

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 4, 2022

10:30 Service



A Service of the Reading of the birth of Christ in the King James Translation and singing of traditional Christmas Carols followed by celebration of communion.



Pot Luck Lunch Fellowship Time

After the service, there will be a "true" pot luck in the fellowship hall. Drinks will be provided. We will eat what you bring...yum, yum, yum



A reflection:
The Meaning Of Christmas

Almost everyone who knows me knows that I am a huge fan of Charles Schultz, the late, and great, creative genius behind Charlie Brown and the Peanuts Gang. Of his many works my all-time personal favorite is A Charlie Brown Christmas which tells the story of Charlie Brown's disenchantment with how Christmas is often commercialized and Charlie's search for a deeper meaning to Christmas. This deeper meaning is no secret to Charlie's friend Linus who takes center stage during play practice and

From David's
Desk

recites the Christmas story as told by St. Luke in The Gospel According to Luke 2:8-14. Linus' heart-warming and inspiring recitation points to the meaning of Christmas that the Christian community has declared since its beginning: that "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Here I quote my old professor and mentor, Dr. John H. Leith, who wrote: "Christmas means that God is personal and personally active in the created order of nature and history. Augustine said, "We worship not the sun, but the Son of righteousness who created the sun." Christmas means that the God who created the world has become embodied, in so far as God can become embodied, in a human life in Jesus of Nazareth. We therefore call him the Son of God. God did personally enter our condition, was crucified and buried. The climax of our faith is the affirmation that Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead by God. The lives of the disciples were transformed and the Christian church (congregation) was established when they became witnesses of the crucified and risen Lord, who commissioned them to go forth into all the world and proclaim this gospel of a God who is active in human history and who is more powerful than death."

Little Linus got it right: the meaning of Christmas must go deeper than getting, or even giving, a gift made by human hands. It must go deeper even than the gift of our love that we might give to one another as a friend or as a member of the family. Though such gifts are meaningful, as far they might go, they cannot approach the depth of meaning found in The Gift of God's love to the world revealed in the birth, life, death and resurrection of God's own Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord, "born on Christmas Day".

This Christmas may we continue to search for a deeper understanding of that deeper meaning of Christmas that is

revealed in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that (God) gave (God's) only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

I will sign this little reflection with the closing used by Dr. Leith for his annual Christmas letters to his friends.



"May you have a very Merry Christmas
and the Happiest New Year ever!"

Your friend and servant in Christ.

David

Committee Reports

Property Committee

- * Be sure to thank those dedicated volunteers who painted the black wrought iron fencing around the graveyard.
- * Verna Shuey and Lyn Burton and the rest of the committee is working hard on proof reading and then more proof reading on the signage for the graveyard
- * Pay attention to the steeple ~~~ it is going to get a painting update. Keep your eyes open for this.



Fellowship Committee

- ◆ Remember the **POT LUCK** on Sunday, December 4 after the Service of Lessons and Carols
- ◆ **Regular Fellowship** after worship—sign up for December and January now. Remember to keep it simple (cookies and drinks)



Congregational Care Committee

PRAYER LIST:

(Members): Nathalie Givens, Meg and Bob Omer, Kaki Peaslee

(Family and Friends): Mark Black, Paul Langford, Laura McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Doug Ross Whitney Wolford and the family and friends of Gretchen Grinner

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Henry Brenner (12/2), Hannah Brenner (12/5) and Jim Helms (12/24)

Committee Reports



Mission Committee

* Report on Angel Tree Donations: As of December 1, \$1050.00 has been collected. Thank you to all those who donated.

* Thanksgiving Food Donation: 10 dozen food items were delivered to the Botetourt Food Pantry on November 21, 2022

* Thanksgiving Offering for the Children's Home of the Highlands: \$306 was collected from the congregation

• The Christmas Joy Gift Offering will be collected Christmas Eve. This offering supports retired church workers and their families plus helps develop our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges.



Worship Committee

• Thank you to Mary Sowder from Bonsack Baptist who will serve as our organist for Lessons and Carols

• Thank you to Vicky Amos from Mill Creek Baptist Hand Bells who is helping with the Lessons and Carols

• Continued thanks to Lori Turner who has served the church so faithfully during this time of "between regular" musicians

• There will be a Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day Service (see announcement)

• Thank you to those who helped decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas/Advent season: Cathy and Mike, Kip and Lynne, Valerie, Rena, David and Patsy



Christian Ed Committee

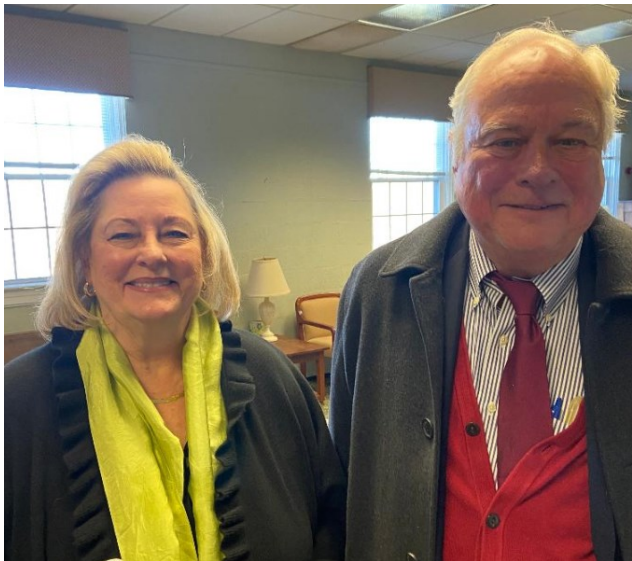
• Sunday School will not be held on December 4 or December 25

• Thank you to those who are participating in the Bible Study being led by Lyn Burton. The last "session" will be on December 5

Committee Reports

Session

- The November/December **Session Meeting** will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, December 8 in the Fellowship Hall
- On Sunday, November 20, the Session welcomed **new members**, Kay and Alan Lowe and Darren Graybehl by re-affirmation of faith. Welcome Kaye , Alan and Darren.





Saturday, December 24

7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

The walkway will be lined with luminaries remembering our loved ones or honoring our loved ones. Fill out the luminary at the Fellowship Dinner on Dec. 4 or after church December 11 or 18



Christmas Day Service—Sunday, December 25

10:30 in the sanctuary

(There will be no fellowship time after this service)