



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

Dorothy Hart, Youth Director

Pam Knighten, Secretary

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

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Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 2018

Dear Friends,

In the darkest season, we gather as Christians to wait for the light which shines in the darkness. Though our focus is often divided by many obligations, I hope in Advent you will center yourself in the things of God. Our Advent activities following lunch on December 2 have been carefully designed to provide resources for families and adults of every age to focus their days on scripture and the work of God in our midst. Let's journey to Bethlehem together and find there, once again, the Christ Child who has come to transform the world.

Grace and Peace,
Elizabeth





CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

MONDAY, 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, 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.



Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger
The Worship Committee is planning a worship service which will include information about the tradition of the Hanging of the Greenery and which will focus on the meaning conveyed through the chrismsons.

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

JOY Gift Program and Luncheon
Worship will focus on the Youth Club's presentation of *Carriers of the Light* which tells the story of the birth of Jesus. We look forward to welcoming Youth Club families to worship as we sing and pray together.

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation of *Journey to the Manger*
We will receive the Joy Offering.

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45
Carol singing and lighting of the Advent candle will be part of the day.

Sunday, December 30

Service of Lessons & Carols

Our college students will tell the story of the birth of Christ and the response of God's people to the good news of Jesus' birth through lessons and carols.

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 2. 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 \$370.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal in October.

2019 Flower Calendar



The 2019 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.

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 5, 12 & 19. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from lunch will be donated to SCCM.



Wednesday, December 5

Preaching: Rev. Ray Sipe, Interim Pastor at Mount Gilead Lutheran Church and Chaplain at Trinity Place
Liturgist: Rev. Nikki Raye Rice, Pastor at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Misenheimer.

Wednesday, December 12

Preaching: Rev. Earl Bradshaw, Senior Pastor at Central United Methodist Church, Albemarle.
Liturgist: Paul Jenkins, Lead Pastor at The Gathering, Albemarle.

Wednesday, December 19

Preaching: Dr. Andy Jung, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, Albemarle.
Liturgist: Rev. Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle.



Looking Forward to Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. Following worship, Session will provide a simple lunch: Homemade Chili (vegetarian option) and cornbread. We'll decorate cookies and eat them for dessert. There will be Advent activities for everyone, and the Chrismon tree will be decorated.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 2, 9, and 16, 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. The charities are: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).



Advent for All

Sunday, December 2 following worship

EVERYONE is invited to join us on December 2 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, make a rearview mirror craft, share God's love by making Christmas cards that we will be given to our neighbors at the Community Christmas Dinner, play a fun Christmas game and share some Advent activities for you to use throughout the season. This celebration will start around 12:45 p.m. in the pit stop. If you would like to be a helper for this special event, please contact Jane Snyder (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722).





Advent Worship

Tuesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

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



There is a paper 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 Central Elementary School student or their sibling(s). You will be provided with their Christmas gift wish-list. Be sure to fill in your name or the name of your group/family and contact information on the appropriate line(s) on the sign-up sheet. Each child's angel ornament is linked to a specific number on the sheet. Guidelines are available to assist you with your shopping. Place the **unwrapped** gifts for each child in a large plastic bag. Please include wrapping paper for the parents to wrap the gifts. **Attach the paper angel to the bag and return it to the Pit Stop no later than Sunday, December 2. Should you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704/985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net.**

ANGEL TREE

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

Community Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 25 at Central UMC

We are well on the way to the 29th Annual Community Christmas Dinner with the following churches: Annunciation Catholic, Central UMC, Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, and First Lutheran.

Check the bulletin board for food and volunteer sign-up opportunities. 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 will be on the Mission bulletin board soon! Blessings to all for helping provide a Christmas meal for so many in our community.

First Presbyterian Church Contact Person:
Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)



Luncheon Help Needed for Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church Wednesday, December 5 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 cornbread. She will also need help with prep, transporting, serving, and clean-up on the day of the lunch, Wednesday, December 5. Sign-up sheet on clip board in Pit Stop or call Gayle at 704-438-2779. Thank You!

JOY Program *Carriers of the Light*

Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m.

The program will be led by the children in Youth Club.



The Youth Club children will present the Joy Program during worship on December 9th. The Joy Program is called *Carriers of the Light*. While the story will be well known, and the songs will be familiar, you'll notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us all about carrying God's light into a dark world. Please plan to stay after worship for the Joy Luncheon, which is a covered dish meal. Bring your family's favorite dish to share!



Christmas Kitchen

Sunday, December 16

Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop

Mark your calendars!!! Our Youth Group is hosting its Christmas Kitchen on Sunday, December 16 before and after worship in the pit stop. Make plans to attend and purchase some delicious baked goods for the holidays. If you are contributing to the sale, dishes should be brought to the church no later than 9:00 a.m. on December 16. You are also welcome to bring dishes in advance. Contact Dorothy know if you are willing to bake any treats to contribute (dhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).

If you are willing to make and donate cakes, pies, casseroles, etc., for the youth sponsored Christmas Kitchen, please sign-up below and turn in to the church office.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Item(s) you will make & donate: _____

Thank you for your help!



Journey to the Manger
Presented by the Chancel Choir
of First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 16...11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The 2018 Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of tracing the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture followed by contemplative readings. The choir will be accompanied by organ, the Piedmont Triad String Quartet and percussionist, Jacob Lancaster. 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 on the first series of the *Sundays at Three* concerts. Considering how busy professional musicians are at this time of year, and the fact that many have long-time standing agreements with churches for annual appearances, we are extremely fortunate that they are able to perform again with our choir for this musical service celebrating the mystery and wonder of the birth of the Messiah.

STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...OCTOBER 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	376,288.00	462,568.00
Total Expenses:	<u>429,877.00</u>	<u>465,816.00</u>
(Shortage)/Surplus	(\$53,589.00)	(\$3,248.00)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2018

Pledges:	509,141		
Total Income:	556,481		
Total Expenses:	556,481		
Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments:	<u>\$10,701</u>	We are behind \$15,362 in pledges.	UNICEF Offering: \$62
Average Weekly Amount Received in October:	<u>\$8,554</u>	Ten-Cents-A-Meal for October: \$370	

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2019 will be available for pick up in the common area right outside the office. If you do not find your envelopes, please see Kyle in the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2019. If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put our 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

PLEASE NOTE: This year the church office will be closed the week of Christmas (Dec. 24 – 28). If you need any financial information you can leave a message and name and number on the answering machine. Kyle will check the machine on Thursday Dec. 27 and Friday, Dec. 28. She will get back to you by the end of the day with an answer. There are five Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2018 pledge by December 31, 2018. The financial books will close on Monday, December 31, 2018 at noon. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2019.

IMPORTANT: Due to the uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 3. The mailing address is 126 W. North Street, PO Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so by December 16 and be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not turned in your 2019 pledge card, please do so immediately. It is important that our Stewardship Committee has the most updated financial information to finalize the 2019 budget.

Thank you,
 Kyle

NEWS and NOTES

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Property Endowment:

- In memory of HESSIE CLARK, given by Polly Moose.
- In memory of Rodney Morgan, given by Sandy Saunders.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Polly Moose.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Sandy Saunders.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Joe & Ann Snuggs.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Lynn & Martha White.

General Fund:

- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Art & Sandy Rogers.
- In memory of Charlene McKeithan, given by Art & Sandy Rogers.
- In memory of Rodney Morgan, given by Art & Sandy Rogers.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Art & Sandy Rogers.
- In memory of Norman Rogers, given by Art & Sandy Rogers.

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Tom & Debbie Arland.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Daniel, Jenny, & Landon Barnes.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Robert & Gina Davis.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Harold & Sara Faulkner.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Clyde & Carol Kistler.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by James & Sue Moore.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Susan D. Pandich.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Harold & Sandra Parker.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by David & Malinda Richbourg.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by J. Connie & Adrienne Robinson.
- In memory of Jane Childress, given by Shepard & Donna Williams.
- In memory of Tom Rabe, given by Steven & Peggy Isenhour.
- In memory of Norman Rogers, given by Sheila Miller.
- In memory of Norman Rogers, given by Brafford, Odom, & Co., LLP.
- In honor of Rev. Elizabeth Ayscue, given by Peggy Rogers.
- In honor of Rev. Matt Drumheller, given by Peggy Rogers.

Scholarship Endowment:

- In memory of HESSIE CLARK, given by Carole Yost.
- In memory of Ginny Connell, given by Mildred Andrew.
- In memory of Norman Rogers, given by Dr. & Mrs. Frank Green.

SYMPATHY

To Susan Pandich and family upon the death of her father, Jack Dickerson, on November 14.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN CIRCLE #5

Circle #5 will meet at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle) on Monday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish meal and Lesson 3 of God's Promise *I will be with you.*



**January Newsletter Deadline on
Tuesday, December 18.**

**Early submissions
are always welcome!**

**If you type your items in Microsoft
Word, please email them as an
attachment to:
pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.**

NEWS and NOTES

SESSION NOTES

At its stated meeting on November 18, 2018, Session heard reports from Worship, Stewardship, Personnel, Property, and Mission committees. The Worship committee announced that the downtown Thanksgiving service this year will be held at The Gathering at 7 p.m. on November 18. The committee also announced some Advent plans: Churches and angels will be placed in the windows of the sanctuary; the Chrismon tree will be put up on November 25; Epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday, January 6. The Stewardship committee reported that there has been an increase in pledges received so far for 2019 and expressed thanks to the congregation for their generosity. The Property committee reported: issues with the HVAC system serving the choir room and upper floor classrooms are ongoing and they are waiting for an estimate for repairs; the causes of staining on the gym ceiling have been found and the contractor has been contacted; leaks on the ceiling around the sanctuary have been checked by a roofer; doors to the sanctuary have been realigned and the committee wishes to thank Ned Russell for his work on this problem. The committee also reported that the steps outside the Education building are being cleaned. The Mission committee reported that the Central School backpack program resumed in October, with backpacks being packed monthly. Alternative gifts will begin on November 25 and run through December 16; non-profits available for donations will be Homes of Hope/Community Inn, Community Care Clinic, SCCM, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Angel Tree will be installed in the Pit Stop on November 18; Peggy Finley is coordinating. A Community Table meal will be provided on December 15; sign-up sheets are posted in the Pit Stop. The Mission committee recommended that the December 30 Faith on the Fifth be designated for the SCCM Emergency Utility Fund. The recommendation was approved by Session. Session will host an Advent luncheon for the congregation on Sunday, December 2, following worship. Everyone is invited to lunch and to help decorate the Chrismon tree after lunch. The officers' retreat will be held on January 4-5, 2019. New officers will be installed and ordained during worship on January 6. The Habitat for Humanity build will start on Monday, November 19, following a construction delay due to rain. The Christmas Kitchen sale will take place in the Pit Stop on Sunday, December 16.

Submitted by Mary N. Kesselman, Clerk of Session

Thanks to:

Gloria Bryson, Ann Duckwall, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, Martha White, and Ruth Ann Rogers for assisting in the church office in November.

Thank You to November's First Family Dinner Volunteers

GRACIAS to all of the EXTRAORDINARIO Señors and Señoras that helped make this dinner muy bueno! Mildred Andrew, Andy and Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, John and Debbie Hahn, Bill Hall, Jennifer Hesley, Margaret Ivey, Don and Nancy Joines, Mary Kesselman, Stephan, Leslie, Morgan and Merrin Kinley, Ken Knight, Greg Lisk, Mark Mabry, Mike and Laura McLeod, Eric, Courtney and Natalie Niederer, Jeff and Kim Robertson, Ned and Gayle Russell, Jim Sawyer, Lily Snyder, Terri West, Faith Explorers and all those who helped break down the tables and chairs and clean up the gym! I just can't thank everyone enough for being so generous with their time and talents!!

MUCHAS GRACIAS☺

Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship



From the Fellowship Committee...

Thanks to everyone who helped with the set-up, decorations, food preparation, desserts, serving, and clean-up for the Consecration Sunday luncheon on November 4. It was a great success! We look forward to our next fellowship event in December...our JOY luncheon covered dish meal. It will be on Sunday, December 9 following worship. This gives our church family an opportunity to share their favorite recipe(s) – whether that may be a meat dish, vegetable dish, favorite salad, fruit dish, casserole, bread, or dessert. We encourage everyone to bring something in and sit down to visit with each other during this holiday meal!

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, Debbie Hahn, Mary Kesselman, Frankie Palmer, Sandy Saunders, Jim Sawyer, and Debbie Wainwright.

Many thanks to those who filled Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We have sent 43 shoeboxes to girls and boys in other countries for Christmas.

With deep gratitude...For 46 years, Donna Gaither has been one of the leaders of the Bereavement Committee which provides hospitality to families before and after a funeral. She has helped serve hundreds of meals (at home and at the church) and dozens of receptions at the church. Her long-time faithfulness to this task has provided grieving families with nourishment and with the comfort of being cared for in a particular way. Thank you, Donna.

Thanks Lynn!...Lynn Poplin has shared remarkable energy, time, skills, and love with the Youth Cubs (PreK 3-5 year olds) on Wednesday afternoons for a number of years. She is now *retiring* from this role to devote her attention to Children's Church and other endeavors.



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:

Doug Archer, cancer.
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.
Joan Bunn, friend of Gina Martin; health concerns.
Michelle Honeycutt Cole, friend of Katie Carpenter; in remission-stage 2 Hodgkins Lymphoma.
Sara Dyer, mother of Martha White; ongoing health concerns.
Lindsey Efird, daughter of Karen Efird and Mark Efird; battling MPS.
Glenn Fowler, possible nerve damage and failed rotator cuff surgery.
Veronica Fraser, friend of Debby Johnston; pancreatic cancer.
Kathy Miles Gordon, friend of Ruth Goodwin; pancreatic cancer.
Marty Goforth, treatment for melanoma.
Jennie Green, sister of Kristie Bryson; recovering from fall.
Calvin Hall, kidney cancer.
Elizabeth Howard, cousin of Mary Kesselman; health concerns.
Ben Kierstead, nephew of Leslie Carter.
Jackie Lynn Krus, eleven year-old great-niece of Gloria Bryson.
Denise LaBoube, half-sister of Martha White; diagnosed with brain cancer-Astrocytoma.
Junior Lambert, uncle of Danny Lambert; stage 4 lung cancer.
Molly Amelia Lowder, continuing health concerns.
Diane Marks, mother of Kyle Marks; treatment for breast cancer.
Bryanna Medlin, nine year old diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.
Sam & Melanie Obermiller, friends of John & Debbie Hahn.
Frank Osborne, brother of Lillie Hancock.
Hilda Perry, sister of Cathryn Harwood; continuing health concerns.
Karen Russell, First Baptist Church Wee Care Teacher; breast cancer.
David Sanges, brother of Nathan Sanges.
Betty Stancik, sister of Bill Hall; continuing health concerns.
GarinStepp, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
Sally Warburton, friend of Debbie & John Hahn.
Eddie Wilson, brother of Elizabeth Wilson; health concerns.

Members of the Congregation:

Blue Honeycutt.
Dick Liles.
Judy Murrell.
Tommy Murrell.
Linda Richards.
Pete Smith.



December

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller | 18- Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman |
| 02- Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White | 20- Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet |
| 04- Kate Gibson | 21- Emily Andrew |
| 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges | 22- Joe Snuggs |
| 06- Glenn Miller | 23- Bill Jolly |
| 08- Pam Morgan
John Robert McIntyre, Jr.
Hope Wolf | 25- Gloria Bryson
Bob Sasser |
| 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards | 26- Ernie Borders
Connie Robinson |
| 11- Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet | 27- Duncan Bryson
Claire George Drumheller |
| 13- Tom Norwood | 29- Kay Griffin
Kate Lemons |
| 16- Alison Whisnant | 30- Sally Grantier
John Montgomery |
| 17- Rob McIntyre | 31- Mildred Andrew
Adrienne Robinson |



December

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 04- Jack & Penny Morton | 23- Harold & Carolyn Sharpe
Craig & Teresa Taylor |
| 10- Terry & Pam Morgan | 26- John & Anne Montgomery |
| 15- Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley | 27- Brad & Jane Boone |
| 21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin | 28- Ben & Shannon Lisk |
| | 29- Don & Nancy Joines |



Habitat for Humanity Project Update

On November 11th after worship members of the three partner churches building Stanly County's 52nd Habitat House gathered at the lot in Badin behind the old Alcoa plant to celebrate the groundbreaking. There was a good spirit in that place, and the churches are excited about the beginning of this project. It is only through the hard work of volunteers that this house will be finished in time to give this family a home for the holidays! If you are interested in volunteering your skills and time, please contact Elizabeth Wilson (ewilson1927@carolina.rr.com) or Sandy Rogers (sandyrogers119@msn.com) to volunteer your time or Ann Upchurch (704-986-3993) or Margaret Ivey (704-982-5857) to volunteer to prepare a meal.



SCCM
NEED
FOR
DECEMBER:

Canned Meat
(Chicken, Salmon, Spam, Tuna)

COMMUNITY Table

Community Table on Saturday, December 15

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 15. Volunteers are needed to prepare food ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 15. 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.

Backpack Food Program

Donations Needed:

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies,
Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup,
Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Snack Crackers,
Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups
A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Next Packing Date:

Wednesday, January 2 at 10:30 a.m.





Youth Group

The holiday season is upon us! We have lots of activities planned to help celebrate the season and hope you can join us. Last month, our youth group watched *Remember the Titans* and had discussions on prejudice and racism and how we can work toward equality.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sundays, December 2 and December 9, we will have Youth Group at the church. Middle Schoolers will meet from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., all youth will eat dinner from 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., and high schoolers will meet from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend with you to youth!

Our Christmas Kitchen event is Sunday, December 16! We are looking for both sweet and savory donations. Dishes should be brought to the church no later than 9:00 a.m. on December 16, but you are also welcome to bring frozen dishes in advance. We will be selling our baked goods before and after worship on that day.

The Youth Group Christmas Party will be from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on December 16. We hope you will join us at the church for some fun Christmas games and activities!

Dorothy will host a conversation about Montreat & Massanetta in January 2019. More details to come. If you are ready to commit now, the early bird deadline is December 1. Prices will begin increasing in late January. Let Dorothy know via email/text/call if you plan to attend (dorothyhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).



12-17 Duncan Bryson

WINTER ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

Featured Artist: **Kyoko Rorie-Bruton**

Theme: **Africa in Abstract**

An eclectic collection of mixed media featuring poetry, photography, silhouettes, and beautifully crafted abstract pieces, Mrs. Rorie-Bruton will showcase the beauty and diversity of African-inspired works of art. Mrs. Rorie-Bruton worked as a Licensed Healthcare Administrator for fifteen years for the State of North Carolina before deciding on a career change in 2010; going back to school to pursue a degree in art, where she attended The Art Institute in Charlotte. She has always had an interest in art and creativity since elementary school, when she designed the artwork for the New London Elementary Owls Newspaper for four years. She started writing poetry in the 8th grade and has had several pieces published in local newspapers and magazines, including *Creative Loafing* and *Out Magazine*. As a young adult, Mrs. Rorie-Bruton delved into creative writing and playwriting when she co-wrote, *Words the ISMS*, a spoken word stage play, while a member of Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte. Having a passion for recycled art pieces, Mrs. Rorie-Bruton designed a recycled clock art piece for the inauguration of Richmond County's first African-American Sheriff, James Clemmons. Some of the artists that provide inspiration to creativity include: Romare Bearden, Ernie Barnes, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Addye Nieves. Her hobbies include creating art, listening to music, and caring for her collection of pet turtles, tortoises, and lizards. Mrs. Rorie-Bruton is currently employed as the Creative Arts Coordinator with GHA Autism Supports.





All Young Adults are invited to meet for lunch at noon on the first Thursday of every month. If you are interested, please contact Matt (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org). December 6 at Coach's Neighborhood Grill (720 NC 24-27, Albemarle)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE PARLOR

FEEL FREE TO BRING A BAG LUNCH

Questions? Contact Miriam Russell (704-982-3025) or Peggy Finley (704-985-1136).



FIRST FAMILY GATHERING

Wednesday, December 5

Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym

Menu:

Ribollita Soup with Gratinced Croutons (Vegetarian), Vegetable Beef Soup, Mixed Green Salad, PB&J Station, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee

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

by noon on Tuesday, December 4 to say you're coming.

Volunteers Are Needed for First Family Gathering

- Dessert & Salad Crew: Tuesday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.
- Set-up Crew: Wednesday, December 5 at 3:45 p.m.
- Clean-up Crew: Wednesday, December 5 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church (704-982-2722) or on her cell phone (704-438-3358) if you would like to help!



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 17. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23.



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 Monday, December 24.

I will leave my poinsettia(s) for delivery to a homebound member.

Jingle AND MINGLE

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
PRIMETIMERS' LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT NOON**
Visit the Roger Martin Sculpture Gallery. Roger's presentation will be *Creation of the Bronze Sculpture*. He will also show how sculptures are created and show some of his work. Then, we will enjoy a small buffett lunch

(\$10 per person) at 5 Points Public House restaurant in the upstairs room. Contact the church office by 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3 (klambert@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722) to say you are coming and/or if you need transportation.

JOY

LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM

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



Christmas Joy Special Offering

Sunday, December 16

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.

College Student Fellowship & Brunch

at Elizabeth's House

Thursday, December 20 at 11:00 a.m.



Whether you are just rolling out of bed (pjs 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: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org

!!! COMING SOON !!!

Grandparent & Child Retreat

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Noon-2:30 p.m.

Partnering in Christian Education....

Children K-5th grade...

Grandparents of any age...



Lunch in gym followed by activities around the church. Call or email church office to sign up! (klambert@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722)



Youth Club children have spent the past month preparing for the presentation of this year's Joy Program, titled *Carriers of the Light*. They have been learning songs, practicing lines, and learning about what it means, especially during Advent, to carry God's light out into the world. Their program will be presented during worship on December 9th.

Please put these important dates on your calendar:

Wednesday, December 5th – Joy Program rehearsal during Youth Club

Saturday, December 8th, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm – Joy Program dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 9th, 11:00 am – Presentation of the Joy Program during worship.

Wednesday, December 12th, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm – Christmas Party at Sk8City for Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers

Wednesday, December 19th – No Youth Club

Wednesday, December 26th – No Youth Club

Youth Cubs



Because we have a smaller group of Youth Cubs this year, we will transition to a childcare model for our 3 and 4 year olds. Our dedicated staff will continue to care for our Youth Cub children, teaching them about God and about caring for one another in a less programmatic format.

Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

- Who can come? 2nd & 3rd graders
 - What? Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice, etc.
 - When? Sunday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.
 - Where? Media Room
 - Why? To pray together & build a strong community of faith
- Please let Jill Niebler (jniebler@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us.



Faith Explorer Outings

Elf Jr., The Musical
Sunday, December 9

Community Theatre in Greensboro

We'll depart from the church following the JOY luncheon to head to the show! We have funding to purchase tickets for all of the children through the Gaither Endowment. Parents are welcome to attend, but will need to purchase their own tickets. **Contact Dorothy by November 26 to sign-up (dorothyhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).**



Urban Air Trampoline Park

Sunday, January 13 following worship

On Sunday, January 13, we will eat lunch at the church at 12:15 p.m., and then head to the Urban Air Trampoline Park in Mint Hill for an afternoon of fun! The cost is \$13.99 for Basic Trampolines, \$5.99 for the Parent Pass, and \$2.50 for Urban Air Socks. (No personal socks allowed). We will return to the church around 5:00 p.m. **Contact Dorothy to sign-up (dorothyhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).**



DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/SERRV items available in the Pit Stop

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating & Advent for All
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 3

- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith St., Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study w/Matt

Tuesday, December 4

- 10:00 am First Family Dessert & Salad Crew
- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 5

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 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-5:45 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 3:45 am First Family Set-Up Crew
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 6

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm PrimeTimers' Tour of the Roger Martin Gallery & Dutch Treat Luncheon at 5 Points Public House
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Coach's Neighborhood Grill (720 NC 24 27, Albemarle)

Saturday, December 8

- 1:30 pm-3:00 pm Joy Program Dress Rehearsal (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent/ JOY Program & Luncheon/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop*

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (covered dish meal)/Faith Explorers' Outing to Elf, Jr. The Musical
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 10

- 8:00 pm Bible Study w/Matt

Tuesday, December 11

- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 12

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Cubs (church)/Youth Club (SK8City)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 13

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

*childcare provided

Saturday, December 15

Community Table

Sunday, December 16 *Third Sunday of Advent/ Chancel Choir Presentation of Journey to the Manger/Youth Sponsored Christmas Kitchen/JOY Offering/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop*

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

Monday, December 17

Deadline for Poinsettia Form

- 8:00 pm Bible Study w/Matt

Tuesday, December 18

- 12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline
- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 19

No Youth Club/No Choir Rehearsal

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

Thursday, December 20

- 11:00 am College Student Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's (1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Sunday, December 23 *Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop*

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

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Church Office Closed

- 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude
- 5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day/Community Christmas Dinner at Central UMC/ Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 27

Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 30

Service of Lessons & Carols

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

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve/Financial Year-End Closing at Noon

*childcare provided



THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Ushers: Jim Marshall, captain; Robbie Beard, Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Lachlann Currie, Mark Mabry, Kyle Marks, Laura Beth Marks, Mike McLeod, Chris Whitley

Elder Greeters for December: Mary Kesselman; Gayle Russell

Nursery:

December 2: Caroline Snyder
December 9: Caroline Snyder
December 16: Caroline Snyder
December 23: Caroline Snyder
December 24: Caroline Snyder
 Anna Wainwright
 Quinton Wainwright
December 30: Caroline Snyder

Outside Ushers:

December 2: Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley
December 9: Greg Lisk; Lee McManus
December 16: Wes Eudy; Tom Norwood
December 23: Brad Boone; TBD
December 24: Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley
December 30: Matt Carpenter; Eric Niederer

Diaconate Meeting
Sunday, December 9

Caroline Snyder

Session Meeting

December 16

Caroline Snyder

Acolytes:

December 2: Merrin Kinley
December 9: Addison Marks
December 16: Jackson Palmer
December 23: Danny Saltzman
December 24: Elizabeth Bryson
December 30: Grant Lisk

Children's Church for December:

December 2: No Children's Church
December 9: No Children's Church
December 16: Lynn Poplin
December 23: Lynn Poplin
December 30: No Children's Church

Kids Care Crew:

December 2: Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson
December 9: Laura Beth & Kyle Marks
December 16: Chris Mabry; Greg Lisk
December 23: Gayle & Ned Russell
December 30: Laura & Mike McLeod

Church Website Address & Staff Email Addresses

Church Website Address: www.fpcalbemarle.org
Church Email Address: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
Elizabeth Ayscue: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org
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Jane Snyder: jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org

