



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stan Scheer, Organist

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

Pam Knighten, Secretary

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

E-mail: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org



December 2016

Dear Friends,

The Advent journey has begun. The landscape is too quickly crowded with events to attend, items to bake, places to be, and shopping to do. I encourage you to enjoy that aspect of the season while also tending to the landscape of the Spirit. Worship, mission, fellowship, and study all renew our strength and bring us close to all that which is holy.

In this sacred season, consider participating in the Advent Study on Mondays at 12:15 p.m. and/or Contemplative Worship on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., and join in the many ways we have to serve others as we draw close to the manger. And, may the wide-eyed wonder of this season, awaken you to the power of the baby who is *God with us*.

Grace and Peace,
Elizabeth



Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent...Peace

We will light the Advent candle for peace.

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent...Joy

We will light the Advent candle for joy.

The Youth Club children will lead worship in word and song. Their musical is entitled, *Follow the Star*. Come to enjoy an exuberant telling of the joy of Christ's birth.

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent...Love

We will light the Advent candle for love.

The choir will lead worship using scripture, song, and readings from the work of Ann Weems. Join us for *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Worship will be preceded by 30 minutes of vocal and instrumental music. We will light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with scripture, song, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

11:00 pm An expectant atmosphere will fill the sanctuary as we usher in the birth day of the Christ Child.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Worship

Children of all ages are welcome to attend in their pajamas. We will sing carols, hear the story of Jesus' birth, and be reminded of how his birth changed the world.

Sunday, January 1

Moravian Lovefeast

11:00 a.m.

Moravian Lovefeast in the gym around the fire. We'll sing carols, participate in the traditional feast of buns and a sweetened beverage, and celebrate God's goodness to us in Jesus Christ.

**COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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: November 30, December 7 & 14. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated to the Crisis Assistance Funds of Stanly County.



Wednesday, November 30

Preaching: The Reverend Louise Hilbert, Interim Pastor of First Lutheran Church

Liturgist: The Reverend Doctor James B. Bernacki, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church

Wednesday, December 7

Preaching: The Reverend Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

Liturgist: Doctor Andy Jung, Pastor of First Baptist Church

Wednesday, December 14

Preaching: The Reverend David McAuley, Pastor of Randalls United Methodist Church

Liturgist: The Reverend Doctor Lamonte Foster, Pastor of Union Chapel AME Zion Church

ADVENT

ADVENT STUDY

A Season of Hope & Anticipation: Advent Themes in the Four Gospels

Step back from the busyness of Advent and join us on Mondays at 12:15 p.m. for conversation about prevalent Advent themes in each gospel.

November 28

Focus on Matthew

December 5

Focus on Mark

December 12

Focus on Luke

December 19

Focus on John

Meeting Place: Session Room

Bring your lunch. Tea & Water provided.



Contemplative Advent Worship Tuesdays, December 6, 13, & 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Community Table on Saturday, December 3

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are needed to prepare food ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 5. For more information as to how you can help or to volunteer your services, contact Linda Anderson (704-982-3723) or refer to the Mission Bulletin Board in the pit stop area.



Support the Youth Ministry...

Christmas Kitchen

The Youth Ministry needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, and pies to be sold at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 4. Make ahead and freeze if you like!

The Youth Ministry also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 4. Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at FPC and support our youth!

Call Leah Beamon (704-438-5083) or Rose Saltzman (704-322-8344) to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!

**Sunday, December 4
Before & After Worship
in the Pit Stop**

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 4, 11, and 18, there will be opportunities to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You will be able to select from among both local and international recipients. Charities sponsored this year are: The Community Care Clinic, Esther House, Homes of Hope, and Montaña de Luz. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter.



Longest Night Worship

On December 11 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a Service for the Longest Night. While the Christmas season is primarily a joyful time, it can also be a difficult reminder of the losses that we have experienced. For some people, the absence of loved ones or the reminder of other losses can be painful. 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.



!!! THE TIME IS NOW !!!

27TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our food and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the pit stop. If you sign-up for dressing or sweet potato casserole, we will provide the aluminum pan and lid. This year, churches are purchasing the non-perishable items (canned vegetables, potatoes, gravy, rolls, and tea) in bulk. Monetary donations are accepted toward our church's portion of this total amount. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check *Community Christmas Dinner*.

Additional volunteers will be needed to assist before Christmas Day. 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)

-Submitted by Martha Sue Hall

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 \$20.00 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 12.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18.

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.

COLORING GOD'S WORD

This Christmas, surprise your teachers, grandparents, neighbors, or friends with a coloring book filled with lovely, scripture-based pages. Each Faith Explorer has created an original coloring book page based on a favorite scripture to compile this collection.

\$5.00 each

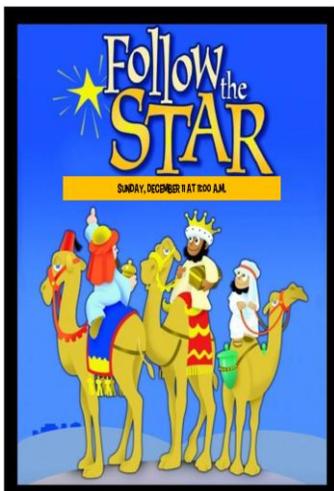
Pair that with a recycled wood pencil holder, complete with 8 pencils, and you have the perfect gift to encourage relaxation.

\$5.00 each

Coloring is for all ages...so switch off from the everyday stresses and enjoy some soothing, unplugged time alone with the word of God.

On sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 4 & 11 and Wednesday, December 7 at the First Family Dinner.

Proceeds benefit Montana de Luz, Honduras.



JOY GIFT PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Follow the Star is a fun and joyous reminder of why the wise men of the Christmas Story sought after Christ and why we still do today!

The journey of the Magi is an amazing story of obedience, faith and worship. Join the fantastic story of these three companions as they set their sights on a bright star in the heavens that would ultimately lead them to the Christ-child, the King of all kings!

You will not want to miss the Youth Club children this day as they bring to life this Christmas Story in the JOY Gift Program.

Plan to stay for the JOY Gift potluck luncheon following worship.



Christmas Joy Offering Sunday, December 11

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.



CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM
The congregation is invited to bring their favorite covered dishes to share.



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SATURDAY, 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.



STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...OCTOBER 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	414,805.00	471,591.00
Total Expenses:	<u>476,134.00</u>	<u>470,683.00</u>
(Shortage)/Surplus:	(61,329.00)	908.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	<u>2016</u>	
Pledges:	505,070	Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: <u>\$10,866</u>
Total Income:	565,035	Average Weekly Amount Received in October: <u>\$12,234</u>
Total Expenses:	565,035	

We are behind \$22,044 in pledges. (\$14,305 of 2016 pledges was prepaid in 2015)

Ten-Cents-A-Meal September: \$203

SCCM Caring & Sharing Cups (update): \$1800

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF: \$94

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL YEAR END INFORMATION

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2017 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, please contact the church office so we can assist you. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2017. *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, please contact the church office at (704-982-2722).

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2016 pledge by December 31. The financial books will close Friday, December 30, 2016 at NOON. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2017. **IMPORTANT:** Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 5. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so BEFORE December 12 **and** be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

2017 PLEDGE CARDS

Make sure you have turned in your 2017 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 just call or stop by the church office!

CELEBRATE GENEROSITY



With the holiday season upon us, we have many things to be thankful for. Your generosity to First Presbyterian and each other continues to be bountiful. Think of how your generosity has provided the following and how we and others have experienced enjoyment/enrichment from them:

- Our newly renovated kitchen where the Tony Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast takes place,
- Our updated parlor and common areas where meaningful fellowship abounds,
- While not brand new, a "young" pipe organ that makes wonderful music along with a talented choir, director and organist,
- Our technology upgrades that allow for movie nights, meaningful reflections of mission trips and countless spiritual Sunday School conversations,
- A church that goes beyond our sanctuary to Central School, Montana de Luz, men's and women's retreats for spiritual renewal and many others, and
- A congregation that lends hands, hugs, meals and love to each other.

May your generous spirit endure now and forever more.

Submitted by Steve Cumming, Generosity Committee.

NEWS and NOTES

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of John David Rodda, given by Dr. Eric & Judy Johnsen.

The Community Christmas Dinner Fund:

In memory of Jeff Covington, given by Phyllis Griffith.

In memory of Jeff Covington, given by Uwharrie Bank, Uwharrie Investment Group, and Uwharrie Capital Corporation.

The Our Living Legacy Fund:

In memory of John David Rodda, given by Mark & Chris Mabry.

SYMPATHY

To Susan Garrsion upon the death of her brother, John David Rodda, on October 20.

To Frankie Palmer upon the death of her sister, Jeanette Hatley Isenhour, on October 31.

To Roger Martin and family upon the death of his brother-in-law, Jeff Covington, on November 4.

To Lillie Hancock upon the death of her husband, David Hancock, on November 15.

To Roger Belsan and family upon the death of his wife, Joan Belsan, on November 19.

Session Notes

Six of eighty niches of the church's Columbarium have been purchased. For more information about purchasing a niche contact the church office. Advent services will be held on the Tuesday during Advent and communion will be served. The Christmas Eve offering will be used for the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. October pledge income for 2016 has lessened the amount we are behind. Members are encouraged to continue honoring their 2016 pledge. If you have not returned your 2017 Pledge Card please do so as soon as possible. Meeting of the church congregation and corporation will be held January 22, 2016. Happy Holidays from the Session!

Lynn White, Clerk of Session

Circle #5

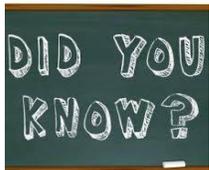
Circle 5 will meet with Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle) on Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 4. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. We received a total of \$203.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal in October. Ten cents per person per meal is just \$9.00 per month and helps provide people both nourishment and hope. If you don't have a Ten-Cents-A-Meal container, you can find one in the pit stop. Checks and/or coins are welcome!

2017 Flower Calendar

The 2017 flower calendar is posted in the pit stop. If you wish to put flowers in the church in honor or memory of someone or just to provide beauty to the service, please sign up on the calendar. **Flowers may be ordered from any local florist.** Contact Frankie Palmer (704-982-1757 or fpalmer3@carolina.rr.com) for more information and to make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the church on Saturday or Sunday morning before worship.



Pledge payments and special gifts may be made through the church's website (www.firstpresalbemarle.org) or by bank draft (talk with your bank). They can also be made using cash and by check.



The church maintains a closet of home health equipment – walkers, canes, bedside commodes, etc. If you have need of any of these items, contact Kyle (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) for more information. If you have equipment that you are no longer using, you may consider donating it to the church for use by others.

NEWS and NOTES

January Newsletter Deadline...Tuesday, December 13.

Early submissions are always welcome!

**If you type your items in Microsoft Word, please email them as an attachment to:
pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.**



Thanks to the following people for assisting in the church office in October:

Ann Duckwall, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, Sandy Rogers, Ruth Ann Rogers, and Martha White.

November's First Family Dinner

Thanks to all the people that make my job fun and enjoyable: Rebekah Ayscue, Mildred Andrew, Leah Beamon, Lisa and Cameron Biddle, Keith and Kristie Bryson, Katie Carpenter, Ruth Cotton, Michelle Cumming, Ann Duckwall, Peggy Finley, Susan Garrison, Debbie Hahn, Margaret Ivey, Melissa Eudy, Sandy Kilde, Laura Beth Marks and the Faith Explorers, Bill Hall, Leslie, Stephan, and Morgan Kinley, Mark Mabry, Sarah Michael, Gayle Russell, Sandy Saunders, Jim Sawyer, Lee Snuggs, Elizabeth Wilson, and all those who helped break down the tables and chairs and cleaned up the gym. I depend heavily on my First Family volunteers and am so thankful for your presence. I love spending time with you!!

Jane Snyder, Director of Fellowship Service

Thank You

I want to thank the church and all the members who were able to attend the Spaghetti Dinner. As well, thank you to all of those who donated but were not able to attend. I have always considered First Presbyterian Church my *home* church. The consistent love and support for myself and my family is humbling. I cannot wholly express my gratitude. Again, I'll start with *Thank You!*

Susan Byrd

Thanks for your participation in packing 30 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.



Many thanks to all who participated in the SERRV sale – from artisans and farmers who share their skillfulness and gifts to shoppers who are faithful to the mission and in between our loyal staff and volunteers: Linda Anderson, Iris Coggins, Ann Duckwall, Susan Garrison, Debby Johnston, Debbie Wainwright, Phillip & Shirley Welch, and Elizabeth Wilson.

Thanks!

Anna Wainwright would like to thank YOU for being so generous in your support of her senior project for Montaña de Luz! She raised the overwhelming amount of \$3,000+. She is grateful and looking forward to going to Honduras in July of 2017...and using your gifts to support the precious children who make their home at Montaña de Luz. Won't you consider being part of the trip?



STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOOD CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER: Canned Beans & Dried Beans



Backpack Food Program Donation List

Needed:

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Canned Tuna, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Next packing date: Tuesday, January 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.





Do you ever see a name on the prayer list and think, *Now who is that?* Or forget what the relationship is? You are not alone as many folks have asked for help with this. The *Prayer List Connection* will refresh all our memories. Folks with chronic needs will be listed for a month in the bulletin. Following that month, we will keep them on the newsletter's *Prayer List Connection* for as long as we are requested to do so. Critical prayer concerns will be added weekly to the prayer list in the bulletin.

Friends of the Congregation:

- Chrissy Adams**, friend of Shannon & Kent Newport; Hodgkin's disease.
- Jim Barringer**, friend of Martha Sue Hall; heart issues.
- Ted Biggers**, friend of Martha Sue Hall & Dan Samples.
- Alice Brooks**, family friend of Nancy & Don Joines; bone cancer in leg.
- Margaret Brooks**, friend of Debbie Hahn; at an assisted living facility.
- Bob & Bessie Burris**, grandparents of Kim Caudle.
- Rachel Darling**, friend of Dona Lisk; ovarian cancer.
- Mike Dearstyne**, brother of Holly Norwood; medical concerns.
- Roy & Katie Dearstyne**, parents of Holly Norwood.
- Sara Dyer**, mother of Martha White; ongoing health concerns.
- Lindsey Efird**, daughter of Karen Efird and Mark Efird; battling MPS.
- Gay Ellington**, former co-worker of Martha White; lung cancer.
- Elizabeth Howard**, cousin of Mary Kesselman; health concerns.
- Tonia Icenhour**, friend of Kim Caudle; lymphoma.
- Jackie Lynn Kruis**, seven year old great-niece of Gloria Bryson.
- Pat Long**, aunt of Roger Martin; on-going health concerns.
- Bryanna Medlin**, nine year old diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.
- Ray Michue**.
- Sam & Melanie Obermiller**, friends of John & Debbie Hahn.
- Barbara Petillo**, friend of Peggy Finley; disabling health problems.
- James Brian Rogers**, son of Jane Rogers; recovering from heart & kidney transplant.
- Karen Russell**, First Baptist Church Wee Care Teacher; breast cancer.
- David Sanges**, brother of Nathan Sanges.
- Garin Stepp**, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- Connie Watson**, sister of Dan Samples; recovering from a stroke.

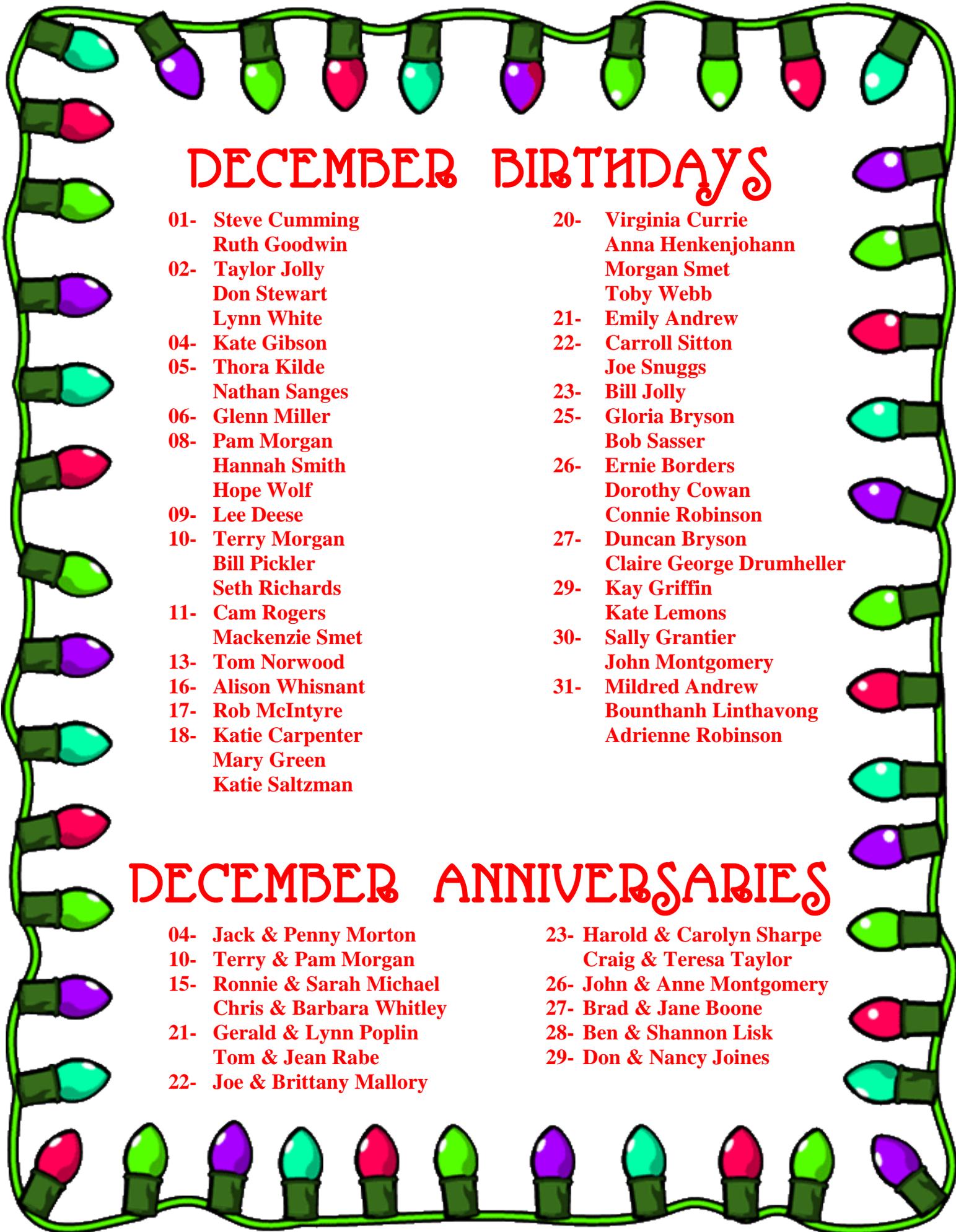
Members of the Congregation:

- Blue Honeycutt.**
- Greg Johnson.**
- June Johnson.**
- Anne Montgomery**, auto-immune disease.
- Carolyn Sharpe.**
- Pete Smith.**

Church Website Address & Email Addresses



- Church Website Address: www.fpcalbemarle.org
- Church Email Address: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
- Elizabeth Ayscue: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org
- Matt Drumheller: mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org
- Pam Knighten: pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org
- Kyle Lambert: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
- Gina Martin: gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org
- Stan Scheer: sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org
- Jane Snyder: jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin | 20- Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet
Toby Webb |
| 02- Taylor Jolly
Don Stewart
Lynn White | 21- Emily Andrew |
| 04- Kate Gibson | 22- Carroll Sitton
Joe Snuggs |
| 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges | 23- Bill Jolly |
| 06- Glenn Miller | 25- Gloria Bryson
Bob Sasser |
| 08- Pam Morgan
Hannah Smith
Hope Wolf | 26- Ernie Borders
Dorothy Cowan
Connie Robinson |
| 09- Lee Deese | 27- Duncan Bryson
Claire George Drumheller |
| 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards | 29- Kay Griffin
Kate Lemons |
| 11- Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet | 30- Sally Grantier
John Montgomery |
| 13- Tom Norwood | 31- Mildred Andrew
Bounthanh Linthavong
Adrienne Robinson |
| 16- Alison Whisnant | |
| 17- Rob McIntyre | |
| 18- Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 04- Jack & Penny Morton | 23- Harold & Carolyn Sharpe
Craig & Teresa Taylor |
| 10- Terry & Pam Morgan | 26- John & Anne Montgomery |
| 15- Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley | 27- Brad & Jane Boone |
| 21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin
Tom & Jean Rabe | 28- Ben & Shannon Lisk |
| 22- Joe & Brittany Mallory | 29- Don & Nancy Joines |



Youth Connection

The Christmas season is coming quickly! There are many ways to get involved here at the end of 2016! Please plan to join us for some of the wonderful activities we have to celebrate the holiday season.

Sunday, December 4

Before and After worship

Christmas Kitchen

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Youth Connection at the Moeller's

Sunday, December 11

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Youth Connection

Sunday, December 18

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 25

No Youth Connection



Confirmation Class 2017

Eighth graders and their parents are invited to meet with Matt on Sunday, January 8 to discuss plans for the 2017 Confirmation Class. We will meet briefly in the parlor following worship.

Monday Night Bible Study at 8:30 p.m.

with Elizabeth Ayscue & Jack Morton

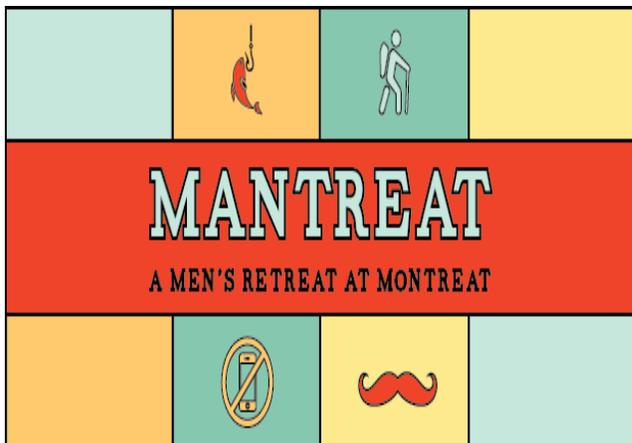
Location: 1611 Bellamy Circle (Elizabeth's house)

Come for fellowship, study of the Scriptures, and prayer. Bring a Bible and a friend. Please contact Elizabeth (eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org) with any questions.



27- Duncan Bryson

29- Kate Lemons



**MANTREAT AT MONTREAT
APRIL 21-23, 2017**

We have had a few men sign up for the Men's retreat at Montreat this spring. There is still time to sign up. This would make an excellent Christmas gift for you or the man in your life! Please contact the church office to sign up for this retreat!



Class Location: Basement, Classroom 2
(A new name and focus for a continuing Sunday School class.)

Adults of all ages are welcome any Sunday to join this laid back group. We use a variety of materials to begin discussions about our faith and how faith speaks to life. Discussion materials will be available ahead of time; however, preparation is not required. Folks are encouraged to come and listen as we share the journey of faith.



The Senior Care Committee would like to encourage the congregation to remember our at-home members during the holidays. Send cards, drop by for a visit, make a call and pray for them.

Hessie Clark

609 Fernwood Drive
Albemarle, NC 28001
Phone: 704-982-4978

Anita Gower

530 Avondale Ave.
Albemarle, NC 28001
Phone: 704-983-1832

Blue Honeycutt

531 Ridge Street
Albemarle, NC 28001
Phone: 704-982-7272

June Johnson

Stanly Manor, Room 301
625 Bethany Rd.
Albemarle, NC 28001

Virginia Marshall

Woodhaven Court
1930 Woodhaven Drive
Albemarle, NC 28001

Elworth Plyler

2221 Bermuda Village Drive
Advance, NC 27006
Phone: 678-772-9357

Toby Webb

Homeplace of New Bern
1309 McCarthy Blvd. Room 216
New Bern, NC 28562



First Presbyterian church
WINTER ART EXHIBIT

Featuring works by
the late E. Hendry Morris
Opening Sunday, December 4

mother & grandmother
of the First Oak Studio artisans,
Leslie Carter, Olivia Keirstead,
Benjamin Riddle, and J. Harrison Carter, II



Growing up, Erne' Hendry Morris was inspired by her father and grandfather to appreciate the marvels of nature and God's creation. This exhibit will take a retrospective look at those and other influences, techniques, and changing styles of her work over the decades of her artful journey. Limited edition prints of Morris' work will be available for a donation to the First Presbyterian Church Alternative Gifts program.

PickleBall Play at First Presbyterian



Players of all levels are meeting 2-3 times per week in the church gym. Anyone interested in learning the game or improving skills, contact Keith or Martha Wolf (704-983-3505).



YOUTH UPDATE

On November 6, our youth spent the evening gleaning green beans from a plot partially owned by Barbara McManus in Cabarrus County. They collected several bags and boxes of beans to be donated for those in need. The green beans were given to Stanly Community Christian Ministry. Our youth are hard at work supporting those in need in Stanly County!

Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Mondays from 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m

Location: Off the Square (114 South 2nd Street, Albemarle)



Matt hosts a weekly Bible study on Monday evenings from 8:00 – 9:00 pm at Off the Square. Anyone is welcome to join Matt for this lectionary-based study.



Young Adult Lunch

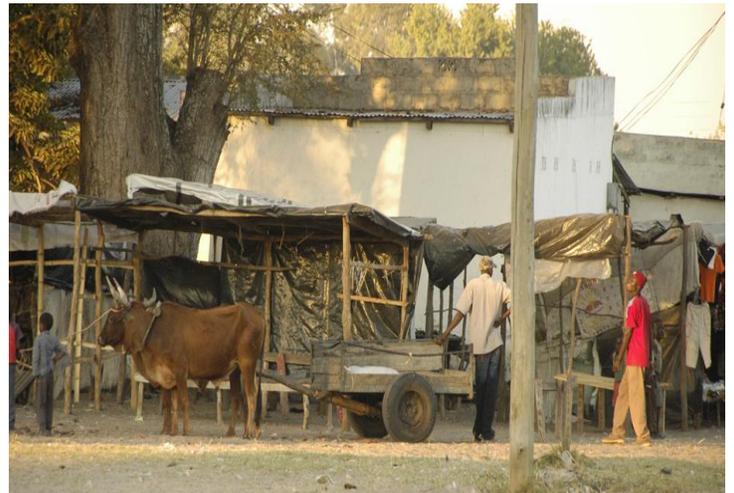
Thursday, December 1 at Noon

Ly Cuisine

We are closing out the year of young adult lunches. Please come join us for some relaxed conversation and delicious food! Please let Matt know if you have any restaurant requests for the new year. (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org).

MWANDI MISSION INTEREST MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 12:00 P.M.

Come to the parlor following worship to hear about plans for a possible return trip to the Mwandu Mission in April 2017. No commitments required at this time.



Volunteers Needed for next First Family Gathering

- Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.
- Toppings Crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 10:30 a.m.
- Set up crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 3:45 p.m.
- Final Touches crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.
- Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 6:45 p.m.



Please join us as a volunteer or just as our guest! We have such a good time together! Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help☺.



FIRST FAMILY GATHERING

**WEDNESDAY, December 7th
EVENING PRAYER 5:45 in the Chapel
DINNER at 6:00 in the Gym**

Menu:

Mexican Rice Bowl – Shredded Chicken, Ground Beef, Mexican Rice, Black Beans, Jalepenos, Avocados, Tomatoes, Shredded Cheese, Salsa, Sour Cream, Cilantro, Crushed Tortilla Chips

Thai Rice Bowl - Chicken, Brown Rice, Bean Sprouts, Cucumbers, Carrots, Edamame, Peanut Sauce, Garlic Yogurt Sauce, Crushed Peanuts

Desserts – Sweet Potato Cake, Pumpkins Bars, Apple Crisp, Brownies and Ice Cream

Contact the church office 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org by noon on Tuesday, December 6 to say you're coming.



**College Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's House
Tuesday, December 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

Whether you are just rolling out of bed (pj's are welcome) or heading out of town to shop, stop by Elizabeth's house (1611 Bellamy Circle) for a festive welcome home brunch. Matt and members of the College & Military Committee will be there to greet you!

Contact Elizabeth by:

Text: 704-985-2945 or Email: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org

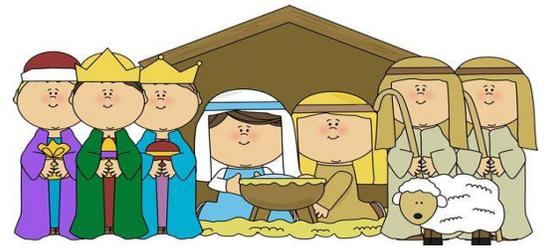


Epiphany occurs on the 12th day of Christmas, January 6. It is the day the church has historically recognized the visit of the wise men to the manger. Come share dinner and a brief worship celebration in the gym!

***First Family Dinner
Wednesday, January 4
6:00 p.m. in the gym***

You're invited to bring warm gifts to place in the manger – mittens, scarves, hats, socks, and gloves will be donated to the Clothing Closet.

Youth Club December Update



December is a short month and the children will spend much of it preparing to present the **Joy Gift Program**, entitled **Follow the Star** on Sunday, December 11, during worship. There will be lines to memorize, costumes to ready, props to put in place and songs to learn that will encourage a heartfelt understanding of the birth of Jesus and the feelings of love and belonging experienced by all involved.

Children will also bring in a gift for one of the **Angel tree children** and help prepare that bag of love for delivery. They will pray for the recipient and his/her family that they too would know and understand that it is far better to give than to receive. Neighbor helping neighbor at it's best!

Faith Explorers will be busy creating their art fundraiser **Coloring God's Word** and those items will be on sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 4 and 11 and Wednesday, December 7 at the First Family Dinner. All proceeds will benefit Montana de Luz in Honduras.

Celebrating Generosity and God's great love for all are themes that continue to be encouraged throughout the month at Youth Club.

Please note the below adjusted Youth Club schedule for December

Wednesday, December 7

3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Youth Club (recreation, snack & dress rehearsal for Joy Gift Program)

5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Handbells and Orff...

(This is an early release day for SCS and there will be no SCUSA transportation.)

Saturday, December 10...10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. ...dress rehearsal for Joy Gift Program in sanctuary

Sunday, December 11...9:30 a.m. JOY rehearsal in the sanctuary prior to 11:00 a.m. worship

Wednesday, December 14...Christmas Skating Party 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at **Sk8 City and Entertainment**

(SCUSA transportation to skating rink with parent pick-up at 5:00 p.m. at the skating rink.)

Youth Cubs

The month of December will be devoted to the most glorious event of all time! The Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament arrived exactly as God promised. God keeps his promises. We will focus on the following: the angel telling Mary that Jesus would be born, His birth, the arrival of shepherds and wisemen, Jesus was sent by God, the story is in the Bible, Jesus' birth is the reason for Christmas. Songs, art, and other activities will reinforce these concepts. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good life!

Submitted by Lynn Poplin



Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

Who can come?

2nd & 3rd graders

What?

Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, juice, etc.

When?

Sunday, December 4, at 9:00 am

Where?

Media Room

Why?

To pray together & build strong community of faith

Please let Gina Martin know if you are able to join us...gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org

*Parents...there will be coffee & muffins for you in the parlor, so please take advantage of this opportunity to relax with other moms & dads while your children are spending quality time together each month.



Faith Explorers Take in A Show

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

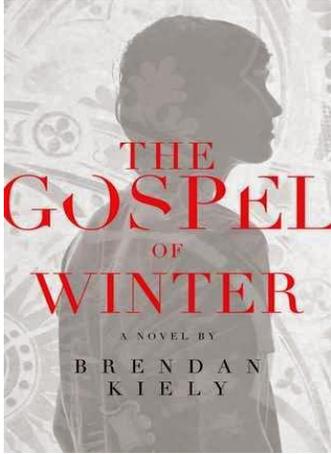
Sunday, December 11, 2016...2:00 pm

What happens when the worst kids in the history of the world find out there are free snacks at Sunday School? They decide to audition for the annual Christmas Pageant! The Faith Explorers will enjoy the JOY luncheon at church following worship and then head to the Charlotte Children's Theater for a great show! Return time...5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Generosity with a Paint Brush

Leslie Carter is offering a Watercolor Class on Mondays, January 23-February 20, 2017 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in classroom 3 on the third floor. No experience necessary; especially for beginners, those who want to refresh skills, or those who need an "attitude adjustment" on the technique of watercolor painting. Cost: Donation in the amount of your choice to Homes of Hope. Call the church office (704-982-2722) to sign-up. Space limited to 10 people. For more information, contact Leslie's studio phone (704-983-5091).





January Book Study
Monday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.
The Gospel of Winter
by Brendan Kiely



Rehearsals are well underway for the Stanly County Chorale program, *Shepherd's Joy: A Christmas Collage*. The program will be presented on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. and Monday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m., both times at the First Presbyterian Church in Albemarle. The program will be directed by Michelle Williams-Gonzales and accompanied by Zoey Brouthers. Please mark your calendars and join us! We would love to see you there!



SCCM Yearly Update

The annual meeting of the *assembly* of SCCM was held in mid-November. Among the important information shared was the following:

- Our own Heather Kilde was selected to serve as Executive Director following a lengthy visioning process and search for the right candidate. Heather assumed this position on November 1 and is already making positive change.
- The Community Tables (Albemarle & Norwood) serve lunch to an average of 200 people per day.
- The Clothing Closet generates income of approximately \$3000 monthly. In addition to items sold, the Clothing Closet assisted more than 700 individuals in 2016. Assistance was provided to people who were in need of clothing for funerals, for families burned out of their homes, and for other needs. Your donated clothing and household items help make this possible.
- More than 16,000 volunteer hours were donated to SCCM last year. This includes those who volunteered at the Clothing Closet, the Community Tables, and the Assistance Center.
- The annual 2017 budget for SCCM is \$643,000. First Presbyterian Church has budgeted \$3,000 for SCCM and will participate in the Caring & Sharing campaign and other offerings that support SCCM.



December

**Thursday, December 1**

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine
- 1:00 pm Technology Committee

Saturday, December 3

Community Table

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Youth Ministry Christmas Kitchen Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop/Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Book/Art Gallery Opening

- 9:00 am *Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee (Session Room)
- 12:00 pm Mwandu Mission Interest Meeting (Parlor)
- 3:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at First Presbyterian
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Connection at the Moeller's

Monday, December 5

- 12:15 pm Advent Study
- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle)
- 7:30 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at First Presbyterian
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 6

- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew
- 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 7

Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Book

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am First Family Toppings Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 3:45 pm First Family Set-up Crew
- 5:00 pm First Family Final Touches Crew
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Club Handbells & Orff Rehearsals
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer (chapel)
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-up Crew
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 10

- 10:00 am-11:30 am JOY Program rehearsal

***childcare provided**

**Sunday, December 11**

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Gift Program & Covered Dish Luncheon/ Christmas JOY Offering/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Book/Faith Explorers to Charlotte Children's Theatre

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:30 am JOY Program Rehearsal
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Worship
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection
- 6:30 pm *Session meets in the Pit Stop

Monday, December 12

Deadline for Sanctuary Poinsettias & Holiday Greenery Form

- 12:15 pm Advent Study
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 14

- 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 meet at the church
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club Skating Party at SK8 City (formerly Wayne's World)
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 17

- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Chancel Choir Lunch & Rehearsal

***childcare provided**





December

**Sunday, December 18**

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

5:00 pm Youth Connection Christmas Party

Monday, December 19

12:15 pm Advent Study

8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 am College Student Brunch at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 21

No Youth Cubs/ No Youth Club

7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 22

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

*childcare provided

**Sunday, December 25**

Community Christmas Dinner/No Youth Connection

9:00 am *Worship

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28

No Wednesday Activities

Friday, December 30

Financial Year End Closing

Church Office Closes at Noon

*childcare provided

“This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.”



Luke 2:12, NRSV

THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Ushers: Heather Kilde, captain; Jim Carter, Michelle Cumming, David Kilde, Ben McLeod, Isabel McLeod

Elder Greeters for December: Sarah Michael; Tom Norwood

Nursery Room:

December 4: Jana Sanderson

December 11: Samantha Wangler (Diaconate)

December 18: Jana Sanderson

December 24: Jana Sanderson; Isabel McLeod

December 25: No Childcare

Toddler Room:

December 4: Misty Honbarrier

December 11: Misty Honbarrier (Session-Cora Harrison)

December 18: Cici Ly

December 24: Samantha Wangler; Ben McLeod

December 25: No Childcare

Nana & Papa Team:

December 4: Mary Kesselman; Debby Johnston

December 11: Mary & Frank Green

December 18: Chris Mabry

December 25: No Childcare

Preschool Partners:

December 4: Heather Deese; Anna Henkenjohann

December 11: Stephanie & Josh Campbell

December 18: Dona & Greg Lisk

December 25: No Childcare

Acolytes:

December 4: Graham Chapman

December 11: Katherine Jolly

December 18: Ethan Richards

December 24: Kimbal Chapman

December 25: Duncan Bryson

Children's Church for December:

December 4: Liz Davis; Jacob Palmer

December 11: No Children's Church

December 18: Liz Davis; Jacob Palmer

December 25: No Children's Church

