

December 2018

## Beyond the Columns

Advent is about preparing yourself, but for what are we preparing ourselves? Are we preparing ourselves for the "Big Day" or the "Really Big Day?" Will we be spending most of our time during December preparing for the "The Big Day" -- Christmas or the "Really Big Day" -- the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? My guess is that most of us will be spending the majority of our time preparing for the former event rather than the latter. However, Advent is about both days. We live, as several theologians over the years have said, "somewhere between the beginning of the end and the end of the beginning." We live in a time between the first coming of our Lord when He came in the form of the babe in the manger and His triumphant return to judge the living and the dead. Both parts of our Advent celebration should influence how we spend these days of preparation.

How does our celebration of the birth of Christ inform and direct us as we anticipate His return? Our celebration starts with hope. The hope that comes when a child is born brings with it a unique type of renewal. A new generation is born. A new page is begun in the chronicles of human history. Anything is possible. Anything can happen. When you look into the eyes of a newborn baby, you find a new way to pass on hope that will live on well after you are gone. You can pass on knowledge that a new generation can use to cure diseases or find solutions to unanswered questions. You can instill compassion in that child that may lead to closer relationships with people different than yourself that will overcome human created divisions. You can instill kindness in that child that may lead to a better understanding of what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ. We see signs of hope in a newborn child, but it points us toward a greater hope that only comes through the baby whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day. With hope comes peace. We find peace of mind through our hope in Jesus. We find the peace in our soul when we rely on the prince of peace. Even though Jesus' life and ministry were far from peaceful, He testified to the peace that can be found through trusting in and obedience to our God. He brought peace to people's bodies and minds when He healed them. He taught about peace on the mountainsides, the seashore and in the synagogues. He found peace through His total obedience to God's will even when that meant dying on a cross. Through faith in Him, we find a peace that allows us to live abundantly in the midst of our chaotic lives.

Abiding in hope and living in peace brings a joy to our lives that knows no bounds. It is a joy that surpasses watching children open their presents on Christmas morning. It is a joy that goes beyond the happy Christmas celebrations with friends and family. The joy that is born out of hope and peace surrounds us and fills us more fully than the Christmas carols and concerts that so beautifully seek to express it. It is a joy that although born in a manger, points to a time when all will see and understand its full expression. As God brings a new heaven and a new earth, we will all see fully what we see only dimly now.

And finally, with hope for the future, peace in the present and a joy that knows no bounds, we are all surrounded by God's love. It is God's love that brings all the promises of God to fulfillment. The greatest of all God's gifts is love. It is God's love that we celebrate on "The Big Day" and as we look forward to the "Really Big Day." Remember during this special time of year that although the lights on the Christmas tree will eventually be put back in the box, the holiday food will be consumed or thrown away, the presents will be opened and eventually worn out, the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of God will never wear out or be extinguished. These are the gifts that will never stop giving. These are the reasons that we need to celebrate this Advent and Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,  
John



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar.....	3
Youth and Children .....	2
Prayer and Praise.....	4
Recipe of the Month.....	11
Sunday Flowers.....	5
VIPs.....	5

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming Events, Meet our Members, Stewardship Corner, and much more.



**Contact Jackson for details: [Jackson@fpcdanville.com](mailto:Jackson@fpcdanville.com) or 434.792.7822 ext. 3**

**Children Events:** Bible Club December 5th and 19th – The children meet on Family Night Supper evenings for dinner, lessons, and fun!!!

Our children will present the Nativity Scene on Christmas Eve during the 5:00pm Worship Service. We will practice after worship on December 9th and 23rd. There are parts for children of all ages, so come out and join us for this fun time.

December 23rd – Birthday Party for Jesus!!! The children will celebrate Jesus' birthday during Worship on December 23rd by having a party!!! Join us and celebrate!!!

**Youth Events:** Youth Group for December is 5th, 12th, 19th we will not meet on the 26th.

Angel Tree Party December 15th 2:00-4:00pm

Christmas Party -- TBA

Lunch Ministry December 22nd



Crop Walk numbers are in but still rising. You all did an amazing job again! Citywide we raised \$15,400 through donations both from walkers and their sponsors as well as our local corporate sponsors. We are so grateful for you all and your love for neighbors near and far. Wells will be able to be dug; hydro cultivation will be taught & communities will be built up for families to lead safer & healthier lives. Thank you team FPC 2018!!!! Our walkers sponsored by many of you in our congregation: Nicole, James, Adjowa with Cameron, Mikayla & Ben, Pat Pinckney with Val, Alex, & Rafael, Sam & Becky Meadema, Gail & Bob Ramey, Angela & Taylor Sanom, Jackson & Weller twins, David Swann, Lisa Argyrakis & 6 of her students raised \$424. Through our corporate sponsors: Barry Cutright, Bob Newnam, Nick Argyrakis, Hampton Wilkins, & David Zook we raised another \$1025. What Blessings. Happy Thanksgiving!



# December 2018

To Know Christ And Make Him Known

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11:15 Worship	<b>3</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 12:30 Day Circle 7 pm Evening Circle	<b>4</b> 5:15 pm HandBells 7 pm Property Comm	<b>5</b> 5 pm PNC Comm 6 pm WNS 6pm Youth	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>1</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>9</b> Christmas B'fast 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11:15 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>10</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10 Staff Mtg. 11 VJP Comm. 6pm Deacons	<b>11</b> 5:15 HandBells 7 pm Session	<b>12</b> 5 pm PNC Comm 6pm Youth	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b> 8:00 Men's B'fast 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>16</b> 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11:15 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>17</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10 Staff Mtg.	<b>18</b> 5:15 pm HandBells	<b>19</b> 5 pm PNC Comm 6 pm WNS 6pm Youth	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>23</b> Lesson & Carols 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11:15 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>24</b> 1/2 Day Office Christmas Eve Service 5 pm	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> Office Closed 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>30</b> 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11:15 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>31</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Membership					

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Danville, VA 24541  
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## PRAYERS AND PRAISES



**PASTORAL CONCERNS**— Martha Bell, Chuck Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy Bracey Bill Brown, Lisa Brown, Tim Burnette, Claire Campbell, John Cao, Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Charles & Lib Cuttle, Rev. Cecil Eanes,

Dianne East (K. Meadows), James Gill, James Gill, Jr, Fred Gunn, Lois Hayes, Martha Jo Hodges, Dianne Hottenstein (S. Mathena), Kay Huggins (son-in-law of Thomas and Alice Saunders), Conner Jones, Doug Jones, Gail Jones, Maurice Katoen, Jana Keen and family, Beth Landfair (John's mother), Bill Landfair (John's step father), Mary Ann Wiseman Lewis, Jane Marini (B. Fitzgerald's daughter), Ellen McDonald (John's wife), Freel Shippe (J. McDonald's father-in-law), Angela Langford, Ruth Lawton, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Carolyn Miles, A. B. Motley, Dana Overstreet (S. Mathena), Paul Patrick (Charlotte Lowther's son-in-law), Ella Ryan, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders, Alan Sweeney, Linda Terriberly, Willem van der Griendt (ML Crane's father), Tom West, Samantha Williams, Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

**ON THE MEND**—(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Joe Alexander, Chlodine Bittner (J. Weller's grandmother), Dianne East, Kelvin Gunn, Mrs. Helen Harris, Jay Hayes, Erica Mann, Lee Norman, Russell Vandiver, Nultie Wiseman

**OUR VIPs**—Chuck Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Charles & Lib Cuttle, Rev. Cecil Eanes, Flo Hall, Lois Hayes, Goldie Keesee, Ruth Lawton, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Carolyn Miles, A. B. Motley, Fae Smith, Linda Terriberly, Tom West, Nultie Wiseman

### CAREGIVERS

#### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Condolences to the friends & family of Joyce Crawford who passed away Nov. 1st.

Condolences to the friends & family of Sue Wickers who passed away Nov. 2nd.

Condolences to the friends & family of Odell Bradley who passed away Nov. 3rd.

Condolences to the friends & family of Melinda Scott who passed away Nov. 7th

Condolences to the friends & family of Steven Collins who passed away Nov. 7th.

### SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

**WHAT:** Serving a hot lunch to the community

**WHEN:** Every Saturday; volunteers work from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.

**WHO:** Different groups are in charge each week. **EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!** Cooking, clean up, greeting, Bible Study, chatting with guests.

December 1: Women's Circle

December 8: Westover Baptist

December 15: Unity Presbyterian

December 22: Youth

December 29: Outlook Class

#### REMINDER:

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Saturday December 15th at 8:00 a.m. We will continue our James MacDonald "Act Like Men" bible study. Please join us as we are challenged to take hold of our God-given role.



Congratulations to Kimmy & Cliff Walden on the birth of Robert Henry, born on November 27th. Proud grandparents are Keith & Elizabeth, & Great Grandparent Betzy !!

It's never too late to send in your membership directory page. If you haven't done so, ask Vickie (Vickie@fpcdanville.com) to send you the form by email and gather some wonderful holiday pictures to go with it. The second roll out is still available (Dunglinson-Roberts or Office) to those who had not gotten those sheets.

We also ask that you adjust your membership page for Nicole Bracey. Her new address is 311 West Main Street. Apt. 1.





## Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

December 16th      The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Nultie, Paige and Frank Wiseman.

December 23rd      The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in appreciation of our interim pastor, Rev. Dr. John McDonald, by Diane and Kent Shelton.

Elders will be in charge for the month of December.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or [rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net), for more information. After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor.



## 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.

December 3      Charlotte Lowther  
345 Mowbray Arch  
Danville, VA 24541

December 10      Tom West # 38 South  
Riverside Rehab  
2344 Riverside Dr.  
Danville, VA 24540

December 17      A. B. Motley  
480 West Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

December 24      Lib Cuttle  
1518 Duplin Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27607

December 31      Charles Cuttle  
1518 Duplin Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27607

If you feel visiting the elderly is your gift, please consider joining our VIP Committee. Talk to one of the following members: Pat Argyrakis, Gwen Baucom, Mary Ann Shelton, Joan Reynolds, Bunny Hayes, Nancy Wilson, Carolyn Baker, Susie Crews, or Kent Shelton.

## Property Committee

### Bob's To-Do List

Computer, streaming TV & sound system hardware & repair Sutherlin Speakers

Investigate the aging alarm system, Carbon Monoxide & Fire Alarm

Investigate humidity control with Centech in Sanctuary

Investigate Amp replacement

Routine Maintenance items around the church building ongoing.

Sun Sail for playground Area

### Completed items:

Broken Church Office Sign replaced

Kitchen Stoop Support Columns reinforced

Double gate from nursery to parking has been repaired

Globe for front entrance has been replaced



Carolyn Miles new address is c/o Patrick Davidson  
1004 Cedar Street  
Marion, SC 29571

## PRESBYTERIAN MISSION EMPHASIS

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Christian Education  
Committee**  
Brenna Takata, Chair

No Christian Education  
meeting in the month of  
December.



Worship Committee will  
meet Dec. 2nd 9:00 a.m.  
in the Chapel.



From Bill and Ann Moore

Our Second trip to Myanmar- We were accompanied by three medical doctors. Dr. Nabetani from our Japan mission's Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka, Japan, and Drs. Lee and Chin Pak from Yonsei University Hospital in Seoul, Korea. In a mission partnership with the P.C. (USA) to lead teams of physicians from different countries to the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar's Agape Hospital in rural Kalaymyo to offer unavailable medical services in the name of Jesus Christ. We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 5:1-5 We thank you for your continued sponsorship.

Our December Wednesday night supper at 6 p.m. will feature Matthew and Teresa Lee, our missionaries in Cameroon. They will present a program on their work. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this informative evening and meet this young couple who have so willingly served God where they were called. Matthew has worked for Wycliffe Bible translators and Teresa has been teaching kindergarten.



### DIACONATE NEWS

You might have seen David Swann ask the deacons in church to help collect offering on Sunday morning, but did you know that you do not have to be a deacon or an elder to help with this? We might ask you to help with this sometime....you've seen it done often enough and we won't ask you to bring the plates forward, so we hope that you would consider saying "yes" to David should he ask you sometime.

Deacons rotating off end of this month and thank them for their service: Harriet Beale. Coming on: Kim Meadows and Nicole Bracey with alternate Will Brown (class of 2020) Staying on: ML Crane, Becky Meadema, Jeanne Nostrandt and Susan Mathena (class of 2019) Signed back on: Kathy Dolianitis, David Swann (class of 2020)

## CHEESE STRAWS FROM THE BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK

200 YEARS OF COOKING BY THE DAN

- 1/4 lb. butter (1 stick)
- 1 lb. sharp cheese
- 2 c. flour (sift well before measuring)
- 1 tsp. salt
- Dash of red pepper
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce

Cream the cheese and butter. Add other ingredients and shape with cookie press. Bake at 350 for 10 min.



## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

In last month's "Stewardship In Action", we highlighted a special form of stewardship practiced by Tom Barrett. This month we'll highlight the contributions of Ray Beale. Ray is a very active member of First Presbyterian. He has served as a Deacon, is currently serving as an Elder and has participated on many committees. Ray is always willing to take on new and challenging tasks. He recently served as the chair of the Transition Committee which was tasked with finding an interim pastor to serve until a permanent pastor is found. Ray serves a Liturgist on Sunday, operates the sound system as needed, and is the host/emcee for Wednesday Night Dinners. Ray can also be found helping out in the kitchen during dinners and lunches. Truly a man of many talents! The church is very blessed to have a member who contributes his time and talents in so many ways. Thank you Ray!



- 5 Frank Wiseman
- 7 Charlotte Litzenberg
- 9 Kathleen Harris
- 10 Holt Whitt
- 11 Christopher McCorkle Hill
- 12 David Swann  
Nathan Honea
- 13 Carson Green, Jr
- 15 Heather Clark  
Edward Blount
- 16 Lisa Bolt
- 18 Elaine Lea  
Spencer Stoakley
- 21 Bob Whitt
- 23 Chuck Bolt
- 25 Cooper Crews
- 27 Sharon Whitt  
Ellen Thomas
- 28 Robert Clifton
- 29 Carol Ellis  
Martha Bell

## Stewardship Corner

October 2018 Financials						
	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Bud/Act (This Year)	
Contributions	\$ 27,892	\$ 265,687	\$ 259,696	\$ 272,083	\$ (6,396)	
Other Income	\$ 1,476	\$ 3,471	\$ 2,167	\$ 4,588	\$ (1,117)	
Transfers	\$ -	\$ 150,748	\$ 108,662	\$ 85,394	\$ 65,354	
Total Revenues	\$ 29,368	\$ 419,906	\$ 370,525	\$ 362,065	\$ 57,841	
Expenses	\$ 23,054	\$ 365,490	\$ 363,257	\$ 362,065	\$ (3,425)	
Net Total	\$ 6,314	\$ 54,416	\$ 7,268	\$ 0	\$ 54,416	

### Stewardship News

Hello everyone from the Stewardship Committee! We want to give a big Thank You to everyone who participated on Commitment Sunday by presenting their pledges. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the process. To date we have received 54 pledges totaling \$213,218. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation. We'll see you soon!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville. Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks west of downtown.

On Sundays, Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 AM and worship services are at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary. For all other events, please see our calendar and missions page. You can also follow us on Twitter and like us on facebook.

You can reach us at  
(434) 792-7822 or  
vickie@fpcdanville.com

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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**Opportunities to Study the Word    Sunday Mornings**

Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m.– 10:40 a.m.

Youth (middle & high school) Rm 112 /Jackson Weller & Tom Gillespie discuss the scripture lesson being used in the sermon, to prepare for worship/discussion type class  
Bible Seekers/Rm 109/ Joyce Perez “Feasting on the Word” / discussion type class

Bible Study Fellowship/Library/Linda Copeland Ligonier Ministry’s “Tabletalk Magazine” / discussion type class

Outlook/Rm 322/Jay Hayes, Tom Barrett, Bob Newnam, Kent Shelton & Gene Hayes  
“The Present Word” / lecture type class

The Children’s Extended Time (mid-worship 11:15-12:00) Deep Blue Cokesbury Curriculum bringing to life the stories & lessons that are the foundation for our Christian faith.

K-2/Rm 304/various instructors

Gr 3-5/Rm 306/various instructors



Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5 p.m. The children will present a little pageant at the beginning of the service.



## DAYSCHOOL NEWS



Congratulations to Ms. Rhoda (day school teacher of our K3's ) who became a grandmother on November 16th to little Mia, a beautiful baby girl.

If your life is TOO BUSY, you need to take an hour of prayer: Join Dr. McDonald, Linda Copeland & Marie-Louise Crane on Monday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the parlor at church where we pray for our church family, our community, our nation and the world.



The Danville Symphony Orchestra will hold their Christmas concert at First Presbyterian Church in the sanctuary December 8th. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. playing begins at 8. The concert is free. They are asking to bring 2 or more cans of non-perishable canned foods and/or monetary donations for God's Storehouse, which they will collect at the door. There will be plenty of off-site parking at nearby parking lots. They are also offering shuttle service for those who may need it from these lots.



Share your favorite chili with us!! **Needed** a few people to share their chili with us in our Chili Cookoff to be held on Wed. January 23, 2019. Each participant can bring one crockpot of chili. Email Brenna Takata at [brenna5008@gmail.com](mailto:brenna5008@gmail.com) or call the church office to let them know you will be participating. Should be a fun and "HOT" night!



**Our Wednesday Night Suppers** this month will be December 5th at 6 p.m. The meal will be meatloaf, mac & cheese, green beans, salad, rolls, dreamsicle cake. The program will be presented by the Lees our missionaries from Cameroon. Team 1 is in charge.

December 19th will be our Christmas program! We will have Holiday cranberry chicken, veggie, salad and a tasty dessert. Christmas music and lots of activities. Team 2 is in charge.

**Time for both dinners is 6 p.m. \$6 per person ages 11 & up Children 10 & under eat free. Max for a family (4 or more) will be \$18.**



**Angel Tree News:** Caregivers were called, details were checked and the angels are hanging in the tree in the juice room. Come and share in this blessed ministry of connecting children with their incarcerated parent for Christmas (gift prices around \$15). Then the Angel Tree Party will be held on Saturday, December 15th from 2—4 p.m. In the fellowship hall where we will do arts & crafts with them and present their gifts. The ones that cannot come will need home delivery & because we have more families this year I will DEFINITELY need volunteers for that. Thanks for your faithfulness in this ministry. It is a blessing to work alongside you all.  
Marie-Louise Crane



## VISION COMMITTEE

### Choosing the Faithful Path

Throughout the life of every congregation, we should ask ourselves “Are we faithfully fulfilling Christ’s call and commission for our church?” At certain points in the life of congregations, we reach a “fork in the road” where we need to assess how we are able, willing, and committed to move forward in fulfilling God’s kingdom ministry. The Vision Committee is choosing to use the seven visions of what we want our church to be to Re-Innovate our Ministries by:

Renewing and refocusing the nurture, outreach, and witness ministries of the church

Engaging in cooperative activities with other Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian congregations

Redevelopment in which we choose to change how we approach our life as a congregation to respond to the needs in our community

We ask that you join us in Choosing this Faithful Path.

### In Service to Christ,

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Our lunch ministry helpers on Saturday mornings need new infusion of youth and energy!! If you have 2 hours to spare one Saturday morning (10 am to noon), just show up and ask how you can help. We promise you will not leave hungry or bored.

Our annual special Thanksgiving Lunch Ministry meal was served again on Saturday, November 17th. 70 guests were in attendance and we thank you all for giving of your time and treasures so liberally again this year where we were helped also by the youth of Westover Christian Church and Nursing School Students who came with Lisa Argyrakis.



First Presbyterian Church  
Session, Diaconate and Trustees

Session

	2019	2020	2021
	Betzy Wilson		Tom Barrett
	Joyce Perez	Martha Bell	Eddie Blount
	Bunny Hayes	Fred Baker	Mike Reynolds
	Ray Beale	David Parris	Brenna Takata
	Gary Wimer		David Clark (Alternate)

Diaconate

	2019	2020
	Jarrod Brown	Nicole Bracey
	Marie-Louise Crane	Kathy Dolianitis
	Susan Mathena	Kim Meadows
	Jeanne Nostrandt	David Swann
		Will Brown (Alternate)

Clerk, C. B. Strange

**Trustees**

Tom Gillespie

Jim Motley

Chuck Bolt

**Nominating Committee 2019**

Lisa Argyrakis

Fred Baker

Karan Johnson

Donna Parris

Elder TBD

Deacon TBD





