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# PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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**DECEMBER 2016**

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## ***CELEBRATING THE ADVENT SEASON***

Advent heralds the beginning of the Church year, a time for the celebration of Christ's coming. May this joyous season of Advent be a blessing to us all as we worship and join in the festive events and special services.

- |             |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| DECEMBER 4  | 4:30pm  | Greening of the Church   |
|             | 6:00pm  | Pancake Supper   |
|             | 7:00pm  | Hanging of the Greens  |
| DECEMBER 11 | 11:00am | JAM Singers – Christmas “Around the World” a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Speakers: Caroline Callihan, Brennan Hartman and Josh Ray. FMS Orchestra and Chorus will present Christmas music during the service. |



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|-------------|---------|---|
| DECEMBER 18 | 11:00am | Chancel Choir – Images of Adoration – Reflections of Christ in Symbols of the Season  |
| DECEMBER 24 | 5:00pm  | Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service.<br>We will recognize and baptize those youth joining the church after their Confirmation Class. We will also take a regular offering since this will be our last Worship Service of 2016. There will be no “official” worship service on Sunday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> . |
| DECEMBER 25 |         | No “Official” Church Worship Service. Sanctuary will be open at 11:00.  |



## ***CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING CHRISTMAS***

Missions' final special offering for 2016 is the Christmas Joy Offering which will be received during Worship, Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Offerings received are shared equally between the Assistance Programs and the Racial/Ethnic Schools and Colleges of the PC (USA).

The Assistance Program funds 3 special areas:

- 1) Sudden unexpected financial needs for eligible church workers.
- 2) Income and housing supplement to qualified retired church workers.
- 3) Vocational programs for pastors throughout the PC (USA).

Your support and gifts are greatly appreciated.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Budget	\$265,000
Monthly Needed	\$ 22,083
Nov. Offering	\$ 23,795
Received Y-T-D	\$239,411
Budget Y-T-D	\$242,913

## **DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS**

4	Bynum Satterwhite
11	Bynum Satterwhite
18	Sheri Satterwhite
24	Sheri Satterwhite

## **DECEMBER USHERS**

Greeter: Vicki Pippin  
Head Usher: Roger Moore  
Ushers: Lee Pippin, Robert Harris

## **JOY LIST**

4	Gretchen Allen
11	Whitney Curry
18	Becky Crosier
25	NO Service

## **PRAAYER CONCERNS**

Doris Britt  
Susan Copeland  
Sam Cundiff  
Jack Farrior  
Ann Flake  
London Godley  
Nancy Letchworth  
Caroline Long  
Ray Long  
Hinton Meyer

### **Safekeeping**

Shaw Flake  
Dale Johnson

### **Missionaries**

David & June Smith – SC



## **SOUP KITCHEN**

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Bennett  
Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rose Goforth

## **PRAAYER FAMILIES**

6	Jake Barrow 3623 N. Main St.
13	Betsy Batchelor 3444 E. Wilson St.
20	Ann Beckman PO Box 246
27	Jesse Beckman 3449 E. Wilson St.

## **DECEMBER CIRCLES**

Circle 1	Monday Dec. 5, 1:30pm Hostess: Rachel Bailey Moderator: Lea Cutler
Circle 3	Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:00pm Hostess: Vicki Pippin's Home Moderator: Shannon Hartman
Circle 4	Monday, Nov. 5, 7:00pm Hostess: Doris Britt Moderator: Joanie Landen

The Bible Study is on "Patience," the fourth Fruit of the Spirit.

## **ADVENT WREATH**



December 4 <sup>th</sup>	David Callihan Family
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jay Annis Family
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Newton Family
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Robert May Family

## **HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING**

The Hunger for Change Offering will be received Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> during worship. This special designated offering helps alleviate hunger world-wide.

## **MEALS ON WHEELS**

Our church is responsible for Meals on Wheels, delivering lunches the week of December 12-16.

## **DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE**

**"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."      Philippians 4:13**



## **SCRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service, December 24<sup>th</sup> by intinction.

Patrick Hartman is responsible for preparing the elements. Patrick, Barbara Owens and Lynda Moore will assist Rocky in serving the congregation.

Prepare your hearts to celebrate this sign of Christ's love and grace.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Total boxes collected from our Church were 97  
The total collection was 1,190. Thanks for your commitment to this project.

## **THANK YOU**

We have not been able to attend church lately due to some small health problems that we are working on.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and other kindnesses during this time. Susan Copeland

## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Session began with a Word-Share-Prayer based on I Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Prayers of joys and concerns were offered in small groups.
- Rocky reported that he and Charles Clemmer attended the Oct. Presbytery Meeting. The Presbytery has hired Vanessa Hawkins as the new Spiritual Growth and Nurture Associate. The 2017 proposed Presbytery Budget is \$1.4 million, a 2.3% increase. Triangle Pres. in Durham has begun the process of leaving the PCUSA and New Hope Presbytery.

- Four families will meet with some session members at Rocky's house on December 1 to join our church family. They are Phil and DeEtte Reel, Paul & Erin Grimes, Lori Moore and Cam & Lori Coburn. They will be recognized during worship on Sunday, December 4.
- The Session also approved the baptism of Christopher and Emma Grace Coburn for Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Hayride/Food Drive went very well. About 15 children enjoyed collecting the food and even enjoyed some cookies provided by the Pattersons along the way. Approximately 60 bags of food were collected and another \$520 was received in donations.
- The Mission Committee reminded everyone that the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection would be Sunday, Nov. 20. Subsequently 1109 shoeboxes were collected from the community, including 97 from FPC.
- Rocky and David Callihan will meet with Andy James in December regarding technological improvements for our church. Andy is the Presbytery Associate for Small Churches & Technology.
- The Administration Committee reported that Consecration Sunday went well and Barbara/Clark are still collecting Estimate of Giving cards. When the Administration Committee gets the final expected revenue for 2017, they will use the requests from the Session Committees and bring a Proposed 2017 Budget to the Session for approval.
- Everyone was reminded that the Confirmands will be recognized/baptized during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. There will be no "official" worship service on Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The meeting closed at 8:40pm with prayer for various people within our church and community.

## ***SECOND COMING HOPE***

In Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming and anticipate his future coming as well. Too often we quickly skip over Christ's second coming because of the unknowns surrounding it or because of some interpretations of the end times that make us uncomfortable. However, the Scriptures are clear that our source of "Hope" is Christ, his coming into our world and his promised return in power to make all things right.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and Christ's return to earth, I want to give you three basic understandings of the Second Coming. Many Scriptures dealing with the end times are cryptic and open to various interpretations. They are written to churches undergoing suffering. So there is a message of encouragement for them and their present circumstances as well as a message of hope for the future. Three central passages are Matthew 24:36-44 (Sunday's lectionary text), Rev. 20:1-10 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Before we look at the three basic interpretations of the Second Coming, let us remember the beliefs that most Christians share: Christ will return, Christ will "rapture" take with him those living and dead, Christ will permanently establish his good forever and judge/banish evil and sin. Most also acknowledge that no one knows the day or hour of Christ's return. (Mt. 24:36)

These three basic understandings of Christ's return are named after the millennium (1000 years or an era) of Christ's reign found in Rev. 20.

### Pre-Mill (pre-millennialism)

- Believes the Rev. 20 millennium is a literal 1000 yr. reign of Christ and that Christ raptures/takes/saves the church before this reign.
- Eschatological Order
  - Rapture (Christ taking living & dead Christians) before the 7 yr. Tribulation, chaotic times culminating in the rise of the anti-Christ.
  - After the Tribulation, Christ returns to reign with the church over earthly nations for 1000 years (millennium.) This reign will be from the Holy City, the New Jerusalem.
  - Christ will then defeat a freed Satan, followed by the final White Throne Judgment of Satan and humans (Lamb's Book of Life, etc.)
  - This interpretation tends to understand these difficult passages in literal and specific ways, sometimes ignoring the historical meaning of these passages and their writers. Its adherents are also more likely to interpret present day events in light of the biblical prophecies and see Christ's return as imminent. The "Left Behind" series would generally reflect this view.

### Post-Mill (post-millennialism)

- Believes that the millennium is an era, not literally 1000 years.
- Christ's reign over the earth will be through the gradual increase of the Gospel and its power to change lives. After a gradual Christianization of most of the world, Christ will

return and immediately usher the church (living and dead) into heaven after judging Satan and sin.

- It is post-mill because Christ returns after the millennium. It tends to be optimistic in its outlook, but some would say that it does not adequately address the chaos and the rise of evil seemingly offered through certain passages of Scripture.

#### A-Mill (now-millennialism)

- Believes the Kingdom of God was inaugurated at Christ's resurrection, where he gained victory over Satan and death.
- It shares the already/not yet view that the New Testament writers and Jesus seem to have about the reign and Kingdom of God in our world and lives. In one sense it is already here in Christ and his death and resurrection. In another sense it will only be ultimately fulfilled when Christ returns in power.
- Christ is now seated at the right hand of God the Father and is reigning over his church and the world. However, after this present age has ended, Christ will return and immediately usher (rapture) all living and dead Christians into heaven after judging Satan and sin.
- Most Presbyterians unknowingly fall into this category of belief.

Whatever our view, let us not fear or ignore Christ's return. It is something we believe and regularly profess. In the Apostles' Creed we affirm, "he shall come to judge the quick (living) and the dead." At communion we remember Paul's words of institution, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he returns." (I Cor. 11:26)

So as we move through this season of Advent, let us remember that Christ has come and is coming again. Let this truth give us hope and encouragement. May we be ready for Christ's return even if it is tomorrow and may we find ways to share his good news with all those around us.

In the love and hopeful return of Christ,  
Rocky

P.S. Most biblical scholars believe that our soul goes to be with God when we die. Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with Jesus in paradise that day. (Luke 23:43) Paul also affirms that to absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (II Cor. 5:8) Then what is the resurrection that happens at Christ's return? The most common answer is that it is our glorified or resurrected body that is then reunited with our souls.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Al Bailey  
Lexie Annis
- 6 Ann Beckman
- 8 Liza Satterwhite
- 9 Mittie Pippin
- 15 JoJo Drake
- 18 David Callihan  
Barbara Owens
- 31 Jason Annis

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF**

Barbara  
**Barbara**

Rocky  
**Rocky**

Celia  
**Celia**

Miles  
**Miles**

Kathi  
**Kathi**

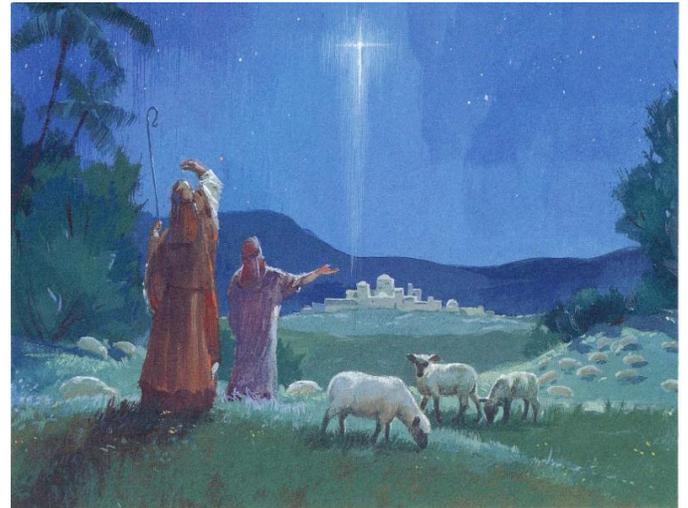
Antonio  
**Antonio**

Kristen  
**Kristen**

Tracy  
**Tracy**



For Unto Us A Child Is Born



In The Fields Watching Their Flocks  
By Night As The Star Appeared