

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

January 2019

www.pcanet.org
Church Website: www.ellerbepca.com

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From the Pastor

As we begin the new year, my exhortation to one and all is simply that you apply yourself to the “ordinary means of grace.” That is to say, attend to God’s Word and prayer, and especially in the public gathering of God’s people. Jesus’ prayer to his Father was “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17). Jesus promised that when two or three gather in his name he is present with us in a special way (Matt. 18:20). It is especially as we draw near to God in corporate worship that he commands the blessing of life forevermore (Ps. 133:3). Let me take this time to draw special attention to the opportunities that will be yours to study God’s word, or as the saints of old would say - “to sit under God’s word” - in the coming year.

On Lord’s Day mornings, starting January 13th, we will be going through the first eighteen chapters of Exodus. When we think of Exodus, our first thoughts are probably about either the exodus from Egypt or the giving of God’s law at Sinai. And of course, redemption and obedience are important themes in Exodus. But perhaps the huge theme often missed is the importance of worship. Recall how over and over Moses and the people of God stress to Pharaoh their need to go into the wilderness “to sacrifice to the Lord our God” (3:18; 5:3; 8:27, 28). As the Lord eventually shows us, redemption from bondage in Egypt was for the very purpose of worshipping the Lord. May the Lord teach us about worship as well as redemption in this study.

As for Wednesday evenings, I encourage you, if you are not providentially hindered (job, sickness or serious impediment), join us on Wednesday evenings for a delicious meal and a study of God’s word. This winter and spring we will be studying 1 Thessalonians. I must admit that apart from my reading through the Bible annually for several years now and occasional references to the return of Jesus as Paul explains it in 4:13-8 or references to spare verses here or there, I have not spent a great deal of time in this book. Yet, as I have prepared for this study, I have reached the opinion that **it** may be one of the largely unmined treasures of God’s word. Much like Philippians, 1 Thessalonians is written by Paul to a congregation he dearly loves, as evidenced in the warm, encouraging tone. Furthermore, word for word 1 Thessalonians may have more to say about the return of Christ than any other book. It also has much to say about ministry leadership. All who have ministry leadership roles, and especially church officers, will find it has much to say to us about how we go about our craft.

Finally, I encourage you to come back out on Sunday evenings for study and prayer. There is no better way to keep the Lord’s Day the Lord’s Day (as opposed to his morning or hour) than to close the day together as the people of God. We will be engaged in a study of God’s word on the Lord’s Day evenings as well. Yet in this study we will not be going through a particular section of scripture; rather, it will be a doctrinal study. We will be studying the doctrinal standards of our church as we find them in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Yes, we will be studying the Westminster Confession of Faith. People often ask me what we as Presbyterians believe about various topics (and why?). And it is good to ask such questions. The problem is that the answers to such questions are seldom found in one particular “proof passage.” We must study the whole of God’s word to see what it has to say about any particular topic. The Westminster Confession of Faith is the product of such study; and as such, it is a distillation of scripture’s teaching on some of the more important topics. So, as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith, we learn what God has to say about various topics, and thus what we as Presbyterians believe.

So, these are the studies I have planned and these are the times for us to study God’s word together. As we engage in this endeavor, we will be transformed by God’s word and better equipped for service; and our church will be the better for it. I look forward to seeing you and may the Lord’s blessing be upon these plans and our church this new year.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Layton



Circle II met on Saturday night, December 8, 2018 for their Christmas Party. Members met at the church fellowship hall and enjoyed a great meal and fellowship with each other along with their spouses. Members signed up to bring various dishes with each bringing their own meat for grilling. We also extended an invitation to others in the church and welcomed them to our party. Members also exchanged their annual Christmas ornaments.

Circle II will have their next regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday night, January 29, 2019 where Kim Yates will be hosting.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

Circle III did not meeting in December since the November meeting was held later in the month, and the January meeting was moved from the 1st to the 8th due to the New Year Holiday. It will be held at 1:00 pm in the old fellowship hall. Please join us!

Jan Stivers, *Secretary*



WIC Update

Copies of the WIC 2019 program are in the church vestibule. New WIC officers were installed by Pastor Stan on December 12. A brief business meeting was held at this time and Beth Bryant summarized special projects that were completed, or still underway, at the end of her Presidency. These, along with potential projects, will be discussed during our WIC quarterly meeting on January 8 at 7:00 pm.

Thank you to all who helped decorate, and take down the church Christmas decorations.

Sandra Futrell, *WIC President*

Communicants Class

In January, Pastor Layton will be starting a "Communicants Class" for children who are interested in becoming communing members. Parents having children who are ready for this class should convey their interest to Pastor Layton.

Special Fund

While working full-time Timm is continuing to pursue seminary studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte. The Session has set up a fund to help defray Timm's seminary costs. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund should so designate on their checks.



**The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed
Sunday, January 6, during the worship service.**

From the Session

The Session held their November stated meeting on the 28th. Ruling Elder (RE) Timm Dazey gave a report on the November Quarterly Presbytery meeting, noting any changes and business conducted at this time. Teaching Elder Mr. Layton requested December 24-30 as the final week on his annual vacation period. Timm was approved to supply the pulpit during his absence on Sunday, December 30.

The 2019 Women in the Church program was presented and approved and a copy of the church's membership roll was reviewed with changes made. The Budget Committee presented their 2019 report and this was approved by the Session. The date for the Congregational meeting was set for Sunday, December 16.

The December stated meeting of the Session was held December 12th. Minutes of the Diaconate meetings for November and December were read and approved. Teaching and preaching plans for the new year were presented by Mr. Layton. A report of the Bereavement Committee was presented. A Communicants Class beginning in January to be taught by Mr. Layton was discussed along with other concerns of the church. Also, concerns of the sick and disabled were discussed with prayers for the.

RE Billy Carter

Choir Notes

As the choir begins 2019 on a high note, our prayers are for another fruitful year under the guidance of Ted Futrell. May our foundation be built on strong leadership, faithful members, loving fellowship, and most of all may we trust fully in Jesus Christ as our cornerstone.

The Christmas Cantata was held Tuesday evening, December 11, before a good turnout. It was certainly enjoyed by everyone and warmly accepted although the weather was frigid outside. Following the program, a reception was held in the warm and cozy atmosphere of the Fellowship Hall with refreshments and close knit fellowship.

Again, thanks to our Choir Director, Ted Futrell, for his dedication throughout the past and may we grow on faithfulness and dedication to our church and our Lord.

In Spiritual Kindness, Billy Carter

Church Transportation

The Session is desirous of providing transportation for anyone wanting to worship but needs transportation. If you are willing to drive others to worship or know of anyone needing transportation to worship, please let a Session member know.

Youth Group Refreshments

The Youth group meets monthly on the first Sunday night, 5:00—6:30 pm. We are asking for volunteers to sign up to provide refreshments. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Officers:

Ruling Elders

- Austin Bryant
- Bill Carter
- Tim Clark
- Timm Dazey
- Rickie DeWitt
- Robert Mabe
- Richard Smith
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tony Yates

Deacons

- Chris Meacham (class of 2019)
- Tommy White (class of 2019)

WIC Officers

- Sandra Futrell, President
- Patricia McCormick, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Effie Meacham/Beth Meacham, Mission to the World Chair
- Jane Smith/Victoria Smith, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark, Christian Growth Chair

Greeters

- 6 M/M Tony Yates
- 13 Rickie DeWitt
- 20 M/M Tim Clark & Family
- 27 M/M Mark Tyson



Happy Birthday
January

- 2 Effie Meacham
- 7 Ron Wall
- 8 Bobby Mabe
- 9 Vera Carter
- 12 Cozette Rush
- 15 Jayden Richardson
- 16 Jill Ward
- 18 Ronnie McLendon
- 20 Guy Webb, Jr
- 20 Brian Webb
- 20 Jackson Carter
- 24 Jeanine Wall
- 26 Sara Covington
- 28 Lori Clark
- 29 Tim Clark
- 29 Tim Bowman
- 31 Bennett Street



Prayer List: Armed Forces and Families, Our President and national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Jack Berry, Austin Bryant, Carol Chappell, Jayce Carter, Kevin Conner, A.T. Covington, Evon Craven, Sharon DeWitt, Steve DeWitt, Mark Futrell, Shannon Futrell, Becky Henderson, Doris Hill, Patrick Kelly, Tommy Kinney, Gayle Mabe, Jameson McAnanny, Meredith McBride, Dan McInnis, Effie Meacham, Mary Murdock, Jane North, Larry Parsons, Sophia Potterfield, Charles Rhyne, Hazel Rhyne, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Jane Smith, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Donna White, Colton Williams, Katie White, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.

Anniversaries

- 6 M/M Billy Ray Dunn
- 12 M/M Austin Bryant
- 20 M/M Ted Carter



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3:00 pm Take down the church Christmas decorations		1	2 6:00 PM Covered dish meal and Bible Study	3	4	5
6 10:40 am Called Session Meeting 11:00 am Sacrament of Holy Communion 5:00 pm Youth group	7	8 1:00 pm Circle 3, fellowship hall 7:00 pm Quarterly WIC meeting	9 6:00 PM Meal provided and Bible Study 7:00 Joint Deacon/Session Meeting & separate meetings to follow	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 6:00 PM Meal provided and Bible Study	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 6:00 PM Meal provided and Bible Study	24	25	26
27	28	29 6:30 Circle 3	30 6:00 PM Meal provided and Bible Study	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Every Sunday: 9:15 –9:45 am—Prayer season, conference room. 10:00 am—Sunday School opening in sanctuary followed by classrooms. 11:00 am—Worship service</p> </div>	