

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Website:www.fpcalbemarle.org

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

Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship Leah Beamon, Christian Education Program Coordinator

Pam Knighten, Secretary

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December 2017

Dear Friends,

Our celebration for Kyle on November 19 was a complete surprise for her. What a joy it was for all of us to recognize her contributions to our congregation for 25 years (and 2 months). The many things Kyle does behind the scenes, as well as the tasks we are all aware of, help us run as an efficient organization and create an atmosphere of welcome, compassion, and forgiveness. She is a blessing to all of us!

We are on the threshold of Advent now, and I look forward to sharing both the deep longing and expectation of the season with you and its joy. In the midst of the busyness, I hope you will avail yourself of every opportunity to center yourself in the presence of God, including a brief reflective worship opportunity Tuesdays (December 5, 12, & 19) in the chapel at 5:30 p.m.

> **Grace and Peace**, **Elizabeth**



Thank You from Kyle Lambert

My most heartfelt thank you to this church family for the most thought out and meaningful recognition of my 25 years of service on November 19. It was such a special day and a total surprise. It meant so much to have my family there to celebrate with us! I made sure to thank Courtney for joining that day because it really all seemed perfectly normal! Thanks to all who planned, baked, decorated, shopped, set-up, and cleaned-up. It was a well-kept secret, and I apologized to Pam for causing her to panic several times that last week. I have enjoyed hearing the stories from staff and members how it all played out. My love to

all of you and thank you for the reception, love offering, and friendship. It is such a privilege for me to serve with you here at First Presbyterian Church for 25 years.



Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighting for the Angels The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Matthew 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighting for the Shepherds

JOY Gift Program, Christmas JOY Offering, and Luncheon

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighting for Joseph

Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation of Journey to the Manger

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Morning) Advent Candle Lighting for Mary; Carol Singing, Scripture Reading, & Reflections based

on the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services

(**Afternoon**) Advent Candle Lighting for the Christ Child

Sunday, December 31 Service of Lessons & Carols
Our college students will lead worship on this morning.



COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

Join in worship with others from the downtown churches during Advent at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Avenue). We will gather there on the following Wednesdays at noon in Advent: December 6, 13 & 20. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated for hurricane relief.

Wednesday, December 6

Preaching: The Reverend Ben Sloan, Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church

Worship Leader: Doctor Andy Jung, Pastor of First Baptist Church

Wednesday, December 13

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

Liturgist: Pastor Bob Gruver, Lead Pastor of Albemarle First Assembly Church

Wednesday, December 20

Preaching: The Reverend Louise Hilbert, Interim Pastor of First Lutheran Church Liturgist: The Reverend Doctor James B. Bernacki, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

SUNDAY, 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.

First Sunday of Advent

This year, Advent begins late (December 3) and ends late (December 24). We will celebrate this season in many of the same ways as we await the birth of the Christ Child and the saving power of Christ in our world.

Sunday, December 3

Chili lunch following worship and decorating the Chrismon tree!





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

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On November 19 and December 3, 10, and 17, 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. A new card this year is featuring the artwork of Dr. Davis Fort. The charities are: Homes of Hope, SCCM-Clothing Closet, Community Care Clinic, Heifer International.



Advent for Kids



Kids of all ages are invited to join us on December 3 after the luncheon for our Advent celebration! This is a joyous time of fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season together. We will frost and sprinkle Christmas cookies, decorate a beautiful ornament that each child will be able to take home with them, share God's love by making Christmas cards that we will be giving to our neighbors at the Community Christmas Dinner, play a fun Christmas game, and make an advent calendar. This celebration will start around 12:45 p.m. in the pit stop.

Angel tree

There is an angel ornament waiting for you or your group on the Christmas tree in the Pit Stop. Please stop by and select one or more with the name of a child. You will be provided with the child's Christmas gift wish-list. Be sure to fill in your name or the name of your group/family on the appropriate line(s) on the sign-up sheet. Each child's angel ornament is linked to a specific number on

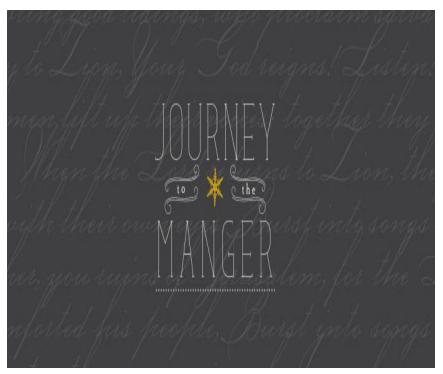


the sheet. The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 10. See the instruction sheet for more details. Should you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447@windtsream.net.



Luncheon Help Needed for Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church Wednesday, December 13 at Noon

First Presbyterian Church is responsible for providing lunch following the noon advent service. Gayle Russell is the coordinator. Please let her know if you can donate a dessert, soup, or finger sandwiches. She will also need help with prep, transporting, serving, and clean-up on the day of the lunch, Wednesday, December 13. Sign-up sheet on clip board in Pit Stop or call Gayle at 704-438-2779. Thank You!



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.



From the First Presbyterian Church
Community Christmas Dinner Committee...
Community Christmas Dinner
Monday, December 25 at Central UMC

We are well on the way to the 28th Annual Community Christmas Dinner with the following churches: Annunciation Catholic, Central UMC, Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, and First Lutheran. We are looking forward to food, fun, fellowship and celebration on Christmas Day at the host church, Central United Methodist. Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season!

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. Monetary donations are accepted 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*.

Blessings to all for helping provide a Christmas meal for so many in our community.



Sanctuary Window Décor for Advent

- ***** The worship committee has decided to adorn the sanctuary windows differently this year, and we need your help in making it happen.
- **Each** window will be filled with nativity scenes owned by members and friends of our congregation. Would you be willing to share one of yours and to provide a brief written explanation of its significance for your family?
- **❖** Nativity scenes of all types and sizes are welcome − some windows will feature more than one.
- **Please bring your nativity scene to the church by December 3 so we can include it. Note: We will do all we can to protect your property, but note accidents can happen.**

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 Sundays, December 3 and 10, and on Wednesday December 6 before and after First Family Dinner.





JOY PROGRAM

Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m.

The Youth Club children will present the Joy program during worship on December 10th. O Come, Let Us Adore Him is a beautiful children's program that will delight you with traditional Christmas hymns, as well as some exciting new songs as our children tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Please plan to stay for the Joy Gift luncheon immediately following worship. The JOY luncheon is a covered dish meal. Bring some family favorites to share.

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.



CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM

The congregation is invited to bring their favorite covered dishes to share.



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.	



New this year...

Each week, the Advent candle will represent one of the characters found in the gospel narrative of Jesus' birth.

Advent 1 (December 3): The Angels

Advent 2 (December 10): The Shepherds

Advent 3 (December 17): Joseph

Advent 4 (December 24): Mary

Christmas Eve (December 24): Jesus

The Advent candle will be lighted by the acolyte at the beginning of worship as the congregation sings an appropriate Advent carol.

Faith Sharing with Children will also focus on that familiar character each week, and we will add to the nativity scene week after week as we move toward Christmas Eve and the birth of the baby Jesus. (Many thanks to Kyle Lambert, whose generous gift on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of her employment at First Presbyterian Church, provided for the purchase of a large nativity scene which will be used in the sanctuary.)

The Chrismon tree will include many new chrismons made by the Faith Explorers and Ruth Cotton.

The sanctuary windows will be filled with nativity scenes shared by members of the congregation. Be sure to walk around and look at the variety of ways the birth of Jesus is portrayed. Thanks to all who are sharing their personal nativity sets in this season.

And many things will remain the same...

- > We will sing familiar Advent and Christmas carols.
- > The children's presentation on December 10 will be a joyful telling and singing of the birth of Jesus.
- ➤ The choir's presentation on December 17 will include scripture, appropriate readings from Ann Weems and other authors, and the word sung.

STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...OCTOBER 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	Year to Date	Budget-to-Date
Total Income Received:	421,864.00	456,362.00
Total Expenses:	<u>437,288.00</u>	<u>458,199.00</u>
(Shortage)/Surplus	(15,424.00)	(1,837.00)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2017

Pledges: 507,476 Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: \$10,544

Total Income: 548,314 Average Weekly Amount Received in October: \$9,504

Total Expenses: 548,314

We are behind \$23,473 in pledges. (\$20,488 of 2017 pledges was prepaid in 2016)

Ten-Cents-A-Meal October: \$448.00

October Faith on the Fifth Offering for renovation at the SCCM clothing closet: \$2,530.00 UNICEF Offering: \$55.25

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. 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.

2018 PLEDGE CARDS



Live a Generous Life 2017 Stewardship Season

Let us all thank God for the many gifts he has bestowed. Thank you for your generosity! Thank you for returning your pledge cards. If you haven't already returned your pledge cards, you may mail them or drop them off at the church office during regular office hours Monday through Thursday.

Please complete outstanding pledges to the Legacy Campaign by the end of 2017.

There are just a few projects remaining,
and their completion is dependent upon completed pledges.

Thank you.

NEWS and NOTES

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Frank Pattishall, given by Mike & Jane Snyder.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Richard Adams.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by John W. Almond.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Amanda & Bob Anders.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by John & Donna Black.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Michael Blair.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Nancy Chiles.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Kenneth & Rush Coe.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Steele & Molly Dewey.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Woody & Jean Durham.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by A. Charles Ellis.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Jeannie & Robert Fuller.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Banks & Susan Garrison.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Mrs. Laura Gilchrist.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by David & Peggy Grigg.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Ann & Jack Harris.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Jim Hesley.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by John & Robin Howell.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Jerry Lou H. Jones.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Lillian & Al McAuley.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Radford & Wendy Moeller.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Tim Moore & Amy Spivey.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Jim & Helen Nance.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Charles R. & Frances Anne Payet.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Bill & Jane Pickler.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Knox & Stephanie Proctor.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Tom & Jean Rabe.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Dr. & Mrs. Pinkney Rankin.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Sharon & Alex Rankin.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Marshall & Cam Rogers.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Nathan & Marlene Sanges.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Wayne & Nancy Spivey.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Doug & Susan Stokes.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Katrinka & Everett Talbot.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Ed & Rose Mary Thomas.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Dru Wilkins & Kenneth Wilkins, Jr., M.D.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by G. Smedes York.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Faison & Associates, LLC.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Friends at Robinson, Bradshaw, & Hinson, PA.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Twelve Hours Management Co., LLC.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Ward & Smith, PA.

In memory of Toby Webb, given by the YMCA of Greater Charlotte.

Music Fund:

In memory of Sis Niederer, given by Matt & Ginny Carpenter.

Scholarship Endowment:

In memory of Toby Webb, given by Frank & Mary Green.

SYMPATHY

To Patrick Currie and family upon the death of his mother, Anna Currie, on October 31.

To the family of Henry Thomas "Toby" Webb, Jr. upon his death on November 9.

To the family of Samuel Greg Johnson (son of the late Sam and June Johnson) upon his death on November 20.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Teryn and Miller Morgan upon the birth of their twins, Parker Grace and Miles Hawkins, on November 10. Proud grandparents are Mellanie and David Morgan.

CIRCLE #5

Circle #5 will meet on Monday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish supper and program (Lesson #3) at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle).

NEWS and NOTES

Session Notes

Session received the annual report from the church's Columbarium Committee stating 6 of the 80 niches have been purchased, as of this date. Cost for a niche is \$1,500. Session approved three members to a second three- year term on the Columbarium committee. Members are Ruth Cotton, William Jolly- Chair, John Montgomery, Harold Sharpe, and Ellen Whitley. Session approved the Letter of membership transfer for Alden and Katie Whitmore to Faith Presbyterian Church, Indian Land, South Carolina. December's Faith on the Fifth offering will go to SCCM's Crisis Assistance Ministry for winter heating. Congratulations extended to Teryn and Miller Morgan on the November 10th birth of twins, Parker Grace and Miles Hawkins. At this time, 81 adult and 2 youth 2018 pledge cards have been returned; 91 have not been returned. If you have not returned your family's pledge card, please do so as soon as possible, to the church office.

Lynn White, Clerk of Session





PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE PARLOR FEEL FREE TO BRING A BAG LUNCH



January Newsletter Deadline on Tuesday, December 12.

Early submissions are always welcome!

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

pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.



Thanks for helping in the office in November: Ann Duckwall, Melissa Eudy, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, Judy & Tommy Murrell, and Ruth Ann Rogers.

Many thanks to all who participated in the SERRV sale – from artisans and farmers who share their skillfulness and gifts to shoppers who are faithful to the mission and in between our loyal staff and volunteers: Iris Coggins, Ann Duckwall, Susan Garrison, Sally Grantier, Jim & Mary Louise Sawyer, Bill & Diane Stevenson, and Debbie Wainwright.

Thanks to Barbara and Lee McManus for the beautiful harvest arrangement which graced the dais at Thanksgiving.

Thank You for Helping with November's First Family Dinner

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this meal easy: Linda Anderson, Mildred Andrew, Rebekah Ayscue, Jane Boone, Keith and Kristie Bryson, Katie Carpenter, Andy and Ruth Cotton, Michelle Cumming, Matt Drumheller, Ann Duckwall, Peggy Finley, Kate Gibson, John and Debbie Hahn, Bill Hall, Leslie, Stephan, Morgan and Merrin Kinley, Greg Lisk, Mark Mabry, Laura McLeod, Penny Morton, Christy Pickler, Gayle and Ned Russell, Carol Sasser, Sandy Saunders, Mary Louise and Jim Sawyer, Harold and Carolyn Sharpe, Lee and Witt Snuggs, Elizabeth Wilson, Terri West and the Faith Explorers! I depend heavily on my First Family volunteers and am so thankful for your presence.

Thanks for Helping with Consecration Luncheon

Thank you to all the members of our church family who helped with our Consecration Luncheon, especially Janet Schaefer, Jim Sawyer, Craig Taylor, Mary Kesselman, Ellen Whitley, Marlene Mittendorf, Lee McLaurin, Elizabeth Wilson, Josh Campbell, Mark Donham, Wes Eudy, Linda Anderson, Rose Saltzman, Lee Snuggs, Greg Lisk, Mike McLeod, Rich Schaefer, and Keith Bryson. Thanks to all others who helped set-up, decorate, clean-up, and donate desserts.

Ten-Cents-A-Meal...We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 3. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. 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!

2018 Flower Calendar

The 2018 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.



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:

Dale Benson, brother of Ann Crutchfield.

Ted Biggers, friend of Martha Sue Hall & Dan Samples.

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

Rachel Darling, friend of Dona Lisk; battling cancer.

Mike Dearstyne, brother of Holly Norwood; medical concerns.

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

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

Gay Ellington, former co-worker of Martha White; lung cancer.

Glenn Fowler, possible nerve damage and failed rotator cuff surgery.

Marty Goforth, treatment for melanoma.

Calvin Hall, kidney cancer.

Elizabeth Howard, cousin of Mary Kesselman; health concerns.

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

Mike Lehr, brother-in-law of Connie Wallace; radiation & chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Molly Amelia Lowder, continuing health concerns.

Bryanna Medlin, nine year old diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Meghan Niemann, friend of Rose Saltzman; breast cancer.

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

Nic Presson, brother of Dona Lisk.

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

David Sanges, brother of Nathan Sanges.

Garin Stepp, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Members of the Congregation:

Blue Honeycutt.

Myra Land.

Polly Moose.

Linda Richards.

Marlene Sanges.

Pete Smith.

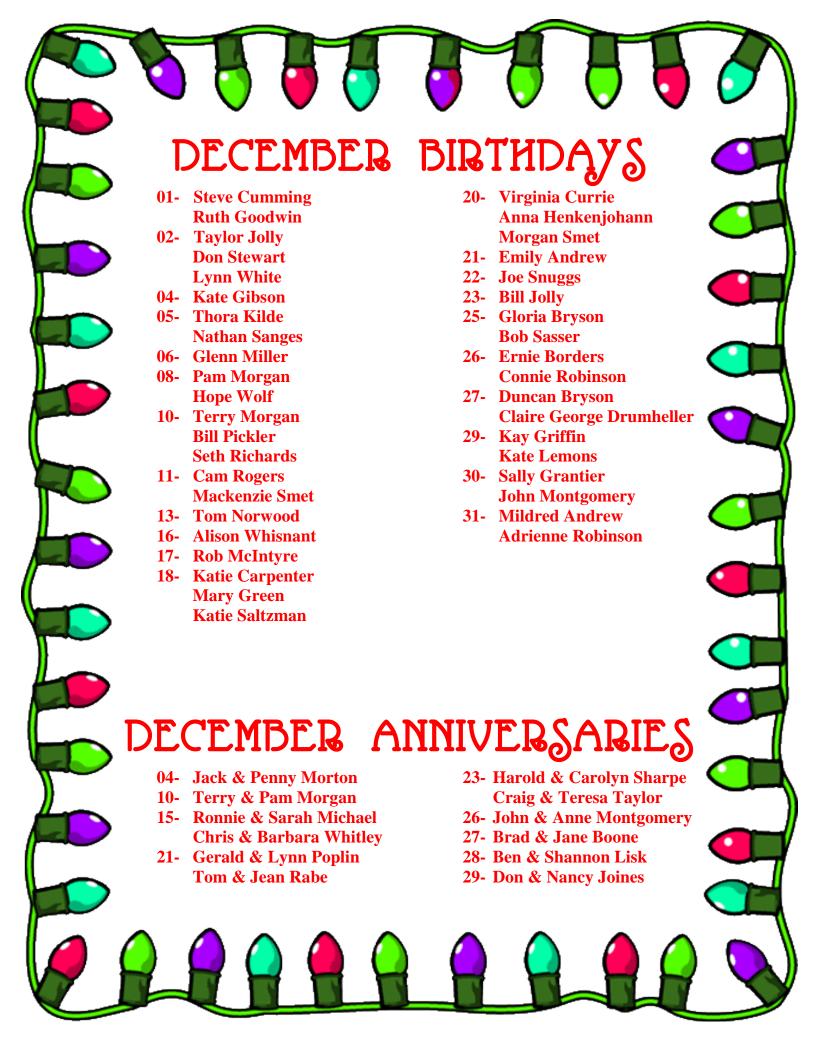
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On November 19 and November 26, Session received new members.

Courtney Niederer is a native of Albemarle, an avid reader, a runner, and a math teacher currently at North Stanly High School. She and Eric have two daughters. Natalie is in 4th grade at Badin Elementary and Ellie is in 2nd grade. The Niederer famly previously attended Central UMC and have been fully attending First Presbyterian Church since Natalie and Ellie sang in worship last fall with Youth Club.

Derek Moses is from Columbia, South Carolina and has been attending worship at First Presbyterian Church with his wife, Meredith, for several years. They have a six month old son, Tucker, whom they love including in all their hobbies. Derek is an account executive for a textile company and enjoys hunting, golfing, and traveling.

Shelley and Mike Shedd are the parents of two boys, Jackson, 11, and Thomas Luke, 9. Michael is originally from Charlotte and Shelley grew up in Huntington, West Virginia. The family loves to travel and visit the mountains of southeastern West Virginia and the gulf coast of Florida. Michael is a service technician with Spectrum Cable. Shelley is a teacher assistant in the EC class at Badin Elementary. Jackson and Thomas Luke are both involved in Boys Scout Pack 82 and Troop 82, respectively. Life-long Presbyterians, Michael, Shelley, and their family are happy to have found a church home at First Presbyterian Church.





YOUTH GROUP

As we move into the holiday season, we have lots of fun events and activities to participate in. This is a wonderful time of year to spend with friends and family, and I hope you will join with your youth group friends to celebrate the season!

No Youth Group

Sunday, December 3
Sunday, December 10
Sunday, December 17
Sunday, December 17
Sunday, December 24
Youth Group
Ice Skating
Christmas Kitchen
Christmas Party
No Youth Group

Sunday, December 31

5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Refore & Following Wa

Before & Following Worship 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



Youth Ice Skating

On December 10, we will join with youth from around Charlotte to go ice skating! We will leave from the church at 1:00 p.m. to go to the Pineville Ice House. We'll spend the afternoon ice skating and hanging out, and return to the church at about 5:00 p.m. Join us and bring a friend!



DECEMBER

27- Duncan Bryson

29- Kate Lemons





Community Table on Saturday, December 2

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 2. Volunteers are needed to prepare food ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 2. 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. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Mission Bulletin Board.

Thanks to your generosity, we collected 19 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOOD CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER: CANNED VEGETABLES

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



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.

Packing Dates/Times: Wednesday, January 3 at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m.



Help Us Make Christmas Brighter!!

Here are volunteer needs for SCCM's Helping Hands 2017 operations:

❖ FACILITY HELPERS:

- O Building located at 1925 E Main St needs to be swept, 3 bathrooms cleaned.
- O Bathrooms need to be stocked with toilet paper, hand soap and paper towels
- O Need 6' or 8' tables, as many as we can get
- Need 12 folding chairs
- O Building needs to be cleaned up afterwards to turn back over to owners.

ELVES

- O People to help receive and organize donations of toys, bikes and food for kids and seniors. Dec 4th, 5th and 11th from 9am-4pm.
- O People to help give out donations on pick-up dates: Dec 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st, 9am-4pm.
- O BILINGUAL elves needed for pick-up dates!!

❖ ELF SUPPORT

O People to provide water, snacks and lunch for the volunteers on Dec 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st.

Please email Salem Taylor at helpinghandsstanly@gmail.com if you can help!





Faith on the Fifth Offering Sunday, December 31 Winter Heating Assistance

Crackling fires, cozy socks, a comfy sweatshirt, a tank of fuel oil, and the ability to turn the heat up a couple of notches..... These are the things of winter warmth. Many of us have an abundance of things to keep us warm this winter. How blessed we are!

The Faith on the Fifth offering on December 31st will be donated to SCCM's Winter Heating Assistance Fund. These funds are shared with our neighbors in need throughout

Stanly County. SCCM works in partnership with DSS to maximize all dollars available to our residents.

With many cold weeks ahead of us and many folks coming into SCCM for assistance, SCCM's funds will be depleted quickly. The Mission Committee asks that you give from your heart to help those in need.



Winter Art Gallery Exhibit Featuring Paintings by Matt Moeller

First Presbyterian Church feels honored to have on display during the winter months some treasured paintings by our own, Matt Moeller.

Matt is a Certified Health Physicist, earned his Master's degree in Environmental Health from Harvard University's School of Public Health and his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Cornell University. He has more than 35 years of experience as a safety professional and has served on numerous corporate, charitable, and professional boards and committees, including those for the Health Physics Society, Illinois Institute of Technology, the United Way, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

As you view these colorful paintings, keep in mind these words from the artist.

Getting Started...Honestly, the notion of *painting* when I was growing up referred to a fresh coat of white paint on one side of our house each summer. New England winters required that. Still, I always had an appreciation of art. I had the opportunity to study it in college. I was a math major at Cornell University and took numerous art history classes mainly because they were the *opposite* of those required. My favorite artistic styles are those of French Impressionists and the early Cubists. I have only been painting for a few years and have not taken any painting classes. I just picked up a brush and started. These paintings are inspired by my wonderful travels with my wife, Catherine.

FIRST FAMILY GATHERING



EVENING PRAYER AT 5:45 P.M. IN THE CHAPELWEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 6:00 P.M.

We will gather as a church family for dinner on December 6 at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome for fellowship and a delicious meal together. Jane needs your help cooking, baking, prepping, serving and cleaning up.

December Menu: Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup, Tomato Soup, Crackers, Fruit, Kale Salad, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station, Desserts, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.

Contact the church office to make reservations: 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org.

Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering

Dessert and Soup Crew:

Salad and Fruit Crew:

Set up crew:

Final Touches crew:

Clean-up crew:

Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 6 at 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6 at 6:45 p.m.



Before and after the First Family Gathering is a great time for fellowship. We have so much fun in the kitchen. I would love to have you join us! Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722, on her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org.



Come & Join Us for the Young Adult Lunch

Young adults are invited to gather for a casual lunch during the work week on the first Thursday of every month. We try to visit a variety of restaurants. If you have any requests, let Matt know (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org) Our next gathering will be at Noon on Thursday, December 7 at Ly Cuisine.

Support the Youth Ministry

Kitchen*

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

Our Youth Group is hosting its Christmas Kitchen on December 17. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we are making and collecting dishes (not just sweets) that will be sold in preparation for 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. The sale will take place right before Christmas to fill any of your last-minute cooking needs!

Make the members of FPC your kitchen elves this Christmas! Please contact Matt Drumheller (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722) with any questions or to sign up to donate a dish!



College Student Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's House Thursday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Contact Elizabeth by:

Text: 704-985-2945 or Email: eavscue@fpcalbemarle.org

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 8:00 P.M. AT TIFFANY'S CATERING, EVENTS, & MORE (103 NORTH 1ST STREET, ALBEMARLE)

First Presbyterian Church and Tiffany's Catering, Events, & More, will host an evening of caroling at Tiffany's. Come prepared to request and sing lots of Christmas carols as we prepare to celebrate the holidays. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.







The Youth Club children have a short month in December and will spend much of it preparing for the presentation of the **Joy Program**, titled *O Come*, *Let Us Adore Him*. The kids will be busy learning songs, practicing lines, and readying costumes as they contemplate the meaning of the Christmas season and all the ways we celebrate the birth of Christ and what it means for us. They will present this program during worship on December 10th.

The children will also celebrate the meaning of Christmas by bringing a gift for one of the **Angel Tree Children** and help prepare the gifts for delivery. They will not only spread joy by their gift, but they will also pray for these children and their families.

The Faith Explorers (4th and 5th graders) will finish up their Christmas cards for their upcoming fundraiser, and will help sell these cards on December 3rd, 6th, and 10th. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go to SCCM's Helping Hands ministry, to help families in need during the Christmas season. The kids have been learning about looking for signs of God's love this year, and now they will have a turn to show signs of God's love to others.

Please take note of the important Youth Club Calendar dates below:

Wednesday, December 6th-Joy program rehearsal during Youth Club. *Angel Tree gift returns **Saturday, December 9th 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** Joy program dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 10th 11 a.m.-Presentation of the Joy Gift program during worship.

Wednesday, December 13th 3-5 p.m.-Christmas Party at Sk8City for Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers. (Cubs at church)

Wednesday, December 20th-No Youth Club

Wednesday, December 27th-No Youth Club

Submitted by: Leah Beamon, Christian Education Program Coordinator

Youth Cubs... Each year, we celebrate Christmas as a time of giving, a time of getting together with loved ones, and as a time of joy. The story of the birth of Jesus is an amazing one for preschoolers, and we will strive to help them understand that Jesus is God's Son, and that God sent Jesus to earth because he loves us. Big things often do start small! Seasonal art, songs, games and finger plays will be enjoyed.



Submitted by: Lynn Poplin, Youth Cubs Coordinator



Who can come? What? When? Where?

Why?

Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

2nd & 3rd graders (Childcare available for younger & older siblings.) Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice, etc.

Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Media Room

To pray together & build strong community of faith

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



Faith Explorers' Christmas Snack Ministry Sunday, December 10th

Our Faith Explorers (4th and 5th graders) will have the opportunity to spread Christmas cheer to the Central Apartment residents through a 'snack ministry' that will take place on Sunday, December 10th. After enjoying the Joy Gift luncheon following worship, they will meet in the kitchen to prepare some delicious "Puppy Chow" snack mix that they will put into Christmas treat bags and then deliver to the residents. They will then return to the church for a 3:00 p.m. pick-up time.

The Senior Care Committee would like to encourage the congregation to remember our at-home and out of town 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

Dick Liles

10300 Hanging Moss Trail Mint Hill, NC 28227

Phone: 980-256-4537

Ruth Goforth

Room 228C

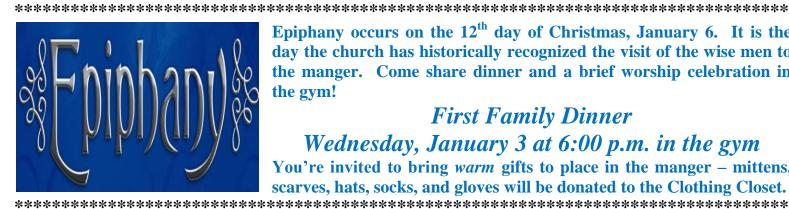
728 Klumac Rd. Salisbury, NC 28144

Polly Moose

24875 South Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001

704-982-5771





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. Come share dinner and a brief worship celebration in the gym!

First Family Dinner

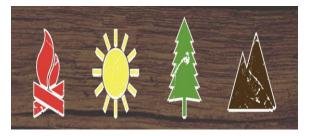
Wednesday, January 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym

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.



GRANDPARENT & GRANDCHILD RETREAT **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

Please note that our annual Grandparent/Grandchild retreat is set for January 28, 2018. This is a multi-generational event designed to not only be a lot of fun for both young and old, but also to deepen the bonds we share between our grandparents and grandchildren. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.



Mantreat at Montreat

In April of this year, several of our men spent a weekend in Montreat worshipping, hiking, eating, and fellowshipping together. It was a great time to spend together in a beautiful place, and a wonderful chance to get to know one another. Matt is planning a return to Montreat for our men this coming April. Please let him know (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722)if you are interested in participating in this event!



Pfeiffer Day of Mission Recap

On November 12, several students from Pfeiffer University joined with members of First Presbyterian church to work in and for our communities. Three groups split up and worked at a Homes of Hope house, the SCCM Assistance Center, and the SCCM Clothing Closet. The groups at the Homes of Hope house and the assistance center painted and the group at the clothing closet assembled shelving. Lots of important work was accomplished, and our members appreciated the chance to get to know some college students. Look for further partnerships in the future!



On Sunday, November 20, youth from several downtown churches gathered for a potluck dinner. Over 50 youth sat at one long table in the First Presbyterian Church gym to have food and fellowship together. It was a wonderful time for members of our community to come together.



Saturday, December 2

Community Table

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop

Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Pit Stop

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2nd & 3rd Graders-Media Room)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating, & Advent for Kids

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 4

6:00 pm Circle meets at the home of Gloria Bryson

(811 Smith St., Albemarle)

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 5

10:00 am First Family Dessert & Soup Crew

5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 6

Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Pit Stop

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:15 am-11:00 am *Pray & Play

10:00 am First Family Main Salad & Fruit Crew

12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal

Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club

3:45 pm First Family Set-up Crew

5:00 pm First Family Final Touches 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

6:00 pm First Family Dinner

6:45 pm First Family Clean-up Crew

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

10:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine

Saturday, December 9

1:30 pm-3:00 pm Children's JOY program rehearsal

*childcare provided



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

*childcare provided





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

Monday December 18

8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square

Tuesday, December 19

5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal

Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

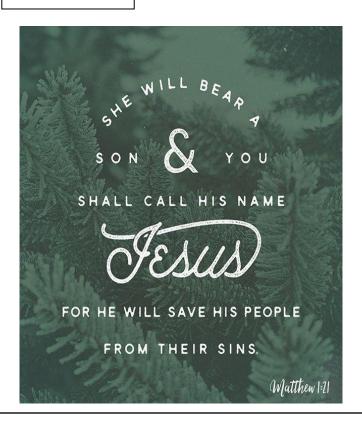
Thursday, December 21

10:00 am College Student Fellowship and Brunch at Elizabeth's

8:00 pm Caroling at Tifanny's Catering, Events, & More

(103 North 1st Street, Albemarle)

*childcare provided



Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Reception of New Members

10:40 am Called Session Meeting (Parlor)

11:00 am *Worship

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Community Christmas Dinner at Central UMC

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Christmas Holiday

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

No Wednesday Activities

Friday, December 29

Financial Year End Closing at Noon

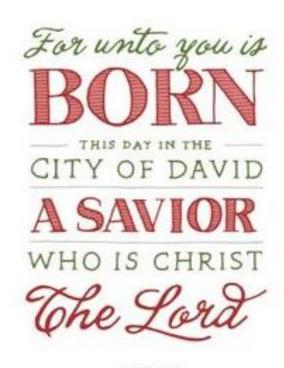
Sunday, December 31

Service of Lessons & Carols

Faith on the Fifth Offering for SCCM Winter Heating Assistance

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

*childcare provided



10K# 2-11

THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Ushers: Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe

Elder Greeters for December: Adam Jolly; Dona Lisk

Nursery Room:

December 3: Courtney Brown
December 10: Kaitlyn Massey
December 17: McKenzie Hinson
December 24: McKenzie Hinson
December 31: Sara Kate Thomas

Nana & Papa Team:

December 3: Debby Johnston; Carol Sasser

December 10: Mary & Frank Green

December 17: Chris Mabry

December 24: Gayle & Ned Russell

December 31: Bede & Russell Karr

Acolytes:

December 3: Natalie Taylor
December 10: Maci Holshouser
December 17: Ethan Richards

December 24: Leah Kilde (11:00 a.m.)

Andy McLeod (5:30 p.m.)

December 31: Katherine Jolly

Outside Ushers:

December 3: Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley December 10: Mark Andrew; Jack Morton December 17: John Howell; Kyle Marks December 24: Wes Eudy; Ronnie Michael

December 24: Wes Eudy; Ronnie Michael **December 31:** Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley

Preschool Partners:

December 3: Kristie & Keith Bryson December 10: Liz & Ben Jolly December 17: Dona & Greg Lisk

December 24: Angie Earnhardt; Kelly Lentz

December 31: Laura & Mike McLeod

Children's Church for December:

December 3: No Children's Church
December 10: No Children's Church
December 17: Liz Davis; Grace Richards
December 24: No Children's Church
December 31: Liz Davis; Grace Richards

Childcare for
Diaconate Meeting
Sunday, December 10
Kaitlyn Massey

Childcare for Session Meeting Sunday, December 10 Kaitlyn Massey

> Pray & Play December 6 & 13

Cortney Brown

<u>December 24</u> Candlelight Service

Sara Kate Thomas Anna Wainwright Quinton Wainwright

Matt Drumheller: mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org

