



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 62, Number 23

November 20, 2019

Dear Friends,

Though you will receive this letter before Thanksgiving, I want to welcome you to the Advent Season! You have been seeing Christmas decorations in stores since before Halloween, but the first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. And inside this newsletter is a summary of the events, opportunities and services that will guide our preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

This year, the editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, Rev. Jill Duffield, has challenged us to think about the distinctiveness of our Christian celebration of Christmas. We understand very well that many people think that the colors of Christmas are either red and green, or silver and gold (I heard that exact Christmas Song in a store the other day!). But the color of the season for Christians is **PURPLE**. And Rev. Duffield challenges us to think about how to be distinctively Christian through **purple preparation, purple praise, purple penitence and purple divine power**.

During the Advent season, you will be able to read Jill Duffield's insightful and thought provoking Advent devotionals by picking up a printed copy in the Connecting Point Lobby. Her devotionals will also be posted on our church blog on Sundays. Every other day of Advent, our church blog will feature devotionals written by members and guests of our congregation. If you subscribe to the blog through our Church's website the devotionals will be emailed to you each day. And then each Sunday will bring a challenge to observe a distinctively Christian Advent in a world that values red and green or silver and gold much more than **purple**. I'd love to invite all of you to consider how you prepare and celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas in ways that are counter-cultural.

There is nothing wrong with red/green or silver/gold, but they are not colors around which to build our lives. **Purple** is a color that invites us to prepare to be distinctive in a world that values many things that do not prepare us to receive the God who comes in the form of a newborn baby and who calls us to follow despite the cost. As the schedule gets crazier and the pressure mounts, ask yourself what it might look like to celebrate a **Purple Advent** that will allow us to celebrate a Christmas Day that is about light coming into darkness, about joy overcoming grief, about peace in the midst of chaos and that calls us to a power unlike the power valued by the world and culture in which we find ourselves. Come and be **purple** with us.

Peace,

Ellen

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

*Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
6500 North Trenholm Road
Columbia, SC 29206
(803) 787-5672
www.flpc.org
Office Hours: M-Th, 8:30-5:00
Friday: 8:30 - 1:00*

*Proclaiming the good news of God's love in
Jesus Christ, to build a fellowship of
Christian Love, and to serve this
community and the world in the spirit*

Please Pray For . . .

Mission Co-Workers

- * Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar- Mexico
- * Rev. Shelvis & Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather - Uganda
- * Ministry of Hope- Lesotho
- * Destiny Prinski - YAV, Scotland

PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

Ellen Skidmore - 803-463-7586 (cell)
E-Mail: ellenskidmore@flpc.org

Eric Skidmore - 803-543-9859 (cell)
E-mail: zacchaeus@sc.rr.com

Ed Black - 803-240-0192 (cell)
Email: edblack@flpc.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation!

If you feel like you or someone you know could benefit from a one-to-one, confidential, caring Christian relationship, please contact:

Wayne Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1187 or
harris1973@bellsouth.net ;

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1477 or
harris1973@bellsouth.net

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or Cell 530-6018 or
bettianned@sc.rr.com



Sympathies of the Congregation are extended to:

- * Tommy Stallings and Lisa Lencke on the death of their cousin, Missy Pearce on November 5, 2019.



Thank you!

My thanks for all the cards, prayers, and support during my recent surgery. I am doing much better and many thanks to a wonderful church family.

Peace and love to all,
Pat Pate

Memorial Gifts made in October

Mary Dailey
Jim Epps
Kitty Goding
Martha Hudgens

October 2019 Financial Update

Annual Budget	\$ 799,172
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 665,977
YTD Actual Income	\$ 662,351
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 601,615
Budget details are available in the Welcome Center.	



Thornwell
Building Tomorrow's Families Today

Our Annual Thornwell Offering will be on Sunday, November 24. Help open a world of possibilities this Thanksgiving. Your gift can provide a loving Christian home offering hope for children in need; develop new programs; buy new clothes; pay for school materials and medical expenses. Look for envelopes in the November 24 Sunday bulletin, or if you wish to mail in your gift, please designate it for Thornwell on the memo line.



Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 24 at 4pm;
Kathwood Baptist Church

A monetary special offering
and food drive will benefit the
Rehoboth United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

The items needed for the food pantry are canned foods,
especially fruit, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and
cheese, and pasta.

8 Reasons Why...

Ever wonder why FLPC has a children's choir. Sure, it's fun. Undoubtedly the congregation enjoys watching, hearing and smiling as the children perform. But, according to Elizabeth Blevins, Children's Choir director and retired early education (pre-K and kindergarten) teacher, there are some very concrete reasons a child should join the Children's Choir—8 really good reasons!

1. Children learn to work together in choir.
2. Children learn quickly & retain what they learn.
3. Children learn about God's love when they sing in choir & in Worship.
4. Older children help younger (or new-to-choir) children learn about singing.
5. Children share God's love & God's word when they sing.
6. Children who come to choir are comfortable participating in all parts of worship services.
7. Songs & hymns learned as children provide a foundation for how we see God & how we share God's love with all people.
8. When children sing, they keep a steady beat, which improves math skills.

This list does not include the fact that friendships are formed, the joy of being a part of something really important and knowing, always, that "Jesus Loves Me" is a fact of life. Children's Choir practices Wednesday evening, 6PM. Lots of reasons why. Think about it.

Our children will perform for the congregation December 8, 6PM. Please join us.

December Birthdays

- 1 Awesome Akah
- 2 William Hunter, Garrett McNaboe,
- 4 Pam Bowman, Gray Olive, Joan Spivey,
Matthew Woodle
- 5 Rachel Fleming, Kay Hampton, Margaret
Harris, Gabriella Martinez
- 6 David Fancher
- 7 John Allison, Lily Shytle
- 8 Kristy Woodward
- 9 Norma Kirkland
- 10 Jerry Joye, Gilla Wingo
- 11 Alex Rowland
- 12 Lois Jinks
- 13 Tina Clark, Kathy Vousden
- 14 Cammie Jones
- 16 Trey Beckman, Joshua Dennis, Kay Newell,
Carol York
- 17 Emily Precht, Bryson Wetzel
- 18 Janyce Collins
- 19 Vince Bond, Lucy Hoppman, Caroline
Radeker, Samuel White
- 20 Betsey Ellis, Julie Warren, E.B. Fleming
- 21 Smith Lea Lockwood
- 22 Sandi Bush, Terry Chronister, RD Folsom,
Ray Fontaine, Pat Pate
- 24 Eric Shytle
- 25 Kenny Rowland
- 26 Jim Barber, Pat Crawford, Nicholas Mershon,
Nicholas Poole
- 27 J.T.Mathis, Felicity Morris, Carl Todd
- 28 Taylor Catoe
- 29 Ivey Heath, Cathy Hyman
- 30 Lillian Dennis, Charlie Frick, Lillian
Hoppman, Jane Mason, Bill Thesing,
Andy Timms
- 31 Patsy Brown, Claire Maddox



Attention All Soup Chefs!

Forest Lake is blessed with lots of good cooks, so next time you make a pot of soup or chili, consider bringing a portion to the church to be stored for someone who needs a good meal this winter! We are providing containers and labels **beginning this Sunday, November 24 at the Connecting Point.** Take a container, fill it up with some soup, tell us what's in the soup using the provided label, and we'll store it at the church in the freezer in the fellowship hall. Questions? Please contact Ed at (803) 240-0192 or edblack@flpc.org.

Senior Luncheon

MONDAY, December 16; 12:00 noon

\$6.00

Make Reservations by Wednesday, December 11

Program: Sylvia Trimmier ~ "Music for the Holidays"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM—Worship Service

10:00 AM— Sunday School

10:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal

11:00 AM—Worship Service

12:15 PM—YAC Meeting

4:00 PM—Community Thanksgiving Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00PM—Exodus class (E102)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6:45 AM—Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

9:00 AM—Yoga (Parlor)

10:30 AM—Staff Mtg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church Office closes at 1:00pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving—Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM—Worship Service

10:00 AM— Sunday School

10:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal

11:00 AM—Worship Service

5:30 PM—FLY

PW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Each year Forest Lake Presbyterian Women awards Honorary Life Memberships to Presbyterian women, chosen by their church peers, as recognition for being outstanding examples of a Presbyterian Woman's commitment to Christ's mission.

Nomination forms will be available to all Forest Lake Presbyterian women at the Downstairs lobby desk and the Connecting Point desk.

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2019

Thanksgiving "Souper"

You are cordially invited to the 40th Annual

Thanksgiving "Souper", Thursday, November 21st, 5:30—7:30pm at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 3200 Trenholm Rd. A minimum donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested.

The simple but delicious Chick-Fil-A soup and crackers are served with warm smiles and generous hearts as we strive to promote a better understanding of hunger and homelessness.

Proceeds benefit the comprehensive ministry of THE WOMEN'S SHELTER in its mission to help women build stronger lives. This ministry includes providing basic shelter and food, dental care, transitional housing, and counseling.

YOUTH BASKETBALL NEEDS COACHES

Calling all coaches! The 2nd/3rd and the 4th/5th grade boys basketball teams need coaches. Practices are once a week, and need to start ASAP. Games are usually on Saturday mornings, starting in early December and running to mid-February. Interested? For more info, contact Stephen McCrae. 803-397-1907 or mccraesr@hotmail.com

Forest Lake Presbyterian Women

All women of Forest Lake Church are invited to participate in any Forest Lake Presbyterian Women activities and to attend any Circle meeting to become acquainted and visit with new friends. "Circles" (smaller groups) meet monthly for friendship, spiritual enrichment, missions and Bible Study. For information please contact Sandy Helfer, FLPW Moderator, 788-8111.

Circle 1 – Tuesday, December 10, 10:00am
Fellowship Hall
Leaders: Sally Templeton and Anne Amma

Circle 2 - Monday, December 9,
10:30am Parlor—11:00am S-211
Leaders: Beth Rozek and Sally McKenzie

Circle 3 - Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm
At Linda Etheredge's (3224 Quitman St)
Leaders: Sandy Helfer and Margaret Shackelford

Circle 4 - Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm
At Rebecca Timmons' (245 Berry Tree Lane)
Leader: Laura Wannamaker and Julie Warren

Put Your Change to Work!

FLPC is partnering with The Outreach Program (outreachprogram.org) to conduct a meal packaging event this spring. This hands-on service opportunity will provide packaged meals to families facing hunger and food insecurity in South Carolina. Coin collection bins will be setup at the Connecting Point through November 17. Each packaged meal costs 30 cents, and all coin donations will help FLPC expand on the number of meals we provide to families in need.

Celebrate Christmas with the children as they present the program, **A Christmas Alphabet**. Hear how each letter helps us remember the birth of Christ. The performance will be on **Sunday, December 8, at 6:00pm.**

Join us for a Spaghetti Meal before the performance at 5:15pm in Fellowship Hall. Adult meal (12+) cost is \$7. FLY volunteers registered with Bill Wannamaker and the children eat free as the guests of Education Ministry.

Reserve meals today - and don't forget to include extra family members who might want to enjoy the performance! (Nursery is available for our littlest ones.)

https://secure.accesssacs.com/access/eventlogin.aspx?id=EjlUXA5clnqYkIUdPEURgQ==&site=91571&ReturnUrl=events%2fwz_people.aspx&ChurchID=4607&EventID=183523&sn=91571



Please Pray For . . .

Friends and Family of Forest Lake currently deployed with Armed Services

- Marcus Mosley—Air Force, S. Korea

Mission Co-workers supported by FLPC

- * Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar - Mexico
- * Mamonyane Mohale - Lesotho
- * Shelvis & Nancy Smith—Mather - Uganda
- * Destiny Prinski—PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer - Scotland

Elf Tree Time!

The Elf Trees are up in the Connecting Point and downstairs. Please stop by to select a name and make Christmas brighter for an elementary or high school student. These students have been identified by school social workers and are families in need of our help. The high school students on our trees are unaccompanied youth, homeless teenagers. We ask for gift cards for those students. Gifts are due back by December 8th. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for these students!



Delivery instructions for stock gifts to Forest lake Presbyterian Church.

If you plan to gift investment securities to the church, please use the instructions below.

Receiving firm – Charles Schwab and Company

DTC and Clearing – 0164 code 40

Receiving account name – Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Receiving account number – 5831-4860

**** So that we can acknowledge your gift in a timely manner, please have your advisor contact the church at 803.787.5672 or businessmgr@flpc.org to notify us of your gift. Due to how the transfer process works the church will not know who the gift is coming from unless we are notified by either you or your advisor.****



Advent and Christmas Schedule



November 24 – 10:00am – Advent: Why Do We Celebrate It? – Parlor

Advent Devotionals to help prepare for the season are available for free at the Connecting Point desk. Subscribe to the church blog to receive an email devotional each day of Advent.

December 1- First Sunday of Advent

December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am & 11:00am - Special Christmas Music in Worship – Handel’s *Messiah* (excerpts)

5:15pm - Congregational Dinner – Fellowship Hall (reservations required)

6:00pm - Children’s Christmas Program – *A Christmas Alphabet* – Sanctuary

December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

Handbells Play in worship

December 18 – 5:30pm Longest Night Service – Sanctuary

Christmas can be a difficult time that reminds us of people, places, and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. In a culture that requires joy of us, we may feel isolated and sad. The increasingly longer nights seem symbolic of the creeping emotional shadows that we rightfully and honestly feel, even in the midst of celebration. If this is true for you, you are invited to attend our Longest Night worship service of healing and wholeness. This is an opportunity to bring our hurting places to God and prepare our hearts and minds for the light of Christ that promises to penetrate the darkness. The Longest Night service will be about an hour long, and will include scripture readings, music, prayers, silence, anointing with oil, and communion.

December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Joy Offering in worship

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm – Family Service with Communion – Sanctuary

This 45-minute service is for the young and young at heart. A simple retelling of the Christmas story is combined with familiar Advent and Christmas carols. Communion is served, and the story is brought to life by larger-than-life figures that give the service a sense of majesty and mystery. Dress is casual. Nursery provided for children ages 3 and under.

8:00pm – Candlelight Service and Communion – Sanctuary

This traditional Christmas Eve service combines the beauty of candlelight Communion with the opportunity to sing well-loved Advent and Christmas carols. Come and wait with us as we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world! No nursery provided for this service.

December 29 - 1st Sunday of the Christmas Season – One Worship service at **11:00am**

No Sunday School

January 5, 2020 – Epiphany Sunday

All Saints Celebration with Communion at **9:00am** and **11:00am**

10:00am – Epiphany Breakfast Celebration in Fellowship Hall

Epiphany is the Christian Festival marking the visit of the Magi to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Fellowship with us at the Epiphany Party to begin the New Year.

Advent Educational Opportunities

10:00am Each Sunday

Adult Studies

Sunday, November 24 - Whole Church Conversation – Parlor

led by Ed Black

Advent: Why Do We Celebrate It?

There's no such thing as "Advent" in the Bible, and there certainly isn't anything about lighting different colored candles. Yet the four weeks of waiting for Christ's coming are more than just made-up ways to get excited for Christmas. Explore how Advent functions as a time of waiting not just for Christmas, but for the healing of our world. Active waiting is a way of seeking God's shalom through actions as well as words.

Begins Sunday, December 1

Stories and Symbols of the Nativity–E201

The Christmas story may be the most familiar story from the Bible, yet if asked to tell it, most people would get many details wrong! The story most of us "know" often represents an amalgam of biblical and secular tales. Was there really a little drummer boy? Did the innkeeper really send Mary and Joseph to sleep in the stable? Was Jesus born at midnight on December 25th? Why were gold, frankincense, and myrrh appropriate gifts for a baby?! Whether biblically grounded or not, the various elements of the nativity scene hold great symbolism for Christians. Exploring the details of the nativity story will inform and enhance our appreciation of the season of Advent.

Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph – E205

He started his journey as an unknown carpenter, but Joseph became the earthly father of Jesus. For his part in the nativity story, Joseph faced a situation much like our own – encountering life circumstances he didn't choose or understand. Author Adam Hamilton shares Joseph's courageous actions in the Nativity story that are often overlooked by contain valuable lessons for us all.

FLY Advent Lessons

The *Real* Christmas Story – E216

This study helps youth discover the real Christmas. In each session, participants will grapple with different parts of the Christmas story, including:

- God coming to a poor family and being born in a barn
- What it means to have God born to a virgin
- John the Baptist and his alternative lifestyle
- The effects of the angels' words on the people surrounding Jesus' birth

Children's Advent Lessons

Truth in the Tinsel: An Advent Experience for Little Hands

Each week, lessons will cover the basics of the Christmas story through a family-church partnership that includes a parent prayer section.

Week 1: Jesus is the Light of the World

Week 2: Nothing is Impossible with God!

Week 3: Make Room in your Heart for Jesus!

Week 4: Jesus is the Best Gift!

Notes from the Stated Session Meeting – Sunday, November 17, 2019

- ◆ Approved a chili cook-off during Kirk Night on January 29, 2020 for the purpose of raising money for our meal packing service project sponsored through the Outreach Program. The meal packing event will happen April 5, 2020 and our goal is to pack 30,000 meals.
- ◆ Approved amendments and updates to the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual that governs our financial processes and controls.
- ◆ Approved a request from the Board of Deacons to hold over to 2020 money set aside for training in Stephen Ministry. Ed Black will go for Stephen Leader training in the summer of 2020 and will use this budgeted money then.
- ◆ Received an update from the Personnel Ministry regarding the creation of a search committee for a new Business Manager. RD Folsom, from Personnel, is moderating that group. Other members are: Corky Clark, Natalie O’Bradovich, and Erlinda McCoy. Ellen Skidmore and Stacy Rivera serve as ex-officio members.
- ◆ Approved an agreement between FLPC and Rev. Eric Skidmore to provide leadership to conduct a feasibility study that will help Session decide whether or not to pursue a capital campaign to provide funds to address 19 projects identified by Property Ministry and received by Session in October. Plans are underway to publicize the identified projects and to discern the congregation’s interest in supporting such a campaign in the spring of 2020.
- ◆ Approved a motion from Worship Ministry to collect donations in lieu of actually purchasing poinsettias for Advent that may be given either in memory or in honor of someone, and to give the donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).
- ◆ Heard a report from the Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery, November 12th, from Jane Shear who attended, along with Barbara Holbrook, as FLPC commissioners.
- ◆ Heard a report from Dave Precht who has been chairing the Safety Team. Ellen Skidmore and Dave Precht recommended that the duties identified by The Safety Team be written into our Manual of Administrative Operations under the appropriate ministries, instead of keeping these duties separate from our normal structure as an ad hoc Safety Team. Discussion ensued, and Dave agreed to take all suggestions into account.

2019 Christmas Memorial/Honorarium Order Form

To make a contribution to PDA in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the form below. You may place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or bring it to the church office along with a minimum donation of \$12.00. Please make your check payable to FLPC. The deadline is **December 18.** Memorials and Honoraria will be listed in the December 22 and December 24 bulletins.

Please print clearly so that your information will be listed correctly. Thank you!

GIVEN by _____

In HONOR of _____

In MEMORY of _____

Or E-mail above information to adelewyatt@flpc.org

This gift is a tax-deductible contribution.

Potato Report

Our Potato Drop was great fun! With 164 participants, we bagged approximately 2,600 bags of potatoes that went to 17 local food pantries, shelters and children's homes. Folks participated in our Potato Drop from 7 other area congregations and we even had some neighbors who saw what we were doing and came over to help out. The Society of St Andrew was very grateful we did this as there has not been a Potato Drop in this area. There is a great hunger need in our community, so thank you to everyone who came out to help!

Church Life App

Did you know you can access the church directory from your phone, make payments, register for church events, check the church calendar? The ChurchLife App from ACS Technologies will help you stay connected to FLPC wherever you are. You will have to have a member login to your FLPC ACS account first. If you don't, go to FLPC.org, click "Member Login" on the home page and submit your request. You will have to be granted access by church staff. Once your account is made, go back to Member Login from your cell phone and click on the "Go Mobile" icon. The app is free and is available for Android and Apple devices.

Year End Contributions

For contributions to count for your 2019 Income Tax return, the gift must be received in the church office by 4:00pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 or have a US Postal Service postmark with a 2019 date. A stock gift would need to have a 2019 transaction date.

Online Giving is an option as well for year end giving. Any gifts made online with a 2019 transaction date will count toward your 2019 giving. Online giving can be accessed from our church website, www.flpc.org or directly with this hyperlink: <https://www.acionlinegiving.com/4188>

Thank you for your faithful support of Forest Lake Presbyterian and its ministries!

Unplugged - Spring Congregational Retreat

When Christmas passes and we get through the winter, we will all be ready for a spring get away. Make plans now to attend "Unplugged" our spring congregational retreat. Ellen Skidmore will be our weekend speaker for this spring retreat. Come experience the peace of Montreat with your church family! Sign up at the Connecting Point or downstairs desk. Questions, contact Julie Warren.

MORE Justice – Next Steps!

You may have heard that MORE Justice has chosen to focus on Gun Violence and Safety, in addition to our ongoing work in the areas of Mental Health, Education and Housing. If you would like to stop fuming about the state of things in our community and become a part of the answer, you are invited to attend the MORE Justice Research Kick-Off event on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm at the Rehoboth United Methodist Church [6911 Two Notch Road]**. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to choose to work on any one of our topics and become a part of the solution to injustice!! For more information, feel free to talk to our team leaders: Peggy Carey, Drew Radeker, Xan Skinner or our staff liaisons, Ellen Skidmore and Jodi Beckham.