

The Pew'sletter



From the Pastor's Desk...

Between Memory and Hope



In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of maranatha [alternately translated "Come, our Lord!" or "Our Lord has come"] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of maranatha! and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace "the new thing" prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)

Sunday Morning Advent Series



We kicked off our study of The First Christmas on November 27 and will **continue to meet in the Apple room on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am through December 18.** You do not need the book nor do you need to have attended last week. Just show up ready to listen and discuss as we consider the rich images from the birth stories in Matthew and Luke and how they are relevant to us today.

The View From My Office



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The floors are finished and the sanctuary is being decorated and the organ tuned. **We will be back in this beautiful space this Sunday, December 4th.** A special thank you to all who have contributed to this project through financial assistance, labor and prayer.

Many of you received my letter in November, which gave details on the project scope and asked for donations to cover the full cost of the floor and organ work.

Many on this email distribution list, however, did not receive that mailing so I am posting it below in the hopes that some may want to participate and help us reach our goal. **Since the letter was written we have received approximately \$1,200 in dona-**

tions, which puts us only about \$2,375 away from fully funding the project without tapping into our reserves. Please consider a gift before year-end as we look toward 2017 in our beautiful "new" space.

November 21, 2016

Dear all,

I write to you from my office amidst a burst of activity and excitement. The choir loft is sealed and secured to protect the organ, carpet has been removed and the floor in half the sanctuary and all three vestibules has been sanded and coated. The work has now moved to the pulpit area and the floors under the skylight. Our original pine floor is in surprisingly good condition and after one more Sunday worshipping in the Fellowship Hall, we will be back in our transformed space to await and welcome the Christ child.

I continue to be encouraged and amazed by the generosity of this small but vibrant community of faith that is First Presbyterian Church. We began this project with over 70% of the cost prefunded as your session and staff, as well as several other members, contributed money beyond their regular giving to help make this dream a reality.

My hope is that several more of you will join us with a special gift so that the work can be completely funded without using any of our current church reserves. Here is where we stand:

8,825	Floor project (carpet removal, sanding, repair and staining)
<u>4,000</u>	Organ project (this is approximate and represents the greatest amount we may have to spend)
\$12,825	Total
(9,250)	Amount pledged by session, staff and church members prior to project
\$3,575	Additional amount needed to fully fund the project
	Any amount raised beyond what we have to spend will go toward fabric runners for the aisles and other incidentals associated with the project.

This project is not a luxury but a necessity. The carpet, which has served us so well, is now forty-one years old and is no longer viable to maintain; and its' deterioration due to age and heavy use has contributed to allergies and breathing issues for those susceptible. The good news, unlike some necessary maintenance projects, is this will result in a visibly tangible and beautiful improvement.

Will you help? Enclosed is a form to indicate the amount you pledge to give before year-end. Or just send or drop off a check indicating that it is for the Sanctuary Project Special Fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to First Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and Peace,



On December 11th we will be having Coffee Time after Sunday School and again after worship to honor the Advent Season and Lessons and Carols. This will be the only Sunday we will offer Coffee Time after Sunday School. Please join us for food and fellowship at either or both of these times.

Don't forget Pastor Danny's Advent Study entitled "The First Christmas" each Sunday at 9:30 am in the Apple Classroom through December 18th. It is not too late to join even if you are not yet attending.

For those children who were not here on Sunday, November 27th you may pick up an Advent calendar in the church office or see Christine Thomas.

I am so proud of the children who have started learning the words to the Doxology as part of their Sunday School curriculum.

Christine Thomas

MISSION: REACH. TEACH. FEED. LOVE.

The Soup Kitchen Needs YOU!

Please sign up to serve a meal to the homeless and hungry in our County. So that more may be able to serve, we have 6 SATURDAYS open along with 6 Sundays. You will notice we now serve on the SECOND Sunday or the THIRD Saturday.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends and co-workers to join you in service to our neighbors.

The 2017 Soup Kitchen Calendar will look like this:

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Jan 8	Feb 18
Mar 12	Apr 15
May 14	June 17
July 9	Aug 19
Sept 10	Oct 21
Nov 12	Dec 16

A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Mission Bulletin Board in the Government Street vestibule. If you have not participated in this Mission for a long time – or ever – there are many of us who would love to show you the ropes. A “day” in the Soup Kitchen generally starts at 9:30 or 10:30am and ends by 1pm. A crew of 6 is optimum, but 4 experienced workers can usually cover all the bases. More hands are always welcome.

Please add YOUR name to the sign-up sheet or contact Sandy Eldridge or call the Office to let us know when you would like to serve and if you need training.

Sandy Eldridge

The Session met in the Apple classroom on Tuesday, November 15th.

We discussed the following:

1. The December meeting is cancelled - we will call a meeting if needed.
2. The carpet removal and floor refinishing will start this weekend, and we will be out of the Sanctuary for 11/20 and 11/27. Approved an email to be sent by Rev. Danny asking for a special offering for the carpet removal.
3. Discussed the church finances & and the need to supplement the pledge income. We will ask the congregation for suggestions.
4. 2017 pledge request cards will be sent in December. Jan will print the 2016 giving statements so the congregation will know what their 2016 offering is through November.

If anyone wants more details on any of the items discussed, please let a Session member know, or contact Rev. Danny.

Jan Duncan

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The annual trip to Davidson Vespers will be on Sunday, December 4, 2016. Vespers is at 7:30 at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. For those interested, we meet at Brickhouse Restaurant for dinner at 5:30PM.

The annual Family Retreat in Montreat is February 10, 11, 12, 2017. The program is about Mission work in Ghana. There is a Facebook page about this mission work titled “To the ends of the earth: Ghana”.

Please mark your calendars for these events.

John O. Lafferty, Jr.

Ministry for the Church

DECEMBER 2016

Sat., December 3rd	10:00 am	SOUP KITCHEN	
Sun., December 4th	9:30 am	Sunday School—Advent Study: The First Christmas	
	10:00 am	Worship—COMMUNION	Sanctuary
	3:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
	5:30 pm	Vespers at Davidson Presbyterian Church	
Wed., December 7th	11:00 am	Women's Bible Study	Sue Bowen's home
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun., December 11th	9:30 am	Sunday School—Advent Study: The First Christmas	
	10:30 am	Service of Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
Wed., December 14th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun., December 18th	9:30 am	Sunday School—Advent Study: The First Christmas	
	10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Thur. December 22nd		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—OFFICE CLOSED	
Sat., December 24th	5:45 pm	Call Time- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-Communion	Sanctuary
Sun., December 25th		Ramseur Christmas Program	Sanctuary
Wed., December 28th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	



First Presbyterian Church
 114 West Main Street
 Lincolnton, NC 28092
 Phone 704-735-8671
 www.fpclincolnton.org

SCHEDULE
Church School: 9:30am
Worship: 10:30 am
Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

MISSION:

REACH.
TEACH. FEED.
LOVE.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Danny Trapp
 Pastor
 pastor@fpclincolnton.org
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 SANDYELDRIDGE25@GMAIL.COM

Girl Scouts meet at FPC.
 Contact Tina Cloer,
 704-732-8187

FPC's Calendar is updated on Google Calendar and the church website.

December Worship Teams

Team Leaders—Pam Sipe & Mary Smith
Soup Kitchen—Sandy Eldridge, Rev. Danny Trapp, Scott Smith & friends

December 4th

Greeters & Offering.....John & Pat Carpenter
Worship Leader.....Denny McCorkle
Nursery.....Pam Sipe
Children's Time.....Christine Thomas
Lock-up.....Adrienne Hodges
Coffee Time.....The Laffertys
Communion:
Preparers.....Pam Sipe
Servers.....Sandy Eldridge, Mary Smith & Pam Sipe

December 11th

Greeters & Offering.....Denny & Paula McCorkle
Worship Leader.....Jamie Hodges
Nursery.....Pat Carpenter
Children's Time.....Barbara Crumley
Lock-up.....John Lafferty
Coffee Time.....

December 18th

Greeters & Offering.....John & Peggy Lafferty
Worship Leader.....Zoe Cloer
Nursery.....The Cloers
Children's Time.....Rev. Danny Trapp
Lock-up.....Thad Cloer
Coffee Time.....

December 25th

Ramseur Christmas Program

If you cannot serve, please find your own replacement and notify the office of the change.



Elder on call for emergencies:

For emergencies call the Pastor's cell phone at 704-654-1319 and/or call the office at 704-735-8671 and the voice mail greeting will direct you to the elder on call.

2016 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET

This year FPC has been asked to provide boxes of MACARONI AND CHEESE for the food boxes and bags that will be distributed on December 22 by Christian Ministries.

They need at least 700 boxes of this meal. How many can WE provide?? Beginning with this Sunday's worship in the Fellowship Hall, let's start stacking our boxes up on the stage. Can we build a wall? A house? A giant Christmas tree?

Working with the Preschool let's see how big a structure we can make with our Mac 'N Cheese. We need to have it built by December 16 so that the warehouse can sort and pack for the 12/22 distribution.

If you wish, a financial contribution can be made at the Church office and we will use that money to buy boxes in bulk. \$14 will buy a case of 18 boxes at Sam's Club.