

Worship Assistants for January 8

Acolyte/Greeter Emma Trexler
 Nursery Jeanne & James Price
 Ushers: Danny Deese, Brenda Morgan, Jim Strayhorn, & Hugh Wallace
 Duty Elder Kaye Ratliff

Announcements & Events

Today:

- Epiphany Sunday
- The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Peg Hightower by her daughter, Jean Gardner.

Next Sunday:

- Acolyte/Greeter: Trent Trexler
- Nursery: Bryan & Gretchen Trexler
- Ushers: Calvin Catoe, John Edwards, Eddie Huntley, & Luke Hyatt

January 10: Session Ministry Reports Due

January 13: Food Pantry set-up begins at 4:00 p.m.

January 14: Food Pantry distribution from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

January 15: Men's Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

Ordination & Installation of Elders
 Stated Meeting of the Session after Worship

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Church Office closed

January 21: February newsletter articles due

January 29: 10¢-Per-Meal Hunger Offering received

Annual Meeting of Congregation & Covered-dish Luncheon

Anson Crisis Ministry: The need during January is for canned peaches and canned fruit cocktail.

January Sermon Series: Resolution

At the start of a new calendar year, many of us make resolutions for what we hope to accomplish — and avoid! — during the coming months. With this in mind, "Resolutions" will be our theme during the first month of 2012. Be with us each Sunday, as we consider how we can . . .

January 8: *Begin Anew*

January 22: *Get Real*

January 15: *Be Intentional*

January 29: *Embrace Joy*

Attendance on January 1

Worship Service: 59

Church School: 25

Offering on January 1

General Fund

Weekly budgeted amount \$2,560.88
 Received \$2,639.76

Building Fund

Weekly budgeted amount \$400.00
 Received \$630.50

Prayer Requests

Please include the following persons in your prayers:

Pat Allen, Don Baker, Woody & Marjorie Barfield, Charles Beck, Cindy Brown, Billy Burr, Celia Carpenter, Shirley Christian, Ed Emory, Stella Griffin, Terri Hardison, Sarah Alice Harris, Henry Harward, Steve Hyatt, John Johnston, Cameron Keith, Kim Keith, Morgan Lastowski, Wayne Lineberry, Helen Little, John Frank McLeod, Tina Monroe, Laura Napier, Lisa Newberry, Emma Rogers, Andy Strayhorn, Craig Thomas, Doug Thomas, Frances Vernon, & Rick Witherington.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Supply MinisterThe Rev. Dr. Leslie R. Stacks
 Organist/Choir Director.....Janice Chandler
 Secretary.....Jan Taylor
 Treasurer.....Vera Trexler
 Assistant Treasurers.....Peggy Trexler, Emily Patterson, & Dianne Deese
 Custodians.....Alan James & Dot Marsh

Weekly Schedule

Cherub Choir Sunday 9:45 a.m.
 Church School for all ages Sunday 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m.
 Wired Word Study Group..... Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
 Wired Word Study Group..... Wednesday 5:00 p.m.
 Handbell Choir..... Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
 Chancel Choir Practice Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
 Session2nd Sunday of each month

The Session

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Stacks
 Clerk: Anne Hyatt

CLASS OF 2011

Jim Boylin
 Ed Emory
 Anne Hyatt
 Frank Trexler

CLASS OF 2012

Calvin Catoe
 Foyle Hightower
 Jeanne Price
 Robin Trexler

CLASS OF 2013

Ross Huntley
 Kaye Ratliff
 Bob Stowe
 Pam Vernon

Session Ministries

Finance/Property/Admin.....Ed Emory, Calvin Catoe, & Bob Stowe
 Christian Education/Worship.....Anne Hyatt, Foyle Hightower, & Pam Vernon
 Member CareJim Boylin, Jeanne Price, & Ross Huntley
 Mission.....Frank Trexler, Robin Trexler, & Kaye Ratliff



First Presbyterian Church

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For surely
I KNOW THE
plans

I have for
YOU,
says the

Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future

WITH
Hope.

Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

The Lord's Day

Epiphany Sunday
January 8, 2012

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away.

See, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Gathering Around the Word

PRELUDE *Bethlehem Star* S. Scott

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

On this Epiphany Sunday, we gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of elders.

We gather asking, "Where will we find the Child of Christmas?"

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, "Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

We will find the Christ where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

All: We gather to seek God and give thanks!

*HYMN NO. 63..... *As with Gladness Men of Old*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We search for your light, O God, but too often we end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking you are not always pure, for we expect you to fulfill our desires. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than the gifts of servanthood, compassion, and peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Proclaiming the Word

TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 43:18-21

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

ANTHEM*Carol of the Epiphany* J. Bell

SERMON.....*Resolution:*The Rev. Stacks
Begin Anew

SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 10:10-23

It is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

Responding to the Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison).....Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. In him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*HYMN NO. 68 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (HYMN NO. 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Lord God, today we are reminded of the wondrous gifts that the Magi brought for the Prince of Peace. We have traveled to this time of worship, hoping to discover the thrill of new birth. And, like the Magi, we find joy as we lift up our eyes, look around, and experience the presence of Jesus. In gratitude, we return to you your tithes and also offer to you our gifts as we rejoice in your radiant love. Praise the Lord! Amen.

Carrying the Word Into the World

*HYMN NO. 66 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (responsive)

The Light of God has entered the world.

The Light of God overcomes the darkness.

The Light of God calls us to rise up and go.

We go out in the name of God, bringing our gifts and our lives.

Go blessed by God's presence within you,

assured by the love of Christ for you, and

transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit within you.

All: We go to carry forth God's Light into all the world!

*RESPONSE (tune: Tallis' Canon) *When Mary Hugged Her Newborn Son*

God, make us faithful, humble, wise

To know that Jesus changes lives.

May we be open to the way

That he would change our lives this day.

*POSTLUDE *Post Festive Praise*..... G. Blake

**Those who are able, please stand.*

The congregation will read the lines in bold type.

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Wherever you may live, whatever your need, you are welcome as a friend to this household of Christian faith, hope, and love. It is our prayer that Christ's presence may be more real because you worshiped with us today.