



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2016

Franklin Presbyterian Church



Angel Tree



This is a busy time of year for most of us, shopping and celebrating the holidays with family and friends.

It is also a busy time of year for our community outreach as a church. We will once again be sponsoring local families through the Angel Tree program. As a church we will provide needed clothing, outerwear, bedding, and toys for all family members in the families we adopt.

At this time we are still working to finalize which families we will be sponsoring this year, so stay tuned during the minutes for mission at church to learn more!

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REVEREND LOU VENTURA

Paul wrote on behalf of himself, Timothy, and Silvanus to the church in Thessalonica: "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" (3:9) That's a question I've often asked (although admittedly not in those *ex-act* words) during the past three years in ministry here with you.

And speaking of thanks, I would like to share my heartfelt gratitude for your never-ending generosity; the incredibly lavish gift for Pastor Appreciation Month in October was unexpected but *so* appreciated! I continue to give God the glory for his gift of you all in my life, especially when we suddenly lost Cooper, one of our beloved dogs, when he was hit by a car. Your love and prayers, cards and comfort have strengthened me and continue to help me deal with the grief. I've included a picture of Cooper at right.

As we enter Advent once again—it's our fourth Christmas together!—I hope that each of you will be able to carve out time to find some peace, love, and joy in the world. It's the season to remember those things in the midst of our busy lives, and to remember in whom we find them: Jesus, the reason for the season.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou



We are a community of believers called by God to live humbly in the spirit of Christ and to act as His voice and hands in our world.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

By Vivian Christie, FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator



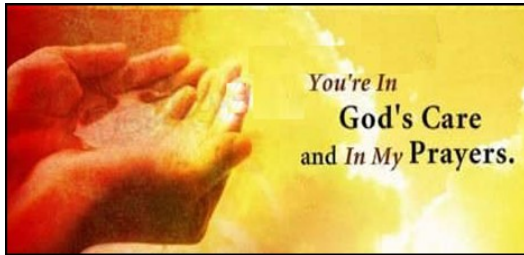
First, a great big THANK YOU to all of the PW ladies for your help with our 67th Anniversary Celebration. Each of you played an important role in making it a success. From those who set-up, cooked, worked in the kitchen, washed dishes, and washed tablecloths, and to our AWESOME **Rev. Lou** and her sidekick, FPC Admin **Melissa Lewis**, you are all talented and amazing women. I must say a special THANK YOU to **Harry Christie**, **Ron Ventura**, and **Robert Meredith** as well. We enjoy your help and could not accomplish as much without you!

Our contribution of 15 desserts to the Genieve Shelter for their residents at Thanksgiving was a BIG hit. The administrator, who received them from me, was just overwhelmed with your gifts. She was truly touched. She gave me some other projects for us to discuss at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is December 6 at 10am in Brenner Hall. We are studying Lesson THREE, found on page 31 in your study book. This month's lesson focuses on "Who is Jesus" through the Gospel of Luke. Our author summarizes this lesson in this key idea: Rejected by his own, Jesus, prophet of God, turns the world upside down with His teachings.

Hope you can join us. If you need a ride, please call **Vivian Christie** (562-2198), **Jackie Cutchin** (562-2913) or **Betty Jones** (562-2820).

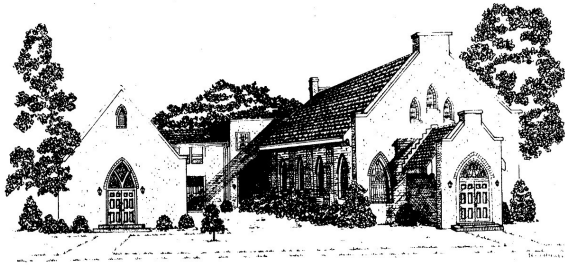
PRAYER REQUESTS



To add or remove a name or to request continued prayers, please contact the church office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lindy Drake , son of Linwood and Evelyn Drake, recovering from surgery	Lane Marie Robertson , granddaughter of Lane and Robert Meredith
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Cathy Quate Reverend Lou's mother
Mary Lambeth's mother 98 years old, cancer, in hospice	Melvin and Barbara Gray Health
Doug Ventura Ron Ventura's brother	Lois Minetree Friend of Lane Meredith
Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Dir. of the Children's Center	Polly Edwards , sister-in-law of Katherine Weaver and Kaye Weaver's aunt
Rev. Marian Carmichael Diagnosed with breast cancer	Billy Lassiter Cousin of Linwood Drake, cancer
Larry Jamerson Jackie Cutchin's brother, colon and lung cancer, improving	Mary Bridges Health issues
Peggy , Ray Terrell's aunt, breast cancer	Estelle Edwards Kaye Weaver's aunt
Linda Morgan , sister of Ray Terrell, upcoming surgeries	Nadine Mann Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose
Connie Beale Jimmie Rose's sister	Katherine Weaver mobility and back pain issues
Family of Linda Gavin Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose, on her passing	Jerry Cutchin , father-in-law of Jackie Cutchin, in skilled nursing facility
Wayne & Earlene Sprouse	Charlie Lupton
Nancy and Paul Hinson On the death of Paul's mother (Nancy is a former coworker of Tiffany Matteson)	Gatlinburg, TN and surrounding area , recovering from devastating fires



2016 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

Month	New Members	Average Worship Attendance	Total Offering	Total Expenses
January	0	32	\$10,982.00	\$10,629.05
February	0	36	\$6,514.00	\$8,478.18
March	0	39	\$14,763.00	\$7,710.10
April	0	32	\$8,245.00	\$14,086.98
May	0	28	\$9,400.30	\$11,066.93
June	0	33	\$9,113.97	\$8,081.53
July	0	35	\$8,132.25	\$8,294.05
Aug	0	31	\$7,630.00	\$7,757.26
Sept	0	28	\$7,255.00	\$7,615.01
Oct	0	30	\$9,280.91	\$8,424.47
Nov	0	39	\$9,676.78	\$9,856.15

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



2 Ray Terrell, Katherine Weaver
9 Melissa Lewis
17 Sherrell Raybuck
23 Steve Boothe



4 Bobbi & Ray Thomas
21 Carolyn & Mike Lackey
27 Kathryn & Frank Padgett
30 Nora & Jim Vasoti



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

4	Jim Drewry and Harry Christie	Lead Lector:
11	John and Pat Griffin	Ann Marie Brotzman
18	Jimmie Rose and Ray Terrell	
25	Allen and Lauren Harper	

SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, the FPC Session:

- Approved minutes of the October meeting and coordinated the church calendar;
- Received a report of the pastor's activities for the prior month;
- Received financial reports for information;
- Reviewed and approved the 2017 budget, which was based on \$7000.00 fewer in pledges than 2016;
- Approved the 2017 communion schedule and lead lector schedule;
-



Christmas Poinsettias Available for Dedication

Potted Christmas poinsettia plants are once again available for \$12.00 each. Forms can be found in the narthex, or contact Melissa in the church office at 562-4313. If paying by check, please make payable to Franklin Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line.

Plants can be dedicated in memory of, in honor of, or to the glory of God.

The deadline for placing an order is Sunday, December 11. A list of poinsettia dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

Angel Tree (continued from page 1)

We request that all donations be submitted by Wednesday, December 14th. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.00.

Shopping will take place on Saturday December 17th. We try to go early so that afternoon plans aren't impacted. If you would like to assist with shopping please contact **Tiffany Matteson** at tmatteson84@gmail.com or let **Reverend Ventura** know.

Make plans to stay after church on December 18th for the wrapping party. It is always a fun time, and you will have the opportunity to see exactly what we are giving to our sponsored families.

We will also collect money for the Christmas Joy offering collected Sunday, December 18th, and the offering during the Christmas Eve service will benefit the FPC Compassion Fund.

Thank you all for your faithful giving, and watch the bulletin for more information.



THE MESSENGER

A Celebration of Two Anniversaries

On Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, FPC celebrated two special events: its 67th anniversary as a congregation, and the 40th ordination anniversary of the Rev. Mary Jane Winter. During worship, Rev. Winter and Rev. Ventura jointly led worship, with Rev. Winter preaching. Afterwards, a delicious potluck lunch was held and memories were shared of good times.



Above (L-R): Evelyn Vaughan; Bud Brotzman (Dick Gilbert in background); Cathy Eischeid; Rev. Lou Ventura and Rev. Mary Jane Winter

Right: Susie and Jack Stoughton with Mollie Bass (in blue); Kathryn Padgett, Ted Winter, Mary Jane Winter, Jim Vasoti, Nora Vasoti





News Briefs



We Want to Be Prepared....

At its stated meeting on September 21, the FPC Session approved a motion from the Facilities Team to

**EMERGENCY
DEFIBRILLATOR**



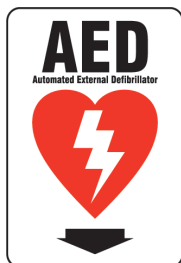
AED

obtain an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit.

An AED is an electrical device that provides a shock to the heart when there is a life-threatening arrhythmia present. The most common ar-

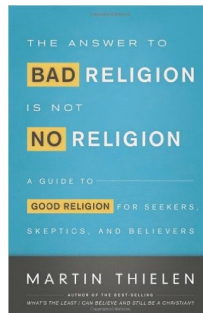
rhythmia is ventricular fibrillation, a very rapid erratic beating of the heart. The defibrillator shocks the heart to stop so that it can start rhythmically contracting again.

A unit costs between \$1200.00 and \$1500.00. The Session feels strongly that we should have an AED unit onsite in case of emergency. It was suggested that the congregation may welcome an opportunity to contribute to the purchase of an AED unit, which would be kept in the sanctuary. Should additional funds be required, they would be covered from the Brenner Fund.



If you would like to contribute, please mail or place a check in the offering plate with "AED Unit" in the memo line.

The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion Book Study to Begin February 5, 2017

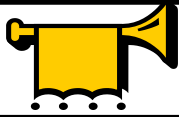


A study of the book *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion* by Martin Thielen is scheduled for the Sunday school hour, 9:45 a.m., beginning Sunday, February 5, through Sunday, April 9, in Brenner Hall.

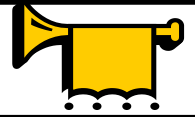
It is not too late to indicate your interest; we will be ordering books in January.

Robert Meredith, Christian Formation Team Leader, writes: This is the title of a book I recently read with the subtitle "A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics, and Believers." It is written by Martin Thielen, a Methodist minister whose early experience in the ministry I have some personal identification with. As laid out in his table of contents, Thielen discusses bad religion as religion that engages in self-righteous judgment of others; expresses a chronic spirit of negativity; breeds arrogance, intolerance, and absolutism; participates in partisan politics and excessive nationalism; and fosters nominal commitment to Christ and the Church.

No religion he says is not helpful and not necessary. One of the major motivations for his book is to address a significant trend in this country and in Western Europe for the younger generations who choose to have no relationship to organized religion, especially Christianity. He believes that those churches practicing bad religion and whose practices and beliefs seem to be mostly inferred when the term "Christian" is referenced in the media, taint all of us who call ourselves by that name.



News Briefs



Christmas Eve Worship (Saturday)

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship (Sunday)

11 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Bring your family and friends!

Looking for something for the family to do over the holidays?



Try a human pyramid, like the Christie family did recently. With the oldest family members on the bottom, of course. What's a holiday without an aching back? (That's our own **Harry Christie** on the bottom right.)

THE MESSENGER

What a memorable celebration we had on November 13th! It was shock and awe to be honored along with our beloved Mary Jane Winter. My love and thanks to those who planned the event, dug deep for the displays, cooked and cooked some more, then cleaned up. This church has always strived for excellence on occasions like this, however to me this was the top. Please know I have deposited you and that day in my bank of memories.

Gratefully,

Evelyne Vaughan

Apple Dumplings

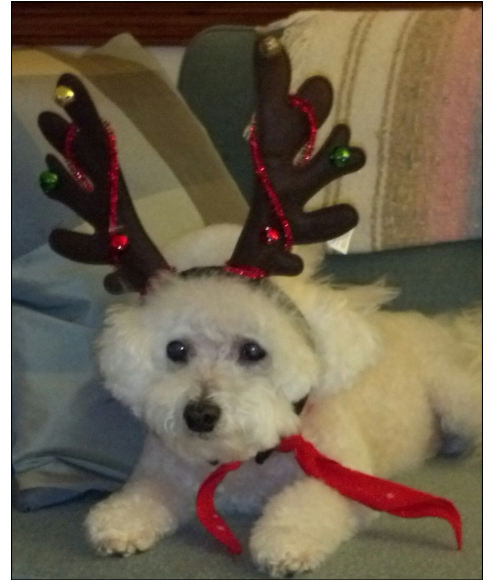
- 4 Granny Smith apples, peeled & quartered
- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 2 sticks butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 can carbonated lemon-lime soda

Roll each apple quarter in a crescent roll and place in a greased baking pan.

Melt butter and mix in sugar and cinnamon. Pour over rolls. Pour soda over all and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

—Submitted by Bobbi Thomas

A Merry Christmas Message



Here's hoping all of Santa's reindeer find their way to your home this Christmas!

Joey Weaver



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What kind of candy bar makes people happy?

Almond joy.

What did the pet store owner say to the turtle?









Business is slow.

What did the telephone say to the clothes line?

Put me on hold.



DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm Choir	2 	3
4 11 am Worship 	5	6 10 am Presbyterian Women meeting and Bible Study	7 6 pm Advent Lectio Divina Brenner Hall	8 7:30 pm Choir	9 	10
11 11 am Worship	12	13 6 pm Advent Lectio Divina Brenner Hall	14	15 7:30 pm Choir	16	17  9 am Angel Tree Shopping
18 11 am Worship Christmas Joy Offering Angel Tree Wrapping Party after worship	19	20 6 pm Advent Lectio Divina Brenner Hall	21  6 pm Session Mtg	22 7:30 pm Choir	23 	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 11 am Worship Christmas Day	26	27 	28 6 pm Service of Healing & Wholeness	29 7:30 pm Choir	30 	31

Birthdays

2 Ray Terrell, Katherine Weaver
9 Melissa Lewis
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23 Steve Boothe

Anniversaries

4 Bobbi & Ray Thomas
21 Carolyn & Mike Lackey
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FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.franklinpresbyterianchurch.org



Worship with us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS--DECEMBER 2016

4	Worship 11:00 a.m.
11	Worship 11:00 a.m.
17	Angel Tree Shopping 9:00 a.m.
18	Worship 11:00 a.m.
18	Angel Tree Wrapping Party After Worship
24	Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.
25	Worship 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day
27	Service of Healing and Wholeness 6 p.m.



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