



**First Presbyterian Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina**

**Volume 20, Issue 12
December, 2018**

Dear Ones,

I'm in the midst of enjoying a book passed on to me by Evelyn Rose: *Living Life Backward: How Ecclesiastes Teaches us to Live in Light of the End*. I only wish that I could have read it before my last two sermons about "the end"! I think it might have made them better. Before you say, "Oh no, not more of this stuff about the end," let me hasten to tell you that the tenor of the book (and of this note, I hope) is only positive. Consideration of our end, far from engendering morbid moping, can help us love life and live it to the full.

David Gibson, the author of the book, cites Ecclesiastes 9:10 as an example of end-gained wisdom:

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

In God's amazing world, there is much good for us to lay hold of. Gibson suggests some possibilities:

Ride a bike, see the Grand Canyon, go to the theater, learn to make music, visit the sick, care for the dying, cook a meal, feed the hungry, watch a film, laugh with some friends until it makes you cry, play football, run a marathon, snorkel in the ocean, listen to Mozart, ring your parents, write a letter, play with your kids, spend your money, learn a language, plant a church, start a school, speak about Christ, travel to somewhere you've never been, adopt a child, give away your fortune and then some, shape someone's life by laying down your own.

He adds,

You may be able to add to the above list in a hundred ways. I hope you can add at least a few more. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all you have."

Today, as I pondered this wisdom, checking off things done and undone, another book arrived, this one from Barbara Ann Vinson: Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*. It's a beautiful telling of the special closeness he had as a child with Cousin Sook, a rather batty elderly woman, his only friend. The story ends with the two of them plunging through waist-high grass in a field, flying homemade kites, "twitching at the string like sky fish as they swim into the wind." They settle in the sun-warmed grass and watch their kites dance. She breaks the silence:

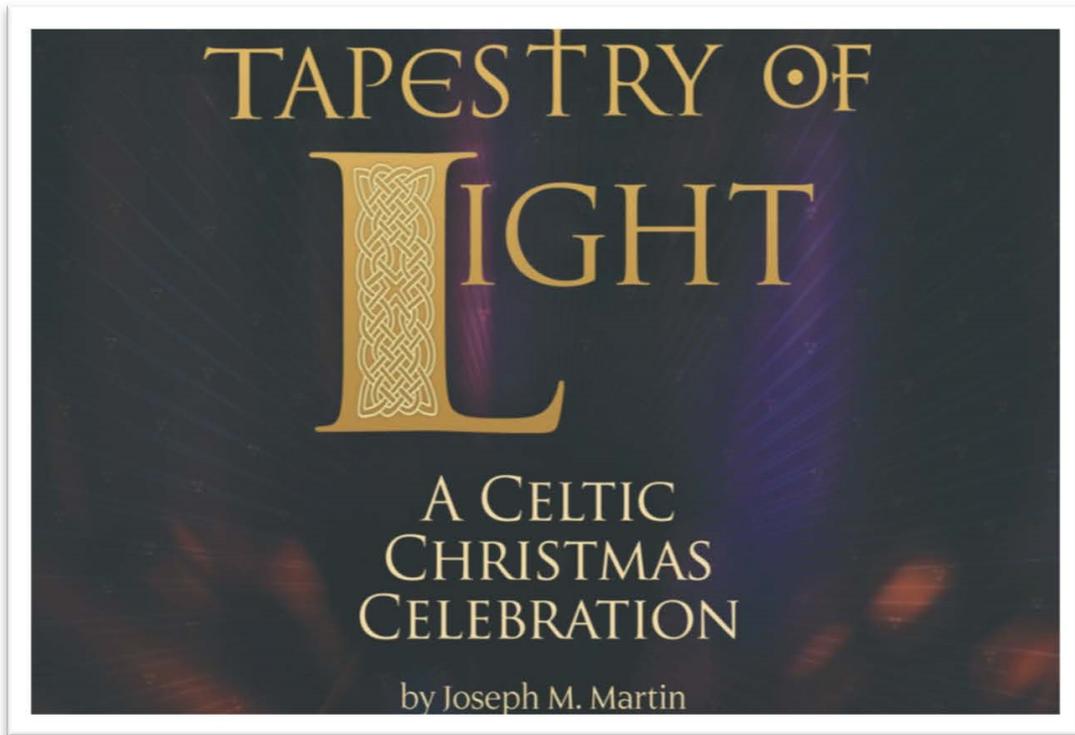
"My, how foolish I am!" my friend cries, suddenly alert, like a woman remembering too late she has biscuits in the oven. "You know what I've always thought?" she asks in a tone of discovery, and not smiling at me but a point beyond. "I've always thought that a body would have to be sick and dying before they saw the Lord. And I imagined that when He came it would be like looking at the Baptist window: pretty as colored glass with the sun pouring through, such a shine you don't know that its getting dark. And it's been a comfort: to think of that shine taking away all the spooky feeling. But I'll wager it never happens. I'll wager at the very end a body realizes the Lord has already shown Himself. That things as they are"—her hand circles in a gesture that gathers clouds and kites and grass and Queenie pawing earth over he bone—"jus what they've always seen was seeing Him. As for me, I could leave the world with today in my eyes."

I wish for you this kind of life, lived with all your might.

Love,
Bob

The Chancel Choir of
First Presbyterian Church

presents



Sunday, December 2, 2018
during the 10:00am worship service.

**Featuring a full 20+ piece orchestra
and professional guest soloists.**

“Tapestry of Light” is a joining of traditional carols, primarily from the British Isles, with scripture reading... I was inspired by recent trips to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England to create a work that celebrates the rich heritage of seasonal song that is part of this great tradition.”

~Joseph M. Martin, composer

THE ADVENTURE

For Children and Youth

Join us Sunday, December 9 after children's time during worship in the Activity Center

**Make your own edible
Christmas Tree
Other Crafts and Fun**

Youth will help younger children with their crafts!



Youth Bowling!

IT IS TIME TO GO BOWLING!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

**JOIN US FOR BOWLING AT AMF BOWLING ON
BERKELEY BLVD. FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.**

PARENTS DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP AT AMF BOWLING.

QUESTIONS CALL MARY TANETI AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

The children and youth will be singing at the **Goldsboro Soup Kitchen** on **Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 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 reception area for collecting the items. Thank you in advance for your contributions.



Prophets Foretold Him

A Christmas Musical

December 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

FPC Sanctuary



Plan to attend!

Invite others!

Drop off at
Activity Center
December 16
8:30—10:00 a.m.



Sale
December 16
11:00 a.m.

STEWES

PIES

CAKES

SPREADS

**HOLIDAY
BAKE SALE**

SOUPS

COOKIES

CANDIES

JELLIES

Proceeds go to charities and missions!

Anyone, including men is welcomed to
participate in the bake sale.



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 16.**

Diapers for the Manger is due Sunday, December 16. The diapers will be sent to Wayne Pregnancy Center. You may drop them off in the crib in the Narthex. Thank you for you participation.



**Wayne
Pregnancy
Center**



Thank You 

I get very excited seeing increased amounts of children at the front of our sanctuary during Sunday Worship and we have several baptisms scheduled during Advent Season, so **Family Album** seemed to be the perfect theme in 2018 for our Advent Devotional. The staff is extremely grateful for the writers sharing your time writing devotions and creating beautiful artwork for this year's book, which is a long time First Presbyterian Church tradition.

Thanks!
Bob Bass

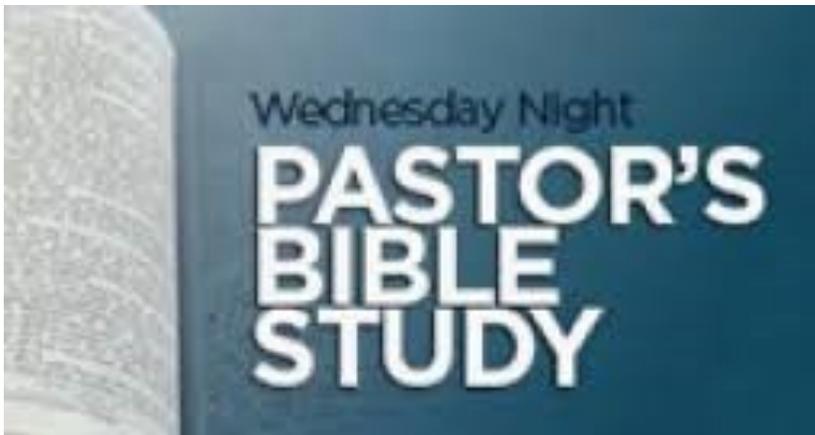
Dear FPC Friends,

I would like to thank my church family for all the card, calls, visits, but most of all the prayers which have helped me through my recovery. God has been so good to me and I am thankful for His many blessings.

With love,
Ditty Whitford



5:30 p.m.—**Candlelight Worship**
11:15 p.m.—**Candlelight Communion**



Wednesday nights at 5:00
through December 19.

Will resume January 16 at
regular Wednesday Family
Night.

Confirmation Retreat
Camp Albemarle
January 11-12
All Church cookout at the
camp on Saturday,
January 12 at noon.
Questions? Call
Mary Taneti
919-734-5392



BIRTHDAYS

2	Mrs. Suzanne Corbin	22	Mrs. Kim Brogden
3	Mr. Malcolm Shearin	23	Mrs. Sally Bardin
5	Mrs. Louise Huffman		Mr. Paul Pittman
8	Mr. Mark Metzler		Mrs. Pamela Judkins
9	Mr. Michael Jordan		Mr. Blain Crocker
10	Mr. Jim Neese	24	Rebekah Royall
	Mr. Thomas Suddarth	25	Mr. Jimmy Huffman
12	Ms. Margaret Deans	26	Mrs. Phyllis Radford
14	Mr. David Carlyle	27	Mrs. Jane Franklin
18	Mrs. Pam Jennette	29	Mrs. Hettie Grisette
	Mrs. Mary Ellis		Matthew Richter
20	Mrs. Brownie Doss	31	Mr. O.L. Starling



2018 Summary of Operating Budget Total Revenue & Expenses

(This is the most current information available thru October 2018. If you would like a more detailed budget, please see Jean Whitaker in the office and she will gladly provide that information or answer any questions.)

Total Revenue as of October 31, 2018	\$ 368,866
Total Expenses as of October 31, 2018	409,417
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Net Loss	\$ 40,551 (deficit)

Offering for October 2018 \$ 23,817

Average Attendance 141

Please remember to fulfill your pledge for 2018. The 2019 budget is being prepared. Please, if we have not received your pledge at this time, submit the card so that we can accurately project revenues and expenses for 2019. We appreciate your faithful support of our church.



December Events

2	FPC Choir Cantata	10:00 a.m.
	Youth Group	5:00 p.m.
3	Circle 4	6:30 p.m.
4	Circles 1 and 2	10:00 a.m.
	Committees meetings	7:00 p.m.
9	Adventure	10:00 a.m.
14	Bowling	6:00 p.m.
15	Soup Kitchen Caroling	11:00 a.m.
16	Children's Musical	10:00 a.m.
	Bake Sale	
	Christmas Joy Offering	
	Family Christmas Caroling	2:00 p.m.
18	Session and Diaconate Joint Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Family Service in Sanctuary	5:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion in Sanctary	11:15 p.m.
25	Christmas Day—Merry Christmas!	

**A REMINDER THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**

**FROM THE FPC OFFICERS AND STAFF, WE WISH YOU
 A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**