Join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service featuring Lessons, Carols and Candelighting!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Thursday, Dec. 24
5:00 pm

Each year we take a special offering to assist retired church professionals - ministers, educators, missionaries - who have medical needs. A portion of this offering goes to support racial ethnic schools and colleges. Watch for a bulletin insert in the next few weeks. Please give prayerful consideration to your gift for these special groups of people.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Supporting Past, Present & Future Leaders

Outside Banks Presbyterian Church
907 S. Croatan Highway / P.O. Box 2199
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
www.outerbankspresbyterian.org
Email: office@outerbankspresbyterian.org
**Church Members Relocating**

Church members, Don and Nancy Bierwerth have relocated to Carolina House in Elizabeth City. Don and Nancy write:

"I/We have treasured our time with OBPC. You have been a second family for me, reassurance, inspiration, great confidence in His continuing presence throughout all our days and beyond! You have brought me closer to the Lord for the rest of my life. Especially, God bless Jody, Jason and the choir. Don, my husband, is doing well because of your prayers and appreciates his Prayer Shawl.

Love and treasure,

Nancy Bierwerth

Their new address is:

Carolina House
C/O Don & Nancy Bierwerth
401 Hastings Lane, Apt. 309
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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**Prayer Concerns**

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you…” II Corinthians 9:8

Jack Abernethy
Charles Anderson
Marc Basnight
The Rev. Dr. Richard Batzler
Don & Nancy Bierwerth
Greg Browder
Shawn Bowman
Nancy Clemmons
Kristen Daughtrey
Ruth Dutt
Karen Foard
Wray Grumiaux
Karen Lurie
Mickey Meekins
Landon Moore
Anna & Joseph Moore
Jody & Jeanne Moore
Jane Smith
Max & Jackie Strange
Nancy Worsley
Those Serving our Country

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**We are Thankful for our Willing Volunteers**

**Coffee Hour Schedule**

Dec. 6............... Stewardship
Dec. 13............. Dorcas Circle
Dec. 20............ Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 27............ Fellowship Guild

**Flower Schedule**

Dec. 6 .................. Available
Dec. 13 ............... Judy Dempsey
Dec. 20 ............... Gary & Linda McGee
Dec. 27 ................ Available

**Liturgist Schedule**

Dec. 5.................. Mollie Bass
Dec. 13 .............. Jean Basnight
Dec. 20 .............. Nonie Booth
Dec. 27 .............. Margaret Brown

**Children’s Church Schedule**

Dec. 6 ............... Ben & Melanie Cahoon
Dec. 13 .. Andrea Brammill/Lynda Wood
Dec. 20 ............... Bev Jones / Jorge Diaz
Dec. 27 ............... Hollie & Jody Lewis

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**December Birthdays**

Arthur Sheets ...................... 7
Chris Schleter ...................... 8
Barbara Hardy ...................... 10
Jon Baum .......................... 14
Bob Scott .......................... 15
Warren Davis ...................... 16
Jaylen Lindsey .................... 18
EJ Markwood ...................... 18
Jason Evans ....................... 19
Chris Lewis ....................... 20
Hillary Stautzenberger .......... 20
Charles Hardy .................... 24
Charlie Jones ..................... 24
Carol Sparks ..................... 24
Ruth Dutt ......................... 25
Irene Gibbs ....................... 25
Vera Berg ........................ 26
Joanne Hale ...................... 27
Brittany Ostlund ................. 27
Chuck Olejasz ................... 29
Ashley Lowcher-Norris .......... 30
Leanna Seal ...................... 31

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**December Anniversaries**

Mr. & Mrs. John Dick ............ 10
Rev. & Mrs. John Rickers ....... 18
Mr. & Mrs. Gary McGee .......... 19
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Anderson ... 23
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hartman ......... 27
Why do we exchange gifts at Christmas time? It all began when the wise men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus, as a way to honor the Messiah at his birth. Also at Christmas, we give thanks because God has given us the best present of all: his own Son, who was born in Bethlehem and lived among us, full of grace and truth. Jesus came to show us the way, to teach us about God’s love and compassion, and to pay the ultimate price for our sake. So gift giving at Christmas began as a way of giving thanks to God for the birth of the Messiah because Jesus Christ is the best present that any of us will ever receive.

Many of us are worried that Christmas has gotten overly commercialized. There are advertisers who seem to constantly barrage us with messages, seeking to profit from this holy day. We have sales on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. All of these distractions can make us lose focus on why we are really celebrating this season. While there are many problems with Christmas being overly commercialized, at its root there is something good about a spirit of generosity and a spirit of giving. While it is not necessary to spend a lot of money or have the fanciest decorations or the largest tree, there is something good about thinking about others and what we can do for them during the Christmas season.

How do we honor God’s gift to us of Jesus Christ? We exalt Christ by offering our lives in service to God and to those in need. One Sunday in November, we sang the song “We Lift Our Voices,” which says, “We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.”

This November and December, our church has taken on a number of projects to help those in need. The youth group has been collecting items for the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our congregation has adopted several needy families in the community and provided gifts to make their Christmas even merrier through the Angel Tree. Many church members have donated personal items that will be given to our veterans. Lydia Circle has taken the lead in having our congregation provide a community well in a location in the world that does not have readily available clean drinking water. Volunteers from our church are providing a meal for the hungry at Ruthie’s Kitchen on the first Tuesday of December, which we do four times per year. This winter, we are looking for volunteers from our church to provide meals for the homeless people who are staying at Room in the Inn. Many individuals from our congregation are assisting the Beach Food Pantry as it is building a new facility that will help that organization better serve the needs of the hungry in our community. There are signs all around us of people sharing their gifts and their lives this Christmas season, which is such a wonderful way for us to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore

Sermons for Advent 2015

December 6, 2015: (2nd Sunday of Advent) Luke 1:5-25 & 1:57-79. Luke tells the story of John the Baptist’s birth to Elizabeth and Zechariah. The birth of John the Baptist was a sign that God is active in the world, fulfilling the divine plan. Once his son is born, Zechariah discerns all the wonderful things that God is doing and gives thanks to the Lord. Are we aware of how God is alive and working in our lives today?

December 13, 2015: (3rd Sunday of Advent) Luke 3:1-18. The prophet John the Baptist came before our Lord and Savior to prepare the way for Jesus. John invites us to turn from our sins, repent, and to focus our attention on God. We will explore what it means to repent.

December 20, 2015: (4th Sunday of Advent) Luke 1:39-55. When Mary learns that she will be giving birth to the Messiah, she is filled with joy. The birth of a child is a moment full of great promise and excitement. Jesus' birth is the most celebrated birth of all because God has sent humanity a Savior.

Dec 24th: (Christmas Eve): Luke 2:1-20. We will hear the Christmas story, which tells of Jesus being born in Bethlehem. The shepherds come to offer their praises to the Christ child. We will proclaim once again that God is with us because in Jesus Christ, God’s Son took on human flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

Advent Booklet 2015

The Advent booklet selected this year by the Worship Committee featuring daily readings as we journey through advent leading us to Christmas, is entitled “Proclaiming the Good News of God’s Peace” and is a reflection of the Belhar Confession. Books will be available in the Gathering Space beginning on Sun., November 22.
The Music Ministry of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season! The Music Ministry of the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church will present their annual Christmas Musical on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 pm.

This musical presentation will be performed by the Sanctuary Choir of the church along with other musical guests all combining to form a 60-voice choir and 12-piece orchestra all under the direction of Jason Evans and Nonie Booth.

The first portion of the concert will feature both sacred and secular sounds of the Christmas season along with the story of the birth of Christ through music in the second portion.

Soloists for the program will include: Pamela Tanner, Shannah Boone, John "B.J." Griffin, Jo Anne Swartz, Joanne Gregory and Lew Gregory.

The orchestra will be comprised of: Jason Evans, Piano; Steve Blackstock, Organ; Reid Stockdill, Timpani/Percussion; George Graham, Drums; John Blackstock, Bass; Leslie Erickson, Shannah Boone, Billy Tanner, Violin; Sue Waters, Viola; John "B.J." Griffin, Cello and Suzanne Blackstock, Katie Blanchard, Flute.

We invite all to attend this Christmas musical presentation. Admission is free, and a freewill love offering will be taken. Nursery will be provided. Outer Banks Presbyterian Church is located at 907 S. Croatan Highway (Milepost 8.5) in Kill Devil Hills. For additional information about the presentation, please call (252) 441-5897 or you may visit the church's website at www.outerbankspresbyterian.org.

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Be sure to come to church a few minutes early on Sunday, December 13 as the Jubilate Ringers will present a special prelude of popular Christmas Music prior to the 10:00 am worship service! Arrive around 9:45 am and get in the festive mood of this Holy season!
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>There are sessions of AA that meet Monday-Saturday at 7:30 am &amp; 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.</td>
<td>Hanging of The Greens 9:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts</td>
<td>4:00 pm: Girl Scouts 6:00 pm: Choir 6:30 pm: Adult Study 7:30 pm: Handbells</td>
<td>9:30 am: Dorcas Circle</td>
<td>7:00 pm: Choir/Orch. Rehearsal</td>
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<td>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</td>
<td>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:30 am: Faith Knitters</td>
<td>9:30 am: Lydia Circle 4:00 pm: Girl Scouts 6:00 pm: Choir 6:30 pm: Adult Study 7:30 pm: Handbells</td>
<td>12:00 N: 2nd Thursday Luncheon</td>
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<td>Choir &amp; Orchestra Christmas Concert 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Orchestra Christmas Concert 4:00 pm</td>
<td>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>5:30 pm: Hope, Faith Love Circle</td>
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<td>11:15 pm: Healing Service  Christmas Luncheon 11:15 am</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm</td>
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<td>Sunday School: 9:00 am  Worship: 10:00 am</td>
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Christmas Progressive Dinner

There is still time to sign up for the Christmas Progressive Dinner, topped off with a White Elephant Gift Exchange. All church members and friends are invited to participate.

The dinner will be on Saturday, December 12. It will start at 5:00 p.m. with appetizers at the home of Oscar Northen and Glynn Powell, in Kitty Hawk. Please bring your own beverage. Between 5:45-6:00, everyone will divide up into pre-arranged groups to go to other homes for salads/soups and entrees. Dessert and the White Elephant Gift Exchange will be at the home of Lois and Walt Werner in Southern Shores. If for some reason you are unable to participate the whole evening, you are welcome to come for any part of the evening.

What is a White Elephant Gift Exchange? Every participant (couples bring two gifts) can wrap up something they have bought (no more than $10) or wrap up something from their house as a tasteful joke! All presents will be unmarked, and we take turns picking a present from the gift table, OR can steal from someone who has already gotten a gift.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the church’s gathering space. If you need directions to the Northen/Powell home or the Werner home, let Jeanne Martie know. Carpooling is recommended. We need at least 4 homes to host a dinner for 6-8 people. We also need people to bring an appetizer or two (must be able to arrive at 4:50 p.m.), bring a salad or soup to dinner, or bring dessert. Please contact Jeanne Martie ASAP so she can divide people into groups and the dinner hosts can plan their dinner.

If you have any questions, or need directions, please contact Jeanne Martie (jlmartie@charter.net or 441-8608).

This is a fun way to start off the holiday season!

Second Thursday Lunch

Yes, you read that correctly. December’s lunch will be the Second Thursday in December – December 10, so that it doesn’t conflict with your Christmas plans (hopefully!) December’s “Second” Thursday lunch will be at the Players’ Grille at the Nags Head Golf Links (5615 Sea Chase Drive). Church members and friends of the church are invited to attend. Selections will be made from their menu, and of course, you will pay for your own lunch.

Please let Jeanne Martie know by Sunday, December 6 if you plan to attend, so she can let the restaurant know a head count. You may call her at (252) 441-8608 or e-mail her at jlmartie@charter.net.

Look forward to seeing you – December 10 at noon!

-- Jeanne
Christmas is coming, Christmas is coming and the women of the Church are baking cookies and breads, making unique gifts and providing the opportunity for members of the congregation to purchase presents for family and friends. On December 13, right after our church service our fellowship hall will be transformed into a Christmas showcase. Funds from this sale will go to support the Women’s Retreat at the 4-H Center in Columbia on June 4 and 5.

This special period of prayer and fellowship has been a great blessing for those who have attended.

Angels are flying ‘round a small tree in the church foyer. Please take an angel and buy a gift for a needy child. Social Services provides the information of needs and our church is blessed with being able to give several local children joy on Christmas day. The gifts will be taken to the Baum Center on December 5, so please have your gift in by the end of November.

Lydia Circle met at Jean Basnight’s home on the second Wednesday of November. Breakfast and fellowship was enjoyed by all attending. Mollie Bass taught the third lesson on Water and its importance to survival. The circle agreed to support Presbyterian Missions by purchasing a Village Well for a village without this resource near at hand. Often women and children are the ones who walk many miles to the source of water and carry heavy pots filled with water back to the village. Providing a well would be a great service for the village. Any member of the church who wishes to contribute to this worthy cause may write a check to Presbyterian Women with the word well on the motto line.

Barbara Nock showed a lovely camouflage colored prayer shawl and asked for volunteers to knit one.

The next meeting of Lydia Circle will be at Judy Dempsey’s on the corner of Sea Oats and E. Dogwood in Southern Shores on December 9. A cookie exchange is planned for those interested. Just bring tin and freshly baked cookies.

Dorcas Circle met at the home of Evelyn Webb and welcomed new members Judy Diaz and Leah Williamson. They welcomed back Wray Grumiaux. The next meeting will be at the home of Vera Berg on E. Dogwood in Southern Shores. All members are asked to bring a small gift for a gift exchange.

Faith, Hope and Love will meet at the Church on Thurs. Dec. 10 at 5:30 pm.

On February 6 there will be a joint meeting at Duck Woods Country Club for our Spring get-together. The cost is $17.00. This has always been a wonderful time together. May the Christ Child shower you with blessings and love this Christmas season.

Troop 116 took on a Service Project building a Handicap Ramp for Randy Tolley of Manteo. Mr. Tolley had a stroke and the family was having a hard time getting him in and out of his home. Sue Tolley, Randy’s wife took to Facebook looking for help. With donations of materials from Kellogg’s Supply, Guy C Lee, Kempsville Building Supply, Home Depot and Ace Hardware of Kitty Hawk, along with money donated from the community, it made it possible for the Scouts to build this for the family. The Scouts contacted the building supply companies for their donations, as well as the Dare Co. Building dept. for proper permitting.

The Troop is always looking to serve the community with projects like this, as well as smaller ones. Let us know how we can help and we will see what we can do.

Yours in Scouting
Blair Siefferman
Scout Master
Troop 116

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Yours in Scouting
Blair Siefferman
Scout Master
Troop 116
News from the Youth Group!

OBPC once again prepared shoeboxes this year’s for Operation Christmas Child. The children wrapped boxes during Children's Church, and the youth shopped together for gift items and wrapped the boxes while enjoying treats from Outer Banks Frozen Yogurt. Our Boy Scout troop also donated six filled boxes for this ministry.
Highlights from the November Stated Session Meeting

IN OMNIBUS MOTION, SESSION APPROVED:
A. The Congregational Care Committee’s recommendations to sponsor:
   1. The presentation by Gail Sonnesso from GEM on Alzheimer’s and Dementia on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 1:30 pm; and
   2. The “Finishing Well: Legal Issues” Seminar for seniors on February 24, 2016 at 1:30 pm by attorneys, Susan Harman-Scott and Letha McDowell.

NEW BUSINESS
A. Session approved recommendations from Administration Committee to:
   1. Grant Pastor Jody an additional one month of Family Leave (Paternity Leave) which he is qualified to receive pursuant to the church Personnel Handbook, the Presbytery personnel policy, and the Federal Employment Law.
   2. Have the Pastor’s Purse Christmas Gift be coordinated this year by Melinda Mogowski and Jean Basnight.
   3. Ask Session liaisons to contact their Committee Moderators to determine who is willing to serve as Moderator another year and who is requesting a replacement in 2016; new moderators ideally come from within the committee.
   4. The Transportation Committee needs to be added to the list of all committees, giving OBPC eleven committees.

B. Session approved the request from Presbyterian Women to hold a Gift and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 13, 2015, in the Fellowship Hall after worship. The proceeds will go to support attendees at the Women’s Retreat.

C. Session discussed requests from Room in the Inn that were presented to Pastor Jody and Mollie Bass, Moderator of Outreach and Witness Committee, regarding needs for the upcoming winter season:
   1. Care Bags with personal items for 15-20 homeless people coming to the program;
   2. Money towards purchase of shoes for them; and
   3. Providing overnight space and three meals per night for the week of January 31 – February 6, 2016.
   Session supported the committee in using their funds towards the care bags, shoes, and providing meals for the week as requested; at this time, our church facility is heavily used during the week, and session recommended we ask Room in the Inn to find another church partner to provide overnight space.

PASTOR’S REFLECTIONS
A. The New Officer Training Classes will continue on Mondays, December 7 and 14, 2015, at 2 pm. Examination will be on December 15, 2015.
B. New Members will be invited to join the church at a Called Session Meeting on December 13, 2015; at 9:30 am.
C. Session discussed the request from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) to receive a donation from Local Benevolences. Session approved some funds for FCA, but shared with the Room in the Inn requests above.

REPORTS
A. Committees. Session gratefully received reports from the
   1. Congregational Care Committee
   2. Finance Committee
   3. Bus Committee
   4. Stewardship Committee
      Ben Cahoon was present and reported that for 2016, Stewardship has received 74 pledges totaling $246,403 and the estimate of other anticipated pledges is $46,703. This is about a 5% increase over 2015.
B. Current Average Attendance
C. Session Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES
- Sunday, November 22, 2015 – 11:15 am: Thanksgiving Luncheon
- -- 4:00 pm: Third Annual Community Thanksgiving Service
- Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 9:30 am – Called Session Meeting
- Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 6:30 pm - Stated Session Meeting
- Sunday, December 20, 2015 – Christmas Luncheon
- Thursday, December 24, 2015 at 5:00 pm- Christmas Eve Service