

January 2020



# The First Word

*A publication of First Presbyterian Church*

*. . .growing in Faith, . . .serving with Hope,  
. . .sharing God's Love*

## **A Word from Our Pastor**

Dear Friends at FPC,

One of our church members had three Christmas trees up in early November and plans to keep them up until Valentine's Day. I like that in that I take it as a protest of the way that the lights, joy and generosity of Christmas attempts to blow in and out of our lives as quickly as a winter blizzard.

In worship we have to keep the season short because it is hedged in by Advent and Epiphany. Wouldn't it be nice if every celebration of the church was evenly spread throughout the year and there was time to dwell on the richness of the themes of the church throughout the century? To continue December's festivities, music, movies, consumerism... throughout the year would be "The Nightmare After Christmas." But to carry on the Christ child's spirit of giving, expectation, and joy would enrich our world.

A pastor friend of mine (Dale Walker) recrafted this New Year /Christmas pledge and I pass it on to you as my prayer for our faith in 2020.

Yours through that Child,  
*Tempe'*

*Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:*

*To remember those people who truly need my gifts of love, of compassion, of friendship—as well as the gifts that I purchase and wrap*

*To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents*

*To rededicate myself to spiritual growth through prayer and bible study and the example of other people of faith, fully expecting to hear God speaking to me through these means*

*To examine my life and my behavior, not just at Christmas when Santa Claus is "making a list and checking it twice", but all year, in light of the true spirit of Christmas*

*To initiate within my circle of family, friends, church, or work one act of peacemaking*

*To live each day as a beloved child of God—for I am!*

## A Note from Anne Tauber

We raised \$6000 for CareNet!

I'm continually amazed at the benevolence in our church and community, as well as the willingness of musicians to give their time and talent. Thank you for supporting this mission of our church. There is so much work done behind the scenes, those people don't get the applause and praise we musicians get but the show would not go on without them. There are those who move more than 50 chairs into the sanctuary for the singers, and put them away after the concert. Others provide greenery and beautiful decorations for the tables. Some bake cookies and make punch. Posters and programs have to be artistically created. Then there's the clean up when everyone is tired and ready to go home. Sunday morning you see no evidence of the festivities from the day before. Thank you to each of you who worked to make this concert successful.

Soli Deo gloria, which is Latin for "Glory to God alone"

Anne

■ **A Partridge in a Pear Tree:** Jesus Christ, the son of God

■ **Two Turtle Doves:** The Old and the New Testament.

■ **Three French Hens:** The theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity

■ **Four Calling Birds:** The four Gospels

■ **Five Golden Rings:** The Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Old Testament, all of which dealt with man's fall from grace

■ **Six Geese A-laying:** The six days of creation

■ **Seven Swans A-swimming:** The seven Sacraments

■ **Eight Maids A-milking:** The eight Beatitudes

■ **Nine Ladies Dancing:** The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

■ **Ten Lords A-Leaping:** The Ten Commandments

■ **Eleven Pipers Piping:** The 11 faithful apostles (excluding Judas)

■ **Twelve Drummers Drumming:** The 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

## Christian Education Ministry

Melissa McClure

Pastor Browder will do a program for the first three weeks of our Sunday school class in January. His sessions will focus on three of the minor prophets. Anyone is welcome to attend. We will have our class downstairs in Tartan Hall.

We will continue our study of "Goliath Must Fall" by Louie Giglio on January 26th...

Our bible study class will continue 1 Samuel for several more weeks. We meet on Fridays at noon in M2. The class is led by Melissa McClure. Everyone takes turns reading chapters of the Bible and then we have discussion following. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will not be a class on January 3rd.

We are pursuing a short story program to take the place of our prior book club. We will meet once a month at the Crabtree General Store. Our first meeting will be on January 20th at 1:00 pm. Several people have previewed three books to determine which author we want to use for our first session. We have decided on a local author, Ron Rash, who is a professor at Western Carolina University. Tempe' Fussell has several copies of the short story book. They will be available in the office to pick up to read and then return them so others can get them to read. We will share our impressions of the first story, "Hard Times", on the 20th.

There is a book written by one of our church friends, Janie Guy Winter, available in the church office. One reviewer writes of her book: [World Peace: A Possible Dream](#):

As a whole, it inspires the readers with the feeling that changing the world is not impossible and that miracles of thinking can influence the whole of humanity leaving the reader with a viable vision of peaceful coexistence.

### January Sunday School

We will be studying three of the minor prophets, Amos, Micah and Jonah. For the first class please read 'The Prophecy of Amos'. These studies will be held in Tartan Hall, January 5th, 12th and 19th. Dr. Browder will lead the study.

## Annual Meeting

There will be our Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Congregational Meeting following worship on February 2nd. The Corporation is required to have an annual meeting, yet there is no business for 2020. The Congregational Meeting will present our 2020 budget and all Team reports. These will not be simply on paper, but conveyed by your team members with GUSTO! Come hear what we have accomplished and what we hope to do in the coming year.

### Clothing to Empower

We will be sending infant and children's gently used clothing down to Nicaragua to be shared with young mothers through "Empower Nicaragua" a teen mentoring non-profit. Nancy and Royce Browder's daughters were founders of the organization. Please bring any clothes in the next two weeks.

To see the latest newsletter for Empower Nicaragua you can go to:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/11V7FRE\\_qYgN6xF7\\_VqwdmWMDz41Mk8msbXpYTSOGpns/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11V7FRE_qYgN6xF7_VqwdmWMDz41Mk8msbXpYTSOGpns/edit)

### Serving Chocolate at Winter Wonderland

November 30th



December 7th



## Congregational Care & Outreach

Linda Keenum

Winter Wonderland went well Nov. 30th with Jan & Jeff Stevens, Susan & Joe Boyd, Linda and Tempe' serving the hot chocolate to 600. The weather cut us short because of rain and thunder at 7 P.M. On Dec. 7th the weather was beautiful and 625 were served by Sandy & Jim Geary, Linda & Neal Keenum, Brenda & Ned Kraft and our surprise servers Sue & Pete Joiner.

Our Christmas homebound visits were a success over our two-day span. It is always a joy to see our friends at this time of year.

### Upcoming Sunday Luncheons/Concert Receptions for 2020:

Jan. 12, 2020: Hosted by Presbyterian Congregational Care & Outreach

Feb. 2, 2020: Hosted by Mission and Service Ministry Team (Souper Bowl)

Mar. 8, 2020: Hosted by Presbyterian Men. (Fundraiser for Homeless Vets)

Apr. 12, 2020: Hosted by Congregational Care & Outreach. (Easter Sunrise Breakfast)

May 10, 2020: Hosted by Presbyterian Women. (Mother's Day)

June 21, 2020: Hosted by Congregational Care & Outreach Ministry Team (Kirkin "O" Tartan)

July 12, 2020: Hosted by Congregational Care Outreach Ministry Team (Summer Picnic)

Aug. 2, 2020: Hosted by Mission & Service Ministry Team (Fundraiser for Black Mountain Children's Home)

Sept. 13, 2020: Hosted by Presbyterian Men (Fundraiser for Homeless Vets)

Oct. 11, 2020: Hosted by Mission Ministry and Service Ministry Team

Nov. 26, 2020: Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec. 6, 2020: Benefit Concert for CareNet (Hosted by Mission & Service)

Hoping everyone had a blessed holiday and the New Year will be filled with more blessings.

Congregational Care Visiting Team  
on a visit with Pat Callahan



## Mission and Service

Geneese Gottschalk

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

We welcome 2020 and the challenges and opportunities it will surely bring in mission and service work. Before we let the old year go completely, however, we need to recognize Anne Tauber, Mountain Voices, our Chapel Choir and all the soloists and ensembles Anne assembled for our annual fundraising concert for Care Net. The program and our cookie reception afterwards were hugely successful, raising \$6,000 to feed the hungry in Macon County. Thanks to everyone who performed, baked, set-up/cleaned up, attended, and donated SO generously. In other year-end news, our Giving Tree of gifts for recipients from Macon Program for Progress and Union School was also a great success. Thanks to all who responded so generously, including Presbyterian Women who purchased coats for some Union School students. Finally, we made special year-end gifts to CareNet for specific use in utilities assistance and to the Senior Center's Home Delivered Meals (formerly Meals on Wheels).

Our “dollars” recipient for January and February will be Macon New Beginnings. This ministry, the only provider focused on shelter for the homeless and nearly homeless in the county, was a recipient of “dollars” a couple of years ago. We'll support them again now as we enter the winter season when needs are greatest. A representative will update us on their work in a Minute for Mission.

The first big event coming up in 2020 is on February 2, the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. We'll gather after worship for a simple meal of homemade soup and bread (as usual we'll ask the congregation to bring some desserts). We share this meal to remember those who don't have enough to eat on a day when many of us are gorging on football-watching food. Our soup selection will feature old favorites like Taco Soup, but we encourage first-time participation by soup chefs who want to share a favorite recipe. Just contact Nancy Browder or any member of the Mission & Service team. Donations will go to Care Net to feed the hungry locally. There will be a 50-cents-on-the-dollar match for all donations.

We're postponing our discussion of how to meet unanticipated urgent needs so we can gather more information about how other churches and nonprofits are responding to this issue. As we plan allocation of our 2020 budget, we'd be pleased to have congregational input about mission and service priorities. We're thankful for the way this congregation's heart for service shaped our work in 2019. We begin 2020 eager to see where the Lord leads us, confident that this church family's caring and compassionate spirit will be up to new challenges.



## Presbyterian Men



Ned Kraft

As we start another year we can reflect on the activities we participated in during 2019, such as raising money to help homeless Veterans in Macon county and helping out with various church activities. Last month we made a donation (\$500.00) to the Blue Ridge Honor Flight Fund so that a Veteran will be able to take a trip to Washington D. C. sometime in the near future.

Please consider joining the Men's group. We participate in various activities, Wednesday lunches, second Saturday breakfast and monthly meetings. If you have not already done so, please bring your 2020 dues to the January meeting. Together we can **Grow in Faith, Serve with Hope, and Share God's Love.**

### Men's monthly meeting

Monday, January 6 - 7:00 pm Tartan Hall

### Men's breakfast

Saturday, January 11 - 8:00 am Franklin Café

### Men's lunch schedule - All lunches are at 11:30 am

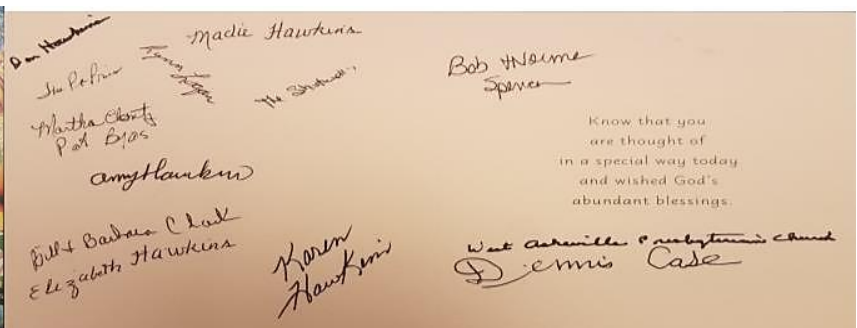
Wednesday, January 1 - No lunch - **Happy New Year**

Wednesday, January 8 - Willy's BBQ

Wednesday, January 15 - Sunset Restaurant

Wednesday, January 22 - Asian King Buffet

Wednesday, January 29 - Rollie Pollie's



Card received from West Asheville Presbyterian Church

## Worship & Music

### The White and the Gold

These are not game color, but reminders of mysterious guests in our midst. Join us for a celebration of white and gold, of Wise men and bright stars, of Communion and Ordination, as we celebrate Epiphany at First Presbyterian.

Epiphany is a time of asking God to open our eyes to the presence of Christ around us. It is one of the oldest Christian holidays and celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas (January 6th). For our church it is the beginning of a season where people first recognized Jesus: the Wise Men, John the Baptizer at the Jordan river, the witnesses of the miracle of the first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

We begin our calendar year with a the gold of the Three Kings and the sacred acts of sharing the cup and the chalice. Susan Rosenbeck has helped to make stars for this day, reminding the children and the child within that Jesus has enough names to be significant every day of the year. See theses stars in the hallway during the season of Epiphany.

### Preparing for the Thanksgiving Feast





## We Welcome Three New Elders To Our Session

Here is a BIT about our new leaders.



Judy (J.C.) Comer

Judy (J.C.) Comer has served with us before as an elder and so we are thrilled to have her energy once again on our session. J.C. will be our Elder of Congregational Care (along with Linda Keenum). Judy has a big heart for others as is seen in her cooking for others, serving on Mission and Service Team and in her helping those in our immigrant community work toward citizenship. J.C. will be installed into office on January 12, 2020.

Joe Fortunato (picture not included in this issue) is being ordained for the first time. In the past he has attended the Roman Catholic Church and went to Roman Catholic Schools. He has a daughter and son-in-law in Colorado. Although he is retired from running his own business, he has a lot to keep up with as he manages home, land and a beautiful Irish Setter. (Perhaps another is coming his way for Christmas?) Joe will be our elder of Finance (along with Sue Fagg) and will be ordained and installed on January 12th.



Ray Heckeler

Ray has attended Presbyterian, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches. He served as a Council member in the Lutheran Church (ELCA) in the past and has been active on the Property Committee of several churches. He will be our elder of Property (along with Jim McInnes) and will be ordained and installed on January 12th. Ray enjoys working with wood and has help the Liturgical Arts team frame several projects. He is also an avid model plane enthusiast.

## Serving First Presbyterian Church This Month

### Lay Readers:

Jan. 5th Neal Keenum  
 Jan. 12th Judy Comer  
 Jan. 19th Gail Barrett  
 Jan. 26th Melissa McClure

### **Cancellations**

**Exercise Class will not exercise until Jan. 6th**  
**Bible Study will not convene until Jan. 10th**

### Child Care Saints:

Jan. 5th Sandy Geary, Jan Stevens and Linda Keenum  
 Jan. 12th Cecilia & Griff Morgan  
 Jan. 19th Brenda Kraft, Mellissa McClure and Pam Davis  
 Jan. 26th Sandy Geary, Jan Stevens and Linda Keenum

### Greeter/Parking Lot

Jan. 5th Griff Morgan & David Key  
 Jan. 12th Tom Fagg & Ray Heckeler  
 Jan. 19th Neal Keenum & Steve Davis  
 Jan. 26th Ned Kraft & Barry Clinton

### Counters:

Jan. 5th Pat Mesta & Jan Stevens  
 Jan. 12th Susan Fagg & Ann Blake  
 Jan. 19th Jim McInnes & Gail Lehman  
 Jan. 26th Brenda Kraft & Clyde Genter



**At the take out center a great meal was had by all**

## COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Susannah Jelley  
 Pete Joiner  
 Emily Smith  
 Don Law  
 Liza Lawrence  
 Michael Swenson  
 Ron Hill  
 Judy Gray  
 Martha Rainer  
 The Duncan/Schiffhaeur Family  
 Blake Jenkins (and The Shook Family)

### Our family in Care Facilities

Pat Callahan  
 Marlene Jacobs  
 Jack Kemp  
 Cheera Roadarmel  
 Charlene Justice  
 Jeanette Poff

## January Birthdays

Jan. 9th Kathy Key  
 Jan. 10th Barbara McInnes  
 Jan. 11th Curtis Fussell  
 John McClure (Missy)  
 Jan. 16th Kathryn Rogers  
 Jan. 17th Betsy Bingler  
 Jan. 18th David Key  
 Laurel Holland  
 Jan. 19th Sandy Geary  
 Jan. 25th Debby Hartsfield  
 Judy Bentley

## January Anniversaries

Jan. 18th Barry & Patsy Clinton

Our Offerings (through 12.22.19)	
Weekly Goal	Weekly Actual
\$3427	\$1035
YTD Goal	YTD Actual
\$175,883	\$166.871
<b>Attendance (12.22.19): 45</b>	



Susan and Jerry Blaydes granddaughter  
 decorating for Thanksgiving.

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**Good!**  
**News!**