

December 2016



FIRST PRESS NEWS

First Presbyterian Church
153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121

- ◆ Advent is a period of waiting that kicks off a new liturgical year in the life of the church.
- ◆ It literally means “the *coming* of Christ into the world”.
- ◆ The colors of Advent are purple, blue, and pink. An Advent wreath typically features three purple candles and one pink candle which are lit on the four Sundays of Advent. The center candle, or Christ Candle, is white and is lit on Christmas Eve.
- ◆ Our congregation recognizes this season in worship in a variety of ways – our pastors switch from green stoles (which signify Ordinary Time) to purple or blue, our Middle School Youth serve as acolytes, and our choir processes and recesses in and out of the sanctuary each Sunday during the first and last hymns. All of this is to signify that this is a special and holy season within the life of our church. These aspects of worship help remind us why we wait and for whom we wait.



Be sure to check the church calendar for several opportunities to enjoy fellowship and worship during December. One of the special ways we can celebrate Advent is through the beauty of music. We would love to have members, friends, and community members join us for the following offerings:



December 11 - Joy Gift Program at 11 a.m. Our annual service of music during the Advent season features our Cherub Choir, Alleluia Singers, Handbell Choir, and Chancel Choir. An offering will be received to provide assistance to current and retired church workers and to support future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



December 18 - Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. The Rocky Mount Chamber Singers will be joined by members of our Chancel Choir and singers from the Rocky Mount community in a concert of sacred and secular Christmas music. Accompanied by an orchestra, the performance will include several choruses from Handel's "Messiah." An offering will be received to support the United Community Ministries of Rocky Mount. All are invited to a Christmas reception in Lacy Hall following the performance.



December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. with pre-service music beginning at 5:15 p.m. Our candlelight communion service will include scripture readings, congregational carols, and special music provided by our choir and an orchestra.
December 25—Christmas Day Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Please note, we will not have Sunday School on this Sunday.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.
(from “Advent Credo” by Daniel Berrigan)

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

Associate Pastor for Congregational Life: The Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon
Director of Music: Jim Smith Organist: Virginia Vance

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall, and at 6:45 p.m. for a time of discussion in the Session Room.

Please note that on December 21 and 28 there will be no Wednesday Programming—Merry Christmas!



*Monday, December 12
Noon in the parlor*

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch celebrates the season on December 12! We will enjoy quiche, hot fruit, asparagus, muffins, and dessert. We now have folks listed on a “permanent list”. Notify the church office if you can not attend or if you wish to be added to the permanent list. Faithful volunteers prepare and serve the food, and a basket is passed for contributions to offset the cost of the meals. While geared towards “retirement age” folks, all are welcome!



December 13, 2016
7:00 a.m.

Start your day off on the right foot and gather at the Hardee's on Sunset Avenue for a time of good food, fellowship and a brief devotional with Chris Berardi.



December 6, 2016
Benvenue Country Club
5:30—6:00 p.m. Social Time
6:00 p.m. Dinner served

Menu includes chicken crepes, fresh fruit, haricot verts (green beans), bread, garden salad, dessert of NY cheesecake with mixed berries and fresh whipped cream, and choice of coffee, tea or water. Cash bar available.



You are cordially invited to attend the annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea.

Thursday, December 15
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Home of Stephanie Hayworth

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE




Don't forget there are several options for paying your pledge:

- ◇ Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- ◇ Bank draft – The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. If want to start a bank draft, simply attach a voided check to your pledge card.
- ◇ Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fpcrm.org using the 'Ministries' link and 'Donate Now' to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.
- ◇ Sale of stock – If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon to request a stock donor letter or have your broker contact Jeanne in the church office.
- ◇ Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.



Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office at 446-9121 or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.


ORDER YOUR Poinsettias
 We decorate our Sanctuary during Advent with beautiful poinsettias which are made available by your donations to honor and remember special friends and/or loved ones. Envelopes are available in the Narthex or from the church office for you to pick up and enclose payment along with the name(s) of those you wish to honor. You can either place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or return to Dionne Seale's church mailbox. A donation of \$18 per poinsettia is appreciated. A special bulletin remembers the honorees on Christmas Eve and the deadline to donate is **December 18, 2016**.

MAKES CENT\$



The year is winding down and the third quarter statements have been mailed. Please contact Jeanne with in the church office with any questions on your 2016 pledge or your Capital Campaign pledge.

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for October. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office if you have any questions or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Pledges and Loose Offering through October 31, 2016	
Month – to – date	\$ 34,214.21
Year – to – date	\$ 504,139.94
Expenses through October 31, 2016	
Month – to – date	\$ 65,563.19
Year – to – date	\$ 523,639.77



Our Heritage, Our Mission Capital Campaign Update

Mission Tithe Update

As part of our capital campaign, the session designated 10% of the funds raised toward missions. A small committee made up of Melanie Marshall Park, Stephen Chesnutt, Amy Hunt and Chris Berardi is tasked with recommending to the session how to disperse the funds. At its most recent meeting, your session voted to disperse \$3000 to Peacemakers and \$5000 to Conetoe for the purchase of computers and office supplies. The session also approved charging our junior and senior high youth with dispersing \$3000 throughout the Twin Counties.

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 10/31/16):

\$1,034,866.71



If you can assist the Worship Committee with removing decorations from the sanctuary, vestibule and chapel on Thursday, December 29, please contact Annie Daughtridge.



Finally, Advent has arrived. This season of holy waiting and anticipation of the Christ child's arrival changes each year in my family's life as my children get older and notice new aspects of our traditions, or are able to remember what is coming next, to anticipate with us, the different markers of each day that we come closer to Christmas.

I have a challenge for you this Advent. As you get out your nativity scene this year, talk with your children about what it means to wait with anticipation and after looking at the baby Jesus, the center of the nativity, find a safe place to keep him until Christmas day. This will be a reminder for your family of what it means to wait with anticipation.

This Advent season at FPCRM I am looking forward to participating in your wonderful traditions for the children. We started the season with our Advent Workshop and by this time you have already received your letter with activities for Week 1. Our daily Advent activities focus on giving, doing, and bringing Christ's light to others as we wait and anticipate Jesus's arrival.

On December 11 the children and youth will participate in the annual Gingerbread House Workshop. We will gather after church to make gingerbread houses for members who aren't able to get to church very often because of age or illness. Please join us for this tradition that gives us another way to give, do, and bring Christ's light as we wait.

Lydia Wingo Kane



YOUTH

First Presbyterian Church Rocky Mount



Bell-Ringing at Sam's Club – An annual FPCRM Youth Tradition, we will be ringing the bell and collecting money to aid our Salvation Army at the Sam's Club from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 3rd. Contact Mary Kathleen to sign up for a slot!



Gingerbread Workshop – Stay after church on December 11 for a pizza lunch and a Gingerbread Workshop with the younger members of our congregation (12:00-2:00 pm). We need your hands and hearts to help our littles create Gingerbread houses for those in our congregation that need a bit of extra cheer!



Youth Christmas Celebrations Sunday, December 18th

Middle School Party – 5:00-6:15 pm at the home of Mari Robin Tharin. Bring a \$10 goofy gift to exchange!

Sr. High Progressive Dinner, "Candlewood Style" 6:30-8:30 pm
~ Festive Dress Encouraged ~

Appetizers – at the home of Haven Ross

Meal – at the home of Lillie Daughtridg (co-hosted by the Vivian Rogers' Family)

Dessert – at the home of Cate Lilley



- ◆ Thank you to all who donated toys for the Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store ! Parents with limited resources are able to purchase these items at heavily discounted prices on **December 9 & 10** for their children and the revenue produced goes back into Peacemakers programming. All youth and adults from FPC are invited to help reprice toys on Wednesday, December 7 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. If able to help with the sale on Dec. 9 or 10, contact Donna Clifton with Peacemakers at donna@rockymountpeacemakers.org.
- ◆ If you have items to donate for the Peacemakers Thrift Store, simply contact Peacemakers at 252-443-021 to schedule a pick up of items to donate from your home.

*For more information, visit
www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.*

- Volunteers who can substitute are always welcome!
- MOW is in need of 2017 Calendars to pass out to meal recipients. If you have a spare calendar or if your business has any to spare, please donate them either in the kitchen area or place on Kara Cox's desk.

Contact Kara Cox for more information at
252-446-4336.



The following items can be brought to the narthex area of the church on the first Sunday of each month or you are welcome to drop items off anytime in the volunteer office

beside the church office entrance:

Tar River Academy

Be sure to check out the wish list for Tar River Academy on the bulletin board outside the church office describing school supplies, food, hygiene items, and baby supplies needs and non-perishable food items. **TRA still needs food items for their Backpack Buddies and they are still in need of clothing for their January graduation. For the boys, they need white shirts, black ties, and black shoes. For the girls, they can use black dresses and black shoes. **We will be filling food bags for TRA students after worship on Sunday, December 11 in the Session Room. Please join us if you can assist with this wonderful project!****

United Community Ministries

Paper products and #10 size cans (preferred) of either vegetables or canned fruit are especially appreciated. **The 2016 Honor Card depicting the work of artist William Mangum is available for purchase from the church office. Each card is \$5 and all proceeds go directly towards United Community Ministries' programs such as the Homeless Shelter, Community Soup Kitchen and the Bassett Center. Stop by the church office between now and December 15 to make your donation and receive a card to honor someone at Christmas and help the homeless in our community. Checks should be made payable to UCM.**



Scouting News



The Girl Scouts enjoyed shopping for a local woman who is expecting her second boy this winter and already has a two year old son. We were able to purchase necessities such as diapers, wipes, bibs, onesies, burp clothes, and other items.



The Cadettes are beginning work on a mural at the Boys' and Girls' Club that will be a tree with handprints of each of the children for the leaves.

Troop 7 News

Troop 7 recently camped at Hanging Rock State Park. The scouts hiked over 5 miles on Saturday uphill BOTH WAYS!! (At least that is the way I remember it!) The top of hanging rock gave us a beautiful view of the fall colors. Temperatures for this outing got down to 27 degrees, but we had prepared the scouts by teaching them to pack layers of clothing and how to prepare their sleeping gear from the ground up. Everyone did great as there was a fire ban and we could not have a camp fire. The scouts also prepared their menus for the weekend by cooking hamburgers and homemade fries, pizza and peach cobbler in the Dutch oven.



Raising the colors to start the day



Sitting on the edge so Scoutmaster Lane can freak out!



Widow Falls

FPC MUSIC NOTES

Extra Rehearsal Reminders

- Joy Gift Program—Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m. (rehearsal on Saturday Dec. 10 from 10-12:00 p.m.)
- Christmas Concert—Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. (rehearsals Dec. 1 and 15 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and December 17 from 10-12:30 p.m.)
- Christmas Eve Service—5:30 p.m.; pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m. (rehearsals Dec. 20 from 7:00-9:00 and Dec. 22 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.)



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Bobbi Weeks.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead our Bible study on Lesson 4: "Who is Jesus—According to John".

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Lila Michael



This wonderful ministry provides prayer shawls, blankets, etc. to those in need of God's warmth!



In November, the Presbyterian Women delivered Thanksgiving lunches to twenty residents of Covenant Homes. The residents received a K&W turkey meal with all the trimmings and apple pie for dessert!

What is a "Circle"??



A P.W. Circle is: Where faith is nurtured through Bible Study, friendship and outreach; where women share love and friendship and are challenged to reach out to others, in their own neighborhood and around the world; where Christian faith is nurtured and sent forth by caring and sharing.

A Circle can provide a Christian community in which we can be strengthened and supported in our concerns, joy and sorrow as we pray for one another.

At First Presbyterian Church, we have two Circles. The "Circle of Friends" meets on the second Monday night in members' homes. The "Circle of J.O.Y." meets at the church on the second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Basic to Circle life is Bible Study, usually led by one of our ministers. Our meetings are very informal and you are always welcome.

Our December PW project is to adopt a resident at My Sister's House. We will be working with a woman and her young daughter in order to help provide for them a brighter Christmas.

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another
with whatever gift each of you has received.”
1 Peter 4:10*



December 4, 2016 **Communion will be served by intinction**

Head Usher: Tim Smith

Ushers: Mary Sue Smith, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal, Tommy Honey (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Nancy Richardson

Liturgist: Winslow Rogers

Children's Sermon: Joe Callaway

Nursery Helpers: Christie Sondergard, Jeannie Lane

Communion Preparers: Joe and Virginia Brewer

Communion Servers: Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Mike Gaynor, Kate Tharin

Acolytes: Ellis Daughtridg and Graham Turnage

December 11, 2016

Head Usher: Kevin Schrimper

Ushers: Ryan Schrimper, David Farris, Walt Wiggins, Cleve Wiggins (Welcome Table)

Greeters: The Schrimper Family

Liturgist: Anne Mosley

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Katherine Fisher

Acolytes: Anna Brooks Gaynor and Hunter Nealey

December 18, 2016

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill

Ushers: Dee Whitley, David Farris, Walt Wiggins, Cleve Wiggins (Welcome Table)

Greeters: The Barnhill Family

Liturgist: Tim Smith

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Ann Dill

Acolytes: Virginia Feagans and Charlie Warner

December 24, 2016 **Communion will be served by trays**

Head Usher: Lige Daughtridg

Ushers: Pat Mauldin, Christie Sondergard, John Feagans, Bobbie Lambeth (Welcome Table)

Communion Preparers: Marianne Farris, Becky Parks, Ben Roberson

Communion Servers: Partha Daughtridg, David Farris, Marianne Farris, Jay Gardner, Mike Gaynor, Becky Parks, Nancy Richardson, Ben Roberson, Winslow Rogers, Beth Steed, Janice Smith, John Turnage

Acolytes: Zoey Outlaw and Carley Outlaw

December 25, 2016 **No Sunday School; 11:00 a.m. worship service only**

Head Usher: Bill Buchanan

Ushers: Pat Mauldin, Laura Durham, Suzanne Buchanan (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Bobbie Lambeth

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Heather Gardner

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



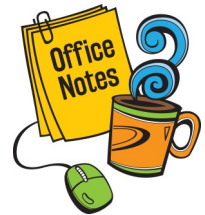
@FPC_RockyMount



fpc_rockymount

First Presbyterian Church's office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at other times.

Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date!



*Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
Thanks so much for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers sent during the sudden illness and loss of my mother. It is both comforting and a blessing to have such a loving and caring church family.*

Love,
Marie Kem

*Dear Friends,
I would like to thank you for all of the calls, cards, and prayers that you extended to me while recuperating from a broken arm. The flowers from the sanctuary were beautiful and lifted my spirits.*

Sincerely,
Tempie Fuller



We are in the process of revamping our church website to make it more user friendly and interactive. While this process is ongoing, we have made some updates to the current website that we hope will be useful! Be sure to check out the website at www.fpcrm.org to note the following updates:

- ◆ Visit the “This Week” tab on the Worship page and you can now access the previous Sunday’s bulletin.
- ◆ Visit the “Volunteer Schedules” tab also on the Worship page to access the most recent Usher/Greeter list and Liturgist list.
- ◆ Visit the Sermons page and you can listen to the latest sermon podcast.
- ◆ Visit the “Time and Talent Survey” tab on the Stewardship page to complete your survey online.
- ◆ Visit the Upcoming Events page to see the latest church calendar and newsletter.



Parents: Please update your college student’s address with the church office if you have not done so already.



**The church office will be closed
December 26 and 27, as well as
January 2 for the holidays.**



Our love and sympathy is extended to the following:

- Marie Kem and family upon the loss of her mother, Frances Waites, on November 6, 2016 in Michigan.
- Amine Edwards upon the death of her brother Thomas Arthur Galbreath, Jr. of Kinston, NC on November 24, 2016.
- Bobbi Weeks upon the death of her brother, Ryland C. Gaskins, Jr. , on November 25, 2016 in Kilmarnock, Va.

Please continue to keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



The following were welcomed into the membership of First Presbyterian on Sunday, November 20, 2016:



Bridget and Tim
Hathaway



Marianne and Mark
Stuart



Jay Quinan



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

AUTUMN CARE Nashville

- ▶ Virginia Campbell

HUNTER HILLS REHAB Rocky Mount

- ▶ Anne Parkerson

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

- Linda Amerson
- Augusta Daniel
- Nora Davis (mother of Gene Jackson)
- Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
- Jean and Frank Edge
- Anne Etheredge
- Si Fuller
- Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
- Opal Green (mother of Sue Jackson)
- Betty Hodges
- Nancy & Bailey Liipfert
- Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)
- John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)
- Lila Michael
- Gerry Niece (friend of the church)
- Susie Park (Fred Park's Mother)
- Anne Podesta
- Blanche Robinson
- Evelyn Reese
- Maida Sessoms
- Charlotte Wheeler (mother of Amy Hunt)



A reception will be held in Lacy Fellowship Hall following the December 18th Christmas Concert and the Deacons are asking members of the congregation to assist with providing the following reception items:

sausage balls, finger sandwiches, veggie tray, fruit tray, cookies, ham biscuits, chips and dip, and gallon jugs of tea.

If able to contribute, please contact Georgia Mixon and let her know what you plan to bring. Items need to either be labeled and dropped off that Sunday morning in the kitchen (place in refrigerator if needed) or delivered by 3:30 p.m. that afternoon immediately prior to the concert. Please label your serving trays so they can be returned easily.

Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth

The staff of First Presbyterian Church wishes you and yours all the blessings of the season! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lydie *Charity* *Dimme* *JJ*

Jim *Mary* *Chris* *Jennie*

Jeanne *Mary Kathleen*

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