



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Goldsboro, North Carolina**

**Volume 18, Issue 12**  
***December, 2016***

Dear Ones,

“Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away.  
Now it looks as though they're here to stay.  
Oh, I believe in yesterday.”

Relax, as the year comes to an end, I'm much more of a mind to sing “Side by Side” with you:

Oh! We ain't got a barrel of money  
Maybe we're ragged and funny  
But we'll travel along  
Singing a song  
Side by side”

It's just that “Yesterday” has been on my mind since Officer Training on Sunday when Malcolm Shearin mentioned it as an example of the Beatles' unique appeal to three generations. I remembered and remarked that I had played it as a piano recital piece. I'm afraid that the way I played “Yesterday” made my teacher, Mrs. Townsend, and the gathered parents and guests wish that it were “Tomorrow” instead. This is what you get when you go to piano practice in your football uniform and are taking lessons because your mother thinks you need culture. Mrs. Townsend, who did not suffer fools gladly, advised my mother that I was wasting her money and her own time as a teacher.

After I finished what turned out to be my swan song that night, Mrs. Townsend's star pupil, Sam Ryburn, made his way to the keys. Sam was made for the piano...delicate, long fingers, a studious introvert, a knack for notes, and a practice ethic that put me to shame. We all knew that he was going to show this when he raised his hands above the keys to play a piece of his own composition. I had heard it in recital practice. It would be good enough to make the audience forget the agony of my “Yesterday” and its troubles here to stay.

But something went wrong.

The opening chord was off. Sam tried again. More dissonance. The room grew hot. Another fail. Another. Another. Another. I lost count. Mrs. Townsend, hardly a warm fuzzy person, came on the stage. She whispered to Sam. He stood up, and she hugged him. His face was red and wet with tears and sweat. Her hug broke the dam, not just for Sam, but for most everybody in the room whose only tears at that point had been ones of agony over the butchering of a Beatles' classic. Sam slinked off stage. She told everyone that he was the most gifted pupil she'd ever taught. Behind the curtain, he smiled at her praise.

I lift this story up to you as the year ends because it is such a great image of the grace of Jesus Christ. He comes to us and wraps his arms around us, even when...or especially when our performance stinks. Those hugging arms of mercy, those affirming words of love give us courage to hold our heads high and to try again. As our year ends and another begins, I rest in this grace. I have been far from perfect, but I will keep trying. His love makes me want to keep trying. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

Warmly,  
Bob



## DONATE FOR THE SOUP KITCHEN

The children and youth choir will be singing at the  
Goldsboro Soup Kitchen on

**Saturday, December 3rd at 10:45 a.m.**

We need your help!! The youth will put together small personal hygiene packs to share with the guests at the Soup Kitchen. Please donate travel size items like tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap bars, deodorants, shampoos and mouth wash. We are hoping to make at least 150 packs. A big bin is placed in the church office reception area for collecting the items. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Questions/comments may be directed to Mary Taneti.

## Children's Christmas Musical

**December 4th, 2016  
in the  
Sanctuary—10:00 a.m.**

The children and youth of FPC will be telling the story of Christmas through the narration of Scripture and the singing of Christmas songs on December 4, 2016, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Please come and invite someone!



Art by Vismitha Taneti



**CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH!! IT IS TIME TO GO BOWLING.**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016**

**JOIN US WITH YOUR FRIENDS FOR BOWLING AT AMF BOWLING ON BERKELEY BLVD. FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 P.M. MEET AT THE AMF BOWLING. PLEASE RSVP TO MARY TANETI BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 IF YOU PLAN TO GO.**

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING** Please join us Sunday, **December 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** as we visit members who are homebound and sing Christmas carols to them. We will be visiting Bryan Center, and Brookdale to spread the Joy of Christmas. After caroling we can enjoy pizza together. We will meet in the church parking lot 1:45 p.m.



### **Merry Market Appreciation**

From Presbyterian Women to ALL who supported Merry Market, THANK YOU! Special thanks to Linda Brown and Leslie Vanhoy for chairing Merry Market! Great thanks to our church staff; to volunteers who circulated as hosts, prepared lunch, subbed for vendors, set up or took down tables in the gym; to member vendors John and Peggy Till and Linda Brown; to shoppers; and to all who prayed or helped in any other way! Merry Market earns significant funds for PW missions (watch for financial report later), but another special effect is the spirit of love that pervades Merry Market and all events in our gym, showing vendors and shoppers that First Presbyterian is a good place to worship! THANKS TO YOU ALL, AND ALWAYS, THANKS BE TO GOD!

**The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church**

*presents*

**JOY!**

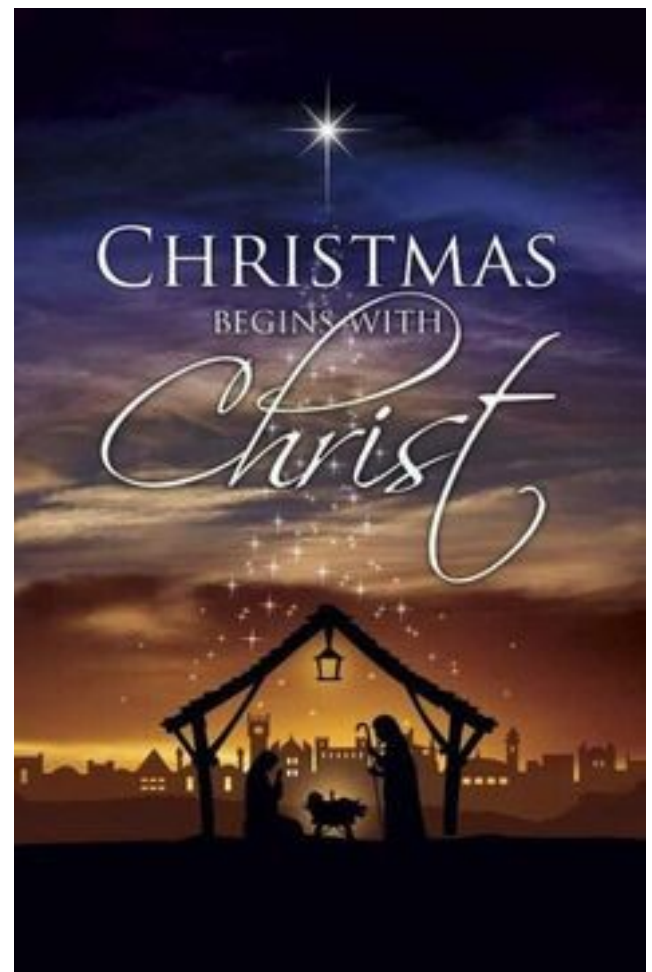
A Gospel Christmas Celebration

Composed & Arranged by

**Joel Raney**

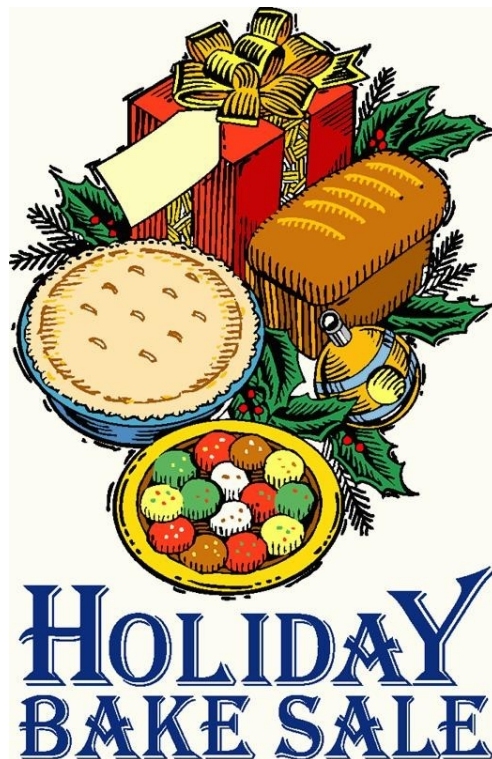
**Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 10:00am**

First Presbyterian Church  
1101 East Ash Street  
Goldsboro, NC 27530





Drop off Saturday at  
the Gym  
December 17, 2016  
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.



The Sale will be Sunday  
December 18, 2016  
8:30 am. to 11:30 a.m.



**In McChesney Hall Conference Room  
Proceeds go to charities and missions**



Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers, current and retired, in their times of need, and helps cultivate racial ethnic leaders through education and leadership development. The Christmas Joy offering will be received on December 18, 2016.

The following dates are available to put flowers in the Sanctuary or gym:  
January 15,22,29  
February 5,12,19,26

## **POINSETTIAS IN THE CHURCH IN HONOR OR MEMORY**

If you would like to place a name on the memorial or honor list and share in the cost of the poinsettias, the cost will be \$10.00 per name. You may use the special envelopes provided in the pew racks in the Sanctuary or mail your request to the church. The deadline to turn in names is December 12.



# December Calendar



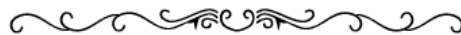
Dec. 3	10:45	Soup Kitchen Caroling	Dec. 13	4:00	Memorials Committee
				7:00	Combined Session & Diaconate
Dec. 4	10:00	Youth Christmas Program NO Open Gym	Dec. 14	5:00	Handbells
				7:00	Chancel Choir
Dec. 5	6:30	Circles 4	Dec. 16	6:00	Youth Bowling
Dec. 6	10:00	Circles 1,2	Dec. 18	9:00	Sunday School
	5:30	Personnel Committee			PW Bake Sale
	7:00	Committee Meetings		10:00	Cantata
Dec. 7	5:00	Handbells		2:00	Christmas Joy Offering
	7:00	Chancel Choir			Family Christmas Caroling
Dec. 11	9:00	Sunday School	Dec. 24	5:30	Family Service
	10:00	Worship/Sanctuary		11:15	Candlelight Service
	4:00	Installation of James Taneti	Dec. 25	10:00	Worship Service
					Christmas Day
			Dec. 26		Church offices closed

*Thank You*



In the season of the birth of Christ, I thank you for all the acts of Christ's love of food, cards, and prayers and love given to me. May joy fill your hearts during this season

Russell Lee



Thank you Fellow Presbyterians,  
Our daily routine has been interrupted by Hurricane Matthew since October 8-20. With prayers, cards, your support and "stickto-i-tive-ness" we are getting close to a normal routine.

We want to express our love and appreciation to all of those who were able to help on our clean out, clean up and numerous other things you choose to do. May God bless each of you as we go forth during this Christmas season.

Love in Christ,  
C.V. and Betty Rose Sutton

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.





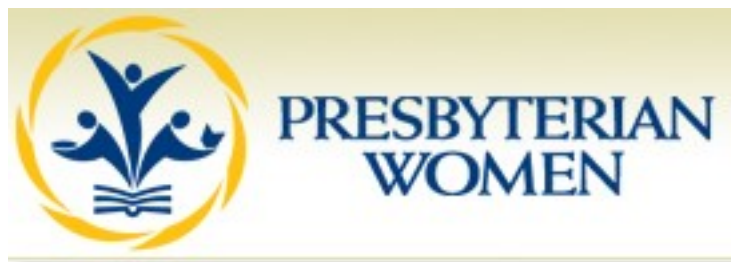
2	Mrs. Suzanne Corbin	22	Mrs. Kim Brogden
3	Mr. Malcolm Shearin	23	Mrs. Sally Bardin
5	Mrs. Louise Huffman		Mr. Paul Pittman
9	Mr. Michael Jordan		Mrs. Pamela Judkins
10	Mr. Jim Neese		Mr. Blain Crocker
	Mr. Thomas Suddarth	24	Rebekah Royall
12	Ms. Margaret Deans	25	Susie Howell
13	Mrs. Mary Beth Parrish		Mr. Jimmy Huffman
18	Mrs. Pam Jennette	26	Mrs. Phyllis Radford
20	Mrs. Brownie Doss	27	Mrs. Jane Franklin
		29	Willis Underwood
		31	Mr. O.L. Starling



FPC Family,

Thank you for helping to bring Good News and great joy to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. Millions of boys and girls will experience God's love through shoeboxes collected this year. FPC will share in this joy as you collected nearly 100 boxes to share.

Thank you again for packing gift-filled shoeboxes for children worldwide in Jesus' name. We trust God will bless you even as you are blessing others!



**December 5 Circle 4 6:30 p.m.**

*Circle 4 Christmas Party. Bring Christmas goodies to share.*

*Bible study and Fellowship. Inform the church if sitter is needed.*

**December 6 Circles 1,2 10:00 a.m.**

*Bible study and Fellowship*



### December Events

3	Soup Kitchen Caroling for all	10:45 a.m.
4	Children's Christmas Program	10:00 a.m.
11	Worship in Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
13	Combined Diaconate and Session Meeting	7:00 p.m.
16	Bowling	2:00 p.m.
18	FPC Choir Cantata	10:00 a.m.
	PW Bake Sale	
	Family Christmas Caroling	2:00 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Family Service	5:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	11:15 p.m.
25	Worship in Activity Center	10:00 a.m.

**A REMINDER THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2016**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017**

**FROM THE FPC OFFICERS AND STAFF, WE WISH YOU  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.**