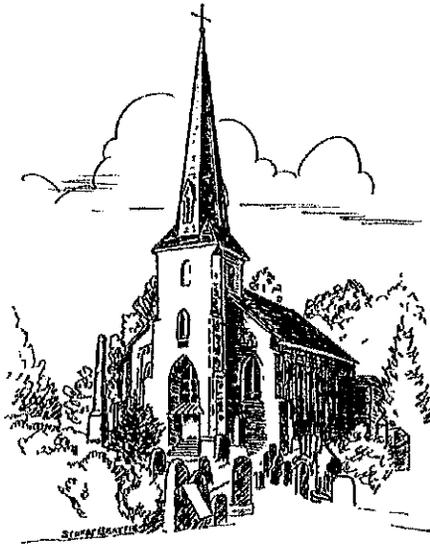


THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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TO:

January, 2026

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM
(resumes January 7, 2026)

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, January 1 – *New Year's Day*

January 4 – Communion; Ordination/Installation of Officers

Tuesday, January 6 – *Epiphany of the Lord*

January 11 – *Baptism of the Lord; Congregational Bells*

Tuesday, January 13 – 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café

January 18 – 11:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Light Lunch

Monday, January 19 – *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

Tuesday, January 27 – 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Cafe

January 25 – Snow Date for January 18 Congregational Meeting

From the Session – December 1, 2025

1. Removal of the infected Ash tree by the church rental home was approved.
2. Session approved Mike Tate as “Zoom and Audio Engineer”.
3. Rev. Dr. David Lovelace will remain as Bridge Pastor.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Installation/Ordination of Officers

In order for the church to operate successfully and complete all the work which is necessary, Church members are always needed to serve as Elders on the Green Hill Session, to serve as a Deacon, or to be a Trustee. We are fortunate to have a group of members who were nominated and elected to posts in the Class of 2028 on December 7. They will be ordained or installed during the worship service on **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. Please plan to attend.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 18, 2026 11:45 AM

Immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 18**, we will have our annual **Congregational Meeting**. At this meeting, the previous year is reviewed and often we have the opportunity to imagine what we want to be in the future. Please plan to stay after the worship service for this very important meeting. It will be held in Fellowship Hall. Snow date for the annual Congregational Meeting is January 25. We also plan to serve a **light lunch** at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Former Member Donna Kudner Sends Greetings from Florida

Donna Kudner was an active member of Green Hill from 1983 to 2010, when she and her husband Don relocated to The Villages, Florida. She sends greetings to those who remember her at Green Hill on the occasion of an address change within The Villages. She and Don have downsized again and are now living in a condo where the outside work is done by the homeowners' association. They are still traveling, most recently on a safari in Africa, and biking, and Donna is still making the occasional quilt. She's very active in her Congregational Church. Her son, Tony, and his family are a joy to her and Don. They live in Virginia. Donna and Don have two granddaughters. The whole extended family often travels together.

It was a pleasure to catch up with Donna. She has been in Florida for 16 years, but we still remember her at Green Hill fondly.

Happy Holidays 2025 – “Analyzing Another Annum” – from the Lovelace’s!!!

‘Twas ten days before Christmas, and Meem asked again:
“Will there be a poem, and if so, just when?”
So Dave sat himself down, his hands o’er the keys,
Hoping so doing would both inform – and please!
The poem’s late start seemed to mirror the year,
Which has gone by quite quickly – but we are still here!
There’ve been blessings and challenges – some were writ large;
But – happily – God has been fully in charge!

During the year, Dave gained a new doctor;
Radio-embolization of his liver – last June – to proctor.
Dave also worked Sundays, even more than last year:
The good folks at Green Hill signed him up, to appear.
In Masters Weightlifting, a new (older) age group;
Without opposition, his three wins were “duck soup”!
His constant is “stuff” – which Meem wants him to thin;
That task – when completed – will be a *real* win! (Held over, “by request”!)

Mimi’s year – health-wise – has been a mixed bag;
Pain – and much testing – have been a real drag!
An apt diagnosis would be welcome – and soon;
The likely conclusion may be “auto-immune...”
She befriends some others, with breakfasts and lunches;
While events – at First Church – come at her in bunches.
At the end of the day, she still feels quite blessed;
Even though – daily – she requires more rest!

Heather stood down – from teaching – this year;
Gaining more time to nurture her three boys, so dear.
Heather now – also – has time for some painting;
And flooring, and ceilings, and other updating
As ice hockey parents, they do lots of driving;
But all three of their boys do seem to be thriving!

Mark’s older two daughters did both graduate,
Each on the same day, but not in the same state.
And Mark has a new job, which pays him quite well;
His tailgating prowess continues to swell!
Indeed – just this month – eight of us were bold:
To cheer on the Eagles, as they won in the COLD!

Kelly’s still counseling, but more with senior highs;
Her objective – as always – is to “open their eyes”.
Farah – in Hockey – did score a “hat trick”;
Her time – between goals – was really quite quick!
And Farah – once more – will play basketball,
She, and her close friends, will give it their all!

But now – As we click “send” – December’s half spent;
And – before we know it – soon ‘twill be Lent!
So send we our greetings by tech, or by snail,
But we’d rather see you, than relate by mail!!!

Pastor Dave

Lead Me to the Rock (Psalm 61)

Psalm 61:8 *"So I will ever sing praises to your name,
as I fulfill my vows day after day"* (NIV)

Psalm 61 is a prayer for restoration to God's presence. The psalm begins with *"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer."* The psalmist is lonely and afraid as described in the spiritual *"sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home"*. In verse 2 the psalmist notes *"from the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint."* This poetic line is a metaphor for being at the end of one's resources. The one praying is sinking, as one sinks in water, and asks God to put him in a better place; described using three aspects: "the rock that is higher than I" (v2) "a strong tower" (v3) and a "refuge" (v4).

In verse 4, the one praying expresses the desire to live in God's temple forever.

"I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. And this is immediately followed by the pinnacle of the psalm (verse 5) in which the psalmist expresses the confidence that God hears our prayers. *"For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name."*

In the second half of the psalm (v 6-7) begins with an intercession for the king and is framed by statements about vows and God's name. The psalm asks that God provide the king with those qualities so essential to good rule; steadfast love and faithfulness.

The central message of Psalm 61 is when life overwhelms us, God invites us to pray for help, depend on Him, take solace in His presence, and trust His promises – because He is faithful and strong when we are not.

This psalm reminds me of the hymns *"Rock of Ages"* and *"The Solid Rock"*.

*Rock of ages, cleft for me; Let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin, the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.*

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

"Psalms: Interpretation" by James L. Mays published by John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New International Version (NIV)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Care-Ware Collection for Sunday Breakfast Mission



The Green Hill Mission & Prayer Committee is sponsoring a Care-Ware drive for Sunday Breakfast Mission during January, 2026. Please bring in packages of new underwear, T-shirts, bras, and socks in any size (Children's through XXXL Adult). A basket for your donations will be available in the sanctuary beginning on December 28. Clean underwear is one of the most sought-after items at homeless shelters. Having clean underwear helps to preserve dignity and health. Please join us for this important campaign.

Craft Group October and December Sales



The Craft Group held sales at the Reformation Sunday Special Refreshments October 26 and during the Christmas Luncheon on December 7. The final tally for these sales and a private sale was **\$335.00**. Thank you to the Green Hill Crafters and to all purchasers! We'll see you with new homemade crafts in Spring, 2026...

New Crafters are always welcome to join us. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM for about one and a half hours. Our next meeting will be on **January 22, 2026**.

Epiphany of the Lord 2026

At Epiphany, January 6, the magi came from the East to worship the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ. Epiphany is also known as **Three Kings Day** and concludes the 12 Days of Christmas.

January 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month
“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

The lyrics were written by Horatius Bonar in 1846. He is considered one of Scotland’s most gifted and powerful evangelical ministers and hymn writers. In addition to his widely known reputation as a Presbyterian preacher and avid student of the scriptures, Bonar wrote approximately 600 hymns, 100 of which are still in use.

This hymn presents in a most meaningful way three of our Lord’s pointed, personal invitations to man, which are followed in turn by the human responses and spiritual results.

Stanza one; *“Come unto me”* (Matthew 11:28); I came, I found rest and gladness.

Stanza two; *“Drink my living water”* (John 4:10, 13-14); I came, drank, and life revived.

Stanza three: *“Look upon my light”* (John 8:12); I looked and shall hereafter walk in that light.

The music for this fine text was composed by John Dykes, a noted English musician of the nineteenth century. At age 12, Dykes became assistant organist at St. John’s Church in Hull, where his grandfather was vicar. He studied at Wakefield and St. Catherine’s Hall in Cambridge, where he was a Dikes Scholar, President of the Cambridge University Musical Society, and earned a BA in Classics. In 1848, he became curate at Malton, Yorkshire. Dykes published sermons and articles on religion but is best known for composing over 300 hymn tunes. In addition to his gift for writing music, he played the organ, piano, violin, and horn.

This music begins by presenting the Lord’s invitations in the minor key, while the responses and results are notated in the major mode. The switching of the harmonies throughout the text, enhances the significance. The hymn tune name “Vox Dilecti” is Latin for “Voice of the Beloved”.

*I heard the voice of Jesus say; “Come unto me and rest
Lay down thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast”
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad,
I found in Him a resting place and He has made me glad. (verse 1)*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say; “Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say; “I am this dark world’s light;
Look unto me – thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk; till trav’ling days are done.*

*Lyrics: Public Domain
[Hymns for the family of God #51]
Ref: 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck*

Bruce Fine

'Twas the Night Before Christmas (*Early Edition*)

'Twas the night before Christmas, which – back then – was unknown,
But Got was enacting a plan of his own.

God's people had strayed – and a Shepherd was needed;
God gave them the Law, but its words were not heeded!

God also sent prophets – to warn and inform;
But people ignored them, and often did scorn!

So God chose young Mary, a girl with pure heart;
God wisely selected – to give Jesus his start.

Now she was engaged, to a fine Jewish man;
Again, a key aspect of God's Divine plan.

God then used Augustus, who made a decree:
That all must return to their natal ci-ty.

Soon after arriving, Baby Jesus was born;
That day, we now know as the First Christmas morn!

The setting was humble: the Baby's first rest,
Took place in a manger – quite far from the best.

A related announcement was surely required;
Again, God's first choice was Divinely inspired.

Shepherds, of course, were regarded as lowly;
But God did not want them to get the news slowly!

So – out in the fields – where they guarded their sheep,
There was not a sound, not even a peep...

But this quiet state was not to last long:
The skies were soon filled – with angels in song!

"Glore to God" they exclaimed, with great joy,
For God is among us, in a newborn Boy!

The shepherds, though startled, resolved to go see,
And leaving their fields, they embarked urgently...

In Bethlehem, soon, they did find the Christ Child;
Wonder of wonders; they praised, and they smiled!

But such wondrous news cannot stay untold;
They resolved to tell, as they returned to their fold.

Now Mary – for her part – did treasure all this;
And – deep in her heart – discovered God's bliss!

Two thousand years later, we know the Good News;
So let's now share it; it's too good to lose!

Women's Bible Study News

Women's Bible Study has been on hiatus since November 12, 2025, for their annual Thanksgiving/Christmas break. The women will return to study on **Wednesday, January 7, at 5:00 PM in the Board Room**. We have completed our regular study of the Old Testament book of Daniel with Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace leading. When we return, we will be taking a look at Daniel Chapter 13 (Susanna) and Chapter 14 (Bel and the Dragon) which are part of the Apocrypha.

Our normal rotation alternates between Old and New Testament books. We are considering studying the book of Acts. Ladies: if you are interested in this study or something else, please make your opinion known.

The women packed and sent three shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project during November. Early in December they were informed that their shoeboxes filled with toys, supplies, and God's love for girls age 5 – 9 went to needy recipients in **Ukraine** this year.



Men's Bible Study



The Men's Bible Study meets bi-weekly at **Janssen's Café**. January meetings will resume after a holiday break on **Tuesdays, January 13 and 27, at 8:00 AM**. All Green Hill men and guests are welcome to attend for breakfast, Bible Study and good fellowship. Please contact Rick Baun for more information.

Baptism of the Lord 2026

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7).

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own baptism. [From About PC(USA), The Christian Year]

The Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany, January 11, 2026.

Congregational Bells on January 11

We will ring Congregational Bells on **Sunday, January 11, 2026**. This popular Green Hill musical activity makes a welcome return for the New Year. Please attend and have some ringing fun! *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Psalm 100:1a KJV)*

Open Flower Dates 2026

We currently have **open flower dates** for the Chancel Flowers in the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 5, and May 17**. You may use one of our artificial arrangements (\$25 to Green Hill, Flower Fund in the memo line) or you may order fresh flowers from Belak's or another florist. If you wish to take one of the open dates, please contact Kathy Dugan.

GTi-HOPE Literacy Stories – December, 2025

New Opportunities Arise for Entire Family Through Literacy Program



Muthulakshmi belongs to a tribal community and never had the opportunity to get an education. She was married at a very young age, and at 28 years old, she already has 4 children.

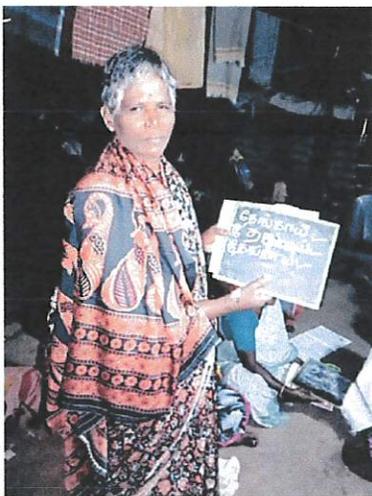
Muthulakshmi and her husband are both illiterate and work as daily wage laborers, since other occupations were inaccessible due to their lack of literacy. When the Women's Literacy program began in their village, Muthulakshmi wanted to join, but her husband did too!

The teacher made an exception for her husband to participate so that Muthulakshmi was not denied the chance to attend. They both can now read and write and do simple mathematical calculations.

As doors of opportunity began to open for them, they also have committed to send their children to school so they will have a brighter future!

Family Blessed by Deliverance from Addiction

Ramai is 54 years old and works alongside her husband as an agricultural daily wage laborer. Neither of them ever attended school and both are completely illiterate. Without understanding the importance of education, they did not send any of their 4 children to school, either. Sadly, Ramai's husband is addicted to cheap liquor and gambling at cards, and spends his earnings on his habits. Ramai was unable to meet the family's daily expenses on her small wages.



When the Adult Literacy program began very near her home in the village, at first Ramai was not interested in attending. She thought she was too old to learn at her age. However, with the teacher's encouragement, she finally agreed to visit the class.

She was soon attending regularly, and within 4 months she had begun reading and doing arithmetic. She also was learning about health, and sanitation, and became aware of how damaging it is to drink liquor.

She shared what she was learning with her husband, and he questioned the literacy teacher about it. He was convinced and now has stopped all his drinking and gambling habits, and helps Ramai with the household expenses.

Ramai is grateful, not only for literacy, but for the happiness and joy which have entered her home!

GTi HOPE is an international ministry supported by Green Hill. Their work is primarily in India, focused on providing water wells, improving women's literacy, and educating children through activities like Vacation Bible School. Monthly GTi HOPE newsletters are on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

January Prayer Emphasis

The New Creation

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Christmas Caroling and Poinsettias

This year we canceled Christmas caroling on December 14 due to inclement weather (snow). The Session canceled church for that Sunday as well, so there was no opportunity for a Zoom caroling session or live caroling. We plan to pick up this fun activity again during the Christmas season 2026.



Designated poinsettias are headed to The Lorelton Assisted Living after the Christmas Eve evening service. Thank you to those who donated their poinsettias so that others may enjoy them.

For the Troops

A Care Package containing a total of **15 bags of nuts** (donated by generous Green Hill members) and **lip balm** (donated by the Deacons) were sent to U. S. airmen and women deployed in Kuwait. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Susannah Tulloch supplied the military address. We send a big thank you to everyone who purchased and donated nuts and to Gail Heath who prepared and mailed the overseas package.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Friday, December 19th. They included: **Allison Brokaw, Dan Dugan, and Kathy Dugan.**

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers for December as well. They were: **Allison Brokaw, Evelyn Williams, Maya Hirs, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Kathy Dugan, and John Hartman.**

The 2026 MOW schedule has been issued to all members of the Green Hill team. It is also posted in the office vestibule. The EDR schedule will soon follow. If you are interested and willing to serve as a possible substitute, please contact Jen Galvin (MOW) or Ellen Grubbs (EDR).

Adopt-A-Child News

Ministry of Caring has let us know that because of the generosity of the whole Wilmington community they were able to support 500 children last year and hope to support more kids this year! They want Green Hill to know how much our participation contributed to this exceptional outpouring of support. Our **\$660** contribution from Green Hill participants in 2025 supports **7 children!** We send many thanks to Jen Galvin, who chaired this Deacon project.



January 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Dan Dugan

Deacon of the Month Jen Galvin

Worship Assistants

January 4 - Sandy Fine
January 11 - Stephen Grubbs
January 18 - JoAnna Ventresca
January 25 - Kathy Dugan

Greeters

January 4 - Denise Snyder
January 11 - Evelyn Williams
January 18 - Gail Heath
January 25 - Kathy Dugan

Refreshments Chandler Brown
January 18 - Light Lunch

Chancel Flowers

January 4 - Ellen & Stephen Grubbs
January 11 - Ellen & Stephen Grubbs
January 18 - Megan Mahle & Jason Cincilla
January 25 - Stout Memorial

Communion Servers January 4

Sandy Fine – Intinction
Rick Baun – Pre-Packaged

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

January 12 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
January 13 - Maya Hirs and family
January 14 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
January 15 - Evelyn Williams
January 16 - Kathy & Dan Dugan

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Monday, January 19

Cooks -- Ellen Grubbs
-- Evelyn Williams

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan

Celery – Evelyn Williams

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Stephen Grubbs
21 Tom Stevens
22 Melissa Stevens Howard

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Diane & Lance Shorter
- 55 years 2023
29 Kathy & Dan Dugan

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1 New Year's Day</i>	2 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	3
4 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; Ordination/Installation of Officers 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Worship Mtg. 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg.	5 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>6 Epiphany of the Lord</i> 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	7 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	8	9 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	10
<i>11 Baptism of the Lord</i> 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Congregation- al Bells 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg.	12 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	13 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	14 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	15 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries	16 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg. Dinner Groups	17
18 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall 12:15 PM Lunch SPIRE DEADLINE	<i>19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 8:15 AM EDR Prep 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	20 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	21 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	22 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	23	24
25 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Snow Date for Annual Meeting 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	26 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	27 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	28 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	29	30 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	31