“What a difference a day makes . . .”
Upcoming Events & News

Ordination and Installation of New Officers
During the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 6, new officers will be ordained and installed. The officers are:

Class of 2021 Elders  Class of 2021 Deacons
Patti Bates          Sylvia Harris
Allison Bryan       Eve Jones
Chan Chandler       Mary Knotts
Cindy Cothran       Lee Longest
Trip Durham         Bill Massey
Bill Francis         Betsy Reeves
Happy Kerns         Jan Scott
Wendy Lunsford      Vickie Whitaker
Bruce Shields       Elizabeth Wooten
Edith Vann
Avery Wagoner
Nan Wooten

Baptism of the Lord Sunday
During the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday, January 13, we will be remembering and celebrating the baptism of Jesus and our own baptism. It is in the baptism of Jesus that Jesus’ identity is reaffirmed for him. Through baptism we are initiated into God’s family and God gives us a new identity. Often though, we are forgetful of this identity given to us by our Creator and Redeemer. While we are only baptized one time, we continually reaffirm our baptismal vows and often need to be reminded of our identity given to us at baptism. During the worship services this Sunday, the congregation will be invited to an act of renewal and commitment as we formally renew our own vows of baptism. Join us for this meaningful way of beginning this new year.

The CEB Lectio Divina Prayer Bible
Available January 6! New resource in the Resource Center (Located in the 300 hallway of our buildings. To get there, go through Calvin Hall, down the hall to the right of the stage, and turn right!)

Reflective reading of the Scriptures to lead us into prayer has been a practice in the church since the earliest centuries. The method of Lectio Divina, or “Divine Reading,” is a systematic reading of each section of a book with pauses for reflection and prayer.

The CEB Lectio Divina Prayer Bible makes it simple to do. For every chapter of the Bible there is:

- A recommended passage for slow and thoughtful reading,
- Questions for guiding a time of reflection and meaning of the text,
- A prayer,
- Suggestions for putting your new insights into action.

This Bible is perfect for personal devotion and reflection and for leading small groups. It will guide you to a lifelong source of fulfilling prayer, a conversation with God.

The Prayer Bible will be available for you to borrow starting January 6. (Of course, Charlotte Allbright believes once you start a spiritual practice of scripture reading and prayer using this resource, you’ll want to buy your own!).
Upcoming Events & News

Peru Student and Teacher Exchange
January 16–February 20

Student: Eliseo Lopez – student at The Burlington School

Host family: Jim, Elizabeth, John, and Leigh Stanfill

Teacher: Elva Cosavalente – teacher at Smith Elementary

Host families: Philip and Melissa Allen
Marjorie and Boo Northcutt
Will and Jill Fisher
Dick and Linda Fisher

Ushers Guild 2019

It is time to organize the Ushers Guild for 2019! If you would like to get involved in some volunteer work that doesn’t take any extra time, the Ushers Guild is just right for you! Many of you are at church already and would be a wonderful smiling face to hand out bulletins and collect the offering on selected Sunday mornings. Parents and youths, couples or individuals are needed. Please contact Barbara Roberts (336) 584-9942 or broberts@triad.rr.com for more information or to begin selecting your Sundays for next year. Thank you for helping our church!

Pritchett Symposium, Sunday, March 17, 2019

Guest Preacher/Speaker — Jill Duffield, Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook

Commonplace Holiness: God at Work Wherever You Are

A burning bush or thunderous voice from heaven would be nice, wouldn’t it? An unmistakable sign of God’s directions and will would go a long way in increasing our faithfulness. At least that’s what we often tell ourselves. But what if God is speaking, through the ordinary things of life, around our dinner tables, in our classrooms, conference rooms, streets and sanctuaries? Perhaps the challenge is not God’s illusive presence, but our lack of expectation that God is here and at work within us, despite us, and through us.

Class One: Looking Out for the Holy
We will look at Bible verses where people are told to keep watch and be awake. We will examine what it means to anticipate God’s presence and transformation. How will we recognize the holy in our midst? How will we respond when we see it?

Class Two: Faithfulness in Our Sphere
What does it mean to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in our daily lives? How do we follow Jesus’ commands right where we are on any give day and in every circumstance? We will explore what it means to be faithful in our spheres of influence, no matter how big or small they are.

Winter Adult Studies

Adult Studies is an opportunity for faith formation and transformation offered by FPCB. Our hope is to foster lifelong spiritual growth for our congregation and our community. The Adult Studies Committee invites you to make a commitment to Christian formation. Here are some of the many opportunities offered this fall. Pick one (or more) and join the journey. Contact Charlotte Allbright, Director of Christian Education and Formation, for more information (336)228-1703 x 223 or callbright@fpcburlington.org.

Peoples of the Old Testament World

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20, & 27, 9:45 a.m., John Knox Room
Led by Dr. Jim Pace
Come and take a fascinating look at people of the Old Testament world. The ancient Israelites interacted with many different peoples. As would be expected, their culture, including their religion and sacred scripture, was influenced by their contact with them. Understanding these peoples and their relationship with the Israelites is extremely helpful in getting the most from reading our Bible. This study will explore what the Old Testament and archaeology informs us about four of the peoples: the Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians.

Selected Poetry of Wendell Berry

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 & February 3, 10, 17 at 9:45 a.m., Room 122
Led by Dr. Harry Brown
The Kentucky writer Wendell Berry is a 20th-century Renaissance man: farmer, novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, and teacher. Berry is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, recipient of the National Humanities Medal, member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the first living writer to be chosen for the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame. Some of his major topics are nature, farming, death, people, and faith. The class will use Berry’s *New Collected Poems* (Counterpoint, 2012), which can be purchased used in paperback on Amazon.

Enrichment Class

Sundays at 9:45 a.m., Room 228
From time to time during the last few years, the Enrichment Class has addressed faith issues such as atonement and theodicy. The goal was not to change minds, but to present a range of theories we might use to affirm or re-shape our feelings about these vital matters. Join the Enrichment Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 228 as we take a look at Scripture in new ways as one facet of the deconstructionist movement. Over the next few weeks, the class will consider familiar Bible stories using *What is the Bible? How an ancient library of poems, letters and stories can transform the way you think and feel about everything* by Rob Bell.

Lunch Bunch Book Club

January Lunch Bunch Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, January 8** at 12:00 p.m. in Room 122
We will be discussing the book, *Winterdance* by Gary Paulsen. Come even if you haven’t read the book. Bring your lunch with you. Led by Virginia Cummings, Peggy Harrelson and Charlotte Allbright.

The Point Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Room 227
Discussion using lectionary or current news options. Since we do not know what the current news will be in January, here are the lectionary lessons.

- **January 6 – Guiding Lights** – On this day of Epiphany, identify lights that you follow that lead toward God revealed through Jesus.
- **January 13 – Beloved** – Prayerfully discern the implication of God’s baptism pronouncement of “child” and “beloved” upon Jesus and – through Christ – upon us.
- **January 20 – Gifts for the Common Good** – Examine and commit to Paul’s vision of the church’s Spirit-grounded unity and Spirit-sparked diversity.
- **January 27 – Attending to the Word** – Discover how the Word read and interpreted can open each new generation to understanding, renewal, and joy.
Winter Adult Studies (continued)

Join Dr. Ron Shive in a Weekly Bible Study this Winter —
“Peculiar Treasures of the New Testament”

January–May 2019 in the Witherspoon Room

Three Weekly Options:

- **Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study**: 6:45–7:45 a.m. beginning January 8
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**: 10:00–11:30 a.m. beginning January 9
- **Thursday Women’s Bible Study**: 6:45–7:45 a.m. beginning January 10

God spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai and said to him, “...if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples.” A treasured possession — at least that is the way, the New Revised Standard translates it. As the people of God, we are God’s treasured possession. There is something very reassuring about that. But, it is interesting to see how the King James translates this phrase. It states, “Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people...” A peculiar treasure — now that is a different thought. Peculiar — odd, strange, and eccentric. And as we read the Bible, we discover that the people of God are a bunch of peculiar people — odd, strange, and eccentric. And yet, there is much we can benefit from getting to know them better. Frederick Buechner writes, “What struck me more than anything else as I reacquainted myself with this remarkable rag-bag of people from the Bible was both their extraordinary aliveness and their power to make me feel somehow more alive myself for having known them...They still have the power to bring tears to the eyes and send shivers up the spine.”

This winter and spring we will examine 17 of God’s peculiar treasures from the New Testament. Most of them are odd, strange, or eccentric, and yet they still have the power to make us feel more alive for having known them. Hopefully this study will at times bring a tear to your eyes and at other times send a shiver up your spine, but you will walk away with an insight of living as Christ’s more faithful disciple. The following peculiar treasures will be studied.

- **Herod the Great** — Matthew 2:1-23
- **Simeon** — Luke 2:22-35
- **John Mark** — Mark, Acts 12, 13, and 15:36-41
- **Mary Magdalene** — John 20:1-18
- **Lazarus** — John 11:1-44
- **Judas** — John 12:1-8, 13, 21-30, 18:1-12, Matthew 27:3-10
- **Nicodemus** — John 3:1-21, 19:38-42
- **Thomas** — John 14:1-7, 20:19-29
- **Ananias and Sapphira** — Acts 5:1-11
- **Stephen** — Acts 6-7, 22:20
- **Simon Magnus** — Acts 8:5-24
- **Ethiopian Eunuch** — Acts 8:26-39
- **Barnabas** — Acts 14
- **Agrippa** — Acts 26:1-28
- **Onesimus** — Philemon

If you have any questions or would like a schedule of our winter study, please contact Ron (336-228-1703 or rshive@fpcburlington.org).
Children’s Ministry

Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

One-Room class in Room 224 will start a new quarter with “Healing Families”
- January 6 — Magi Seek a Healer
- January 13 — Jesus Heals
- January 20 — Jesus Heals a Young Woman
- January 27 — Jesus Heals Ten Men

Submerge class in Room 401 will start a new quarter with “Being God’s Child”
- January 6 — Jesus is Baptized
- January 13 — Jesus Relies on God
- January 20 — Jesus Spends Time with God
- January 27 — Jesus is Transformed

Youth Ministry

There has been a LOT of fun and a lot of activities going on in the FPC Youth Group! We kicked off the year with our Middle School Lock In, going to SkyWild ropes course at the Greensboro Science Center. The High School spent a relaxing weekend at Ocean Isle Beach on our Beach Trip. We also enjoyed some of our treasured Fall traditions like Trunk or Treat and Rake N’ Run. And we closed out 2018 with our annual Gift Swap and our Stocking Stuffing service to Allied Churches. And as always there have been games galore!! Check out some of our fun and travels below!  

In Christ, Taylor Barner
2019 Flower Donations

Thank you to all who donated flowers for our Sunday worship services during 2018! The Chancel Guild is planning for 2019 and your help is needed again. Floral donations are offered on a first come/first serve basis. If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please complete and submit the form below to Kathleen Seagroves in the church office or to Cindy Cothran, Chancel Guild chairperson. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Available Dates

Dates marked through are already reserved or denote holidays or other events when flowers are provided by the church.

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<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL</th>
<th>AUG</th>
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Date you would like to donate flowers in 2019

Choice of Florist:

_____ Church’s standing order - $135 covers the cost and delivery for two matching arrangements. Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church to the attention of Lacey Way.

_____ Donor’s Choice of Florist: Donor negotiates price and assures timely delivery of two matching arrangements to First Presbyterian Church on chosen Sunday.

Information for Sunday bulletin: The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and:

_____ in honor of_____________________________________________________________

_____ in loving memory of____________________________________________________

Given by with any extended message:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Flower Distribution: Arrangements are divided into smaller vases and delivered to sick and shut-in members. Please notify the church office or Chancel Guild if you need to make other plans.

Donor’s Name___________________________________ Date____________________

NOTE: You may also contact Chancel Guild chair, Cindy Cothran (336-226-8226) or Kathleen Seagroves (336-228-1703) or kseagroves@fpcburlington.org.
Outreach

Presbyterian Women — Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project

Thanks to the help and generosity of our Presbyterian Women, our packing party for the Operation Christmas Child was a huge success! We were able to pack 220 boxes with items such as clothing, school supplies, toys, hygiene items and tools. What a wonderful way to spend an enjoyable afternoon among friends while providing a means for spreading God’s love to children all over the world! On November 29, nine of us were able to go to Boone to help prepare the boxes for shipping. Thanks to Carolyn Langley for arranging this and to Cindy Cothran for making it possible for us to eat lunch in the employee dining room. That afternoon, over 51,000 boxes were processed for shipping and we were so thankful to be part of it.

Presbyterian Women FPC Circle Meetings — January 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circle #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hostesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>John Knox Room</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bailey and Cathy Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>2080 Sullivan Park Circle</td>
<td>Martha Demaree and Jean Schwegmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>John Knox Room</td>
<td>Pat Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>John Knox Room</td>
<td>Mary Knotts and Ellen Gensinger</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Save the Date for the Valentine Tea!

Add this date to your calendar: **Sunday, February 17, 2019.** Presbyterian Women will host a Valentine Tea from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This is a church-wide gathering for women of all ages. Please invite your daughters, mothers, aunts, and friends for this wonderful event. Look for more information soon.

Feed the Hungry

This month Feed the Hungry is collecting **canned meats, canned potatoes and soups.** Add them to your cart to give to this program! Drop off items outside church office or in the welcome center.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Each year, the FPC Youth collect money for Souper Bowl of Caring to help hunger throughout Alamance County. Our Youth would like to invite you to give a donation following one of our worship services on **February 3.** A youth will be at each of the exits with a soup pot for you to place your donations.
Outreach

Furniture Ministry News

On Saturday December 8, while most of Alamance County was going to the grocery store, gas station, hardware store, etc. to get ready for the record-breaking snow that was to begin after midnight, twenty-four generous, hardy FPC members, along with a Turrentine Middle School student and his mother, dedicated their morning to delivering furniture to people desperately in need.

Fueled by coffee and donuts, they worked together to achieve spectacular results — fourteen deliveries and five donation pickups in just over three hours! That night, while temperatures dipped into the twenties and a foot of snow fell, twenty-one people, including eighteen children, were able to get off the floor or couch and sleep in warm beds with fresh sheets and blankets, many of them for the first time in weeks—and enjoy having a sofa and upholstered chairs, dressers and chests of drawers, dining room tables and chairs. The gratitude of the adults and the joy of the children was ample reward for all the work.

Through your donations of time, goods and money — and your prayers and moral support, our church is giving a much needed helping hand to approximately 200 families a year through this vital ministry. What a blessing to be able to give in this way!

Many, many thanks to these wonderful volunteers: Betty Beal, Kent Byrd, Robert Boon, Barry Bradberry, Libby Conde, Dick Cannon, Reid Dusenberry, Jo Feroe, Dick Fisher, Eddie Gant, Gary Garrison, Jo Grimley, Gene Grimley, Dan Hardie, Leslie Hardie, Jim Johnson, Libby Lasley, Nan Perkins, Jay Pringle, Raye Sapp, Bruce Shields, Steve Wooten, and a big welcome to two great first-timers, Stephanie and Mac Williams.

Peru & Zambia Mission Teams — Join Us!

A mission trip to Peru is scheduled for July 11–19, 2019. We need team members to help plan the trip in partnership with Miriam Laura at PERUSA, and our friends at Annie Soper School. Please consider joining this team if you can support in Peru or on the ground as we learn, discern, and serve! Please call 336-228-1703 for more information.

A mission trip to Zambia is scheduled for June 18–30, 2020. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact the church office at 336-228-1703 or kseabroves@fpcburlington.org.

Andrews Elementary School Mid-year Wishlist

First Presbyterian Church has been extremely generous to Andrews Elementary School. The teachers and students are very grateful for the snack packs, the reading buddies and teacher appreciation activities that our congregation has provided. As the new semester begins, supplies are low and a new infusion of support would be greatly appreciated. The following items have been requested by the school social worker and will be collected through January:

- toothpaste, lotions, chap stick, soaps, Q tips, vaseline, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hair lotion (Cantu is a good product at Walmart)
- hair brushes, combs, pony tail holders
- female hygiene products (1 or 2 pks pads only)
- detergent (wash clothes), clorox, fabric softener, deodorant (girls and boys)
- toothbrushes, floss
- gloves, hats, mouthwash, clorox wipes, girls/boys underwear
- baby wipes, socks
- hotel soaps, lotions, etc.

Please consider directing your contributions to Andrews this month.
FPC New Year’s Holiday Closing
FPC facility will be closed January 1, 2019 for New Years Day.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Advent Festival 2018
A great time was had by all as we learned more about angels through hands-on activities. The balloon sculptures caught everyone’s attention and went home with two lucky winners.

A Thank You and Update from Lindsay Conrad
Dear ones,
I write you with such thanksgiving in my heart for the gifts and the kind words, the prayers and all the love with which you have showered me as we have parted ways. Thank you for your generosity! I also write with big news! I have been accepted to serve in Mankato, MN at First Presbyterian Church as their pastor, and I start on January 14th. I am thrilled for this new adventure in the bold cold, and appreciate your continued prayers in the transition!
Bless you all as the new year greets you.
Peace be yours,
Lindsay
Church Business

Closing the Gap

As you will note in the financial statement (below), there is a $65,424 deficit between our receipts and revenues at the end of November. Please help us close that gap. As you consider your end-of-the-year giving toward or above your pledge, please remember in order to receive credit for the 2018 tax year, all contributions to the church must be postmarked or delivered to the church off no later than December 31. If you have any questions or are giving through a stock transfer, please call (336-228-1703) or email lway@fpcburlington.org Lacey Way.

PLEASE NOTE: The church will be changing electronic giving platforms as of January 1, 2019. If you give electronically, please set up your recurring payment through Tithe.ly, there is a link on the church’s website under the serve and give tab. Please contact Lacey Way with any questions. lway@fpcburlington.org Note: this does not affect giving through ACH bank draft.

Session Digest for December, 2018

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on December 18, 2018 for the regular Stated Meeting.

1. The incoming classes of Elders and Deacons were examined and approved by the Session. Ordination and Installation will be on January 6, 2019.

2. The financial reports for November indicate that while revenues were positive, the church is still behind the budget for the year, and the Treasurer indicated that we will need a very good December to match this year’s expenditures. The CDC and Playschool budgets and expenditures are in line for the year.

3. The remaining debt for the most recent capital campaign is down to $350,000. There are outstanding pledges that should cover this amount over the next two years.

4. The Gratitude and Generosity Committee reported that have only reached 75% of the proposed budget for 2019, and that less than 50% of our giving units have made a pledge at this point.

5. Cathy Dusenberry reported that the Honor Campaign for the Furniture Ministry is underway for those who would like to support the Furniture Ministry financially.

6. Chan Chandler was elected as Church Treasurer for the upcoming year.

7. Bob Hill was elected as the Clerk of Session for 2019.

8. The staff gave updates on their work during the past month.

Church Finances — November Financial Statement

<table>
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<th>Monthly Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
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<td>Pledges</td>
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<td>Misc. Income</td>
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<td>56,168.14</td>
<td>48,519.13</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$107,092.97</td>
<td>$105,570.83</td>
<td>$1,068,047.64</td>
<td>$1,161,279.13</td>
<td>$1,266,850.00</td>
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| **Expenditures**     |          |                |              |            |             |
| **Net Total**        | $11,126.87| ($0.03)         | ($65,424.65) | ($0.33)    | ($0.33)     |

If you should have any questions regarding the Financial Statement, please contact Tom McGowen, Jr, Church Treasurer, tmcgowen@ssmkllp.com or Lacey Way, Church Business Administrator, lway@fpcburlington.org in the church office.
Memories Under the Steeple

In 1985, a Capital Improvements Committee was established to oversee several important projects: the refurbishing of the offices, the John Knox Room, the Child Development Center area, and Meals on Wheels rooms; modifications in the heating and cooling systems; roof repairs; repairs to the sidewalks, entrances and parking areas; replacement of worn-out office equipment; and first steps in conversion to computer systems. Also in 1985, Helen and Hank Ogden started the Friendship Group, a gathering of older adults. Many members have continued to enjoy the monthly meetings with fellowship, fun, and a meal together.

We honored Dr. Tom Anderson on January 5, 1986, by electing him to the status of Pastor Emeritus, remembering his eighteen years of service at First Presbyterian. After retirement in 1980, he returned to our pulpit a number of times as Lector for the annual Nine Lessons and Carols Service. He also served as supply minister for several churches in this area. He and his wife, Grace, moved to the Pines Retirement Center in Davidson, NC in 1993.