

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016



Founded 1859

Dr. Duane Hix, Interim Pastor

Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music

Mr. Sean McDonald, Organist

Supported Missionary

Christopher McReynolds

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 11, 2016

Eleven o'clock

Prayer for Reflection:

God of Advent, God of Adventure: Ahead of us lies the season of waiting and expectation. Cleanse our hearts and prepare our minds to receive the Christ child. May this hour of worship lead us toward his manger, his footsteps, and his cross. 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.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP The Ceremony of the Advent Wreath

Members of The Middle School Youth Group:

Cooper Sutherland

Turner Bounds

Creed Sellers

Relighting the Candles of Hope and Peace

Lighting of the Third Candle - the Candle of Joy

Unison Prayer – **O God of joy, thank you for the excitement and**

delight that we experience this time of year. Help us share your joy with others, so they too may be filled with your Spirit. Amen

Advent Sung Response - #89, refrain (all), verse 3(choir), refrain (all)

Refrain – For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the future: we believe that you are coming in power to bring nations and empires under your rule. Yet we confess that we have not truly expected your kingdom. We live casual lives of misguided priorities, ignoring your promised judgment. We allow despair to grip us, forgetting your promise of victory.

Forgive us, God, for we have been living as if you were not the Lord of history. Grant us your mercy for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, whose arrival we eagerly await. Receive now please our personal prayers of confession...

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 *Gloria Patri*

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.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON for all children

Explorers (ages 3-6) go to Sunday school with teachers. Older students remain in the sanctuary for the cantata.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Isiah 35 : 1-10, OT pg 663

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL CANTATA: THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS, Suite One

Arr. Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Presentation of New Members

By Transfer of Membership

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Affirmation of the Covenant of Baptism

Profession of Faith – Questions to the New Members

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles Creed* (unison)

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. Amen.

A Prayer of Welcome

Unison Prayer: **Faithful God, you work in us and for us even when we do not know it. When our path has led us away from you, you guide us back to yourself. We thank you for calling these new members into the fellowship of your people. Renew in them the covenant made in their baptism. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen us all in faith and love, that they and we may serve you with joy, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

A Welcome to This Ministry

CHORAL CANTATA: THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS, Suite Three

Arr. Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY

*DEDICATION RESPONSE: The Doxology # 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 AND THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 97 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 88 O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel, v. 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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. To receive information about the life of this faith community, please mark the Friendship Pad.

Today we receive into the membership of our church these people:

Gay Bumgardner

Roland Stout

Phil Eshleman

Bob Dyer

Negie Babor

Mary Grace Waters

Please welcome them warmly to our congregation!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14

10:00 am Mission Study & Bible Study - Scotia Village

7:00 pm Finance & Administration

December 15

5:30pm Child Care Meeting

6:00 pm Child Care Christmas Program

December 18

Joy Offering will be received

Youth Groups - Caroling at Scotia Village

5:30 pm Dinner and Carol Singing

December 19

6:00 pm Meal - New Officers Meet With Session

7:00 pm Session Meeting

DECEMBER SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Ellen Dean, Chair, Emily Womble, Angela Purcell, Susan Wentz,
Kristen Dean, Sue Schulz, Sharlene McLaurin, Meredith Bounds

Kids & Youth (PreK-Grade 8)--join the Christmas pageant!

We will present our annual Christmas Pageant during Worship on Sunday, December 18. We'll meet in the Sanctuary on December 18 at 9:30 for our final run-through. For more information, call or email Jaime at 910-258-8459 or jam6ah@gmail.com.

NOTES AND THANKS

Congratulations to Richard and Betsy Massey. They welcomed their first grandchild Dec. 2, 2016. John Boyd MacDonald Hoke came into our world weighing 7lbs 14oz and measuring 21 inches. Proud parents are John and Patricia Massey Hoke.

Thanks to everyone that came out and helped decorate the Church. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

THANK YOU LPC BAKERS!! Once again you have given a wonderful gift to the students at St. Andrews. We had a big crowd for the final exam stress buster Milk and Cookies event – and “thank you so much” was heard over and over again as students filled their plates with goodies. Some plates and a covered container can be picked up in the kitchen. The Deacons are very grateful for your faithful support of this event.

TODAY - Dec. 11, 3:30 pm - Dr. Clark Hanmer is signing copies of his recently published book “My Cancer Demon” at Scotia Village.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Books are in the office for you to review as an alternative for this Christmas Giving Season. Thank you for your generosity. Bill Hill, Chairman

2017 Stewardship Update 12/8/16

2017 Pledge Budget \$412, 915

2017 Pledges Received \$347, 304

2017 Pledges Needed \$65, 611

2017 Pledges Received = 84% of Goal

If you have not turned in your 2017 pledge card, please mail it or drop it off in the church financial office as soon as possible. Thank you,
The Stewardship/Membership Committee

A NOTE FROM THE MISSION STUDY TEAM

Have you taken the Congregational Survey yet? You may do so online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/laurinburgpres> or you may pick up a paper copy in the lobby near the offices. Please return paper copies to the office. Online submissions will be processed automatically upon submission. Thank you! We would like surveys to be completed soon.

Presbyterian Women Hospitality

If your child is a college student please contact office with their name and address ASAP. Thanks Sis. Thomas , PW Hospitality Chair

Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers—

Continuing Concerns: Lucile Bridgeman, Clark Hanmer, Louise Wester, Sarah Bullock, Jake Caudill, Millie Peele, Flo Johnson, Sammy Simmons Jane McKay

In Scotia Skilled: Anne Collins, Evelyn Crossley, Edna Drake, Virginia Johnson, Mackey McCormick, Helen Middleton, Elizabeth McIntosh, Klare Van Dusen

Scotia Special Care: Frances Haupt, Ann Hill, Margaret Caudill

Scotia Assisted: Ervin Hill, Adell Page, John and Helen Baker, Marjorie Coughenour

At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan

STAFF — Office 910-276-0831 email: laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com

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Child Care Director	Priscilla Graham			ext. 306
Office Manager	Cathy Meekins			ext. 301
Assist. for Pastoral Visitation	Dr. Doug Hix		cell:	910-280-2517
Assist. for Christian Educ.	Dr. Jaime Martinez		cell:	910-258-8459

THE SESSION: Moderator Dr. Duane Hix (cell: 919-819-7198)

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

Class of 2018

Kristen Anderson
Scott Miller
Martha Olmstead
Robin Snead
Janet Smith
Nick Sojka
Susan Wentz

THE DEACONATE: Moderator: Denise Herr

Class of 2016

Denise Herr
Kim Liles
Richard Mabry
Kaye McMillan
Jimmy Stubbs

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

Barbara Bateman
Beverly Bowling
David Carmichael
John Decembrino
Dan Sprouse
Debra Sutherland

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Moderator: Virginia Ann McCormick

Vice-Moderator, Leslie Sellers

Delia Muse, Treasurer

Beverly Bowling, Secretary

Betsy Massey, Historian

Moderator of Search Committee,

Clara Butler

CHURCH LEADERSHIP BY COMMITTEE:

Edna Ann Loftus, Clerk of the Session

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Mike Coughenour, Chair Building, Equipment & Grounds

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