



THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Changing lives. Making a difference.

As we embark on a new church year, the Advent season, a time of anticipation and preparation, let us pause and reflect on the true essence of this meaningful period. Amidst the hustle and bustle often accompanying this time of year, let us remember the beauty of slowing down and cherishing moments with those we hold dear.

In a world that seems to move faster with each passing day, Advent invites us to embrace a different pace that allows us to savor the simple joys of life and be fully present with our loved ones. It's a season that encourages us to cultivate a spirit of stillness and mindfulness, creating space in our hearts and lives for the things that truly matter.

This Advent, let us intentionally carve out time in our busy schedules to be with our families, friends, and neighbors. Whether gathering around the dinner table, engaging in heartfelt conversations, or simply sharing laughter and stories, these moments of togetherness are precious and enriching to our lives and our community.

We also remember the importance of being present in the moment. In a world filled with distractions vying for our attention, being fully present allows us to create lasting memories and deepen our connections with those we hold dear. In these moments of presence, we find the true joy and warmth of the season.

As we continue our theme of MORE-N-2024. I have a challenge of a different kind of more. In the life of the church, the worship committee and I decided that we would do Hanging of the Greens during the 11:00 am worship. We also agreed that with Christmas Eve being on a Sunday, we would have only one worship service at 11:00 am. This will still be an opportunity for Scripture, Carols, Candles, and Communion. This might seem like the church is doing less, but we pray that you will use these opportunities to be MORE PRESENT with your loved ones this year as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

As we anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ, let us embody the spirit of love, compassion, and kindness towards one another. Let us extend grace and understanding, being mindful of the struggles and challenges that others may be facing during this time.

May this Advent season be a time of reflection, gratitude, and embracing the gift of togetherness. Let us slow down, cherish the moments, and bask in the love surrounding us. In doing so, may our hearts be filled with peace, hope, and the true essence of the season.

Blessings to each and every one of you as we journey through this Advent season together.

With love and joy,

Dayton Wilson

Session Highlights from November 2023
Moderator – Reverend Dayton Wilson
Clerk of Session – Lisa DeVane
Assistant Clerk of Session – Elizabeth Cole

Mission & Education: Marc Edge shared that the harvest party had good attendance and was a success. New acolytes have been trained and are now in place. During last Wednesday night's gathering, church members had the chance to assemble shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The children's choir is scheduled to perform on November 19th and December 10th. Currently, donations for White Christmas, dedicated to loved ones in honor or memory, are being accepted. The White Christmas tree will be housed in the PAC building this year. On November 29th, there will be an opportunity to create new Chrismon ornaments, and on December 6th, church members will sing Christmas carols for those who are homebound.

Finance Report: Howell Clark reported:

General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2023: \$321,720.05
Special Funds Balance as of October 31, 2023: \$289,017.97
Total Offering Received for October 2023: \$26,749.74
Total Budget Expenses for October 2023: \$21,080.87
Net Income for October 2023: \$5,668.87

Worship: Hayes Petteway reported Marc Edge is the head usher for November. The church needs head ushers for December. The church will hold communion on November 26th. The Christmas Eve service will be in the morning only.

Operations: Chris Campbell provided an update that the generator has been repaired.

Endowment Committee: Hayes Petteway reported the endowment fund balances as of September 2023: Scholarship fund: \$978,302; Family fund: \$222,250; Regular fund: \$642,136

Congregational Care- Willie Kay McDuffie shared the latest news regarding individuals on the prayer list and emphasized the importance of continuing to keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers. The committee is considering doing something for patients in the nursing home and is also exploring the possibility of creating fruit baskets for those who are homebound.

Personnel Committee: Elizabeth Cole stated that Pastor Dayton held a staff meeting. The session discussed several items.

Pastor Report: Pastor Dayton addressed the session, emphasizing the role of spiritual leadership within the church. Reading from Romans Chapter 12, he shared insights on viewing ourselves as more than just workers. The session discussed the topic, offering various responses and examples of ways we can lead.

The session will meet again December 10, 2023.

Choir News

Wow, it's hard to believe it is Christmas already!!! The choir is working hard on our Christmas Cantata "We Believe", and are looking forward to presenting it on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Please share this date with your family and friends, and let's celebrate our Savior's birth together this Christmas! We are so blessed to have the best and most dedicated choir members ever! During this holiday season, I thank God for those who share their gifts all year long with our congregational family!

May you each have a wonderful holiday season as we make Christ the center of our celebration!!

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Sylvia

Children's Choir

Our Children's Choir will sing on Sunday, December 10th. You don't want to miss it!! We will have special music presented by the Girls Quartet!



Food Collection

We are collecting items for the weekend backpacks for students. If you would like to donate items, please bring pop-top cans of food, fruit, etc. Also donate pop tarts, any items that kids can eat or warm up easily.



Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet on December 5th at 6:00 p.m. This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. We will be studying Chapter 9. Since we are only doing one circle, if you need a ride, let Teri or Mary know.

Wednesday Nights Together



Adult Bible Study will begin at 5:00 pm

Children's Choir at 5:15 pm

Dinner is at 5:45 pm

Special Time Together at 6:30 pm

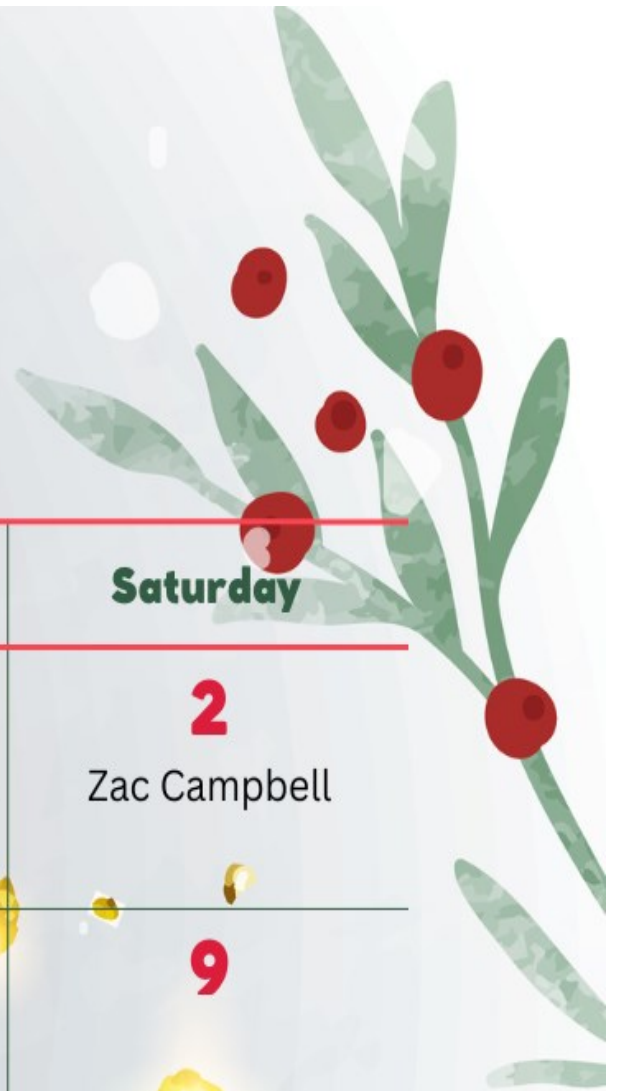
Adult Choir Practice at 7:15 pm

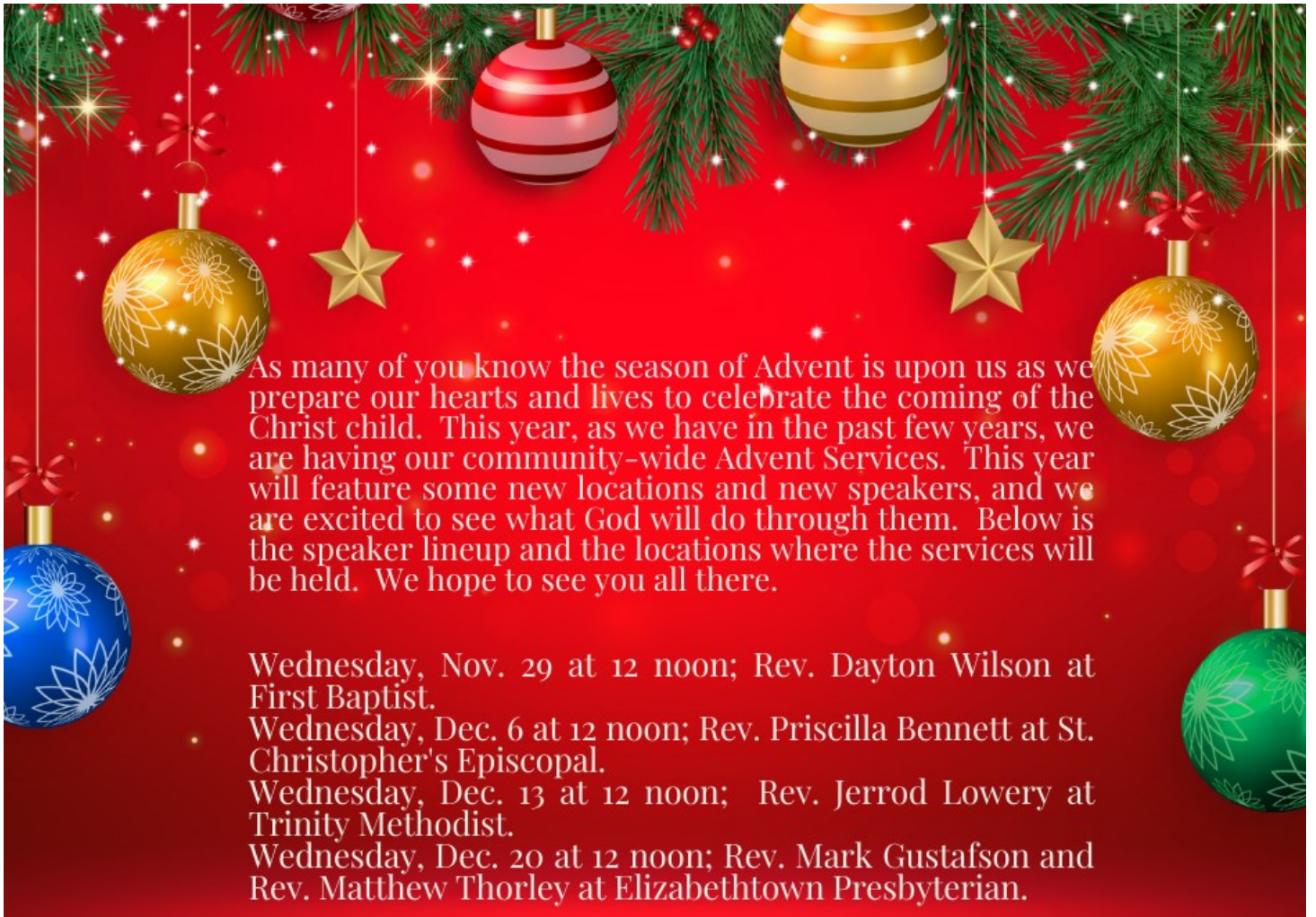
December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Jonathan Raynor	4	5 Merritt Martin	6
10	11 Campbell Bullard	12	13
17 Thomas Goodwin	18	19 Chuck Tedder	20 Cate De Rylee E Clark F
24 31	25 Caroline Godwin	26 Tiffany Stephenson	27 Wil Wa

2023

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mary Katherine Clark	2 Zac Campbell
	7	8	9
3	14	15 Edwin Herring	16
10 eVane Brice Fisher	21 Elizabeth Brennan	22	23 Mac Campbell Clint Heter
7 rner	28 Ashlyn Futrell	29	30 Dallas Roberts





As many of you know the season of Advent is upon us as we prepare our hearts and lives to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. This year, as we have in the past few years, we are having our community-wide Advent Services. This year will feature some new locations and new speakers, and we are excited to see what God will do through them. Below is the speaker lineup and the locations where the services will be held. We hope to see you all there.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 12 noon; Rev. Dayton Wilson at First Baptist.
 Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 12 noon; Rev. Priscilla Bennett at St. Christopher's Episcopal.
 Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 12 noon; Rev. Jerrod Lowery at Trinity Methodist.
 Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 12 noon; Rev. Mark Gustafson and Rev. Matthew Thorley at Elizabethtown Presbyterian.



Our church family brought Christmas smiles to 8 children this holiday season. Thank you for your love and generosity in supporting this local mission project.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you! We delivered 150 shoeboxes to the dropoff location in Dublin for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. Thanks to McDuffie Pest Control for their generous donation and our church family for supporting this most worthwhile cause. We pray that these Christmas boxes will put a smile on a child's face in a faraway country this holiday season.



Thank
♡ you

A Special Thanks to the Wednesday Night Crew; Ann Warner, Hank Roberson, Hayes Petteway, Dwight Davis, Dean Butler, Debbie Kinlaw, Stuart Campbell, Joyce Tedder, J.T. Applewhite, Judy Carroll. These people serve you with joy each Wednesday Night.

Thanks to the Worship Committee and their helpers who came and decorated the Sanctuary and PAC building for the Christmas Season. Worship Committee: Chair-Hayes Petteway & Ann Warner
Helpers: Stuart Campbell, J.T. Applewhite, Hank Roberson, Danny Adkins and Susie Holland.

A special thanks to Hayes Petteway and Stuart Campbell for setting up the benches at the Columbarium and Hank Roberson for hanging the wreaths at the Columbarium.

Thanks for all the text, calls, and prayers during my recent gallbladder surgery. -Cheryl West



The Christmas Joy offering will be taken up on Sunday, December 24th. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by assisting current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.



The youth will pack the college exam care boxes on Sunday, December 3rd. We need anyone who would like to donate items for the boxes to have them in the PAC building by Sunday, December 3rd. There are 23 college kids.

Youth Christmas Get Together Sunday, December 10th Nativity Escape Room and dinner provided by Terri Hawley.

College Student Get Together and Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 20th.


Elizabethtown
 Presbyterian Church

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HELLO!
December

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 29

Head Ushers:

3rd: Terri Hawley; **10th:** Lisa DeVane; **17th:** Howell Clark; **24th:** Brett Poole; **31st:** Hayes Petteway

Date	Acolytes	Nursery Volunteers	Children's Church
12/3	Ryne Priest	Claire DeVane	Savannah Ivey
12/10	Carter DeVane	Lisa DeVane	Lauren Campbell
12/17	No Acolyte	Lillian & Julianne DeVane	Mary Hill
12/24	Ava Duncan	Doll Priest	Teri Hawley
12/31	Emily Campbell	Claire DeVane	Teri Hawley