

# First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

There are always a lot of commentaries this time of year about how we are to regard the dawn of a new year. Columnist and Author William E. Vaughn wrote this about New Year's Eve: *"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."* Living another year under the COVID pandemic we might be justified in taking either approach. But I would add another perspective to Vaughn's approaches. *A person of faith comes to the new year giving thanks to God for two things: first for God's presence and loving care in the past year, secondly for the confidence and faith that God will be present and loving during the next year.* I hope we can adopt that approach to the coming of the New Year 2022.

God has been good to First Presbyterian Church in 2021. We have faced and overcome some difficulties, we prayed for many concerns and witnessed God's miraculous answers to our prayers, mourned and celebrated some departed saints, maintained worship and fellowship, upheld and demonstrated the truth of God's love, reached out to feed the hungry, helped to give relief to the oppressed and provided means of spiritual learning and growth for adults and children. God has blessed us with good leadership and a faithful congregation. We have been blessed in 2021 and can celebrate while looking forward to the blessings God has in store for us in 2022.

Having a choir, rehearsing and singing during a pandemic is a perilous and anxiety producing endeavor. But an example of God's faithfulness in 2021 was demonstrated to the church during worship on December 12, 2021. Sometime in the early fall of the year the choir consisted of six people, some of whom could not participate every Sunday. Chris and choir members debated whether or not to attempt a Christmas Cantata. Could we even consider the commitment of time and energy necessary with so few people? The Choir decided to step out on faith that God would provide more voices. Chris selected a beautiful cantata, and the work began. The choir began to grow slowly and quietly. First one member came, then another, and another, until there were five men and eight women who rehearsed and practiced and finally performed the cantata presented in worship on December 12. The reviews were glowing, and the congregation was blessed. I pray that God will continue to inspire us to step out in faith to do even greater things in 2022. A happy and prosperous New Year to everyone in the love of Christ!

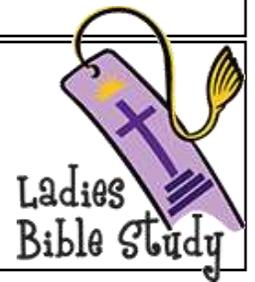
~ Rev. Glenn Coleman





**Ladies' Circle** – Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be 2  
 Tuesday, January 4 at 10:30 am - in the Philathea Room, Kim Albert will be  
 our guest speaker. All women are invited to attend.

**Women's Bible study** - Bible study will begin again after the Christmas break  
 on Thursday, January 6 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The study of C.S.  
 Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* has been eye opening and all that have attended  
 have enjoyed the learning and discussions. Satan is cunning, and recognizing  
 his ways helps us to discern promptings and make better decisions.



**Officer Installation/Ordination** - Our new officers will be ordained and/or  
 installed on Sunday, January 2 during worship.



**New Officers:** We are excited to work with our new *Elders (2024)*: Don  
 Cherry, Joni Owens, Colter Wickemeyer; (2023): Jim Debiec; and new  
*Deacons (2024)*: Larry McPeters, Frances Harrell, (2022): Joseph 'Joe'  
 Roberts, and Sterling Roberts. *New Trustee*: Mark Foster; *WW Glass*  
*Trustee*: Paige Powell.

**Thank You** - for your service over the past  
 three (3) years: Carol Foster, Carter Henderson, Joanna Hughes,  
 Paige Powell, and thank you for Joann Newland filling in this past  
 year. We have been blessed by your service.



**Prayer List** - Mark and Carol Foster's grandson; Mark Foster had  
 back surgery, which went well. Carol Foster surgery in January; Sam  
 Torian had a couple procedures in December and surgery expected in  
 January. Lorene and Dabney Gilliam; Matthew Grubbs is recovering;  
 Donnell Corelle passed; Emily Wilkins - multiple myelomas; David Fitts'  
 family after passing of his father, Jim Fitts; Lonnie Carroll Moore's  
 family; Clarice Crews passed; Teresa McCollum's aunt Betsy; Jennifer  
 Bomar - lost brother, sister and diagnosed with breast cancer over  
 2021; Lori Thomas - breast cancer surgery; Robert Bates - kidney issues. Congratulations and  
 prayers for health for Mark and Carol Fosters newest (2nd) great grandson, John Reilly.



**Pledge/Offering statements** will be mailed out by January 31. We  
 will accept 2021 offerings through January 12. Watch for the  
 mailings. We are grateful for all those who sent in a pledge. We  
 have reached a total just shy of 70% of the 2022 budget.

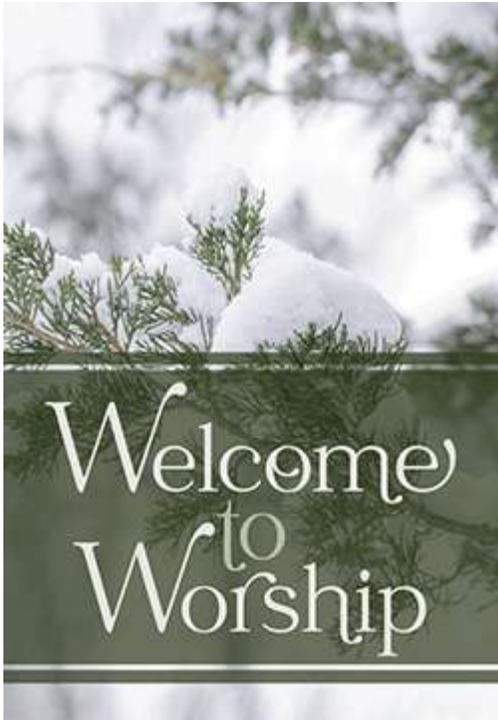
**Flower Calendar** - The new 2022 Flower Calendar is up and available to fill in  
 favorite and special dates of 2022. The flowers are such a beautiful way to  
 enhance the sanctuary and worship service.



**Happy 2022** - The custom of celebrating the first day of  
 the new year started in ancient Rome. On that day Janus, the one who  
 the Romans believed had charge of gates and doors and of beginnings  
 and endings, was honored. The month of January was named for him.  
 On New Year's Day the Romans gave each other presents.

People around the world have different customs for welcoming a new  
 year. When the English people here church bells, they open their doors to let the old year out  
 and the new year in. People in Scotland believe that to be the first one to visit a house brings  
 good luck to both the visitor and the household.

How will you bring in the New Year? May 2022 be a brighter year filled with God's light for all.



**January 2 - Second Sunday of Christmas**

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**Sermon Title: "The Gifts of the Magi"**

**Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12**

**January 9 - Baptism of the Lord**

**Sermon Title: "My Servant, My Chosen ..."**

**Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**January 16 - Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "The Gifted"**

**Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**January 23 - Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "The Beginning of Christ's Ministry"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21**

**January 30 - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "Is Love Failing?"**

**Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**February 6 - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "Woe, Whoa, Whew!"**

**Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1:11**

## Searching for a New Pastor



**The PNC Update** - More than 700 years before the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah predicted the events of that blessed night.

*<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace*

*there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. – Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)*

Man had already been excluded from eternal life in heaven because of sin. The wages of sin is death. Yet God out of His infinite love created a way to bridge that gap between God and man by offering His son, Jesus, to pay once and for all for our sin.

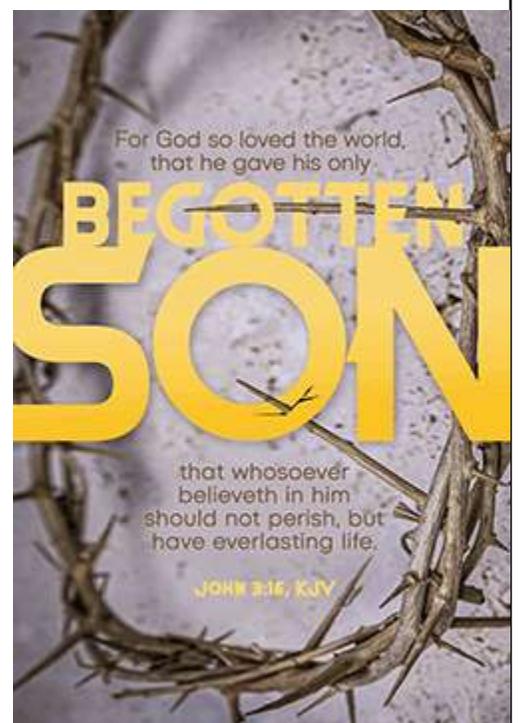
*<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16 (NIV)*

Your PNC continues to work to work with our search firm to identify and vet potential candidates for our pastor. The Christmas holiday season does slow things down due to it being the "busy" time for pastors. This month possible candidates have been identified and we continue discussion with them.

Keep us in your prayers as we continue the task that you have entrusted to us.

*Don Cherry.*

PNC Chairman





The popular saying in any new year, especially around gyms is “a New Year, a New You.”

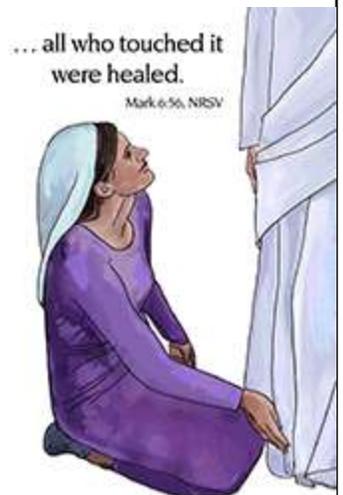
As I ponder that thought, I cannot help but think about Christ, and His admonition to us to become as He is.

I thought of Saul, who clearly was not following the righteous path. He persecuted the Christians; he took part in martyring Stephen. He testified against Christians as they were about to be put to death.

Nevertheless, he ended up changing his ways, while he was on his way to persecute more Christians, he saw a vision of Jesus. The men he was with heard “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 22:7). a voice but saw no one. After this Saul was blind for three days in which he did a lot of repenting. The Lord, Jesus, knew Saul could be a good man. He knew he had potential to influence a lot of people toward Christ. (Acts 9:15) Saul changed; Christ changed his name accordingly as well. He was then known as Paul.

Christ knows us. He knew us before we were born. Christ said, “he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel”. In Jeremiah (1:5) we read: “Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee ...”

Scripture stories help us to know more about Christ and information we need. Christ has great power to change; He who changed eyes to see, changed ears to hear, and healed/changed bodies. He changed broken hearts. The woman with the blood issue, had her blood changed, just by touching His robe. He changed fishermen into disciples. He is mighty to change. He can and will help us to change.



These scripture stories are important for us, for me. I know that the Lord knows me personally. He knows the person I can and was meant to be. And I know that with His help I can become that person. I can be a voice and a light to help bring seeking hearts and minds to know the truth, to know Christ is the one and only way to Heaven, and to loves us, and wants us to return to Him. I pray I will be the person He wants and knows me to be. I know He lives and loves us today. He who changes not, wants us to change... to be more like Him.

~ Sherolyn

Pattie Grubbs always writes such beautiful poems. We were not able to get this poem in the December newsletter. Since we have the space, I think I will share it here:

Compassionate Jesus, our Savior and King  
Born of a virgin, His message to bring  
Of love and forgiveness, peace and goodwill  
His mercy and kindness, our emptiness filled.

A world steeped in brokenness  
Sorrow and pain  
Our gentle Jesus, we kneel when He's named.  
A babe in a manger, a stable so bare  
Mary and Joseph and the baby so rare.

So here on this Christmas give thanks to our God  
For the Gift of all Gifts and the Love  
Who he brought  
To save and deliver us, both you and me  
Sacrificially, lovingly, set us all free.



Amen



# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 26-</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	<b>December 27 - Office Closed</b> 6:00 pm NA	December 28	December 29 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	<b>December 30 Office Closed</b> 8:00 pm - AA	<b>December 31— Office Closed</b> 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	
<b>2 - Officer Installation</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	3 6:00 pm NA	4 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle	5 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	6 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	7 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	8
<b>9</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	10 6:00 pm NA	11	12 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	13 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	14 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	15
<b>16- 5 Cents a Meal collection</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b>	17 6:00 pm NA	18 <b>6:00pm Deacons</b> <b>7:00pm Elders</b>	19 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	20 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 - AA	21 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	22
<b>23</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	24 6:00 pm NA	25 	26 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	27 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	28 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	29
<b>30</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	31 6:00 pm NA	February 1 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle	February 2 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	February 3 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	February 4 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	February 5



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 1 Dabney Gilliam
- 1 Clarice Crews
- 3 Ruth Jean Slayton
- 7 Cynthia Coleman
- 7 Kay Lewis
- 7 Donna Mistal
- 8 Allen Morris
- 10 Leon Plaster
- 10 Joshua Roberts
- 14 Paige Powell
- 15 Karen Henderson
- 17 Tricia Burton
- 25 Linda Lumsden
- 31 Jenny Wilkins\*

If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

\* In Memory



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer for the joint meeting of the Session and Diaconate
2. The meeting began with the examination of the new officers where each shared a brief testimony followed by a time of fellowship. The Session and Diaconate then separated for their individual meetings. The new officers were invited to attend their respective meetings.
3. Rev. Coleman shared news of the congregation.
4. Officer Training conducted on Sunday, November 28th.
5. Don Cherry was elected to serve as Clerk of Session for the next three years.
6. The annual statistical report will be prepared and presented for approval at the January meeting.
7. Membership Roll – Clarice Crews went to be with the Lord on December 8, 2021,
8. PNC Report – The committee continues in discussion with candidates.
9. Operation Christmas Child update. 29 boxes have been picked up, 13 boxes returned and 16 online donations.
10. The “Virtual Poinsettias” has collected \$850 to date. Surplus funds will be contributed to the Christmas project.
11. The Stewardship Campaign update. 67% of the budget pledged to date.
12. Finance Committee – The November financial reports were reviewed. Giving is down, we are over \$40,000 behind year-to-date vs the 2021 budget. Actual expenses are \$25,000 more than the income received.
13. Worship Committee - Next communion will be Friday, December 24, 2021, during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
14. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
15. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



**Upcoming :**

**Officer Installation** - Sunday, January 2

**Ladies' Circle** - Tuesday, January 4 at 10:30 am.

**Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

**Women's Bible Study** - Each Thursday at 10:30 am

**Deacons and Session** - Tuesday, January 18 at 6 pm

First Presbyterian Church  
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