

Beyond the Columns

December 2019

With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you."

II Peter 3: 8, 9

Roberta had decorated the sanctuary with a beautiful pine garland. There were red Christmas ribbons running through it. She had carefully arranged the crèche on a chancel table. It was the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day. And I was fresh out of seminary.

To make a long story short, I carefully and pastorally tried to explain how Advent was a time of waiting for Christmas. It wasn't Christmas yet and wasn't time to decorate. Later I found out that Roberta had decorated the sanctuary for nearly as many Christmases as I had been alive. So the Christmas decorations stayed in the sanctuary through Advent and I began the process of learning about the mixing of Advent/Christmas season.

Advent is a church season that emphasizes the human experience of waiting. But the truth is, Christmas season is up and going for almost a month before Advent starts. It is a strange experience that gives most church folks a little bit of whiplash. We go from red and green family rooms, with "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," into a purple sanctuary singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Don't tell anyone, but I've come to enjoy this strange contradiction. I do both at the same time. Most likely, I'll watch "It's a Wonderful Life" before December 1. Our James Taylor Christmas album will be background music as soon as the Thanksgiving mashed potatoes are being passed around.

And I will also welcome the quiet, reflective Advent purple. Longingly, I will sing the somber tones, *O Come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Make envy strife and warfare cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel!*

Waiting is a natural part of life. We wait for the planted seeds of a garden to grow. We wait through long election seasons. We wait for family to come and visit. We wait for news from the doctor. We wait for the world in which we live to reflect something of the love, mercy and justice that we hold dear. Advent reminds us that the longing we feel during all these experiences of waiting is a longing in the deepest sense for God.

Advent, however, is a joyful and expectant waiting. We know that Christ has been born in Bethlehem. So as we wait again, we do so with gladness. Joy happens along the way of waiting.

So I am going to wear Christmas ties during Advent. Even while I am waiting, I am going to watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," early in December. And even while I am paying attention to that deep longing within myself, I am going to have a second cup of eggnog.

I hope that you have a joyful and meaningful Advent!

Peace,

Rev. Steve Willis



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar.....	3
Youth and Children	2
Prayer and Praise.....	4
Recipe of the Month.....	7
Sunday Flowers.....	5
VIPs.....	5
Stewardship in Action.....	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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

PW:
Evening Circle
12/2 meets at the home of
Karen Johnson
320 Hawthorne Dr.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Sun. Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	2 10:00 am Co Council 12:30 pm Day Circle 5:45 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Evening Cir	3 5:15 pm Handbells 7 pm Property	4 5 pm PNC 6pm Youth & WNS	5 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	6 Office Closed	7 11:15 Lunch Program 4:00pm Williams Wedding
8 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sun. Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	9 9:30 Prayer group 10:00 am Staff Mtg 11am VPr Comm 6:00 Membership	10 5:15 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Session	11 5 pm PNC 6pm Youth	12 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	13 Office Closed	14 11:15 Lunch Program
15 9:00 Mission Comm 9:45 Sun. Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	16 9:30 Prayer group 10:00 am Staff Mtg	17 5:15 pm Handbells	18 5 pm PNC 6pm Youth & WNS	19 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	20 Office Closed	21 11:15 Lunch Program
22 9:45 Sun. Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	23 9:30 Prayer group 10:00 am Staff Mtg	24 Office 1/2 day 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 11:15 Lunch Program
29 9:45 Sun. Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	30 9:30 Prayer group 10:00 am Staff Mtg	31				

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To Know Christ And
Make Him Known

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, Caroline Hudson (J. Reynolds), 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, 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, Goldie Keese, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith

CAREGIVERS

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

OUR PNC COMMITTEE

Our condolences to the friends and family of Ruth Lawton who passed away 11/12/19.

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.

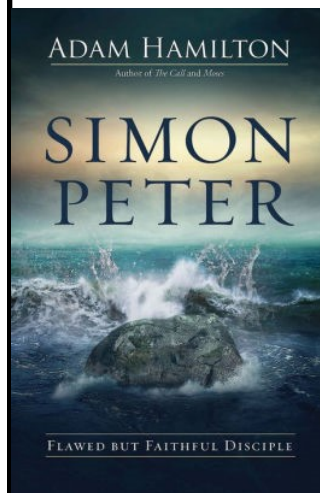
Dec. 7: Women's Circle
Dec. 14: Westover Baptist
Dec. 21: Unity Presbyterian
Dec. 28: Youth

Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday 12/24 at 5 p.m.

Church Office will be closed 1/2 day Christmas Eve.

Church Office will be closed Christmas Day.

Church Office will be closed Friday Dec. 26th.



The men's bible study & breakfast will **not meet** in December -see you in January. We will continue our study of Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton, January 18th at 8:00 a.m.





Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

December 1—The flowers today are given in loving memory of Tim Hooker by the family.

December 8—The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. Fowlkes and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kirk by the family.

December 15—The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Paige and Frank Wiseman.

The elders will be in charge for the month of December.

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.

Dec. 2 Alice Bradshaw
Colonial Suite
1111 Main St.
Danville, VA 24541

Dec. 9 Fae Smith
661 Timberlake Dr.
Danville, VA 24540

Dec. 16 Goldie Keesee Room 32
Roman Eagle Nursing Home
2526 N. Main St.
Danville, VA 24540

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

Completed Items

2 roof leaks repaired

New floor burnisher is in use

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION EMPHASIS

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Christian Education Committee

Brenna Takata, Chair

Christian Education
will meet not meet in
December.



We are busy getting ready for the Angel Tree Christmas Party on December 14 at 2:00. The children will make a craft, eat snacks, sing Christmas carols and receive their gifts.

If you have not chosen an angel, go to Dunglinson Roberts/Juice Room and get an angel from the Christmas tree.

Please record your name on the Angel Tree sheet, purchase and wrap a gift for your angel and return the gift by December 8 to "The Juice Room."

If you are interested in helping at the Christmas Party on December 14 or would like to deliver gifts that are not picked up, please sign up in the Juice Room or contact Harriet Beale.

What a blessing it is for us as a church family to share gifts and the love of Jesus with these precious children during this Christmas season. Many thanks to all of those who help in this church ministry.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

**Coordinating Council
will meet at 10 a.m.
Dec. 2nd**

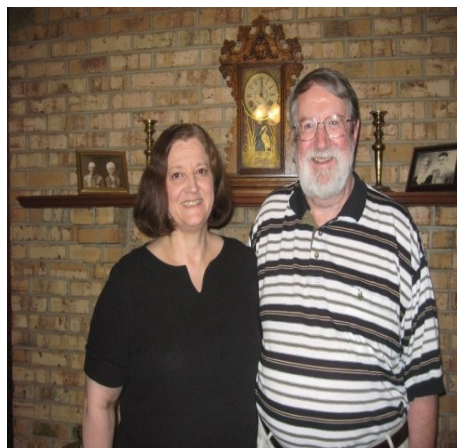
**Day Circle will meet at
12:30 p.m. on Dec.
9th.**

**The evening circle will
meet at the home of
Karan Johnson on
Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m.**

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

Stewardship in Action

This year the theme for First Presbyterian Church is **Many Gifts; One Spirit**. Our church is blessed with a congregation of faithful stewards. In December we highlight two of those faithful stewards - Fred and Carolyn Baker. Fred and Carolyn support the mission of the church by serving on various committees, such as the Session, Diaconate, Communications, VIP, and Nominating. They have both been active in bible studies. Carolyn has served on the Coordinating Council for Presbyterian Women and taught lessons for the Presbyterian Women's Day Circle. This only scratches the surface of the ways the Bakers give their time, talents and treasures. Thank you Fred and Carolyn for your dedication to the Lord's work here at First Presbyterian Church and in our community.



BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK
200 YEARS OF COOKING BY THE DAN

Sweet Potato Casserole by Judy Hooker

3 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes

2 eggs

1/3 c. milk

1 c. sugar

1 tsp vanilla

1/2 c. butter

Beat with mixer until smooth. Put in 2 qt. shallow casserole.

Topping:

1 c. packed brown sugar

1/3 c. butter

1/3 c. flour

1 c. finely chopped pecans

Sprinkle on top and bake for 30 minutes at 350.



5 Frank Wiseman

7 Charlotte Litzenberg

9 Kathleen Harris

10 Holt Whitt

11 Christopher McCorkle Hill

12 David Swann

Nathan Honea

13 Carson Green, Jr

15 Heather Clark

Edward Blount

16 Lisa Bolt

18 Elaine Lea

Spencer Stoakley

21 Bob Whitt

23 Chuck Bolt

25 Cooper Crews

27 Sharon Whitt

Ellen Thomas

28 Robert Clifton

29 Carol Ellis

Martha Bell

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

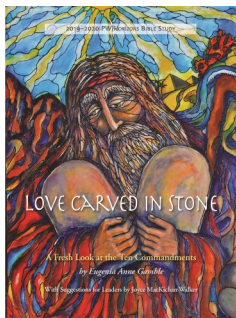


Lay Renewal Weekend

March 13-15, 2020

What is a Lay Renewal weekend? In short, it is an intentional time of refreshing and *Celebration* of the gift of God's grace. There will be times of singing, sharing of faith stories (testimonies), small group sharing, times of prayer, host-home discussions, and the overall blessing of fellowship. Williamson Memorial Presbyterian Church will be participating with us in our Celebration of faith. Please be in prayer for the visiting team members from across the south who will be leading us in worship.





Attn: Presbyterian Women — — Our PW organization continues a season of prayer, Bible study, service and fellowship. The **Day Circle** will meet on Monday, December 9th 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 Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m. at the home of Karan Johnson, 320 Hawthorne Dr. to continue their study of James.



Our Wednesday Night Suppers will be Wednesday December 4th at 6 p.m. Our program will be presented by Rev. David Fuller. Team 1 will be in charge. The next WNS will be December 18th. The handbells and choir will present the program. Team 2 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.



Oct. visit



Nov. visit

Thanks to those who came out and helped pack the bags at God's Storehouse. In October 8 people packed 178 bags in 30 minutes. In November 6 people packed 179 bags in 35 minutes. Our next date is January 16th. Thanks again & See you in January !



Stewardship Corner						
October 2019 Financials						
		MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Bud/Act (This Year)
Contributions		\$ 17,644	\$ 238,126	\$ 237,796	\$ 254,625	\$ (16,499)
Other Income		\$ 301	\$ 7,163	\$ 1,995	\$ 4,136	\$ 3,027
Transfers		\$ 11,407	\$ 75,417	\$ 144,748	\$ 67,729	\$ 7,688
Total Revenues		\$ 29,352	\$ 320,706	\$ 384,538	\$ 326,491	\$ (5,784)
Expenses		\$ 29,249	\$ 301,312	\$ 334,436	\$ 326,491	\$ 25,179
Net Total		\$ 103	\$ 19,395	\$ 50,102	\$ (0)	\$ 19,395
Stewardship News						
Hello everyone from the Stewardship Committee! A big "Thank You" to those who participated in Commitment Sunday. So far we have received 56 pledge cards for a total of \$217,173.16. We are so blessed to have such a giving church. And, if you haven't had an opportunity to turn in your card, please get it to church office as soon as possible. From all of us on the Stewardship Committee, we wish you the most joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!						



The Annual Church Christmas Breakfast will be Dec. 8th at 9 a.m. in Overbey Hall. Mark your calendar for your family to enjoy this Christmas tradition that began in the 1940's. Everyone is welcome to a breakfast of ham or sausage biscuits, homemade breakfast casseroles, fruit, sweets, juices & coffee sponsored by the members of the Outlook Sunday School class. There is no charge. Come & begin your day of worship with this time of fellowship and joy!

**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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