

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Our Christmas Potluck Luncheon is today. Please come and join us downstairs after worship as we celebrate the Christmas season together with food and fellowship.

Wednesday Bible Study, 3- 4:30 p.m. We completed our study of Ruth and will resume Bible Study January 4.

Today is the last day 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. The order form with additional information is an insert in your bulletin. The cost of a poinsettia is \$10.00.

We have many thank yous to offer. Tommie Tennant and Pastor Kathy cleaned up the kitchen Thursday, December 8. It looks great! **Thank you to Jane and Eric Sowder** for providing the beautiful wreaths in the windows of the church. The large wreath in front of the church was provided **by John Sturgil and made by Filimon Mendez. Sherry Burleson** provided the Advent Wreath.

We dedicated our new Resource Center on Sunday December 11. Betty Redman and Fred France spent a year cataloging and arranging over 400 religious resources in a wonderful space in our church. Take time to peruse the shelves and find a book to checkout and read. The Resource Center is downstairs in the education wing, near the choir room.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Saturday, December 24, 5:30 p.m. Come and Celebrate Christ's birth with Christmas readings and carols. Our offering will go to Volunteer Avery for emergency needs.

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 a.m., Christmas Day Worship Service and Christmas Coffee and Cookies following worship.

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: 35

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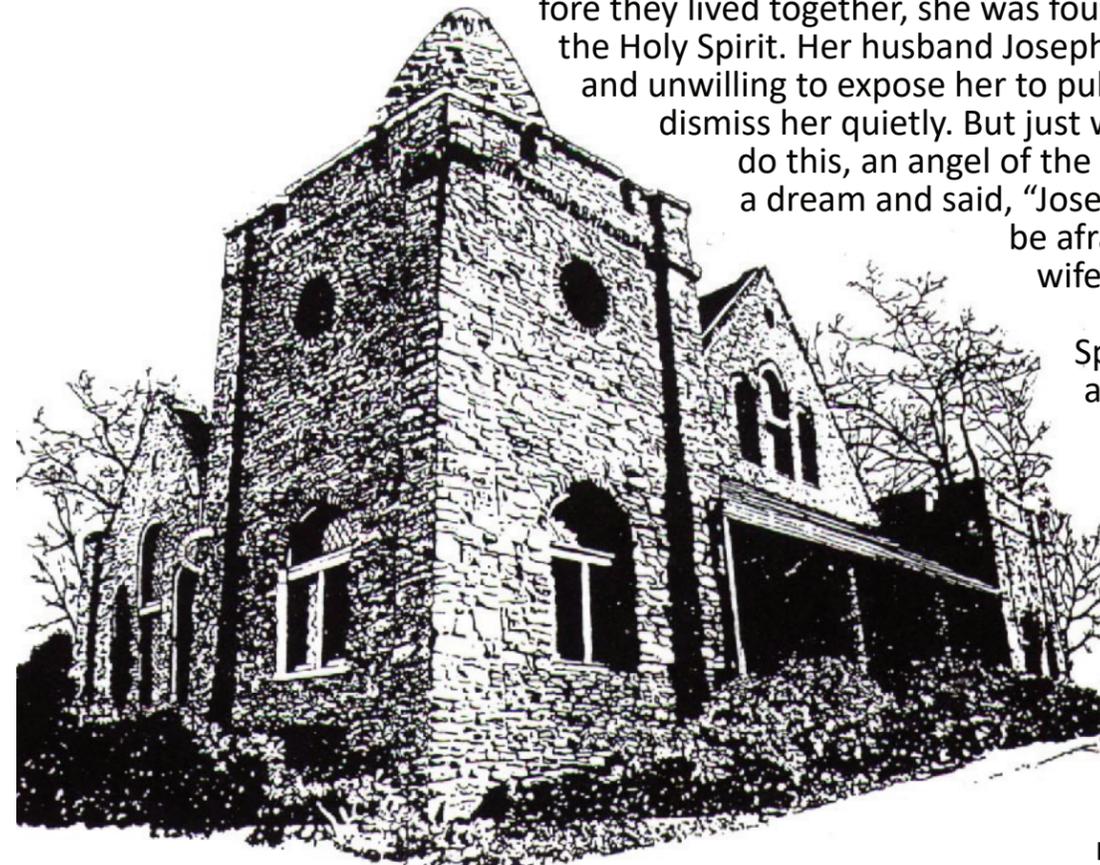
Prayers and Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week for healing and peace: **** Peggy Hardy** is in rehab after breaking her hip. Her address is: Apt. 4-209, 10334 Nu Vista Ave., Nu Vista Assisted Living at Wellington Green. Wellington, FL 33414. ****Pray for a peaceful passing for Bobby Taylor's cousin, Gene Braswell,** who is in hospice care. Bobby's address is: P.O. Box 102, Jonas Ridge, NC 28641. ****David Ehmig** will be having major back surgery this Monday at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. His address is: 618 Erwin Rd., Sanford, NC 27330. **** Sylvia Gill** is at home recovering from successful back surgery. Her address is: 7110 Old Oak Lane, Mint Hill, NC 28227. **** 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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

-Matthew 1:18-23



CROSSNORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CROSSNORE, NORTH CAROLINA

REV. KATHY CAMPBELL, PASTOR

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 18, 2016

ELEVEN O'CLOCK A.M.

THE GATHERING

Prelude: Emmanuel

music by Bob McGee
arr. by Fred Bock

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

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

Choral Call to Worship: Come, Emmanuel, Come

words & music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Karl and Joanna Campbell

***Call to Worship:**

All is ready, stable prepared, shepherds working, magi journeying, gifts are chosen.

A city awaits crowded and bustling, stars are shining, people expecting, a drama is unfolding.

Mary obeys and Joseph believes.

Jesus, God's gracious gift to us, is coming.

The Lord is coming to save his people.

Let us praise and worship the One who calls us to wait, prepare, and believe.

***Hymn of Praise: # 82 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession:

How easy we lose our way on the road to Bethlehem! How quick we dismiss the dreams and hopes our God has for us in this holy season! Let us come to the One who approaches, ready to swaddle us in forgiveness and grace, as we pray together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. It's only a week away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump on the sled that is racing toward Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child (moment of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but it is God's hope, God's life, God's mercy, which are the true gifts we receive each and every moment.

We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed us. 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 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Choir Anthem: Look to the Light

words & music by Joseph M. Martin

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon: "Believe!"

Rev. Kathy Campbell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***Hymn of Meditation: # 129 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming**

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Prayers of the People

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: THE CHILD, THE LIGHT

Away in a Manger with The Light of the World is Jesus

based on MUELLER by James R. Murray
and LIGHT OF THE WORLD by Philip P: Bliss
arr. by Dennis McDuffie

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

God of Grace, in the midst of a season so focused on shopping and finding the right gift, we give our gifts now to you. We remember that all our giving has its foundation in the amazing gift you gave to us: putting on flesh and coming in the form of a child, Emmanuel, God with us! May what we give today, and in the days to come, be bathed in the knowledge that yours is the most perfect gift and the one we need the most. We pray in the holy name of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THE SENDING

***Closing Hymn: # 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude: Come, All Ye Shepherds**

Traditional Bohemian and English carols
arr. by Eugene Butler

*Congregation stand as are able

THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Minister: Rev. Kathy Campbell; Director of Music: Kathy Hutcheson