



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stan Scheer, Organist

Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship

Dorothy Hart, Youth Director

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Pam Knighten, Secretary

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

E-mail: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org



December 2019

Dear Friends,

Advent begins this year immediately following our cultural celebration of gratitude - Thanksgiving. The close connection of these seasons seems appropriate. As we look toward the season of Advent, we also give thanks. We give thanks for a season of focused anticipation and preparation. We give thanks for the gift of waiting. We give thanks, indeed, for the gift of Jesus Christ, God incarnate. My hope is that this Advent season gives you an opportunity to center yourself. My hope is that, when Christmas comes, you will be prepared to celebrate the gift of Christ for your life and for this world.

**Grace and Peace,
Matt**



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHILI LUNCH, DECORATING, AND ADVENT FOR ALL
Sunday, December 1 following worship**

EVERYONE is invited to join us on Sunday, December 1 after the chili luncheon for our Advent celebration!

This is a joyous time of fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season together.

**We will frost and sprinkle Christmas cookies, make a take home Christmas countdown craft,
and share God's love by making Christmas cards
that we will be giving to our neighbors at the Community Christmas Dinner.**

Worship Notes

- Sunday, December 1** **First Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the candle of Hope**
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger
- Sunday, December 8** **Second Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the candle of Peace**
JOY Gift Program and Luncheon
Worship will focus on the Youth Club's presentation of *O Come Let Us Adore Him* which tells the story of the birth of Jesus. We look forward to welcoming Youth Club families to worship as we sing and pray together.
- Sunday, December 15** **Third Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the candle of Joy**
Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation of *Angels Visit When We Sing*
We will receive the Joy Offering.
- Sunday, December 22** **Fourth Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the candle of Love**
Carol singing and lighting of the Advent candle will be part of the day.
- Tuesday, December 24** **Christmas Eve Worship**
5:30 p.m. Worship will be preceded by 30 minutes of vocal and instrumental music. We will light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with scripture, song, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

11:00 p.m. An expectant atmosphere will fill the sanctuary as we usher in the birth day of the Christ child.
- Sunday, December 29** **Worship in the gym around the fireplace; Carol singing and entering the story of the birth of Christ.**

10 CENTS A MEAL

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 1. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. We received a total of \$512.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal for October.



2020 Flower Calendar

The 2020 flower calendar is posted in the pit stop. If you wish to put flowers in the church in honor or memory of someone or just to provide beauty to the service, please sign up on the calendar. **Flowers may be ordered from any local florist.** Contact Frankie Palmer (704-982-1757 or fpalmer3@carolina.rr.com) for more information and to make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the church on Saturday or Sunday morning before worship.



COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP

AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

Join in worship with others from the downtown churches during Advent at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Avenue). We will gather there on the following Wednesdays at noon in Advent: December 4, 11 & 18. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from lunch will be donated to the Esther House.

Wednesday, December 4

Preaching: Rev. Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle
Liturgist: Rev. Nikki Raye Rice, Pastor at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Misenheimer.

Wednesday, December 11

Preaching: Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor at Central United Methodist Church, Albemarle
Liturgist: Rev. Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle

Wednesday, December 18

Preaching: Rev. Ryan Clore, Pastor at First Baptist Church, Albemarle
Liturgist: Rev. Jacob Waldrip, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries at First Baptist Church, Albemarle



Luncheon Help Needed for Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church Wednesday, December 4 at Noon

First Presbyterian Church is responsible for providing lunch following the noon advent service. Janet Schaefer is the coordinator. Please let her know if you can donate a dessert, soup, or cornbread. She will also need help with prep, transporting, serving, and clean-up on the day of the lunch, Wednesday, December 4. Sign-up sheet on clip board in Pit Stop or call Janet Schaefer (janet.schaefer@gmail.com or 614-579-9096). Thank You!

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 1, 8, and 15, there will be opportunities to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You will be able to select from among both local and international recipients. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards. Cards have been prepared by artist, Leslie Carter. The charities are: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).





Angel Tree 2019

!!! Central School Angel Tree Ornaments are on the tree NOW !!!

Come by the church during office hours (Monday-Thursday; 9 am-5 pm) or on Sunday to take an angel or two.

Be sure to fill in your name or the name of your group/family on the appropriate line(s) on the sign-up sheet.

Each child's name is linked to a specific number on the sheet.

Please make sure to pick-up a guideline sheet. This ensures the best gift-giving for all children.

The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church in a large bag by Sunday, December 8.

Questions? Contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447 @windtream.net.

Joy Program

Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.

The Youth Club children will present the Joy Program during worship on December 8. The Joy Program is called *O Come Let Us Adore Him*. While the story will be well known, and the songs will be familiar, you'll notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us the age-old story of faith. Please plan to stay after worship for the Joy Luncheon, which is a covered dish meal. **Bring your family's favorite dish to share!**



From the First Presbyterian Church Community Christmas Dinner Committee... Community Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 25 at First Baptist Church

We are well on the way to the 30th Annual Community Christmas Dinner with the following churches: Annunciation Catholic, Central UMC, Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, and First Lutheran and possibly The Gathering.

First Baptist Church committee is implementing some changes to the menu for this year. Volunteers are needed for the day of the dinner and six pound cakes are needed from First Presbyterian Church. This is all that has been requested from First Baptist Church. Please sign-up for one or both opportunities on the Mission Bulletin Board.

First Presbyterian Church will make a \$450 monetary donation from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Donations can be made to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to assist with the dinner.

We are looking forward to food, fun, fellowship and celebration on Christmas Day at the host church, First Baptist. Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season!

First Presbyterian Church Contact Person: Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)





ANGELS VISIT WHEN WE SING

Presented by the Chancel Choir
of First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 15
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The 2019 Advent Choral Service will follow our tradition of tracing the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture and seasonal choral music. Our chancel choir will be accompanied by the Piedmont Triad String Quartet, organ and percussion. The string quartet has performed in our sanctuary for the Pfeiffer Literacy Center benefit concerts and for the previous two Advent Choral Services. Considering how busy professional musicians are at this time of the year, and the fact that the best performers have long-time standing agreements with churches for annual appearances, we are extremely pleased that the Piedmont Triad String Quartet includes First Presbyterian, Albemarle as one of their favorite venues for the celebration of the mystery and wonder of the birth of the Messiah.

**Angels visit when we sing as they did at Jesus' birth
And the music that they bring links the heavens with the earth. Alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing and our hearts are touched by fire
As our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven's choir. Alleluia!
-- anthem text by Thomas H. Troeger**



Christmas Kitchen

Sunday, December 15

Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop

Mark your calendars!!! Our Youth Group is hosting its Christmas Kitchen on Sunday, December 15 before and after worship in the pit stop. Make plans to attend and purchase some delicious baked goods for the holidays. If you are contributing to the sale, dishes should be brought to the church no later than 9:00 a.m. on December 15. You are also welcome to bring dishes in advance. Contact Dorothy know if you are willing to bake any treats to contribute (dhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).

If you are willing to make and donate cakes, pies, casseroles, soups, breads, etc., for the youth sponsored Christmas Kitchen, please sign-up below and turn in to the church office.

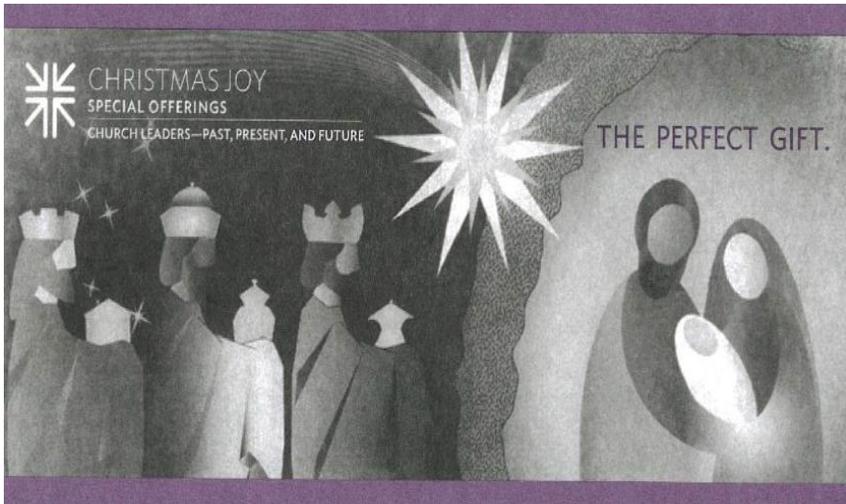
Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Item(s) you will make & donate: _____

Thank you for your help!





CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
*Every generous act of giving...
 is from above.*

James 1:17

The only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ – a perfect gift from a generous God. Your gifts reflect our generous God by supporting leaders in our Church and world – past, present, and future. Please give generously on December 15.



The Senior Care Committee encourages the congregation to send a Christmas card to our members and friends at home, in a care facility, and out of town. Make their Christmas a special one!

At Home

Cathryn Harwood
P.O. Box 878
Albemarle, NC 28002

Linda Richards
c/o Brett Richards
905 Lafayette Drive
Albemarle, NC 28001

In Care Facility

Jean Rabe
c/o Trinity Place
24724 Hwy 52 South
Room F7
Albemarle, NC 28001

Jane Scheer
c/o Spring Arbor Senior Living
315 Park Ridge Rd.
Room 412
Albemarle, NC 28001

Out of Town

Ruth Goforth
728 Klumac Rd.
Room 228C
Salisbury, NC 28144

Dick Liles
10300 Hanging Moss Trail
Mint Hill, NC 28227

Polly Moose
c/o Brookdale Senior Living
745 Dilworth Lane, Apt. 124
Rock Hill, SC 29732

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) or contribute to the holiday greenery fund as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$20.00 for the poinsettia or for the amount you wish for the greenery payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias or greenery. Please return the **check along with the form below to the church office by Monday, December 16.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

I plan to take my poinsettia(s) after the 5:30 p.m. service on December 24.

I will leave my poinsettia(s) for delivery to a homebound member.

STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...OCTOBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	387,200.00	460,052.00
Total Expenses:	432,200.00	465,444.00
(Shortage)/Surplus	(\$45,000.00)	(\$ 5,392.00)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2019

Pledges:	479,500
Total Income:	552,963
Total Expenses:	552,963

Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: \$10,634
 Average Weekly Amount Received in October: \$8,514
 Caring & Sharing for SCCM: \$3,243.76

We are behind \$17,247 in pledges.
 Ten-Cents-A-Meal for October: \$512

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Beginning December 1, offering envelopes for 2020 will be available for pick up in the common area right outside the office. If you do not find your envelopes, please see Kyle in the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. **NOTE:** Envelope numbers change EVERY year. Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2020. If you have a bank draft and the back has been instructed to put our envelope number on your check, be sure to update the new envelope number with your bank.** If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 704-982-2722.

Important
INFORMATION

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

PLEASE NOTE: This year the church office will be closed the week of Christmas (Dec. 23 – 27). If you need any financial information, you can leave a message and name and number on the answering machine. Kyle will check the machine on Friday Dec. 27. She will get back to you by the end of the day on Monday, December 30, with an answer. There are five Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2019 pledge by December 31, 2019. The financial books will close on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at noon. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2020. **IMPORTANT:** Due to the uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 3. The mailing address is 126 W. North Street, PO Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so **BEFORE** December 16 and be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not turned in your 2020 pledge card, please do so immediately. It is important that our Stewardship Committee has the last updated financial information to finalize the 2020 budget.

Thank you,
 Kyle

THE STANLY COUNTY CHORALE
 PRESENTS
 A CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The Night Before Christmas

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 3:00 PM
 Locust Presbyterian Church
 607 West Main Street
 Locust, North Carolina

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at
 3:00 PM
 First Baptist Church
 202 North Second Street
 Albemarle, North Carolina

Admission is Free!

This project is supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Stanly County Arts Council. The concert is sponsored by Uwharrie Bank.




CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

30th ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY)
11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

HOST: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
(202 NORTH 2ND STREET, ALBEMARLE)

Come eat Christmas Dinner with us! Meal is free! All are welcome!

Menu: Ham, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Casserole, Cranberry Salad, Bread, Desserts, Tea, Coffee, & Water

For more information, contact: First Baptist Church (704-982-2111)
Proudly sponsored by local churches and volunteers throughout Stanly County.

NEWS & NOTES

Memorials and Honorariums

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Dr. Davis Fort, given by Frank & Jane Winecoff.

In honor of Pam Knighten, given by Jim Hesley.

Music Fund:

In memory of Dr. Davis Fort, given by Jim & Mary Louise Sawyer.

In memory of Hilda Perry, given by Jim & Mary Louise Sawyer.

In honor of the Chancel Choir, given by the family of Dr. Davis Fort.

Scholarship Endowment:

In memory of Dr. Davis Fort, given by Mr. & Mrs. Charles P. Brown.

In memory of Dr. Davis Fort, given by Roger & Gina Martin.

In memory of Dr. Davis Fort, given by Mike & Laura McLeod.

In memory of Hilda Perry, given by Roger & Gina Martin.

Sympathy

To Joyce Lambert upon the death of her sister-in-law, Faye Eury, on November 6.

Congratulations

To Thane and Jasmine Sanges upon the birth of their daughter, Poppy Grace, on November 5. Proud grandparents are Marlene and Nathan Sanges.

Thanks to:

Ann Duckwall, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, and Martha White for helping in the church office in November.

The Mission Committee would like to thank the following people who helped purchase, prepare and/or serve food at the Community Table on Saturday, November 9th: Linda Anderson, Elizabeth Ayscue, Gloria Bryson, Kristie Bryson, Ruth and Andy Cotton, Joan Eudy, Peggy Finley, Donna Gaither, Debbie and John Hahn, Jennifer Hessley, Mary Kesselman, Cathy King, Barbara McManus, Sarah Michael, Jill Niebler, Gayle Russell, Jim Sawyer, and Janet Schaefer.



November's First Family Dinner...For our November First Family meal much thanks goes to: Mildred Andrew, Jane Boone, Keith and Kristie Bryson, Andy and Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Peggy Finley, Susan Garrison, John and Debbie Hahn, Bill Hall, Jennifer Hesley, Jim Hesley, Stephan, Leslie and Morgan Kinley, Ken Knight, Greg Lisk, Barbara McManus, Frankie Palmer, Ned and Gayle Russell, Jim and Mary Louise Sawyer, Abby Snuggs, Lee Snuggs, Lily Snyder, the Faith Explorers and all those who helped break down the tables and chairs and clean up the gym! **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION**☺

Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education and Fellowship

Many thanks to all who participated in the SERRV sale – from artisans and farmers who share their skillfulness and gifts, to shoppers who are faithful to the mission, and in between, our loyal staff and volunteers: Iris Coggins, Andy Cotton, Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Debbie Hahn, John Hahn, Cathy King, Mike King, Sarah Michael, Frankie Palmer, Ned Russell, Jim Sawyer, Mary Louise Sawyer, and Joanne Shupe (Linda Anderson's sister).

SERRV items will be available on Sunday, December 8 in the pit stop. At other times, contact Ann Duckwall (704-983-3498).

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN CIRCLE #5

Circle #5 will meet at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle) on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish meal and Lesson 3, *Love Carved in Stone*.

January Newsletter Deadline is Tuesday, December 17.

Early submissions are always welcome!

**If you type your items in Microsoft Word,
please email them as an attachment to:**

pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.



prayer Requests



Do you ever see a name on the prayer list and think, *Now who is that?* Or forget what the relationship is? You are not alone as many folks have asked for help with this. The *Prayer List Connection* will refresh all our memories. Folks with chronic needs will be listed for a month in the bulletin. Following that month, we will keep them on the newsletter's *Prayer List Connection* for as long as we are requested to do so. Critical prayer concerns will be added weekly to the prayer list in the bulletin.

Friends of the Congregation:

- Brinn Andrew**, daughter of Kellie & Jason Andrew; immunotherapy treatment.
- David Bailiff**, friend of Debbie Hahn; kidney transplant complications.
- Dale Benson**, brother of Ann Crutchfield.
- Ted Biggers**, friend of Martha Sue Hall & Dan Samples.
- Margaret Brooks**, friend of Debbie Hahn.
- Joan Bunn**, friend of Gina Martin; health concerns.
- Michelle Honeycutt Cole**, friend of Katie Carpenter; in remission-stage 2 Hodgkins Lymphoma.
- Betty Sue Davis**, friend of Ruth Goodwin.
- Rin Gannon**, friend of Isabel McLeod; recovering from a stroke.
- Calvin Hall**, friend of Ruth Goodwin; kidney cancer – physical therapy for stroke.
- Elizabeth Howard**, cousin of Mary Kesselman; health concerns.
- Catherine Johnson**, niece of Elizabeth Wilson; diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Denise LaBoube**, half-sister of Martha White; diagnosed with brain cancer-Astrocytoma.
- Junior Lambert**, uncle of Danny Lambert; stage 4 lung cancer.
- Molly Amelia Lowder**, continuing health concerns.
- Maddie McRae**, daughter of Renee & Keith McRae; diagnosis & treatment for a brain tumor.
- Bryanna Medlin**, Hodgkins Lymphoma.
- James Nunn**, 19 year old nephew of Billie Jean Snuggs; hospitalized following surgery on optic nerve.
- Sally Ormand**, friend of Ruth Goodwin; cancer treatment.
- David Sanges**, brother of Nathan Sanges.
- Jane Scheer**, spouse of Stan Scheer.
- Betty Stancik**, sister of Bill Hall; continuing health concerns.
- Garin Stepp**, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- Judy Toney**, sister of Jim Hesley; chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer.
- Sally Warburton**, friend of Debbie & John Hahn.
- Jason Washburn**, friend of Jessica & John Palmer; pancreatic cancer.

Members of the Congregation:

- Mark Mabry.**
- Jane Pickler.**
- Cam Rogers.**
- Linda Richards.**
- Pete Smith.**

Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:

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

!!! Greatest Need is Breakfast Bars & Saltines !!!

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Packing Date: Wednesday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church collected 19 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

SCCM NEED FOR DECEMBER... Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper), Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix

**First Presbyterian Church collected \$3,243.76 for SCCM's Caring & Sharing Yellow Cup Campaign.
Thank you for your generosity.**



- 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller
- 02- Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White
- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
- 06- Glenn Miller
- 08- Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre
Hope Wolf
- 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
- 11- Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet
- 13- Tom Norwood
- 16- Alison Whisnant

- 17- Rob McIntyre
- 18- Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman
- 20- Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet
- 21- Emily Andrew
- 22- Joe Snuggs
- 23- Bill Jolly
- 25- Gloria Bryson
Bob Sasser
- 26- Connie Robinson
- 27- Duncan Bryson
Claire George Drumheller
- 29- Kay Griffin
- 30- Sally Grantier
John Montgomery
- 31- Mildred Andrew
Adrienne Robinson



- 04- Jack & Penny Morton
- 10- Terry & Pam Morgan
- 15- Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley
- 21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin

- 23- Harold & Carolyn Sharpe
Craig & Teresa Taylor
- 26- John & Anne Montgomery
- 27- Brad & Jane Boone
- 28- Ben & Shannon Lisk
- 29- Don & Nancy Joines



Youth Club children have spent the past month preparing for the presentation of this year's Joy Program, titled *O Come Let Us Adore Him*. They have been learning songs, practicing lines, and learning about the coming of God in human form. Their program will be presented during worship on December 8.

Please put these important dates on your calendar:

Wednesday, December 4 – Joy Program rehearsal during Youth Club

Saturday, December 7 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Joy Program dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m. – Presentation of the Joy Program during worship.

Wednesday, December 11 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Party at Sk8City for Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers

Wednesday, December 18 – No Youth Club

Wednesday, December 25 – No Youth Club

Wednesday, January 1 – No Youth Club

The Faith Explorers' (4th & 5th Graders): The Faith Explorers have continued their curriculum around Big Faith Questions. This month we have covered a lot of important topics taken from the Faith Explorers' own questions. We have learned about who God is, how God feels about us, and how forgiveness works. Our conversations continue to be very thought-provoking.

Who can come?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Please let Jill Niebler (jlniebler@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us.

Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

2nd & 3rd graders

Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice, etc.

Sunday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Media Room

To pray together & build strong community of faith



**FAITH EXPLORERS' SUNDAY OUTING
DECEMBER 8 FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Our next Faith Explorer event will be on Sunday, December 8th. We will be eating lunch at the church following worship. After lunch, we will complete an Escape Room that will be set up at the church. Pickup will be at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Dorothy at dhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824.



Youth Group News & Information

The holiday season is upon us!

We have lots of activities planned to help celebrate the season and hope you can join us.



- Sunday, December 1 No Youth Group**
- Sunday, December 8 Youth Group**
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (Middle School)
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (High School)
- Sunday, December 15 Christmas Kitchen (before and after worship)**
Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. (location TBA)
- Sunday, December 22 No Youth Group**
- Sunday, December 29 No Youth Group**

Our Christmas Kitchen event is Sunday, December 15th! Youth should plan to be at the church at 9:30 a.m. for set-up. We will be selling our wares from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. before the service and from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. after the service.

Also, the Youth Group Christmas Party will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 15. We will meet for dinner at (location TBA) and do a White Elephant gift exchange!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE PARLOR
FEEL FREE TO BRING A BAG LUNCH

For more information, contact Peggy Finley (704-985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net).





First Family Gathering

Wednesday, December 4

5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Gym

Asian Fusion Meal

Mexican Bar (beef, shredded Chicken, Mexican Rice, nachos, black beans...)

Asian Bar (Chicken, coconut rice, edamame, carrots...)

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Coffee, Water and Lemonade

Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, December 2

(704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

Volunteers Needed for next First Family Gathering

Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Sides Crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Set-up crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 6:45 p.m.



Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help 😊

On the first Thursday of each month, members of First Presbyterian Church gather at a restaurant around Albemarle. Anyone is invited to join us for lunch at one of the delicious locations for good food and conversation. On December 5th we will gather at 12:00 p.m. at Log Cabin BBQ (2322 US 52 Hwy, Albemarle).



First Presbyterian Church...

**POP-UP
EVENT**

Freezer Fest

Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Church Kitchen

Host: Kristie Bryson

We will make sausage balls and spinach balls that you can put in your freezer to get a jump-start on holiday treats.

Cost: \$15.00

You must RSVP to Jane Snyder by Thursday, December 5 (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358).

Winter Art Gallery Exhibition

Featuring Photography by Andy Cotton

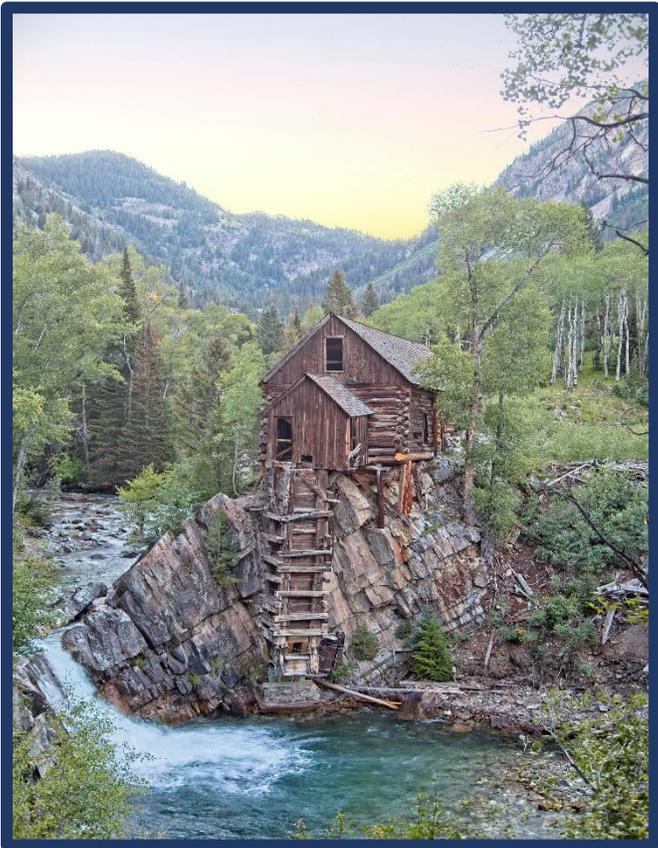
Opens Sunday, December 8

First Presbyterian is fortunate to display photography by our own, Andy Cotton. An active member of the church, Andy is well known for his lovely voice in the choir, often singing solos during the Advent season, as well as his ability to build lovely cabinetry, which can be seen in the church media room and Sunday School classroom across the hall. Andy is also a very gifted photographer and is sharing some of his favorite photography works of art, which will be on display in the church art gallery during the months of December, January & February. A few words from the artist:

I have been into photography since I was 12. As an elementary guidance counselor, I used photography as part of my program. I taught photography in middle school for a number of years where students took photographs, developed film and printed them in the darkroom, many for the school yearbook.

My preferred subjects are travel/landscape photography, wildlife photography and candid photography at events. I have been the photographer at the North Carolina Association of Student Council's summer workshops for 31 years.

Included in this exhibit are photographs of African wildlife, particularly large cats, as well as photographs from various locations in the United States. I also took the church photos on both sides of the hall in front of the church office.



Crystal Mill in Colorado



Leopard in Tree

Longest Night Worship

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

On December 15 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a service for the Longest Night. While the Christmas season is primarily a joyful time, it can also be a difficult reminder of loss. This can be especially difficult for those who have lost a loved one over the past year. This is a service of healing and wholeness designed to acknowledge the complex array of emotions of the Christmas season. We seek to give voice to the pain as well as to the joy of Christmas. Please join us in the chapel for this contemplative, reverent service.



I'll be home for
CHRISTMAS



College Student Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's House Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Whether you are just rolling out of bed (pjs are welcome) or heading out of town to shop, stop by Elizabeth's house (1611 Bellamy Circle) for a festive welcome home brunch. Matt and members of the College & Military Committee will be there to greet you!

Contact Elizabeth by: Text: 704-985-2945 or Email: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org

Carol Singing

On December 19 at 7:00 p.m., you are invited to join us at Tiffany's at the Boardroom to celebrate the holiday season. We will be singing the music of the season led by our own Frank Poolos. Food and drink will available for purchase. Come help us ring in the season with joy and music!



LOOKING AHEAD...

EPIPHANY WORSHIP & FIRST FAMILY GATHERING IN THE GYM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 6:00 P.M.

Youth Club children will help lead us in worship to celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the world.

Come join us for dinner and a brief worship service in the gym.

You're invited to bring *warm* gifts to place in the manger – mittens, scarves, hats, socks, gloves, will be donated to the Clothing Closet.

Menu:

Pasta with Vegetarian Sauces and Meat Sauces, Garlic Bread, Salad, King's Cake, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.

Contact the church office by Tuesday, January 2 to make reservations:
704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org.

Gaither Endowment Grant Application

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).

!!! COMING SOON !!!

Grandparent & Child Retreat

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Noon-2:30 p.m.

Partnering in Christian Education...

Grandparents of any age...

Children K-5th grade...

Lunch in gym followed by activities around the church. Call or email church office to sign up! (klambert@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722).





Sunday, December 1

*First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/
Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger/Alternative Gifts Available
in the Pit Stop*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2nd & 3rd Graders in Media Room)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating, & Advent for All
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee

Monday, December 2

- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson
(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 3

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am First Family Sides Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal
(428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club
- 4:30 pm First Family Set-Up Crew
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Log Cabin BBQ
(2322 US 52 Hwy, Albemarle)

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 am Freezer Fest Pop-up (Church Kitchen)
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Joy Program Dress Rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 3:00 pm Stanly County Choral *The Night Before Christmas*
Music Program at Locust Presbyterian Church
(607 West Main Street, Locust)

*childcare provided



Sunday, December 8

*Second Sunday of Advent/JOY Program & Luncheon/Angel Tree
Gifts due in the Pit Stop/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit
Stop/SERRV items for sale in the Pit Stop/Opening of the Winter
Art Gallery Exhibit...Andy Cotton, Photographer*

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Covered Dish Meal)
- 12:00 pm Faith Explorers' trip to Escape Room
- 3:00 pm Stanly County Choral *The Night Before Christmas*
Music Program at First Baptist Church
(202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)
- 5:00 pm-6:30 pm Youth Group (Middle School)
- 6:00 p.m.-7:30 pm Youth Group (High School)

Monday, December 9

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 10

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal
(428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club at SK8City
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary with
the Piedmont Triad String Quartet

Thursday, December 12

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

*childcare provided





Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Offering/Chancel Choir Presentation of Angels Visit When We Sing/Youth Sponsored Christmas Kitchen/ Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party
- 6:30 pm Session Meeting – Examination of Officers

Monday, December 16

Deadline for Poinsettia Form

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's (1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 17

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 18

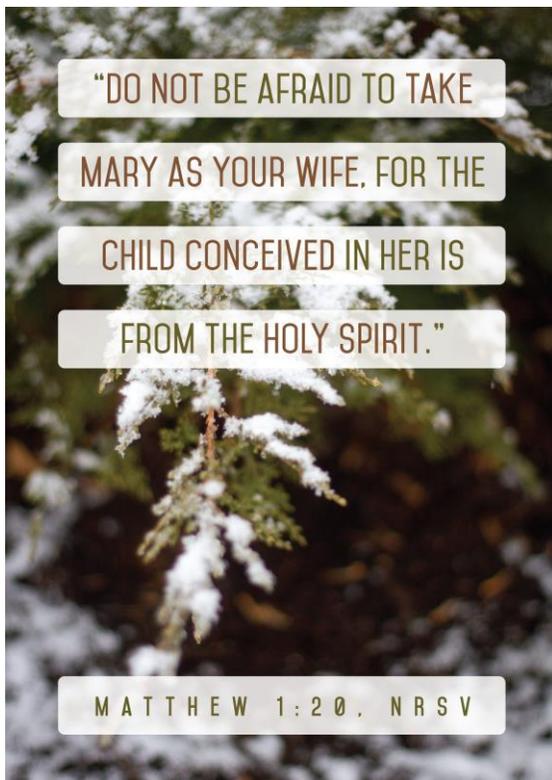
No Youth Club/No Choir Rehearsal

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

Thursday, December 19

- 10:00 am-11:30 am College Student Christmas Brunch at Elizabeth's (1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

*childcare provided



Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship

Monday, December 23

Church Office Closed

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

- 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude
- 5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 am-2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner at First Baptist Church (202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

- 11:00 am *Worship in the Gym

Tuesday, December 31

Financial Year-End Closing at Noon

New Year's Eve

*childcare provided



**A SEASON
of JOY**

THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Ushers: Jack Morton, captain; Kyle Barbee, Taylor Barbee, John Earnhardt, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Greg Lisk, Penny Morton, Jeff Robertson, and Kim Robertson

Elder Greeters for December: Sandy Saunders; David Whitley

Nursery:
December 1: Kate White
December 8: Kate White
December 15: Kate White
December 22: Kate White
December 24: Caroline Snyder
December 29: Kate White

Outside Ushers:
December 1: Brad Boone; John Earnhardt
December 8: Wes Eudy; Lee McManus
December 15: Lee Snuggs; Kyle Marks
December 22: Mark Andrew; Jack Morton
December 29: Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley

Acolytes:
December 1: Natalie Niederer
December 8: Elizabeth Bryson
December 15: Addison Marks
December 22: Merrin Kinley
December 24: Jackson Palmer
December 29: Jackson Shedd

Kids Care Crew:
December 1: Kristie Bryson & Elizabeth Bryson
December 8: Laura Beth & Kyle Marks
December 15: Dona & Greg Lisk
December 22: Gayle & Ned Russell
December 29: Laura & Mike McLeod

Children's Church for December
December 1: *No Children's Church*
December 8: *No Children's Church*
December 15: Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson
December 22: Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson
December 29: *No Children's Church*

Church Website Address & Staff Email Addresses

Church Website Address:	www.fpcalbemarle.org	Pam Knighten:	pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org
Church Email Address:	klambert@fpcalbemarle.org	Kyle Lambert:	klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
Elizabeth Ayscue:	eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org	Stan Scheer:	sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org
Matt Drumheller:	m drumheller@fpcalbemarle.org	Jane Snyder:	jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org
Dorothy Hart:	dhart@fpcalbemarle.org		

