



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Albemarle, North Carolina  
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Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor  
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Stanley Scheer, Organist  
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Volume 48

December 13, 2015

No. 50

**CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM AND LUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015**

**\*Music Presented by The Youth Club Choir**

**\*Joy Luncheon –**  
**Bring your favorite covered dishes to share**

**\*Joy Offering**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.*

PRELUDE

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Dale Wood

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As farmers wait for rainfall, as prisoners wait for freedom,

**People: We wait for the coming of God.**

Leader: As refugees yearn for home, as peacemakers yearn for justice,

**People: We yearn for the coming of God.**

Leader: As travelers prepare for the journey, as parents prepare for a newborn child,

**People: We prepare for the coming of God.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Bereden väg för Herran

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**Holy and loving God, we dwell in the darkness and prefer it to the light. We are proud of our accomplishments and despair over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives, that we might find our way to you. Secure us in your love, refine us, and prepare us for life in your kingdom.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 84, stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, Honor, Might, and Glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Taylor Family

Leader: From the prophet Isaiah: *Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously, let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.* We live in a world that hates to wait, and we celebrate a season of waiting. We live in a world that loves bad news, and we preach good news to one another.

**People: In the midst of despair, we light a candle of hope.**

Leader: In the midst of violence, we light a candle of peace.

**People: In the midst of sadness, we light a candle of joy.**

Leader: May this candle remind us that God's joy is coming, on earth as it is in heaven. May we live with joy that is deeper than happiness: Joy that is rooted in the love of our God.

**People: God who is hidden, be revealed. Come, O Come, Emmanuel!**

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

hymn 88, stanza 6

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Children's Greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, in this season of waiting, send your Spirit into our midst to inspire and enlighten us. May your Word draw us into a deeper understanding of the meaning of your incarnation. Amen.**

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Luke 2:1-7*

Pew Bible, page 54

### CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM

*The Inn Crowd*

Youth Club Choir

by Lee Dengler and Susan Naus Dengler  
(see bulletin insert)

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

Trusty Travelers: Merrin Kinley and Abby Snuggs

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mrs. Ayscue

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Born in Bethlehem*

Helmut Walcha

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

hymnal, page 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN 134

*Joy the World*

Antioch

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Sleepers, Wake, a Voice Is Calling*

Johann G. Walther

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\*All that are able may stand.

# THE INN CROWD

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR CHILDREN

BY LEE DENGLER AND SUSAN NAUS DENGLER



*Overture*

*Come On In*  
Innkeeper Solo:  
Leah Kilde

*Star of Wonder*

*In Or Out*  
Guests Ensemble:  
Thora Kilde, Merrin Kinley, Brent Lisk, Caroline Lisk, Grant Lisk, Jackson Palmer,  
Danny Saltzman, Ella Shelton, Lily Shelton, Abby Snuggs, Natalie Taylor

Innkeeper:  
Leah Kilde

Child:  
Elizabeth Bryson

Shepherds Ensemble:  
Hailey Biddle, Sophie Blalock, Nathaniel Eudy, Addison Marks, Seth Richards,  
Lily Snyder, Holden Taylor, Caroline West

*Good News!*

*Come on In*  
*(Reprise)*

## *The Inn Crowd*

Mary:	Sonya Patel
Joseph:	Hunter Josey
Innkeeper:	Leah Kilde
Child:	Elizabeth Bryson
Tax Collector:	Katherine Jolly
Wool Salesman:	Andy McLeod
Celebrity:	Kate Lemons

### Guests:

Thora Kilde  
Merrin Kinley  
Brent Lisk  
Caroline Lisk  
Grant Lisk  
Jackson Palmer  
Danny Saltzman  
Ella Shelton  
Lily Shelton  
Abby Snuggs  
Natalie Taylor

### Shepherds:

Gabriel Beamon	Addison Marks
Hailey Biddle	Seth Richards
Sophia Blalock	Eli Snuggs
Juan Compechano Palmas	Lily Snyder
Nathaniel Eudy	Holden Taylor
Oliver Henkenjohann	Caroline West

### Angels:

Ella Cumming  
Stella Marks  
Aidyn Osborne  
Kezia Redfearn

### Sheep & Donkeys:

Hugh Carpenter	Leo McLeod
Emily Deese	Sanah Patel
Cidney Eudy	Jake Whisnant

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education  
Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music  
Carolyn McLaurin and Beth Poolos, Youth Club Music Assistants

**We rejoice that you are worshipping with us today.** If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

**The acolyte today is David Kilde.** After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to** the Taylor family for lighting the advent candle today.

**Ushers:** Wes Eudy, captain; Steve Cumming, Angie Earnhardt, Greg Lisk, Ronnie Michael, Witt Snuggs, and Morgan Smet **Elder Greeters:** Kim Marshall; Lee McManus **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Misty Honbarrier **Preschool Partners:** *TBD* **Nana & Papa Team:** *TBD* **No Children's Church**

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Mary Green, Carroll Sitton (knee replacement), Michael Corl & family (UPS delivery employee), Banks Garrison, Rowena Warren, John McIntyre, Janet Gardner Fleming (stepdaughter of Ruth Ann Rogers), David Sanges (brother of Nathan Sanges); Struggling families. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**Alternative Christmas Gifts...**Alternative Gift cards are offered for donations directed to: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope, Crisis Assistance Fund, and Montaña de Luz. The minimum gift is \$10 per card. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter. Gifts will be available for purchase before and after worship through December 13.

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### **COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

Join in worship with others from the downtown churches during Advent at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Avenue). We will gather there on the following Wednesdays at noon in Advent: *December 16*. Lunch will follow. Dr. Andy Jung, pastor of First Baptist Church, will be preaching.

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### **Contemplative Advent Worship Tuesdays, December 15 & 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

These will be contemplative services (30 minutes) designed to help worshipers focus on the anticipation of advent and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us for these new worship moments. Childcare provided.

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### **Christmas Joy Offering to be received on Sunday, December 13**

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

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### ***Come Ye Faithful* presented by the Chancel Choir on Sunday, December 20**

This year's Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of following the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture and contemporary readings. The service will begin with *Processional Alleluia* for handbells and choir. Throughout the anthem, the choir sings the word *Alleluia* to the accompaniment of bells and organ. The piece begins quietly and grows in intensity before returning to the softer sounds of the opening bells, thus giving the listener the impression of witnessing a passing procession. With it, we will begin our journey to Bethlehem as we follow the familiar story of those who were present for the miracle and mystery of the first Christmas. In addition to the familiar cast of human and divine beings, we remember the animals that were present with *The Shepherd's Lamb*, which contemplates the mystery: *The Shepherd, born to live with us and guide us, is also born to die for us as the shepherds' Lamb.*



**CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM**  
The congregation is invited to bring their favorite covered dishes to share.  
We will enjoy this meal together.

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**IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL YEAR END INFORMATION**  
**2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes for 2016 are available for pick up in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, contact the church office so we can assist you. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2016. If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your envelope number on your check, be sure to update the new envelope number with your bank.** If you have any questions, contact the church office at (704-982-2722).

**FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING**

Financial books will close Wednesday, December 30, 2015. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2016. **IMPORTANT:** Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 7. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, do so before December 14, **AND** be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made. Kyle will be out of the office Tuesday, December 22 through Friday, December 25.

**2016 PLEDGE CARDS**

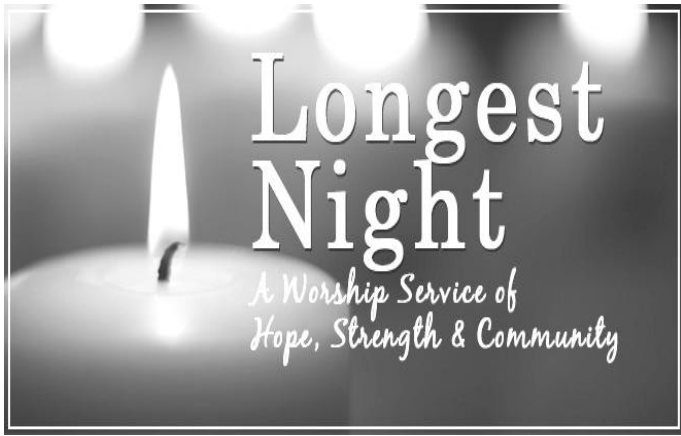
Make sure you have turned in your 2016 Pledge Card. If you have misplaced your card or did not receive one, you can find pledge cards on the counter top outside the church office or stop by the office to pick one up. If you are not a member of the church but would like a pledge card and/or contribution envelopes, call or stop by the church office.

**Credit Card Payments Accepted at First Presbyterian Church**

Check out the website ([www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)). You can now make payments via credit card for your General Fund pledge, Our Living Legacy pledge, or for any other purpose. Contact Kyle for more information (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)).

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**Covenant Bible Study  
begins Tuesday, January 5  
at 10:00 a.m.**

If you want to participate in the Covenant Bible study, contact Elizabeth (704-982-2722 or [eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org)) for more information.



**Service for the Longest Night**

**Sunday December 13**

**4:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

On December 13 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a Service for the Longest Night. This is a service of healing and wholeness designed to acknowledge the complex array of emotions of the Christmas season. We seek to give voice to the pain as well as to the joy of Christmas. Please join us in the chapel for this contemplative, reverent service and afterwards for cider and cookies.

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**2016 Children's Art Calendar**



Give the gift of *art* this holiday season to your family, teacher, friends and neighbors and help a neighbor in need. The Trusty Travelers have created these lovely works of art as they have focused on *Deepening Community through Grace & Gratitude* each Wednesday.

**\$ 8.00 each**

Proceeds will support our neighbor, Laura, in Montaña de Luz

On sale in the pit stop Sunday, December 13 & 20 and Wednesday, January 7 ( at the First Family Epiphany Dinner)

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**SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) or contribute to the holiday greenery fund as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$22.00 for the poinsettia or for the amount you wish for the greenery payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias or greenery. Please return the check along with the form below to the church office by Monday, December 14. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20.

**SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY**

**Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.**

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to take my poinsettia(s) after the 5:30 p.m. service on December 24.

I will leave my poinsettia(s) for delivery to a homebound member.





**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24  
AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

*Carols and candlelight will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.*

**Christmas Candlelighting Service**

*The musical prelude begins at 5:00 p.m.* Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music. *The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m.* Worship includes a story for the children, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, music by the adult choir, and sharing the light of Christ and traditional carol singing.

**Worship at 11:00 p.m.**

This service includes music by older youth and college students, drama, traditional carol singing, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sharing the light of Christ. This service is full of expectation as we move toward midnight and the birth of Christ. Dress is informal. Following worship, youth and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship in the church parlor.

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**26<sup>TH</sup> Annual Community Christmas Dinner  
Friday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church**

There are still some spots available for volunteers to sign-up on the bulletin board in the pit stop. Monetary donations will be accepted to purchase some supplies and other expenses incurred as the host church for this community event. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check Community Christmas Dinner.

If you would like to help and will not be available on Christmas Day, please let Mary, Sandy or Martha Sue know.

Coordinators for this event are:

- Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)
- Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or manapier@msn.com)
- Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or [swsaunders63@gmail.com](mailto:swsaunders63@gmail.com))

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**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER  
!!! NEW THIS YEAR....ENTERTAINMENT !!!**

We are responsible for entertainment from 1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. If you would like to provide festive music or some other entertainment, please let Jim Sawyer, (H) 704-986-6920 (C) 980-621-1929, or email: [jameshardinsawyer@gmail.com](mailto:jameshardinsawyer@gmail.com), know of your interest and availability. Your reply before Sunday, December 6, would be greatly appreciated!!

## **OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, December 13**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*JOY Program*

*JOY Offering*

*JOY Luncheon*

*Trusty Travelers' Youth Club Fundraiser*

*available in the pit stop*

*Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop*

*Faith Explorers' outing to Shrek the Musical*

- 8:45 am \*Diaconate
- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am JOY Program Rehearsal in the sanctuary
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School/ENGAGE! Topics
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Gym)
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm SNL (Gym)
- 5:30 pm Worship Committee
- 6:30 pm \*Session (Pit Stop)

### **Monday, December 14**

*Deadline for Poinsettia Form*

- 8:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study at Elizabeth's

### **Tuesday, December 15**

- 12:00 pm January 2016 Newsletter Deadline
- 6:00 pm \*Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

### **Wednesday, December 16**

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs (at church)
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club Skating Party at Wayne's World Skating Rink  
(drop-off & pick-up at the skating rink)
- 7:00 pm \*Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

### **Thursday, December 17**

- 9:30 am \*Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

### **Saturday, December 19**

- 9:00 am-Noon Chancel Choir Christmas Rehearsal

### **Sunday, December 20**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Trusty Travelers Youth Club Fundraiser*

*available in the pit stop*

- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School/ENGAGE!
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm SNL

**\*childcare provided**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### **DECEMBER**

- 13-Tom Norwood
- 16-Alison Whisnant
- 17-Rob McIntyre
- 18-Katie Carpenter  
Mary Green  
Dustin Jolly  
Katie Saltzman
- 20-Virginia Currie  
Anna Henkenjohann  
Morgan Smet  
Toby Webb

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

### **DECEMBER**

- 15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael  
Chris & Barbara Whitley

## **SCCM Food Challenge for:**

**December:**

**Canned Beans &  
Dried Beans**

**Remember the Holiday Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 13 from 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. The tour features Central Elementary School and a number of church member homes. Tickets are available at Second Street Sundries and GloryBeans.**