



# THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2015



Franklin Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA  
COVENANT PASTOR

At the Advent *lectio divina* group this past Wednesday, we talked about being ready for the second coming of Christ. Afterward, I wondered if we have acquired “waiting fatigue.” It occurred to me that perhaps waiting for the second coming has become so routine that it is merely another part of the Christian year, a celebratory but unlikely anticipation. It is easy to forget that we really *are* to expect Christ to return at any moment. Sometimes I think that if Jesus didn’t return in these past 2000-plus years, what makes me believe he’ll come back in *my* lifetime?

The bottom line can be tough to accept: no one knows, and speculation is just that—speculation. So we do the only thing we can: we persevere, like the early believers did, expectant, alert, yet carrying on with their purpose, a purpose given to them, and to us, by our Savior.

For now, for today, that is enough.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,  
*Lou*

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## Invitation and Outreach: Offerings and Angel

By Benjamin Matteson, Invitation and Outreach Team Lead



As you know, this is a busy time of year for reaching out to our community. We just completed half of our holiday giving: in November, when we gave an offering to the Children’s Thanksgiving Offering (which helps support the children’s home in which **Ray Terrell** grew up). We collected the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering with monetary donations going to FPC’s Compassion Fund and food (mostly Presbyterian crackers) donated to Franklin Cooperative Ministry.

We were also blessed in that we were able to once again hold a successful Thanksgiving meal program led by **Kaye Weaver** (thank you, Kaye!). The meals served over fifty people in our community. Many thanks to everyone who donated their time and cooking talents.

This past Sunday, we began collecting funds for the annual FPC Angel Tree program. Project chair **Tiffany Matteson** has selected two families totaling 10 people. As in previous years, we will try to be Christ’s voice and hands by making Christmas great for these families. For more details, see the Angel Tree article on page 5 of this newsletter.

We will also collect money for the Christmas Joy Offering on (December 20<sup>th</sup> 2015) and, as every year, Christmas Eve’s offering will be contributed to FPC’s Compassion Fund.

Thank you all for your faithful giving and your commitment to being Christ’s voice and hands in our community.

*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.*

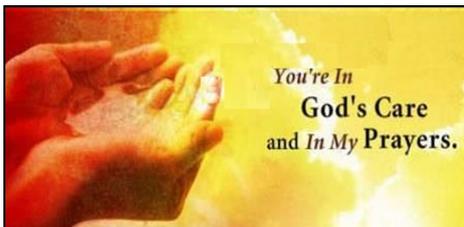
# FPC Blesses the Animals on Saturday, Nov. 14



Clockwise from upper left: A great gathering of FPC peeps and pups! Coal Meredith watches Lucy Christie get a treat. Lexie Padgett with mom Kathryn sits pretty for a treat. Sue Fast (with Archie, not pictured), and Kaye, Katherine, Abby, and Joey Weaver respond to the blessing liturgy. Church puppy Grace Matteson with daddy Benjamin shakes her paw for another treat.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

## PRAYER REQUESTS



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

|                                                                       |                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wayne &amp; Earlene Sprouse</b>                                    | <b>Frances Wilber</b>                                                   |
| <b>Isaiah Baggett</b><br>Friend of Deloris Joyner                     | <b>Timmy Drake</b><br>Friend of the Roses                               |
| <b>Cathy Quate</b><br>Reverend Lou's mother                           | <b>Ann Marie Wisher</b><br>Reverend Lou's friend                        |
| <b>The Ellsworth Family</b>                                           | <b>Sue Green (Doug Green's wife)</b><br>Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose |
| <b>Allen Wright</b><br>Cousin of Terry Rose                           | <b>Lisa Shepardson</b><br>Friend of Tiffany and Benjamin Matteson       |
| <b>Diane Springfield</b><br>Bob Springfield's sister                  | <b>Rosalind Cutchins</b><br>Exec. Dir. of the Children's Center         |
| <b>Larry Owens in TN</b> Father of Terry and Jimmie Rose's son-in-law | <b>Krista Johnson</b><br>Co-worker of Kathryn Padgett                   |
| <b>Ron Ventura</b>                                                    | <b>Harry Christie</b>                                                   |
| <b>Carol Dixon</b><br>Sister of Jimmie Rose                           | <b>The Slane family</b><br>On Krista's passing                          |
| <b>Barbara Gray</b>                                                   | <b>Doug Ventura</b><br>Brother of Ron Ventura                           |
| <b>Trisha McGuire</b><br>Broken wrist                                 | <b>Ethan Reana</b><br>Son of friend of Benjamin and Tiffany Matteson    |
| <b>Carol Holland</b>                                                  | <b>Vivian Goodwyn</b><br>Co-Worker of Lauren Harper                     |



| <u>Month</u> | <u>New Members</u> | <u>Average Worship Attendance</u> | <u>Total Offering</u> | <u>Total Expenses</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| January      | 0                  | 31                                | \$7,988.00            | \$9,059.92            |
| February     | 0                  | 35                                | \$7,783.00            | \$8,309.27            |
| March        | 0                  | 35                                | \$16,222.00           | \$9,008.74            |
| April        | 0                  | 41                                | \$8,742.00            | \$8,833.39            |
| May          | 0                  | 35                                | \$9,340.00            | \$11,404.17           |
| June         | 0                  | 36                                | \$24,894.00           | \$28,656.92           |
| July         | 0                  | 40                                | \$7,183.25            | \$10,222.77           |
| August       | 0                  | 32                                | \$8,644.00            | \$9,927.08            |
| September    | 0                  | 34                                | \$6,680.00            | \$7,475.05            |
| October      | 0                  | 38                                | \$18,660.00           | \$7,861.63            |

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



- 02. Ray Terrell, Katherine Weaver
- 17. Sherrell Raybuck
- 23. Steve Boothe



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



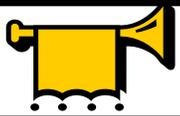
## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

|     |                             |                                 |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 06. | Jim Drewry & Harry Christie | Lead Lector: Ann Marie Brotzman |
| 13. | Betty & David Jones         |                                 |
| 20. | Jimmie Rose & Ray Terrell   |                                 |
| 27. | Lauren & Allen Harper       |                                 |

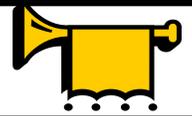
## SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting on November 18, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Received minutes of the previous meeting, the pastor's report, and financial reports for information;
- Received a report from the corporation's president, **Lauren Harper**, regarding how the proceeds from the sale of the manse will be invested at Wells Fargo;
- Approved the 2016 budget and the 2016 pledge to PEVA;
- Approved the 2016 terms of call for the covenant pastor;
- Approved the 2016 Communion Schedule;
- Heard the report of the commissioners to the October 27 presbytery meeting;
- Approved canceling the December Session meeting and handling any required business via electronic votes or called meetings.



## News Briefs



### 2016 Offering Envelopes Available for Pick Up

Your 2016 Offering Envelopes are ready. Please pick them up from the bookcase at the back of the church---right beside Harry and the sound board.

If you were unable to pledge this year, we have extra envelopes for you too. Why use the special envelopes? We can keep a record of giving for your tax purposes. See Vivian or Harry Christie if you don't see one for you already.

Your 2015 Records of Giving will be ready on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you for your generous giving.

**Vivian and Harry Christie**  
Receiving Treasurers

### Christmas Poinsettias Available for Dedication

Potted Christmas poinsettia plants are once again available for \$12.00 each.

Forms can be found in the narthex at church, or you can contact the church office at 562-4313, verbally place your order, and send a check 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 13. A list of poinsettia dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.



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**THE MESSENGER**


Last Sunday Reverend Ventura asked, “What gives you hope?” Thoughts and images instantly flooded my head and filled my heart. The first flower of spring. Seeing my family. A new school year. But the two most pressing thoughts and images? My faith and children, knowing that I was given the gift of salvation and all the possibilities life has for them.

And isn’t that the wonder of Christmas? God knew these two things needed to go together, the gift and the endless possibilities. The Christmas season is so full of hope and joy that it becomes contagious. That is where Angel Tree comes in. I truly believe we bring hope and joy to families in need. Because of us children wake up to presents under the tree and parents have one less worry. It is about so much more than presents though; it is really about hope. Giving people hope that things will get better, hope that someone cares, hope in the fact that they are loved by the God of the universe.

This year we have adopted two families. Our first family is a single mother with three children ages 2, 5, and 7. Our second family has two adults and four children ages 2, 4, 10 and 15. Our goal is to raise enough funds to provide each family member with at least one new outfit, a pair of shoes, and a few toys for the children. A small gift I pray will fill them with hope and knowledge of Christ’s love. I ask that you prayerfully consider your contribution.



Yours in Christ,

*Tiffany Matteson*



*Do you LOVE to shop?*

Contact **Tiffany Matteson** to sign up to assist with Angel Tree shopping.

She can be reached at [tmatteson84@gmail.com](mailto:tmatteson84@gmail.com) or 616-633-3393.

**Who: You!**

**What: Angel Tree Wrapping Party**

**When: December 20, following worship**

## THE MESSENGER CONGREGATION'S CORNER



### Sugar Coated Pecans

Contributed by Vivian Christie

#### Ingredients:

- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 pound pecan halves
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 250°.  
Grease one baking sheet (parchment paper can be used).  
In a mixing bowl, whip together the egg white and water until frothy.  
In a separate bowl, mix together sugar, salt and cinnamon.  
Add pecans to egg whites, stir to coat the nuts evenly.  
Remove the nuts, and toss them in the sugar mixture until coated.  
Spread the nuts out on the prepared baking sheet.  
Bake at 250° for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.



## Ray's Joke

### Corner by Ray Terrell

What did the mouth say to the brain?

*Mind your business.*

What did the gas tank say to the heart?

*Can you pump gas?*

Why can cake stand hot weather?

*It has frosting on top of it.*



# DECEMBER 2015

| Sun                                                                                                       | Mon                                                                                    | Tue | Wed                                                                                                                                             | Thu                                                                                    | Fri                                                                                   | Sat                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                           |                                                                                        | 1   | 2 <br>6 p.m. Advent<br><i>lectio divina</i>                    | 3                                                                                      | 4  | 5<br>8:30 a.m.<br>Men of the<br>Church<br>Breakfast |
| 6<br>11 a.m. Worship                                                                                      | 7                                                                                      | 8   | 9<br>6 p.m. Advent<br><i>lectio divina</i>                                                                                                      | 10                                                                                     | 11                                                                                    | 12                                                  |
| 13<br>11 a.m. Worship                                                                                     | 14                                                                                     | 15  | 16<br>6 p.m. Advent<br><i>lectio divina</i>                                                                                                     | 17  | 18                                                                                    | 19                                                  |
| 20<br>11 a.m. Worship                                                                                     | 21  | 22  | 23 <br>5 p.m.<br><b>Christmas Eve<br/>Worship</b>            | 24                                                                                     | 25                                                                                    | 26                                                  |
| 27 <br>11 a.m. Worship | 28                                                                                     | 29  | 30 <br>Service for Heal-<br>ing and Whole-<br>ness<br>6:00pm | 31                                                                                     |                                                                                       |                                                     |

Birthdays;



- 2— Ray Terrell, Katherine Weaver
- 17— Sherrell Raybuck
- 23— Steve Boothe

Anniversaries



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



**FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

405 Lee St  
 Franklin, VA 23851  
 757.562.4313  
 franklinpreschurch@gmail.com



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

**UPCOMING EVENTS-- DECEMBER 2015**

|    |                                          |
|----|------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Presbyterian Woman 10:00am               |
| 2  | Advent Lectio Divina                     |
| 5  | Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Brenner Hall     |
| 6  | Worship 11:00 am                         |
| 9  | Advent Lectio Divina                     |
| 13 | Worship 11:00 am                         |
| 16 | Advent Lectio Divina                     |
| 20 | Worship 11:00 am                         |
| 24 | Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.          |
| 27 | Worship 11:00 am                         |
| 30 | Service for Healing and Wholeness 6 p.m. |



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