



Santa Fe

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SANTA FE EXPRESSIONS

DECEMBER 2021

Advent and Christmas at Santa Fe 2021

<i>Friday, November 26th</i>	<i>6:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Day of Prayer</i>
<i>Saturday, November 27th</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>"Decking the Halls"</i> <i>Decorating the church for Christmas</i>
<i>Sunday, November 28th</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>"Hanging of the Greens"</i> <i>Special worship with music and scripture</i>
<i>Sunday, December 5th</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service</i>
<i>Saturday, December 11th</i>	<i>8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Advent Retreat</i>
<i>Sunday, December 12th</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service</i>
<i>Sunday, December 19th</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Lessons and Carols"</i>
<i>Sunday, December 19th</i>	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Caroling</i> <i>Followed by a pizza and salad dinner</i>
<i>Friday December 24th</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. family service</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Vigil</i>
<i>Friday, December 24th</i>	<i>11:00 p.m. Candle light</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Vigil</i> <i>Ensemble</i>
<i>Sunday, December 26th</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Casual Worship Service</i>



Church Wide Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 19th, at 4 p.m.

Let's all join together for a fun evening of caroling around town and then enjoying pizza at the end of our evening! This is for EVERYONE!!

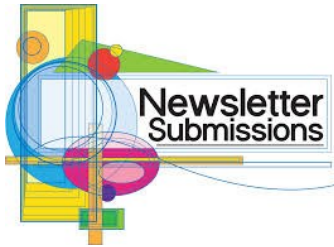
On Sunday afternoon, December 19th, we will meet at the church at 4:00 and take the bus to a couple of assisted living homes and a couple of homes. (If you prefer, you can follow the bus in your own car.)

After caroling, we will go to Martin and Martha McNeese's home and have Hideaway Pizza. PLEASE sign up on Narthex table or call the office---341-3300—and let us know how many are attending so we have plenty of food and drinks!

Only requirement is a fun, loving, and warm heart as we try to make a joyful noise unto the Lord for members of our church family and others wherever we go. You may bring snacks to share with everyone if you'd like.

Deacons

Pam Ballew is the Deacon leader for December. Hospital visitation is available for both members of our congregation and friends of Santa Fe. Please contact **Pam** with any requests; or **Eleen** in the office.
405-341-3300



The deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, December 17th. Please have your print ready articles to the office by the end of that day.



Treasurer's Corner

	Unrestricted Funds		
	October	Year to Date	Monthly average
<u>General Fund</u>			
Operating revenue	\$ 41,745.72	\$ 429,063.28	\$42,906.33
SaFe reimbursements - other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ -	
Total revenue	\$41,745.72	\$ 429,063.28	\$42,906.33
Operating expenses	\$ 51,106.05	\$ 449,333.40	\$ 44,933.34
Operating net income or (Loss)	\$ (9,360.33)	\$ (20,270.12)	\$ (2,027.01)
Gain or (Loss) on TPF Funds	Current Value	12/31/2020 Value	Gain/Loss YTD
TPF Endowment Fund	\$441,649.20	\$ 384,823.84	\$56,825.36
TPF Scholarship Fund	\$ 41,805.13	\$ 41,823.08	\$ (17.95)
TPF Reserve Fund	\$346,646.67	\$ 246,630.02	\$ 100,016.65
TPF Building Fund	\$130,021.22		
Total	\$960,122.22	\$ 673,276.94	\$ 156,824.06

Santa Fe Presbyterian Church

Officers

Elders

Dave Lautenschlager
Martin McNeese
Cindy Thomas
Diane Hughes
Stephanie McGee
Tracy Reed
Chuck Creamer
Tom Freeman
Glen McCall
Ann Stewart

Deacons

Kathy Brock
Hannah Shattuck
Carol White
Pam Ballew
Charlotte Langley
Jackie Wall
Charlie Corey
Melody McKittrick
Leigh Miller

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Mitch Miller
mitch@santafechurch.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Laurel Hall
laurel@santafechurch.org

Director of Music
Aiya Attaway Kelley
aiya@santafechurch.org

Assistant Director of Music
Ivan Wong
ivan@santafechurch.org

SaFe Day Director
Nancy Johnson
director@santafedayschool.org
844-1033

Administrative Assistant
Eleen Svanas
eleen@santafechurch.org

Clerk of session:
Greg Svanas

Revenue was a little below the average and expenses were up mostly due to replacing air conditioner units. The session approved moving the Edward Jones accounts to the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) as well as the building fund that was held by CrossFirst Bank.

Note: If you have questions please call Martin McNeese at 348-3495 or email him at mmcneese@cox.net.



SaFe Day School



SaFe Day had their annual Thanksgiving feast and Food Drive for the Urban Mission

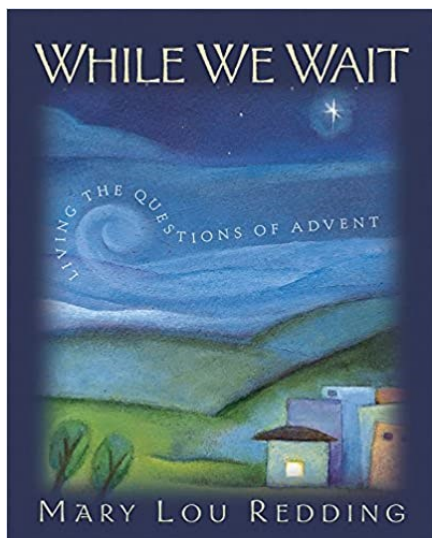
SaFe Day School did a great job collecting toys, food and clothing to donate to people in need at The Urban Mission. Thank you so much to everyone who donated!! You are all very much appreciated!!

Christmas Joy Offering



On the Sunday before Christmas, (Dec. 19), we will be collecting for the Christmas Joy Offering. This is one of 4 Special Offerings of the PC(USA). It is used to provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need AND to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. After serving the church for many years, a retired minister may incur medical expenses that are not fully covered by retirement health insurance. The Christmas Joy Offering is used to assist this minister. A young single mother studying at Stillman College may need additional support to pay for housing for herself and her young child. The Christmas Joy Offering is used to assist this future leader of our church.

Church-wide Read and Retreat for Advent



The Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to participate in a church-side read for Advent of "While We Wait." A limited number of copies will be available at the church. If you are worshipping at home but would like to participate in the read, please contact the office and we will order a copy for you and have it delivered directly to your home. A description of the book follows.

Sometimes we struggle to believe we'll experience anything new as Advent comes around. What could we possibly learn that we haven't seen or heard before? If you're looking for an Advent study of a different slant, *While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent* offers new ways of connecting the story with your own questions of faith and approaches an all-too-familiar narrative from perspectives we may have missed.

A retreat will be held on Saturday, December 11, from 8:30—2:30 to discuss the book. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sign up in the narthex to

reserve your spot!

December Calendar

**Wednesday, December 1st**

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Pilgrimage Renewal Group	12:00 pm
Intercessory Prayer	3:30 pm
Youth Group	6:00 pm
Choir	7:00 pm

Thursday, December 2nd

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Outreach Committee	6:00 pm
Worship Committee	7:15 pm

Friday, December 3rd

Mom's Club	9:00 am
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Saturday, December 4th

Girl Scouts	3:00 pm
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Sunday, December 5th**Dedication Sunday**

Worship	11:00 am
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Tuesday, December 7th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Staff Meeting	11:30 am
Deacon Meeting	7:00 pm
Boy Scout Troop 94	7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 8th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Pilgrimage Renewal Group	12:00 pm
Intercessory Prayer	3:30 pm
Youth Group	6:00 pm
Choir	7:00 pm

Thursday, December 9th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Christian Education	7:00 pm

Saturday, December 11th

Advent Retreat	8:30 am
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Sunday, December 12th

Worship	11:00 am
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Monday, December 13th

Caregivers Support Group	7:00 pm
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Tuesday, December 14th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Staff Meeting	11:30 am
Boy Scout Troop 94	7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 15th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Pilgrimage Renewal Group	12:00 pm
Intercessory Prayer	3:30 pm
Youth Group	6:00 pm
Choir	7:00 pm

Thursday, December 16th

SaFe Day School	9:30 am
Session	7:00 pm

Friday, December 17th

Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, December 18th

Girl Scouts	3:00 pm
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Sunday, December 19th**Lessons & Carols**

Worship	11:00 am
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Tuesday, December 21st

Staff Meeting	11:00 am
Hannah Circle	6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 22nd

Staff Meeting	11:00 am
Pilgrimage Renewal Group	12:00 pm
Intercessory Prayer	3:30 pm
Choir	7:00 pm

Friday, December 24th

Church Office Closes	12:30 pm
Christmas Family Service	5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Vigil	11:00 pm

Saturday, December 25th**Christmas Day****Sunday, December 26th**

Worship	11:00 am
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Tuesday, December 28th

Staff Meeting	11:00 am
Church Office Closes	12:30 pm

Wednesday, December 29th

Pilgrimage	12:00 pm
Intercessory Prayer	3:30 pm
Choir	7:00 pm

Friday, December 31st

New Year's Eve	
Church Office Closes	12:30 pm



Birthdays



Dec. 2	Angela Ooten
Dec. 3	Jennifer McMahan
	Jayshawn Ooten
Dec. 5	Ian McCall
Dec. 8	Nathan Creamer
Dec 9	Aria Corey
Dec. 12	Becky Mannel
Dec. 15	Wade Cockrill
	Carol White
Dec. 16	Spencer Windholz
Dec. 20	Mary Clyde Flesher
Dec. 21	Mike Reed
Dec. 22	Dianne Allred
	Jessica McMahan
Dec. 23	Caroline Kilgo
Dec. 25	Jesus
Dec. 31	Carol Schwabe
	Mindy Windholz



Our worship schedule is changing! Our new service schedule will begin January 2nd. Our early service will begin at 8:30 a.m., our late service at 10:30. A new casual contemporary service will begin on Wednesday evenings following the Wednesday Night Dinner.

Sunday School for all ages will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



There's still time to purchase your own Santa Fe ornament!

See Laurel to purchase or reserve yours!

Music Notes

Happy December from your Santa Fe Music Department! What an exciting time of the year it is in the church world! On Thanksgiving Sunday, the Chancel Choir made its debut after the long break and it was a great day for all! Choir members were bursting to get going and did a fantastic job showing us all what they are capable of! That being said, they are gearing up for their upcoming Christmas cantata, "Good News From Home," and you will definitely want to be in the church house for this event. So, please mark your calendars for December 19th at 11:00, and join us for a great service!



Up to this point, many have stepped forward to gift us with beautiful presentations of music and readings, and we thank each of them for their hard work. Thank you to Pastor Mitch and Leigh who graciously took our handbells to be refurbished and made it back, safely, which means that we are ready to get the Bell Choir members together so that we can get some lovely pieces prepared for the congregation. If you, or anyone whom you know, are interested in joining our Santa Fe Bell Choir, please contact me as soon as possible! We plan to rehearse just after Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wednesdays.

If you think that we look like we are having a lot of fun in the music department, you are correct! Hard work can be fun, and we are making sure that there is a good mix of both! We would love to have you to bring your musical talents and join us! We are looking ahead to great things in 2022 and want everyone to be a part of the endless possibilities at Santa Fe Presbyterian Church!

Prayerfully,

Aiyya Kelley
Director of Music



Beyond the Pulpit



Greetings; may the grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord be with you all.

It was almost two weeks BEFORE Halloween when I saw the first Christmas decorations on sale and the heard first Christmas songs on the radio. Remember when it all started the weekend after Thanksgiving? Now we can't even get past our Halloween candy comas without being in-undated with the "Christmas Spirit." (Ugh), I have come to despise the use of that phase in our modern media and conversation. It is not so much the commercialization and secularization of Christmas that bothers me as it is the loss of meaning and true Spiritual depth of the season. But then, Christmas has always been a double-edged sword.

One hundred seventy-eight years ago, that's 1843, Christmas was not a big holiday. Yes it was lifted up and celebrated with church services as the birth of Christ, but little more. That changed very quickly with the publication of one book, yes, you guessed it, A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens' classic book about the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Which itself was a double-edged sword.

Dickens had already reached great heights in the literary world, but at just 31, he was in crisis. His debts were mounting, his career was stalling, and he feared his time and creativity were already finished. He was desperate for a successful book.

Yet at the same time, he was haunted by the specter of poverty, working conditions of common laborers, and particularly child labor. For months he had been working on the idea of a pamphlet lifting up these problems as he saw them. He truly had a desire to make a positive impact on the culture of early Victorian England, moving the ignorant toward understanding and those in power from apathy to action.

At some point, he came to the idea of taking his concern and putting it into a book, one he hoped would accomplish his mission for the poor, and one that would alleviate his own professional and financial woes.

The book was an immediate commercial success. His finances changed and his reputation as an author restored. As for the plight of those others he sought to help? Well according to the experts, charitable giving increased substantially, and the efforts of reformers found new and powerful allies in society and government. The sharp edge of his work cut deep and helped effect real change in policy, law and personal behavior. For this we should be greatly thankful.

But remember, I said it was a double-edged sword. The other result is that Christmas became popular and was imbedded in the minds of everyone who read A Christmas Carol and beyond. The un-intended consequence was that his commercially successful book laid the seeds for the modern-day commercialization of Christmas, and for that, I think we can be allowed some mixed feelings.

That is the context behind A Christmas Carol. But I have no intention to go on a rant bashing what popular culture has done with Christmas, or A Christmas Carol. Instead I am challenging you to look deeper into Christmas. Rediscover the depths of its Spiritual meanings and look again at the not so subtle messages of justice, kindness, joy and redemption in the birth of Jesus as well as Dickens' story.

Today's "Christmas Spirit" (ugh) is opening doors, the same doors upon which Jesus has been knocking. Now is the time for us to put a foot in the door and invite our friends, family, co-workers and strangers to come celebrate with us and learn about the real love at the heart of the Christmas season. Take the time to lift up and dwell on the real miracle of Christmas, the Incarnation. For the Incarnation is the fullest measure of the love we experience in the season around Christmas. Even in the church we allow ourselves to get so wrapped up in the birth of Jesus and the background story of the Nativity that we sometimes forget that the Incarnation, God becoming "one of us," is the real miracle and mystery.

In Jesus Christ, God lowered himself to put on our humanity and experience life just as we do. What an amazing thing to comprehend, God became less for the purpose of serving us.

Our theology teaches us that it was necessary so that we might know the love of God and be saved. Our Scripture reminds us that God did so, because he "so loved the world." And our hearts tell us that it is true. But what does it mean to you that God loved you enough to become like you? Imagine what it might be like for those who have never thought of Christmas that way.

The love that caused God to take such a drastic course of action should stir within us the same love for others and in time the most exceeding joy! For truly, everyday, we should shout, "Joy to the world!" for in the birth of the child in Bethlehem, the Lord has come to save us. Let this thought brighten your life and warm your heart beyond anything else that this wonderful season offers. Pray about it, meditate on it, and find someone to share it with. Let this exciting time of the year and the incarnation, the coming of God into your heart, bring a change in you that is beyond even that of Ebenezer Scrooge.

The real miracle behind the season is the Incarnation and the love that caused it to happen, don't let yourself, or anyone else over-look it. "And as Tiny Tim would say, 'God bless us, everyone.'"

Yours in Christ, Mitchell Lee Miller



Santa Fe Presbyterian Church
1603 North Santa Fe Avenue
Edmond, OK 73003

Missions



We are again collecting food for Urban Mission Food Resource Center, with our Reverse Advent calendar to help their clients have a special holiday season. We will deliver the food on Dec. 13 as Urban Mission will be closed beginning December 15 for the holidays. We tried to incorporate food that

families with kids use, as kids won't be getting school lunches.

Copies of the calendar are available in the narthex.