

First Presbyterian Press

Volume 24, Issue 12, December 2022

“The Word became flesh and blood . . . and moved into the neighborhood!”

(John 1:14a *The Message*)

Hello, Friends in Goldsboro,

We have arrived in the month of Christmas. What a joy to spend our first Christmas together here in this beautiful church in the city of Goldsboro!

In this Christmas season 2022, the text from John 1:14, speaks to me in a deep way:

- We live in a broken world filled with pain. Couples wrestle with marriage issues. Neighborhoods are fill with hopelessness amid economic distress where many families are struggling paying their bills.
- We are in a neighborhood where many homeless people do not have a place to stay.
- We are in this neighborhood where the political drama in the US continues.

Yet it is here in this neighborhood that Jesus has moved in! It is in your neighborhood that Jesus has established His dwelling place! It is in our neighborhood that Jesus has decided to pitch His tent. This truth gives me hope and inspiration. The work we do, even when we feel unappreciated, is not in vain. Jesus is the one who is living with us, leading the way forward and comforting and perfecting our neighborhoods.

In this Christmas season, let us remember that Jesus has moved into our neighborhood to give us a purpose, joy, and meaning to life. God calls us to be good neighbors who offer extravagant love and comfort to all. “That is what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown!”

With that in mind, let me just say how appreciative I am with all the active participation of each of you and how excited we are in all areas of ministries. I am excited to see more visitors and more new members joining us in this beautiful church.

I cannot wait to enjoy the Children's Choir Christmas musical, "Beneath a Shining Star" on Sunday morning, December 4th, and the special Christmas music presentation by our Chancel Choir, soloists and symphony orchestra of "The Music of Christmas" on December 11th at 7:00 p.m. Please invite your family and friends to join us.

And thank you for your generosity! Our finance staff told me that we have already exceeded our expected giving for next year! What a wonderful six months we have had, and what a great new year in 2023 we will experience.

Now, let us celebrate together all the goodness of the Lord. Let us lift our voice with Mary and praise, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46).

On a personal note, I mentioned last Sunday that this Christmas will be very special for me because my youngest brother, Santiago, and his wife, Priscilla, and their 2-year-old daughter, Melissa, will spend Christmas with us in the US for the first time!

So, may you have a Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad!

In Christ,

Pastor Noe Juarez

Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons
Dec. 4	Barbara Bradshaw	Carol Branch
Dec. 11	John Parker	Elva Graham
Dec. 18	Bill Stanley	Tim Judd
Dec. 25	Chris Martin	Betty Rose Sutton

The deacon in charge: Robin Wilson

Co-Deacon: Elva Graham



For the month of December

Shelby Benton, Neal Benton, Tommy Franklin

Christian Education December 2022 Events

Sunday School – Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday school 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

No Sunday school on Sunday, December 25, and

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Young Presbyterians (pre-school through fifth grade) Sunday, December 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group (sixth through twelfth grade)

Sunday, December 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Bowling @ AMF Bowling on Berkley Wednesday, December 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Just show up if you are available and bring a friend.

Presbyterian Social!!!

We hope that all FPC adults will plan to join the fellowship at our Presbyterian Social, December 18 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Toby Brown and David Carlyle. The address is 200 Deerborn Circle, Goldsboro, NC 27534, and is located in Walnut Creek. There will be refreshments and a time for getting to know your fellow FPC members and friends in a relaxed social setting. Be mindful of the 30 MPH Speed in Walnut Creek – strictly enforced.

In addition, you might mark your calendar for the Winter Social, March 12 at the Barn on Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield, and the Spring Social, May 7 at the home of Dan & Sue Blackshear.



December Birthdays!



02 Mrs. Suzanne Corbin

03 Mr. Malcolm Shearin

08 Mr. Mark Metzler

09 Mr. Michael Jordan

10 Mr. Thomas Suddarth III

10 Mr. Graham Lewis

14 Mr. David Carlyle

18 Mrs. Pam Jennette

20 Mrs. Brownie Doss

29 Mrs. Hettie Grisette

22 Mrs. Kim Brogden

23 Mr. Paul Pittman Jr.

23 Mrs. Sally Bardin

23 Mr. Blain Crocker

23 Mrs. Pamela Brunson-Judkins

24 Ms. Rebekah Perez

25 Mr. Jimmy Huffman

26 Mrs. Phyllis Radford

27 Mrs. Jane Franklin



PW Bake Sale

Sunday, December 4

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!



Christmas Joy Project



Help spread the joy to local families!
can you help spread the joy?

1. Select a tag.
2. Sign the list with the required information.
3. Purchase item(s) and wrap
4. Return item(s) to church with tag attached no later than Sunday, December 11.

We can also help spread the joy by collecting hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorants, etc.) Check out the bulletin board in the church Education building hallway!

If you cannot buy the items yourself, you may donate money toward that purchase through the church office or contact Lisa Royall. All wrapped gifts are due Sunday, December 11. Please get in touch with Lisa Royall at lisaroyall1111@gmail.com if you have any questions. Again thank you for spreading love and joy to these families.





Music Ministry

Notes from Chris

Singing and Ringing this Christmas Season!

The Children's Choir of First Presbyterian Church

presents

"Beneath a Shining Star"

A Christmas Musical

Date: Sunday Morning, December 4, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Children's Choir will present this year's Christmas musical starring the wonderful 4-year-olds to 6th graders on the first Sunday in December. Please join the children as they take us to a rehearsal of a rag-tag bunch of children trying to tell the story of Jesus' birth. You will laugh and cry as you watch these children in the musical try to deal with a bossy stage manager who believes she is the "star" of the production. The songs found in this 17-minute production are beautiful and fun.

Immediately following the service at 11:00 a.m., there will be a bake sale in the gymnasium where your children will have refreshments and talk to Santa Claus.

The Chancel Choir, Guest Soloists, and Symphony Orchestra
offer to God their gift of song

in

The Music of Christmas

Date: Sunday Evening, December 11th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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



The wonderful singers of the Chancel Choir have been rehearsing their anthems for several months in order to offer a gift of song to our Savior on His birthday. Joining the Choir will be Katherine Lakoski, soprano, Reann Nichols, soprano, Evelyn Hagans-Jones, alto, Joshus Allen, tenor, and Dale Stine, baritone. Our own Ann Hunter, soprano, Lee Futrelle, tenor, and Matilda Parker, child soprano will special solos accompanied by the sounds of a full symphonic orchestra composed of instrumentalists from the East Carolina School of Music, the Music Academy of Eastern North Carolina, and the North Carolina Symphony.

Musical selections will include beloved carols and Christmas solos including “O Holy Night,” “Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child,” “Silent Night,” and “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.”

Immediately after the service there will be a gala reception in the gymnasium in order to meet and greet the singers and instrumentalists. A nursery will be provided for children below the age of six years old.

This worship service is free and open to everyone. Come and receive a Christmas blessing as you hear the beautiful voices of our choir.

The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church

"Carol of the Handbells!"

Date: Sunday Morning, December 18th

Time: 9:30-10:00 a.m.



The fifteen-ringer Handbell Choir will present five selections of Christmas music that they presented at the Candlelight Concert in Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia on Friday night, December 16th. These talented musicians were invited to perform in this historic church to a standing-room-only audience of

tourists from around the world. Our Handbell Choir would like to play sacred selections from their concert for our congregation in appreciation of your support and prayers, and to give thanks to God for His Gift of the Master Musician in Bethlehem.

Please come and enjoy the sounds of bells, handchimes, and organ as you prepare your heart and mind for the worship service to start at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 p.m. – A Family Christmas Service

The first worship service on Christmas Eve will feature the music of the Children's Choir, soloist Matilda Parker, the lighting of the Christ Candle in our Advent Wreath, and a living tableau of Mary, Joseph, and the Baby during the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. Please bring your entire family to this delightful and meaningful service of song, Scripture, and reflections.

9:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

Beginning at 8:30 p.m., acclaimed violinist Chris Ellis will be accompanied by Chris Watkins as they play sacred Christmas music and carols scored for violin and organ.

The serenity of the night will be magnified by the serving of Holy Community, the singing of carols, and the beauty of "Silent Night" as it is sung by candlelight at the conclusion of the service.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian women and friends, please come and enjoy Bible study and fellowship. **Morning Circle**, Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor or **Evening Circle**, Monday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.

Mrs. Kathy Daniels will present our Bible study, "Sabbath and Sunday," Luke 4:16-22 and Acts 16: 11-15.

Prayer Requests

Congregation Members @ home

Mrs. Hope Derby, Jimmy Huffman, Ken and Judy Taylor, Mrs. Jackie VanHoy, George and Addie Warren, Peggy Till, and Brigitta Seymour.

Friends & Family

Mr. Jeff Stanley, (son of Bill and Sharon Stanley)

Ms. Beth Jennings, a friend of Carol Branch

Rev. Jason Leonard, Wiley Leonard's son

Mr. Bob Locket, a friend of Ken Taylor

Mr. Lee Morgan, a friend of Teresa Smith

Mr. Ric Wagner, a friend of Chris Watkins

Ms. Jane Yates, a friend of Toby Brown

Mr. Lee Morgan a friend of Teresa Smith

Mrs. Anne Marie and Mr. David Rourk, friends of Teresa Smith.

Outreach

Mr. Gilbert Brown @ Brookdale Senior Living on Berkley Blvd.

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

Mrs. Madelyn Percise @ Cypress Glen, Greenville, NC

Mrs. Jane Johnson @ Willow Creek, Goldsboro, NC



Advent, and Christmas Services Schedule

Sunday, December 4

2nd 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. Youth Group (gym)

Sunday, December 11

3rd 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 18

4th 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

4:00 p.m. Young Presbyterians (gym)

5:00 p.m. Presbyterian Social

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

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 25

Christmas Day

No Sunday school

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, January 1, 2023

New Year's Day

No Sunday school

10:00 a.m. Worship Service