



# THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2015



Franklin Presbyterian Church



From  
the  
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA  
COVENANT PASTOR

Happy New Year!

I'm still getting used to writing "2015," but I am looking forward with excitement to what this year may bring. Your Session has begun brainstorming missions and other activities for 2015, and has a meeting scheduled in late February to retreat and do some short and long-term planning.

On a personal level, I am pleased to continue my work at PEVA on the Commission on Ministry (COM), and have been elected Vice Moderator of MARS (Mediation and Reconciliation Subcommittee). In May I am planning to attend a two-day mediation training session in Washington, DC, and am excited about learning new skills.

Continued on page 4

## Inside this issue:

Invitation and Outreach	1
Presbyterian Women	2
Prayer Requests	2
Church Snapshot	3
January Celebrations	3
Assisting with Worship	3
Session Update	4
Outreach	5
Angel Tree in Pictures	6-7
Congregational Corner	8
Calendar	9

## Invitation and Outreach: SUPERBOWL COLLECTION



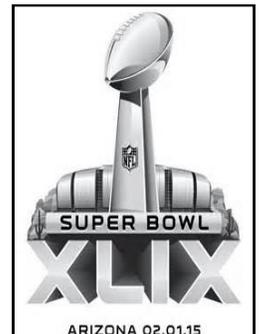
It has been odd for me—and probably a relief for you!—these last couple of weeks not asking you for monetary donations. As many outreach efforts as we do throughout the year, it seems strange not having any outreach opportunities during the first couple of months. The One Great Hour of Sharing initiative will start in March.

We may not have any *monetary* giving opportunities, but we do have another giving occasion planned that sounds like fun!

This event will coincide with the Super Bowl. As soon as the two teams playing for the Super Bowl title are set (I am still pretty ticked that the Lions will not be one of those teams!), you will see two boxes in the narthex, one labeled for each team, and the "FPC Super Bowl" will begin! Choose the team that you want to win and, from Monday, January 19 through Sunday, February 1, place canned goods and other non-perishable items in the box of the team you want to win. It's a good idea to keep an eye on the boxes each Sunday (or more often!) to determine whether you need

to contribute more to your team! The team with the most goods will be the winner of the "FPC Super Bowl" and our prediction for the winner of the real game.

No matter who the church picks to win, Cooperative Ministry wins because both boxes of food will be delivered there on Monday, February 2. We will know what team the church predicts to win by the announcements in worship on Sunday, February 2. If you have any questions please contact me at the church or on my cell (434) 594-7212.



-Benjamin

*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



**PRESBYTERIAN  
 WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women continue to study “Reconciling Paul” by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Our next meeting is February 2 at 10 a.m. in Brenner Hall. Our lesson is number Five on page 45 in our study books. The author says, “this lesson will invite you to expand your understanding of reconciliation, healing, and transformation to a much broader, even cosmological, context as you entertain the concept of new creation.” Both **Robert Meredith** and **Rev. Ventura** do an amazing job with helping us understand Paul’s letters.

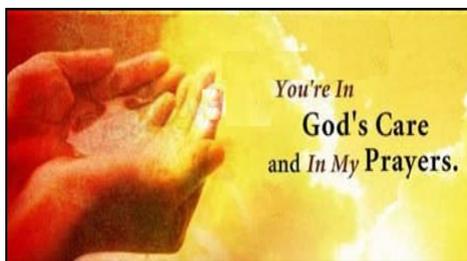
PW is going to be helping the Franklin Cooperative Ministries by preparing a meal at Sharon’s Kitchen on February 19<sup>th</sup>. **Jackie Cutchin** is chairing this project for us. Please mark your calendars if you can help us. More information will be shared at our next circle meeting and in our next newsletter.

We will have a visitor, Cara Butler, at our next meeting, also. She will give us a presentation about all the labels we can clip to help support our local schools. We do a good job now, but we can do even better with her guidance.

We are surprised and pleased to have received a beautiful note and a generous donation from Barbara Brown, **Goldzie Cabell**’s niece. Thank you to all of our PW for making the memorial service and reception a warm and inspiring moment for Goldzie’s family.

Mark your calendars for April 25, 2015 for our PEVA Spring Gathering. It will be held at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. Our representatives last year found it to be a wonderful worship experience and an interesting business meeting.

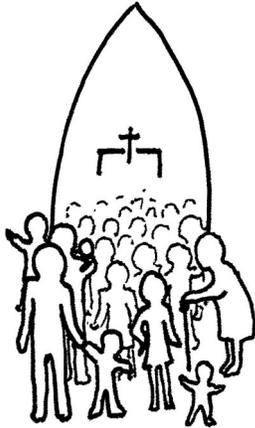
## PRAYER REQUESTS



*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>Krista Slane</b>
<b>Angela Drewry</b> Kathryn Padgett’s friend	<b>Anna Cabell Wiley</b>
<b>Isaiah Baggett</b> Friend of Deloris Joyner	<b>Joe Jenkins</b> Tiffany Matteson’s cousin
<b>Timmy Drake</b> Friend of the Rose’s	<b>Petrowsky Family</b> Tiffany’s extended family
<b>Rick Gantly</b> Brother of Diana Conco	<b>Ann Marie Wisher</b> Reverend Lou’s Friend
<b>Diane Springfield</b> Sister in Law of Faye Springfield	<b>Howard Ambrose</b> Brother of Faye Springfield
<b>Nora Vasoti</b>	<b>Sheri Pearce</b> Sister of Denise Kien
<b>Steve Mitchell and family</b> Friends of the Christies	<b>Barbara Mease</b> Children’s Cent. Exec. Director
<b>Allen Wright</b> Cousin of Terry Rose	<b>Inman Family</b> Co-worker of Terry Rose
<b>Barbara Gray</b>	<b>Shirley Mosher</b> Friend of Deloris Joyner
<b>Toler Family</b> Friend of Deloris	<b>Holly Johnson Wells</b> Cousin of Terry’s Friend
<b>Pollard Family</b>	<b>Betty Bass</b>
<b>Ellsworth Family</b>	<b>Erin Matteson</b> Sister of Benjamin Matteson

# 2014 CHURCH SNAPSHOT



<u>Month</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Average Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
January	0	37	\$8,226.00	\$7,406.64
February	0	38	\$7,234.00	\$9,422.64
March	0	34	\$10,370.26	\$6,705.79
April	2	39	\$9,291.00	\$9,213.17
May	0	35	\$7,495.25	\$9,414.38
June	0	34	\$15,444.05	\$6,907.23
July	0	38	\$7,680.80	\$8,739.64
August	0	30	\$8,683.18	\$11,259.30
September	0	37	\$5,836.00	\$8,313.84
October	0	36	\$8,598.90	\$7,372.62
November	0	35	\$11,937.85	\$8,797.83
December	0	39	\$10,114.11	\$7,869.94

## IANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 03. Ed Schwolow
- 03. James Carr
- 08. Faye Springfield
- 10. Lauren Harper
- 17. Ann Manning Cutchin
- 17. John Matous
- 21. Cathy Quate
- 23. Lane Meredith
- 24. Pat Griffin
- 25. Bill Boothe
- 31. Peggy Wright



- 10. Betty & David Jones
- 13. Evelyn & Linwood Drake



## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN JANUARY

04.	Robert Meredith & Ray Terrell	Lead Lector: Kathryn Padgett
11.	Deloris Joyner & Bobbi Thomas	
18.	Jim Vasoti & Asa Johnson	
25.	Betty Jones & Faye Springfield	

## THE MESSENGER

From the Pastor Continued from page 1

Do you have a Facebook account? I am delighted to see how many of our congregation communicate on social media—it's a great way to keep in touch during the week and share pictures and inspirational items to encourage each other in the faith. If you'd like to begin using Facebook in 2015 but are not sure where to start, I invite you to come up to the church office, and Benjamin and I will be happy to walk you through it.

As we go through this new year together, I would like to encourage each of you to be even more open to whatever new experiences the Spirit may bring. God has given us each other and this wonderful world to experience and care for, and in which to share his love and message. Join me in praying that we can accurately discern what God wants us to be and do, and that we obey with wonder, delight, and anticipation.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,  
*Lou*



## Lent Worship Team to Begin in February

It seems like the Advent Worship Team just wrapped up, but the Lent Worship Team will begin to meet in February.

You are cordially invited to gather with **Pastor Lou** on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 6 to 7 p.m. in Brenner Hall to experience a *lectio divina*-like experience with the lectionary scripture for Lent.

Also at this meeting we will discuss Ash Wednesday preparations and worship, as well as share thoughts about worship throughout the Lenten and Easter season. The group will determine its meeting schedule for the remainder of the season at this first gathering.

These meetings are very informal; please feel free to come as you are and bring your dinner; we can "eat while we meet."

If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Lou. Otherwise, just let her know you plan to attend so there will be plenty of handouts.

## SESSION UPDATE

The FPC Session did not have a regular meeting in December—they took the month off!—but here are some late-breaking events that occurred on Session approval between its November meeting and the end of the year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please see any Session member or Pastor Lou.

- The FPC budget underwent change to the positive with some last minute pledges and unexpected donations that we gratefully received. The details of the budget will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 25. In the meantime, some of you may have heard that Administrative Assistant **Benjamin Matteson** was promoted to Office Manager. This action was taken in light of all the additional duties that Benjamin has voluntarily taken on and handles each week; he essentially manages the office processes, although he does provide day-to-day supervision of the church sexton. This title change will allow Benjamin to show promotability on his resume.
- A new computer for the FPC Treasurer was purchased, and is in the process of being fully installed. The existing PC is *extremely* old and slow, and runs an operating system (OS) of Microsoft XP, which is being sunset and will no longer be serviced or supported by many computer techs. It is always better to replace a PC prior to it crashing or experiencing some other failure so that data is not lost. To the best of our knowledge, there is no backup of the data that resides on this PC. Pastor Lou's brother-in-law, David Bryce, is a Peachtree Accounting System expert, so he has graciously volunteered to assist us in transferring our data from one PC to the other and help us set up a regular backup process. This new PC can also be used as a backup for the Office Manager or pastor should the need arise. Funding for this PC was obtained from an undesignated gift that was received in December 2014.

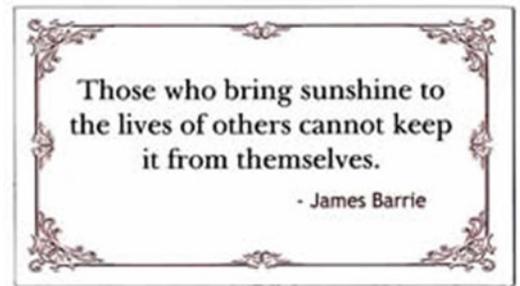


THE MESSENGER

# OUTREACH: Angel Tree



Our church may be small, but I think we have a gift for bringing sunshine and blessings into the lives of others. This was certainly the case with our Angel Tree ministry! I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. Your donations and your prayers (not to mention your tree-trimming, shopping, and wrapping skills) are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to **Frank Padgett, Kathryn Padgett, Reverend Ventura, and Benjamin Matteson** for assisting with a marathon shopping trip and to Reverend Ventura and Benjamin



Matteson for playing Santa and delivering the gifts.

Although I am no longer surprised at the amazing generosity of our little congregation I am still awed by it. We reached our goal of \$1,500 and provided two families with an amazing Christmas. I wish you all could have seen the sheer joy on one of the recipient's face as she told me about her new bike! Both families were appreciative and thankful for the gifts. They had a joyful Christmas because of you! Being involved with our Angel Tree ministry has brought sunshine and blessings into my life, and I hope it has done the same for you.

Yours in Christ,  
*Tiffany Matteson*



Angel Tree Shopping Crew with Santa at the Franklin Wal-Mart

THE MESSENGER

# FPC ANGEL TREE IN PICTURES



↑ The FPC Angel Tree with presents. What a great Christmas to wake up to!



↑ Lauren Harper and daughter-in-law Rebecca helped wrap Angel Tree gifts.



↑ Jimmy Rose wrapping with David Jones supervising.



← Kaye Weaver shows off her seasonally appropriate sweater while wrapping gifts.

THE MESSENGER

FPC ANGEL TREE IN PICTURES (CONTINUED)



↑ Gaby Bryce, Tiffany Matteson, and Bobbi Thomas tackle a table of gifts.



↑ Faye Springfield and Dottie Gilbert check to make sure they have enough wrapping paper for that Easy Bake Oven!



← Ray Terrell (AKA FPC's Riddler) keeps Frank and Kathryn Padgett and Robert Meredith chuckling as they wrap gifts.



← An Angel Tree family graciously sent us pictures of their children opening gifts! Zavian Lewis (9) and Tareyan (7) are excited to see what Santa brought!



# THE MESSENGER CONGREGATION'S CORNER



## The New Year

- Martha Snell Nicholson

Dear Lord, as this New Year is born  
I give it to Thy hand,  
Content to walk by faith what paths  
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring  
Of bitter loss, or gain,  
Or every crown of happiness;  
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To bear me to that farther shore  
Before another year,

It matters not—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My guiding light upon the path  
Till, blind no more, I see!



## Ray's Joke Corner

by Ray Terrell

**Why didn't the shoe and the shoe string get along?**

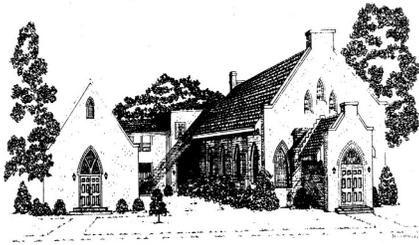
-They didn't see eye to eye.

**What did the storekeeper say to the turtle?**

-Business is real slow here.

**How did the clothes salesman get mad?**

-He threw a fit.



# JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3  Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
4 Sunday Worship 11:00 am	5	6 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am	7	8  A.A.R.P. Meeting 11:00 am  Choir Practice	9	10  
11 Sunday Worship 11:00 am  *Communion	12	13	14	15 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	16	17 
18 Sunday Worship 11:00 am	19	20	21   Session Mtg 6:00 pm	22 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	23 	24  PEVA Meeting 9:00 a -4:15 p Lynnhaven PC
25  Sunday Worship 11:00 am *Annual Congregational Meeting after worship	26	27	28	29 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	30	31  

**Birthdays:**   
 03. Ed Schwolow  
 10. Lauren Harper  
 21. Cathy Quate  
 25. Bill Boothe

03. James Carr  
 17. Ann Manning Cutchin  
 23. Lane Meredith  
 31. Peggy Wright

08. Faye Springfield  
 17. John Matous  
 24. Pat Griffin

**Anniversaries:**   
 10. Betty & David Jones  
 13. Evelyn & Linwood Drake



**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-- JANUARY 2015**

03.	Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
04.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
06.	Presbyterian Women 10:00 am
08.	A.A.R.P. Meeting 11:00 am
11.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am *Holy Communion
18.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
24.	PEVA Meeting Lynnhaven PC 9:00 am-4:15 pm
25.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
25.	Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 pm (after worship)

Choir practices at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday



**Find us on Facebook**  
 Search for Franklin Presbyterian Church

