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ICHTHUS

December 2016

First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, NC

Reflections in the Water: The Christmas Story



⁷And

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. ⁸And there were in the same country

shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone

round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for,

behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day

in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in

swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and

saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the

highest, and on earth peace,

good will toward men.



Prayerful Support for

Bernice Johnson at Barbour Court
 Nor Bell at Barbour Court
 Alice Narron at Meadowview
 Shirley Williams at Meadowview (room 108)
 Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield

Hazel Whitehurst at Brookdale Smithfield
 Bill Leist in Colfax
 Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
 Martha Rogers in Richmond
 Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
 Timothy Allen
 Marie Atkins
 Ruth Bell
 Helen Best
 Bobby Cox
 Ruth Daniel
 Joe Hester
 Tom Johnson
 Shannon Kimball
 Marie Maddox
 Mary Miller
 Benny Pope
 Chap Ragland
 Peter Russell
 Linda Stephenson
 Nelson Vaughn
 Betty Welch
 Hilda Worsham
 Rebecca Ziady
 Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll
 Joseph Hester, Sr.

We welcome Amy and Steve Harder and Teron Sloan who became members on November 13, 2016.

Congratulations to Patrick and Jennifer Templeton on the birth of a daughter, **Daisy Joy**, on November 22, 2016. **Beth Daniel** is the proud grandmother.

In Memory of: Jane Bolin, Jane Cunningham, Bill Kimball, Tom Avera, Paul Bray, Clem and Mikki Sharek

Donors: Blenda Braswell, Billy and Clara Wellons, Ann Andreus Collier, David and Joyce Le, Dennis and Gayle Koffer, John and Janice Branch, Andy and Susan Holland, Steve and Gaither Velker, the Elgia S. Farrior family, Betsy Stancil, Bill and Shirley Sharek, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Beth Daniel, Tony and Anita Liverman, Miles G. Fleming, Olivia Britton Holding, Frank and Lisa Deans, Janet Ashley, Frank and Ella Ann Holding, Linda Wilson, Cindy Smith,

November Session:



- Approved the October financial reports.
- Gratefully acknowledged the gift of \$1000.00 from the Presbyterian Women for planting/landscaping around the church.
- Received a report from Harold Allen on the October New Hope Presbytery meeting at the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church.

- Approved officer training for January 2, 9, 23, and 30, 2017.
- Approved Examination and Installation of new officers for February 5, 2017.
- Approved moving the Youth Team from the Spirituality Quadrant to the Educational Development Quadrant.
- Approved the request from Jimmy Hooks and Shelia Bryant for use of the Fellowship Hall on December 30, 2016. Judy Miller will serve as Wedding Guild Coordinator.
- Approved new members Amy and Steve Harder by Reaffirmation of Faith and Teron Sloan through the Sacrament of Baptism.

If you have items you wish to bring before Session, contact Debbie Jacobs, clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs

First Tour of Tables a Hit!

On Sunday evening, November 13, the fellowship hall of FPC was transformed into a grand dining hall. Nine hosts/hostesses presented amazing tables. Each host/hostess supplied their own china, silver, crystal, napkins, and a centerpiece. The results were stunning. The host/hostesses were Ellen Adams and Sheila Bryant; Shirley Booker; Eve Creech; Lisa Deans, Debbie Jacobs, and Shirley Sharek; Debbie Henderson; Anita Liverman; Joyce Lee; Judy Miller and Pam Withrow; and Hank Roberson. Billy Duncan and Myra Wallace prepared the meal. Nichole Booker, Linda Crowder, Julie Duncan, Kenny Duncan, Madeline Horne, Anita Liverman, Sarah Pate, Courtney Scott, and Meredith Worsham waited tables, and Eleanor Horne and Lucy Watson helped with meal preparation and plating food. Two non-members judged the tables.



Anita Liverman's table took first place. She used her Christmas china, and her centerpiece was holly and berries surrounded by gourds she hand painted and sold in a silent auction with proceeds going to the building fund.

Shirley Booker's table was awarded a second place ribbon. Shirley used flowers and greenery from her yard and quietly elegant china.

Given Honorable Mention, Lisa Deans, Debbie Jacobs, and Shirley Sharek's table had a clear FPC theme, featuring replicas of our original church and our present church facility.

Linda Crowder reported that the event raised almost \$3000 for the building fund.

Many have expressed their eagerness that this become an annual event.



Thanks for Decorating

On November 28, our church was transformed for Advent and Christmas. Under the guidance of Nancy Lee, volunteers put up three trees, wreaths, bows, and greenery.

This year's helpers included Wayne Dockery, Ann Huckenbeck, Rich Huckenbeck, Jo James, Greg Knoll, Janet Lampe, Etta Marett, Maxine McFadyen, Sandy Perkinson, Pam Pope, and Meredith Worsham. Thank them warmly for all their hard work.

Angel Tree and Hospice

As part of our Session-approved partner ministry with the Smithfield Rescue Mission, the Mission Outreach Quadrant will be sharing an Angel Tree again this holiday season. Angel cards will be available through Sunday, December 18.



- Select an Angel Card and remove it from the tree.
- Locate your Angel Card number on the Master List and write your name or group (with a contact) on the line next to the Angel Card number.
- Bring the UNWRAPPED gift(s) to church by Sunday, December 18, with the Angel Card (so the recipient can be identified) and place near the Angel Tree. Please use the labels attached to the Angel Card to identify additional bags or gifts purchased for that individual. Four (4) labels are provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg or Joyce Knoll.

The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers and staff at SECU Hospice House in Smithfield four times a year to provide an opportunity for our congregation to share our support and care to the families with loved ones at Hospice House by providing and serving a meal for the families, volunteers and staff. Our next meal will be on Sunday, January 22. If you would like to participate, please watch for the sign-up sheet which will be placed on the table in the Vestibule in early January. Please contact Greg or Joyce Knoll if you have any questions.



We help support Hospice House by stocking their pantry throughout the month of November. Special thanks go to Anita Liverman for delivering all the donations every week.

Thank you for all your support of our local missions.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

Relay for Life Cookie Walk

Team #37, First Presbyterian's Relay Team, will hold its annual Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 18, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Come join us and take home some delicious cookies for the holidays. They make great gifts!

We will have a sign-up for cookie bakers out in early December. Make sure to help us out with your special goodies. Any leftovers will be contributed to Christmas in a Barn the evening of the Cookie Walk.

—Martha Taylor, Team

#37 Captain



Cookie Walk



New Members 2016

It is a time to be thankful for our many blessings and to look forward to sharing the holidays with our church family. One of our many blessings here at First Presbyterian is the new members who joined us this year. They are:

John and Cathy Stephenson and

Charles Lee— January

Paul and Emilia Anaruma, Steve Bryant, Mary Margaret Coats, and Taylor Holzhu — March

Emma Horne and Davis Bell —

May

Rick and Cindy Snyder — July

Steve and Amy Harder and Teron Sloan — November

Paul and Sandy Barnes plan to join before the year's end.

Let us celebrate and give thanks for the blessing of these new members.



—Hubert and Judy Schmidt

Christmas Joy Offering

December provides an opportunity for our congregation to support two worthy causes: racial ethnic leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. These are two areas of demonstrated need in our divided world. Please give as generously as you are able this month.

You will find special offering envelopes in your pews.

—Ann Huckenbeck



The Giving Season — A People Thing

We think of Christmas as a time of reflection, love and caring for fellow man. We attach a lot of symbolism, and energy for that matter, to giving as a part of the Season. Giving is really a personal act, one human being doing something for another human being.

Lo and behold there appear to be studies of why we give to each other. A study at South University, Savannah, says it is an amalgam of emotions – partly altruism, a feeling of satisfaction, it shows interest – appreciation – gratitude, it is a way to strengthen bonds, and there is unfortunately also a sense of guilt among the many reasons we give.

(<https://www.southuniversity.edu/whowear/newsroom/blog/the-psychology-behind-giftgiving-61911>)

The Center for Philanthropy at Indiana University writes that “[the last few months of the year make up what is commonly called the Giving Season for the nonprofit community. As the [holidays near, people may feel encouraged to give more generously than during the rest of the year. In a 2007 study, The Center found that their respondents reported giving about 24 percent of their annual total between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.” (<http://nccs.urban.org/nccs/statistics/charitable-giving-in-america-some-facts-and-figures.cfm>)

Whatever motivates us, we Americans give. The Center went on to say “Giving by **individuals** makes up the vast majority of contributions received by nonprofit organizations. Giving USA 2015 estimates that **individual** giving amounted to \$258.51 billion in 2014, an increase of 7.1 percent in current dollars from 2013. This accounts for 72 percent of all contributions received in 2014.” [Bold type added]

Whatever your motivation might be, the Word of God, the Bible, tells us over and over again about the rightness and the rewards of giving: Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7. Hebrews 13:16 do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. And there are many other verses below which equally show the blessings and goodness of giving. So this Christmas Season, the Giving Season, remember our charities as you make your giving plans for whatever reason – Pennies For Hunger, Yes We Can, and the Smithfield Rescue Mission. It is something we do, one human being to another human being.

Check out these other scripture references for giving: James 1:17; Acts 20:35; Matthew 6:1-4; Matthew 6:3; John 3:16; Acts 4:32-35; I John 3:17; II Corinthians 8:12; Luke 3:11; Matthew 7:11; Malachi 3:10; Ephesians 4:28; Matthew 25:35; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Proverbs 18:16; Romans 12:8; Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:40; Proverbs 25:14; Esther 9:22; Luke 12:33; Hebrews 13:5-6; Ephesians 1:3-4; John 3:16-17; Matthew 6:19-21; Revelation 12:11; II Corinthians 8:1-9, 15; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Matthew 25:35-45; Galatians 5:1-26; Matthew 5:42; James 1:27.

—Tom Barwick



PENNIES
For Hunger



Yes We Can



Mission
Outreach
Quadrant



November 27: First Sunday of Advent

Lighting of Advent Candle: Benny and Pam Pope

December 4: Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting of Advent Candle: Jim and Debbie Henderson

December 10: Girls' Night Out Christmas PJ's and a Movie,
6:00 p.m., at Courtney Scott's house

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting of Advent Candle: Kenny and Julie Duncan

December 16: Youth Lock-in, 6:00 p.m.

December 17: Presbyterian Men Feed the Youth Breakfast

December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lighting of Advent Candle: Rich and Ann Huckenbeck

Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Cookie Walk, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Christmas in a Barn, 5:00 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Brent, Nichole, Grace, and Mac Booker

December 25: Christmas Day Worship Service

December 26 and 27: Church Office Closed



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2016

Smithfield, NC 27577

PO Box 1159

First Presbyterian Church

PERMIT #93

SMITHFIELD, NC 27577

USPOSTAGE

NON-PROFIT STD MAIL

Giving Envelopes Available

The Finance Committee needs your assistance in planning for 2017. One task is the provision of giving envelopes.



Please email Beth Daniel at obdo@aol.com or call her at 919-934-9448 and let her know whether or not you want to use giving envelopes for 2017. If you have mentioned it in passing, please confirm to make sure that we have the information correct. We can provide envelopes for your children as well, which you may use as you teach them about giving back to God.

We will be following up with you later in the month if we don't hear from you.

Thank you!

—Beth Daniel

Pictorial Directory and New Email Addresses

The Communications and Technology Team has completed its work with the new directory and it has been submitted to LifeTouch for publication. It is our hope that we will receive the directories in early January. If anyone has concerns about their pictures, or has not received their pictures yet, please contact Debbie Jacobs.



If you are not receiving the eNews on Thursdays or Dial My Calls information, please contact Debbie Jacobs so that your email and phone number can be corrected. If your information changes, please let her know of the changes so that you can stay in touch with what's happening at First Pres.

On December 15, 2016, the church staff will begin implementing new Google emails. The following emails should be used beginning on that date for all church business:

- Joe Hester FPCjhester@gmail.com
- Linda Crowder FPClcrowder@gmail.com
- Martha Chapman FPCmchapman@gmail.com
- Kathy Rice FPCkrice@gmail.com
- Myra Wallace FPCmwallace@gmail.com
- Beth Daniel FPCbdaniel@gmail.com
- Cathy Allen FPCcallen@gmail.com
- Debbie Jacobs FPCdjacobs@gmail.com

If you have any questions about this transition, please contact a member of the Communications and Technology Team.

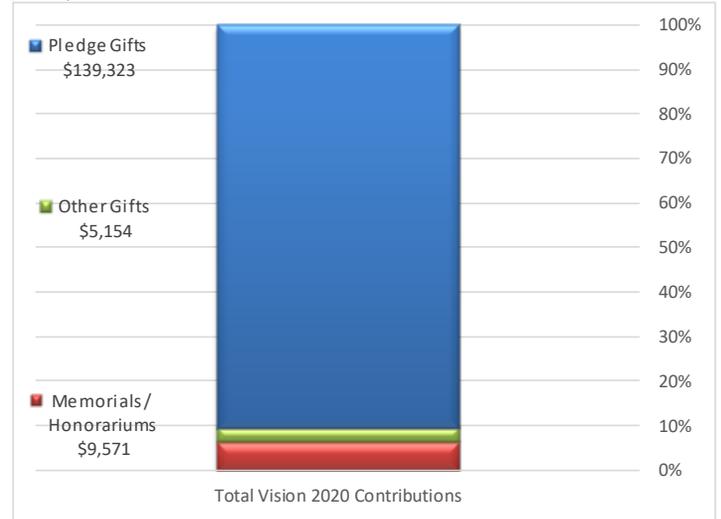
—Debbie Jacobs

**First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results: January – October 2016
Actual vs. Budgeted**

	Jan. - Oct. 2016 Actual	Jan. - Oct. 2016 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	225,205.47	241,666.70
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	1,846.87	3,374.70
Mission Quadrant	12,438.15	15,625.00
Spirituality Quadrant	117,313.81	148,694.20
Stewardship Quadrant	85,830.99	92,361.80
Total Disbursements	<u>217,429.82</u>	<u>260,055.90</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	7,775.65	(18,389.20)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 10/31/2016

- \$ 139,323 Pledge Gifts
- \$ 9,571 Memorials/Honorariums
- \$ 5,154 Other Gifts
- \$ 154,048 Total VISION 2020 Contributions



- \$ 559,626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
- \$ 1,090,725 Mortgage Balance

—Shirley Sharek

Property Box



Lights: Please Don't Touch!

Except for the hallways, all the lights in the new part of the building are controlled by motion detectors. Please **do not** manually turn off these lights. They are set to give us the maximum energy efficiency, and though it may seem counter-intuitive to you, please stifle your impulse to turn them off.

If you have questions about this, please contact Stan Coats or a member of the Property Team.

Thanks!
The Property Team

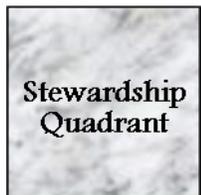
Gift-Giving Solutions

Trying to find gifts for certain people, or letting others know what you want, can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.



Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from Charles Swindoll:

Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone "I love you." Give something away anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation or announcement or reservation or hypocrisy.



December JOY Connection

There's a Song in the Air! Deck the Halls! JOY to the World! I know it's hard to believe, but the twelfth month, the last month of the year, is upon us. On the very first day of December we will bring the Christmas season in with tasty delights, songs, smiles, and even a very special game. Mark your calendar today for Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 12:00 noon. Join us in the church Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch and the perfect way to spark your Christmas spirit.



JOY Connection

As always, we ask you to sign the sheet at the reception desk so that we will be certain to have a space just for you. You may call the church and the staff will even see that your name is on the list.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the many people who bring wonderful desserts to share each month. Our dessert table is like no other. We Presbyterians do love sweet things! So, between now and the first day of December start humming those old favorite Christmas hymns, sharpen your mind to help your table of friends win the big Christmas game, and bring a hearty appetite to our delicious feast.

—Ann Ragland

Thank Offering 2016

Begun in 1888, the Thank Offering has been collected by Presbyterian Women annually to help women in our country and abroad. Let us be thankful and share with others for education, safety, clean water, health care, justice, safe housing, and many other needs of women everywhere.

Thank you for returning your contributions and your prayers and support!

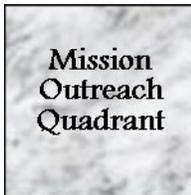
—Janet Lampe, Creative Ministries Committee



Care Packages

This year, thanks to your generous donations totaling \$300.00, the Presbyterian Women sent these gift boxes to eight college students, one gift card to Dwight Dockery, and a gift card to serviceman Jake Dockery. Another job well done!

—Mary Miller



Christmas in a Barn 2016

Come celebrate with us at this year's Christmas in a Barn on December 18, 5:30 p.m., at the Langdons' Hillcrest Farm. This year as the kids will be singing new songs they are learning with Mrs. Camille, and we'll have Ragged Company's great musical participation as well.

If you are interested in either participating (being a shepherd, angel, wise man, etc.) or volunteering (to help dress shepherds, angels, wise-men, etc.) please let Julie Duncan know.



Brandy Holzshu is again coordinating refreshments. We are in need of any refreshments that you are willing to provide, from cookies, chips, popcorn, veggies, etc. Everything will be greatly appreciated. These items will need to be at the church on December 18 immediately following worship service. Please put your name on your bowls or platters if you need them to be returned to you. You can pick them up at the church the following Sunday.

Evans Horne and Kenny Duncan are coordinating the refreshment tent set up and will need volunteers to help with this as well. If you can help with this set up or take down, please let Evans or Kenny know.

Maps to the barn will be available at the church closer to the program date. This is always such a special event in the life of our church. If you can help out that would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks and we hope to see you on December 18 at the barn.

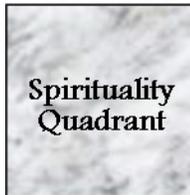
—Julie, Brandy, Evans and Kenny

Christmas Eve 2016

Candlelight

Service of Lessons and Carols

7:00 p.m.



**Friday, December 16
7:00 p.m.**



Make plans for the PYC Christmas Lock-in. Youth will spend the night at the church! Activities galore!

**Saturday, December 17
9:00 a.m.**

The Presbyterian Men will provide breakfast for our Youth after their Lock-in.



PYC collected boxes from Carolina Premium Outlets for the SAM Food Closet on Sunday, November 20. People were very generous. The food has been delivered to the Food Closet for Christmas distribution. A full roster of youth participated in preparing and delivering the boxes to the outlet center, collecting them when the drive was over, and then delivering them to the food closet. This important outreach of our youth was very successful. We thank the youth and their leaders.

—Linda Crowder

