

# First Presbyterian News

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Chris Jones, Choir Director  
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton  
Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader  
Doris Koch—Treasurer



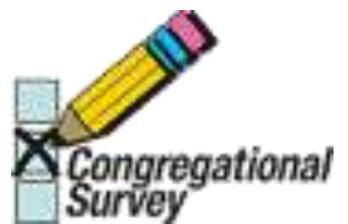
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**Office Hours**  
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
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Dear First Family,

Annette Goard is now serving as Moderator for our Session. In preparation for creating our Pastor Nominating Committee we encourage your participation with one of the steps of the required Mission Study. We are asking that all of you complete a survey that will be available at church beginning Sunday, Dec. 29. You may also request the church office to send it to you via email or snail



mail beginning that date. These surveys need to be completed as soon as possible and returned no later than January 13 to enable the process to continue.

Our Session will continue to keep you informed as we move forward as expeditiously as possible. Remember that the Elders are available to you as you have questions, concerns, and/or suggestions.

Pray daily for God's guidance of His church, and have a safe and spiritually fulfilling New Year.

Linda Lumsden

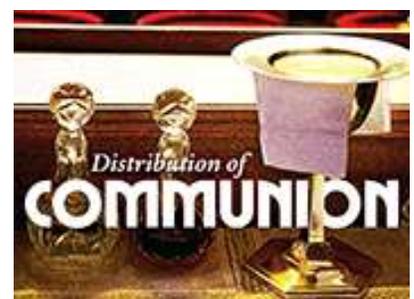


## January 5

We were so pleased to have Rich with us for Christmas Eve service, he will return and provide the sermon. Rich is a resident of Buffalo Junction. He is currently a Missional Commissioned Pastor with the Presbytery. Previously, he was the pastor at Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church in Turbeville. He now, fills a once a month at a variety of churches. Welcome Rich and wife, Carol.

## January 12—Communion

We will have Dick Boswell back with us. Let's welcome him back. As a reminder: Dick has served as Deacon and Ruling Elder at Lynchburg First Presbyterian Church. He trained as the first Confirmed lay Pastor in the Presbytery and later as Missional Lay Pastor in Presbytery. He has supplied many pulpits in the Presbytery and has served as Moderator of the Presbytery in 2018 as well as serving on several committees. He and his wife, Elaine, have 2 adult children.





**Paul and Reinhild Sydnor,  
International Association for Refugees** 2

(a First Presbyterian Ministry)

Thank you again for the church's support of our work among refugees in Europe –as well as for the commitment to continue next year. The church's support is a crucial part of our funding. We are especially grateful at this time when the world is in a pretty uncertain state. –more wars than ever before. Likewise, we have lost several significant donors due to deaths and cutbacks –So thank you for your faithfulness.

In fact we have experienced a drop of nearly 20% in our support this past year. This means that these past five months we have had to take a cut in our paycheck by about \$1600 per month in order to stay out of the red. I am praying and hoping that in the coming year we will see this improve.

We are working hard at building our team locally in Lille. We will open the centre in March. Right now there is a lot of construction work going on. In light of the opening, we are also bringing on new teammates. One family arrived this past summer and we are talking to others. In addition to the local work, I am responsible for the region in Europe and this work also needs additional workers. We are discussing about this with some other organizations in order to work out secondments.

My wife, Reinhild has a nerve disorder in her face called trigeminal neuralgia. It's been a year and she is on medication. We've had to make some adjustments for this and are still coping with the results of the medication and the stress of the pain.

I am planning to visit in the States this time next year. I will also be coming before that, but for other meetings.

In December this year, our son is getting married in Arizona! So we'll travel over for that. It's hard to think about getting away when so much is gearing up.

Thank you again for your news. Please greet the church and thank you for all your support over the years.

with blessings,

**Paul Sydnor**

Europe regional leader & RHP network leader

**International Association for Refugees -**

helping refugees survive and recover from forced displacement



**Visiting Pastor** - Since Nov. 3 we have been blessed with very skilled and experienced, preachers on Sunday mornings. All have delivered uniquely with their voices, styles, and messages. All have delivered consistently the Word of God and His Promise. Please join us at 10:30 Sunday mornings as we continue to hear God's Word from dynamic speakers.

On a recent Sunday Kim Albert, in Walks With Jesus, impressed on us the many days the Magi spent on their journey in pursuit of Jesus. Dick Boswell, in his sermon, impressed on us the very many ways the Magi had an extremely difficult journey. The Magi persevered the very long journey with trust in and obedience to God.

We, too, are on a challenged journey together as a Church family.

May we persevere our journey together as did the Magi, with trust in and obedience to God. ~ Linda Lumsden



So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.



*Women's Bible Study*

**Women's Bible Study** - We meet every Thursday at 10:30 am. We will restart our class, after the Christmas holiday, on Thursday, January 9. We are studying Genesis, and are excited to have many who have volunteered to lead the classes. We have had some great discussions. We have had a good group so far. If you haven't come out, feel free to start.

**Women's Circle** - January 7 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Mark your calendars now. The date will get here quickly. We want to welcome all the women of the church and their friends and family. Refreshments will be provided.



**The Good Samaritan** has greatly appreciated the clothing, and the many varied items, that has been donated to help them. As Fall and Winter approach their needs increase. Typically this time of year they run short on peanut butter, canned meats (tuna, spam, etc). They can also use winter clothes. We appreciate all the help and donations. The Good Sam box is in the main lobby, and ready to accept any donations as they come in. Good Samaritan also has a location in Nathalie - open every Saturday from 10-12. Between the two locations they have helped hundreds of people with food, clothing, and utilities. You make a big difference with any and all contributions. They express their gratitude for each of you and your generous hearts. Please think about the Good Samaritan during this holiday season and giving what you can, as it helps the local people.

**Welcome new officers**, – new Deacons: Michaella Fraser Freshour, Pattie Grubbs, Lorene Gilliam. New Elders: Mike Freshour, Robert Guthrie, Mike Rand. Our new Trustee is Leon Plaster; our new W.W. Glass Trustees are 2021- Tee Godbold, and 2022- Terri Smith.



**Thank You** – We want to express a heart felt “Thank You for our Deacons and Elders that have served us with such dedication and are now rotating off: Deacons: Laurie Morris, Brenda McPeters, and Skyler Smith; as Elders: Steve Reynolds, and Jim Sizemore. As Trustee: Mac Lacy



**Christmas Families** - We are excited about helping in the community. We were able to help two families again this year for Christmas. One family needed help with purchasing gifts for their son, and to help with the electric bill. The other has had many medical issues, and an upcoming surgery. Funds were sent to help them make it through the holidays. Each family received \$300 towards their needs. Thank you for your generosity to help those families at this special time of year.

**Virtual Poinsettia Ministry** - We are pleased with the response for the virtual poinsettias this year. We have earned \$525. We will pay for the poinsettias and the extra money will go to a local charity.



**Stewardship Drive** - We sent out packets and have had many returned pledge forms. We have pledges totaling 68% of our 2020 budget.

**Year End** - 2019 offerings and pledges may continue to be turned in through January 8, 2020.



As we approach the new year and the thought of making resolutions; I am reminded of a story of an ancient group of people who had been wicked and committed many murders. Over a period of time, they were converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they repented of all their sins. They even decided to throw down their weapons of war, and went so far as to bury them, to prove their faithfulness and willingness to obey God's laws.

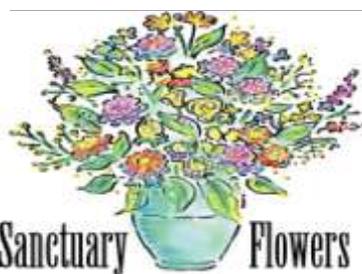
What dedication this group of people had. They were even willing to lay down their lives if necessary, to never take any weapons against another person. They became committed to their faith and converted to the Lord.

Commitment and true conversion require a change in who we are. Just as those people of old, changed from being warriors to peaceful people, from the unbelieving to the converted, they were willing to die to keep their word and promises to God.

I am reminded that Christ said "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" ~ John 14:6. When we commit ourselves to Christ, we become a new person. John 16:3 says "He will guide you into all truth". When we are truly converted, we want to do all that the Lord asks, and as we do this more and more, He will strengthen us, and it will become part of our nature to choose what is right. It certainly doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't mean we will not have struggles. But it does mean that we will have the strength to overcome the trials.

I have seen in my own life, that as I committed, sincerely committed, to doing what the Lord asked, some of my previous temptations became less and less of a temptation and struggle. I can say that I have seen God's hand work in my life. I am grateful to know Jesus Christ and that he is my brother and Savior. I am grateful for the scriptures that are available for me to learn and grow closer to Him.

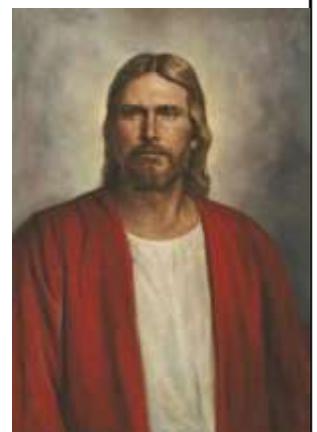
I hope that as my journey continues, I will find it easier and easier to throw down my weapons (my bad habits) daily, and become more and more like the person He wants me to be. The blessing of each new year, is being able to start new and try harder to be more and more Christ like each day. ~ *Sherolyn*



**Flower Calendar** - The new 2020 Flower calendar is up and ready to be filled in for the new year. Take a moment to stop by the church office door and sign up for the dates that work best for you and your family.

**Song: "If The Savior Stood Beside Me"**

- 1 . If the Savior stood beside me, would I do the things I do? Would I think of His commandments and try harder to be true? Would I follow His example? Would I live more righteously if I could see the Savior standing nigh watching over me?
2. If the Savior stood beside me, would I say the things I say? Would my words be true and kind if He were never far away? Would I try to share the gospel? Would I speak more reverently if I could see the Savior standing nigh watching over me?
3. He is always near me though I do not see Him there, And because He loves me dearly, I am in His watchful care. So I'll be the kind of person that I know I'd like to be if I could see the Savior standing nigh watching over me.



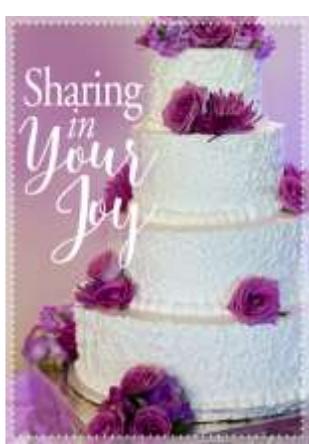


# JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 December <b>5 cents a Meal</b>  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	30 December  6pm NA	31 December 12 noon NA  <b>Office Closed</b> <i>Welcome 2020!</i>	January 1	2  7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	3  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm - Girl Scouts	4  NA12—1
5  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	6  6pm NA	7  12 noon NA	8  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	10  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	11  NA 12-1
12  <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	13  6pm NA	14  12 noon NA	15  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	17  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	18  NA 12—1
19  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3 pm - Girl Scouts 6 pm NA	20  6pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	21  12 noon NA	22  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal  <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	23  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	24  9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	25  NA 12—1
26 <b>5 cents a Meal</b>  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	27  6pm NA	28  12 noon NA	29  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	31  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	February 1  NA12—1

# JANUARY Birthdays



- 1 Richard Harrell IV
- 1 Dabney Gilliam
- 1 Clarice Crews
- 3 Ruth Jean Slayton
- 4 John Cranford
- 7 Kay Lewis
- 7 Donna Mistal
- 10 Leon Plaster
- 10 Joshua Roberts
- 14 Paige Powell
- 14 Colby Cranford
- 15 Karen Henderson
- 17 Tricia Burton
- 19 Eric Nelson
- 19 Art Carter
- 21 Peggy Fuller
- 25 Linda Lumsden
- 31 Jenny Wilkins\*

\* In Memory



If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, the elders:**

1. The meeting began with a joint gathering of the Session and Diaconate to welcome the new officers who will be ordained/installed during the January 5<sup>th</sup> worship service.
2. Rev. Annette Goard, of Clarksville Presbyterian Church, will serve as Moderator of the Session through February.
3. Mike Koch updated the Session on the current property projects and progress on church security.
4. Jim Sizemore presented the balance sheets for October and November.
5. Linda Lumsden reported the communion would be held on January 12<sup>th</sup>. She also reported on her progress on filling the pulpit going forward.
6. Don Cherry has communicated the 2020 support with our missionary teams. The website is being kept up to date with all current events, bulletins and newsletters.
7. Carter Henderson gave a status report on the transition process. A congregational survey was discussed and approved.
8. Steve Reynolds reported on the Community Christmas families that we will support this Christmas.

**Ladies Circle** - Tuesday,  
January 7, at 10:30 am.



**Weekly Happenings**

**January 20**

**Deacons at 7:00 pm**

**Elders at 7:30 pm**

**Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**Women's Bible Study:** Thursdays at 10:30 am

**Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm

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**Here is your January 2020 Newsletter**