



THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Changing lives. Making a difference.

Epiphany-The arrival of the Wise Men

As we approach another Epiphany, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the journey we've traveled over the past year. One beautiful tradition we share is the selection of Star Words—a guiding light that inspires us throughout the year. Last Epiphany, I was gifted with the word "dwell," and it's been a source of profound meaning and guidance in my life.

Reflecting on the word "dwell," I found myself drawn to its depth and richness. In my first year here in E-town, "dwell" took on a remarkable significance. It led me to find my space of solace and community: Melvin's, the cozy coffee shop down the street, enjoying the lake.

At Melvin's, I discovered not just a place for my weekly burger fix, and a Barefoot brew a good cup of coffee, but a community hub where conversations spark, friendships grow, and their aromas intertwine with the laughter and warmth of this new place we call home.

In the embrace of this community, I've experienced an abundance of joy. The joy of connecting with new faces, the joy of sharing stories and experiences, the joy of finding my own unique space in this wonderful community.

As we prepare to receive our Star Words again this Epiphany, I invite each one of you to reflect on your own Star Word from last year. How has it guided you? What experiences has it unfolded for you? I hope you will your stories of the joys, and the lessons learned from our star words and the commitment to allow them to guide us all year long.

This Epiphany, let us dwell in the joy of community—finding comfort, inspiration, and a sense of belonging in the shared experiences that shape our lives.

Join us as we celebrate this year's Epiphany together January 7th. Let's share in the joy of new beginnings and the blessings our Star Words bring.

Wishing you all peace, joy, and a heart ready to embrace the gifts of the coming year.

God Bless,

Dayton

For more on this Epiphany tradition visit

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0121-epiphany/>

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

Mission & Education: Marc Edge shared that the Memorial/ White Christmas Bags Collection to support Bladen Crisis in honor and memory of people was a success. Church members sang Christmas carols for those who are homebound. It was enjoyed by all. The youth sent the annual treat boxes to our college students. They were much appreciated. Mrs. Hill and Teri Hawley are working on the curriculum for Vacation Bible School. Dates will be announced soon.

Finance Report: Greg Martin Clark reported:

General Fund Balance as of November 30, 2023:	\$322,754.71
Special Funds Balance as of November 30, 2023:	\$295,175.68
Total Offering Received for November 30, 2023:	\$31,325.56
Total Budget Expenses for November 2023:	\$23,862.29
Net Income for November 2023:	\$7,214.43

Worship: Hayes Petteway reported Frankie Carroll will preach on December 31st as Pastor Dayton will be on vacation. Communion will be served on Christmas Eve, December 24th. He offered much appreciation to Hank Roberson and the Futrell's for the beautiful display of poinsettias.

Operations: Connor Bullard provided an update regarding security and camera monitoring in the Narthex during worship services. He presented a motion from the committee. The motion carried. A monitor will be placed in the Narthex so that ushers can view activity from the cameras.

Endowment Committee: Hayes Petteway reported the endowment fund balances as of October 2023: Scholarship fund: \$954,122; Family fund: \$216,734; Regular fund: \$626,212.

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.

Personnel Committee: Mollie Glenn stated that Pastor Dayton will hold a staff meeting in January.

Pastor Report: Pastor Dayton addressed the session, emphasizing the call to serve others. Reading from the Book of Order, he shared insights on preparing the congregation to be the "Welcome Committee" of the church. He challenged the Session to serve faithfully and be involved.

A motion was made to suspend the meeting until 10:45 for the purpose of approving new members by transfer, reaffirmation of faith, and baptism. The transfer for J.T. Applewhite to move her membership was approved. Additionally, Jess and Hobbs Sutton joined the church by reaffirmation of faith. Their children, Ivey and Field were approved for baptism.

Faith Statements of incoming Elders will be made on January 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittman classroom. The session will meet again January 14, 2024.

January 10, 2024 Wednesday Nights Together will resume.

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



Former Members of one family of Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.

Do you recognize anyone?

Annie & Cecil Edge, Gladys & Marian DeVane, Kelley & Floyd Cross, Grace & Claude McDuffie, Alice & Dick Marshall, Catherine & John Cross

The Worship Committee would like to thank Jeffery & Janna Futrell for the gorgeous poinsettias in the sanctuary. They came from Janna's shop in Whiteville. "Country Nursery"

THANK YOU

The Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church staff would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many gifts, delicious foods, thoughtful smiles, kind words and financial gift from all of you. We are very blessed to have jobs we enjoy. Have a Blessed 2024!

-Rev. Dayton Wilson, Sylvia Campbell, Cheryl West, Mary Hill, Kaye Dennis & Jamye Hyatt



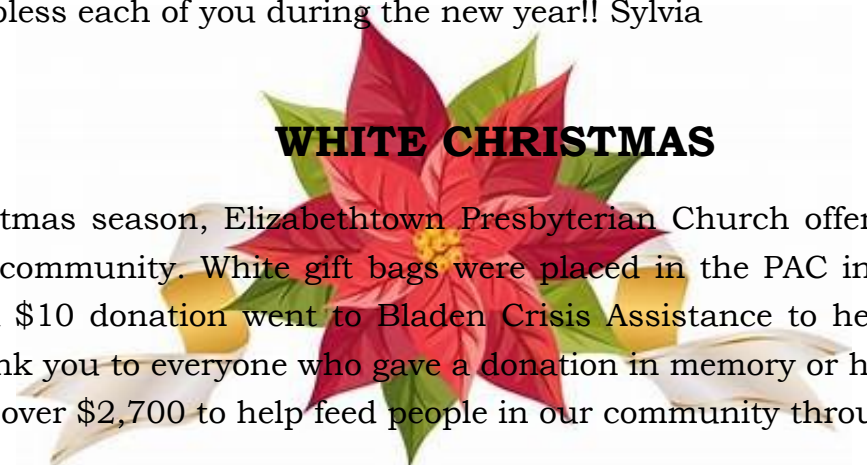
CHOIR NEWS

I want to begin by wishing all of you a happy new year and thank all our choir members for their great dedication to the choir and our God!! This wonderful group is like a family and gives so unselfishly of their time and talents in service to him!

Thanks to all the members, soloist, Elizabeth Cole, and Rev. Dayton Wilson for their beautiful talents that you shared with our church family and community for the cantata!! Words are not adequate to thank you enough!! I especially want to thank Danny Adkins for setting up the sound system, hanging the cloth, and running the sound system.... Danny, you amaze me! Please consider joining us in the new year as we prepare for the Lenten season. Easter comes early this year, and we will begin working on it ASAP!! May God bless each of you during the new year!! Sylvia

WHITE CHRISTMAS

During the Christmas season, Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church offered an opportunity to give back to our community. White gift bags were placed in the PAC in honor or memory of loved ones and a \$10 donation went to Bladen Crisis Assistance to help feed people in our community. Thank you to everyone who gave a donation in memory or honor of someone. Together, we raised over \$2,700 to help feed people in our community through Bladen Crisis Assistance.





Happy New Year!!

Children's Choir will start on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:15pm. We will be learning new songs for Spring and Easter.



Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet on January 2nd at 6:00 p.m. This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Since we are only doing one circle, if you need a ride, let Teri or Mary know.



Youth will start back Sunday, January 7th

Looking for anyone who would love to provide dinner for our youth. Please contact Cheryl West if you are willing.

Thinking about Montreat Youth Conference?

Sign up with Jamye in the church office Dates are: July 21-27
\$150.00 Deposit due by February 4th

Interested in Middle School Montreat?

Looking for some adults who are willing to chaperone. Dates are: July 17-21

Let Cheryl know if you are interested and sign up with Jamye if your child is interested in going. Middle School Montreat is any youth that has completed 5th grade to completed 8th grade.

Janu

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wedne

31

1

Jennifer Campbell
Greg Goodwin

2

3

7

Brad Holland
Ann MacDuffee

8

Jeff Futrell

9

10

14

Chad DeVane

15

Susie Holland

16

Graham Inscoe

17

21

Adam Inscoe

22

23

24

28

Michael Aycock

29

Lacy Suggs

30

David Cross

31

Karen C

January 2024

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4

5

6

Charles DeVane

11

Jenny Barnhill

12

13

Denise Cross
Joe Melvin

18

Lillian DeVane

19

20

25

Holt Campbell
Emily Campbell

26

27

1

Campbell

2

3





Elizabethtown
Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY

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Head Usher:

Date	Acolytes	Nursery Volunteers	Children's Church
1/7	Parker Hunt	Lisa DeVane	Mary Hill
1/14	Anne-Carlyle Brown	Lillian & Julianne DeVane	Lauren Campbell
1/21	Cates Sutton	Doll Priest	Susie Holland
1/28	Ivey Brown	Claire DeVane	Savannah Ivey