pray for our Compassion	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 the ministries of South-Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 We entrust our troubles to God	<input type="checkbox"/> 22 May we catch fire for holy scripture	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 We pray for those in middle-age	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 God, ready us for an eager future	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 ...What is <i>God's</i> prayer for RHPC...?