

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Albemarle, North Carolina Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music Stan Scheer, Organist Gina Martin, Director of Chrisitan Education

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager Church Office: (704) 982-2722 Website:www.fpcalbemarle.org Pam Knighten, Secretary

E-mail:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org



December 2015

Dear Friends,

Grace and Peace, Elizabeth

Advent for Kids

YOU ARE INVITED

Who? Children of All Ages What? Advent Activities

Where? The Pit Stop When? Sunday, November 29, following the luncheon Why? To Celebrate the First Sunday in Advent

Theme? Light- Jesus is the Light of the World!

Activities Include:

Creating Advent Candle, Making a Wreath of Kindness for the 25 Days of Advent, **Decorating Cookies & More**



WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday, November 29 First Sunday of Advent...Hope

We will light the candle of hope and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent...Peace

We will light the candle of peace.

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent...Joy

We will light the candle of joy.

Youth Club's Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers will present the JOY program.

Through scripture, story, and song, they will lead our worship.

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent...Love

We will light the candle of love.

The Chancel Choir will present an extended musical program which includes both

scripture and song.

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

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 pm An expectant atmosphere will fill the sanctuary as we usher in the birth

day of the Christ Child.

Sunday, December 27 Service of Lessons & Carols

First Presbyterian Church's college students will lead a service of Lessons and Carols.

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP 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 3, 10, and 17*. Lunch will follow. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated to OASIS and Habitat for Humanity.

Wednesday, December 2

Preaching: Reverend Donald M. Phillips, Interim Pastor of Saint Martin's Lutheran Church

Wednesday, December 9

Preaching: Reverend Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 16

Preaching: Dr. Andy Jung, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 6. 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 \$375.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal in October. Ten cents per person per meal is just \$9.00 per month and helps provide people both nourishment and hope. If you don't have a Ten-Cents-A-Meal container, you can find one in the pit stop. Checks and/or coins are welcome! Our goal is to receive an average of \$600.00 per month.

2016 Flower Calendar

The 2016 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.

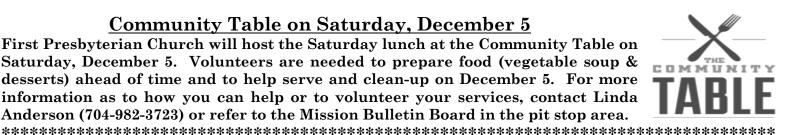


Alternative Christmas Gifts

On November 22 and 29 and, December 6 and 13, 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 that were designed by artist Leslie Carter.

Community Table on Saturday, December 5

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 5. Volunteers are needed to prepare food (vegetable soup & desserts) ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 5. For more information as to how you can help or to volunteer your services, contact Linda Anderson (704-982-3723) or refer to the Mission Bulletin Board in the pit stop area.





Contemplative Advent Worship Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel **********



Support SNL's Christmas Kitchen

Sunday, December 6 before and after worship in the Pit Stop

SNL needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, & pies to be sold at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 6.

Make ahead & freeze if you like!

SNL also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the Christmas Kitchen on December 6.

Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at First Presbyterian & support our youth!

Call Liz Jolly (704-699-6699) or Jane Boone (704-604-3836) to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!



Our Congregational Retreat is set for this Spring! The dates are April 8-10, 2016. We hope you will plan to join us at Camp Caraway for a weekend of fun games, good food, and enlightening discussion led by Pastor David Kilde surrounding the topic of being religious and spiritual people in a multi-cultural world. Now is the perfect time to sign your family up for this retreat which they will not want to miss. Give it as a Christmas present to your family or another family!

There are two housing options available for the Congregational Retreat:

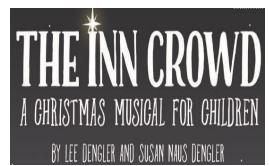
Bunk Style Housing: \$60.00 per person

Single Occupancy Hotel Style Rooms: \$144.00

Double Occupancy Hotel Style Rooms: \$120.00

Please be aware that there will be scholarships and payment plans available for this retreat. Please see the sign-up sheet available in the church lobby outside the office or contact the church office to sign up!





Joy Gift Program

Sunday, December 13 during Worship

Youth Club Children will be presenting *The Inn Crowd* on Sunday, December 13 during worship at 11:00 am. Through word, song and movement, these children will create a sense of wonder and joy as we move through the Advent season. Come see each child in their finest hour as they tell the story of Jesus' birth. Plan to stay for the Joy Gift Luncheon at noon and share a favorite covered dish with friends.



Christmas Joy Offering Sunday, December 13

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.



CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM
The congregation is invited to bring
their favorite covered dishes to share.

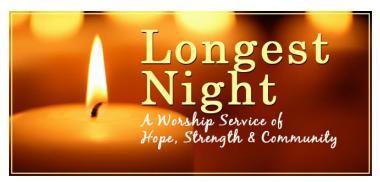
2016 Children's Art Calendar



Created by the Trusty Travelers of First Presbyterian Church

Give the gift of art this holiday season to your family, teacher, friends and neighbors and help a neighbor in need. The Trusty Travelers have created these lovely works of art as they have focused on *Deepening Community through Grace & Gratitude* each Wednesday.

\$ 8.00 each
Proceeds will support our neighbor, Laura, in Montaña de Luz
On sale in the pit stop
Sunday, December 13 \$\psi\$ 20
and
Wednesday, January 7
(at the First Family Epiphany Dinner)



Service for the Longest Night Sunday December 13 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

On December 13 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 the losses we have experienced. For some people, the absence of loved ones or the reminder of other losses can be painful. 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 and afterwards for cider and cookies.



Sundays

December 6, 13, & 20
ENGAGE CAFÉ at 9:30 a.m.
ENGAGE TOPICS
begin at 9:45 a.m.

Old Testament Location: Session Room

Utilizing a video series developed by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar who teaches at Vanderbilt University, Bill Jolly and Larry Sitton will lead this class. Levine presents a commentary on the origins, meanings, and interpretations of the stories in the Old Testament, in a thought-provoking and stimulating way. Interesting class discussion will follow.

Wired Word Discussion Group Location: Classroom 2

Patrick Currie and Debby Johnston will lead this group which bring scripture to bear on the life of the world.

Experiencing Advent through the Words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer Location: Parlor

Matt Drumheller will be leading a daily reflection class based on the book *God in the Manger*. This is a book of daily devotions for the Advent season based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's reflections and sermons. Take this opportunity to read Bonhoeffer's compelling reflections...the writings of one of the most influential modern theologians, as well as one of our most inspirational models of faith.

Finishing Well: Caregiving, Medical, Legal, & Faith Issues in Later Years Location: Old Session Room

Elizabeth and others will lead this class which will tackle such issues as funeral planning, long-term care options, legal documents relating to finances and medical care. Come for conversation and to share your experiences. Guest speakers will include Patrick & Lisa Currie, Dr. Lenny Saltzman, and someone from the Senior Center.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.

Carols and candlelight will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

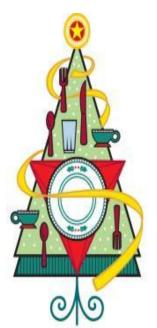
Christmas Candlelighting Service

The musical prelude begins at 5:00 p.m. Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music. The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m. Worship includes a story for the children, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, music by the adult choir, and sharing the light of Christ and traditional carol singing.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes music by older youth and college students, drama, traditional carol singing, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sharing the light of Christ. This service is full of expectation as we move toward midnight and the birth of Christ. Dress is informal. Following worship, youth and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast location to be determined in consultation with Community Christmas Dinner planning team.





Community Christmas Dinner

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

Community Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

We are well on the way to hosting the 26th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. Thanks to each of the following Committee Chairpersons who are working hard in their area of responsibility:

CommitteesCommittee Chair(s)Children's ActivitiesRebekah AyscueClean-UpDebbie Wainwright

Dining Room Management Hugh and Debbie Wainwright

Entertainment Jim & Mary Louise Sawyer

Food Hugh Wainwright

Logistics Lee Snuggs

Publicity John & Anne Montgomery

Set-Up Lee Snuggs
Table Decorations Ann Snuggs
Take-Out Skeet Ayscue

Volunteers Jim Carter and Lori Ivey

Our food and volunteer sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Pit Stop. If you sign up for Dressing or Sweet Potato Casserole we will provide the aluminum pan and lid. This year all six churches are purchasing the non-perishable items (canned vegetables; potatoes; gravy; rolls and tea) in bulk. We will accept monetary donations toward our church's portion of this total amount. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check *Community Christmas Dinner*.

Additional volunteers will be needed to assist before Christmas Day. If you would like to help and will not be available on Christmas Day, please let Mary, Sandy or Martha Sue know.

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

Coordinators for this event are:

Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)
Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or manapier@msn.com)
Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or swsaunders63@gmail.com)

-Submitted by Martha Sue Hall



The Senior Care Committee would like to encourage the congregation to remember our at-home members during the holidays. Send cards, drop by for a visit, make a call and pray for them.

Hessie Clark

609 Fernwood Drive Albemarle, NC 28001 Phone: 704-982-4978

Anita Gower

530 Avondale Ave. Albemarle, NC 28001 Phone: 704-983-1832

Blue Honeycutt

531 Ridge Street Albemarle, NC 28001 Phone: 704-982-7272

June Johnson

Stanly Manor, Room 301

625 Bethany Rd. Albemarle, NC 28001

Virginia Marshall

Woodhaven Court 1930 Woodhaven Drive Albemarle, NC 28001

Ed Myers

10386 Sycamore Rd. Norwood, NC 28128 Phone: 704-474-4122

Elworth Plyler

2221 Bermuda Village Drive

Advance, NC 27006 Phone: 678-772-9357

Toby Webb

1321 McCarthy Blvd.

Apt. 308

New Bern, NC 28562





This year's Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of following the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture and contemporary readings. The service will begin with *Processional*

Alleluia for handbells and choir. Throughout the anthem, the choir sings the word Alleluia to the accompaniment of bells and organ. The piece begins quietly and grows in intensity before returning to the softer sounds of the opening bells, thus giving the listener the impression of witnessing a passing procession. With it, we will begin our journey to Bethlehem as we follow the familiar story of those who were present for the miracle and mystery of the first Christmas. In addition to the familiar cast of human and divine beings, we remember the animals that were present with The Shepherd's Lamb, which contemplates the mystery: The Shepherd, born to live with us and guide us, is also born to die for us as the shepherds' Lamb.

BUILDS COMMUNITIES DEVELOPS LEADERS DEEPENS LOVE FOR THE BIBLE

Covenant Bible Study Tuesday Mornings Beginning January 5 at 10:00 a.m.

The first session of covenant concludes on December 1. This excellent study continues with Part II beginning on January 5. If you want to get on board, contact Elizabeth (704-982-2722 or eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org) for more information.

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 \$22.00 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 14.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20.

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 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

| Actual: | Year to Date | <u>Budget-to-Date</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Income Received: | 436,710.00 | 469,802.00 |
| Total Expenses: | <u>465,717.00</u> | 467,201.00 |
| (Shortage)/Surplus: | (29,007.00) | 2,601.00 |

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2015

Pledges: 477,515 Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: \$10,825
Total Income: 562,887 Average Weekly Amount Received in October: \$11,315

Total Expenses: 562,887

We are behind \$26,994 in pledges. (\$14,838 of 2015 pledges was prepaid in 2014)

Our Living Legacy Campaign (pledged): 102 pledges totaling \$291,873 Ten-Cents-A-Meal October: \$375

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL YEAR END INFORMATION

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2016 will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 6 in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, contact the church office so we can assist you. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year.** Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2016.** 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, contact the church office at (704-982-2722).

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2015 pledge by December 31. The financial books will close Wednesday, December 30, 2015. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2016. IMPORTANT: Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 7. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, do so before December 14, <u>AND</u> be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made. Kyle will be out of the office Tuesday, December 22 through Friday, December 25.

2016 PLEDGE CARDS

Make sure you have turned in your 2016 Pledge Card. If you have misplaced your card or did not receive one, you can find pledge cards on the counter top outside the church office or stop by the office to pick one up. If you are not a member of the church but would like a pledge card and/or contribution envelopes just call or stop by the church office.

Credit Card Payments Now Accepted at First Presbyterian Church

Check out the website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can now make payments via credit card for your General Fund pledge, your Our Living Legacy pledge, or for any other purpose. Contact Kyle for more information (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

MEMORIALS

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In honor of Cathryn & Claude Harwood, given by Mildred Andrew.

Our Living Legacy Campaign:

In honor of the birthday of Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, given by Marlene & Nathan Sanges.

Scholarship Endowment:

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Mary B. Andrew.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Brian, Jenny, Laura, & Emily Bunch.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Betsey Heath.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Annie Ruth Kelley.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Martha & Tony Lowder.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Dr. & Mrs. Tom Norwood.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Ruth Ann & Bill Rogers.

In memory of Fran Mabry, given by Uwharrie Bank, Uwharrie Investment Advisors, and Uwharrie Capital Corporation.

In memory of Betsy H. Underwood, given by Martha & Tony Lowder.

NEWS and NOTES

Session Notes

At its stated meeting on November 8, 2015, Session received a report from the Property Committee stating that the kitchen remodel, brick work and landscaping projects are all complete. The new carpet for the sanctuary will be the next project. The Columbarium Committee reported that 5 niches have been sold. The Mission committee will collect the SCCM cups on Sunday, November 22nd. The Worship committee is working on hanging the Christmas greenery and the two communions that will be held in December.

Submitted by Ellen Whitley, Clerk of Session

Circle #5 Monthly Meeting

Circle #5 meets Monday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish dinner at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street). Bring your favorite dish! We will study lesson #3.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January 2016 Newsletter is noon on Tuesday, December 15.

Early submissions are always welcome! If you type your items in Microsoft Word, please email them as an attachment to: pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.



STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOOD CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER: Canned Beans & Dried Beans





To:

Gloria Bryson, Ann Duckwall, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, Sally Grantier, Margaret Ivey, Judy & Tommy Murrell, Frankie Palmer, Susan Pandich, Ruth Ann Rogers, Sandy Rogers, Rich Schaefer, and Martha White for assisting in the office during October & November.

Thanks for your participation in packing 28 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.



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: Linda Anderson, Iris Coggins, Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Susan Garrison, Heather Kilde, Carroll Sitton, Debbie Wainwright, and Shirley Welch.



Senior Care Committee,

I want to thank all of the many folks who helped prepare and serve meals for the Prime Timers, packed gifts for the shut-ins, visited shut-ins, responded to my many emails when I needed advice, and did so much more for the more mature and wise members of our church. Each of us and each person in our church should remember our older generation. A few minutes' visit can make a world of difference for a shut-in.

Debbie Hahn, Chair



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:

Chrissy Adams, friend of Shannon & Kent Newport; Hodgkin's disease.

Margaret Brooks, friend of Debbie Hahn; at an assisted living facility.

Bob & Bessie Burris, grandparents of Kim Caudle.

Glenn Burris.

Jan Burton, mother of Mandy Brown; breast cancer.

Millie Campbell, friend of Melissa Lemons; receiving treatment for breast cancer.

Katherine Cox, mother of Sherrie Richards.

Rachel Darling, friend of Dona Lisk; ovarian cancer.

Roy & Katie Dearstyne, parents of Holly Norwood.

Rich Drye, nephew of Barbara Whitley; Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Sara Dyer, mother of Martha White; ongoing health concerns.

Lindsey Efird, daughter of Karen Efird and Mark Efird; battling MPS.

Tonia Icenhour, friend of Kim Caudle; lymphoma.

Jeannette Isenhour, sister of Frankie Palmer; COPD.

Randall Kimrey, father of Bryce Kimrey.

Jackie Lynn Kruis, seven year old great-niece of Gloria Bryson.

Don Little.

Bryanna Medlin, nine year old diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Louise Medlin, mother of Dona Lisk; diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma.

Karen Niebler, mother of Jill Niebler.

Shannon Newton, diagnosed with cancer; friend of the Johnston family.

Sam & Melanie Obermiller, friends of John & Debbie Hahn.

Barbara Petillo, friend of Peggy Finley; disabling health problems.

James Brian Rogers, son of Jane Rogers; recovering from heart & kidney transplant.

Karen Russell, First Baptist Church Wee Care Teacher; breast cancer.

David Sanges, brother of Nathan Sanges; recently received a bone marrow transplant for Acute Myloid Leukemia.

Charles Schinck, brother-in-law of Peggy Finley; recurrence of cancer.

Garin Stepp, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Members of the Congregation:

Blue Honeycutt.

Greg Johnson.

June Johnson.

Ed Myers.

Pete Smith.



- 01- Pam Brafford Steve Cumming Ruth Goodwin
- 02- Taylor Jolly Don Stewart Lynn White
- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde Nathan Sanges
- 06- Glenn Miller
- 08- Pam Morgan Hannah Smith Hope Wolf
- 09- Lee Deese
- 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

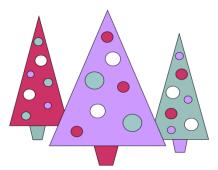
- 18- Dustin Jolly Katie Saltzman
- 20- Virginia Currie Anna Henkenjohann Morgan Smet Toby Webb
- 21- Emily Andrew
- 22- Carroll Sitton Joe Snuggs
- 23- Bill Jolly
- 25- Gloria Bryson Bob Sasser
- 26- Ernie Borders Dorothy Cowan Connie Robinson
- 27- Duncan Bryson Claire George Drumheller
- 29- Kay Griffin Kate Lemons
- 30- Sally Grantier John Montgomery
- 31- Mildred Andrew
 Bounthanh Linthavong
 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

MISSION NEWS...



Necklace Ministry

Handmade Crochet Necklaces in beautiful colors sell for just \$5.00 each.

Great Gifts for Family & Friends.

Proceeds go toward the purchase of formula for HIV babies in Mwandi, Zambia.

Contact Mary Louise Sawyer (704-986-6320 or <u>jameshardinsawyer@gmail.com</u>) or Ruth Cotton (704-983-2481 or <u>hugawolf@hotmail.com</u>) if you are interested in this ministry.



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.



A Recipe for You... Fair Trade Mocha Pecan Pie

Ingredients

Crust:

1 1/4 cups flour

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup shortening

3 Tablespoons cold water

Filling:

3 large eggs

½ cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup maple syrup

1/4 cup dark corn syrup

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

5 oz. (1 ½ cups) coarsely chopped roasted salted pecans

1/3 cup extra dark chocolate broken into pieces

(a little less than half of a 3.5 oz. bar),

2 tablespoons strong brewed Equal Exchange coffee

Directions

For crust: Sift flour and salt into a bow. Using a pastry blendr, cut in 2/3 of the shortening until the mixture resembles very fine crumbs. Cut in the remaining shortening coarsely. Do not overwork. Sprinkle with cold water and stir with a fork until it clumps together, adding more water if necessary. Squeeze into a ball, then roll out on a floured board. Transfer to a 9-inch pie plate.

Preheat oven to 400°F. Blend the eggs, sugar, and syrups together. Melt the chocolate together with the butter. Mix all filling ingredients together. Pour filling into unbaked crust. Bake for 40 minutes or until filling is slightly puffed and set. Cool on a rack.

For more recipes, check the Equal Exchange website under *Recipes* (equalexchange.coop).



SNL DECEMBER SCRIPT

The Christmas season is almost upon us, and there are many ways to get involved with SNL! Please plan to join us for some of the wonderful activities we have to celebrate the holiday season.

Sunday, December 6

Sunday, December 13

Sunday, December 20

Sunday, December 27

before and after worship **Christmas Kitchen**

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **SNL**

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **SNL**

no SNL

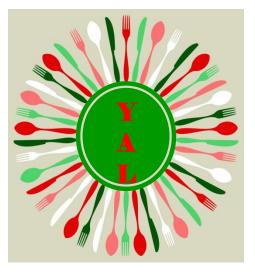


20-Virginia Currie 27-Duncan Bryson

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 12:00 P.M. IN THE PARLOR FEEL FREE TO BRING A BAG LUNCH.

For more information, contact Miriam Russell (704-982-3025).





Young Adult Lunch Thursday, December 3 at Noon

Young adult lunches are a chance to gather in the middle of the work week to enjoy each other's company and some delicious dining. Please let Matt know if you have any restaurant requests (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org). Plan to meet at noon on:

Thursday, December 3 at Ly Cuisine (807A North 2nd Street)



FIRST FAMILY GATHERING AND KITCHEN CHRISTENING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

AT 6:00 P.M.

In the midst of the holiday season's hustle and bustle, join your church family for a Fiesta Mexicana to christen our new kitchen!

En el menu:

Taco Bar, Mexican Rice, Nachos, Black Beans, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts, Te, Café, Agua y Limonada

Healthy Meal Alternative: Taco Salad



TRON BON APPETIT

Volunteers Needed for December First Family Gathering -

Los Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. Los Taco and Salad crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m. Los Set up crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m. **Los Decorating crew:** Los Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Senora Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help[⊕].



SNL is continuing its tradition of having a fundraiser at the beginning of the Christmas season, but this year we are going to expand our wares. In the weeks leading up to December, SNL is collecting dishes (not just sweets) to be sold in preparation of the Christmas season. These are dishes that can be reheated to take the burden off during the busy holiday season. Keep in mind, cookies and other sweets are still very welcome, but we are going to collect your favorite dishes to be sold as well.

Make the members of FPC your kitchen elves this Christmas! Please contact Jane Boone (704-604-3836) or Liz Jolly (704-**699-6699)** with any questions.





!!! Youth Club News !!!

Youth Club December Update

December is a short month and the children will spend much of it preparing to present the **Joy Gift Program**, entitled *The Inn Crowd* on Sunday, December 13

during worship. There will be lines to memorize, costumes to ready, props to put in place and songs to learn that will encourage a heartfelt understanding of the birth of Jesus and the feelings of love and belonging experienced by all involved.

Children will also bring in a gift for one of the **Angel tree children** and help prepare that bag of love for delivery. They will pray for the recipient and his/her family that they too would know and understand that it is far better to give than to receive. Neighbor helping neighbor at it's best!

Trusty Travelers (K-3rd graders)...In art, the children will be working on creations that will be reproduced in the 2015 Children's Art Calendar fundraiser. All proceeds from the sale will be used to sponsor our neighbor and friend, Laura, in Montaña de Luz. Calendars will be on sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 13 and 20 and Wednesday, January 6 at the First Family Epiphany Dinner.

Deepening Community and God's great love for all are themes that continue to be encouraged throughout the month at Youth

Please note the below adjusted Youth Club schedule for December:

Wednesday, December 2.... 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Club

5:15 pm-5:45 pm Handbells & Orff

Wednesday, December 9... 3:15 pm-5:00 pm practice for Joy Gift Program...no Handbells or Orff

(note time change because of Stanly County School early release day)

Saturday, December 12... 11:00 am -12:30 pm...dress rehearsal for Joy Gift Program in sanctuary

Sunday, December 13... 9:45 am practice in sanctuary ...11:00 am worship Wednesday, December 16... Christmas Skating Party at Wayne's World 3 pm-5pm

(drop-off & pick-up at the skating rink)

Faith Explorers $(4^{th} - 5^{th} \text{ graders})...$ November was a short month for Faith Explorers because of the Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving holidays but we were able to get a lot accomplished. Thanks to Ruth Cotton's generosity with her time and talent, each child completed a second Crismon to be taken home and enjoyed on his or her family's Christmas tree. We continued our lesson series on bullying in the Bible and we continued to talk and write about all the things we have been given for which to be grateful.

As we head into December, we look forward to understanding the importance of giving as we help purchase gifts for children in need from the angel tree. The Faith Explorers will work hard on their roles for the Joy Gift program and will enjoy a skating party to celebrate Christmas.



Youth Cubs (3 – 4 years old)... The month of December will be devoted to the most glorious event of all time! The Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament arrived exactly as God promised. God keeps his promises. We will focus on the following: the angel telling Mary that Jesus would be born, His birth, the arrival of shepherds and wisemen, Jesus was sent by God, the story is in the Bible, Jesus' birth is the reason for Christmas. Songs, art, and other activities will reinforce these concepts. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good life!

Submitted by Lynn Poplin



Faith Explorers Take in a Show
Sunday, December 13, 2015

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Levine Jewish Cultural Center
5007 Providence Road, Charlotte
General Admission \$12
2:00 pm Show
Lunch at Joy Gift Lunch

4th & 5th Graders-please let Gina Martin know (704-982-2722 or gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org) if you are able to participate.

First Presbyterian Church
Winter Hrt Exhibit
Featured Hrtist...Judy Murrell
Opens December 6

Judy Murrell has studied at Meredith College with some of America's outstanding watercolor artists. She is well known in the Southeast for her paintings and also for her ability as a teacher of watercolor. In the past she has shown in the Southeastern Watercolor IV in the Deland Museum of Art, the Southern Watercolor Show in Durham, NC, The Watercolor Society of North Carolina in Asheville, NC, and won 1st Place in watercolor at the Mooresville Artists Guild, Inc.

Judy is an associate member of the American

Watercolor Society, an associate member of the National Watercolor Society, a member of the Guild of Charlotte Artists, the Mooresville Artist Guild, Inc., the Davidson County Art Guild, the Stanly Art Guild, the Carolina Artists, and the Watercolor Society of North Carolina.

Judy taught adult art classes for Stanly Community College for five years and had a Private Art Studio, The Art Attic, where children's art classes were held and their work was displayed in the gallery below. Much of Judy's artwork can be appreciated in the following public places in Stanly County: a wall mural in the Randall house in Norwood, mural on back wall of ABC store in Albemarle, painting of Drye's in Dun-rite Cleaners and Albemarle Downtown Prints (a collage of downtown businesses) that are seen in many of the downtown businesses today. She was also commissioned to do tribute paintings of Toby Webb and Woody Durham when they were inducted into the Hall of Fame. These are privately owned by the respective families.

Albemarle Downtown Development Commission (ADDC) commissioned the downtown Christmas print of the old Huckabee house and Central United Methodist Church. In addition First Presbyterian Church commissioned a painting of its building that is used on wedding invitations, church bulletins and stationary.

Judy has displayed in art shows in Las Vegas, Washington, DC, New Orleans, New Bern, Lexington, Winston Salem and Davidson. Some of her prints are still available for purchase, such as *Peaceful Morning*, *Southern Magnolia*, *Southern Patio*, *Colonnade* and Santa Claus prints.

Recent commissions have been for portraits of Maddox & Marshall Jolly and her grandchildren, Brett & Sydney Milligan. Next on Judy's list of to do's is the painting of a portrait of her oldest great-grandchild-Layla Brown.

She and husband, Tommy reside on Lake Tillery, where they enjoy their grandchildren. Living on the lake enables her to portray its beauty in her own distinctive style. Along with painting scenes, her subjects include portraits, wildlife, homes, pets and flowers. Along with being an accomplished watercolor artist, Judy has a passion for cooking and loves to cook for her family who appreciate the dishes she prepares.





Check out the Children's Art Gallery in the Educational Building

Youth Club Trusty Travelers have created works of art to reflect the theme for the year, *Deepening Community through Grace & Gratitude*. More than fifty children enjoy music, art, Bible time, recreation and snack each Wednesday at Youth Club!!! Over twenty-five volunteers and staff organize and manage these children each week!!!!



Three of the homeowners on the tour this year are members of First Presbyterian Church:

Rob & Catherine McIntyre, Roger & Gina Martin, and Don & Nancy Joines.

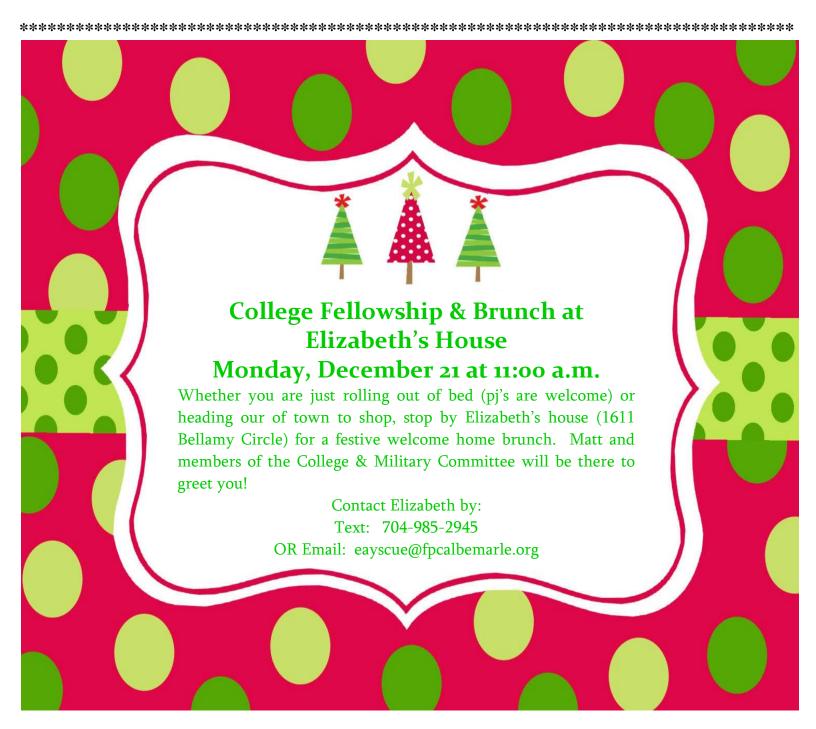
All of the proceeds provide the hanging baskets in downtown Albemarle and other ADDC Design Committee beautification projects.

Contact Nancy Joines, Gina Martin, or Joyce Lambert to purchase tickets.



Tickets are: \$12 in advance or \$15 day of the event







Women's Retreat 2015 A Retrospective

Beautiful mountain weather, warm hospitality at the William Black Lodge, delicious food, the promise form God found in Isaiah 43:1-3, and good friends (some new and some tried & true) made for a wonderful week-end for 21 women from First Presbyterian Church.

The dates for next year's Women's Retreat is September 23-25.



SCCM Yearly Update

Stanly Community Christian Ministry had its annual assembly meeting on November 20, 2015. Members and pastors from area churches to hear about the wonderful work being done at SCCM and to vote on new board members and officers for the year 2016. Over the course of 2015, the combined Community Tables have, thus far, served over 52,000 meals at an average of close to 100 people served each day. The Assistance Center has received over 5,300 requests for service, has distributed over 465,000 pounds of food to clients, and has accrued over 4,800 volunteer hours. The Clothing Closet has sold over \$330,000 worth of goods and has accumulated over 2,300 volunteer hours. SCCM has played a pivotal role in our community helping those in need and has done so with the support of First Presbyterian Church and many other area churches an organizations. They look forward to continuing to serve Christ in our community in 2016.

From the Earth Care/Green Group... Climate Change, AKA Global Warming



Global warming, also known as climate change, is defined as a change in global or regional climate patterns. Climate change became apparent in the mid twentieth century and continues into the present. It is attributed largely to the increased levels of

atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. It **is** supported by science. In fact the major scientific agencies of the United States — including those of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) — agree that climate change is occurring and that humans are contributing to it. This does not mean that all scientists accept all aspects asserted by other scientists. However scientists do agree that the Earth is warming and that it is primarily caused by excess greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone) from human activities. 2014 was the warmest year on record and 2015 may yet surpass it.

Climate change's effects include melting of the polar ice caps and resultant weakening of the ice itself, increased rainfall in some areas, drought in other areas, rising sea levels, increased acidity in the ocean, more frequent and more intense heat waves, and coastal flooding. The Earth does go through cycles of heating and cooling but the increase in temperature is exacerbated by human activities that result in increased greenhouse gases. The sun also has natural periods of warming and cooling. Scientists have measured fluctuations in the sun's energy by use of satellites and found that these recent variations have been small in comparison to human influences in the last several centuries. They found no increase in solar energy in the past 50 years.

Over the last 100 years the Earth's temperature has increased by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit. What does this mean to life on this planet? In part the answer is provided below by the EPA. Changing the average global temperature by even a degree or two can lead to serious consequences around the globe. For about every 2°F of warming, we can expect to see:

- 5—15% reductions in the yields of crops as currently grown
- 3—10% increases in the amount of rain falling during the heaviest precipitation events, which can increase flooding risks
- 5—10% decreases in stream flow in some river basins, including the Arkansas and the Rio Grande
- 200%—400% increases in the area burned by wildfire in parts of the western United States

Presbyterians for Earth Care have issued the following statement concerning climate change and the role of Christians in combating it.

Global warming is indeed the overarching moral issue of our time. Deep and rapid change is called for. Our reliance on fossil fuels is unjust. If we and our faith communities are not providing leadership in the move away from fossil fuels, who will? One of the most important things we can do is articulate global warming as a moral issue. For decades, slavery was seen as a purely economic issue. It was not until it became a moral issue, thanks in large part to religious involvement, that progress was made.

References: Climate Change Facts: Answers to Common Questions – US EPA. 2015. www3.epa.gov/climatechange/basic/facts

Presbyterians for Earth Care Advocacy Committee. 2011. Presbyearthcare.org.

Submitted by Debbie Hahn – Earth Care/Green Group of the Mission Committee



Tuesday, December 1

10:00 am Covenant Bible Study10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

2:00 pm Legacy Committee Meeting (Old Session Room)

6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 am First Family Taco & Salad Crew

12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church

(428 Pee Dee Ave.)

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

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)

5:45 pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel

6:00 pm First Family Gathering in the Gym

6:45 pm First Family Clean Up Crew

7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 3

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine (807A N. 2nd Street)

Saturday, December 5

Community Table

7:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at FPC

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent/SNL Christmas Kitchen in the gym/ Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Ten-Cents-A-Meal

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch

9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE!

11:00 am *Worship

Monday, December 7

7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson

(811 Smith St., Albemarle)

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

Tuesday, December 8

6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 9

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church

(428 Pee Dee Ave.)

3:15 pm-5:00 pm Youth Cubs

3:15 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club

5:30 pm Stewardship Committee (Old Session Rm)

7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 10

9:30 am *Pray & Play

10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 12

11:00 am-12:30 pm JOY Program Rehearsal

*childcare provided

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Program/JOY Offering/JOY Luncheon/Trusty Travelers Youth Club Fundraiser available in the pit stop/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop

8:45 am *Diaconate

9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)

9:45 am JOY Program Rehearsal in the sanctuary

9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE!

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Gym)

4:00 pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)

5:00 pm-7:30 pm SNL (Gym) 5:30 pm Worship Committee

6:30 pm *Session (Pit Stop)

Monday, December 14

Deadline for Poinsettia Form

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

Tuesday, December 15

12:00 pm January 2016 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal

Church (428 Pee Dee Ave.)

3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs (at church)

3:15 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club Skating Party at Wayne's World

Skating Rink (drop-off & pick-up at the skating rink)

7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 17

9:30 am *Pray & Play 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 19

9:00 am-Noon Chancel Choir Christmas Rehearsal

*childcare provided





Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Trusty Travelers Youth Club Fundraiser available in

the pit stop

9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop) 9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE!

11:00 am *Worship 5:00 pm-7:30 pm SNL

Monday, December 21

First Day of Winter

Tuesday, December 22

6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 23

No Youth Club

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Friday, December 25

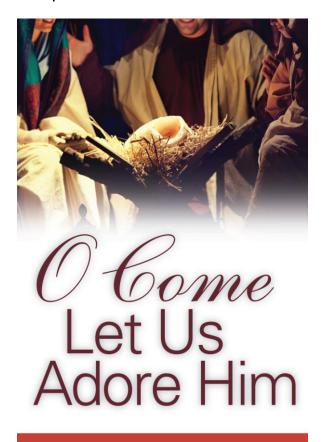
Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

11:00 am—2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner at First

Presbyterian Church

*childcare provided



Sunday, December 27

Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 am *Worship

Wedneday, December 30

No Youth Club

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Church Office Closes at Noon

*childcare provided



THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Ushers: Wes Eudy, captain; Steve Cumming, Angie Earnhardt, Greg Lisk, Ronnie Michael, Witt Snuggs, and Morgan Smet

Elder Greeters: Kim Marshall; Lee McManus

Nursery Room:

December 6: Jana Sanderson
December 13: Jana Sanderson
December 20: Cici Ly

December 24: Jana Sanderson & Caroline McLeod

December 27: Jana Sanderson

Nana & Papa Team:

December 6: Joan Belsan; Debby Johnston December 13: Mary & Frank Green December 20: Barbara & Bill Lindley

December 27: Chris Mabry

Acolytes:

December 6: Jacob Palmer
December 13: Robert Ivey
December 20: Angus Currie
December 24: Andy McLeod
December 27: Ethan Richards

Toddler Room:

December 6: Lauren Cranford December 13: Misty Honbarrier December 20: Lauren Cranford

December 24: Misty Honbarrer & Ben McLeod

December 27: Salem Taylor

Preschool Partners:

December 6: Melissa Eudy & Dona Lisk December 13: Heather & John Kilde December 20: John & Jessica Palmer

December 27: Angie Earnhardt; Adrienne Averette; Kelly Lentz

Children's Church for December:

December 6: Laura McLeod; Jacob Palmer December 13: No Children's Church December 20: Michelle Cumming December 27: No Children's Church





Church Website Address & Email Addresses

Church Website Address: www.fpcalbemarle.org klambert@fpcalbemarle.org Church Email Address: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org Elizabeth Ayscue: Matt Drumheller: mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org Pam Knighten: pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org klambert@fpcalbemarle.org Kyle Lambert: Gina Martin: gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org Stan Scheer: sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org isnyder@fpcalbemarle.org Jane Snyder: