



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

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Our Vision Statement: The Word In Action

January 2018

THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHILDCARE CENTER

AN UPDATE

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the December session meeting, the elders addressed the future of the Presbyterian Childcare Center, which has been a ministry of the church for over 50 years in one form or another. The discussion was far ranging, from current financial figures to the deep conviction that Laurinburg Presbyterian has a mission to aid the children of our community.

The ultimate session decision is that we will continue to support the center during the foreseeable future, taking steps to correct financial shortfalls and increase enrollment while maintaining the intimate and caring environment for the infants, toddlers and preschoolers who attend. I want to share with you some of the details of that decision, aware that in doing so I must balance the risk of "airing dirty laundry in public" against the risk of letting rumors and gossip be the only source of information you may receive.

1. The childcare center is losing money. By the end of December, five out of the last six quarters will have operated in the red. Some of those losses were minor, and easily covered by reserves, but some were major. Staffing levels have remained even, but enrollment has steadily decreased. This trend has seriously jeopardized the center's bank balance and must be reversed.
2. The session expressed the belief that it is possible to build enrollment over the next months and return stability to the program. By trimming staff, enrolling in programs like N.C. Pre-K, enhancing the classrooms and buildings where the children gather, and increasing publicity in the community, the center can attract new families and reassure

parents of current enrollees. The session believes that the unique, loving personality of Presbyterian Childcare is worth maintaining.

3. To assist in this time of rebuilding, the session will temporarily erase the rent that the center pays for utilities and custodial care, and will provide money for the center's ongoing expenses. This is not an open-ended promise of funding. The church is not prepared at this point to continually subsidize the center, but wishes to give at least 9 months to turn things around. (These funds will come from income gained in 2017 on the generous bequest of the McKay sisters.)
4. The elders are aware that the childcare situation in Laurinburg has changed since 11 years ago when the church last loaned money to the center. More alternatives for preschool and nursery care now exist, there are fewer children of preschool age in our church and the community, and public schools and government programs now compete with private childcare. In the next 9 months we will assess how to meet these challenges.
5. The session believes our church can and should assist and encourage the children and youth of Laurinburg. Exactly how we can best do that is a matter of debate. We hope to involve our members personally in the resurgence of the childcare center as a significant means to that end. However, if after a generous time for renewal the childcare center is unable to reverse its fortunes, we will withdraw our financial support. Should that unpleasant outcome arise, the congregation and community can be assured of two things: we will provide staff and parents of our children adequate notice so they can smoothly transition to new arrange-

ments, and we will find an alternative project through which our church can support the children and youth of our community toward a bright future.

Let us unite around this decision to give our child-care center time to right the ship and prosper. Please share this information with confidence and hope, trusting that God will use us to care for the children of our community.

Shalom,
Dr. Duane Hix

WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 7, 2018 Baptism of the Lord

Dr. Hix's Sermon: Nations Shall Come to Your Light

(Scripture used) Isaiah 60: 1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

151 We Three Kings

314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

150 As With Gladness Men of Old

JANUARY 14, 2018 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix's Sermon: Christian Faith Amidst a Scientific World: A New Science, an Old Religion

(Scripture used) Psalm 29:1-4; Colossians 1:15-20

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18;

1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

22 God of the Sparrow

69 Here I Am, Lord

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 21, 2018 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix's Sermon: Christian Faith & Scientific World: God & the New Physics

(Scripture used) Genesis 1:1-5; Job 38:1-7

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 6: 25-12; 1 Cor. 7:29-31;

Mark 1:14-20

744 Arise, Your Light is Come!

24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

463 How Firm a Foundation

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 28, 2018 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Hix Sermon: Christian Faith & Scientific World: Apes, Angels, and Creationism

(Scripture used) Genesis 1:20-25; Genesis 1: 26-2:3
Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

30 O God, in a Mysterious Way

722 Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak

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

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

Volunteer Schedule

DECEMBER OPENING AND CLOSING CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:20

Jan. 7 David Herr

Jan. 14 Jim Mason

Jan. 21 Earl Bowling

Jan. 28 Bill Caudill

JANUARY USHER TEAM # 4

Bradley Williams, Lead, John Clark, Greg Wood, Mike Coughenour, Joel Hartwell, Barbara Bateman, David Herr, Wayne Hobbs, John Massey, Michael Sellers, Jamie Sutherland, Drew Williamson

ACOLYTES

Jan. 7 Communion

Jan. 14 Claire Carmichael

Jan. 21 Garrett Sellers

Jan. 28 Cooper Sutherland

NURSERY JANUARY 7- 28

Darlene Swing

COMBINED CHILDREN CHURCH (3 years - 5th grade)

Jan. 7 No Children's Church (Communion)

Jan. 14 Kristen & Ryan Anderson

Jan. 21 Sue Schulz & Debi Hobbs

Jan. 28 Carmichael Family

GREETERS FELLOWSHIP DOORS

Jan. 7 Deborah Hobbs

Jan. 14 Kevin Patterson

Jan. 21 Annette Morgan

Jan. 28 John Clark

GREETERS ELEVATOR DOORS

Jan. 7 Jacque Britt

Jan. 14 Lynn Davis

Jan. 21 Bob Dyer

Jan. 28 Kirsten Dean

GREETERS SANCTUARY DOOR

Jan. 7

Jan. 14

Jan. 21

Jan. 28

JANUARY SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

*Edna Ann Loftus Co-chair, Janice Liles, Annette Morgan, Miriam Bounds, Janet Smith

LAY LEADER SCHEDULE

Jan. 7 -Jan. 28, 2018

Please be sure if you cannot make a certain date that you find a replacement and be sure you let Cathy know of the change in time for the bulletin printing on late Thursday afternoon.

Jan. 7 Roland Stout

Jan. 14 Edna Ann Loftus

Jan. 21 Denise Herr

Jan. 28 Clint Willis

PRESBYTERIAN PRESENCE

As the December 19th deadline approached for the January Messenger, I found it difficult to think beyond Christmas. But the birth of Jesus doesn't mean the end of his story does it? I had settled on two stories from the Presbyterian Outlook to illustrate what two churches were doing to bring the good news to all people and had started writing.

Then WLNC came on with the worship from LPC - I was in with a painful ankle - and I heard the challenge Duane presented to our church. Such concrete ideas. (You can get a copy of this sermon at the office.) All would start much as these two examples did. The large White PC in Raleigh writes about being a "Purple Church" as they work to give voice to all people amid disagreements. The First PC of Seattle, once a congregation of over 8000 members were now lucky to have 30 in worship. Of course they had a huge building. They have partnered with a local agency who were looking for a space as they helped the homeless. Both these examples started with an idea - and as the article finished "let's be the church". Could we start with one of Duane's ideas which would fulfill our commission/mission to "be the church" - The Word in Action.

Meredith Hudson

LPC FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

A Fellowship meal is planned for January 17, 2018, at 6:00 PM with homemade vegetable soup provided by Julian Butler. Sandwiches, crackers, drinks and desserts will be provided. The program for the evening will be provided by Josie Harrill, new director at the Scotland County Concerned Citizens For The Homeless
Martha Olmstead
Fellowship Committee Chairman

Membership & Stewardship Committee

The Annual Stewardship Campaign is winding down and we are within 25% of the goal of \$405,772.00, as proposed by the Session!

If you are still considering your pledge, we ask that you join those who have made the commitment to Laurinburg Presbyterian Church's vision: The Word in Action" and the many programs and missions that entails. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church and request one. We will gladly mail it or bring it to you. You may return the completed pledge card to the church via mail or we will be happy to pick it up for you.

You may be concerned as our church is in transition during the search for our new permanent pastor. Please remember that our church family is active and the vision and mission of the church as Disciples of Christ remain steadfast. Your pledge to this budget will help us continue to carry out our vision of being a church that strives to be "The Word in Action."

Blessed Advent.

The Membership & Stewardship Committee,
Janet Smith Annette Morgan
Chair Vice Chair

Brown Bag Bible Study

Please join us at the weekly Brown Bag Bible Study to begin again on January 11, 2018 at 12:15 p.m. in the Session Room. We eat lunch, discuss our book and learn from each other for about an hour.

Last year, we read took turns leading discussion of John Ortberg's If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat, a lively and fun book which also challenged us to take risks in order to

grow in our faith. Beginning in January, we will read Philip Yancey's Vanishing Grace: Whatever Happened to the Good News? The back cover reads: "In a time of division and discord, grace seems in vanishing supply. Why? And what can we do about it?...This is a milestone book for all those who are striving to make sense of faith and live it out amid the changing landscape of our day." This book may be purchased from Amazon.

Bring your lunch and a drink and take a break with friends as we study this interesting book. Attendance isn't taken, so come when you can. We hope to see you on January 11 in the New Year! Janet Smith



Katherine Collins 01/02
 Louise Mabry 01/02
 Jim McQueen 01/02
 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

Music Notes

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the LPC Chancel Choir, Youth Handbell Ensemble, Joyful Singers, and Cherub Choir for all of your hard work during Advent and Christmas! Your musical offerings were among the highlights of the season.

Rehearsals for all groups resume the week of January 7: Sunday, January 7 at 5 pm for Handbells and Joyful Singers; Wednesday, January 10 at 6:20 pm for Cherub Choir and 7:15 pm for Chancel Choir. New members are always welcome!

Christian Ed Corner: Epiphanies

Growing up in a half-Puerto Rican household, Epiphany was a big deal. The Christmas decorations in our household stayed up until January 6, and that morning always brought us a few small gifts from "the Three Kings." Memorable standouts from my childhood include a new plastic snow saucer and a label maker. Calendars were also common gifts from the kings (and I'm pretty sure my mom waited until January 4 or 5 to buy them on sale).

I didn't really think much about the other meaning of the word "epiphany" until I was in college, when I attended a worship music workshop with composer Michael Burkhardt. The program took place in early January, so he talked about Epiphany, but urged us to think of other moments of epiphany throughout the Gospels, the moments when people realized exactly who Jesus was or the full depths of God's love. It didn't always come as a big moment, with a shining star and fantastic gifts. For Peter the epiphany emerged out of a simple conversation, when Jesus asked him "Who do you say that I am?," and he responded with the truth.

I had a little epiphany moment just this morning (December 18) when a picture from last year popped up on my Facebook feed. Nine kids in the children's choir, posing in the chancel in their nativity costumes. I looked at the picture and realized that of the nine, six have aged out or stopped coming. A lot has changed in one year, and lately I've been worrying a lot about the future.

But somehow we still had nine there yesterday, only three of whom were in the picture a year ago. And those nine young kids, who obviously aren't as musically sophisticated as the middle schoolers who have moved on from children's choir, come every week excited to participate. They get along with each other, try their best, and are clearly learning what we try to teach them based on their answers during the children's message. Working with them is still often the highlight of my week.

So I guess my epiphany is that we're doing pretty well. My hope for the new year is that we can find the light and joy in the small, imperfect things we do every day, rather than pining for a time when things were bigger or seemed like more of an event

Jaime Martinez



Music is therapy. Music moves people. It connects people in ways that no other medium can. It pulls heart strings. It acts as medicine.

Macklemore

**TENTATIVE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2018
LAURINBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

SESSION COMMITTEE

BEG-Chair	Richard Mabry
Vice Chair	Craig Ellis
New Deacon	John McRae Matt Purcell
CHILDCARE-Chair	Chair-David Herr
Vice Chair	Chris Rhue
New Deacon	Kathy Williamson
CNE-Chair	Deborah Hobbs
Vice Chair	Carol Sellers
New Deacon	Candy Nichols
FELLOWSHIP-Chair	Martha Olmstead
Vice Chair	Chris Carmichael
New Deacon	Sis Thomas
FINANCE/ADMIN-Chair	Kevin Patteson
Chair	David Breeden
Vice Chair	Jim Mason
New Deacon	Previous Deacon
MEMBER/STEWARD-Chair	Annette Morgan
Vice Chair	Angela Purcell
New Deacon	Laurene Stubbs
WORSHIP-Chair	Julian Butler
Vice Chair	Open
New Deacon	Jane McLaurin

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS

NOMINATING	Jim Mason
Vice Chair	Janet Smith
(Deacons Elect)	
CLERK OF SESSION	John Clark
PERSONNEL	Danny Caddell
(subcommittee of Finance/Admin)	

2018 Stewardship Update 12/28/17
2018 Pledge Budget-----\$405,772
2018 Pledges Received-----\$360,294
107 Pledges Received
2018 Pledges Needed-----\$45,478
2018 Pledges Received = 89% of Goal
Charles

Please join us in taking down the Christmas decorations on January 10 at 9:00 a.m. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!!!!!!
 Thanks
 Charlotte McLean

REMINDER OF USE OF FELLOWSHIP HALL AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

To all Committee Chairs, If you are planning to use the Fellowship Hall, please put it on the calendar and initial it. If you can't come by the church, call the office and let me know. I'll put it on the calendar for you and put your initial.

Also, please put on the calendar the dates that you will be having your monthly meeting and intital it. That way I can make sure it's correct before I print the bulletins or newsletter.

If you are no longer getting WEEKLY WE-MINDER or if you have a different Email and address please notify the church office ASAP.

Thanks
 Cathy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle Meetings will be held on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Circle 1: Home of Leslie Sellers @ 7pm - 12421 Gameland Dr.

Circle 2: 4pm: Lillian Boeger

Circle 4: Scotia Village 2nd floor; 3:45pm

BLANKET PROJECT will be collected this month, details to be announced at church in the coming weeks.

VALENTINES DAY is coming soon. Please send your college students name and address to Cathy so we can send them a big box of candy.

Thanks
 Leslie Sellers PW Moderator

ADULT FUN CLASS

Our first class of the New Year will be Sunday, January 7th. Mac Doubles will be teaching during the month of January. Here is a summary of his lessons entitled "From gods to God" This study will be a look at the Old Testament as the record of a people who moved from polytheism to monotheism and the New Testament as the record of monotheists who experienced the Incarnation and remained monotheists. We welcome everyone to this study.
 Thanks
 Lynn Massey

Church Leadership by Committee for 2018

John Clark, Clerk Session (home: 910-276-4988; cell: 910-280-0934; johnclark503@hotmail.com)

Deborah Hobbs, Chair Christian, Nurture & Education (home: 276-6336; cell: 910-277-6103; wand@bellsouth.net)

Richard Mabry, Chair Building, Equipment & Grounds (home: 276-1800; cell: 910-318-4720 rtmco@roadrunner.com)

Martha Olmstead, Chair Fellowship (home: 361-4747; cell: 571-2220; olmsteaj@erols.com)

David Herr, Chair Childcare Advisory (home: 910-277-0792; cell: 910-280-9415; herrdf@sa.edu)

Annette Morgan Chair Membership & Stewardship (home: 276-6162; cell:910- 280-4966; annette.morgan@uncp.edu)

Julian Butler, Chair Worship, Music & Arts (home: 910-276-4095; cell: 910-277-6337; jbutler45@hotmail.com)

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

Kevin Patterson/David Breeden, Chair Finance & Administration (Kevin home: 910-277-0204 Kevin cell: 910-318-1331; kplistserve@gmail.com) David Breeden (David home: 910-276-4624; cell: 910-280-6599; dbcpa@bellsouth.net)

Danny Caddell, Chair Personnel (home: 910-276-8488; cell: 910- 277-6498; danny@dannycaddell.com)

Leslie Sellers, Moderator Presbyterian Women (home: 910- 276-3921; cell: 910-280-8923; lrspt@roadrunner.com)

Bob Dyer, Moderator Deacons (home: 910-852-5072; cell: 309-798-8038; rddyer55@gmail.com)

Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers!!!

Continuing Concerns: Lucile Bridgeman, Jim Sutherland, John Gulledege

In Scotia Skilled: Evelyn Crossley, Virginia Johnson, Frances Haupt, Mackey McCormick, Ann Hill, Louise Wester, Sarah Bullock

Scotia Special Care: Margaret Caudill

Scotia Assisted: Ervin Hill, Adell Page, Louise Koonce, Marion McNair, Marjorie Coughenour, Flo Johnson, Millie Peele, Elizabeth McIntosh

At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan



Remember it's only what you do for Christ that's going to last.

Cathy

On the Calendar

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

January 2

7:00 pm BEG

January 3

5:30 pm WMA

January 7

4:30 pm Deacons

January 9

5:00 pm CNE

5:00 pm Membership/Stewardship

January 10

5:00 pm Fellowship

7:00 pm Finance/Administrative

January 11

5:30 pm Childcare

January 15

7:00 pm Session

January 17

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal

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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