

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 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

(continued page 11)

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 3-7
- PW Cookie Swap, Dec 3
- Room in the Inn, Dec 4 & 23
- Tuesday Advent Services, Dec 4-11-18
- Advent Worship Service, Dec 5
- Christmas Brunch, Dec 6
- Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Dec 8
- Advent Cantata, Dec 9
- Caroling, Dec 9
- Session meeting, Dec 9
- Children's Christmas Program, Dec 12
- Playschool Programs, Dec 13 & 14
- Foster Kids Gifts Due, Dec 16
- Youth Christmas Party, Dec 16
- Poinsettia & Joy Gift Card Due, Dec 19
- Meals on Wheels, Dec 24
- Christmas Eve Services, 5 & 11 PM



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SESSION

<i>Class of 2018</i>	<i>Class of 2019</i>
Catherine Carls	Leigh Anne Bentley
Virginia Conger	Tammy Buchanan-Anderson
Mike Dunnivant	Bryan Byrd
Joey Howell	James Harris
Jody Pickens	Carol Sue Keathley
Molly Richardson	Justin Smith

Class of 2020

Benita Brown
David Greene
Russell Jones
Stacey McAdams
Kevin Pauley
Stephannie Williams

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.

Tuesday Advent Services @ Noon



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:

Carillon Concert each Tuesday at 11:45 AM

by Kathleen Huneycutt

Tuesday, December 4 at Noon

Advent Musical Selections by

Friends of Oldtime Music

Scripture and Reflections

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton

Retired United Methodist Minister

Tuesday, December 11 at Noon

Advent Musical Selections by

Madison First Class Ensemble

Scripture and Reflections

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Larry W. "Bud" Sizemore

Retired Presbyterian Minister

Tuesday, December 18 at Noon

Advent Musical Selections by

Dr. Terry McRoberts, Organist

Scripture and Reflections

Guest Speaker: Dr. Deborah Rogers

Lane College, Director of Lane Institute,

Assistant Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion



Lectionary Readings for December 2018

Dec 2 ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Dec 9 ~ Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Dec 16 ~ Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Dec 23 ~ Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Dec 30 ~ 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Wednesdays @ First



Join us Wednesday nights for fun, good food, and informative programming. Dinner is at 5:15 PM, with special programming at 6 PM. There are separate activities for the Youth and for our younger friends at **Launch Pad Kids** and **Blast!**, while the adults are involved in their activity. A nursery is also provided.

We are winding down for the year....to resume after the holidays in January! Mark calendars for January 9!

Dec 5— **MENU:** Blueberry Orange Salad, Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo, Roasted Carrots, Squash & Onions, Hawaiian Rolls, and Chocolate Cobbler for dessert.
PROGRAM: *Advent Worship Service*

Dec 12— **MENU:** Garden Medley Salad, Poppyseed Chicken Casserole, Buttered Corn, Green Beans, Baked Apples, Yeast Rolls, and Raspberry White Chocolate Bundt Cake for dessert.
PROGRAM: *Children's Christmas Program* (LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR 2018!)

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.



2019 Stewardship Update

Your Stewardship Committee brings this summary report of the 2019 Stewardship effort, to date, to you for your prayerful consideration.

First, sincere and heartfelt thanks to those members of our congregation who have cheerfully returned their pledge cards with generous giving commitments to support the 2019 ministry plans of our church.

Three goals for 2019 Stewardship were previously announced through a Minute for Mission and in the Sunday bulletin:

- A goal of 100% participation from the congregation in the 2019 Stewardship program
- For continuing pledgers to increase their level of giving year over year
- To reduce the need to supplement the 2019 operating budget with unplugged giving and interest income (begin to close the gap)

As of this week, here are the very encouraging results, in round numbers:

- 180 potential pledge units – 89 pledges to date - (112 pledges last year)
- Average pledge for 2019 - \$6,500 - (Average pledge last year \$5,500)
- 2018 challenge budget \$860,000 - 2018 pledges received \$617,000 (\$243,000 gap to fill with unplanned giving and interest income)

2019 challenge budget \$893,000 - 2019 pledge goal \$700,000 (\$193,000 gap to fill with unplanned giving and interest income)

2019 pledges received to date \$579,000

(Remaining pledged amount needed to meet \$700,000 goal for 2019 is \$121,000)

We can do this – and more! As a congregation, working together as a team, we can share even greater financial resources for our church programs, and for those in need in our community and world. God has richly blessed each of us and we should offer our thanks for the many ways our faith positively impacts our lives by generously giving back.

If the 23 outstanding pledges from last year still come in for next year, at the average pledge amount, we will receive an additional \$149,500 of giving to fulfill our commitments to a growing church.

If we also increase the total pledges for 2019, above the 112 from last year, we will exceed our goal by an even greater amount, all to be used to support the many ministries of our growing church.

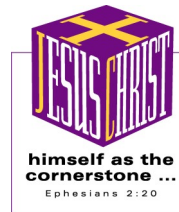
Every pledge, of any amount, is much appreciated. If you have pledged in the past and have not yet done so for 2019, we encourage you to make that commitment again. If you have not pledged in the past, please start with a 2019 pledge of any size to begin your journey of faithful giving. Together, as a congregation of faithful givers, we will help many in need.

The Stewardship Committee will make personal calls, beginning Monday, November 19, as a reminder to those whom pledges have not been received from by Sunday, November 18. We thank you in advance for your pledge commitment.

Blessings,

Stewardship Committee – Mike Dunnivant, Carrie Jones, Robert Reeves

Cornerstone News!



NEXT EVENT...

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
December 6, 2018
@ 11 AM

On **Thursday December 6** the Cornerstone Group will

host a Christmas brunch in memorial hall at 11:00 am. Please join is for a festive and delicious event. **Reservations are required** either in church office or sign up sheet. Questions? Call Nora Alexander 424-2480.

On Thursday, October 25 the Cornerstone Group went to Bolivar for a tour of several homes and a graveyard, the Polk cemetery. While we were there, we toured the Ingram home and another nearby home, the McNeal home. After those tours we drove to Backerman's grocery and Market. We hope to return for the Spring pilgrimage.





PW of First Presbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CT MEETING: *(if needed)*

CT meeting **December 3 @ 9:30 AM**

Cookie Swap: **December 3 @ 10:00 AM**

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle meetings— *(if meeting in Dec.)*

Monday, December 10, 2018

10:00 AM

Abigail—meets with TBA

Baara— meet with TBA

7:00 PM

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

Ornament Exchange

TO ALL LADIES!! To all ladies of the church who would like to participate in a Circle/Bible Study, please contact Katy Justice at 616-6026 or Kathy House 423-1065. *All are welcome!*

Service Opportunities:

Helping Hands: First Monday of each month @ 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall,

Threads of Love: Second Tuesday of each month @ 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

RIFA Soup Kitchen —(Desserts)

December 1—Baara

January 2—Deborah

Collect Eyeglasses for Mark Harris to take overseas.



PW HOMEMADE COOKIE SWAP! December 3, 2018 at 10:00 AM

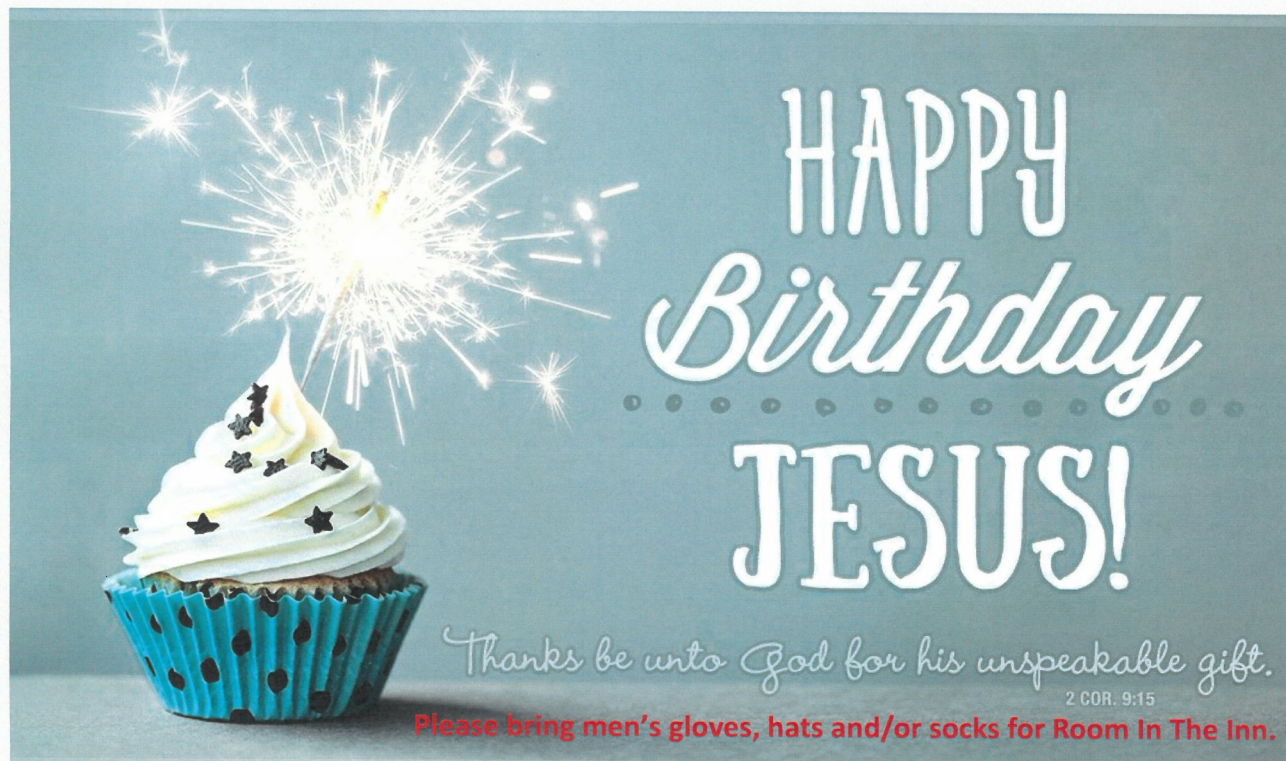
Please join us for our Homemade Christmas Cookie Swap—**December 3 at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for swapping cookies, filling tins for our Friends at Home, enjoying Fellowship with each other, and listening to the precious Preschool children sing at 10:30 AM.

Please bring 4 doz cookies to swap and share with our Friends at Home. Volunteers needed to help deliver the cookie tins!

**FPC invites you to celebrate
Jesus' Birthday with us!**

December 8th * 9:00 am —10:00 am

**Wear your pajamas, enjoy a
light breakfast, make crafts,
sing carols, and much more!!**



Membership Corner

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

Job Opening: Financial-Education Secretary

Organization: First Presbyterian Church of Jackson (TN)

Job Type: Full-time

Vicki Pope has announced that she will be retiring early next year (2019) and we are starting the process to fill her position. We very much appreciate Vicki's many years of excellent service to First Presbyterian Church and to our church family and wish her much happiness for the future!

Candidates from both within & outside the First Presbyterian Church population will be considered for this position.

The primary responsibilities for this position includes all financial record-keeping for the church; receiving, counting & depositing all pledges, memorials, gifts & Sunday receipts; performing administrative duties related to the Christian Education (CE) efforts of the Church; issuing quarterly & year-end contribution statements; preparing monthly & year-end financial reports for the Session; assisting various church committees: processing payroll & year-end W-2 forms; preparing mail outs & other communication materials for CE events and Church school classes; assisting with the Annual Audit process.

Additional duties include working part-time as Bookkeeper for the separate Church Playschool; administering the expense statement process for Church staff; paying all bills; assisting with the various mission programs of the Church including requests for assistance from the needy or homeless; answering phones and providing administrative assistance, as needed, for Church staff.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For qualifications, experience desired, compensation, benefits, and how to apply, please see posting on **Indeed.com** and the insert provided in your bulletin, newsletter, website, and church-wide email.



The Membership Committee would like to encourage you to invite people to join us for worship and fellowship anytime, but particularly for our special services and events. Maybe your guests will even become regulars and join our church family in worship and service.

Upcoming opportunities to invite people to are the Service of Healing and Wholeness, Tuesday Advent Services, and Christmas Eve services.



NO January Newsletter!

Next edition-February!

Advent Devotionals—Living the Gospel Life



Believe it or not, the Christmas season is upon us!

You know how exciting it is to tell everyone all about that special gift you receive each year?! No matter the year, we know without a doubt that there is no greater gift than the gift of our Savior. Why not share that gift with everyone and celebrate throughout the season of Advent?!

In the spirit of discipleship, this year we ask that everyone take a devotional for your family and an extra two to share with others. ***They are available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall.*** Share the devotional, tell a friend what it means to you, and spread the excitement the season brings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior!

ABOUT THE BOOKLET: After reviewing several, the Discipleship Committee chose this one!

LIVING The Gospel Life * The Season of Advent

Daily Devotions for Christians on a Mission

David Mead, Editor Mark Zimmermann & Carol Geisler, Assistant Editors

In the booklet, each day there is a Devotion, Scripture and a Challenge.

MISSION STATEMENT: To inspire, challenge and equip Christians in a missional approach toward a faith in action: a faith seeking to express itself in the home, the neighborhood, the workplace, the school, the community and the congregation.

Choir Music News! Cantata—December 9!



The Work of Christmas

An Advent Cantata

presented by

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

December 9, 2018

9:30 A.M.

*1573 N. Highland
Jackson, TN*

*Helen Redding, Director
Terry McRoberts, Organist*



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 23rd** 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 19th for inclusion on the Joy Gift Card in the bulletin Sunday December 23rd!

**CHURCH OFFICES
CLOSED
FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

**Beginning at Noon on
Christmas Eve (Monday)**

**Christmas Day
(Tuesday)**

**Day after Christmas
(Wednesday)**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SOUP KITCHEN DATES Monday thru Friday, December 3—7, 2018

Mark your calendars now for these dates!
A sign up board will be available in November in the Fellowship Hall.
This is always a popular Service event during the holiday season.

We will need volunteers each day for two shifts: 8:30 AM—10:30 AM (prep) and 10:30 AM—1:00 PM to serve. Grab a friend or two, and make plans to help!

SAVE THE DATE!

Playschool News



This time of year is about trying to help our Playschool students understand the idea of gratitude. Children are taught to say "thank you" because it is good manners, but to come to understand what it means to be grateful is a big step. Developmentally, preschoolers are still more self-centered than selfless, so it is a sign they are growing up when a child can begin to understand gratitude. We try to guide them to understand that we are grateful for the blessings we have and a blessing is something that makes you happy. Using this definition the children almost universally recognize mom and dad as a blessing and know they are grateful for mommy and daddy. In time, each child begins to understand there are many things they have to be grateful for: siblings, toys, pets, the warm sun - to name a few.

The Playschool teachers are blessed by our students and grateful for the opportunity to teach. We are grateful that our families share their wonderful children with us.

Thank you to our First Presbyterian Church family for being so supportive of Playschool. May this holiday season be filled with many blessings for all of you!

*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!



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

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

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

WHY DID THE CHOIR HAVE TO
CANCEL THEIR CAROL CONCERT?



THEY CAUGHT TINSELITIS.

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 2 ~ Drew & Allison Moore and Ayden Johnson; Mark & Susan Harris; Charles Huffman

Dec 9 ~ Brad, Stephanie & Jackie Isaacs; Ted & Sylvia Showalter; Ray & Kakky Tanner

Dec 16 ~ Ron & Sherry Taylor; Gordon, Kristen & Caroline White; Brian, Stephannie & Rayanna Williams

Dec 23 ~ Harbert & Nora Alexander; George & Paula Moschovas; Mike & Mary Jane McWherter

Dec 30 ~ Terry McRoberts; Jim & Evelyn Petterson; Vicki Pope

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: *The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Elizabeth Jerge & family upon the death of her brother, Jonathan Harlan, who died November 12, 2018.*

ASSISTED & EXTENDED CARE

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #233

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Jeannette Hendricks, #K112

Helen Johnson, #D65

Dolly Mathis, #C43

John Singleton, #F95

Betty Stewart, #M8

Judi Wilson, #E85

Regency Retirement Village

Martha Stockard, #129A

Elmcroft

Charles Huffman, #107

Northbrooke Nursing Home

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Bells Nursing and Rehab

Sue Carruth, #219

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince (Carol Whitnall's mother)

Alexandria Place

Sylvia Henson, B1

PRAYER CONCERNS

Izzie Green, and baby Iris & family

Janet Dollar

Carole Stewart

Barbara Bond

Laura Jackson & family

John Singleton

Mo Pledger

Dolly Mathis

Evelyn Taylor

William Ide (surgery)

Jennifer Deberry, has a sick child

Lisa Samarrippas (thyroid cancer)

Anne Garrard

Alex Harris

Joyce Jones

Bill Duke

Harbert & Nora Alexander

Bobbie Jones

Betsy Babb

Martha Hanserd

James Harris

Linda Taylor and family

Eloise Phillips

Will and Elizabeth Johnson, and baby Elin

Eleanor Cahill

Carl Vesper

Florence Bridges

Dot Holt

Bert Bankston

Susan Allison

Bobby Benson

Jessica Fails Young

Hannah Smith

Rich Hellinger

Mike Taylor (ongoing radiation)

Emily Evans—cancer

Mason West—head injury

Felicia Cobb—John Ross' sister

Jean Wilson (James Harris' grandmother)

Clairey Purinton

John and Susannah White

Tom Blackmon

Bill Sipes

Gina Fortner (Bill Sipes' sister)

Paula Mathews

Paula Smith (Gabi Cox's mother)

Lt. Cmdr. Clay Bridges

Brian Fowler (cancer)

Phillip Pickens (cancer)

John Meriwether

Jim Marple

Chase Mobley

Richard and Liz Swaim

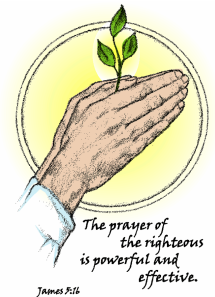
James Hargrove (Lori Howell's uncle)

Cancer patients on our hearts

Mission Partners in Asia

Mission Partners in Peru

Disaster victims: fire, flood, hurricanes



We are united in the Spirit when we pray for our brothers & sisters in Christ in our Presbytery and around the world. This month please pray for:

Grace Bartlett
Cistern Project/Clear Water for the World
Bethel Springs Presbyterian Church
PC(USA) and Presbyterian Mission Agency
The Presbytery of the Mid-South
New Hope Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN
Peace & Healing



Poinsettia Christmas Fund



Poinsettia Decoration Fund 2018



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 19th.
Names will appear in bulletin on Dec. 23rd.

(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: _____



Message from the Pastor (cont'd from page 1)

*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 trustworthy 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!



GLOVE, HAT AND SOCK TREE for the Homeless of RITI!

This year we are sponsoring our Glove, Hat
and Sock Tree during the Advent Season.
Please bring **new Adult Men size gloves, hats,
and/or socks** and place them on one of the
Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall. They
will be given to the men of Room in the Inn on
December 23. ***Please have your donations on
the tree by December 23rd***, as we are the only
church hosting the men that evening, and we
want to make sure we have plenty!
Thank you!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24! Meals On Wheels

Sign up to volunteer to deliver meals **Christ-
mas Eve**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall
at 9:00 AM 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 Christ-
mas of a less fortunate child during the
holidays. This year we have a list of **30 +
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 16!

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!

Rotation Sunday School—Advent



Rotation Story:	Week 1:	Week 2:	Week 3:	Week 4:	Week 5:
Advent: A Shepherd's Christmas	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23
K-2 3-5	Art Drama	Drama Art	Video Video	Cooking Games	Games Cooking

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:10-11

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

OUR CHILDREN LOVE IT! Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help teach our Advent rotation, including Vivian Pauley, Gabi Cox, Jessica Donnell, Jennifer Flanagan and Ginny Brimm.

Mary and Martha's Kitchen (COOKING): The children will bake breadstick shepherd's crooks and hear the Legend of the Candy Cane.

Focus: The children will learn how a candy cane can remind us of Jesus.

"And God Created" (ART): The children will make a candy cane heart craft for our special friends at home.

Focus: The children will learn that shepherds in the Christmas story were ordinary people that God chose for a special task.

The First Century Cinema (VIDEO): The children will watch the video "The Crippled Lamb".

Focus: The children will learn that even when we feel different, God still has us in his plans and loves each one of us.

MasterPeace Theatre (DRAMA): The children will perform a puppet drama about the shepherds.

Focus: The children will explore the perspective of the shepherds regarding the birth of Jesus.

The Synagogue School (GAMES): The children will play a game to reinforce the story.

Focus: The children will learn the sequence of the story.



The Children's Corner



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



Ms. Laura Ms. Ellen Ms. Libby

IMPORTANT DATES!

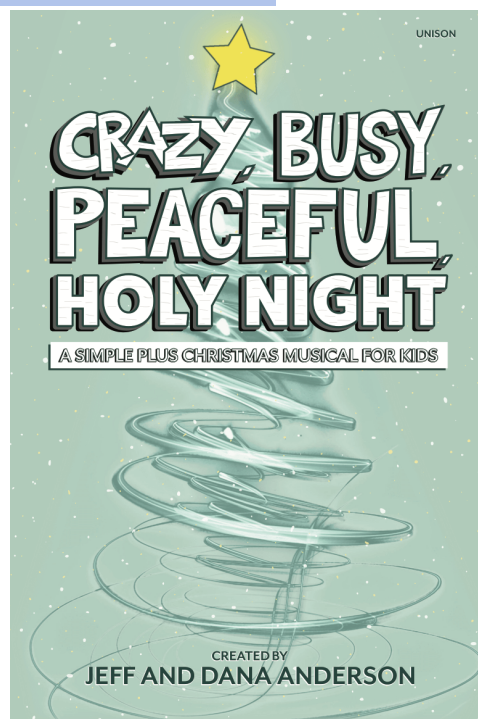
December 8 ~ Happy Birthday Jesus!
Children will rehearse their program immediately following the party.

December 9 ~ "Carols, Cards & Cookies" 2-4 PM
Brookside Assisted Living—More info to follow.

December 12 ~ BLAST Children's Christmas Program @ 6 PM

Don't Miss What's Coming Up!!

**Children Are
A Gift From God!**



BLAST! Children's Christmas Program

Come enjoy an evening of fun, music and an "oh so true" message as the children present "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night" on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will also sing one song from our program during Sunday morning worship on December 16. Join us and be blessed!



FABULOUS, FUN, PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

Our kiddos at
Parents' Night Out
and some of our
wonderful
"helpers"!





Youth News!

**** If you would like to provide dinner for a Youth Connection Sunday night please email Molly @ fpcmolly@eplus.net****



Molly Richardson
Interim Youth Director

Having fun at Youth Group!
Come Join Us!



**Important dates
to remember:**

December 5

Advent Worship Service

December 12

Children's Christmas Program

December 16

Youth Christmas Party

December 23

NO Youth Connection

January 13, 2019

Room in the Inn

February 10, 2019

Room in the Inn



**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!**



FINANCIAL UPDATE – October 2018

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2018 Pledges	\$512,739	\$ 513,726	\$ 460,195
Total Contributions	\$566,811	\$ 595,360	\$ 500,858
Total Income	\$675,844	\$ 714,640	\$ 604,488
Total Expenses	\$628,350	\$ 714,640	\$ 623,010
Net Income	\$ 47,494	\$ 0	(\$ 18,522)

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 Carol Sue Keathley (Finance Chair), at 431-1262, Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991, or Vicki Pope (Financial Secretary) at 422-1591.

Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Tennessee, met on Sunday, November 11, 2018, at 5:00 PM in Memorial Hall and conducted its normal business.

The Session:

- ♦ *approved the minutes from the Stated Session meeting of October 14, 2018;*
- ♦ *agreed that the church's insurance policy be placed with Elder Thompson, pending approval from the Property Committee;*
- ♦ *approved the special Christmas Joy Offering to be received the Sunday before Christmas, December 23, 2018.*

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

NEXT SESSION MEETING
December 9 @ 5 PM

WHEN MAKING PURCHASES FOR THE CHURCH:

Since FPC has a tax-exempt status, and we have a sales tax exemption number, all persons making purchases for the church should use the tax form and number when making purchases.

As part of our latest audit report, we are not to reimburse anyone for sales tax as part of a receipt/request for payment. You may get a Tax Exempt form upon request from Vicki Pope to use when buying items for the church, which should be provided to the retailer at point of sale.

The church will no longer reimburse for sales tax paid.



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 2019 cannot be deducted in 2018, even if it is back-dated to 2018.

ONE EXCEPTION: checks that are **mailed and postmarked** in 2018 are deductible for 2018 even if the church does not receive them until 2019. ***Please plan your contributions accordingly.***



**JOIN US MONDAY,
CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24**

for

**Meals on Wheels Delivery @ 9 AM
in the Fellowship Hall**

**Family Christmas Eve Service
@ 5:00 PM**

**Candlelight and Communion
Christmas Eve Service
@ 11:00 PM**



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!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
JACKSON, TN**

1573 N. Highland Ave.
Jackson, TN 38301-3454

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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!



Job Opening: Financial-Education Secretary
Organization: First Presbyterian Church of Jackson (TN)
Job Type: Full-time



Vicki Pope has announced that she will be retiring early next year (2019) and we are starting the process to fill her position. We very much appreciate Vicki's many years of excellent service to First Presbyterian Church and to our church family and wish her much happiness for the future!

Candidates from both within & outside the First Presbyterian Church population will be considered for this position.

The primary responsibilities for this position includes all financial record-keeping for the church; receiving, counting & depositing all pledges, memorials, gifts & Sunday receipts; performing administrative duties related to the Christian Education (CE) efforts of the Church; issuing quarterly & year-end contribution statements; preparing monthly & year-end financial reports for the Session; assisting various church committees; processing payroll & year-end W-2 forms; preparing mail outs & other communication materials for CE events and Church school classes; assisting with the Annual Audit process.

Additional duties include working part-time as Bookkeeper for the separate Church Playschool; administering the expense statement process for Church staff; paying all bills; assisting with the various mission programs of the Church including requests for assistance from the needy or homeless; answering phones and providing administrative assistance, as needed, for Church staff.

Qualifications/Experience

- High School Degree required, additional post-secondary accounting and book-keeping education preferred.
- Five or more years accounting and/or book-keeping experience.
- Strong computer skills & previous experience with financial, accounting & spreadsheet software & applications.
- Proven financial management skills with experience managing multiple budgets.
- Strong teamwork skills and a hospitable, customer-service orientation.
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills.
- Attention to detail & organizational skills
- Strong personal faith & compassion for others
- Meet state requirements to be bonded

Compensation: Commensurate with Position Requirements, Experience & Qualifications

Benefits: Comprehensive benefits plan including vacation & holidays; health-care & disability insurance; opportunity to purchase dental & life insurance; and opportunity to participate in retirement plan.

HOW TO APPLY: Email resume and cover letter as well as reference contact list to the attention of David Greene at the following email address:

fpcvicki@eplus.net

Thank You!

**David Greene
Elder & Chair of the Personnel Committee**