



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Albemarle, North Carolina  
Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor  
Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor  
Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbells  
Stanley Scheer, Organist  
Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

Pam Knighten, Secretary

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Volume 49

January 3, 2016

No. 01

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.*

PRELUDE

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Marcel Dupré

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us

**People: And we have seen his glory.**

Leader: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

**People: Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of love, the rock on which we stand, be the center and the focus of our lives always, and particularly in this new year. Amen.**

\*HYMN 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gloria

*The Ten-Cent-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silent

Unison

**Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry. We repent of our disregard for you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

*Gloria Patri*

**Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Children's Greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Jeremiah 3:7-14*

Pew Bible, page 659

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*John 1:1-8*

Pew Bible, page 86

### SERMON

*Word Made Flesh*

Mrs. Ayscue

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

excerpted from The Scots Confession 1560

**When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the *just seed of David, the Angel of the great counsel of God*, the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God, and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 144

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Cranham

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Wilbur Held

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

hymnal, page 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Thanksgiving

\*HYMN 516

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

Kingdom

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Noël Polonaise*

Alexandre Guilmant

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\*All that are able may stand.

**We rejoice that you are worshipping with us today.** If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

**The acolyte today is Blake Taylor.** After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Ushers:** Phillip Brown, captain; Brad Boone, Lee Boone, Mandy Brown, Wes Eudy, Don Joines, Nancy Joines, and Mary Kesselman **Elder Greeters:** Jim Carter; Ellen Whitley **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** TBA **Preschool Partners:** Penny & Jack Morton **Nana & Papa Team:** Bede & Russell Karr **No Children's Church**

**There is no Children's Church today.** School age children are encouraged to remain in worship and to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nursery care is provided as usual.

**We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 3.** All those who trust in Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal of our community. Please hold each element as we will share this meal as one body, on cue from the officiant.

**We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering** for hunger today.

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Mary Green, Carroll Sitton (knee replacement), Michael Corl & family (UPS delivery employee), Rowena Warren, Janet Gardner Fleming (stepdaughter of Ruth Ann Rogers), David Sanges (brother of Nathan Sanges); Struggling families. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**The flower calendar for 2016** is posted on the bulletin board in the pit stop. If you wish to put flowers in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone or to provide beauty to the service, please sign-up on the calendar.

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**2016 Children's Art Calendar**

**The Trusty Travelers have created these lovely works of art as they have focused on *Deepening Community through Grace & Gratitude* each Wednesday.**

**Calendars are \$ 8.00 each**

**Proceeds will support our neighbor, Laura, in Montaña de Luz**

**On sale in the pit stop on Wednesday, January 7**

**( at the First Family Epiphany Dinner)**

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**Epiphany Worship**

**Wednesday, January 6**

**6:00 p.m. in the gym**

Epiphany occurs on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, January 6. It is the day the church has historically recognized the visit of the wise men to the manger. Youth Club children will sing and ring handbells during this worship service. Come share dinner and a brief worship celebration in the gym!

First Family Dinner on Wednesday, January 6 at 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.

**The Mission Committee would like to ask the congregation to bring in school supplies for Central Elementary School.**

We will run the project from January 3-24. Here is the list of supplies we are asking for:  
#2 Pencils, Pack of Notebook Paper (wide ruled & college),  
24 count Crayola Crayons ( please Crayola Crayons only),  
Kleenex, and Hand Sanitizer

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**EPIPHANY FIRST FAMILY GATHERING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6**  
**DINNER at 6:00 in the Gym**

Now that we have survived the craziness of Christmas, let's relax a little with some of Craig Taylor's delicious Roast Beef and celebrate Epiphany.

On the menu:

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Rolls,  
Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station,  
King's Cake, Tea, Coffee, Water and Lemonade.

Contact the church office

(704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)) to make your reservation.

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**Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering**

Dessert Crew: Tuesday, January 5 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Fruit and Veggie crew: Wednesday, January 6 @ 11:00 a.m.  
Set up crew: Wednesday, January 6 @ 3:45 p.m.  
Decorating crew: Wednesday, January 6 @ 4:00 p.m.  
Clean-up crew: Wednesday, January 6 @ 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at [jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org) if you would like to help. 😊

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**Tree of Warmth**

Decorate the tree in the pit stop with warm clothing items for the Clothing Closet. New and gently used scarves, mittens, gloves, socks & toboggans are welcome.

We will collect through Wednesday, January 6 and place these gifts at the manger during the Epiphany Worship Service that evening.

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**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS**

The Endowment Committee will accept applications for grants from the Gaither Endowment until January 15. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)).

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**Backpack Food Program**

Donations Needed:

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

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

**Next Backpack Food Program Packing Date is:**  
**Wednesday, January 6 at 10:30 a.m.**

**PrimeTimers Luncheon on Thursday, January 14 at Noon in the Pit Stop**

**Speaker: Pastor David Kilde**

**Topic:**

*Vikings, Fjords, Icebergs, and the Dawn of the Electronic Age:  
Magical Newfoundland*

**Menu:**

Vegetable Beef Soup, Vegetarian Vegetable Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches,  
Tea, Coffee, & Dessert

Please contact the church office to reserve your spot and/or if you need transportation (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)).

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**Sundays**

**January 3-February 7**

**ENGAGE CAFÉ at 9:30 a.m.**

**ENGAGE TOPICS**

**begin at 9:45 a.m.**

**ENGAGE! groups in the fall increased our adult Sunday School attendance dramatically, and we look forward to bringing them back with new leadership and your continuing commitment. ENGAGE! groups provide opportunity for theological reflection on the events occurring around us and help us connect with each other in new ways.**

**In addition to ENGAGE! groups, there will be one additional class.**

**Topic:** Old Testament (video series)  
**Description:** Developed by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, these videos explore origins, meanings, and interpretations of familiar stories.  
**Faciliators:** Bill Jolly and Larry Sitton  
**Location:** Session Room

**Topic:** The Wired Word  
**Description:** Group conversation based on the *Wired Word: Scripture & Contemporary Issues*  
**Facilitators:** Anne Montgomery and Rich Schaefer  
**Location:** Parlor

**Topic:** The Wired Word  
**Description:** Group conversation based on the *Wired Word: Scripture & Contemporary Issues*  
**Facilitator:** Skeet Ayscue  
**Location:** Gathering Place

**Topic:** The Wired Word  
**Description:** Group conversation based on the *Wired Word: Scripture & Contemporary Issues*  
**Facilitators:** TBD  
**Location:** Old Session Room

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 3

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

*Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering*

9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)

9:45 am \*Sunday School/ENGAGE!

11:00 am \*Worship

### Monday, January 4

8:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study at Elizabeth's

### Tuesday, January 5

10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

### Wednesday, January 6

*Epiphany*

*Epiphany Worship*

*Donations Accepted for the Tree of Warmth*

*Sale of Children's Art 2016 Calendar*

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:30 am Backpack Food Program

11:00 am First Family Fruit & Veggie Crew

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (parlor)

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Jalapenos

(1416 US Hwy 52 North)

3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs

3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Club

3:45 pm First Family Set Up Crew

4:30 pm First Family Decorating Crew

5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)

5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)

6:00 pm First Family Gathering in the Gym/Epiphany Worship

6:45 pm First Family Clean Up Crew

7:00 pm \*Chancel Choir Rehearsal

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

### Thursday, January 7

9:30 am \*Pray & Play

10:00 am Staff Meeting

### Sunday, January 10

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch

9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)

9:45 am \*Sunday School/ENGAGE!

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Mission Committee Mini-Retreat

12:00 pm-4:00 pm Faith Explorers Bake & Take

5:30 pm-7:00 pm SNL at First Baptist Church

**\*childcare provided**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### JANUARY

02-Pine Sydalack

03-Mike McLeod

Sandy Rogers

04-Sandy Saunders

05-Austin Coats

Miriam Russell

06-Shannon Lisk

08-Jim Ivey, Jr.

09-Isabel McIntyre

10-Rita Morgan

Jacob Palmer

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

### JANUARY

05-John & Debbie Hahn

**SCCM Food Challenge for  
January:  
Peanut Butter & Jelly**

*Visit the First Presbyterian Church  
Winter Art Exhibit  
Featured Artist...Judy Murrell*

## Covenant Bible Study begins

**Tuesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m.**

If you want to participate in the Covenant Bible study, contact Elizabeth (704-982-2722 or [eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org)) for more information.