

First Presbyterian Press

Volume 24, Issue 12, December 2023

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn”.

(Luke 2:7 KJV)

Dear friends and siblings in Christ at First Presbyterian Church Goldsboro,

We have arrived at the month of December, the month of Christmas, the month to celebrate the Joy of Christmas in Jesus Christ. Do you feel the joy yet?

As I write this message, I have on my desk a nativity set given as a gift by one you last Christmas. I keep it with me in the office to remind myself that when things get tough – and sometimes life gets hard even for pastors- I can remember the joy of Christmas. The Joy of Christmas is that baby Jesus came into this broken and evil world to bring hope and redemption. There is nothing in your heart and there is nothing in this world that cannot be transformed by baby Jesus who became adult Jesus and the Lord and Savior of the world. This Christmas season, may we be wrapped in the loving and eternal swaddling clothes of Jesus’ presence.

This Sunday December 3rd, we will welcome the children presenting the wonderful musical called “Miracle at the Christmas Café”. Thanks to our music director Chris Watkins, our director of Christian Education Paige Corbett, our church volunteers, children and the parents for making this event possible. The same afternoon at 5 p.m. we will have lots of fun at the Presbyterian social that the Blackburn family is hosting. On December 10 at 7 p.m. we will have our wonderful community event called, “The Music of Christmas”. Thanks to Chris Watkins, choir members, special musician guests and all the volunteers who are working very hard to make this ministry possible. On Friday Night December 15th, the Handbell Choir will perform at Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. And on Sunday December 17th, the

Handbell Choir will share 30 minutes of prelude music prior to worship service. And yes, Christmas Eve this year is on Sunday, which means we have a regular service at 10 a.m., then we will have a family-oriented service at 5:30 p.m. and traditional candlelight communion service at 9 p.m.

As you can see, there are a lot of opportunities to feel the joy of Christmas and feel the love of God wrapping us around. So please invite your family members, invite your friends and let's have the best Christmas yet!

Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Noé Juarez

Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons	Back Door Monitor
Dec. 3	David Evans	Demis Perez	Carol Branch
Dec. 10	David Evans	Elva Graham	Toby Brown
Dec. 17	Evelyn Rose	Kathy Daniels	Grace Foster
Dec. 24	Bill Royall	Kathy Daniels	Meredith Gurley
Dec. 31	Rosalyn Lomax	Kathy Daniels	Kathy Daniels

The deacon in charge: Bud Fidler
 Co-Deacon: Nathan Johnson



For the month of December

Shelby Benton, Neal Benton, James Spicer

PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL

December 3, 2023 ~ 5:00-7:00 P.M.

Our next Presbyterian Social is scheduled for the first Sunday in December at the home of Jason and Ali Blackburn. Please plan to join us for a time of snacks and fellowship with adult Presbyterian members and friends. You will be in for a treat and a great opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit, as Ali is known for her Christmas decorating. The address is 202 Leafwood Drive in the Walnut Hill subdivision just off Lake Wackena Road. Take Hwy. 70 East and Lake Wackena Road is a right turn just past Village Green (a grouping of businesses in white frame houses). The entrance to Walnut Hill is a right turn about a mile off Hwy. 70. Soon after you enter the subdivision, you will turn left and follow that street until you have practically made a U turn near its end. Their house is on the left. Hope to see you there!



02 Mrs.

December Birthdays!



Suzanne Corbin

20 Mrs. Brownie Doss

02 Mr. Jerald Howell

22 Mrs. Kim Brogden

03 Mr. Malcolm Shearin

23 Mrs. Sally Bardin

07 Mrs. Jo Barrow

23 Mr. Blain Crocker

08 Mr. Mark Metzler

23 Mrs. Pamela Brunson-Judkins

09 Mr. Michael Jordan

24 Mrs. Rebekah Perez

10 Mr. Thomas Suddarth, III

25 Mr. Jimmy Huffman

10 Mr. Graham Lewis

25 Mrs. Susie Howell

11 Mrs. Jane Walston

26 Mrs. Phyllis Radford

14 Mr. David Carlyle

27 Mrs. Jane Franklin

14 Ms. Patricia Elescano

29 Mrs. Hettie Grisette

18 Mrs. Pam Jennette



Christmas Joy Project

We are preparing for the beauty of the Season with our annual FPC Christmas Joy Project. We will again be supporting families of children in the community. We will be able to share joy and love with these families by providing much needed clothes, food, other necessities, and a few special treats. Please prayerfully consider helping in some way with this community outreach. The bulletin board in the main hallway next to the entry table is ready with all the details. Please stop by and choose a tag from the board and complete the information sheet. All the wrapped gifts with the tag are due at the church by Sunday, December 17th. Please feel free to contact Lisa Royall at lisaroyall1111@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



FPC New

PW Bake Sale

Sunday, December 3

Following the 10:00 a.m. Children's Musical Worship

Please contribute your favorite baked goods, soups, frozen foods, pies, biscuits, cheese straws, and other delicacies!
Bring your donations to the gym at 8:30 a.m.

The PW Bake Sale is a great place to shop for holiday foods. Invite your family and friends to shop!
All money raised will go to support the Presbyterian Women's Mission!




Soup for sale

Pint – \$5

Quart- \$10

(Not for sale)

Notes from Chris



Music Ministry

Singing and Ringing this
Christmas Season!

The Children's Choir of First Presbyterian Church

presents

“The Miracle at the Christmas Café”

A Christmas Musical

Date: Sunday Morning, December 3, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service

The singers of the Children's Choir have prepared a feast for your eyes and ears this Sunday!

Come and learn of the wonderful events that took place at this café in the town of Bethlehem one starry night long ago.

Your meal will be cooked by two wonderful chefs –



Mr. Mac N. Cheese and his wife Tater Tot. Three sassy waitresses will wait on your table while a host of guests arrive to tell of their experiences that holy night.

Bring your cameras and your appetites because you will want to savor the culinary adventure with your eyes and taste buds for years to come!

The Chancel Choir, Guest Soloists, and Symphony Orchestra

offer to God their gift of song

in

The Music of Christmas

(The doors of the Sanctuary will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Seating will be on a first-come basis.)

Date: Sunday Evening, December 10th

Time: 7:00 p.m.





The wonderful singers of the Chancel Choir will present this worship service of music and readings for God's Glory and man's inspiration. A twenty-piece orchestra will accompany the choir as they sing Christmas selections of familiar carols and classic holiday pieces.

Joining the choir will be guest soloists Katherine Lakoski, Reann Staab, Evelyn Hagens-Jones, Joshua Allen, and Dale Stine. Our own Ann Hunter, Matilda Parker, Samantha Martinez, and Lee Futrelle will touch your hearts with their musical offerings.

Mary Taneti will be our guest reader for our third annual presentation. Immediately after the service, there will be a gala reception in the gym for everyone to meet and greet our singers and musicians, and members of our church and community who will be attending again this year.

The doors of the sanctuary will open to the public at 6:30 p.m. If it is cold or wet, guests may go into the gymnasium to keep warm until the doors open. Ushers will show you easy passages back into the sanctuary when the doors open to the public.

First Presbyterian Church

Handbell Choir

In Concert

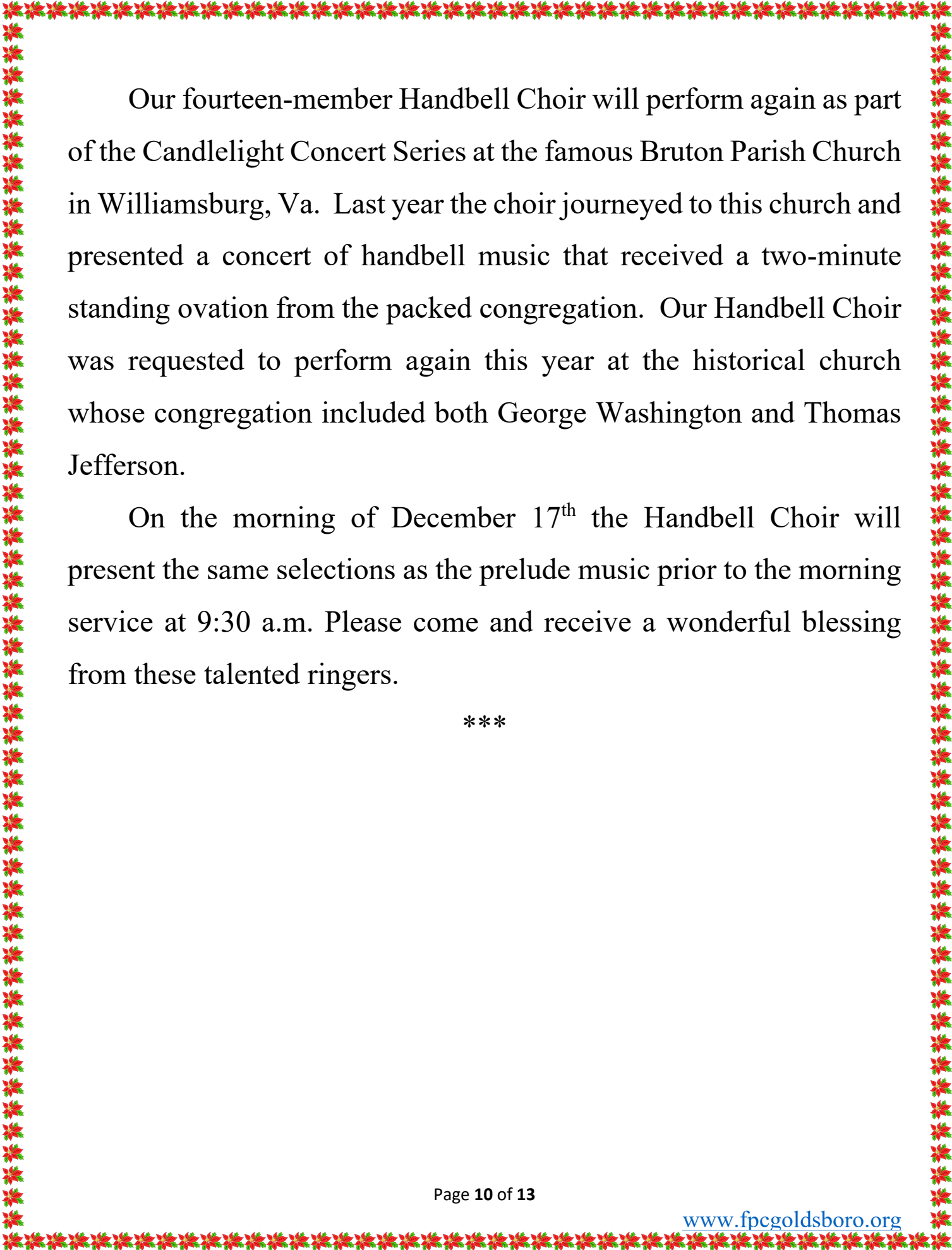
Date: Friday Night, December 15th

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Virginia

Sunday Morning, December 17th at 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Our fourteen-member Handbell Choir will perform again as part of the Candlelight Concert Series at the famous Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Va. Last year the choir journeyed to this church and presented a concert of handbell music that received a two-minute standing ovation from the packed congregation. Our Handbell Choir was requested to perform again this year at the historical church whose congregation included both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

On the morning of December 17th the Handbell Choir will present the same selections as the prelude music prior to the morning service at 9:30 a.m. Please come and receive a wonderful blessing from these talented ringers.

Christmas Eve Services



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women and friends, please come and enjoy Bible study and fellowship. **Evening Circle**, Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor or

Morning Circle, Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor

Mrs. Ellen Best will present our Bible study, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus".

Prayer Requests

Congregation Members at home

Jimmy Huffman, c/o Cathy Huffman, 118 CP Sykes Road, Spring Hope, NC 27882

Ken and Judy Taylor, 904 Pittman St., 27530

Mrs. Jackie VanHoy, 508 N. Claiborne St., 27530

George & Addie Warren, 200 Deluca Road, 27534

Brigitta Seymour, 100 Tarklin Dr., 27530

Fred Lomax, 204 S. Claiborne St., 27530

Mary Glenn Pittman, 3550 Horton Street, Raleigh, NC 27607



Friends & Family

Mr. Jeff Stanley, (son of Bill and Sharon Stanley) 320 Whipple Ave. Batavia, IL 60510

Ric Wagner- A friend of Chris Watkins, Home

Rev. Jason Leonard, Wiley Leonard's son

Ms. Jane Yates, a friend of Toby Brown (Alleghany Center, 179 Combs Street, Sparta, NC 28675)

Devon Hughes, niece of Randa Scott

Tracey Bowens, Director of A Day Away

Ogden Parker, (brother of Jim and John Parker) North Carolina Basnight Cancer Center, Room 4826, 101 Manning Dr. Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Room phone 984-974-8526, Cellphone 919-417-4630 for text.

Harvey Howze, father of Beth Stackhouse

Lori Smith, friend of Wendy Hicks

Chris and Cherie Smith, friends of Paige Corbett

Outreach

Mr. Mike Pate at Brookdale Senior Living on Country Day Road

Mrs. Madelyn Percise at Cypress Glen, Greenville, NC

Advent, and Christmas Services Schedule

Sunday, December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Musical
11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale
5:00 p.m. Presbyterian Social

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Doors Open
7:00 p.m. "The Music of Christmas"

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
9:30 a.m. Handbell Pre-Service Offering (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
8:30 p.m. Pre-Service Musical Offering (Sanctuary)
9:00 p.m. Candlelight with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

No Sunday school
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
5th Sunday Mission Offering