

**GREENE COUNTY**

# What happened to that old curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge?

**Wm Spencer Hinds**  
Contributor

To answer why “Bah Humbug!” will no longer be bellowed loudly throughout the streets of London town, you’ll just have to join us at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greensboro on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5:30 p.m. to find out.

Charles Dickens, an early devotee of social justice in Victorian England, wrote “A Christmas Carol” in 1842 to help open the eyes of the rich and powerful to the plight of the downtrodden poor and powerless. It is the early days of the Industrial Revolution. Technological, scientific and industrial innovations abounded. But with those advancements came heavy social costs ... the dehumanization of work, pollution, egregious child labor practices, with low pay for all resulting in wide spread poverty.

It was these conditions that spurred Charles Dickens on. In his story, Ebenezer Scrooge is the symbol of all that was wrong in 1840s England. And what happens to Mr. Scrooge is the subject of the First Presbyterian Church’s production.

Before the church’s “playlet” begins, singers outside the church in Victorian costume



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**The good-natured Bob Cratchit spars with Ebenezer Scrooge.**

will entertain arriving attendees with carols familiar to people in the 1840s. Greeters in Victorian dress will welcome all into the church. Inside the church you will see what it may have been like in the 1840s, with much of the

lighting provided by candles. There will be minimal use of electric lighting to enhance the experience. And many congregants will be dressed in period clothing. Before and after the playlet, all will join in the singing of Christmas

carols loved when “A Christmas Carol” was written and still loved today. The evening will be a highlight of this year’s Christmas season. All are welcome to attend.

A free-will offering will be made to benefit the Greene

County Food Pantry. The First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro is located at 117 S. Main St. (next to the Post Office) in downtown Greensboro. Sunday services at 11 a.m., preceded by scripture study at 9:45 a.m.

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## St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital, Georgia Hospital Association celebrate National Rural Health Day

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital and the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) were proud to join communities across the country in celebrating National Rural Health Day (NRHD) on Thursday, Nov. 20.

This annual observance, coordinated by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) since 2011, is held on the third Thursday of November to spotlight the remarkable resilience and unique healthcare challenges of rural hospitals and healthcare professionals across the country as they work to provide high-quality healthcare to 61 million rural Americans.

Georgia's rural hospitals and health systems provide not only critical care but also serve as major employers and economic anchors. According to GHA's most recent economic impact data, Georgia's rural hospitals generate \$8.6 billion in economic impact statewide and support more than 42,000 jobs, including nearly 21,000 direct hospital jobs. This update is based on 2023 data and uses modeling from IMPLAN, an independent third party.

“Rural communities are the heart of Georgia, and ensuring their access to high-quality healthcare is vital to the health of our entire state,” said GHA President and CEO Caylee Noggle. “National Rural

Health Day is a great opportunity to thank and support our rural hospitals and healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to provide care to their communities.”

“As a mission-driven Catholic healthcare ministry, St. Mary's serves as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities, including the greater Greensboro area and many other rural areas that depend on us for care,” said Stonish Pierce, President and CEO of Trinity Health Georgia, which includes Good Samaritan Hospital. “Local, high-quality health services are vital not only to the well-being of individuals and families, but to the health and vitality of the whole community. We are proud to serve all the people of our area with excellence, reverence, and compassion.”

Individuals and businesses can celebrate National Rural Health Day by making a lasting impact close to home. The Georgia HEART Hospital Program allows Georgians to redirect a portion of their state income tax to support rural hospitals, strengthening access to care. Learn more at [georgia-heart.org](http://georgia-heart.org).

For more information about National Rural Health Day and how to get involved, visit [PowerOfRural.org](http://PowerOfRural.org).

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