



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 10, 2017

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn 159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

stanza 1

During the singing, the acolyte will light the shepherd candle on the Advent wreath.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O that the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down,

People: So that the mountains would quake at God's presence.

Leader: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love, seeking to share it with our neighbors. Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. Amen.

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

Patient God, we confess that we are in a hurry and make little time for you. Generous God, we confess that we spend with abandon, but forgive with reluctance. Loving God, we confess that we love too little and worry too much. In your patience, wait for us. In your generosity, pour out your grace. In your love, grant us forgiveness and peace. We ask for the sake of Mary's child, born to set us free.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 143, stanza 4

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the coming King.

Each week during Advent, we will sing a hymn about the character whose candle we are lighting. Today, we recall the shepherds.

Memory and hope stand together in this hymn as Charles Wesley acknowledges that we stand between the past and the future.

The Gloria Patri, also called the Lesser Doxology, has been used in worship for centuries as a response of praise. This practice later found its way into our hymns when authors chose to incorporate a paraphrase of this Trinitarian text as the final stanza.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Barbara McManus

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

Holy God, in this season of waiting, send your Spirit into our midst to inspire and enlighten us. May your Word draw us into a deeper understanding of the meaning of your incarnation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Pew Bible, page 627

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM

Youth Club Choir

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

(see bulletin insert)

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet will ich dir geben

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Katherine Jolly and Leah Kilde

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

Offertory

Born in Bethlehem

Helmut Walcha

*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

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

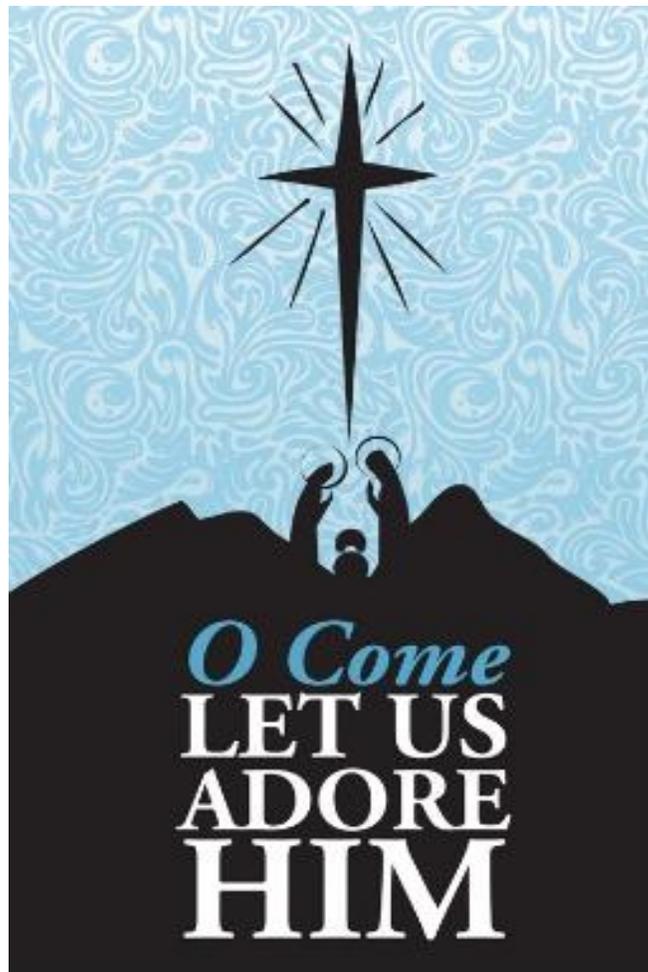
Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling

Johann Walther

*All that are able may stand.

Written by Marie Pooler, the program will allow our children to tell and sing the Christmas story.

Based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10.



Scene 1

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Who Comes to Bethlehem This Night?

Away in a Manger

Narrator 1-Elizabeth Bryson

Narrator 2-Thora Kilde

Narrator 3-Jackson Palmer

Narrator 4-Addison Marks

Scene 2

Glory to God

We Have Seen a Babe, a Holy Child

Narrator 1-Elizabeth Bryson

Narrator 2-Gabriel Beamon and Oliver Henkenjohann

Narrator 3-Thora Kilde

Narrator 4-Natalie Niederer

Narrator 5-Addison Marks

Scene 3

Shining Star

Gifts of Love

Lily Snyder-Soloist

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Narrator 1-Addison Marks

Narrator 2-Lily Snyder

Cast of Characters

Narrators

Gabriel Beamon
Elizabeth Bryson
Oliver Henkenjohann
Thora Kilde
Addison Marks
Natalie Niederer
Jackson Palmer
Lily Snyder

Angel

Addison Marks

Star

Stella Marks

Joseph

Danny Saltzman

Mary

Merrin Kinley

Three Wise Men

Gabriel Beamon
Oliver Henkenjohann
Jackson Palmer

Angels

Zi'Yonna Brown
Emily Deese
Cidney Eudy
Jordan Hesley
Stella Marks
Anya McSwain
Ellie Niederer
Sanah Patel
Kezia Redfearn

Shepherds

Cooper Atwater
Hugh Carpenter
Nathaniel Eudy
Leo McLeod
Seth Richards
Thomas Shedd
Jake Whisnant

Donkeys

Russ Carpenter
Ashton Dickens
Mason Pickler
Kemarian Redfearn
Corbin Smith
Eston West

Sheep

Ari Beamon
Ashley Deese
Carter Gibson
Melanie Hendrix
Leni Henkenjohann
Sophie Poplin
Claire Stokes

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.

During Advent, we will include worship notes in the bulletin. These notes will provide information about prayers, music, and the movements of worship. They are designed to deepen our understanding of worship.

The acolyte today is Maci Holshouser. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

There will be no Children's Church today. School age children are encouraged to remain in worship for the JOY program. Nursery care is provided.

Ushers: Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe
Outside Ushers: Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley **Elder Greeters:** Adam Jolly; Dona Lisk **Nursery:** Kaityln Massey **Preschool Partners:** Liz & Ben Jolly **Nana & Papa Team:** Mary & Frank Green

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Marty Goforth (treatment for melanoma). See newsletter for complete list.

Advent Worship on Tuesdays, December 12 & 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Come for quiet reflection, carol singing, scripture reading, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**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. A light lunch will follow worship. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated for hurricane relief.

Wednesday, December 13 Preaching: The Rev. Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor of FPC
Worship Leader: Pastor Bob Gruver, Lead Pastor of Albemarle First Assembly

**JOY PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

Worship will be a lively telling of the Christmas story by the Youth Club children.

And then there's lunch...

Bring a couple of your family's favorites to share at our covered dish luncheon.

***Christmas Joy Offering
Sunday, December 10***

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Angel Tree

The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church on Sunday, December 10. See the instruction sheet for more details. Should you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447@windtream.net.

Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation of
Journey to the Manger

Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m.

The 2017 Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of tracing the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture followed by contemplative contemporary readings. This year, the choir will be accompanied by organ, the Piedmont Triad String Quartet and percussionist, Jacob Lancaster. Jacob has played for us in the past and is a recipient of a First Presbyterian Church Scholarship. The string quartet has performed in our sanctuary for the Pfeiffer Literacy Center benefit concerts with Dr. Ann Crutchfield, Joe Judge, and Stan Scheer. The group also performed in April in the final concert of the first series of the *Sundays at Three* concerts. Considering how busy professional musicians are at this time of the year, and the fact that many have long-time standing agreements with churches for annual appearances, we are extremely fortunate that they will be playing for this wonderful musical service celebrating the mystery and wonder of the birth of the Messiah.

If you have not already done so, please return your 2018 pledge card as soon as possible.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 10 and 17, opportunities are available to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You can select from among both local and international recipients. Charities include: Homes of Hope, Community Care Clinic, SCCM-Clothing Closet, and the Heifer International. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards designed by artist Leslie Carter. A new card this year features the artwork of Dr. Davis Fort. Come visit us in the pit stop on Sunday or the church office Monday-Thursday during office hours.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or December 31.

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 18.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on

Sunday, December 24.

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.

Support the Youth Ministry...



Kitchen

Sunday, December 17
Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop



Backpack Food Program
UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:

Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Canned Tuna, and Saltine Crackers. A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.



From the First Presbyterian Church
Community Christmas Dinner Committee...
Community Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 25 at Central United Methodist Church

Though we are not hosting the dinner this year, we will participate by providing food and help on Christmas Day. Food and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the pit stop. If you sign-up to make dressing or sweet potato casserole, please take an aluminum pan and lid. Monetary donations will be accepted toward our church's portion of the church's food. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check Community Christmas Dinner. First Presbyterian Church Contact Person: Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com). Blessings to all for helping provide a Christmas meal for so many in our community.

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL YEAR END INFORMATION

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available for pick up in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, please contact the church office so we can assist you. NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2018. If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your 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).

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2017 pledge by December 31 and to complete your Legacy pledge. The financial books will close Friday, December 29, 2017 at NOON. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2018. IMPORTANT: Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 5. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so BEFORE December 12 and be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

Finding Family in Times of Tragedy

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.
—2 Corinthians 9:15



LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



In 2014, tragedy struck Rev. John Scotland's family when his daughter, Elisabeth, suffered a severe brain injury.

John was granted leave from his church in New Jersey so he and his wife could be by their daughter's side in Boston during her recovery. This meant finding someone to cover pastoral duties during his absence as well as additional living expenses.

With a shared grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and West Jersey Presbytery, the Scotlands were able to remain with their daughter while she underwent surgery and an intense two-month rehabilitation.

"Having a Presbyterian family was a big blessing to us and helped us come through tragedy."

—Rev. John Scotland

Present Day: This year, Elisabeth passed her CPA exam and lives in Philadelphia where she works as an accountant. Rev. Scotland and his wife are back in New Jersey continuing to serve the church family that cared for them in their time of need.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND GRATITUDE FOR THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help provide critical financial assistance for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



Nearly 291 households received **Income**

Supplements, which help provide for retired church workers and surviving spouses in need.



Over 211 households received **Housing**

Supplements, which help retired church workers maintain their current home or afford assisted living and long-term care.



More than 110 households received assistance through **Shared and Emergency Grants**,

which provide relief to church workers facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.



Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 10

*Second Sunday of Advent/Joy Program & Luncheon/Joy Christmas Offering/
Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/*

Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Pit Stop

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Faith Explorers' Christmas Snack Ministry
- 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Group Ice Skating Trip to Pineville Ice House
- 5:30 pm Worship Committee
- 6:30 pm *Session

Monday, December 11

- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 12

- 10:00 am January 2018 Newsletter Deadline
- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 13

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 am-11:00 am *Pray & Play
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church
(428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club at SK8 City
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 am-Noon Chancel Choir Rehearsal with lunch to follow

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation

Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop

Youth Christmas Kitchen Fundraiser

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

***childcare provided**



**Visit the Winter Art Gallery Exhibit
Featuring Paintings by Matt Moeller**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! DECEMBER

- 10-Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
- 11-Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet
- 13-Tom Norwood
- 16-Alison Whisnant
- 17-Rob McIntyre

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10-Terry & Pam Morgan
- 15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley

SCCM CHALLENGE DECEMBER

- Canned Vegetables
- Green Beans, Corn, Carrots,
Peas, Beans, Canned
Tomatoes,
Mixed Vegetables...Vegall



Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser

This December, you can help our Faith Explorers (4th and 5th graders) support the Helping Hands Ministry at SCCM by purchasing beautiful handmade Christmas cards to send to your family and friends. These unique cards were made with love by our Faith Explorers and will be sold in packs of 6 for \$10. Cards will be on sale in the Pit Stop on Sunday, December 10.