

Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church—Danville, Virginia

189 Years of “knowing Christ and making Him known”

December
2016



If a baby is born on Christmas Day, what do the parents do about all the “Baby’s First Christmas” paraphernalia? Do they accumulate it beforehand, and then store it for a year if the baby arrives later? Do they wait until the next year, because that’s the first full, 24-hour Christmas, or the first full Christmas season? I guess these are questions that Mary and Joseph didn’t have to think about on their way to Bethlehem. Whenever Jesus decided to arrive, it would be *everyone’s* first Christmas, with John the Baptist already wearing the first commemorative onesie.

Here at FPC, we are preparing for our 190th Christmas (our founding was on December 31, 1826, so we just missed that Christmas). That’s a lot of poinsettias and candles, but it is good to know that the center of it all—God taking on life and uniting Himself with us in Christ Jesus—is still the same. Each year we spend the season of Advent rehearsing the stories of preparation and expectation that accompanied Jesus’s birth, and we also take note of them in preparation for his return. The season serves as a recalibration so that we can acknowledge the ways that God arrives in our lives and calls us to respond.

While we remain grounded in the truth of the story, God may show up in different ways and call us to different responses over time. There are a lot of things that we have and that we do now that our ancestors would not have recognized on Christmas Day, 1827. Of course, if we tried to do everything the same way we did it in 1827, then we would not be responding to the Gospel in ways that people in today’s world would recognize, either.

So, while we hold fast to the truth of the incarnation and to God’s purposes in Christ Jesus, we also know that God has put us here, now, and with the days to come so that we may reach people here, now, and in those days to come. That is one of the biggest challenges of being prepared for Jesus to show up in our lives: we don’t know exactly how he is going to work until he does. As the Gospels show us, those who were prepared for God to work in a new way were the ones who recognized Jesus, and those whose concept of God was confined to the old ways were the ones who missed him.

As we celebrate all of the wonderful traditions of Christmas, both in the church and among our families and friends, we need to be aware of the new opportunities God gives us to serve and follow Him. Whether it is a first Christmas or a 190th, the Holy Spirit is still active, showing us new things and calling us back to the truth. Let us hope for the work to come and hold fast to the joy we have in Christ.

Happy December, and I look forward to seeing you in it!

In Christ,

Allen

Table of Contents

1. Allen’s Review
2. Calendar
3. What’s Happening
4. Opportunities to Serve and Share
5. Sunday servers
6. Opportunities to Study the Word
7. Celebrating our Family
- 8-9. Special Messages

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	DEC 1	2	3
9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 6:30 pm Membership Cmte	6:15 Handbells 7 pm GN Choir	12:15 pm <u>CHAPEL</u> 4:30: Women's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00pm YOUTH		OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am Worship CMTE 9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 10:00am Women's Council 12:30pm Women's Day Circle 7: pm Women's Evening Circle	6 pm Deacons mtg 7 pm Property Cmte	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm YOUTH 6:00pm Family Night Supper	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 a.m. Christmas Breakfast 9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 11am VIP	6:15 Handbells 7 pm Session	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm Family Night Supper 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 Mens Breakfast 10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry 2:00 pm Angel Tree Party
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am Missions CMTE 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg	6:15 Handbells	10:30 Day Scholl Christ- mas Program and Brunch 12:15 pm <u>CHAPEL</u> 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS 10:30 m Christmas Day Service	9:30am- Prayer Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed 6:15 pm Hand- bells	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry

What's happening

December is a busy month for church and secular activities. Please mark your calendars for the following important events!



Family Night Suppers Join us for another exciting month of food, fellowship and learning. Menus will be posted in the bulletin the Sunday prior to the supper. Reservations will be taken on Dec 4th and 11th in the Juice room or you may call the church office. Tickets are \$7 per person with a family maximum of \$21

Reserve the Dates!

Wednesday, Dec 7 - Bible Study - Team 2

Menu: Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Assorted Cookies

Wednesday, Dec 14 - Christmas Hymn Sing - Team 3

Please note that the dinner on Dec. 14 is on the second Wednesday of the month.

Bible Club for our PreK-Grade 5 children after dinner !



The annual **Church Christmas Breakfast** sponsored by the Outlook Sunday School Class will be on **December 11 at 9 a.m.** Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful time of food and worship together.



Join us **December 11th** at 5:00 pm for dinner and a movie; we will be watching **"It's a Wonderful Life"** and dinner will be a "Drive-in" theme with **hamburgers and hotdogs.**

If you are interested please call Jackson Weller at the Church Office 792-7822 ext 3.



jackson@fpcdanville.com 792-7822

Youth Group December 7th and 14th (there is Church Dinner these nights)

December 17th Youth help with Angel Tree Party

December 21st Youth Christmas Party

6:30-8:00pm

December 24th Youth Lunch Ministry

Chapel Time

Wednesdays, 12:15 pm



Angel Tree Party : if you'd like to come and hang out with our Angels for pizza and arts & crafts, we'd love to have you in the fellowship hall on Saturday, December 17th from 2-4 p.m.

There will be a **congregational meeting** after worship on Dec. 11 for the purpose of electing officers for Class of 2019.



Please join us for our Services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning.

Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM service with a special presentation by the children of our church.

11 PM Service - special music and service

Christmas Day:

10:30 AM Service - Please make a note of the time of this service.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Contact Jackson for details:

jackson@fpcdanville.com 792-7822 ext 3

Bible Club and Church Supper December 7th and 14th

December 18th Birthday Party for Jesus
(During Sunday Worship)

December 24th at 5:00pm Children and Family
Christmas Eve Service

Opportunities to serve and share



Prayers and Praises

Pray for: Kevin Bailey, Chuck Bolt, Pat Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Beth Brown, Bill Brown, Claire Campbell, Nelson R. Clark, R. L. Clifton, Sarah Fisher (Sally Clark's Mother), Betty Fitzgerald, Fred Gunn, Christina Hermetz (Kelsey Thompson's sister), Tim Hooker, Kay Huggins (son -in-law of Thomas and Alice Saunders), Conner Jones, Jana Keen and family, Angela Langford, Malcolm Mallery, Larry Mann, Carol Ingram McGee, Larry Miller, Lee Norman, Greg Nunley, Ken Obye, Ella Ryan, Ethel Sakellaris, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders, Mary Ann Shelton

Our VIPs: Anne Banks, Ruby Crowell, Maude Dalton, Rev. Cecil Eanes, Clarence Edmunds, Bill Erwin, Anne Grier, Lois Hayes, Kathy Huggins, Ruth Lawton, Grace Litzenberg, Thelma Meadors, Carolyn Miles, Alex Mitchell, A. B. Motley, Linda Terriberry, Nultie Wiseman

ON THE MEND--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Ann Banks, Kelvin Gunn, Paul Johnson, Grace Litzenberg, Thomas Peyton Mahaffey, Mary Ann Shelton, Russell Vandiver, Jean White

All of the Caregivers.

For those who have lost loved ones: Linda Overbey on the passing of her mother; Ina Ingram on the passing of her brother, Richard Russell; the family of Ken Meadors on his passing; the family of Linda Obye in the passing of her mother, Libby McMaster.

**denoted length of time on prayer list.*

Contact the church office with requests & updates. 792-7822. Confidentiality is respected, of course

Lunch Ministry

WHAT: Serving a hot lunch to the community every Saturday

WHEN: Every Saturday; volunteers work from 10:30 am –1:00 pm. Lunch is served at 11:30 am

WHO: Different groups are in charge each week, **EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND OFTEN NEEDED;** Cooking, clean up, greeting, bible study, just chatting with our guests

Dec 3: PC's Women's Evening Circle

Dec 10: Westover Baptist Youth

Dec 17: Unity Presbyterian Church Women

Dec 24: FPC's Youth

Dec 31: Outlook Class

TRUTH HOUSE

Your Missions Committee is also supporting Cross Road Christian Counseling with goods for their Truth House. See the box in the Sutherlin Entrance with their needs written on note cards; your gifts are truly needed and appreciated

HELP WANTED

Sunday Servers:

Liturgists, Children's Chat, Sound System operators. If you feel a calling to serve in any of these capacities, please email Brenna Takata

at brenna5008@gmail.com or call the church office and leave a message with Christy.

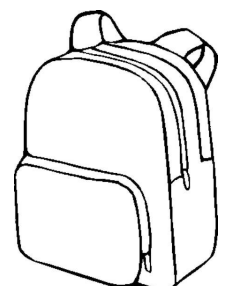
Saturday Lunch Ministry: Saturday crews can use your help. If you would be willing to help cook, serve, and/or clean from 10:15-12:15 the 1st, 3rd, 4th, or 5th Saturdays of the month, you would be a great blessing.



Fall Clothing Drive

Clothing Drive: The deacons will be giving away clothes at the Saturday Lunch Ministry on **Dec. 10**. Please bring your gently used WINTER clothes donation to the church and leave them in the fellowship hall at the stage.

The Back Pack Weekend Program is starting again. FPC will be responsible for packing backpacks the 1st Thursday in December (1st). Contact Nancy Wilson if you wish to help.



Sunday servers and sharers

Flowers on the Reredos

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary on Sunday to the praise and glory of God and...

December 4: OPEN

December 11: In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Kirk by the family

December 18: In loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Nultie, Paige and Frank Wiseman

December 25: OPEN

***Open dates are available for sponsoring flowers. For information please contact**

Rebecca Atkinson at 434-203-1666. rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net



*After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor.
In charge of this month's distribution: Elders*

Serving this month December 2016

Children's Sunday Activities

	<u>Nursery/ Sunday School</u>	<u>Younger class</u>	<u>Older class</u>	<u>Children's Chat</u>		<u>Liturgist</u>
4	Leigh Blount, Marissa Meadors	Karan Johnson Gwen Baucom	Kathy Machado Carolyn Baker	Jackson Weller	4	Jackson Weller
11	Ava Barrett	Kathy Dolianitis TBD	Lisa and Lia Argyrakis	Erin Parris	11	Gene Hayes
18	Kim Clifton, Di- ane Shelton	Whitney Clarke, Catie Clarke	Laura Jones, Erin Parris	Kathy Dolianitis	18	Marissa Meadors
24					24	5pm TBA 11pm Jarrod Brown
25	NO Sun. School	NO Sunday School	NO Sun. School	NO Children's Chat	25	TBA

	<u>Friendship: Deacons*, Elder</u> *Deacon on call for visitation		<u>Sat Lunch Deacon, Elder</u>
4	*David Parris, M-L Crane, Joan Reynolds CAKE SUNDAY	3	Susan Mathena, Hampton Wilkins
11	*Mike Reynolds David Swann, David Clark	10	Barry Cutright
18	*Susan Mathena, Gene Hayes	17	John Parris, Joan Reynolds
25	*John Parris, M-L Crane, Tom Barrett	24	Kathy Dolianitis, Dave Zook
		31	Eddie Blount

	<u>Elders-Front Door</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Ushers*</u>
4	C. B. Strange	David Parris	Team 1
11	Gary Wimer	Fred Baker	Team 2
18	Jay Hayes	Edward Blount	Team 3
24		5pm Sam Meadema 11pm Ray Beale	
25	Edward Blount	C. B. Strange	Team 4

*Team leader may ask someone to help with ushering

Monthly Duties

Collections: David Swann

Flowers: Elders

Communion: December 11

Dave Zook, Gary Wimer

Opportunities to Study the Word

Class: rm; leader; study or statement, time

Christian Education



Youth and Adult Sunday School: 9:45-10:40 am

- ✂ Youth (middle and high school): rm 112; Jackson Weller; uses the scripture to be used in the week's sermon to prepare for worship
- ✂ Outlook: rm 322; Jay Hayes, Tom Barrett, Bob Newnam, Kent Shelton, Whitney Clarke;
- ✂ Seekers: rm 109; Joyce Perez; *"Feasting the Word"*
- ✂ Bible Fellowship: Library; Linda Copeland; *Common Sense and The Gospel* (A study of the Wisdom Books)
- ✂ **Children's Sunday School** ages Kindergarten through 5th grade have a Sunday School lesson during the Children's Extended Time (mid-worship approximately 11:15-12:00). The lessons follow the Liturgical Calendar, bringing to life the stories and lessons that are the foundation for our Christian faith
 - ✂ K-2: rm 304; see pg 7 for instructors
 - ✂ Gr 3-5: rm 306; see pg 7 for instructors
 - ✂ Toddlers and infants: care is provided during the Sunday School and Worship hours

Children's Ministry:

Don't forget Sunday School is every Sunday following the Children's Chat!!!



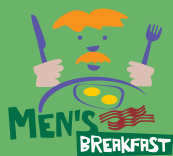
Presbyterian Women

Monday December 5, 2016.

Coordinating Council will meet at 10:00 am in Room 108

Bible Study: at 12:30 pm in Room 108

Evening: 7:00 pm at the home of Sandra Strange, 285 W. Main Street.



Men of the church

Breakfast and fellowship

December 17 at 8:00 am

Overbey Fellowship Hall.

All men are invited!!

We will be finishing our study on Paul the Apostle.

Committee meetings

- ✂ Diaconate: (Susan Mathena, Chair); Tuesday, December 6, 6 pm (first Tuesday)
- ✂ Property: (Tom Barrett, Chair); Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 pm (first Tuesday)
- ✂ Worship Committee: (Brenna Takata, Chair); Sunday, December 4, 9:00 am (first Sunday)
- ✂ Session: (C.B. Strange, Clerk); Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 pm (second Tuesday) Session meetings are always open to members wishing to attend.
- ✂ VIP: (Pat Argyrakis, Chair); Monday, December 12, 11:00 am (second Monday)
- ✂ Missions: (Gary Wimer, Chair), Sunday, December 18, 9:00 am (third Sunday)
- ✂ Christian Education (CE): Monday, December 19, 4:30 pm (third Monday)
- ✂ Membership: (Chris Moore); Monday, January 9, 2017 6:30 pm (last Monday)

Celebrating our family

Birthdays This Month:

happy birthday

Celebrate with us on the first Sunday in the juice room with birthday cake—before and after worship

5 Frank Wiseman
7 Charlotte Litzenberg
9 Kathleen Harris
10 Holt Whitt
12 David Swann
12 Nathan Honea
13 Ruby Crowell

13 Carson Green, Jr
15 Heather Clark
15 Edward Blount
16 Lisa Bolt
18 Elaine Lea
18 Spencer Stoakley
21 Bob Whitt

23 Chuck Bolt
25 Cooper Crews
27 Sharon Whitt
27 Ellen Thomas
28 Robert Clifton
29 Carol Ellis
29 Martha Bell

Want your anniversary listed? Or if we have missed your b-day this year, call Marie-Louise at 770-0136

VIP OF THE WEEK

Please remember our VIPs in prayer each week and drop them a card or note to let them know how much they are loved

Dec 4: A.B. Motley 480 West Main Street Apt. A3 Danville VA 24541

Dec 11: Alex Mitchell 507 West Main Street Danville VA 24541

Dec 18: Nultie Wiseman 5969 Dry Fork Road, Dry Fork VA 24549

Many thanks to our VIP committee who selflessly visit our VIPs. It takes a special calling to help those who can no longer get to church on a regular basis still feel like they are a vital part of the church family, as indeed they are. Thank you VIP committee members .

Stewardship News

MIKE REYNOLDS

Stewardship Theme for 2017: Stewards of God's Grace

The Finance and Stewardship Committees would like to thank the Congregation for their commitment to God's Church and our community. At this time we have had 45 **pledges** turned in totaling \$185,378. If you have not brought in your pledge yet, please consider doing so. This is very helpful to the Finance Committee in planning for the coming year. The annual **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected on Dec. 18. This offering is a way to improve the lives of those past and current church workers who are struggling.

take them a meal

Thank you so much to those who have been able to help bring Pat & Chuck Bolt a meal in the past months. They still need our help and would love your visit.

Check in online (www.takethemameal.com the Bolts, password : PatnChuckB) to sign up or call Marie-Louise Crane at 434-770-0136 to pick a date."

A note from your Membership Committee...If you are in need of a ride to church on Sunday or to other church activities, please contact the church office. We'll make sure you get to your activity!

We are a church family with many gifts and talents ready to share, but sometimes we don't share our needs. If you have a need, call on YOUR church family to help. We are here to celebrate with and help and support one another. Christy in the church office can put you in touch with the right person or you can call a church officer.

Special Message



Thanks for Thanksgiving!

As chief organizer, I am grateful for the generosity of this church in donating time and food. There were at least 35 people working this event, and many more who donated food items. And similar to the

meager fish and bread becoming enough to feed the thousands, the slow donations in early November became the overflowing plates on November 19.

The volunteers at the lunch program 's Thanksgiving dinner on Nov 19 served about 150. Honestly, we lost count after 126 and people were still coming in! Our guests were very grateful for the abundance of food and the manner in which it was served.

Every year, my spirit is warmed at how we come together to make this meal happen. Thank you for your volunteering and donations,

Susan Mathena



Getting to know our Missionaries

The Reverend Dr. Tom Harvey and Judy

Dr. Tom Harvey serves as the academic dean for OCMS (Oxford Center for Mission Studies) where students are church leaders, evangelists, missionaries, ministers and development for 40 countries. Many of their students come from Pakistan, Syria, Congo and South Sudan where they are often subjects of harassment and violence. They come to Oxford to study for their PH.D for periods of time and then return home to apply their research to the real-life issues they face.

Judy, has begun a Christian Counselling programme to enhance her ministry at St. Andrews Church in Oxford. Their daughter, Emma served as resident dean of St Clare's and has begun her MA programme in Reformed History at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Their son Paul spent the summer in North Carolina with his fiancé Caitlin to plan their wedding in July 2017.

The Harveys hope to visit First Presbyterian next summer while they are in the US. Please keep them all in your prayers as they continue their work in England.

Organ Fund

Update on our Organ Fund: We started the organ fund in 2011 and have to date received \$78,272.41 through many generous donations, which leaves us with a balance of \$11,554.34.

PRAYER LIST

Changes in prayer and praise list

Prayer requests for church members, family and community members will ALWAYS be welcome and encouraged. But because our prayers should be meaningful and relevant, there are some changes to the list. Some people have acute needs and appreciate the short term prayers during their crisis; others are suffering from chronic long term conditions which need our persistent petitions; still others are cherished members of our church family and should always be lifted up to our Creator. In addition, we want to acknowledge the losses of loved ones as well as the joy that comes from answered prayer. Please keep the church office or a church officer informed of your prayer needs. You can also complete a prayer request card found in the pews and place in the collection plate on Sundays.



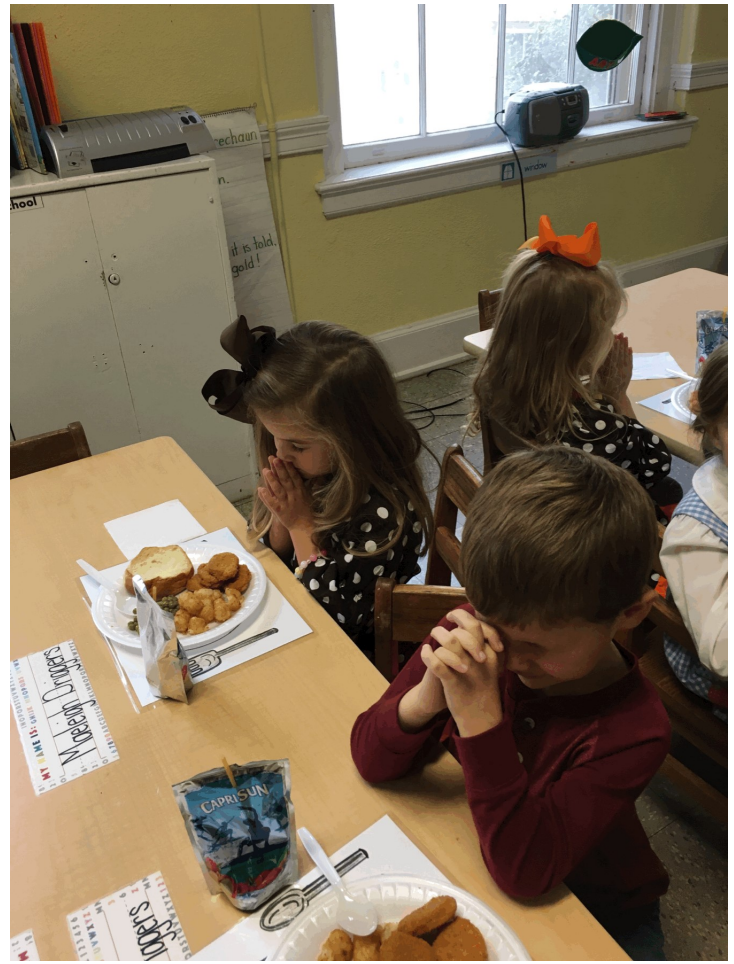
The funds for the Crop Walk have still not stopped coming in and our Grand Total is \$16,362.37! Thank you walkers, sponsor and

corporate sponsors at FPC who all in all contributed \$1,878! What a blessing. Thanks be to God!

Day School Hat, Mitten, Glove, Scarf, and Sock Collection

Please find the box in the hallway and donate as many warm weather items as you can. During this season of giving what a great way to teach our little ones about those who don't have warm clothing. Union Church is doing a warm clothing drive on December 3rd...If the box has items in it we will donate what is there, however PLEASE keep filling and I will donate the remainder to House of Hope. THANK YOU for your help!

—Erin



Day School Christmas Program is December 20 at 10:30 a.m. Church members are welcome to come and watch!

Day School will be closed
December 21-January 8
for the
Christmas Holiday.



Check out the website <http://fpcdanville.com/>

Attention

If you have information for the Sunday bulletin, please provide it to Christy Edgar at office@fpcdanville.com by the preceding Tuesday. If you would like an insert to be printed and included in the bulletin, please request it at least 10 days in advance. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church
937 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541-1809
Office Hours Mon – Thurs 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: (434) 792-7822
Fax: (434) 792-7832
Website: www.fpcdanville.com
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED