



__ December 2017 __ **A VIEW FROM THE PULPIT**



King Herod the Great is one of the most interesting characters in the Christmas story. He was called “the Great” for some good reasons. In a country that was politically volatile and had changed rulers frequently, Herod brought stability and ruled for thirty-six years.

An ambitious builder, he reconstructed the Temple of Solomon and returned that symbol of Israel to prominence. Herod could also be generous. When a great famine struck Palestine in 25 BC Herod remitted all taxes from his burdened people. He even melted down his own golden plates to help the plight of the hungry.

But Herod had one terrible character flaw that grew worse with age. He was intensely jealous and protective of his power. If he suspected anyone of wanting to usurp the throne, he had them killed.

Alerted by the Wise Men that a new King had been born, Herod immediately tried to find Jesus and murder Him. He went so far as to kill all baby boys under two in Bethlehem. Under no circumstances would he yield his throne and surrender his power.

Do we ever see traces of Herod in ourselves? True, I don't think any of us would kill for power. But at a far more subtle level, we want to have absolute control over our own lives. We want to call our own shots, erect our own temples, and rule our own kingdoms. And when our control is threatened, don't we want to eliminate the source of the threat.

To encounter the newborn Jesus at Christmas is a joyful experience. We all like Babies and celebrations. But to kneel with shepherds and Wise Men and proclaim Jesus King of our lives is quite a different thing.



As we approach this Christmas, there are decisions to be made by each of us. Who will this Christ child be? A cute and darling Baby? Or a strong and life-changing King? How will we receive Him? As the Day arrives let our choice be clear. May we have the wisdom and strength to kneel at Bethlehem and make Jesus Our King.

Rev. George Walton
Stated Supply Pastor



2017 Christmas Cantata

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.** and **plan to attend our annual Christmas Cantata.** The musical program this year is called “**Bethlehem Morning**” and promises to uplift and embrace each heart with a wonderful mix of traditional and contemporary medleys. If you would like to be a part of an evening filled with beautiful and memorable sounds of Worship as performed by a gifted and passionate choir, then this special night, my dear friends, is where you should be. We invite all to join us and remind everyone to please ask others to attend. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following our program. May God guide you to His House safely!



Session Corner

Highlights from Stated Meeting held Nov 12, 2017

Did you know our pastor, Rev. Walton, baked 4 pies for the Bazaar and he and members of his family sang at the Bazaar? Also last month he made 9 home visits, 1 Men's meeting, 1 Session meeting, and 4 choir practices.

The Christmas Cantata, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. will include refreshments following in the Fellowship Hall. Please come.

On December 17th the 2018 Lifetime Award will be given and the Women will hold a reception following the service in honor of the recipient. You really won't want to miss this.

As is our tradition, the Christmas Eve Service will include Communion by Intinction. The battery operated candles have replaced the traditional candles thus reducing the fire hazard to our beautiful church. Please join us Christmas Eve for that service at 7:00 p.m. and experience the true joy of Christmas with your church family.

Patrick Kelly has served Buffalo as an active ruling elder for the past 6 years and as clerk for 3 years. On behalf of the Session and the Congregation, THANK YOU, Patrick.

Installation of the 2019 Class of Elders; Karen Johnson, Kathy Jolly and newly elected, Lee Setzer; will be held during worship on January 7, 2018. Please thank these elders for their sacrifice and recommitment as Session members.

Next Stated Session Meeting will be January 14, 2018.

Jean Wilberg
Assistant to the Clerk

THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 19, 2017



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

What a wonderful gathering our annual Thanksgiving Meal turned out to be. This is always such a fun time of good food and good fellowship. Thank you to all who contributed to this special event.

The THANK Offering was collected and will be used to help women and children around the world.

The Women's Joint Circle Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. It will be hosted by the Sunshine Circle. We will participate in our annual stocking fund at this time. All ladies are invited to attend.

A very special event will be held on December 17th as Buffalo Women present the Lifetime Achievement to a dedicated member of our congregation. A reception honoring our recipient will be held following the service. It will be a wonderful day of celebration and appreciation. We look forward to seeing everyone there for this special occasion.

Jackie Frie
Buffalo Women



MARIE, JEANNE, LARRY, REV. MCDOWELL, and J.W.



JERRY and TAMMY

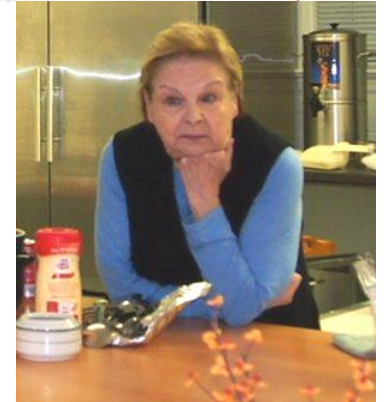
LOGAN



REV. WALTON, LEE, and ELIZABETH



ANDY and SHEILA



PAT



KEN and CASH



SARAH



KALLAN, KARI, MIKE, and HOLLY

MORE THANKSGIVING DINNER PICTURES



PERRY and BONNIE



MARY, J.W., and MARIE GETTING SOME OF THAT WONDERFUL FOOD



JERRY and REV. MCDOWELL



MIKE and DR. CILIBERTO



J.W. and MARY



SUSAN, SHEILA, and ANDY



ANNE, JAN, and LARRY



ANDY, NELSON, KATHY, and BOB



BOB, JEANNE, and SUSAN

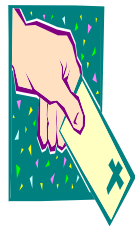
Remember with love and prayer:



CHURCH MEMBERS: Lynda Bowers, Sheila Brewer, Nellie Cox, Greg Deck, Barbara Jo Glass, Bobby Johnson, Sandie Lemons, Lois Martin, Pam McDonald, and Pat Moerke

FAMILY OF CHURCH MEMBERS: Mac Britts, Faye Burns, Vernell Cersosimo, Linda Crompton, MacKenzie Deck, Brielle Frear, Lynn Godwin, Carolyn Harrell, Inez Holt, Michael Holt, Stanley Jones, Taylor Jones, David Key, Elaine McBryde, Sam McClearn, Susan Richardson, Marie Robinson, Carson Setzer, Barbara Suggs, Doug Ury, and Allison Williams

FRIENDS OF CHURCH MEMBERS: William Anderson, Ruth Berryman, Jarrett Blackwell, Billy Boaz, Susan Bristow, Noah Clifton, Wendy Cole, Michelle Daurity, Billy Edwards, Jim Griggs, Dr. Earlie Hill, Leroy Hughes, Eva Jones, Will Kirkland, Kasyn Kolacinski, Judy Lloyd, Pat Maguire, Rebecca Mansfield, Wendy McBryde, Chris McRae, Althios Morales, Mary Quinn, Sue Roney, Stella Smith, Frank Tibbett, Averie Turner, Sandra Ward, and Emily H. Wright



WEEKLY OFFERING TOTALS

November 05, 2017 – \$2372.00
November 12, 2017 – \$ 706.00
November 19, 2017 – \$1868.00
November 26, 2017 – \$ 878.00
5 Cents A Meal Offering – \$85.70
BackPack Kids Offering – \$95.30



Deadline for articles to be included in the next issue of the newsletter will be Wed., December 20th by 9:00 a.m.



FLOWERS WILL BE PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY DURING DECEMBER BY THE FOLLOWING:

Dec. 3 - 24 – OPEN
Dec. 31st – by Mike & Missy Cersosimo in honor of their mother, Anne Altmayer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Dec. 02nd – Justin Lemons **Dec. 14th – Missy Cersosimo**
Dec. 11th – Frances Foushee **Dec. 15th – Cathy Bridges**
Dec. 11th – Betty Robinson **Dec. 17th – Elizabeth Roundy**
Dec. 13th – Hope Frye **Dec. 22nd – Darlene McNeill**
Dec. 25th – Lynda Bowers



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/GREETER

December 03rd **Buddy McNeill**
December 10th **J. W. Bailes**
December 17th **Larry Collins**
December 24th **Karen Johnson**
December 31st **Kathy Jolly**



EMAIL: buffalochurch@windstream.net

SEE THE NEWSLETTER IN COLOR AT: www.buffalopres.org



CHRISTMAS REPRESENTATIONS



Did you know that the chopping down of the Christmas tree represents the death of Christ and putting it back up again represents the resurrection of Christ? Did you know that the wreaths we hang are never ending circles that represent eternity? Candy canes were made to look like shepherd hooks and the color red, Jesus' blood and white, purity. The gifts, represents the three gifts the wise men brought for Jesus. So when you are running around trying to get the "perfect gift", stop yourself, take a deep breath, and remember we have been given the perfect gift, Jesus Christ was given to us to remove all of our sins.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! ~ Sandie Lemons



Happy Halloween from our new, little monster.
 Love Britt, Anna & Kenna

**BRITT AND ANNA'S NEW BABY
 KENNA CARPENTER – Born October 2, 2017**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Sunday School Class meets from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. For the month of December, we will study the following lessons:

December 03rd **Faith in Jesus**
Acts 3
December 10th **Faith to Discern**
Acts 13: 1-12
December 17th **Faith to Persevere**
Acts 14; Colossians 2: 6-7
December 24th **Faithful Seekers of the King**
Matthew 2: 1-12
December 31st **Faith to Unite**
Ephesians 4



John's whole life was about the sea. At an early age, he became a sailor, eventually joining the Royal Navy of Britain. He loved the life of the sailor and he lived it. He was a coarse and vile man who it right in with all the other sailors. When he left the Navy, he soon became a captain of another boat. This boat carried cargo, but not just any cargo – humans. He oversaw a slave ship. He had no problem with his life's work.

On one journey, the boat that he was in experienced a great storm. Things were not looking good for John. Like many people, he made a deal with God. If he would survive, he could consider this Christianity thing. He did survive, and true to his word, he began to read a Bible and some Christian literature. By the time he got home, he had given his life to Jesus. Unfortunately, he did not give up the slave trade (he did give up drinking and cussing). Eventually, God softened his heart to see the horrors of his trade.

Post slave trade, John became a couple of things. He became an abolitionist who inspired William Wilberforce. Wilberforce would become the most important figure in the fight against the slave trade. John also became a preacher. It took many years to get there, but once he did, he was all in.

The most famous work John undertook (at least to most of us) was that of a hymn writer. He would try to write a hymn for his congregation whenever he could. He became famous for many of his hymns. We do not sing most of the songs he wrote, but there is one that we all know and love. John Newton, the horrible slave trader, was the author of "*AMAZING GRACE.*" I imagine that these words were always in his heart from his conversion. A man that was involved in one of the most disgusting trades knew what it was like to be a "wretch." He also knew how amazing the grace of God is that would save a man like him. Remember, the next time you sing that song – *God used a slave trader to write it.* He can use us to do incredible things, also.



DECK THE HALLS!

Jingle with us on **Saturday morning, December 2nd**, as we un-jangle the ornaments and get the greens hung. There's lots of laughing and teasing, too. Coffee and treats will be ready for you at **9:00 a.m.**





CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 10th

6:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S JOINT CIRCLE

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 11th

6:00 p.m.





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE with COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

Sunday, December 24th

7:00 p.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BUFFALO CHURCH OFFICE.....776-7313
 Email: buffalochurch@windstream.net
 SUPPLY PASTOR, Rev. George Walton.....498-1467
 GUEST PASTOR, Rev. Gilbert McDowell.....776-2292
 SECRETARY, Janet Warner.....842-3044
 DISBURSING TREASURERS, Kathy Jolly.....774-1997
 Ken Frie.....775-5097
 RECEIVING TREASURERS, Nelson Burke.....774-1997
 Lee Setzer.....775-7881
 CHOIR DIRECTOR, Jim Monson.....774-7263
 ORGANIST, Pat Kelly.....258-3908

THE SESSION

2017

Karen Johnson	Worship/Christ Ed, Cong Care	770-1709
Kathy Jolly	Administration Committee	774-1997
Patrick Kelly	Clerk of Session	776-3788

2018

J. W. Bailes	Cong Care & Fellowship	352-2017
Larry Collins	Worship/Christian Ed.	776-5592
Buddy McNeill	Worship/Christian Ed.	776-4844
Jean Wilberg	(Assistant Clerk of Session)	718-6009

TRUSTEES, Frances Foushee, Chair.....775-7619
 Bobby Johnson.....776-4083
 Buddy McNeill.....776-4844

PM PRESIDENT, Lee Setzer.....775-7881
 PM TREASURER, J. W. Bailes.....352-2017
 PW MODERATOR, Jackie Frie.....775-5097
 CO-MODERATOR, Anne Collins.....776-5592
 PW SECRETARY, Jan Renwick.....776-7914
 PW TREASURER, Pat Setzer.....775-7881
 HISTORIAN, Sheila Brewer.....776-8091
 MARY LOU CAMPBELL, Marie Macko.....774-1657
 SUNSHINE CIRCLE, Anne Collins.....776-5592
 FLOWER CHAIR, Geri Hales.....775-3770
 BUFFALO WEBSITE.....www.buffalopres.org