MONTH AT GLANCE - DECEMBER 2021



Tis the season for preparation! It's the time of year when we so often spin into shepherds were terri holiday overdrive--decorations, cards, gifts, cookies, tree trimming. These annual rituals tell us that it is time to prepare for the coming of the Christ child. And the church participates in many of these same rituals of preparation--lighting Advent So this Advent, as you candles, singing Advent hymns, rehearsing

for the children's pageant, putting up the Chrismon tree, giving to the ICM food drive, adopting a child at Nicholas House. These traditions remind us that something significant is coming.

Because, after all, we know the story. We wait and prepare with expectation for a story that we have rehearsed again and again throughout the years.

In this season, I often wonder if there is room still to be surprised by God. Mary certainly was: "How can this be, God?" she asks. Elizabeth and Zechariah were surely shocked when their barrenness opened up and made way for John the Baptist. The shepherds were terrified (sore afraid, as Peanuts tells it) by the news of Christ's birth. Expectant parents "nest" for months before a baby arrives, and then quickly learn (or at least I did) that while all that nesting was helpful, there's a whole lot that we are surprised by (and totally unprepared for) when we meet new life for the first time.

So this Advent, as you go about your preparations, as you rekindle traditions put off for a year because of Covid, as you lean into the rituals that mark this season and this time, I wonder if you also will be open to being surprised by God and by how the promise of new life might welcome you to change your patterns and your outlook. I wonder if you will be open to hearing God call you--to bear God's Word in the world, to go and tell the story, to come and meet God face to face.

WITH ADVENT EXPECTATION AND HOLY WONDER,
PASTOR KATIE



ADVENT PLAYLIST

Looking for some musical accompaniment this Advent season? Check out Pastor Emma's Advent playlist. It's full of songs to help us with our holy preparation as we wait for the arrival of Jesus.

Click <u>here</u> to listen.

ADVENT FESTIVAL & MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

Join us Sunday morning, December 5 for an event for all ages!

Drop by anytime between 9:00–10:15 a.m. when we will be making Advent wreaths, decorating holiday cookies, and enjoying fellowship together along with other festive activities.

At 10:20, we will begin the well-loved tradition of a Moravian Love Feast.



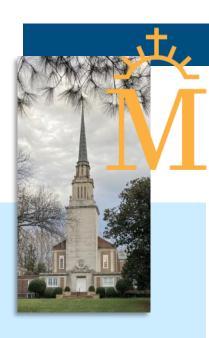
FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Every year, Advent prepares us for the arrival of Jesus. He, perhaps rightly so, gets all of our attention, but Jesus certainly isn't the only person of note during this season. Who else is vital to our experience of Advent -- pointing us to Jesus? Over four Sundays, Faith Development will explore other characters & characteristics who enrich the story of Jesus' birth."



JOURNEY TOGETHER: FOLLOW THE STAR OUTDOOR PROGRESSIVE LESSONS & CAROLS

This Christmas Eve Eve (12/23), follow the star to hear the Christmas story through scripture and song. Click below to sign up for a time slot and for more specific information. At each stop, you'll hear a portion of the Christmas story and sing a familiar carol. Sign up here.



WORSHIP TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

12/5—2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **COMMUNION**

Caution: Roadwork Ahead Malachi 3:1-4: Luke 3:1-6 Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

12/12—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **CHILDREN'S PAGEANT**

Philippians 4:4-7

12/19—4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Plan B

Luke 1:39-45

Katie Owen Aumann, preaching Handbell Choir plays

12/23-6 p.m. OUTDOOR PROGRESSIVE **LESSONS & CAROLS**

Register here!

12/24-5 p.m. & 8 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE

Lessons & Carols with Candlelight Isaiah 9; Luke 2 Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

12/26—CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

Unpacking Christmas:

A Service of Healing & Wholeness Amanda Kemery, preaching



Realm.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHURCH TREASURER COMPLETE YOUR 2021 PLEDGE

At this time of year, many of us like to make sure we have fulfilled our pledge and, if we can, to make an extra year-end gift.

- You can look up the status of your pledge on Realm. Just click on the GIVING tab on your page after logging in.
- If you haven't signed up for Realm, now would be a great time to do so. Email the office to request access.

As you know, there are several ways to make a contribution.

- You may place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.
- You can mail it to the church office (1411 N Morningside Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30306).
- You can use your bank's "BillPay" function to have an amount sent from your account.
- You can give online (www.mornngsidepc.org and click "Donate Online").
- If you are 72 or older and have a "Required Minimum Distribution" (RMD) from your traditional IRA, you can have part of your distribution sent to the church as a "Qualified Charitable Distribution." This meets the RMD requirement but is not taxed. Check with your IRA trustee.
- If you'd like to donate securities, please be in touch with me (bill48@bellsouth.net) so that I can give you instructions and alert our broker. If you plan on one of these last two options, it is a good idea to do it now to assure execution before yearend.

Of course, most important of all – join us for worship and many of the other wonderful holiday celebrations! - Bill Humphries



WORSHIP · SERVE · GROW · BE OUTNEY Together

Elder Class of 2024

Liz Mills (Fellowship) joined Morningside in 2019 and is excited to serve as an elder because, "it will help me learn more about my faith and community."



Leslie Prince (Engagement) joined Morningside in 2004. "I'm excited to serve because there's so much good work to be done along this journey!"

Stephen Roach (Property) joined Morningside in 2014 and is excited to serve as an elder because, "I can give back to the church and community that has given my family and me so much the past seven years."





Kim Rockwood (Communications) joined Morningside in 2004. "I am excited to serve as an elder because I want to give more of myself and my talents to this wonderful community that's supported me and my family for so long."

Carol Senf (Matthew 25) joined Morningside in 2005 after attending the former Clifton Presbyterian Church for almost 20 years. She is excited to serve as an elder because, "I can give back to the church and community that has given my family and me so much the past seven years."





Mia Smith (Youth Elder) was confirmed here at MPC in 2018. She is excited to be serving as an elder this year because "I am hoping to keep the church as welcoming and loving to new members as it has been to me all these years."

David Terry (Finance) joined MPC in 2011. "I am excited to serve as an elder because practicing good stewardship is a tangible, meaningful area where I can contribute my time and talent to ensure MPC's ongoing health and success - and advance the good work MPC is doing in our community."



Jeff Peters (Elder, Class of 2023) joined Morningside in 2007. Jeff serves on Session, sings in the Chancel Choir, directs the Handbell Choir and Morningside Sings! annual fundraising production. He's also involved with LGBT & Friends.

David Lowery (Deacon, Class of 2023) first became affiliated with MPC in 2012 when his kids started the preschool and the next year, 2013, started serving on the preschool committee until 2016. "In 2017, I joined MPC

and have since been involved with the Children's Ministry, Deacons, LGBT & Friends, and Parenting Sunday School."

Deacon Class of 2024

Natalie Batchelor joined Morningside in 2011 and is excited to serve as a deacon because "I am grateful for the care and comfort I have received from our MPC community over the years, so this will be an opportunity for me to pay it forward." Natalie is filling a vacancy in the Class of 2023.





Joe Brady joined Morningside in 2006. "I am excited to serve as a deacon because I want to give back to the church home which has given me so much, which has shared in my joys, and which has seen me through a few difficulties over the years."

Sarah Brownlee joined Morningside in 1988 and is excited to serve as a deacon, because, "I have been incredibly blessed, and this is one tiny thing that I can do to express my gratitude to God and to my church family."





Nathan Hartman joined Morningside in 2019. Nathan is excited to serve as a deacon to "fulfill my calling in service to others."

Bill Southwood joined Morningside in 2005. "I am excited to serve as a deacon because it is a way of affirming my commitment to MPC, and supporting our congregation by being responsive to this request for my service." Bill is filling a vacancy in the Class of 2022.





Kimberly Williams joined Morningside in 2016. "I am excited to serve as a deacon because I want build relationships and be a helpful member of our church community."

Officer Nominating Committee

Miranda Brownlee (Elder, Class of 2024) was confirmed in 2000 here at MPC. Miranda is currently involved with serving on Session, Women's Roundtable, the handbell choir, Memorial Drive work days, and as a youth advisor.





Tom Daniel (At-large) joined MPC in 2008. He is involved with the Faith Development Sunday School Class, Theology on Tap and is completing a term as Deacon.

Emilie Paille (At-large) has been a member of Morningside since 2005. She

is currently involved in the Faith Development Sunday School Class, Meals on Wheels, Partner with the Preacher, Women's Roundtable, LGBT & Friends, and MPC Couples & Friends.



THANK YOU TO OUT-GOING CLASS

OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

We've been reminded in great detail throughout the pandemic that the church is not a building, it's the people. And in the Presbyterian Church, those called to be elders and deacons are "called out by the body to serve the body." This particular class of leaders has been a tremendous gift to each of us in their wisdom, patience, discernment, and service. They have offered prayerful and energized leadership to the congregation through a pastoral transition and a pandemic. I think the elders set the record for the most number of Session meetings during a single three-year term. The deacons stepped up in dramatic ways to ensure the congregation stayed connected. Each of them offered their compassion and energy to ensure that the congregation was cared for. But they also never lost sight of our call to reach out to a hurting world through a difficult time. Please join me in thanking each of these faithful

servants when you see them. They've earned a well-deserved rest and a prayer of gratitude for all they have given!

ELDER CLASS OF 2021

- Carol Southwood
- Kyle Ulep
- Michael Lowry
- Tamara Nix
- Mark Gilbreath
- Katie Davis
- Will Hunter

DEACON CLASS OF 2021

- Kelly Anderson
- Tom Daniel
- Rachel Reed
- Charlsie Wooley

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS,
PASTOR KATIE, SESSION MODERATOR
PASTOR EMMA, DEACONS

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MPC IN PICTURES





THE ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT ST. PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL DECEMBER 3 @ 8 P.M. DECEMBER 4 @ 1 P.M. DECEMBER 4 @ 6 P.M.

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS MPC is AGMC's homebase and we are proud.

This year the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Their annual holiday show at The Cathedral of St Philip is always a must see event and this tradition is how thousands of Atlantans have kicked off their holiday season for four decades. The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus puts on the most fun holiday show in town and we can't wait to see you there! Click here for tickets.



CHRISTMAS WITH CORO VOCATI: A SEASON OF CAROLS ST. PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL DECEMBER 11 @ 7:30 P.M. ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL DECEMBER 12 @ 3 P.M.

SAINT CATHERINE'S, MARIETTA

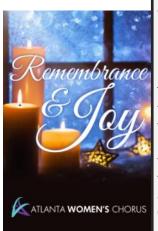
Coro Vocati is thrilled to announce their return to the concert stage with upcoming performances of Christmas with Coro: A Season of Carols. Featuring beautiful Christmas classics mixed with modern works, this choral celebration of the season is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. The ensemble includes MPC's own Brandon Odom and Jonathan Crutchfield at the piano. Click here for ticket info.



THE GATE CITY BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT MPC SANCTUARY DECEMBER 9 @ 7 P.M.

Celebrate the holiday season with Gate City Brass in Morningside's Sanctuary. The concert

features traditional Christmas carols and songs as well as original holiday arrangements. Use promo code MPC20 for 20% off of General and Student tickets! Click here for tickets.



ATLANTA WOMEN'S CHORUS REMEMBRANCE & JOY **MPC SANCTUARY**

DECEMBER 18 (A) 2 P.M. & 8 P.M. This holiday concert is dedicated to those who lost their lives in 2020 through COVID or social injustice. Experience Faure's "Requiem" for the first half of the concert and holiday tunes for the second half accompanied by our own Jonathan Crutchfield. Buy tickets now for early bird pricing!

MAC FRAMPTON IN CONCERT

Click here to watch Mac Frampton in Concert. It was a spectacular evening of thrilling music and fundraising. You can still donate to The Nancy Frampton Rising Artist Series by clicking here.







THE NANCY FRAMPTON RISING ARTIST 2022 SERIES LINE-UP! Three incredibly talented artists comprise the first subscription series. Mark your calendars now to hear:

- April 2, 2022 Colombian tenor, David Rivera Bozón
 - July 23, 2022 English organist, David Davies
- October 29, 2022 American soprano, Jasmine Habersham

Click here to learn more about these spectacular artists and our updated webpage! Tickets available soon!



NOVEMBER IN PICTURES



MPC KIDS!



DECEMBER MPC KIDS! AND CAROLING!

- Our December events are holiday themed. Join us for fun and games, a devotional, and pizza dinner on Tuesday nights. PreK-2nd graders meet 12/7 and 2nd-5th graders meet on 12/14.
- December 21st will be a special end-of-the-year Christmas party with caroling. Please let us know you are coming and plan to stay with your kids for the caroling. It's fun for all ages!

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT IN WORSHIP

Save the date for the Children's Christmas pageant during worship on Sunday, December 12. Witness the Christmas story through music, narration, and Scripture. The arrival of Baby Jesus will be celebrated by the holy family, angels, shepherds, innkeepers, magi, and stable animals alike!

Click here to sign up!





Is your name missing from our monthly birthday list? Click here to send Megan an email with the day, month, and year of your birth. Megan will add it to your Realm profile. Then, she'll be able to include your name in the Month at a Glance birthday list. (Don't worry, she won't share your age!) You deserve to be celebrated!

- 1 Olivia Hunter
- 1 Melissa Lawson
- 4 Akin Adams
- 4 Alyssa Durden
- 5 Allie Roach
- 5 Collins Slayton
- 6 Tamara Nix
- 6 Ted McMahan
- 7 Christopher Crowder
- 7 Charlotte Hunter
- 7 Griffin Hunter
- 7 Carolyn Terry
- 7 Eva Terry
- 9 Derek Matthews
- 9 Caroline Nuckols
- 10 Trey Coogle
- 11 Calvin Yntema
- 12 Ginger Floyd
- 12 Dianne Johnson
- 12 Sharon Pace
- 13 Tony Menefee
- 13 Linda Sweum
- 15 Meredith Bell
- 15 Charlotte Lowery-Milligan
- 15 William Lowery-Milligan
- 17 Phil Regnault
- 18 Bryn Gorman
- 18 Leah Gorman
- 20 Belle O'Brien
- 20 Charlie Stewart
- 23 Ali Howell
- 24 Claire Burke
- 25 Bridget Ryan
- 27 Anna Nuckols
- 27 Brooks Nuckols
- 30 Margaret Loring
- 30 Annie McNeill
- 30 Caroline Slayton
- 31 Joseph Stewart
- 31 Mary Ulep

LOOKING FORWARD TO

Advent at MPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Festival with Moravian Love Feast 11 a.m. Advent Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

11 a.m. Advent Worship with Children's Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

11 a.m. Advent Worship with Handbells

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:30 p.m. Caroling with MPC Kids!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

6 p.m. Outdoor Progressive Lessons & Carols

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5 & 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Candlelight

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

11 a.m. Unwrapping Christmas: A Service of Healing and Wholeness

AFFINITY GROUPS

welcome.

- LGBT & Friends Christmas Party: Friday, December 10 @ 7 p.m.
 Rob Payne & Steve Smith's home (1100 Balmoral Dr NE, 303019), RSVP to Cindy.
- ♦ RHO Readers: RHO Readers will not meet in December.

Meet January 16th at 1:00 pm via Zoom to choose our books for 2022. Let Jill know if you've read anything interesting.

- MPC Couples & Friends: This group will not meet in December.
 Fill out <u>this survey</u> by December 11 to help plan programming for next year.
- Theology on Tap Xmas Party: Tuesday, December 21 @ 6:30 p.m. Joe Floyd's home (1546 Kings Crossing, Stone Mountain, 30087), RSVP to <u>Lloyd</u> or <u>Tom</u>. Spouses and partners











Researched and compiled by Jill Klotz

Serve Together.

THANK YOU, MORNINGSIDE FAMILY

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Morningside family. These past two years have been very challenging and have created extreme need in our community and beyond. Our hand was out many times yet you all stepped up without a second thought. Each of our donation drives, be it diapers, food, school supplies, household goods, or even medical supplies, there was a loaves and fishes response from everyone. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to provide help through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Ida, earthquake help in Haiti, COVID-19 relief in India, and the extreme cold in Texas. We were also able to help our longtime partner in New Orleans, RHINO. And then our members stepped up to help 20 youth from Shalom International Ministries to attend the 2021 Montreat Youth Conference, an experience they will never forget! Truly, Jesus's words in Matthew 25 guide our feet. I look forward to what we can do as a community of believers in 2022.

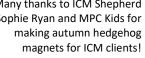
-Jack Klotz, Mission Chair



MEALS ON WHEELS ATLANTA

MOWA shepherd, Sarah Brownlee says that now is the time to order pecans treats and other gourmet items for the holidays from Purposeful Gifts. All proceeds benefit MOWA. Purposeful Foods will also be glad to prepare your holiday dinner! Click here to order your Christmas dinner.









RIDE ALONG ON GROCERY DELIVERIES

Sign up here to help deliver groceries to ICM clients! Ride along with one of our MPC drivers on Tuesday, November 9 to take food from the ICM Food Pantry to residents of Maggie Russell Towers. Morningside delivers the second Tuesday of every month.

INTOWN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

We are collecting food for Intown Collaborative Ministries food pantry throughout Advent. The blue Mission collection barrel is inside the Welcome Center for donations. You can email the church office for more information and click here to see which items are most needed.

- Canned tuna, canned chicken, chunky soups, canned meats, canned beef stew, canned beans, baked beans, canned chili
- Full Sized and Individual Sized Boxes of Cereal, Packets of Grits, Packets of Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Granola Bars, Snack Cracker Packs
- Canned or Cups of Fruit, Raisins, Applesauce, Dried Fruits
- Canned Vegetables, Vegetable Soup, Canned Tomato Products, Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Pasta and Ravioli, Rice and Rice Mixes, Noodle Mixes, Dry Noodles and Pastas, Macaroni and
- Shelf Stable Milk (quart and individual), Powdered Milk, Instant Breakfast Drinks, Instant coffee packets, water bottles, Ensure







CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

CLEANUP PROJECT POSTPONED!

The Saturday, December 4, "Sweep the Hooch" event has been postponed until Saturday, February 5. Stay tuned for the sign-up and more details as we get closer to the event.



NICHOLAS HOUSE CHRISTMAS

Thank Help deliver Christmas to Nicholas House! This year, Morningside is sponsoring 5 families currently residing at Nicholas House. Select gifts from the wish list. You can also support these families with gift cards to Kroger, QuikTrip, Walmart, etc. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to MPC's Advent Festival on Sunday, 12/5.

JUST BAKERY ATLANTA FOOD TRUCK ROLL OUT

MPC Just Bakery of Atlanta is ready to ROLL OUT our new food truck and expanded short-term training program in partnership with Georgia Piedmont Technical College!

Our new American partners in this ROLL OUT will:

- take ESL and hospitality industry classes
- complete their high school diploma, GED, or higher ed next steps
- earn ServSafe certification
- receive culinary training
- run JBA's food truck as their paid apprenticeship
- and graduate with a nationally recognized Gold Service certificate in hospitality.

We need you to ROLL OUT with JBA!

With your support, we can pay off the food truck, provide quality instruction, fund our living wage commitments, and open more doors of opportunity for our neighbors who resettled as refugees. And... we have a full match to ROLL OUT!

Every dollar you give in support of JBA's new American partners with be matched up to \$40,000. If JBA gets the full match, our food truck will be paid off, and our new program will be funded for 2022.



Click the graphic to donate.



CLIFTON SANCTUARY SUCCESSES

- Alonzo T., Jimmy H. and Yul S. all obtained secure housing
- Lee C. and Maurice H. gained stable employment with Love & Heart Cleaning
- Jason C., Curtis H., Timothy H., and Mark W. are beginning the paperwork process to receive housing



GLOBAL GROWERS

Click <u>here</u> to learn more about what Global Growers is doing in Clarkston and how you can help.





PRAY AWAY SCREENING

Morningside hosted a screening of the documentary, *Pray Away*, in November. Together with other local churches, the film company, and other LGBT affirming organizations, we gathered in the sanctuary to watch the movie and then to listen to a panel discussion. The room was full of diverse stories and voices united under a common cause -- that everyone, from every gender identity and orientation, are beloved and made perfectly in the image of God. The panel included a psychologist, survivors of conversion therapy, a trans clergyperson, and a state senator. Together

they shared the pain of their experiences, the strength they have gained, and their hopes for the future. As Morningside continues to work to be an affirming congregation, it is our hope that we will continue to listen to the voices of others, advocate for our siblings in Christ, and open our doors and arms wide to everyone. If you'd like to watch the panel, click here. To learn more about conversion therapy and the documentary, click here.

Also, a huge thank you to LGBT & Friends for providing snacks and support, to the Deacons for their pastoral support, and to Josh Schicker and Megan Reader for being AV wizards. -Pastor Emma



December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M	Click on the hyperlinks for more info!		1 12 One Gray Hair 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Just Bakery Order 8:45 Morning(side) Lift 11 Zoom Yoga Pam 12 Centering Prayer	3 Just Bakery Pickup (Jensen)	4
5 Advent 2 9 Advent Festival + Love Feast 9:15 Children's Choir 11 Worship—Communion 6 Youth Group	6	7 11 Zoom Yoga 1:30 Staff meeting 5:30 MPC Kids (PreK-2nd Grade) 7 Handbell Choir	8 5:30 Children's Pageant Dress Rehearsal 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 8:45 Morning(side) Lift 11 Zoom Yoga Pam 12 Centering Prayer 8 Gate City Brass Concert	7 LGBT & Friends Christmas Party	11
12 Advent 3 9:15 Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11 Worship with Children's Pageant 12 Outdoor Fellowship 6 Youth Group Xmas Party	9 Partner with the Preacher 1:30 Staff Christmas Lunch 6 Joint Session & Deacons Meeting	1:30 Staff meeting 5:30 MPC Kids (2nd -5th Grades) 7 Handbell Choir	15 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Just Bakery Order 8:45 Morning(side) Lift 12 Centering Prayer	17 Just Bakery Pickup (Green/ Rightmyer)	2 & 8 Atlanta Women's Choir Concerts
19 Advent 4 9:15 Children's Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship with Handbells	Just Bakery Order 9 Partner with the Preacher	21 Just Bakery Pickup (Brownlee) 1:30 Staff meeting 5:30 Caroling with MPC Kids! 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 Theology on Tap Xmas	22	6 Outdoor Progressive Lessons & Carols	24 Christmas Eve 5 Worship with Candlelight 8 Worship with Candlelight	25 Christmas Day
26 Christmas Sunday 11 Worship—Unwrapping Christmas: A Service of Healing and Wholeness	'	28 re closed.	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
		A SHARM				

*The office will be closed the week of December 27th.

If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact office@morningsidepc.org and the pastor-on-call will follow up with you ASAP. We give thanks for our staff who has worked tirelessly throughout the season.

Gratefully, Pastor Katie

