

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015



Founded 1859

Dr. Neal Carter, Pastor

Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music

Mr. Sean McDonald, Organist

Rev. Lyndsey McCall, Director of Christian Education

Supported Missionaries

Tim and Marta Carriker

Christopher McReynolds

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

November 29, 2015

Eleven o'clock

God of mercy, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please print your name on the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew, and return it to its starting place.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium

Held

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Broadbelt family

One: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

(Light the first purple candle)

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4:

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

ADVENT RESPONSE HYMN 85 verse 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

PRAYER

One: Let us pray. Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us prepare our hearts

All: as we await the coming of our Lord,

One: Let us watch for the one who heard our cries

All: and shouldered the suffering of our world,

One: Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world

All: with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.

One: Let us wait in expectation for the day

All: when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-4)*
with bells

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**How many times, O Lord, have you come to us unwelcomed?
How often have you visited yet we have been too busy to
notice, spoken yet we have been too full of ourselves.
Change all our insensitive habits and help us to do better
during this Advent. Make us so sensitive to your immediate
comings in the ups and downs of each ordinary day that we
shall be well prepared to welcome your Final Coming as a
consummation of love and joy. For your love's sake. Amen!**

Silent Prayer

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 581 **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON for all children

Children please meet your teachers at the back of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16 OT 738

EPISTLE LESSON I Thessalonians 3:9-13 NT 204

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Shackley
Paul Anderson, clarinet

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21:25-36 NT 85

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Wake Up* Lyndsey McCall

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again

from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY

Coventry Carol/He is Born
Recorder Ensemble

arr. Austin

*DEDICATION HYMN 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of promise and hope, we take time this morning to share offerings of time, talent, and treasure. We present ourselves to you, knowing you are the source of all good gifts. Your word reminds us that we do not know the day or hour when our faithfulness will be examined, and so we pray that we might live each day and each moment striving for lives of love and compassion for the least, lowliest, and the lost, in a way that is pleasing to you. We pray this in the name of the Christ, whose coming calls us to preparation and repentance. Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 5-7)*
with bells

*BENEDICTION CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN 92 verse 1 *While We Are Waiting, Come* **While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

*POSTLUDE

**All who are able may stand*

Welcome to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May each of us know the presence of the risen Christ as we worship and feel the warmth and love of the community of Christ here today. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to join us in the worship and work of Jesus Christ through the ministries of this congregation. If you would like to speak with Neal Carter or receive information about the life of this faith community, please mark the Friendship Pad or call the church office 276-0831, ext. 302. If you would like to join, please let Neal know.

Please remember these in your prayers—Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Clarence Coughenour in his death, and to the family of Betsy Massey in the death of her father, Don Coffey.

Continuing Concerns: Helen Baker, Lynn Mabry, Clark Hanmer, Ervin Hill, Jacque Doubles, Vivian Carter, Lu Ohl, Sandra Hoffman, Mary Sprouse Goodwin, Margaret Caudill, Marge Coughenour, Lucile Bridgeman, Blossom Harris, Ray McCormick; In Scotia Skilled: Evelyn Crossley, Edna Drake, Frances Hopkins, Virginia Johnson, Mackey McCormick; Special: Anne Collins, Reba Essey, Frances Haupt, Edna McKeithen; Assisted: Betty Wayne Cooley, Ann Hill, Helen Middleton, Adell Page; At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan

Today we will collect the 2 cents a meal offering for world hunger for November.

Our Advent devotional booklets are available at the entrances.

This is a labor of love for many and we wish to thank those who contributed to this year's booklet. As always, you make this something special for our members and their families to read during this time of preparation and celebration of Jesus' birth. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with cherished memories.

MISSIONS—OUTREACH The Deacons ask for your help

1. **Canned vegetables** needed for Church Community Services. Baskets are located at the entrances for your contributions.

2. **Calling all LPC Bakers!** The St. Andrews Final Exam "Cookies and Milk" Stress Buster event will be hosted by LPC on Sunday evening, December 6. Please bring your cookies, or other goodies, to the church on Sunday morning, December 6, and leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Also, please include a note if they contain nuts or coconut. The LPC Deacons and St. Andrews students thank you!

3. **Christmas Cheer** - please pick a tag from the Christmas tree for a needy family. Purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the tag to the gift, and bring it to the church office by Sunday, December 13.

No Youth today Sunday, November 29.

Monday, November 29

5:30 pm PW Coordinating Team

Tuesday, December 1

5 pm CNE Committee

7 pm BEG Committee

Wednesday, December 2

9 am everyone is invited to come help decorate our sanctuary and church for Christmas.

Wednesday, December 2 6 pm Fellowship meal: Country style steak, rice, gravy, green beans, corn casserole, tossed salad, tea, dessert. Sign up today of the friendship pad. RSVP by 1 pm Wednesday.

6:30 pm Children's Choir/Chimes

6:30 pm Advent worship

7:15 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 4 at 8 pm UNCP Music Holiday Extravaganza in Givens Performing Arts Center on the UNCP campus. Tickets are \$10 at the GPAC box office (\$5 for students; children under 12 free). This concert benefits UNCP music student scholarships. It involves numerous ensembles from the UNCP music department (jazz, bands, choirs, chamber music, etc.) and will include your favorite Christmas tunes! For more info. call the UNCP Music office 910-521-6230.

Sunday, December 6 at 11 am The Chancel Choir will perform a collection of classic holiday anthems during worship accompanied by a string ensemble.

Sunday, December 6 Journey to the Manger 3-5 pm The CN&E Committee is excited about this new family-friendly event that will walk you through the Nativity story. Crafts, snacks, a short Christmas video, a LIVE donkey and costumes for your family's Christmas Nativity photo that would be perfect for your Christmas cards! Come experience the miracle of Christ's birth!

YOUTH your help is needed for Journey to the Manger - this will be much like a "Journey to the Cross" but it will be "A Journey to the Manger" held on December 6 from 3-5pm (just before Youth Group). Lyndsey's looking to get a few youth for the following roles. We need youth for the following roles: 3 Marys, 2 Angels. 2 Josephs, 3 Wise Men, 3 Shepherds

Would you please let me know if your son/daughter would be willing to participate? We have plenty of roles to fill! Thank you for your support! Please contact Lyndsey McCall if you can help at mccallyndsey@gmail.com or 919-656-2718

Wednesday, December 9: Don't miss "Away from a Manger" at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

During this Christmas play, characters of a church Christmas pageant are thrown into investigative turmoil as their "baby Jesus" nursery doll comes up missing after an untimely power outage. Accusations soar and secrets are revealed as the cast sets out to find the true "leading role" before the curtain opens! This is a fun and interactive play with a "choose your own ending" for the audience!

Sunday, December 13 during 11 am worship our Children's Christmas Pageant "The Gifts We Bring"

***SEEKING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS!**

Christmas Pageant rehearsals have commenced but, as we say at LPC, there's always room for one more! We will practice on December 2 at 6:30 pm in room 219, December 9 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, and December 13 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Kids who want to participate can join us anytime. Rehearsal CDs and song sheets are available on the table outside the church office. We could especially use a few older kids (3rd grade and up) willing to play speaking roles or read scripture passages. We would also love for some of our youth musicians to contribute to the service by playing a prelude or offertory. Parents, if you have a child or youth who would like to participate, please just show up for rehearsal on December 2 or email Jaime at jam6ah@gmail.com by December 7. (We will welcome your participation even if you don't email in advance, but it will help us to ensure sufficient costumes for everyone who needs one, and make sure we have all the parts covered, if you get in touch. Thanks!)

Wednesday, December 16: 4:15 pm Whitechapel, Joyful Ringers and Joyful Singers will participate in the Scotland County Memorial Library Holiday Party. We expect to perform at approximately 4:15 pm. Please join us and support our kids! Christmas Pageant Singers will also perform at the Scotland Memorial Library and Scotia Village on Wednesday, Dec. 16. We'll meet at the library at 4 pm, sing a few of our pageant songs, then

travel to Scotia to sing in the dining room as people enter for dinner.

Wednesday, December 16: At 6:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing-Along with a special performance by the Whitechapel & Joyful Ringers in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, December 17 You are invited to attend our Childcare Center Christmas Program at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

Tuesday, December 22

4 pm Communion and Carols at Scotia MMEC

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services

Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 pm and 11:00 pm

Our 5:30 and 11 pm services will be different. Typically the earlier service is more family/children oriented. Please come to either or both and invite a friend to join you.

Interested in going to Montreat? We are looking for 1 or 2 people to help prepare meals/drive the bus for our group of students attending the Montreat College Conference. Are you just looking for an opportunity to get away January 2-5th? Have you always wanted to go to Montreat?

Interested in attending the Montreat College Conference?

Do you know someone that might be? On January 2-5, 2016 we will gather members of our congregation and those in our community from different colleges to be united as one group to attend this powerful conference. This year Montreat has a dynamic leadership team including Nadia Bolz-Webber, a Lutheran pastor, founder of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, author, and self proclaimed "Cranky Pastor." We will leave on January 2nd at 9am from Laurinburg Presbyterian and return around 5pm on January 5th. The cost for the trip is \$100 per person. If you're interested but would need financial support,

please let us know. For more information on the event, go to: montreat.org/college. Hope you can join us - contact Lyndsey McCall mccallyndsey@gmail.com to register by December 26.

Help us stay connected! We need college students email address, mailing address and cell phone number. Please email them to laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com or call the church office.

Christmas Joy Offering - Promises Made. Promises Kept.

This Advent season, we reflect upon God's promise of salvation. Made to each of us, and kept with the birth of Jesus, this promise has changed countless lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering we make and keep two promises of our own: to church workers through assistance in their time of need and to racial ethnic education and leadership development. Each of these promises is kept, equally by the gift you give, and each has the power to change lives. The stories below - just two examples among thousands - attest to the power of the promises supported by the Christmas Joy Offering.

2016 Stewardship Update 11/24/15

2016 Pledge Budget	\$453,214
2016 Pledges Received	\$300,468
2016 Pledges Needed	\$152,746

2016 Pledges Received = 66% of Goal

If you have not turned in your 2016 pledge card, please mail it or drop it off in the church financial office as soon as possible.

Thank you,
The Stewardship/Membership Committee

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Thank you, The Stewardship/Membership Committee

The Session

Moderator: Neal Carter

Class of 2015

Jacque Britt
Beth Elliott
Craig Ellis
Allen McLaurin
Celeste McRae
Lynn Massey
Bill Purcell, II

Class of 2016

John Baker
Julian Butler
David Harling
Bill Hill
Fred Mabry
Lynn Mason
Maggie Ratcliffe

Class of 2017

Anne Caudill
Mike Coughenour
Debby Holcomb
Edna Ann Loftus
Richard Massey
Larry Schulz
Clint Willis

The Deaconate

Moderator: Amy Sloop

Class of 2015

Doug Harris
Pat Hix
Randy Miller
Amy Sloop
Kevin Patterson
Jamie Synan

Class of 2016

Denise Herr
Kim Liles
Richard Mabry
Kaye McMillan
Don Ohl
Jimmy Stubbs

Class of 2017

Kitson Broadbelt
Chris Carmichael
Stuart Carmichael
Bill Loftus
Chris Rhue
Ellen Thompson

Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Carol Sellers

Vice-Moderator: Virginia Ann McCormick

Secretary: Beverly Bowling

Treasurer: Delia Muse

Historian: Lucy Sojka

Staff — Office 910-276-0831

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Director of Music	José Rivera ext. 305; cell: 414-218-2822
Organist	Sean McDonald
Business Manager	LeGette McLean ext. 304
Office Manager	Lu Kimrey Ohl ext. 301
Child Care Director	Priscilla Graham ext. 306

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