



# Outer Banks Presbyterian Church

December 2019

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### Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jody G. Moore  
*Pastor*

Jason K. Evans  
*Director of Music  
Ministries/Organist*

Hollie Writtenberry-Lewis  
*Director of Children, Youth &  
Young Family Ministries*

Cathie Feild  
*Office Manager*

Heather Day  
*Nursery Caregiver*

Brenda Feury  
*Sexton*

# Christmas

at Outer Banks Presbyterian

*A Musical Celebration of the Season*

*Presented by*

*The Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra*

*Saturday, December 7, 2019*

*5:00 pm*

*Sunday, December 8, 2019*

*5:00 pm*

- *A nursery will be provided on site.*
- *A freewill love offering will be taken.*
- *See page 4 for more information.*



This Is God's House

All Are Welcome!

**Prayer Concerns**

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you..." II Corinthians 9:8

- Jack Abernethy
- Les Basnight
- Marc Basnight
- Don & Nancy Bierwerth
- Martha Butcher
- Anne Cramer
- George Daniels
- Lisa Evans
- Claudette Forney
- Dorothy & Matt George
- Margaret Hartman
- The Family of Ash Jones
- Nancy Messinger
- Roy Murray
- Etta Parrott
- Fran Peel
- Richard Phersick
- Claudia Riley
- Lawrence Rust
- Kevin Scholl
- Fred Smith
- Hank Sprenger
- Frank Stallings
- Lisa Trupo
- Pat Yoder

Those Serving in our Military

**Advent Devotionals for Adults**

**I Wonder As I Wander** by Michelle Van Loon - The cherished carol "I Wonder as I Wander" launches this inspiring Advent journey through themes of seeking and being found by God. These daily Advent devotions capture the surprise, truth and wonder of God's pursuit of each one of us. Contemporary examples mix with ancient, unchanging truth to guide readers to the One who has been pursuing us every step of the way. Copies of these will be available in the Gathering Space.

**Advent for Children**

An Advent window calendar - **Come to Bethlehem and See**. Open a different "window" each day of December to reveal a Christian Image. No Santa Claus or Snowmen to be found here, these calendars have a picture and a Bible passage behind each window. The back leads young people on an "Advent Treasure Hunt" with a question, riddle or a fill-in-the-blank. Reveal the answer when you open the window.

**We are Thankful for our Willing Volunteers**

**Coffee Hour Schedule**

- Dec. 1 ..... Stewardship
- Dec. 8 ..... Christian Education
- Dec. 15 ..... Christmas Reception
- Dec. 22 ..... Evangelism
- Dec. 29 ..... Dorcas Circle

**Flower Schedule**

- Dec. 1 ..... Cathie Feild
- Dec. 8 ..... Available
- Dec. 15 ..... Poinsettias
- Dec. 22 ..... Poinsettias
- Dec. 29 ..... Gary & Linda McGee

**Liturgist Schedule**

- Dec. 1 ..... Nonie Booth
- Dec. 8 ..... Brenda Brown
- Dec. 15 ..... Ron Baker
- Dec. 22 ..... Jean Basnight
- Dec. 29 ..... Nonie Booth

**Children's Church Schedule**

- Dec. 1 ..... Braymiller
- Dec. 8 ..... Hardy / Wood
- Dec. 15 ..... Writtenberry / Michler
- Dec. 22 ..... Moore / McDowell
- Dec. 29 ..... Writtenberry / Michler

**December Birthdays**

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Barbara Hardy ..... 10          | Charlie Jones ..... 24         |
| Bob Scott ..... 15              | Carol Sparks ..... 24          |
| Warren Davis ..... 16           | Ruth Dutt ..... 25             |
| Jaylen Lindsey ..... 18         | Vera Berg ..... 26             |
| EJ Markwood ..... 18            | Joanne Hale ..... 27           |
| Jason Evans ..... 19            | Brittany Oustland ..... 27     |
| Chris Lewis ..... 20            | Chuck Olejasz ..... 29         |
| Hillary Stautzenberger ..... 20 | Ashley Lowcher-Norris ..... 30 |
| Charles Hardy ..... 24          |                                |

**December Anniversaries**

- Mr. & Mrs. Joe Morgan ..... 4
- Mr. & Mrs. John Dick ..... 10
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Snyder ..... 11
- Rev. & Mrs. John Rickers ..... 18
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary McGee ..... 19
- Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Anderson ..... 23
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hartman ..... 27
- Mr. & Mrs. Don Younkinn ..... 28

## A Word from our Pastor



First of all, I want to express a word of gratitude for the Trunk or Treat our congregation hosted on October 27<sup>th</sup>. I was overwhelmed at the support our congregation provided for this event: at how many people volunteered to hand out candy from your trunks, led a variety of games for the children, painted

pumpkins with the trick-or-treaters, and provided snacks at the welcome table. A number of our members really got into the spirit of the event and dressed up in Halloween costumes themselves. My own children had a wonderful time. When I asked my kids later in the week whether they were ready for Halloween, they told me that they had already had Halloween at Trunk or Treat. There were many children and families from the community we don't normally see who attended the event, which was a wonderful outreach. The Christian Education Committee is already looking forward to making this an annual tradition.

I also want to thank everyone from the congregation for your strong participation in our Food Pantry Thanksgiving Project, where we collected paper bags filled with food for Thanksgiving meals. I am often amazed at the wonderful response you continue to provide to help our neighbors in need. The church library was absolutely overflowing with food; I counted over thirty-five bags. Those bags have been sent to the Beach Food Pantry and by the time that you read this article, many families in our community will have enjoyed a joyous Thanksgiving meal thanks to your generosity.

Advent is a time of preparation: a period to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of the Lord. Advent begins on December 1<sup>st</sup> this year. There are many ways for us to prepare. I hope that you will pick up the free daily devotional that our church is providing this Advent called "I Wonder as I Wander" by Michelle Van Loon. We can also prepare for Christ's coming through regular prayer, participating in our worship services, attending the Christmas musical on December 7 and 8, and doing good deeds for those in need by participating in the Angel Tree and other worthwhile projects.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Please be sure to include worship in your plans for Christmas Eve! We will sing many of our favorite carols, hear the Christmas story read through a number of Scripture readings, and I will have a brief sermon. Every year as we approach Christmas, we have the chance to reflect with amazement that God's own Son chose to take human flesh and be born a vulnerable baby boy for our sake. Jesus' birth shows us his willingness to bridge the divide that separated the triune God from humanity. The carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" notes, "O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today." As you prepare for Christmas, let us prepare room in our hearts for Christ to descend to us so that he may once again be born anew in us during this holy season.

Peace in Christ, Jody Moore

## Sermons for Advent/Christmas 2019

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

**Sunday, December 8**  
**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Matthew 3: 1-12**

Advent is a time for preparation for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist, who was the forerunner of Jesus, speaks prophetic words about repentance. This Advent, John's words command us to turn away from our sin, rededicate our lives to God, and commit to serving Christ. We will light the candle of Peace on the Advent Wreath.

**Sunday, December 15**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Zechariah 8: 9-13, 9: 9-10**

The prophet anticipates the coming of the Messiah, which will be a time when the Lord will establish justice and peace among the nations. Zechariah anticipates a humble Messiah who will come riding a donkey instead of a more impressive animal. In Jesus, we find that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords came willing to sacrifice and to serve others. We will light the candle of Joy on the Advent Wreath.

**Sunday, December 22**  
**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Matthew 1: 18-25**

An angel announces to Joseph that Mary will bear a son named Jesus, who will save the people from their sins. Joseph has faith in God and follows the angel's instructions. We celebrate the wonderful, amazing gift of Christmas of Emmanuel, God with us! We will light the candle of Love on the Advent Wreath.

**Monday, December 24 (5 pm)**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Luke 2: 1-20**

We will hear the Christmas story, which tells of Jesus being born in Bethlehem. The shepherds come to offer their praises to the Christ child. We will proclaim once again that God is with us because in Jesus Christ, God's Son took on human flesh and dwelt among us. We will participate in singing the great carols of the faith and in a candlelight service.





## Christmas at Outer Banks Presbyterian

**Saturday, December 7**  
**5:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 8**  
**5:00 pm**

The Outer Banks Presbyterian Church invites you to attend their 12th annual "Christmas at Outer Banks Presbyterian" musical presentations. The concerts will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 7th and 8th – both beginning at 5 pm. The choir, under the direction of Nonie Booth and Jason Evans, has been working on the presentation since September.

The first portion of the concert will be an assortment of Christmas favorites sure to get you in the Christmas spirit – and don't forget to bring your voice – there will be opportunities for you to join in song too! The second portion of the concert will feature both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the score presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion.

The musical will be conducted by Nonie Booth and narrated by Susan Harman-Scott. Soloists will include Brian Hare and Nick Hodsdon. The orchestra will be comprised of: Steve Blackstock, organ; Jason Evans, piano; Jordan Ponzi, electric bass; Reid Stockdill, timpani/percussion; George Graham, drums; Leslie Erickson and Jessie Donnelly, violin; Sue Waters, viola; John Husser and Deborah Ramos-Smiley, cello; Suzanne Blackstock and Katie Blanchard, flute.

The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill love offering will be received and an on-site nursery will be provided. Outer Banks Presbyterian Church is located at 907 S. Croatan Highway (Milepost 8.5) on the bypass in Kill Devil Hills. For more information you may visit our website at [www.outerbankspresbyterian.org](http://www.outerbankspresbyterian.org) or contact the church office at 441-5897.

## Outer Banks Chorus Christmas Concerts

Saturday, December 13 | 7 pm | Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Kitty Hawk

Sunday, December 14 | 7 pm | St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Nags Head



### Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
**5:00 pm**

Join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service featuring Lessons, Carols and Candelighting!

Sunday School: 9:00 am    Worship: 10:00 am

December 2019

Elder of the Month: Ike McRee / Judy Whittle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>  4:30: Youth Group	<b>2</b> Hanging of the Greens  6:30 pm: Boy Scouts	<b>3</b>  5:00 pm: Ruthie's Kitchen 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 3:00 pm Elder Training 6:00 pm: Choir 6:30 pm: Adult Study 7:15: Handbells	<b>5</b> 9:30 am: Dorcas Circle  5:00 pm: Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 8:00 am: Men's Study 5:00 pm Room In The Inn Fundraiser 7:00 pm: Choir/Orch. Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:00 am: Choir/Orch. Rehearsal  <i>Choir &amp; Orchestra Christmas Concert 5:00 pm</i>
<b>8</b>  <i>Choir &amp; Orchestra Christmas Concert 5:00 pm</i>	<b>9</b> 2:00 pm: Prayer Chain Training 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 10:00 am: Faith Knitters 5:30 pm: Stated Session 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts	<b>11</b> 9:30 am: Lydia Circle 6:00 pm: Choir 6:30 pm: Adult Study 7:15pm: Handbells	<b>12</b>  5:30 pm: Hope, Faith Love Circle 5:00 pm: Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 8:00 am: Men's Study	<b>14</b> 10:00 am: Handbells
<b>15</b> <i>Christmas Reception 11:15 am</i> 3:00: Blue Christmas Service 4:30: Youth Group	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm: Choir 6:30 pm: Adult Study	<b>19</b> Noon: Third Thursday Lunch	<b>20</b> 8:00 am: Men's Study	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 4:30: Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Offices Closed  <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm</i>	<b>25</b> Offices Closed  	<b>26</b> Offices Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				<i>Note: There are sessions of AA that meet Monday-Saturday at 7:30 am &amp; 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.</i>

## CHRISTMAS



## OFFERING

### Supporting Past, Present & Future Leaders

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers (ministers, educators, missionaries) in their time of need, and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There will be a bulletin insert & special envelope on Dec. 15. Please give prayerful consideration to your gift for these special groups of people.

## Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone are currently being accepted. The cost is \$10.00 each. Order form envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. The last day for placing your order is Sunday, December 8.



## Christmas Reception

The Annual Christmas reception will be Sunday, December 15 following the morning worship service. The Fellowship Committee will host this event and requests that finger foods be brought for refreshments. Please sign up on the sheets provided in the Gathering Space. Come - celebrate the season with your church family!

## Faith Knitters

The Faith Knitters made and donated 50 prayer shawls that were delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Hampton, Virginia and to Veterans at the local nursing homes. Many of the shawls were made in the patriotic colors of red, white and blue as a salute to the veterans. The ladies who worked diligently to finish the shawls prior to Veterans Day were Clara Ann Baker, Judy Swanson, Karen O'Brien, Ellen Carrico, Gayle Goetschius, Barbara Nowland, Jean Sias, Yvonne Blomberg, Karen Corbett, Linda Younkin, Susan Furlough, Judy Whittle, Barbara Nock and Veronica Reich. We were very proud to make this donation to thank the Veterans for their service and to wish them God's healing grace.





## News from the Presbyterian Women

The monthly circle meetings for the Presbyterian Women of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church will be held as follows:

### **DORCAS CIRCLE**

Thursday, December 5 | 9:30 am  
This meeting will be held at the home of Evelyn Webb.

### **FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE CIRCLE**

Thursday, December 12 | 5:30 pm  
This meeting will be held in the church conference room.

### **LYDIA CIRCLE**

Wednesday, December 11 | 9:30 am  
This meeting will be held at the church.

## 2019 Angel Tree



The Presbyterian Women are again sponsoring the Angel Tree. It is a community-wide project to provide Christmas gifts for needy children. Please take a minute to select a special angel.

The gifts need to be returned to the church, unwrapped with the angel tag attached no later than December 1. They will then be delivered to the Baum Center to be processed for distribution.

Thank you in advance for being an angel and making Christmas special for a child. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Moore (757-508-1657) or Evelyn Webb (540-829-3515).

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion



Join us on Sunday, December 1, 2019 as we observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This Sacrament is a true reminder of God's sacrificial love for us by dying on a cross to save us from

our sins and resurrecting that we might spend eternity with him. The elements for Communion will be provided by Louise Roberts and Barbara Nock.

## Room in the Inn News

The Room in the Inn has been offered space in a building in Nags Head. It can hold 12 guests and 2 chaperones, has single and shared bedrooms with beds, a kitchen, a couple bathrooms with showers; a couple rooms with TVs and an elevator. The RITI Board, after talking and meeting with churches involved, has agreed to use this facility. While a couple of churches have opted to house guests at their own church, the building has allowed many other churches to participate.

Our church will be responsible for the guests February 10-17. This will involve getting volunteers to help with nightly chaperoning and meals. Charlie and Nancy Huff will be in charge of the chaperones. Jeanne Martie will be in charge of the meals. Guests check in each evening at the RITI office in Manteo, and are then transported to the facility. Meals include dinners (although Charlie's experience has been to have the first meal at KFC, which the guests really like), breakfast (since guests have to vacate by 7 am, this will be a casserole or two, toast, bagels or muffins, cereal), and fixings for the guests to pack a bagged lunch. Snacks and soda will also be needed.

So, you have some time to think about how you can help us and RITI. We will make definite plans after New Year's Day.

Please do not forget the wonderful fundraiser planned for Friday, December 6 at Sugar Creek. Festivities will begin at 5:00--more than 20 restaurants are donating food. Music will be provided by "Lasso the Moon," and silent auction items will be available for bidding on. Jeanne Martie and Lynda Wood have tickets. If you contact the church office, tickets can be left for you there.

## Did you know?

Did you know that the chopping down of the Christmas tree represents the death of Christ and putting it back up again represents the resurrection of Christ? Did you know that the wreaths we hang are never ending circles, which represent eternity? Candy canes were made to look like shepherd hooks and the colors... Red, for Jesus' blood, White for purity. The gifts represent the 3 gifts the wise men brought for Jesus. So, when you are running around trying to get the "perfect gift", stop yourself, take a deep breath and remember we have been given the perfect gift, Jesus Christ was given to us to remove all of our sins...MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## News from Christian Education!

On Sunday evening, October 27, the Christian Education Ministry and the OBPC youth group held it's first Trunk or Treat. Lots of fun was had by all. We are so appreciative to all that joined in and help make it a successful event!



Each year, our youth group packages shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has tried to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. They are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. Operation Christmas Child is just one way we can support this ministry. This year there were 19 shoeboxes packaged. We thank all who participated in this worthwhile endeavor.



## Stewardship & Generosity Committee

On October 20, 2019 we presented to God and His church pledges of financial support and ministry through use of our time and talent. The Stewardship and Generosity Committee thanks you for your response to God's call and your ministry. At the time of this newsletter's printing, our demonstration of stewardship and generosity has resulted in 69 pledging units committing financial resources in the amount of \$248,848 – an \$18,110 increase above financial commitments made during the same period in last year's campaign. Ministry Opportunity forms were also returned by those pledging their time and talent to further the mission of God's church through service and participation in the life and activities of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church. In his book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Robert Schnase writes that "generosity is a fruit of the spirit, a worthy spiritual aspiration" and that "giving changes both the giver and the church". May God continue to change us and Outer Banks Presbyterian Church as we aspire to a closer relationship with Him.

If you have not returned a pledge card or Ministry Opportunity form please forward them to the church office.



## Room In The Inn Volunteers

Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church will be hosting RITI December 22-29. They are in need of chaperones (male or female) and meals. If you plan to be in town Christmas week and can volunteer for a night or meal, please contact Nancy Griffin at RIPC 252-423-1781. Chaperones need to be at RIPC from 6 pm to 7 am. Dinner and breakfast are provided. Or you can contact Betse Kelly at RITI 252-305-3885.

All Saints Episcopal Church in Kitty Hawk is in need of chaperones for the weeks of Jan. 19-26 and Mar. 22-29. If you can chaperone for 1 or more nights (6 pm to 7 am), please contact Tim McKeithan at 757-672-3045. Or you can contact Betse Kelly at RITI 252-305-3885.

## Moderator Needed for Outreach & Witness

At the end of the year, Jeanne Martie would like to step down as the moderator of the Outreach and Witness Committee. If any of you might be interested in leading this committee that helps people in our community, Jeanne will be able to be the "unofficial" co-moderator for the 2020 year. As you can see below, some outreach projects have a volunteer who coordinates for that specific project. If you see a project you'd be interested in organizing, that also would be a help!

Meetings are few. It is good to start the year with a meeting -- to talk about food ideas for Ruthie's Kitchen, get suggestions of other ways to help in our community, and thoughts on where to send a donation.

Our committee helps with several community organizations.

Beach Food Pantry -- Dot Landis is in charge of finding volunteers. We work one week, every other month, from 2-4 p.m. We also help BFP with collecting bags of food for Thanksgiving. Dot has a list of volunteers that she sends an e-mail to, asking when they want to volunteer for a specific week. Then she follows-up with a final list of volunteers for the week.

Ruthie's Kitchen -- our church provides the meals 4 times a year, on a Tuesday. We also give them a donation for supplies (plates, napkins, cups, drinks). A menu needs to be selected for each meal. A notice needs to go in the Sunday bulletin for about 3 weeks before we serve. A poster needs to be put in the Gathering Space so people can sign up to bring a dish and/or help serve/clean-up. The meals are being served at Sunrise Church in Kill Devil Hills. Dinner is from 5-6 p.m. Meals, in the past, have consisted of a main dish (a casserole, a sliced ham where a few people donate for the purchase, a pan of fried chicken where a few people donate for the purchase), a side dish (for non-casserole meals), green beans, applesauce, dessert,

rolls and butter, a gallon of milk, a bag of ice. Nearing the date, an e-mail needs to be sent out reminding people of the date and what they are donating.

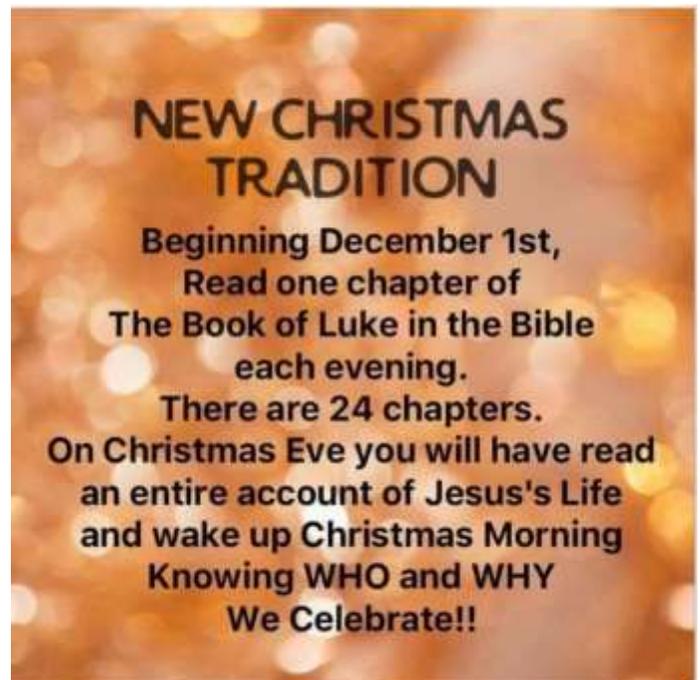
Room in the Inn -- runs from mid-November to early April. OBPC is unable to provide sleeping space due to the many organizations that already use our facility. We offer to team with another church and help provide meals and/or overnight chaperones. There is a meeting every October for all the churches participating. If we are assigned to partner with another church, an article needs to go in the newsletter and bulletins. A poster needs to be placed in the Gathering Space so people can sign up to bring a meal or offer to chaperone. Nearing the week, an e-mail will need to go out reminding everyone of the dates and what they are contributing.

Items for Veterans (in the fall) -- Evelyn Webb takes care of this. Items include toiletries and basic clothing items. Evelyn puts an article in the newsletter and bulletins, and then makes sure the items are taken to a veteran location.

Faith Knitters -- Barbara Nock coordinates this. Knitters/crocheters get together to make shawls that are passed out at the nursing homes and to veterans and people from our church who are home-bound. People can also get instructions and knit/crochet at home.

There may be other opportunities to help in the community, which can be discussed with committee members (I have always felt that anyone who helps with the above is a member of the committee!!!)

Please give some prayerful consideration to this opportunity to help others. It really is humbling. You can also decide you would like to head up one of the opportunities listed above, like Dot, Barb and Evelyn do.



## Advent Devotional

Our very own Rev. Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks has written one of the daily devotionals for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's on-line advent devotional this year. This is her submission for December 23, 2019:

### Advent Devotional December 23, 2019

**Scripture:** *Jeremiah 31:10-14.* 10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

### Devotional: The Rev. Tanta Luckhardt Hendricks

Exile is dislocation, a yanking out of the socket of home, identity, security, and hope. Exile is despair and desperation, pain and hopelessness. Restoration puts all back in place. It is a homecoming dance—a medical test that says you're okay, not dying; a song of joy that comes from the heart and tummy; toes in the sand and a sigh of relaxation; a relocation of self in wholeness and hope. Jeremiah offers a vision of what will be when the time of exile is over, and the long journey home is complete. Jesus of Bethlehem offers himself to share with us our time of exile, of dislocation. But Jesus also offers himself as the restoration of our wholeness and hope. At the same time, that restoration is yet to come. The long journey home is not yet finished. We continue to live in brokenness and despair. But exile does not have the last word. The Lord who has come to be born in us, with us, and for us will bring us to our ultimate home, where joy breaks out in a dance, and songs cannot be silenced, and tears are no more. Jesus' birth looks beyond dislocation as the Lord brings hope in the midst of exile, the whisper of the song, the shadow of the dance, the whiff of joy. Exile does not have the last word. Ever.

**Prayer:** Holy Child of Bethlehem, you come to us when we hurt with the pain of dislocation, so we are not alone in our despair. You come to us offering hope—the assurance that joy will prevail. As we grasp that hope, you restore our soul. How grateful we are for you. Amen.

## Thank You from Barbara Rust

### *In Memory of My "Little Co Co"*

He came to me at eight weeks old and left me at 14 and 1/2 years old. He was my best buddy and I miss him so much. I want to thank you for all the beautiful cards and poems I have received.

Thank you so much,

Barbara Rust

## BFP Thanksgiving Project



Paper bags filled with food were collected for Thanksgiving meals to provide help to our neighbors in need. The church library was absolutely overflowing with food; there were over thirty-five bags which were sent to the Beach Food Pantry for many needy families in our community to have a joyous Thanksgiving meal thanks to your generosity.

## We Welcome a New Member

During the morning worship service on Sunday, November 17, we were pleased to welcome Rosanne Arndt into the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church family. Rosanne joined our church by reaffirmation of faith. Rosanne resides with her husband, John, at 2023 Wrightsville Blvd in Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948. She may be reached at (919) 610-4185 or by email at [rarndt81@yahoo.com](mailto:rarndt81@yahoo.com). Be sure to give Rosanne a warm OBPC welcome!



## Session Highlights - Oct. 22

The Session met on October 22 at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of members was present, Rev. Dr. Moore opened with devotion, prayer and moderated, and Clerk McGee recorded the actions.

Four items were added to the agenda: (1) consider an anonymous gift, (2) Sanctuary video projection screen, (3) assisted listening devices for the Sanctuary, and (4) two items recommended by the Christian Education Committee.

The Omnibus Motion was approved, including minutes of the Stated August 27 meeting and the minutes of the September 29 Congregational meeting; Jean Basnight was authorized to serve at commissioner at the October 26 Presbytery meeting in Smithfield, NC; authorized a youth fall "lock-in" at the church on November 1; and retroactive approval for the UVA Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship to worship at the church on September 28; and retroactive approval of a curb-side recycling program for the church.

Session granted an audience to Buildings and Grounds Moderator Winkey Roberts, who discussed recent repairs to the church's road sign costing \$400, as well as proposed improvements to the sign as soon as reasonably possible at an estimated cost of \$2,100. He also recommended signage on the building at the west front entry that would include the Presbyterian cross and the church's name at an estimated cost of \$1,750. Session authorized the committee to proceed as recommended if the way be cleared by the Finance Committee. Session also saw no need for visitor parking signs and by common consent rejected same.

After hearing from the Clerk and the Pastor about a proposed anonymous gift to the church that would be designated to benefit specifically-named friends of the church, the Session approved acceptance of the monetary gift to be included in the Local Benevolence Fund and designated as the donor intended. The Pastor and Elder Bob Messinger will meet with the beneficiaries to advise them of the gift and determine how they would want to receive the proceeds.

Session approved expending \$1,350 for a 10-foot electric video screen for the Sanctuary as previously recommended by the Christian Education Committee and researched by the Worship Committee. Session also considered expending \$999 for assisted listening devices for the Sanctuary, but directed the Congregational Care and Worship Committees to continue to pursue options.

Session approved two items recommended by the Christian Education Committee: (1) "restoration" of the Moms Connect curriculum and social support group to be led by Hollie Writtenberry, Jeanne Moore, and Andrea Braymiller, and (2) adult study materials for a 36-week DVD Great Course entitled "The New Testament: A Bible Study."

Approval was given to proceed with the development of a "Prayer Chain" in January 2020 as recommended by the Congregational Care Committee. Session asked that training be provided by the Prayer Chain volunteers and that privacy and confidentiality be emphasized.

Session also agreed to pursue a program for Elders to assist with serving Home Communion to the sick, shut-in, or hospitalized persons. This item will be further developed and presented again to the Session in December.

The Pastor asked the Elders to consider which committees they would like to serve as liaisons in 2020 and to contact committee moderators to see if they would continue to serve in 2020. These assignment and approvals will appear on the December agenda.

The following written committee reports were received: Worship, Finance, Christian Education, and Congregational Care. Elder Liaison Messinger discussed disposal of the church bus, which was donated to Cars for Kids. He also asked that the Transportation Committee remain in place to explore future options, including bus or van rentals as needed.

Rev. Dr. Moore provided the following reports and reflections"

- A. He officiated at the wedding of Jeffrey McGee and Jill Highsmith (McGee) on October 13, 2019 at the Currituck Club in Corolla.
- B. Stated that officer training for the Elder Class of 2022 would begin on October 30, 2019.
- C. Stated that Healing and Wholeness Services would restart on November 10, 2019, following morning worship services.
- D. Stated that nine (9) deceased persons would be recognized during All-Saints Sunday on November 3, 2019.
- E. Expressed gratitude for planning and implementation of the church's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- F. Advised Session of his final three 2019 vacation Sundays on October 27, December 1, and December 29
- G. Discussed potential new members who could join the church later this year.
- H. Updated Session on Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church's efforts to call a pastor. Dr. Moore has been moderating the Session meetings there for about three (3) years.
- I. Presented a letter from GEM Adult Day Services asking to work with the church to enhance the care of family caregivers and persons experiencing Alzheimer's or related dementia.
- J. Advised of an email scam impacting ministers belonging to New Hope Presbytery including himself, whereby fake emails were being sent soliciting money.

Session adjourned at 8:25 p.m. with prayers of thanksgiving and intercession offered by various Elders and Rev. Dr. Moore.

Respectfully,  
Gary McGee, Clerk of Session

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