



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

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www.laurinburgpres.com
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January Edition

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December 29, 2016

SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR: EPIPHANY AND BEYOND

Dear Friends in Christ,

The changing of the calendar from December to January, from 2016 to 2017, marks a useful transition in most people's routines. Our tax year closes, our birthday list returns to the top, we resolve to eat fewer calories and burn more through exercise, and we acknowledge the effect time has on our aging bodies. The church also at the first of the year reassigns officers to new responsibilities, plans future events and turns in annual reports that summarize the year past.

Beyond all these practical matters, as a new year begins Christians are invited to reflect on a different pattern for marking the movement of time. The church asks us to set aside the idea that time is best measured by cycles of the moon or convenient allotment of days into near-equal months. Instead, we are asked to concentrate on the events in the life of Christ and the life of faith. We do not care as much about spring, summer, autumn and winter. We care about Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, and less familiar days like Epiphany, or Transfiguration Sunday. Thus, Christians have what we call a "liturgical" calendar, seasons that reflect dimensions of God's relationship to human life and the process of redemption. In other words, by following the liturgical calendar and highlighting its events in worship, we "sanctify" time, give its movement a holy direction, and connect our faith to the march of days.

Behind this liturgical calendar is the church's belief that nature's ebb and flow is not an adequate guide for the human journey, that it does not reveal the most important aspects of our God. So when the church through the centuries encountered a "pagan" holiday that was more oriented toward the earth, or nature's process, the church re-purposed that

holiday toward a more Christian interpretation. The most famous of these redirections is known to most of you – Christmas. We honestly don't know when exactly Jesus was born in Bethlehem. It could be in December, but it could be sometime else. But when Christianity became legal in the Roman Empire, the church encountered a Roman holiday on or around December 25. It was called, translated into English, "The Birth of the Invincible Sun", and it was timed to the beginning of longer days of sunlight after the winter solstice. Obviously, the early church felt that festival was too nature-bound, and it wanted to emphasize the birth of the Son, not the rebirth of the sun, so it redirected people's attention to a more important event.

On Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the Christian holiday of Epiphany with a service of worship. Epiphany is literally Jan 6, always 12 days after Christmas, but for practical purposes we thought not many of you would come out on a Friday night. I invite you to come to that Wednesday eve worship. We will talk more about the reasons for a Christian liturgical calendar and explain the ebb and flow of the Christian year that we believe is more important than the ebb and flow of nature. We will again light the candles that symbolize Christ, the light of the world. We will sing songs of Epiphany, including those reminding us of the magi, the wise men who arrived, as the story goes, at the manger of Jesus on that evening after a long journey. Come celebrate this festival of light and learn more about the way our year is to be centered on the Son of God rather than the seasons of nature.

Shalom,
Dr. Duane Hix

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WORSHIP SERVICE

January 1, 2017 1st Sunday after Christmas

Dr. Hix's Sermon: A Christmas Story—"The Pageant"

Isa. 63:7-9; Matt. 2:13-23 (Scripture used)

Isa. 63:7-9 ; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

124 Still, Still, Still

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

110 Love Has Come

January 8, 2017 Epiphany Service-Communion

Dr. Doug Hix' Sermon: " The Four Cups

(Scripture used) 1 Cor. 11: 23-26

Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 29; Acts 10: 34-43

Matt. 3:15-17

409 God is Here!

494 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

443 There Is A Redeemer

In lieu of flowers this Sunday a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Jane McKeithan Purcell by the family.

January 15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix's Sermon: "Called to Be an Apostle"

Isa. 49: 1-7; 1 Cor. 1-9 (Scripture used)

Isa. 49:1-7; Ps.40: 1-11; 1 Cor. 1-9

John 1:29-42

234 Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain

691 Lord, When I Came into this Life

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

In lieu of flowers this Sunday a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Mr. W.R. Dulin and Reverend and Mrs. D.H. Dulin by Mrs. Sibyle Dulin.

January 22, 2016 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix's Sermon: "The Tempter Came"

Matthew 4:1-11 (Scripture used)

Isa. 9:1-4; Ps. 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23

401 Gather Us In

816 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

625 How Great Thou Art (an LPC top-ten hymn)

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in memory of Cornelius Bushoven, Jr. by his family.

January 29, 2016 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix's Sermon: " The Beautitudes " Blessed Are...

Psa. 15; Matt. 5: 1-12 (Scripture used)

Micah 6:1-8; Ps. 15; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matt. 5:1-12

386 Come, Worship God

415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

Dr. Hix's messages Copies are available at the front entrance of Fellowship Hall for anyone that's interested.

Volunteer Schedule

Jan. Opening and Closing Church

Scott Sellers

BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:20

Jan.1 David Herr

Jan. 8 Jim Mason

Jan.15 Earl Bowling

Jan. 22 Bill Caudill

Jan. 29 Michael Sellers

JANUARY USHER TEAM # 4

Team Leader: Bradley Williams

John Clark, Mike Coughenour, Joel Hartwell

Barbara Bateman, David Herr, Wayne Hobbs

John Massey, Michael Sellers, Jamie Sutherland

Drew Williamson, Greg Wood

ACOLYTES

Jan. 1 Cooper Sutherland

Jan. 8 Communion

Jan. 15 Matthew Patterson

Jan. 22 Jack Herr

Jan. 29 Creed Sellers

NURSERY

Jan. 1 Volunteers

Jan. 8 Volunteers

Jan. 15 Volunteers

Jan. 22 Volunteers

Jan. 29 Volunteers

EXPLORERS (3 years-1st grade)

Jan. 1 Chris and Eddie Carmichael

Jan. 8 **No Sunday School**

Jan. 15 Mary and Wesley Quick

Jan. 22 Jaime Martinez & Sue Schulz

Jan. 29 kristen & Ryan Anderson

TREKKERS (2nd-5th grade)

Jan. 1 Denise and David Herr

Jan. 8 **No Sunday School**

Jan. 15 Jamie and Debra Sutherland

Jan. 22 Jaime Martinez & Sue Schulz

Jan. 29 Annette Morgan and Candy Nichols

GREETERS FELLOWSHIP DOORS

Jan. 1 John Baker

Jan. 8 Anne Caudill

Jan. 15 Mike Coughenour

Jan. 22 Debby Holcomb

Jan. 29 Edna Ann Loftus

GREETERS ELEVATOR DOORS

Jan. 1 John Decembrino

Jan. 8 Dan Sprouse

Jan. 15 Debra Sutherland

Jan. 22 Kitson Broadbelt

Jan. 29 Chris Carmichael
GREETERS SANCTUARY DOORS

JANUARY SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Edna Ann Loftus, chair, Mlriam Bounds, Sharon Brandon, Janice Liles, Annette Morgan, Dawn Salziein, and Janet Smith

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION
MEETING**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 AFTER WORSHIP

One of the requirements of any Presbyterian Church is to have at least one congregational meeting a year when certain legal and financial matters are spread before the congregation and we present a summary of our ministry over the last year. Please plan to stay a half-hour or so after worship on January 29 for that purpose. Printed annual reports will be distributed a week ahead of time, the 22nd (and online) so you may review the work of the church and ask any pertinent questions that your officers can answer. This deadline also means that all committees and ministries of the church should turn in their annual report in electronic form to Cathy Meekins, the office assistant, by the 15th so she has a week to put together the full report.

MISSION STUDY TEAM REPORT

Members of the Mission Study Team – Hewitt Fulton, Jacque Britt, Maggie Wells, Lynn Massey, Sam Fulton, John Olmstead, Lillian Boger, Bailey Sloop, Anne Miller, and Dr. Duane Hix – want to thank you for your participation in the Bible studies over the last few weeks. We also hope that you have completed the Congregational Inventory Survey either online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/laurinburgpres or with a printed copy, which is available on a table near the fellowship hall. The inventory comes down off the internet on January 6, so please complete it soon. Currently, our Interview team is talking to people in the community who have their pulse on emerging issues, and to the “man on the street” about how the public views our church. The BIG EVENT still to come is scheduled for Sunday, February 12. This is an all-church event; it will gather your ideas on how to respond to the issues that have been raised through all these studies, surveys, and interviews. Please plan to attend that afternoon event!

Deacons

We are continuing our Soles for Students mission

project for needy children in our area. Last year, we found that it's easier to purchase the specific size of shoes needed as these needs arise. If you wish to contribute to this mission fund, monetary contributions should be marked “soles for students.” **Don't forget the first Sunday of every month is the Deacon Food Drive for Church Community Services.** We're asking that each family member bring one can good.

2017 Stewardship Update 12/22/16

2017 Pledge Budget \$412, 915
2017 Pledges Received \$351,604
2017 Pledges Needed \$61,311
2017 Pledges Received = 85% of Goal

Presbyterian Women

Circle Meetings

Circle # 1

7:00 pm Host - Janice Liles
Martha Olmstead (Study Leader)

Circle # 2 & 3

4:30 pm Barbara Bateman Home
Hostess - Anne Sprouse & Barbara Bateman
Ramon Wright (Study Leader)

Circle # 4

3:45 pm Scotia Village
Henrietta Carmichael (Study Leader)

PW would to thank everyone who donated and helped with the items for the December Shower Pantry Project, which assisted the Child Care Workers and Cathy Meekins who were affected by Hurricane Matthew - Remember the January Blanket Project Virginia Ann McCormick , PW Moderator

REMINDER: The 2017 Lorena Clark Piner Scholarship forms are available outside the church office. Please pick up forms. This is provided by the Coastal Carolina Presbytery and is due February 13, 2017. Thanks.

Virginia Ann McCormick , PW Moderator

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.

Presbyterian Presence

I thought I would report to you about the December 10, 2016 meeting of the Western Community which was held at First Presbyterian Church in Sanford. Jim Morgan was the worship leader and the emphasis was on understanding the four areas of cooperation and resourcing among the churches. These areas are Christian Formation (CE), Youth, Shared Mission and Congregation Vitality. Don't you think these are important topics where we can work together? In addition the awards for the five \$1000 grants were announced. All were initiated by a congregation and several involve other churches in the community. These grants are: 1.) Camp Monroe - for supplies to improve their buildings 2.) Gospel in the Park, a community event 3.) Pastors' Wellness Retreat 4.) Harnett County Food Pantry. Quite a range of projects, isn't it? We'll follow their success and report back to you.
Meredith Hudson

Boy Scout Troop 420

Thanks to the following church members teaching merit badges in our troop program for December: John McRae - Aviation Merit Badge, Kevin Patterson - Personal Management Merit Badge and Bill Parker - Citizenship in the World Merit Badge. We just hosted four Webelos Scouts and their Dads for a camping weekend in November. They will become Boy Scouts in 2017 and got a taste of our camping program at McCoy Pond. Thanks to Richard Mabry for continuing to be our monkey bridge engineer. Richard came out on the last camping trip and led the construction of a great monkey bridge to cross a ravine. The troop is looking to borrow a log splitter to split some wood. If you have access to a log splitter, please contact David Harling.
David Harling, Troop Committee Chairman

Happy New Year from the Fellowship Committee

We thank all who participated in Fellowship events during the past year, and ask for your continuing support in 2017. We encourage all to participate by attending, setting up/serving/clean-up, and/or serving on our committee. Willing workers are always welcome. I am fairly new in Laurinburg and don't know most of you, otherwise I would be asking you personally for help. As you probably know, we can no longer afford to use the caterer for

Wednesday evening meals. We are now generally doing monthly versus weekly meals, and will solicit desserts from some participants. Many hands make light work, and God blesses us as we work. We would like to start 2017 off with a meat loaf dinner on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00. We will ask for folks to sign-up for this meal after the Holidays. Please consider joining or helping the Fellowship Committee. We will have a committee meeting at the church on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 5:30 PM. Please call me at (h) 361-4747 or (c) 910-571-2220 with questions, ideas or offers to help. Thank you, again.

Martha Olmstead, Chair, Fellowship Committee..

Chrismon Decorating Committee and anyone interested in helping to take down decorations, please meet Tuesday, January 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Thanks, Charlotte McLean, Chairman

MACS (Maturing Adult Christians) will meet for a movie, soup and sandwich lunch in January. Betty and Sis will be in touch after Christmas.

Let's Give A LPC Shout Out To The New Members of 2016



WELCOME
Gay Bumgardner



**WELCOME
Negie Babor**



**WELCOME
BOB DYER & PHIL ESHLEMAN**

Fellowship/Stewardship



**WELCOME
ROLAND STOUT**

**WELCOME
MARY GRACE WATERS**



LPC Picture and Address Directory Coming in 2017! Life Touch Photography will be at LPC on February 21-25, 2017 to take individual and family portraits! Each family or individual will receive a free "community connect" directory of our church, plus a portrait. Additional pictures will be available for purchase. We are also going to have a .pdf version of the directory available. Additional information will be made available concerning sign-up, photo sessions and appointments. In the meantime, mark your calendars for February 21-25, 2017! If anyone is interested in joining the committee please give Janet Smith a call.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Logan Newkirk	01/01
Katherine Collins	01/02
Louise Mabry	01/02
Jim McQueen	01/02
Tim Rumph	01/03
Parker Byrd	01/04
Bill Caudill	01/04
Frances Haupt	01/04
Betty Jackson	01/04
Sherrie Phillips	01/07
Carolyn Thompson	01/08
John Decembrino	01/09
Scott Poage	01/09
Jane Tornow	01/09
Marty Sutherland	01/10
Owen Bruner	01/12
Janet McQueen	01/12
Craig Ellis	01/13
Sherry Fox	01/13
Bill Parker	01/14
Sam Thompson	01/14
David Herr	01/15
Martha Olmstead	01/15
Mac McLaurin Jr	01/16
Hewitt Fulton Jr	01/17
Ann Hill	01/17
Michael Iannuzzi	01/18
Sammy Simmons	01/18
Carol Coughenour	01/19
Mildred + Scharstein	01/19
Susan Wentz	01/20
George Melton	01/22
Stephen Bridgeman	01/23
Mary Frances Fitch	01/23
Ervin Hill	01/24
Lynn Massey	01/24
Kenslee Hecht	01/25
Allen McLaurin	01/25
Will Purcell III	01/25
Charlotte McLean	01/26
Debra Sutherland	01/26
Sophia Freeman	01/28
John Olmstead	01/28
Flora Wells	01/28
Stone Phillips	01/30
Emma Herr	01/31
Betsy Massey	01/31

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE
ENJOY YOUR BLESSED DAY**

Music Notes

Rehearsals for all ensembles resume the week of January 8. New members are always welcome!
Chancel Choir (High School-Adult):

Wednesdays 7:15-8:15 pm, Sundays 10:30 am

Youth Handbells (Middle/High School):

Sundays 5-5:45 pm

Joyful Singers & Ringers (Grades 1-8):

Sundays

10-10:30 am

Joyful Noisemakers (PreK-Grade 1):

Wednesdays 6:30-7 pm

Sunday School Teachers' Breakfast

All teachers and alternate teachers for Explorers and Trekkers are invited to an appreciation breakfast and planning meeting on Sunday, January 22, 9:45-10:45 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided. Invitations will be sent via email—please RSVP!

Christian Ed Corner: Praying Out Loud

Psychologists will tell us that Americans' number one fear is public speaking. I suspect that fear gets even greater when you ask people to pray in public—which makes it a challenge for adults to teach kids to pray aloud. But there are a few tricks that can help kids AND adults, even introverts, to lead a group in prayer when asked.

THE BASICS, BUT WITH INTENT: If your kids or grandkids don't know The Lord's Prayer, now is a good time to teach them. The kid-friendly poem prayers ("Now I lay me down to sleep...", "God is great, God is good...", "Be present at our table, Lord..." etc.) are all useful, as well—young or shy prayer-leaders can always have something at the ready. When you pray these aloud as a family, go slowly. Emphasize the important words. If you used one of these prayers prior to a meal, spend some time during the meal talking about what the words they just said actually meant.

One good variation on this approach is to sing your prayers. The Doxology ("Praise God from whom all blessings flow...") is as much a part of our shared worship heritage as The Lord's Prayer, and equally important for kids to know. There are lots of other short, prayer-like songs in our hymnal. And just as with speaking, intent (not perfection) is the most important part of successful sung prayer.

THE PRAYER FORMULA: Once kids have mastered a few basics, it's time to teach them to compose their own prayers. Keep things simple by establishing

a few common elements that each prayer should have:

Address and Praise—direct your prayer to God, usually with some sort of honorific statement like “Gracious Heavenly Father,” “Merciful God,” “God of Peace,” etc.

Give Thanks—for your meal, for the beauty of nature, for the people you love, whatever. Most of us don’t have too much trouble thinking of something here.

Request Something—for yourself or for others. What in your life, in our community, or in our world seems to really need God’s attention right now? Or ask for help doing whatever work God has set before you.

Closing and Amen—the most common is something like “in your name we pray” or “in Jesus’ name we pray.”

This formula can work for prayers at just about any time: morning, bedtime, prior to a meal, during a church committee meeting, at the end of Sunday School class or youth group.... And it can be as simple or elaborate as you’d like. Brainstorm a couple of ideas for each category as a family—perhaps even post lists in a spot visible from your dining table—so that whoever leads the prayer each night can sneak a peak if momentarily stumped for ideas. If you are also reading scripture as a family or group, look for ways to incorporate snippets of that scripture into your statements of praise or thanksgiving.

Every prayer doesn’t have to match the formula, obviously. But it can be a good tool for those of us—probably the majority—who are a little intimidated by the idea of leading prayers for a group of our peers, or a starting point for helping the kids in your life learn to participate more fully in this aspect of our faith.

Church Leadership by Committee for 2016

Leadership for 2017 will be listed in the next newsletter

Edna Ann Loftus, Clerk Session (home: 910-277-0186; office: 910-277-5256; cell: 910-280-3057; email: eaol@sa.edu)

Anne Caudill, Chair Christian, Nurture & Education (home: 276-8116; cell: 910-318-1235; email: acaudill66@gmail.com)

Mike Coughenour, Chair Building, Equipment & Grounds (home: 276-5150; cell: 910-280-0286; email:

tmcoughenour@gmail.com)

Debby Holcomb, Chair Fellowship (cell: 910-280-2722; email: registerscotland@roadrunner.com)

Richard Massey, Chair Childcare (email:r.w.massey3@gmail.com)

Bill Hill, Chair Membership & Stewardship (home: 276-7871; cell: 910-610-3180; email: baphill6@roadrunner.com)

Larry Schulz, Chair Worship, Music & the Arts (home: 276-4826; cell: 910-280-5381; email: les@sa.edu)

Clint Willis, Chair Capital Campaign (home 276-2739; cell: 910-986-3352; email: bg.clint7@gmail.com)

David Harling, Chair Finance & Administration (cell: 910-280-0389; email: david@davidharling.com)

Bill Loftus, Chair Personnel (home: 277-0186; cell: 280-3061; email: wjl@sa.edu)

Virigina Ann McCormick, Moderator Presbyterian Women (home: 276-0230; cell: 280-0711; email: vmccormick1@roadrunner.com)

Denise Herr, Moderator The Deaconate (home: 277-0792; email: dherr@scotland.k12.nc.us)

Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers—

Continuing Concerns: Lucile Bridgeman, Clark Hammer, Sarah Bullock, Jake Caudill, Millie Peele, Flo Johnson, Louise Westers, Sammy Simmons

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

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

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

Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan

!!HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

On the Calendar

Sundays: 9:45 am SS Adults; 11 am Worship;
11:20 am Children's Church;

Jan. 3

5:30 pm Fellowship Committee - Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm BEG

Jan. 4

5:30 pm WMA

6:30 Epiphany Worship Service

Jan. 8

4:30 pm Deacons

Jan. 10

5:00 pm Membership/Stewardship

Jan. 11

7:00 pm Finance & Administration

Jan. 12

5:30 pm Child Care

Jan. 16

7:00 pm Session

Jan. 17

5:30 pm CNE

Jan. 18

5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner

Jan 22

9:45 Sunday School Teachers Breakfast

Jan. 30

5:30 pm PW Coordinating

REHEARSAL

Parents please keep in mind that we will be having rehearsal on Sundays.

Children's Choir 10-10:30 am

Youth Handbells: 5-5:45 pm

Youth Groups: 5:45-7:30 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are broadcast on WLNC 1300 Sunday at 11 am, on the internet (wlncradio.com), the previous week's service TV Channel 2 on Sundays at 10 am & Tuesdays at 8 pm. Sunday's (same day) service is shown at 2 pm Scotia's MMEC.

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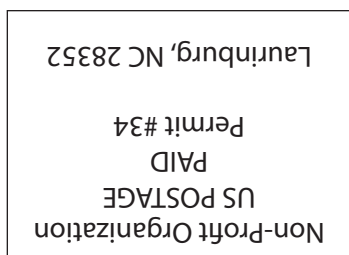
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