

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Please join us downstairs today after worship to celebrate the opening of the Crossnore Presbyterian Resource Center. Thank you to Betty Redman and Fred France for all the hard work.

Session will meet following the Resource Center Celebration.

Wednesday Bible Study, 3- 4:30 p.m. After this next Wednesday, we will take a short break until after January 1, 2017.

It is time to order Poinsettias for the sanctuary. They are a festive part of our decorations and are provided by individuals who place them in honor or memory of loved ones or to the glory of God. Poinsettias are \$10.00 and the order form is the bulletin insert.

Our Mission Project, the 2016 Presbyterian Build for Avery County Habitat for Humanity has raised \$3,500 of the \$5,000 we pledged. Only \$1,500 to go!

Thank you to Doug Tennant and Clay Hartley for putting up our Chrismon tree and getting it ready to be decorated. Thank you to Sherry Burleson for making our beautiful Advent Wreath. Thank you also to those who came Saturday, December 3, to decorate the Chrismon tree and the sanctuary.

Thank you to all who have donated money, cookies and coffee for our after worship fellowship time.

Would you like to go Christmas Caroling with the choir? We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 13, make our rounds and meet for dinner at Puerto Nuevo!

Our Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be on Sunday, December 18. Ham, coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish.

Saturday, December 24, 5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, a special night to celebrate Christ's birth with Christmas readings and carols. Our Christmas Eve Offering will go to Volunteer Avery for emergency needs in our county.

Mary Jo Hege has sold her home in Gingercake. (Wonderful news Mary Jo!) Her estate sale continues today until 3:00 p.m. The address is 7250 Laurel Hill Dr., @ Gingercake Acers off Highway 181.

Update on repair, restoration and preservation projects: Repairs to the deteriorating sanctuary floor beneath the windows behind the piano are completed! The connector between the upper and lower parking lot has been repaired and paved. Cleaning of the outside of the church and roof in preparation for sealant has begun. Some of the outside rock walls and roof have been cleaned. The remainder of the roof will require a crane and plans are being made to complete that process. The sealant will then be applied.

Banner Elk Presbyterian is bringing in national story teller Tim Lowry for a one man production of A Christmas Carol. The performance is today, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. at Banner elk Presbyterian Church.

The Pineola Ringers Handbell Choir will present their 11th Annual Christmas Concert today, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Pineola Presbyterian Church. For more information call 828-737-0224.

OUR ELDERS: Class of 2016: Barbara Ross, Pepe` Abrusci, Fred France (Clerk of Session); Class of 2017: Tommie Tennant, Jason DeWitt, Linda Berkley; Class of 2018: Mimi Sloop, Charlotte Davila.

Ashlyn DeWitt, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Hutcheson, Director of Music

Barbara Ross, Volunteer Church Administrator

Attendance last Sunday: No service due to weather

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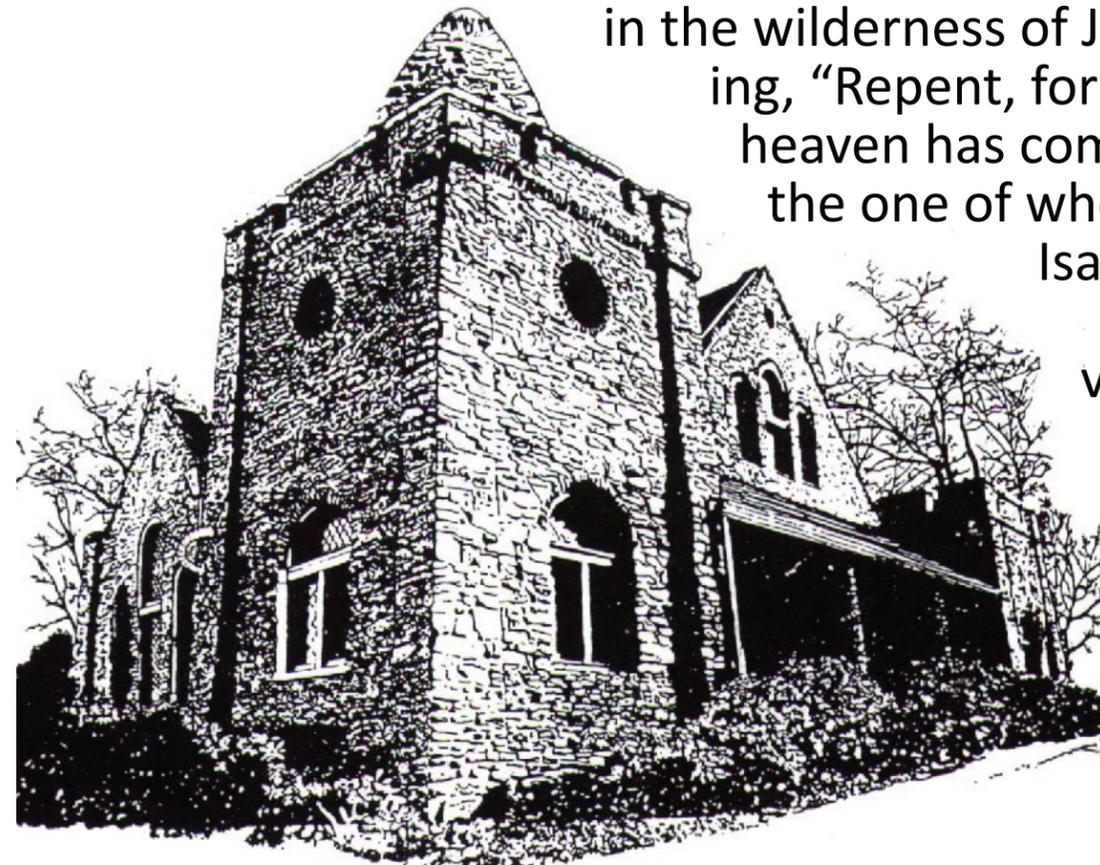
Prayers and Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week for healing and peace: ** Michelle Lee (Janis and Clarence Kenyon's daughter) is home recovering from a heart attack. Their address is: 24 Hanging Rock Estates Lane, Banner Elk, NC 28604. **Dedie Andrews is suffering from cancer and is in need of our prayers. **Lorraine Alls is having health concerns. Her address is: Apt. 208, 507 Linville St., Newland, NC 28657. **Marilyn Gascho is struggling with hip problems. Her address is: 19 Plantation Drive, Chula, GA 31733. **Steve Padgett and Sherry Snodgrass, neighbors and friends of Beth and Greg Gacek, are both undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. Beth and Greg's address is 3223 Land Harbor, Newland, NC 28657. **Karen Phillips, Pastor Kathy's sister, had her application denied by the MAO Clinic. She is now exploring additional options for a diagnosis for the pressure on her brain. Her address is: 1816 111th Street, Omaha, NC 68155. **Dona Cox passed away peacefully after a long illness on October 29. Cards may be sent to her husband, Ed Cox, 2411 Emerald Lake Drive, Apt. 112, Sun City Center, FL 33573. ** Carroll Berkley's brother, John Berkley, has a treatment plan for his esophageal cancer and the prognosis is good. His address is: 12905 Barnsanlaw Dr., Raleigh, NC 27613. Charles Berkley, Carroll Berkley's uncle, is fighting pancreatic cancer. His address is: 270 Battlefield Dr., Dandridge, TN 37725. **Dottie and Don Huston's daughter, Julie Ann Roche, continues her battle with cancer. **Ben and Amanda Frazier would appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Their mailing address is: 3337 Land Harbor, Newland, NC 28657

Rev. Kathy Campbell may be reached at the church office: 828-733-1939; at home: 828-963-5190; cell phone: 828-260-2512. Her office hours are Tuesday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting. Please call to ensure Pastor Kathy will be there. Her e-mail is rev.kathy.campbell@gmail.com

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THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY



Historic Crossnore Presbyterian Church. Built 1924-26

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

-Matthew 3:1-3



CROSSNORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CROSSNORE, NORTH CAROLINA

REV. KATHY CAMPBELL, PASTOR

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 11, 2016

ELEVEN O'CLOCK A.M.

THE GATHERING

Prelude: *What Is This Lovely Fragrance?*

based on a traditional French melody
arr. by Christina Becket

**Chiming of the Hour
Welcome, Church Family News
The Passing of the Peace of Jesus Christ**

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

Choral Call to Worship: # 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

WAITING

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Eric and Jane Sowder

***Call to Worship:**

We hear the voice in the wilderness that calls out,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

God is going to lift up the valleys and bring down the mountains,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

God is going to do new something new in our world and in our lives,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

The Glory of God will be revealed to all.

Let us prepare for God to do something new. Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Linda Berkley

***Hymn of Praise: # 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs. 1-4**

VENI EMMANUEL

Call to Confession:

Friends, as we continue our journey to Bethlehem, let us pause to reflect on those things that lead us off the path, that divert our attention, that cause us to lose our way.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior (moment of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

We are welcomed because Christ welcomes us. The way has been prepared, choose to follow it. This is not to say it isn't painful, it isn't hard, but it is to say it is worth it. We are loved. We are blessed. We are forgiven. Let us go and share the Good News. Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy: # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Our First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child

shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Choir Anthem: *He Came!*

text by Joseph D. Rajahn
music by Gregg Sewell

Second Lesson: Matthew 3:1-6

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Sermon: “Christmas Preparations”

Rev. Kathy Campbell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

traditional French carol
arr. by DON PHILLIPS

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

OLD HUNDRETH

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Gracious God, we lift our voices to glorify you! You sent your Son Jesus to lead us in wisdom and mercy. His kindness to the poor and meek reveals the harmony of your heavenly kingdom. Help our church's ministries to demonstrate your love for the world. We dedicate our tithes and offerings to bless people in our community who are searching for Christ's abiding peace. We pray in his name. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation: # #515 *I Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Communion Music: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

13th Century Plainsong melody
arr. by Thomas Berdos
based on ES IST EIN ROS', Köln
arr. by James Denton

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

THE SENDING

Closing Hymn: # 109 *Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude: *VENITE ADOREMUS DOMINUM*
(*The Snow lay on the Ground*)**

based on a traditional tune
arr. by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*Congregation stand as are able

THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Minister: Rev. Kathy Campbell; Director of Music: Kathy Hutcheson; Liturgist: Linda Berkley; Greeters: Jane and Eric Sowder