



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

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Our Vision Statement: The Word In Action

December 2017

“BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING...”

Dear Friends in Christ,

The prophets of the Old Testament would often warn Israel that God would not overlook their suffering or their sin, and would bring justice and relief in the near future. Their pronouncements would often begin: “Behold, the days are coming....” That title is very appropriate for a newsletter announcing the events of a church in December, since we all are starting that season when our heads will spin with activity and we know we better get a good head start on things. So here are five events in the next month that I hope you will participate in and enjoy as heralds of the Christmas child.

- This Saturday, December 2, is the annual Advent workshop, for children (of all ages) from 10 -12:30. Crafty people gather at tables to make things like “stained glass” candle holders, ornaments for your trees, and whatever strikes the fancy of the table leaders. The church provides a pizza lunch, and you will be done in time to head to the downtown Christmas parade.
- Thursday evening, December 7, at 7 pm our sanctuary will ring with lovely sounds from the grand piano. Our own Jim Morgan will present a concert featuring his intuitive compositions that weave traditional and modern Christmas songs into delightful harmonies. Jim will present this concert at many places throughout eastern N.C. this season, and has developed a statewide following. If you like his CD called “Advent” you will truly enjoy this concert. Any proceeds from a freewill offering and from sales of CDs will benefit hurricane victims, including relatives of some of our members.
- The church choir is practicing long and hard as it prepares to perform a cantata on

Sunday, December 10 in worship. Music staff have collected many of the choir’s favorite Christmas anthems and ordered them into parts of the biblical story. Vocal solos, brass, flute, organ, and other instruments will make this day a wonderful Advent worship service. Be prepared for a grand finale at the postlude.

- Come join the youth groups for the annual carol sing on Sunday night the 17th at 6 pm. The Christian Education and Nurture committee is providing a soup supper with trimmings, and we will gather around the piano to sing all those Christmas songs you just can’t get enough of. On that evening, we will ask for donations to help the youth group finance their summer trip to Tabasco state in Mexico to do mission work and lead a Vacation Bible School.
- Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday, which complicates matters a bit. We invite you to attend the regular Sunday worship at 11, and then also to return at 5:30 for the traditional evening service. There will be no late night worship this year. The service of lessons and carols tells the Biblical story of Jesus from the creation and fall of humanity to the predictions of the prophets and on to the shepherds and angels who proclaimed his birth. The children will join in an impromptu Christmas pageant during the service, Rev. Hix will preach a brief homily, and we will participate in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

“Behold, the days are coming...!” While we are all rushing about trying to find the perfect present for every family member and friend, let us take these times to recall the gift God gave us on that starry night 2000 years ago. Please make church the place you yearn to be in December.

These events will bring you joy and be the perfect reminders of why this month has become so special in the homes and hearts of Christian people.

Shalom, Rev. Hix

Report from the Session on the Pastor

Search Process

At its November 19 meeting, the Session heard a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee on the status of the search for a new pastor. The moderator of the PNC, David Herr, explained the work that the committee has accomplished since its start in May and where it stands now. Thus far, they have converted the Mission Study into a Mission Information Form, received and reviewed resumes from prospective candidates, and conducted a few interviews. Although some of the prospective candidates initially looked attractive, at this point the PNC has not found a candidate they believe will be the best match for our congregation. They will continue to review incoming resumes and conduct more interviews until the person God has prepared for our congregation accepts the offer to guide our church. The session expressed its support for the PNC members, commended them on their work thus far, and encouraged them to continue their work of discernment and outreach. They are confident that they will find the right leader in the months ahead. In the meantime, Dr. Duane Hix was asked by the session to continue his service as interim pastor for the near future, and he agreed to do so. We ask all church members to pray for this important work of the PNC.

WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 3, 2017 1st Sunday of Advent

Dr. Hix's Sermon: Tearing Open the Heavens (Scripture used) Isaiah 64:1-8; Mark 13:24-37
Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
92 While We Are Waiting, Come

DECEMBER 10, 2017 2nd Sunday of Advent

(Scripture used) Isaiah 40:1-11
Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8
106 Prepare the Way, O Zion
144 In the Bleak Midwinter
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

DECEMBER 17, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dr. Hix's Sermon: The Year of the Lord's Favor (Scripture used) Psalm 126; Isaiah 6:1-4
Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; 1Thess. 5:16-24,
John 1:6-8, 19-28

105 People, Look East
97 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

DECEMBER 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve 11:00 A.M

Dr. Hix Sermon: How Can This Be? (Scripture used) Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38
Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
140 Once in Royal David's City
129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
110 Love Has Come

DECEMBER 24, 2017 Christmas Eve 5:30 P.M Service

Lessons and Carols, with brief impromptu pageant for all children and The Lord's Supper.

DECEMBER 31, 2017 1st Sunday after Christmas

Dr. Hix Sermon: Christmas Baptism - A Story for the Season (Scripture used) Luke 2: 22-35 and 36-40
Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
147 The First Nowell

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

DECEMBER 3 Boyd McLaurin
DECEMBER 10 Chip Wells
DECEMBER 17 Bradley Williams
DECEMBER 24 Jimmy Stubbs
DECEMBER 31 Richard Mabry

DECEMBER USHER TEAM # 3

*Hal Jernigan, lead, Gus Purcell Jr, Jackson Purcell, Bill Loftus, Allen McLaurin, John McLaurin, Penny McLaurin, Gus Purcell, Gray Sellers, Anne Sprouse, Jimmy Stubbs, Philip Wilkinson, Clint Willis, Charles Bounds, Phil Eshleman

ACOLYTES

DECEMBER 3 Matthew Patterson
DECEMBER 10 Creed Sellers
DECEMBER 17 Max Anderson
DECEMBER 24 No acolyte
DECEMBER 31 Poppy Bounds

NURSERY

DECEMBER 3-31 VOLUNTEERS COMBINED CHILDREN CHURCH (3 years - 5th grade)

DECEMBER 3
DECEMBER 10 Sutherland Family
DECEMBER 17 Pam Hill & Carolina Caddell (PreK-Grade 1)
DECEMBER 24 {Morning} No Children's Church
DECEMBER 24 {Evening} No Children's Church (Nursery available at 5:30 pm Service?)
DECEMBER 31 No Children's Church

GREETERS FELLOWSHIP DOORS

DECEMBER 3 Robin Snead
DECEMBER 10 Janet Smith
DECEMBER 17 Nick Sojka
DECEMBER 24 Richard Mabry
DECEMBER 31 David Herr

GREETERS ELEVATOR DOORS

DECEMBER 3 John Gullede
DECEMBER 10 Susan Wentz
DECEMBER 17 Bette Sellers
DECEMBER 24 Miriam Bounds
DECEMBER 31 Bill Loftus

GREETERS SANCTUARY DOOR

DECEMBER 3 Beth Elliot & Sis Thomas
DECEMBER 10 Bradley & Sarah Williams
DECEMBER 17 Sue Schulz & John Clark
DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (11:00 AM)
Jacque Britt & Family

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (5:30 PM)
Service of Lessons and Carols, with brief impromptu pageant for all children and The Lord's Supper.
Janet Smith & Annette Morgan

DECEMBER 31 TBA

DECEMBER SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

*Sis Thomas, chair, Emily Womble, Angela Purcell, Susan Wentz, Kirsten Dean, Sue Schulz, Sharlene McLaurin, Meredith Bounds

LAY LEADER SCHEDULE

Dec. 3 - DEC. 31, 2017

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.
Dec. 3 – Kristen Anderson
Dec. 10 – Denise Herr
Dec. 17 – John Clark
Dec. 24 (Xmas Eve day) – Annette Morgan
Dec. 31 – Janet Smith

Christmas Cheer! Once again this year the Board of Deacons is asking for your help to spread some Christmas Cheer among deserving families in our community – families who would otherwise have little to celebrate on this very special day. As before, LPC will adopt 10 families. In a few weeks, the Christmas Cheer Tree will be up in its usual place. Please be on the lookout for it, and consider helping LPC to put **The Word in Action** by sharing some of its abundance with those who have so little. Thank you!

Bill Loftus

PRESBYTERIAN PRESENCE

As many of you know, the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina does a lot of its work within its three Communities. We are in the Western Community with Laura Lupton as our mission coordinator. Some interesting news has been passed on. On Thursday, December 7 at the Raeford Presbyterian Church, the Western Community will meet and one item on the agenda is to hear from Jill Duffield, the editor of the "Presbyterian Outlook". Several weeks ago, a new congregation was chartered - First Hispanic Presbyterian Church which meets at the Galatia PC in Fayetteville. The last week of October Presbyterian PUSH took place. More than 100 people from 30 congregations worked on various projects involving the damage from Hurricane Matthew. That work continues and I can give you a contact if you want to participate in this continuing mission. There are youth events, two officer training opportunities as well as a confirmation retreat. Our presbytery is very active.

Meredith Hudson

Hurricane Relief Advent Concert

On Thursday evening, December 7th Jim Morgan will give a piano concert of his Advent music at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. His "Hymnagination" and "Advent" CD's will be available for sale after the concert. All the proceeds from CD sales as well as donations will go towards hurricane disaster relief.

Thanks, Jim Morgan

2017-2018 Advent Devotional Book

Sending joy and sweet blessings to you. For your thoughts of childlike wonder, grace and glory as together we share our love for the Christmas Story. In appreciation for your contribution to the 2017-2018 Advent Devotional Book, Thank you!!!

LPC Fellowship Committee

The luncheon on St. Andrews Sunday, November 5th, was well received by those in attendance. The donated covered dishes and purchased chicken were wonderful. A big thanks to everyone who worked so hard Saturday night for set-up and decorating, Sunday morning for accepting and organizing the covered dishes, and Sunday afternoon for clean-up.

A BIG thanks to Debbie and the others who made the Thanksgiving service and fellowship a success. As you prepare your home for Christmas, it is our prayer that you also prepare your heart for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Fellowship Committee Members are asked to attend the next meeting to be held at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 10th to plan for the Soup and Sandwich dinner on Wednesday, January 17th.
Martha Olmstead
Chair, Fellowship Committee

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 1 - time change to 6:30pm
Circle 2 - Will meet at Ramona Wright home at 4:00pm on December 11th. Covered dish

VALENTINES CANDY!!!

PW will be sending out candy boxes to ALL college students affiliated with our church. We need current addresses!! Please send them to Cathy in the church office by January 15th to ensure that your child gets their sweets!!
Leslie Sellers
PW Moderator

ST ANDREWS SUNDAY



Christian Ed Corner: Rules for Children in Church

With many visitors joining us during the holiday season, I thought it might be helpful to share these guidelines for kids in worship, provided by Cindy Beal of Justice & Peace Consulting.

1. If you find that you're sitting in front of a child and they can't see, lean to the side.
2. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.
3. If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take it from its parent and walk to the back of the church and rock it for a while. The parent really needs a break.
4. If teenagers near you are whispering, give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.
5. If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.
6. When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the passing of the peace, make sure to give them an extra fun high-five, and then high-five the next five adults that you see.
7. If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for "The Entertainer" to the pianist and roll with it.
8. When the children can't hear because an adult around them won't take off their puffy jacket and it keeps squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.
9. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult's eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will protect the adults who as we know have very short attention spans and are easily distracted.
10. When a child in front of you is very squirmy, and then they finally turn around and you realize suddenly, "Oh, it's Jesus!" take it in stride and play Got Your Nose till he turns around to the front again.

Merry Christmas, everyone! -Jaime

Music Notes: Chancel Choir Lessons & Anthems, December 10

The Chancel Choir is hard at work on a series of special anthems that we will share during worship on December 10. Most of these anthems include extra instrumental accompaniment (clarinet, flute, trumpet, etc.), so we will have quite the orchestra on hand that morning! We hope you will all join us for this music-filled worship service.

The Youth Handbells, Joyful Singers, and Cherub Choir will share several special musical offerings during the worship service on December 17.

Many thanks to our choir members for their help with the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 19!

Youth Mission Trip to Mexico, June 2018

Right after the school year ends, our High School youth and chaperones will travel to Villahermosa, Mexico, for a week-long mission trip. We are partnering with two churches, both of which are members of one of our sister presbyteries, to help out with their existing service and outreach projects. One portion of our group will spend their mornings building a second floor on the church's free clinic; the rest of us will help lead a local Vacation Bible School. In the afternoons, we'll do some sight-seeing, visiting a local archaeological park, kayaking in a nearby river, and relaxing on a gulf coast beach. Our partner churches will host us, handling all meals and ground travel as well as housing, which will help us keep the cost of the trip relatively inexpensive.

How can you help?

Pray for us, both before and during the trip!
Attend the two main fundraiser events: Christmas Carol Sing-Along and Congregational Dinner on December 17, and Variety Show and Dinner on February 25.

Provide additional food for the December 17 dinner. Talk to Jaime if you'd like to make and help serve a pot of soup.

Sponsor an individual student. In addition to purchasing passports, youth participants and chaperones will each need to contribute about \$900 toward airfare. This is not possible for all of our youth families, but we don't want people to skip the trip due to financial difficulties. If you can contribute all or a portion of an individual student's airfare, please talk to Jose or Bradley.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Mary Taylor Britt	12/03
John Alec Caudill	12/03
Greg Wood	12/03
David Carmichael	12/04
Catherine McLaurin	12/04
Knox Polk	12/04
Janet Smith	12/04
Virginia Ann McCormick	12/05
Sarah Beth McLaurin	12/07
Sam Poage	12/08
Amy Sloop	12/08
McBryde Willis	12/08
Shirley Pait	12/09
Anne Sprouse	12/09
Ann Hatcher	12/10
Elizabeth Braswell	12/12
Alex Bryant	12/12
Pat Ellis	12/12
Edna Ann Loftus	12/14
Allison Norton	12/15
Jim Willis	12/15
Daniel Carmichael	12/16
David Wilkins	12/16
Carolina Caddell	12/19
Munroe Buie	12/20
Beau Brandon	12/22
Millie Peele	12/24
Kelly McDonald	12/25
Eddie Carmichael	12/27
Maggie Liles	12/27
Bill Goodwin	12/29
Kitson Broadbelt	12/30
Lucas Urie	12/30

Ron Crossley is teaching a series of lessons on Frederick Buechner's book, *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Comedy, Tragedy and Fairy Tale*. He will lead our class on December 3, 10 and 17. We will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

On December 19, Bob Dyer and Phil Eshleman will host our Christmas party. More details will be sent to you in emails.

Thanks, Lynn Massey

The UNCP Department of Music presents the 9th Annual Holiday Extravaganza on Friday, December 1 at Givens Performing Arts Center. TubaChristmas starts at 7:30PM out in front of GPAC. The concert starts at 8PM inside (warm up with hot chocolate and cider in the lobby). A myriad of different ensembles will present your favorite Christmas melodies: Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Trumpet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, University Chorale, Pembroke Singers, UNCP Marching Band, UNCP Steel Drums (Global Rhythm Ensemble), and more!!

Thanks! Jose' Rivera

Announcing new Sanctuary Chair starting January, 2018 will be Kaye McMillan.

MACS will not meet in December.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS LUKE 2-1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be taxed,

every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND REMEMBER THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SEASON, HIS NAME IS JESUS!!!!

Church Leadership by Committee for 2017

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

Robin Snead, Chair Christian, Nurture & Education (home: 276-3990; cell: 910-610-5779; robin@snead@gmail.com)

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)

Kristen Anderson, Chair Childcare Advisory cell: 774-2501; kristen.anderson@uncp.edu)

Janet Smith, Chair Membership & Stewardship home: 276-7871; cell: 690-9643; janetcsmith1129@gmail.com)

Susan Wentz, Chair Worship, Music & Arts home: 276-0587; cell: 280-3414; susuwentz@gmail.com)

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

Nick Sojka, Chair Finance & Administration home: 277-7598 cell: 280-2050; nsojka@wilclamsondean.com)

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

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

Bill Loftus, Moderator Deacons home: 277-0186; cell: 280-3061; wjl@sa.edu)

Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers!!!

Continuing Concerns: Lucile Bridgeman, Jim Sutherland, John Gullledge, Marty Underwood

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

On the Calendar

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

December 2 - Advent Workshop 10-12:30 (lunch)

December 3 - 4:30 pm Deacons

December 5 - 7:00 pm BEG

December 6 - 5:30 pm WMA

December 7 7:00 pm Jim Morgan Piano Concert- LPC

December 10 - Choir Cantata In Worship

December 12 - 5:00 pm CNE

December 13 -7:00 pm Finance & Administration

December 14 - 5:00 pm Childcare

December 17 - 6:00 pm Carol and Soup Supper

December 18 - 7:00 pm Session (with dinner)

DECEMBER SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

*Sis Thomas, chair, Emily Womble, Angela Purcell, Susan Wentz, Kirsten Dean, Sue Schulz, Sharlene McLaurin, Meredith Bounds

DECEMBER USHER TEAM #3

*Hal Jernigan, lead, Gus Purcell Jr, Jackson Purcell, Bill Loftus, Allen McLaurin, John McLaurin, Penny McLaurin, Gus Purcell, Gray Sellers, Anne Sprouse, Jimmy Stubbs, Philip Wilkinson, Clint Willis, Charles Bounds, Phil Eshleman

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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