



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

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

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Volume 48

December 27, 2015

No. 52

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alexis Poolos

Leader: Come and see!

People: The light of God has come into our world to program God's love; It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Leader: Come and follow!

People: Christ our companion has redeemed our world. He draws us into a loving family from every tribe and family and culture,

Leader: Go and tell!

People: The Spirit has equipped us for service to love our neighbors as we do ourselves to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Leader: Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

People: In God's love, the nations of the earth will place their hope.

*OPENING CAROL 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

READING ONE

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

William Ivey, reader

CONFESSION OF SIN

Emily Andrew

Silent

Unison

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we might. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you intend. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect your children, those most vulnerable in your sight. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Strengthen us and set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus who was born into the world as one of us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Genesis 22:15-18

Emily Andrew, reader

CAROL 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan

READING TWO

Isaiah 11:1-4

Nicole Poolos, reader

CAROL 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Matt Drumheller

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

READING THREE

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Jay Andrew, reader

CAROL 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Star of the County Down

READING FOUR

Luke 2:1-7

Jacqueline Poolos, reader

CAROL 141

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent Hodie

READING FIVE

Luke 2:8-16

Morgan Smet, reader

CAROL 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

READING SIX

Matthew 2:1-11

Mackenzie Smet, reader

CAROL 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are
(Stanzas 1 and 5)

Kings of Orient

READING SEVEN

John 1:1-14

Luke Marshall, reader

*CAROL 110

Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

*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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Mr. Drumheller

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

Mr. Drumheller

Offertory

*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

*CLOSING CAROL 134

Joy to the World

Antioch

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*All that are able may stand.

We rejoice that you are worshiping 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 Ethan Richards. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thank you to our college students for their leadership and participation in this worship service.

Ushers: Wes Eudy, captain; Steve Cumming, Angie Earnhardt, Greg Lisk, Ronnie Michael, Witt Snuggs, and Morgan Smet **Elder Greeters:** Kim Marshall; Lee McManus **Nursery:** Jana Sanders **Toddler Room:** Salem Taylor **Preschool Partners:** Angie Earnhardt; Adrienne Averette; Kelly Lentz **Nana & Papa Team:** Barbara & Bill Lindley **No Children's Church**

There will not be Children's Church today. Children in grades K-2 are invited to remain in worship.

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.**

This is the final Sunday of the year to fulfill your 2015 pledge. The financial books will close at noon on Thursday, December 31.

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.

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@fpcalbe.marle.org) for more information.

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)

Epiphany Worship

Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym

Epiphany occurs on the 12th 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.



**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*

Facilitator: TBA

Location: Old Session Room

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

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) to make your reservation.

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 if you would like to help. 😊



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.

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).

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.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 27

Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 am *Worship

Wednesday, December 30

No Youth Club

Financial Year End Closing

Church Office Closes at Noon

12:00 pm Church Office Closes

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Church Office Closes at Noon

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

27-Duncan Bryson

Claire George Drumheller

29-Kay Griffin

Kate Lemons

30-Sally Grantier

John Montgomery

31-Mildred Andrew

Bounthanh Linthavong

Adrienne Robinson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

27-Brad & Jane Boone

28-Ben & Shannon Lisk

29-Don & Nancy Joines

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY

02-Pine Sydalack

03-Mike McLeod

Sandy Rogers

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

***childcare provided**

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**SCCM Food Challenge for December:
Canned Beans & Dried Beans**

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