

Message from the Pastor

In the Feasting on the Word devotional book, Patricia De Jong says it beautifully: *"The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it's time to think about fresh possibilities for deliverance and human wholeness."*

When was the last time you were *"jolted"* in church? We tend to prefer comfortable pews and familiar routines when we come to church, and yet sometimes a good jolt is exactly what we need! When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, his birth sent a shock wave throughout creation that is still being felt, and Advent is the perfect time to recognize the presence of those holy tremors!

Jesus the Messiah is all about shaking things up; all about transformation. When He came to Bethlehem *2,000 years ago*, He transformed the perception

of what a Messiah was all about. When He comes to us *today* in the person of the Holy Spirit, he transforms who we are and how we relate to one another and the world around us. And when He comes in the *future*, He will bring in the Kingdom of God in all its fullness, and thus transform all of creation.

Christianity is not a passive faith, and as we begin a new church year with the Season of Advent, I would invite you to *be jolted!* *Be jolted* out of your complacency and come to worship and Sunday School! *Be jolted* out of your secular focus, and focus instead on the living presence of Jesus Christ! *Be jolted* into a new awareness of the need we all have to pray! *Be jolted* out of old routines, and into an alertness of fresh possibilities for service and witness in your life!



The Apostle John had a vision of the final transformation; a transformation that will invade all creation and jolt us into a new and perfect reality. He records this vision in the 21st chapter of Revelation:

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with

(continued on page 4)

Scripture of the Month — John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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Special dates of interest:

- Soup Kitchen—Dec 4-8
- PW Cookie Swap—Dec 4
- Tuesday Advent Services—Dec 5, 12, & 19
- Advent Worship Service—Dec 6
- Christmas Brunch—Dec 7
- Happy Birthday Jesus Party—Dec 9
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing—Dec 9
- Advent Cantata—Dec 10
- Session Meeting—Dec 10
- Room in the Inn—Dec 12 & 26
- Foster Kids Gifts Due—Dec 13
- Playschool Programs—Dec 14 & 15
- Youth Christmas Party—Dec 17
- Poinsettia & Joy Gift Card due—Dec 20
- Meals on Wheels—Dec 23
- Christmas Eve Services—9:30 AM, 5 PM & 11 PM



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**

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SESSION

Class of 2017

Lynn East
Barbara Fowler
Twyla Morgan
Steve Spurlin
Chuck Thompson
Don Thomson

Class of 2018

Catherine Carls
Virginia Conger
Mike Dunnivant
Joey Howell
Jody Pickens
Molly Richardson

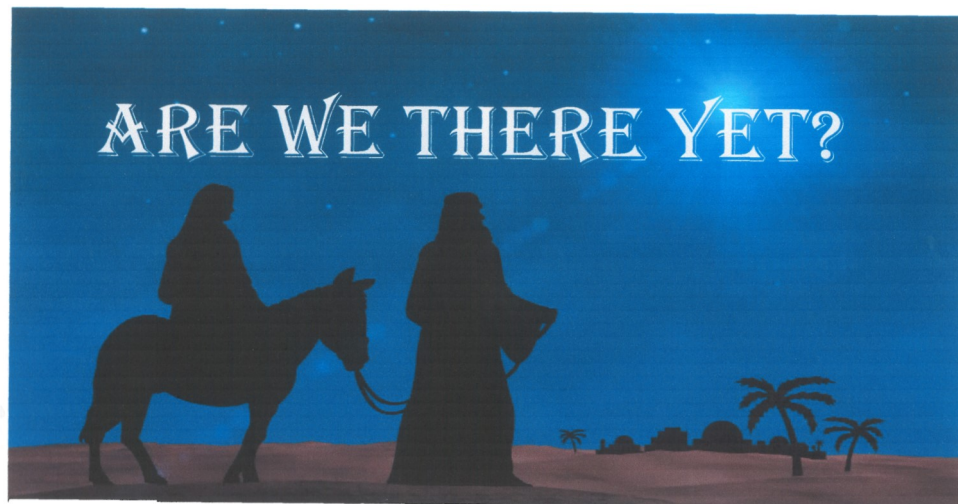
Class of 2019

Leigh Anne Bentley
Tammy Buchanan
Bryan Byrd
James Harris
Carol Sue Keathley
Justin Smith

OUR VISION

First Presbyterian Church is called to be a faithful and inclusive congregation which enthusiastically glorifies God in our worship, education, nurture and service through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cantata—December 10



A CANTATA FOR ADVENT

presented by

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Children's Choirs

December 10, 2017, 9:30 AM

First Presbyterian Sanctuary

directed by

Helen Redding, Director of Music

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organist and pianist

Lectionary Readings for December 2017

**December 3 ~ Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37**

**December 10 ~ Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8**

**December 17 ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

December 24 ~ Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 31 ~ Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Wednesdays at First



Wednesday Night Fellowship is a time of midweek renewal, where you can enjoy fun, good food, wonderful fellowship and informative programming. Make your plan to join us each Wednesday at **5:15 PM** (*unless otherwise noted*) for dinner, and then stay for the program/worship/study at 6 PM. We have separate programming for the Youth and our younger friends at **Launch Pad Kids** and **Blast!**, while the adults are involved in their activity. A nursery for our toddlers and babies is also provided. *We are winding down for the year....to resume after the holidays in January!*

- Dec 6 —** **MENU:** Italian Salad, Assorted Pastas (Baked ziti, Cheesy Chicken casserole, Chicken Tetrazzini), Green beans, Baked apples, Garlic bread, and Cheesecake for dessert.
PROGRAM: Advent Worship Service
- Dec 13—** **MENU:** Pear-grape salad, Poppyseed Chicken, Steamed broccoli, Roasted carrots, Buttered bread, and Cherry Crisp for dessert.
PROGRAM: Children's Program

All meals include Bread, Salad, Fresh Fruit, Beverages (tea, lemonade, coffee or water), and "Kids' Foods". Children's menu will vary weekly, but will be kid-friendly foods. Juice boxes and milk provided. Peanut butter, jelly and bread is always available for our more selective eaters.

Reservations required in church office by Monday at 4 PM (422-1591).

Cost: \$6 for adults, including children over age 12, \$4 for children ages 3-12, with an \$18 max per family.



Advent Service of Music and Scripture

An Advent Service of Music and Scripture will be presented in our sanctuary on Tuesdays during Advent at the noon hour. Guest speakers from the area will give reflections on scriptural texts and area musicians will provide music. These brief services are to be followed by a free lunch in our Fellowship hall. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

The schedule:

- Tuesday, December 5 at Noon**
Advent Musical Selections by
Emma Otto, Violinist
Scripture and Reflections
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Larry W. "Bud" Sizemore
Retired Presbyterian Minister
- Tuesday, December 12 at Noon**
Advent Musical Selections by
Innovation from Jackson State
Scripture and Reflections
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel
Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Medina
- Tuesday, December 19 at Noon**
Advent Musical Selections by
Dr. Terry McRoberts, Organist
Scripture and Reflections
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Anne Emery
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Brownsville



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT CARD

What is the Christmas Joy Gift Card?

It is an alternative to sending individual Christmas greetings to your friends in the congregation and raises funds for the Christmas Joy Offering. We will provide the Christmas Joy Gift card in the **December 24th** bulletin for all those who would like to make a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering in lieu of sending individual cards this Christmas Season. Checks may be made **payable to FPC** (designated **Christmas Joy Gift Card** on the memo line) and placed in offering plate or mailed to church office. All money will go into the Christmas Joy Gift Offering. **Deadline for advanced donations for the gift card will be Wednesday, December 20th for inclusion on the Joy Gift Card in the bulletin Sunday December 24th!**



PW of First Presbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CT MEETING: As needed.

**PW COOKIE SWAP: Monday,
December 4 at 10:00 AM**

Please join us for our Homemade Christmas Cookie Swap—**December 4 at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for swapping cookies, filling tins for our Friends at Home, enjoying Fellowship with each other, and listening to the precious Preschool children sing at 10:30 AM. *Please bring 4 doz cookies* to swap and share with our Friends at Home. Volunteers needed to help deliver the cookie tins!



Room in the Inn

Our church will participate in Jackson's ROOM IN THE INN program for the eleventh consecutive winter. This program, operated by Area Relief Ministries (ARM), provides food and shelter for the city's homeless men. We have agreed to provide this service on twelve separate dates during the upcoming winter season. Fifty Jackson churches assisted in the program last year, providing more than 3,000 beds and 6,000 meals. ROOM IN THE INN fulfills a need for a local homeless shelter that is not provided by any other agency.

We pick up the men from Area Relief Ministries at 5:30 PM using the church bus, and immediately bring them to the church Fellowship hall for a delicious meal. Adult Sunday school classes and our church youth volunteer to provide the evening meal and fellowship for the men. Following the meal, the men go to the gym where they will set up their cots; blankets, towels, and toiletries are provided. They may watch a movie, take a shower, play basketball, or simply go to sleep in a warm place. In the morning they are given a hot breakfast along with extra food items for lunch, and delivered back to ARM or their place of employment.

We need volunteers to help with preparing and serving the evening meal, cooking breakfast, staying overnight in the church gym, entertaining and socializing with the men, and cleaning up. Anyone wishing to provide food and/or assist with meal preparation should contact Mike & Lark Taylor (410-8312). All other volunteers should contact Ted Showalter (660-5348). Following are the dates and assignments for First Presbyterian Church this winter:

Tuesday, November 14 – Ironmen Bible Group
Tuesday, December 12 – Fellowship Class
Tuesday, December 26 – Connections Class (John White's class)
Tuesday, January 9 – Swaim Class
Sunday, January 21 – Youth
Tuesday, February 6 – Seekers Class
Sunday, February 18 – Youth
Tuesday, February 27 – Directions Class
Tuesday, March 6 – Mayo Class
Tuesday, March 20 – Fellowship Class
Tuesday, April 10 – Connections Class (John White's)
Tuesday, April 24 – Church Wide

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle meetings—December 11

10:00 AM

Abigail—meeting with Benita Brown, 15 Diesta Drive, 424-5446

Baara— *will not meet in December*

7:00 PM

Deborah—meeting with Nelda Evans, 9 Ridgewood Cove, 668-9487

TO ALL LADIES!! To all ladies of the church who would like to participate in a Circle/Bible Study, please contact Jennifer Flanagan 668-5722 or Carol Green at 695-1148. *All are welcome!*

Service Opportunities:

Helping Hands: First Monday of each month @ 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall, (not meeting in December!)

ROOM IN THE INN HELPING THE HOMELESS FOR ELEVEN YEARS

Threads of Love: Second Tuesday of each month @ 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, (we will meet in December on December 12!)

RIFA Soup Kitchen —(Desserts)

December 1—Baara

January 2—Deborah

Collect Eyeglasses for Mark Harris to take overseas.



MEN'S TUESDAY COFFEE GROUP

**9:00 AM Sun Parlor,
Memorial Hall**

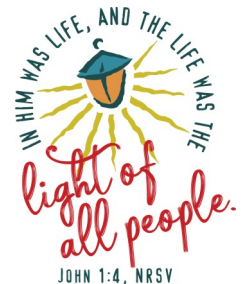
If you would like free coffee and free food, as well as great fellowship and lively conversation, why don't you come and join us? It's casual - we gather at 9 AM and finish up about 10 AM-ish....and you are welcome to come and go as needed. We would love to have you join us! Just show up on Tuesday morning!

Message from the Pastor (continued from page 1)

them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trust-worthy and true.'"

Peace and grace ... may the good and invasive news of Advent past, present, and future stir you to a transforming awareness of God's great love for you – and God's great plans for you!

-Pastor John White



Membership Corner

**“In Christ, we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5**



**Phil and Jill Johnson
David and Noah**

joined First Presbyterian Church
November 12, 2017
56 Ravenwood Dr.
Jackson, TN



Jeff and Marian Harbin

joined First Presbyterian Church
November 12, 2017
44 Greenpark Cove
Jackson, TN



Bob and Helen Redding

joined First Presbyterian Church
November 12, 2017
14 Northwood Ave.
Jackson, TN



**NO
January Issue!**

**Next Issue
will be February!**

(articles due 1/18/18)



Can't be at worship?

JOIN US by connecting online with our new
livestream service.

You can catch the service as it happens, or catch
up by viewing the services that are archived.

Go to our website: www.fpcjacksontn.org

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO BECOME PART
OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FAMILY,
PLEASE CONTACT
CEIL COWLES
OR JOHN WHITE
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
422-1591**

**FROM CONGREGATIONAL
CARE COMMITTEE:**



**Need a ride to church
or to church activities?**
Call Lyn Parliment
731-234-3538 or
Virginia Conger
731-427-2626



**Are you unable to attend
church and would like home
communion?** Call the church office 422-1591, and
you will be contacted when communion is observed,
and a convenient time will be scheduled.



Can You Give a Lift to a Friend?

Occasionally, on Sunday mornings people
need a ride to church from different areas of
the city. If we have a need in your vicinity,
can we call on you? If you are available,
please call **Virginia Conger at 427-2626**.

Poinsettia Christmas Fund



Poinsettia Decoration Fund 2017



If you would like to donate to our sanctuary
Poinsettia Christmas Decoration Fund
in memory of or in honor of someone
this Christmas, your contribution can be sent
to the church office or dropped in the offering plate
any time before December 20th.
Names will appear in bulletin on Dec. 24th.

(Funds received in excess of our Poinsettia decorations
will be used to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary for Sunday worship.)

Please make your check payable to
"First Presbyterian Church"
and in the memo line indicate "Poinsettia Fund".
Fill out the form below to include with your check.

u u

I would like to make a donation
to the Poinsettia Christmas Decoration Fund.

(please print as you would have it appear)

☐ In Honor Of _____

☐ In Memory Of _____

By: _____

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

SIGN UP FOR SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING! Our date is Saturday, **December 9, 2017**, beginning at 10 AM. We have one hour increments available at Sam's, from 10 AM until 6 PM. **The signup sheet** is in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please contact Barbara Fowler at 668-7664, or bfowler@eplus.net.

MEALS ON WHEELS—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23! Sign up to volunteer to deliver meals on the **Saturday before Christmas Eve**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 AM for a light breakfast and then deliver Meals on Wheels. Also, you may contribute to the cost of the meals at \$6.00 per meal. Make your check payable to FPC, and put "Meals on Wheels" on the Memo line. **The signup sheet** can be found in the Fellowship Hall.

SPONSOR A FOSTER CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS! Each year we get a list of Foster children to distribute to the Sunday school classes and individuals who want to brighten the Christmas of a less fortunate child during the holidays. This year we have a list of **51 children!** If you would like to be a blessing to a child, or two, this Christmas, please contact Polly Pledger 660-6091, or Stephannie Williams 660-1297; or call the church office at 422-1591. **The deadline for gifts is December 13.** You purchase the gifts, deliver them unwrapped but labeled with their name, to the church by the deadline. Please help us make Christmas brighter again this year for the Foster children. Thank you!



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the collection plate in January 2018 cannot be deducted in 2017, even if it is back-dated to 2017.

ONE EXCEPTION: checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2017 are deductible for 2017 even if the church does not receive them until 2018. Please plan your contributions accordingly.



MITTEN, HAT & SCARF TREE Our Mitten, Hat & Scarf Tree is UP and Ready to be decorated!

Join the children of Rotation Sunday School as they sponsor the Mitten, Hat & Scarf Tree to benefit the children of ARM's HUB Club in the Hillcrest Community. Please bring new mittens, hats and scarves to benefit 35 children ages 5 to 14, and put them on the tree located in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!



Cornerstone Christmas Brunch! All Invited!

The Cornerstone group would like to invite everyone to a Christmas Brunch on **Thursday December 7 at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

There will be a delicious complimentary brunch hosted by our committee. Helen Redding will join us and provide Christmas music.



Please make a reservation on the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or by calling the church office at 422-1591, so we will know what kind of preparations to make.

This Brunch is not limited to the Cornerstone Group. We would love to have a good turnout for this special Christmas gathering. This is our Christmas gift to you so ***there will not be a charge.*** Just bring your Christmas spirit and a smile! ***What a great way to start the Christmas season!***



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

Birthday blessings to the following members who celebrate their special day this month!

12/02	Ray Tanner	12/17	Ava Marie Cox
12/03	Blair McElroy		Mo Pledger
	Graylynn Richardson		Vance Shoaf
12/04	Scherry Priddy	12/18	Lucy Taylor
12/05	Ken Keim		Don Thomson
12/06	John Anderson	12/19	James Taylor
	Gioia Carp	12/21	Steve Bowers
	Elizabeth Watts		Alexandra Harris
12/07	Jennifer Flanagan		Tamara Haynes
	Carl Vesper	12/22	Nancy McAfee
12/08	Julia Austin		Wade Thomson IV
	Alex Jones	12/23	Kathleen Ewen
12/08	Lauren Nolte	12/25	Perpetue Bariyanga
12/11	Nancy Oberg		Jezel Ross
12/13	Tammy Buchanan-Anderson	12/27	Robert Mathis
12/15	Sergio McCoy		Martha Stockard
	Tom Strawn	12/28	Ethan Powell
12/16	Jim McKissack	12/29	Emily Smith
		12/30	Anna Leigh Byrd
			Ayden Johnson
		12/31	Maddy McKissack



Happy Anniversary!

12/08	Lynn and Jimmy East
12/18	Jezel and John Ross
	Susannah and John White
12/21	Kay and Don Thomson
12/22	Kristen and Gordon White
12/23	Katy and Tim Justice
12/28	Sharon and James Hill
12/29	Adriana and Wade Thomson
12/30	Becky and Jim McKissack
	Sylvia and Ted Showalter



Please let the church office know your birthday and anniversary! If your December birthday or anniversary is not listed, we don't have it on record in the church office. We don't wish to miss anyone and would appreciate you calling the office (422-1591).

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER PROGRAM

Each week we randomly select individuals or families for whom we encourage everyone to pray. During the coming weeks, please pray for:

Dec 3— Albert Alexander; Bryan, Laura, Lily and Anna Leigh Byrd; Margaret Falls

Dec 10— Julia Austin; Donald Carp and Gioia; Bob and Carol Green

Dec 17— Jim and Mona Campbell; John and Penny Kendall; Stacey McAdams, Hayes Puffer and Darcy Puffer

Dec 24— Tiffany Campbell; Robert Elam, Jr.; Jerry and Martha Kizer

Dec 31— Jeb, Caroline, Mary Catherine, Jake and Patrick Campbell; Susie Sadler; John, Jazel, Je'Delle and Jo'Hannah Ross

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: *The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Robert and Susan Reeves upon the death of Robert's sister, Benita M. Bryant on October 30, 2017; to Jan, Julie and John David Jones and family upon the death of Dr. James C. Jones on November 2, 2017; to friends and family of Andy Baird, who died November 11, 2017; to Lori Howell and family upon the recent death of her grandmother; and to Terry McRoberts and family upon the recent death of his brother-in-law.*



ASSISTED & EXTENDED CARE

Jackson Meadows

Sylvia Henson, #307

Jackson Oaks

Betty Stewart, #M8

John Singleton, #B25

Regency Retirement Village

Martha Stockard, #129A

Elmcroft

Charles Huffman, #107

Northbrooke Nursing Home

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Lynn Townsend
John Singleton
Brian Fowler (cancer)
Benny Houston
Rhonda Johnson
Dr. Daniel Musselman & family
Phillip Pickens (cancer)
Carlene March
Jan Jones and family
Tom Williams
Brian Cox
Ray Tanner
Doris Rhodes (cancer)
Margaret Hewitt
Margaret Falls and family
Rui and Ezra Stevenson and family
Billy Futrell
Eddie & Aura Johnson & family
Bill Dellastatious (recovery)
John Meriwether
Bobby Benson
Jim Marple
Rick Havner and wife Judi
Bill Cole (Susan Anderson's brother)
Chase Mobley
Allison East
Emily Evans (cancer)
Margaret Suttle
Richard and Liz Swaim
Rodney Henry (improved slightly)
James Hargrove (Lori Howell's uncle)

Cancer patients on our hearts
Hurricane victims in Texas, Florida & Puerto Rico
St. John's Presbyterian Church, Houston
Mission Partners in Asia

PRAYER CONCERNS

Becky McKissack
Clairey Purinton
Susie Bunch
Tom Blackmon
Bill Sipes
Robert Mathis (skin cancer)
Tillie Gilliam & Carroll Moss
Brenda Welling (knee surgery)
Kathleen Huneycutt (surgery)

WATCH!
COMING SOON!
A NEW FPC WEBSITE!
Work is almost complete
after many weeks of
redesign, meetings,
and brainstorming!
THE NEW SITE IS
SCHEDULED TO
GO LIVE
THE FIRST WEEK
OF DECEMBER!

www.fpcjacksontn.org



Congratulations to
Will and Shelby East
upon the birth of their daughter

Anna Craig East

November 3, 2017

Congrats also to proud grandparents,
Lynn and Jimmy East,
& Great-grandparents, **Bill and Patty Lawrence.**

CHURCH OFFICES
CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Friday, DEC 22 (noon),
Monday, DEC 25,
& Tuesday DEC 26!



Playschool News

If a story begins, *"Once upon a time"*, it is an opportunity to teach our Playschool students that the story we are about to read is make believe, a fairy tale. It is a developmental milestone when a child comes to understand how to use their imagination and incorporate make believe into their world.

You may hear us use phrases like "critical thinking skills" and "creative problem-solving abilities" when explaining our curriculum. What we are really talking about is... imagination. The way to foster the imagination is to provide children with opportunities to develop it for themselves when they are very young. These opportunities are found in one place and one place only... play. Playing with paints, playing with play dough, with costumes, with glue and with crayons. Making a mess. Splashing in a puddle. Wondering at a caterpillar you notice inching by you. Pretending to be a bird, gliding through the sky.

If children are spending hours sitting at a computer, watching television or playing video games, they are passive participants absorbing someone else's stories instead of having the time and space to dream up their own. If they are enrolled in soccer, ballet, T-ball, karate and gymnastics all in the same week, they are receiving wonderful opportunities to develop their skills. But they have little to no opportunity to use their creativity and imagination to decide how to use their free time, what fantasy to explore or what part of their world they'd like to discover more about at their own pace, in their own way.

If Playschool is really going to keep our promise to have each student ready for Kindergarten, then we must let children play! After all a some day a creative writing assignment will need imagination.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party ~ Saturday, December 9th

First Presbyterian Church
invites you to join
us as we celebrate
JESUS' BIRTHDAY!
Saturday, December 9th
9:00 am - 10:00 am

**BREAKFAST &
A SLEIGH RIDE**
Wear your pajamas,
go on a sleigh ride,
sing carols and more!

"For unto us a child is born." Isaiah 9:6

Please plan to bring an item
for the Mittens, Hats & Scarves Tree.

Rotation Sunday School



Rotation Story:	Week 1:	Week 2:	Week 3:	Week 4:	Week 5:	
Advent: Jesus through the Eyes of Isaiah!	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	
K-2 3-5	Video Video	Art Art	Cooking Games	Games Cooking	NO Sunday School	

Memory Verse:

Memory Verse:

"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

OUR CHILDREN LOVE IT! Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help teach our Advent Rotation, including Stephannie Williams, Tausha Alexander, Jessica Donnell, and Jezel Ross.

Mary and Martha's Kitchen (COOKING): Bake "name" cookies for self and Jesus.
Focus: Meaning of our names, meaning of Jesus' names.

And God Created (ART): Create illuminated manuscripts of names for Jesus to give to our "Special Friends at Home".
Focus: Meaning of names for Jesus.

The Synagogue School (BIBLE SKILLS, MUSIC AND GAMES): Review games and matching games.
Focus: Recognizing the names of Jesus.

First Century Cinema (VIDEO): The children will watch "The Promise – The Birth of the Messiah".
Focus: Learn about the role of the prophet in God's plan.



The Children's Corner



Grow, Proclaim, Serve!
Growing our Faith by Leaps and Bounds!



Ms. Laura Ms. Ellen Ms. Libby

Children Are A Gift From God!



ADVENT ANGEL GIFT BOXES: Our Advent Angel Gift Boxes will be delivered on Saturday, December 16, so our **deadline to have the boxes at church is December 15**. Be filling your box and then bring it to the church by the deadline. We've had a great response! Thank you!

PARENTS!

Mark Your Calendars for
Upcoming Events!

- ◆ **December 3**—Cookies/Hot Chocolate at the church and Christmas Caroling at Brookdale Jackson Oaks
- ◆ **December 9**—Happy Birthday Jesus Party, wear your PJ's. Practice with choir for one Cantata song; final rehearsal for our Christmas program, and then a Pizza Party!!
- ◆ **December 10**—Christmas Cantata LaunchPad Kids and Blast! Kids will sing one song with choir.
- ◆ **December 13**—Children's Christmas Program
- ◆ **No Sunday School December 24th or December 31st!**



Getting ready to sing in the Cantata!



Making Manna!



If you have any questions feel free to contact:
Laura Byrd laurah.byrd@yahoo.com,
Ellen McClune emmcclune@gmail.com
OR Libby Smith fpclibby@eplus.net and
don't forget to follow us on **Facebook!**



Launchpad Kids have started practicing for the Christmas season. We are really excited!

We will be singing with the adult choir on Sunday, **December 10th**. We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:15 AM Sunday morning. The children will pick up choir robes Wednesday, Dec. 6th at our Wednesday night choir practice.

Launchpad will also sing with **Blast!** on Wednesday evening, **December 13th**. We have CD's of the songs available at our choir practices. We are wearing white shirts and dark pants or skirts in the program.

Look for us!

Sh-h-h-h-.....We will be disguised as sheep!!





Molly Richardson
Interim Youth Director



December 3

Christmas Caroling

December 9

Salvation Army Bell Ringing
at Sam's

December 10

Advent Cantata

December 17

Youth Christmas Party

December 24

NO Sunday School
5 & 11 PM Christmas Eve Services

December 31

NO Sunday School
NO Youth Connection
Happy New Year!

IMPORTANT: If anyone would like to volunteer to provide dinner for Youth Connection on Sunday nights, please email Molly fpcmolly@eplus.net !

What's Goin' On?!

December is a busy month!
Here's what you need to know!



December 3 *Caroling at Brookdale Jackson Oaks.*

Meet at church at 3:30. We will make cards, drink some hot chocolate, practice the songs and take the church van to Brookdale at 4:15 PM. The Blast children will be going with us also so it will be lots of fun. Mrs Libby would like for one or two of the youth to read the Christmas story in-between songs.
NO YOUTH CONNECTION

December 9 *Happy Birthday Jesus and Salvation Army Bell Ringing.*

Happy Birthday Jesus begins at 9:00 PM. Libby is asking for a Mary and Joseph, any takers? She would also like a couple of elves! From there we will leave in the church van and go ring the Salvation Army Bell at Sam's. We will then return to the church.

December 10 *The Christmas Cantata.* The youth will be singing with the choir. Please get to church by 9:15 AM on Sunday.

December 13 *Blast Christmas program;* No Wednesday Youth small group.

December 17 *Youth Christmas Party* @ 5:00 PM at the home of Ginny and Tom Brimm, 450 Roland. We will do a secret Santa (I will give you more information on that soon). Wesley will make BBQ. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Thank you in advance Tom and Ginny for opening your house once again!!

December 24 Christmas Eve services 5:00 and 11:00; NO Sunday School .

December 31 NO YOUTH CONNECTION. NO Sunday School.

See you in 2018!



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!

FINANCIAL UPDATE – October 2017

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2017 Pledges	\$460,195	\$ 502,954	\$ 439,470
Total Contributions	\$500,868	\$ 584,686	\$ 510,061
Total Income	\$604,491	\$ 692,136	\$ 628,031
Total Expenses	\$623,005	\$ 692,136	\$ 637,788
Net Income	(\$ 18,514)	\$ - - -	(\$ 9,757)

Pledges can now be paid using ACH bank drafts on a weekly or monthly basis. If you are interested, please contact Vicki Pope at 422-1591.

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Don Thomson (Finance Chair), at 668-1345, Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991, or Vicki Pope (Financial Secretary) at 422-1591.

Session Highlights

On November 12, 2017 at 5 PM at the stated meeting, the Session conducted its regular business and received committee reports.

The Session voted to:

- allow Director of Music Helen Redding to take a leave of absence without pay for the months of May and June of 2018 with substitute Ellen McClune to serve in this capacity with a pay of \$500 per month for the months of May and June of 2018;
- approve the description of the Benevolence committee to replace the current Benevolence committee description in the Manual of Procedure and Operation of First Presbyterian Church;
- hire JM Roofing to replace the roof over the Boiler/Tool room at a price not to exceed \$12,000 with funds coming from the Century Fund;
- elect Elder James Harris as Commissioner to the November Stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Mid South to replace Elder Virginia Conger;
- grant a Transfer of Membership of Jesse and Melinda Thomas to the Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida;
- move Jennifer Morgan, Nhan Nguyen, David McClune, Gay Walker, Sarah Greene, Chris Green, Emily Oliverius, Jon Taylor and Julee Lovelace to the inactive roll of the church at the request of each;
- remove Melissa Anderson, Pat Donald, Ken Swaim, Dave and Joyce Miller and Elizabeth and James Shaw from the rolls of the church at the request of each;
- receive the Christmas Joy Offering on the Sunday before Christmas, December 24.

All members of the Session encourage questions or comments at any time.

NEXT SESSION MEETING
December 10 @ 5:00 PM



SOUP KITCHEN WEEK ~ December 4 – 8

(Monday thru Friday)

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Our Soup Kitchen week begins **Monday, December 4** and we serve all that week through Friday. Volunteers are needed each of the days at different times. A sign up board is in the Fellowship Hall!

The spots still needed to be filled are:

Monday 10:30 (1 or 2 people); **Tuesday 8:30 AM** (1 person), **10:30** (1 person); **Wednesday 8:30 AM** (1 person); **Thursday 8:30 AM** (1 person), **10:30 AM** (1 person); **Friday 8:30 AM** (1 Person).

Thank you for your dedication and service to the Soup Kitchen!



JOIN US SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24

for

Morning Worship @ 9:30 AM

Christmas Fellowship
(provided by our Fellowship Committee)

*Fellowship with your
FPC Church family and friends!
Cookies, Hot Chocolate and Coffee
in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM immediately following worship
Nursery Provided*

Family Christmas Eve Service
@ 5:00 PM

Candlelight and Communion
Christmas Eve Service
@ 11:00 PM

*(There will be NO Sunday School
on Christmas Eve, December 24 or
New Year's Eve, December 31)*

CHRISTMAS ISN'T A SEASON.
IT'S A FEELING.



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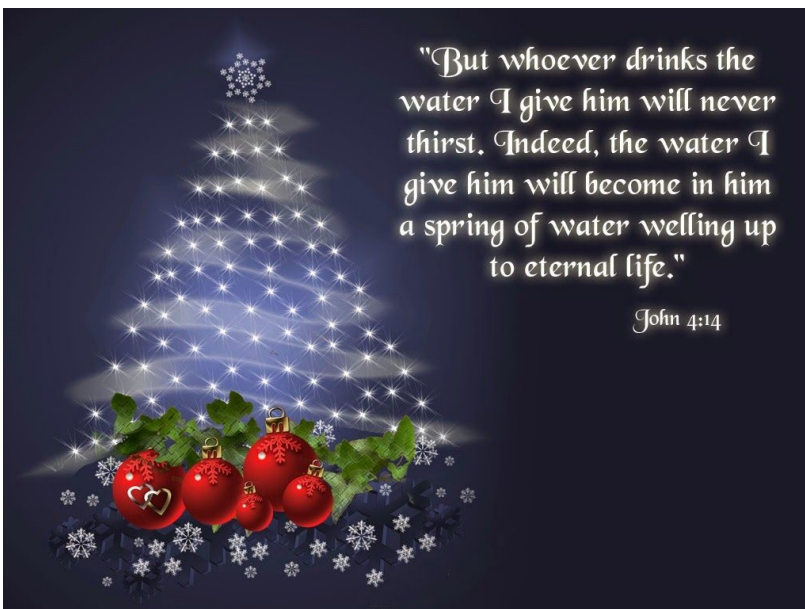
731.422.1591
www.fpcjacksontn.org

OUR MISSION:

First Presbyterian Church
seeks to provide opportunities
for people to encounter the life changing
presence of Christ through:
preaching, the study of scripture,
engagement in worship, faithful stewardship
and service to others
in the church and community.

*If you have an article for the newsletter, please
send it to Nelda Rhodes, Church Secretary at:
fpcnelda@eplus.net. Articles will be used as
space permits and may be edited for length.
**Deadline for submissions are the 18th of each
month.***

Have a Blessed Christmas & A Happy New Year!



*Wishing you
and your family
a blessed
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

*The Staff
at FPC*
