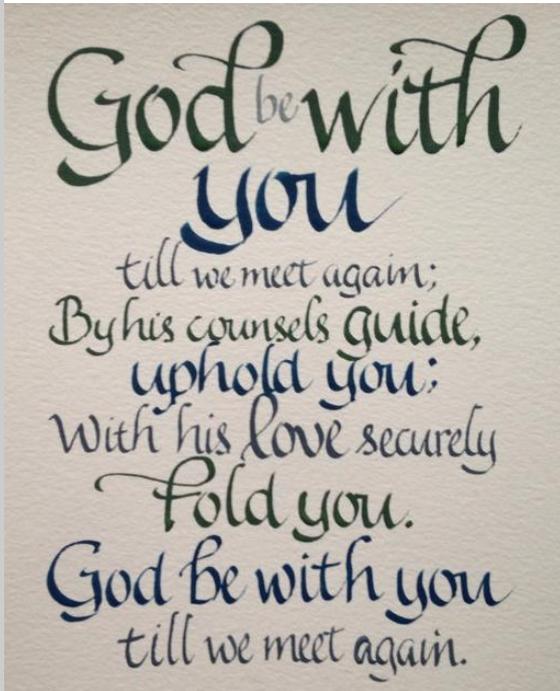


First Presbyterian Church

307 Gates Avenue, Huntsville AL 35801

[website](#) [about](#) [worship](#) [ministries](#) [get involved](#) [preschool](#)



"Farewell"

This is my last article for the weekly update. I have been your interim pastor for thirteen months. Before that I was your interim associate pastor for four months. Rosemary is staying as your interim pastor beginning January 1, 2017; her interim contract is until May 31, 2017.

The best compliment I can pay this church is to say that I have had such a good time as your interim that I want to do more interims. I plan to take a vacation during January and then go back to work as an interim in a new place. Exactly "where" that will be is unknown.

I believe that First Church has a bright future - healthy and in good shape to receive your new pastor. You have good leadership on the session. I enjoyed getting to know the new session members, who were recently installed during worship on December 11, during the officer training classes on Wednesday nights.

In my farewell sermon on December 18, I suggested that the leadership in Presbyterian churches always comes from the congregation. Pastors come and go. All pastors are transitional, or interims, in a manner of speaking. None of us stays forever. But the congregation is permanent, with many families staying in churches for multiple generations. I hope your next installed pastor stays for a long tenure, but even a twenty-year tenure for a pastor is not as long as church members stay.

The staff of this church is stable and works well together. The personnel committee of your session has done an excellent job putting together the current staff and updating the personnel policies and job descriptions. The Care Cluster continues to work on the membership roll of the church. Their goal is to have an accurate roll by the time a new pastor is installed.

One of the ways to evaluate the fitness of a church is to observe the diversity of the congregation. It is unusual to have as much racial diversity as First Church has. Most

PC(USA) churches are all white, but this one is not. You also have a broad diversity of ages. Notice the number of children who come to the front of the sanctuary during worship for the time with young disciples. I hope you came to the Christmas Pageant on Sunday night, December 11, and the "Wed. Nite Live" Christmas play on Wednesday, December 7. For an "aging" congregation, which all PC(USA) churches are, this church has a healthy representation of young adults, youth and children. One more observation about leadership: this church has a healthy mix of male and female leadership.

I will miss you. You have been a joy for me to work with. Thank you for allowing me to share in this ministry with you. This church will be in my prayers.

Peace.

Dr. Cary Speaker

FPC Weekly E-Mail on Holiday Hiatus



The FPC Weekly E-Mail's last weekly publication for 2016 will be Thursday, December 22, 2016. We will resume our regular weekly publication on Thursday, January 5, 2017. Breaking news will be posted to email subscribers and uploaded to Facebook and our website.

Church Office Holiday Hours



CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES:

DECEMBER 22, 23, 26 - CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 30 AND JANUARY 2 - CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 28 AND 29 THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE LIGHTLY STAFFED AS WE GIVE STAFF MEMBERS TIME TO SPEND WITH THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS THERE BEFORE STOPPING BY THE OFFICE.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017.

End of Year Gifts



A Note from the Bookkeeper

Last Minute Contributions: Our sincere thanks to all who have given generously this year to the life and work of our church. If you plan to make an additional contribution before year's end that you wish to be counted as a 2016 tax deduction, please remember that it must be either postmarked or received at the church by December 31. Any contributions postmarked or received on or after January 1 regardless of the date written on the check will be considered a 2017 tax deduction and will appear on your 2017 Contribution Statement.

Stock Transfers: Please call the finance office Monday - Thursday between 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 p.m. for details. Please include your name on any stock check sent to the church office so that we can properly give you credit for your gift.

Pledge Cards for 2017: The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone that has completed and turned in a pledge card. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please drop it off at the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting the ministries and missions at FPC.

Giving in 2017: We have three pledged funds we would like you to consider supporting: our General Fund, our Capital Fund, and the 1818 Foundation. To help us with our accounting and to see that we apply your pledges correctly, we ask that you note your intentions on your offering envelope or on the memo line of the check.

Advent/Christmas 2016



December 24, 3:00 and 5:00 pm

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sanctuary

December 25, 10:30 am

Christmas Day worship

January 1, 2017, 10:30 am

First Sunday after Christmas

**10:30 a.m. service only with
Holy Communion**

Sanctuary

From the Presbytery



North Alabama Presbytery

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ and Serving Our Communities and Beyond

"Healing Conflict"

If you have experienced conflict in the North Alabama Presbytery over the last two years due to issues surrounding Camp Maranatha or the former Executive Presbyter, you are invited to attend "Let's Talk About It." Reverends Jack and Amanda Ragland,

pastoral counselors at The Vine Pastoral Counseling Agency who are experienced in conflict resolution, will be holding public discussions. First Presbyterian will host one of the three gatherings on **Jan. 12 from 6:30-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. The hope is that this will be an initial step towards healing and processing. These three sessions will culminate in a "Service of Worship and Healing" coordinated by Amanda Ragland involving leadership throughout the Presbytery. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Rosemary at rmcmahan@fpchsv.org.

Nursery Schedule



Nursery

The nursery will be open on Christmas Eve for both services, but parents are welcome to keep their children in the sanctuary. The Lord's Supper will be served, and baptized children may receive as parents deem ready.

Only one service at 10:30 am on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The nursery will not be open on either day.

Wed Nite Live!



Wed Nite Live! Bringing the Word!

What is Wed Nite Live? WNL is an intentional setting where God's children of all ages, from 2 year olds to adults, can learn about Christian relationships by gathering together. Children and youth will engage in Bible study, Worship Skills, and Fellowship (dinner and a game). Adults will have a choice of three study options, and everyone will eat together.

How is Wed Nite Live different from Sunday School? WNL is a complement to Sunday School and a great way to connect in between Sundays. The atmosphere is more relaxed, there is time for more fun, and all generations have the opportunity to mingle. Anyone is welcomed!

What are the dates and times? Winter Semester: Wed. Jan 11, 2017 through Wed. April 5, 2017, with a break for Spring Break. 5-7 PM for children and youth. Adult studies 5:30-6:30 PM. Dinner service will begin at 6:20 and the evening will end with a game by 7 PM.

What is the cost for fall semester? 2, 3, 4 year olds: \$40/child
K-High School: \$50/child with a family maximum of \$125 for children.
Adults: \$50/person if paid in advance. \$7/meal if you pay as you go.

Free nursery for children under 2.
Payment is due with registration or on the first night of WNL.

What will be studied?

The Littlers (ages 2, 3, 4) will share a Bible story, craft, music, and play.

K-6th graders will be learning about "Superheroes of the Bible," leading up to the Resurrected Christ.

7-8th graders will use the "RE:form" Confirmation curriculum, to further strengthen their understanding of what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian.

High school students will continue their exploration of Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, a fun look at why we believe what we believe.

Click [HERE](#) to register your CHILD or YOUTH.

Adults will have three tracts from which to choose:

Living the Questions, Part II, an opportunity to struggle with some tough theological issues and explore what's next for Christianity, led by Elders Bert Moore and Barbara Bozeman. ***Participants must have taken Part I to register for Part II.***

The Gospel of John, an invitation to explore several themes woven throughout this gospel, led by Rev. Richard Brooks, retired PC(USA).

Christian Parenting, an interactive dialogue of how to parent toddlers through high school students, focusing on relationships within the family and building relationship with Jesus Christ, by counselor Sarah Bengs of The Vine Pastoral Counseling Agency.

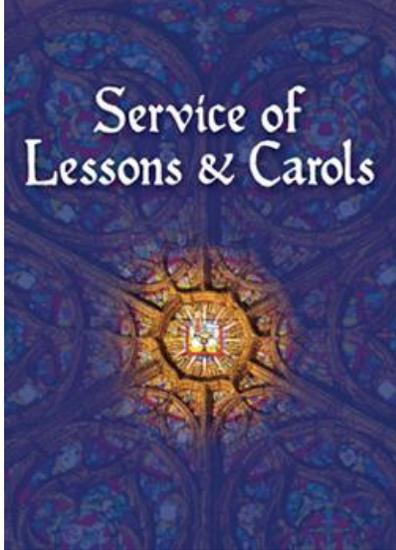
Click [HERE](#) to register as an adult.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS JANUARY 11.

Christmas Eve services

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 24, 2016
3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

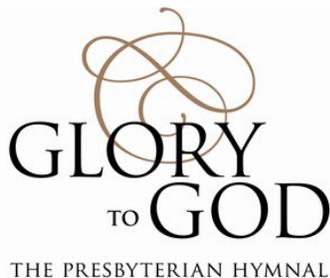


Service of
Lessons & Carols

Sanctuary

Sacrament of Holy Communion at both
services.

Hymnal Dedications



Give the gift of a Glory to God hymnal in honor of someone you love this Christmas season. The dedication is \$50 and forms are available in the church office, library, narthex, the Fellowship Hall, and the Gideon Blackburn House. They are also available for download on our website and in our weekly email.

Download the form [here](#). **Deadline is December 31,**

2016.

Worship This Week

**Saturday, December 24, 2016
Christmas Eve**

**Lessons and Carol service
Holy Communion**

**3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

A worship bulletin for this Sunday is available online on Thursday afternoons.
Click [here](#) to download now.

**Sunday, December 25, 2016
Christmas Day service**

**Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor, preaching,
"What the Angels Say"**

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

A worship bulletin for this Sunday is available online on Thursday afternoons.
Click [here](#) to download now.

Sunday, January 1, 2017
First Sunday after Christmas service

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor, preaching,
"What Now"

Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

A worship bulletin for this Sunday is available online on Thursday afternoons.
Click [here](#) to download now.

Church Calendar



[View our Church Calendar Online](#)

Sermons



In keeping with Presbyterian tradition, the hearing of God's word in Scripture and preaching is central to each Sunday service of worship at First Presbyterian Church. For those who were unable to be with us-and for those who want to reflect further on a sermon or save it-you will find below the online text of the most recent sermons.

Scripture comments and texts of the sermons are available in the church literature racks, which are located in the church office across from the Pastor's Secretary office.

For a pdf of the Sunday worship bulletin, click on the service time at right.

Sunday, January 1, 2017

"What Now?"
[only](#)

Rev. Rosemary McMahan

[10:30 a.m.](#)

Sunday, December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)

"What the Angels Say"
[only](#)

Rev. Rosemary McMahan

[10:30 a.m.](#)

Saturday, December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)

"Lessons and Carols"

[3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.](#)

Sunday, December 18, 2016

"Farewell"
[a.m.](#)

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 a.m. and 10:30](#)

[Sermon Text](#)

Sunday, December 11, 2016

"John the Baptist"

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.](#)

[Scripture Comments](#)

[Sermon Text](#)

Prayer Request



Members: Harriet Bibb, Anne Boles, John Clark, Charles Danner, J. R. Howard, Kara Howard, Tom Hudson, Cay Lambert, Lorinne Lilly, Sage Lyons, III, Glenda Miller, Bonnie Morris, Sanders Pair, and Janis Williams.

Friends & Relatives: Gloria Adamson - Sister of Betty Dunaway; Tina Beck - Friend of Leigh Brown; Sherry Carroll - Friend of Marilyn and Roy McCorkle; Doris Fuller - Mother of Vicky Goodwin; James and Margaret Goodlet - Friends of Austin Howard; Scott Gordon - Nephew of Pete, Beth and Steven Clapp; Johnny Hall - Friend of the Payne family; Lisa Heffington - Niece of Betty

Dunaway; Peggy and Joe Jackson - Friend of Betty Dunaway; Betty and Larry Johnson - Friends of Betty Dunaway; Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith; Lois Lynch - Caregiver to the mother of Vicky Goodwin; Ricky McGuire - Friend of Houston Matthews; William and Carolyn Payne - Parents of Bill Payne; Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely; Patricia Smith - Mother of David Smith; Lindsay Taylor - Granddaughter of Betty Thompson; Tom Wilson - Father of Elaine Stowe.

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care: Annabell Aust (Regency Village); Lorinne Lilly (Magnolia Cottage); Darwin Perkins (Brookdale Place); Ernestine Roberson (Brookdale Place); Ray Rose (Diversicare of Big Springs); Virginia Rowe (Whitesburg Gardens); Marge Sharp; Phil Skidmore (Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home).

The Church: The Pastor Nominating Committee; First Presbyterian Church, the Session and the North Alabama Presbytery.

Military & International: All those serving in the armed forces.

Our Nation: President Obama, President-elect Trump, and our representatives.

First Presbyterian Missions & Ministries: Appalachia Service Project (ASP); Good Samaritans; The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center; The Presbyterian Home for Children; Kids to Love; Second Mile Preschool, and the CUP program.

If you are hospitalized or in need of a pastoral visit, please notify the Pastor's Secretary (256-536-3354, ext. 132). Please remember that area hospitals do not notify us about admissions.

First Presbyterian Church Staff and Leadership



Church Staff & Leadership

THE CHURCH STAFF

Office: 256-536-3354; Fax: 256-536-3038

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, *Interim Pastor*; ext. 127; rmcmahan@fpchsv.org

Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*; ext. 126; phacker@fpchsv.org

Dr. Frank Contreras, Organist

Angela Green, *Director of Children's Ministry*; ext. 129; agreen@fpchsv.org

Jim Williams, *Interim Youth Director*; ext. 131; jwilliams@fpchsv.org
Lacey Guthrie, *Director of First Friends Preschool*; ext. 128; ffdiretor@fpchsv.org
Cynde Tannehill, *Pastor's Secretary/Notary*; ext. 132; ctannehill@fpchsv.org
Bonnie Goolesby, *Receptionist/Secretary*, ext. 130; receptionist@fpchsv.org
Sharon Austell, *Financial Assistant*, ext. 136; saustell@fpchsv.org
Johann Malan, *Facilities Coordinator*, ext. 121; jmalan@fpchsv.org
Quentin Fitzpatrick, *Sexton*

THE SESSION

Class of 2016: Patty Conley (Care); David Galloway (Sustain); Leslie Lockhart (Maintain); Jan McKemie (Worship); Jay Stowe (Grow); Nicole Schroer (Share); Open (Gather).

Class of 2017: Harriet Bibb (Care); Bo Lundy (Gather); Houston Matthews (Maintain); Heidi Meadows (Share); Melissa Rowe (Grow); Andy Watson (Sustain); Charlotte Wessel (Worship)

Moderator:

Dr. Cary Speaker

Clerk of Session:

Lucinda Schreeder

Moving Clerk:

Bruce Williams

To view current session minutes, click [here](#).

SESSION
MINUTES

DIACONATE (DEACONS)

Class of 2016: David Goodwin, Chair (Care); Marshall Corlew (Sustain), Leslie Ecklund (Worship); Carlotta Gattis (Gather); Lennie Hartwell (Share); Michael Lastovic (Maintain); Amy Stucky (Grow).

Class of 2017: Gene Beam (Sustain), Libby Brown (Maintain), Karen Clayton (Gather); June Guynes (Share); Andi Gaskins (Care); Elaine Stowe (Grow); Sally Troy (Worship).

TRUSTEES

Class of 2016: Janice Fowler (Treasurer of Church) and Wayne Bonner

Class of 2017: Mac Martinson and Charles Bozeman (Treasurer of Trustees)

Class of 2018: Bill Johnson and Jay Stowe

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



FORWARD TO A FRIEND

