

Dear Friends,

We will soon close the door on 2019 and welcome 2020. It is hard to believe it's the beginning of the third decade of the 2000's. Turning the year's calendar page always causes us to pause and reflect.

Robbie Burns, the nostalgic Scottish poet, wrote the words to the familiar song, *Auld Lang Syne*. The words literally mean, “old, long since.” Or more to the point, the song is about gratitude for “days gone by.” I have been looking over the calendar from 2019 and remembering the days gone by in the past year. And I am grateful as well.

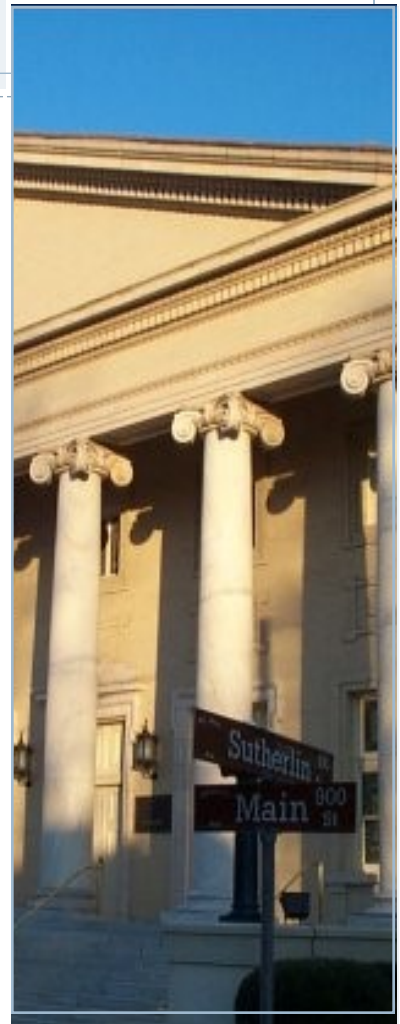
Welcoming the New Year, however, presents the opportunity to reflect upon the fact that things change. Part of the natural cycle of life is the ebb and flow of time. Change and continuity are both part of life. Both are needed, necessary and inescapable. My experience is that for many folks in the church the preference is usually for continuity in life rather than change. Yet we know that change comes as well, and we are left with the challenge to see God's presence within it.

In January we will install new elders and deacons on the first Sunday of the month. The second Sunday we will welcome new confirmands who have completed their church confirmation. The Vision Committee and session will also be ramping up preparations for the Lay Renewal Weekend that is coming March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Of course the much anticipated change for 2020 at First Presbyterian Church is the beginning of a new chapter of ministry with a new pastor.

Here is what can remain constant for us all – let us continue faithfully in prayer. I know that as you do, you will experience once again the goodness and providence of God.

Peace,

Rev. Steve Willis



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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming Events,
- Stewardship Corner,
- pictures, and much more.



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

### CHILDREN EVENTS:

Bible Club: Jan. 8th & 22nd

Jan. 26th Cookie Bake off 2 p.m.

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### Youth NEWS:

Youth Group Jan. 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

Thrift Shopping Jan. 11th

Lock-in Jan. 24-25th

Lunch Min. Jan 25th

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The Church office will be closed Monday January 20th in observance of ML King Day.

First Presbyterian Church  
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 Danville, VA  
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 Email: Vickie@fpcdanville.com

# January 2020

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00 Worship Comm 9:45 S. School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship Noon Fellowship	6 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Co. Council 12:30 Day Circle 4:30 pm CE Comm. 5:45 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Evening Circle @ B. Takala	7 5:15 pm Handbells 7:00 p.m. Property	8 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS & Youth	9 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	10 Office Closed	11 11:15 Lunch Program Youth thrift shopping
12 9:45 S. School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship Noon Fellowship	13 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Staff Mtg 11:00 VIP Comm.	14 5:15 pm Handbells 7:00 p.m. Session	15 5 pm PNC 6 pm Youth	16 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	17 Office Closed	18 8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:15 Lunch Program
19 9:00 Missions Comm 9:45 S. School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship Noon Fellowship	20 Office Closed MLK Day	21 5:15 pm Handbells	22 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS & Youth	23 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	24 Office Closed Youth lock-in 24-25	25 11:15 Lunch Program Youth Lunch min.
26 9:45 S. School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship Noon Fellowship 2:00pm Cookie bake-off	27 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Staff Mtg 4:30pm CE Comm. 6:00pm Membership Comm.	28 5:15 pm Handbells	29 5 pm PNC 6 pm Youth	30 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	31 Office Closed	

## Prayer and Praise

### PASTORAL CONCERNS—

Chlodine Bittner (J. Weller's grandmother), Chuck Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy Bracey, Bill Brown, Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-

-law), Kathy Cropp, Charles & Lib Cuttle, Matthew Dorianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Kay Gillespie, Fred Gunn (W. Gunn's brother), Flo Hall, Lois Hayes, Sister Jones (P. Brandon, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Tony Parker (W. Barrow's father), Paul Patrick (Charlotte Lowther's son-in-law), Debra Bolt Thompson, Dick Stoakley, Hampton Wilkins, Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

**ON THE MEND**--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Mrs. Helen Harris, Mary Lou Snead,

**OUR VIPs**—Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Charles & Lib Cuttle, Flo Hall, Lois Hayes, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith

### CAREGIVERS

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

### THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

### OUR PNC COMMITTEE

Our condolences to Bernadine Hayes on the passing of her mother, Goldie Keesee 12/7/19.

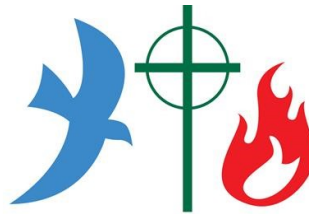
### SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

**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.

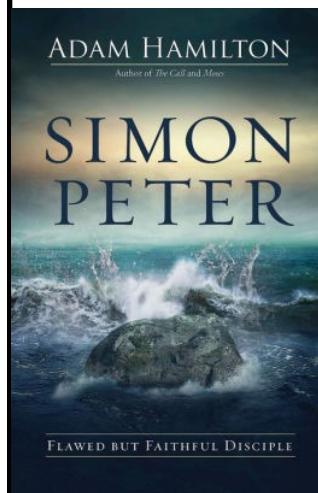
**WHO:** Different groups are in charge each week. **EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!** Cooking, clean up, greeting, Bible Study, chatting with guests.

Jan. 4: Women's Circle  
Jan. 11: Westover Baptist  
Jan. 18: Unity Presbyterian  
Jan. 25: Youth



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee will meet Sunday January 5th at 9 a.m. in the parlor.



The men's bible study & breakfast will meet January 18th at 8:00 a.m. We will continue our study of Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. Please use the bulletin insert to let us know your breakfast order.





### Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

Jan. 12- The flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Ronnell D. Belton by his family.  
January 19- The flowers that enhance our worship are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Pat Bolt, Buck Collins, Sarah Collins, and Tom Collins by Charles Bolt and the family.

January 26- The flowers that enhance our worship are giving and loving memory of Katherine Setzer Barrett Buchanan by Susan Mathena.

The deacons will be in charge for the month of January.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or 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.

January 6— Flo Hall #12  
149 Executive Place  
Danville, VA 24541

January 13— Lois Hayes #45  
Roman Eagle  
2526 N. Main St.  
Danville, VA 24540

January 20— Grace Litzenburg  
945 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

January 27— Alice Bradshaw  
Colonial Suite 1111 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

If you feel visiting the elderly is your gift, please consider joining our VIP Committee. Talk to one of the following members:  
Pat Argyrakis, Mary Ann Shelton, Joan Reynolds, Bernadine Hayes, Nancy Wilson, 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 Amp replacement

Routine Maintenance items around the church building ongoing.

Sun Sail for playground Area

Front porch needs bird protection

Investigate replacing electrical panel in basement with modern equipment

#### **Completed Items**

Handrail project complete

Boiler & heating problems fixed

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Christian Education  
Committee**  
Brenna Takata, Chair

Christian Education  
will meet January 6th at  
4:30 p.m. in the parlor and  
on January 27th at 4:30  
p.m. in the parlor.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**Coordinating Council  
will meet at 10 a.m.  
January 6th.**

**Day Circle will meet at  
12:30 p.m. on Jan.  
6th.**

**The evening circle will  
meet at the home of  
Brenna Takata on  
January 6th at 7 p.m.**

**All ladies of the  
church are welcome to  
join one of the groups  
as they continue their  
bible studies.**

## PRESBYTERIAN MISSION EMPHASIS



Thank you to our generous church family for supporting our Angel Tree Prison Ministry project this year. We served 19 families and 42 children. The gifts were given out at our Angel Tree Party on December 14. The children and families enjoyed making crafts, decorating cupcakes, singing Christmas songs and even learning a Christmas dance to the song "The Jingle Bell Rock."

Thank you to all who purchased and wrapped gifts, helped at the party and delivered gifts. Many thanks to Nicole Bracey and Kathy Dolianitis who helped in the planning process of this ministry. It was a total group effort and together we were able to bring some joy to our Angel Tree children and families at Christmas.

Thank you! Harriet Beale

### Marie Louise Fund

A fund has been started in memory of Marie Louise. This fund is in Marie Louise's memory and to continue her love and care for disadvantaged children for our church and community.

Anyone wishing to donate to this fund may make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate it on the check for the Marie Louise fund.

Members on this committee are: Leigh Blount, Donald Crane, Bernadine Hayes, David & Donna Parris and Brenna Takata.



**Special thanks** to Nick Argyrakis & Barry Cutright for all the gifts they shop for to donate towards the gift bags for our VIP Members. When the bags are delivered at Christmas it means so much to our members to know that someone is thinking of them during this time of the year.  
Thank you again for all you do !!

### Mixed Berry French Toast Bake

1 loaf (1 lb.) French bread, cubed  
6 egg whites  
mixed berries  
3 eggs  
1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups fat free milk  
1 tsp. Sugar  
1 tsp. Ground cinnamon  
1 tsp. Vanilla extract

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. Salt  
1 pkg. (12 oz) frozen unsweetened  
2 tablespoons cold butter  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup packed brown sugar

Place the bread cubes in a 13 x 9 in. baking dish coated with cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine the egg whites, eggs, milk, sugar, cinnamon, vanilla and salt; pour over bread cubes. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

Thirty minutes before baking, remove berries from the freezer and set aside, and remove the baking dish from the refrigerator. Bake covered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, cut butter into brown sugar until crumbly. Sprinkle berries and brown sugar mixture over French toast. Bake uncovered, for 15-20 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.

Serves 8



3 Dick Stoakley

7 Barry Cutright

9 Martha Mallery

10 George Snead

11 Gail Ramey

13 Bob Willeford  
Richard Stoakley  
Kim Meadows

14 Madeline Parris

15 Barbara Newnam

16 Lia Argyrakis  
Hunter Cutright  
Brandon Willeford  
Flo Hall

20 Tom Barrett  
Grace Litzenberg

22 David Parris

24 Nancy Wilson

25 Lois Lea Paalman

27 Mary Lou Snead

31 Michael Wilson  
Maggie Weller

### Anniversaries:

January 3 Robert & Kim Clifton

January 8 Walter & Gail Gunn

If we've missed your special day let us know !!

## Lay Renewal Weekend

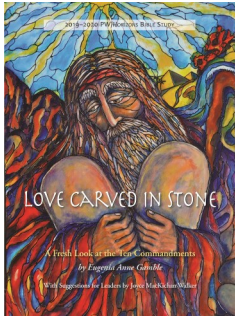
**March 13-15, 2020**

Our Session has approved having a Lay Renewal Weekend on March 13, 14 and 15th. This will be a time to reconnect with our faith as we await our new pastor and begin a new year.

A visiting Team of Lay Leaders will lead us in song and worship. The weekend will begin on Friday evening with a dinner in the fellowship hall, various programs and dinner on Saturday, and conclude with the Sunday morning worship service. Several of our church committees have already been planning the various activities. Many other volunteers are needed to make the weekend meaningful and a success.

Each church member will receive a letter in January with more information and asking you to be involved in the Celebration of the gift of God's grace. We hope you will make plans to participate fully in every phase of the weekend.





**Attn: Presbyterian Women** — — Our PW organization continues a season of prayer, Bible study, service and fellowship. The **Day Circle** will meet on Monday, January 6th at 12:30 p.m. in room 108 with Charlotte Lowther leading the study “Love Carved in Stone” by Eugenia Anne Gamble. The **Evening Circle** will meet Monday Jan. 6th at 7 p.m. at the home of Brenna Takata, 5008 Cobblestone Dr., to continue their study of James.

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*Our Wednesday Night Suppers will be Wednesday January 8th at 6 p.m. Our program will be presented by Rev. Dr. Bob Ramey. Team 3 will be in charge. The next WNS will be January 22nd. Dr. Ralph Hawkins & Nicole Bracey will present the program. Team 4 will be in charge.*

*The meals to be announced at a later date. Prices are \$6 per person/ages 11 and up Children 10 and under eat free. Max for a family (4 or more) will be \$18.*

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We will need help packing bags at God’s Storehouse in January. Our next date is January 16th. Please meet at God’s Storehouse at 4 p.m. It will take approx. 30 –45 min. If you are interested in helping or have questions please call Nancy Wilson.



## Stewardship Corner

### Nov 2019 Financials

	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Bud/Act (This Year)
<b>Contributions</b>	\$ 29,459	\$ 286,412	\$ 288,352	\$ 311,208	\$ (24,797)
<b>Other Income</b>	\$ 497	\$ 8,399	\$ 4,225	\$ 5,055	\$ 3,343
<b>Transfers</b>	\$ 8,299	\$ 83,716	\$ 160,933	\$ 80,891	\$ 2,825
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 38,256	\$ 378,527	\$ 453,510	\$ 397,155	\$ (18,629)
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 27,856	\$ 357,925	\$ 408,838	\$ 397,155	\$ 39,230
<b>Net Total</b>	\$ 10,399	\$ 20,601	\$ 44,673	\$ (0)	\$ 20,602

### Stewardship News

Hello everyone from the Stewardship Committee! We hope you are having a happy and successful New Year. Our final pledges for 2020 were 62 for \$228,298. We are so blessed to have such a giving church. We're still a little bit behind last year's numbers so we hope to see a few more pledges trickle in. Also, look to our February newsletter for our final Financials for 2019.

From Marie-Louise's Parents....

Dear friends in Danville Virginia USA

We wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year !!

Good health and lots of Luck !!

And above all "His Blessings and His everlasting Peace !!

The year of 6000 is swiftly approaching !!

Also on behave of our sons Marcel and Maarten Willem,

daughter in law Angelique and our grandchildren Loïs, Flynn and Mae !!

We do miss our daughter Marie-Louise !!



## DAY SCHOOL NEWS

What a FUN Christmas season we had at the Day School! From red day to Polar Express and pj day then to a fun day of reindeer games, our kiddos have had a blast! During this season we kindly ask for any of the items on our Amazon wish list to be donated, the items vary in price but anything purchased would be greatly appreciated!! We're wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very blessed 2020!



# First Presbyterian Church

## Session, Diaconate, Trustees

### Session

2019	2020	2021	Class of 2022
Ray Beale	Fred Baker	Tom Barrett	Ray Beale
Bunny Hayes	Martha Bell	Eddie Blount	Bernadine Hayes
Joyce Perez	David Parris	Mike Reynolds	Joyce Perez
Betzy Wilson	Gary Wimer	Brenna Takata	David Clark
			Barry Cutright, Alternate

### Diaconate

2019	2020	2021
Marie-Louise Crane, dec.	Nicole Bracey	Lisa Bolt
Susan Mathena	Kathy Dolianitis	Randy Brooks
Jeanne Nostrandt	Kim Meadows	Becky Meadema
Becky Meadema	David Swann	Jeanne Nostrandt
	-Will Brown, Alternate Stepped down	Melva Sweeney, Alternate

Clerk, Brenna Takata

### Trustees

Tom Gillespie, Class of 2020

Jim Motley, Class of 2021

Chuck Bolt, Class of 2019

Jay Hayes, Class of 2022

Please join us for **Wednesday Night Supper January 22, 2020** to learn about archaeology in Israel with Nicole Bracey and Dr. Ralph Hawkins. Nicole was awarded a scholarship from the church to help with financial costs while she attends Averett University. She was able to study abroad and received 3 credits towards her minor in religion. Here is an account of her month long trip along with her appreciation for your support.

Words can not do justice to explain how I was blessed with the most amazing, wonderful archeological dig in the Jordon Valley at Khirbet Auja el-Foqa. Thanks to the financial support from the scholarship I was awarded from First Presbyterian Church , I was able to experience two dreams of going on a dig and going to Israel. I am still in awe and processing that I went on this adventure. I will be eternally grateful for this opportunity. Being able to volunteer and live in Israel with some of the most interesting and intelligent people from around the world, was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Honestly I loved

every minute of learning, working, and being completely submerged in different cultures. My favorite and probably the most spiritual part was seeing more of God's creation by getting up early each morning, riding through the mountains from Jerusalem to outside of Jericho, arriving at the site just as the sun rose over the Jordon Valley , and discovering history in the beautiful desert. The month long trip in June was quite entertaining, I laughed for days with my new friends, as if we had known each other forever. I celebrated my 39th birthday on a Saturday tour day, and what a day to remember at the Dead Sea, Jordon River Baptism site, and Masada. I truly enjoyed the field work that was physically challenging, yet also rewarding and in a relaxed atmosphere. You could say I carried a lot of buckets!

Before this incredible journey I knew nothing about archeology or even that much about Israel. However, I have studied the bible my whole life and have attempted to understand it. Summer 2019 was the first season for this particular site. It is

important to research how this site may explain the connection between the Kingdom of Israel and Judah to the land of

Ammon and Moab. It is also important to know when the Israelites settled the land and was this site a fortress to protect from invaders? Could it have been deserted or destroyed by Assyrians, Babylonians, or even before? We can report that the city walls date back to Iron II, the time of the Divided Monarchy, as well as an earlier wall that may date to late Iron I. During the dig we found enough pottery to open a store, grinding stones, an arrowhead, a spearhead, and possibly an administration building. There is much more to explore and discover in the upcoming seasons.

The memories that will remain with me from now on are the special human connections I made. I learned from a family of Bedouins living by the ancient establishment we were exploring, that their traditional, modest lifestyle is a desire for simplicity, and they choose this life. I can completely understand the desire and admire the peaceful, loving people. As with every misconception made about an unknown culture, to me, I always believe it is a matter of being poor and not educated. I bonded with the volunteers of the dig, and I can also claim I am now a part of the Bedouin tribe at Khirbet Auja el Foqa. My heart is on the hilltop in the fortress tower, the walls, the pits, the friendships and now the history of the archeological area, until I return again. May I suggest to anyone that has ever felt the calling to volunteer on a dig, to have faith and go for it! May I also suggest applying for the scholarship given by First Presbyterian, and joining a dig with the professional team of the Jordon Valley Excavation Project. Allow your heart, life, and mind to be transformed.



**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 like us on facebook.

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

**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

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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