



First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015

SHARE the amazing love of God	REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ	LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757.397.3622	515 COURT STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704	WWW.FPCPORTS.ORG

Coming Events

Sunday, Dec. 13
Stewardship Sunday
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship,
including receiving gifts
for \$6 a backpack
**12:00 Round table
discussion**

Wednesday, Dec. 16
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Saturday, Dec. 19
5:00 Christmas
gathering

Sunday, Dec. 20
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship and
choir cantata

Wednesday, Dec. 23
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 24
7:00 Christmas Eve
worship

Sunday, Dec. 27
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship

Sunday, Jan. 3
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship with
the Lord's Supper

*Reminder: The Court St.
and King St. doors will be
locked during worship.
Please enter through the
sanctuary during worship.*



***Please rise in body
and spirit.**

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

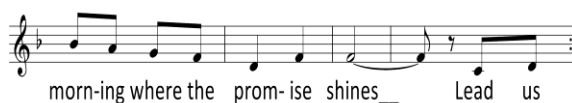
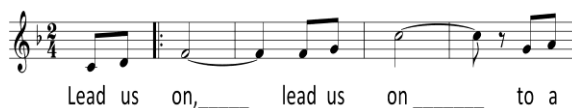
Prelude "The Shepherds" Held

* Choral Call to Worship
"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Third Sunday – *The Promise of Joy*

Candle lighters – Karen Diggs, Alice and Rudy
Simpson

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to
reawaken their longings.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the silence, we long for a comforting
word.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the
promise of joy.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Closing Prayer

* Hymn #88
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Clothed by Christ

Listening for the silence of God followed by the "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake their ways, turn from their sins, and return to the Lord. God has come during this Advent Season to free us from our sins and draw us to Him.

Holy God, in the light of Your holiness we can see ourselves as we really are and we do not always like what we see. We think too highly of ourselves and too little of others. We are so bothered by our issues we appear stern and uncaring to those who see us. We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world that we will not open our hands to receive Your blessings. Please be merciful to us. Do not deal with us not as we deserve. Move us through this service to share the mercy and forgiveness we have found in Jesus with our family, friends, and the people around us. We pray these things in the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen.

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. God has shown His love for us in that while we were still sinners, God sent Jesus to die for us and forgive us. The good news is we are a forgiven people!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

*** Song of Praise, Hymn #453 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"**

Sharing Christ's Promise

Time with the Children

Sung Prayer of Illumination "Alleluia" Gatlin

First Reading John 10: 1 - 3

*** Hymn #98 "To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"**

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 26 - 38

Sermon "God Appeared to June Cleaver or Jill Taylor or Deborah Barone or ... uh ... Mary" The Rev. Larry Toney

A Life of Blessing

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Today we receive gifts for the \$6 a backpack ministry.

Choral Musical Offering "Keep Your Lamps!" Andre Thomas

*** Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

*** Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the *Confession of Belhar*)**

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. Amen.

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.

A Life of Blessedness

*** Hymn #147 "The First Nowell"**

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Hymn #611 (3rd verse) "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

A Blessing in Music

"Nowell"

D'Aquin

Keep Your Lamps!

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary,
Children, don't get weary,
Children, don't get weary,
'Till your work is done.*

*Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.*



The Vision of the Congregation: We see ourselves as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ for each other, for the community, and for the world.

Welcome to our visitors!

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.
Your presence enriches our worship of God.

We wish to express our sympathy to Lane Pittman on the death of his mother, Mildred Humphrey.

Christmas Gathering: Join our church family for a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 19, at 5:00 PM. Meat and beverages will be provided. Bring a veggie, salad, or dessert (6/8 servings). RSVP by using the "Count Me In" cards in the sanctuary or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join the Session after church today, for a round table discussion about FPC's options for a new pastor. A "Potato Bar" lunch will be served.

Donations made in the memory of Frances Spiers

Circle #1, Charlotte Hill, Robert and Judy Powell,
Sonia Powell, Joyce Wright

Prayer List

Jeff Baker (Norma Halterman's brother-in-law), Betty Bartlett,
Richard Butler (Paul's cousin), Kyle Craig (Kerry's cousin),
Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Jackie and Tyler Forsythe,
Benjamin Gerlach (Pat Sparks' grandson),
the Goodwin family (neighbors of Cecilia and Alfred Fry),
Stephanie Green, Joe Jennings,
Mark Leonard (Claudia Laughlin's brother),
Agnes McFadden, Bob Pomeroy, Jr. (Diane Griffin's brother),
Marina Reimann, Carl Rhodes, Georgie Stewart (David's mother),
the Winkler and Powell families,
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

To the church triumphant

Mildred Humphrey (Laine Pitman's mother)

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Margaret Glynn, Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,
AT and Nancy Mayo, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker, Lane Pittman,
Burma and Leon Smith, Harvey Spiers, Robert Westbrook,
Patrice and Phil Winkler, Joyce Wright, Grace and Harold Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Larry Toney
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Reader: Michael Broadhurst
Ushers: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson
Counters: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson

December Offerings

12/6	\$ 6,364.81	12/20
12/13		12/27
		MTD \$ 6,364.81

December Attendance

12/6	Worship	33	Sunday school	16
12/13	Worship		Sunday school	
12/20	Worship		Sunday school	
12/27	Worship		Sunday school	

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 2:00 – 4:00.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to (church@fpcports.org) and the bulletin editor (rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com) no later than noon Wednesday.

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Session

The Rev. Walter Hunting, Moderator of Session
Karen Diggs, Class of 2015, Clerk of Session
Worship, led by Agnes McFadden and David Culpepper
Congregational Fellowship, led by Oralie Wilhite
Administration, Property and Finance, led by Paul Butler
Mission and Outreach, led by Jennifer Patgorski
Christian Formation, led by Gail Pittman

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to contact the appropriate elder with their comments and suggestions.

Church Staff

The Rev. Walter Hunting, Crisis Pastor 483-4721 Home, 615-2944 Cell
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries 397-3622 ext. 203

Birthdays

12/2 Kathy Goolsby
12/12 Margaret Glynn
Jay James
Viki Goolsby
12/18 Mike Broadhurst
12/21 Pat Sparks
12/22 Earl Griffin
12/28 Elizabeth Gerlach
Riley Winkler
12/30 Ian Taylor

Missing a birthday?
Please contact:
Church churchr@fpcports.org
397-3622
Bulletin Editor
rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor
slp149@aol.com

Ministries

12/6
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Todd Taylor

12/13
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Diane Griffin
Hospitality

12/20
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Rodrigues/Wilhite

12/27
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst.

Contact Us:

757-397-3622

www.fpcports.org
church@fpcports.org



[www.facebook.com/
FPCPorts](http://www.facebook.com/FPCPorts)





The poinsettias in the sanctuary today were given by

Barbara Bond

In memory of Helen Mawhinney

Michael and Edna Broadhurst

In honor of the "Choir" family

Paul and Alice Butler

*In memory of Paul and Frances Butler
and Marsden and Grace Farrow*

Karen Diggs

*In honor of Rudy and Alice Simpson
and In memory of Aaron Filer*

Jerry Freeman

*In honor of Brigitta Freeman
In honor of Mike Taylor
In memory of Norma Freeman
In memory of Walter Freeman
In memory of Don Taylor
In memory of Margaret Taylor*

Earl and Diane Griffin

*In honor of Carrie Griffin
In honor of Richard Griffin
In memory of Marjorie Griffin Gray
In memory of Wilbur C. Griffin*

John Hackworth

In memory of Brian Hackworth

R. Lanier and Norma Halterman

*In memory of Rick and Gertie Halterman
(Lanier's parents)
In memory of Buddy and Rebecca Gargis
(Norma's parents)*

Lane and Gail Pittman

*In honor of Agnes McFadden
In honor of First Presbyterian Session*

Bob and Judy Powell

In honor of and in memory of loved ones

Sonia Powell

In memory of Eddie Powell

Rudy and Alice Simpson

*In memory of John and Mable Simpson (Rudy's
parents)*

*In memory of Ted and Marie Filer (Alice's
parents)*

Leon and Berma Smith

In honor of Michael and Edna Broadhurst

In memory of Betsy Stuart

Pat Sparks

In memory of Ruth and Frazier Byrd

In memory of Randy Sparks, Sr.

In memory of Frances Spiers

Sylvia Stephenson

In memory of George and Katie Stephenson

In memory of Elizabeth Stephenson

Dan Swanson

In honor of Kelly, Joe, and Joeley Barns

In memory of Shirley and Gustaf Swanson

Bill Westbrook

In memory of Margret Westbrook and Kendall

Rhodes

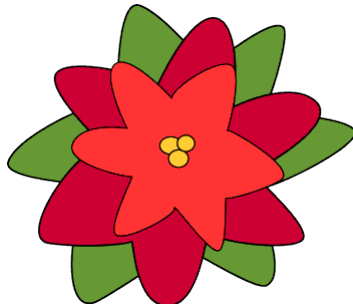
Eva (Lou) Wilhite

In honor of Jeanette, Linda, and John Rodrigues

Oralie Wilhite

In honor of First Presbyterian Church

In memory of Mamie Cotton



You are invited to a Cantata at

First Presbyterian Church



on
December 20,
during worship service.

A Canticle of Joy

A Christmas Cantata
by Joseph Martin