



Outer Banks Presbyterian Church

December 2018

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Christmas

at Outer Banks Presbyterian

Saturday, December 1
5 p.m.

Sunday, December 2
5 p.m.

*Come and enjoy the sounds of
the season presented by the
Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra*

Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
907 S. Croatan Highway / Milepost 8.5
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
(252) 441-5897

Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore
Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Mr. Jason K. Evans

Nursery will be provided on site
A freewill love offering will be taken

www.outerbankspresbyterian.org

Outer Banks Presbyterian Church

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Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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Prayer Concerns

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you..." II Corinthians 9:8

- Jack Abernethy
- Marc Basnight
- Don & Nancy Bierwerth
- Sue Callens
- Anne Cramer
- George Daniels
- Warren Davis
- Donna Evans
- Catherine Howell
- Esther Huntsinger
- Ansley Johnson
- Charlie Jones
- Amanda Kirkman
- Terry Legel
- EJ Markwood
- Mickey Meekins
- Nancy Messinger
- Lynn & Howard Miller
- Etta Parrott
- Seth Peters
- Lawrence Rust
- Bud Sheets
- Fred Smith
- Hans Stelzer
- Trish Thomas
- Tim Tiller

Advent Devotionals for Adults

Copies of "The Father's Love" inspired by Henri M. Nouwen are available in the Gathering Space. Each reading reminds us that the Father's love for each and every one of us is immeasurable. And we are called to prepare to receive that love, to share it and to demonstrate it as best we can. Nouwen's writings, as well as Scripture passages and original reflections and prayers will strengthen our Advent journey. Be guided through daily prayer and reflection as you gain a better sense of how the Father loves us and why God sent his only Son to dwell among us.

Advent for Children

The Worship Committee is happy to share with Children's Church "Up Above Bethlehem" a pop-up window calendar for Advent. Each day of December a child will lift up a numbered window. What will pop up? A shepherd or sheep? An angel or Wise Man? Perhaps a sky filled with angels. When Christmas arrives an entire nativity scene will appear where there once was a scene of empty Bethlehem hills, a wonderful reminder that Jesus was born to fill us with love and hope eternal.

We are Thankful for our Willing Volunteers

Coffee Hour Schedule

- Dec. 2 Stewardship
- Dec. 9 Christian Education
- Dec. 16 Christmas Reception
- Dec. 23 The Session
- Dec. 30 Dorcas Circle

Flower Schedule

- Dec. 2 Gary & Linda McGee
- Dec. 9 Catherine Charlton
- Dec. 16 Poinsettias
- Dec. 23 Poinsettias
- Dec. 30 Available

Liturgist Schedule

- Dec. 2 Ike McRee
- Dec. 9 Jean Basnight
- Dec. 16 Nonie Booth
- Dec. 23 Brenda Brown
- Dec. 30 Jeanne Martie

Children's Church Schedule

- Dec. 2 Jeanne Moore / Grace Hook
- Dec. 9 Hollie & Jody Lewis
- Dec. 16 Barbara Hardy / Lynda Wood
- Dec. 23 Letha McDowell / Grace Hook
- Dec. 30 Hollie & Jody Lewis

Those Serving our Country

December Birthdays

- Arthur "Bud" Sheets 7
- Barbara Hardy 10
- 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 Oustland 27
- Chuck Olejasz 29
- Ashley Lowcher-Norris 30

December Anniversaries

- Mr. & Mrs. Joe Morgan 4
- 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

A Word from our Pastor



Advent is a time of preparation: a period to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of the Lord. There are many ways for us to prepare. I hope that you will pick up the free daily devotional that our church is providing this Advent called "The Father's Love" inspired by Henri Nouwen. We can also prepare for

Christ's coming through regular prayer, participating in our worship services, attending the Christmas musical the first weekend of December, and doing good deeds for those in need by participating in the Angel Tree and other worthwhile projects.

As we prepare for the Christmas season this Advent, I hope you will find meaningful a devotional written by Brett Blair that has spoken to me. Blair writes, "*Oh, you say, had I been there at Bethlehem that night I would have seen. I would have understood. I would have known it was the Christ child. Would you? There is one way of knowing: Ask yourself what you have seen and heard this Christmas Season.*"

When you watched the 6:00 news did you see chaos and strife, or did you see sheep without a shepherd? When you went out to do your shopping did you see only hordes of people in the stores, or did you notice the worried expressions on some of their faces--worried because they are facing this Christmas without employment or enough money and they don't know how they are going to make ends meet.

What did you hear this Christmas? Did you hear only the blast of music and carols, or did you hear the silent sighs of the lonely and the bereaved who may be dreading Christmas because it accentuates their loneliness? And in the midst of the sounds of honking horns and people arguing over parking places, did you hear faint sounds of laughter coming from church mission projects because you furnished food and toys for families and children?

You see, so often what we see and what we hear is not dependent upon the event but upon us. If we did in fact hear the cry from the lonely, the laughter of poor children, if we saw the sheep without a shepherd, then, and only then, might we have noticed the events that took place in Bethlehem that night. If we lacked that spiritual seeing and hearing then you probably would have been with the 99% who were present, but who saw or heard nothing out of the ordinary. In the end perhaps one of our carols expresses it best: No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls shall receive him still, the dear Christ enters in." My prayer is that we would open our eyes and ears to see and hear what God is doing in our lives and our world this Advent season.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24th at 5:00 pm. Please be sure to include worship in your plans for Christmas Eve! We will sing many of our favorite carols, hear the Christmas story read through a number of Scripture readings, and I will have a brief sermon. On Christmas, we proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ

is Emmanuel, God with us. It is a familiar story, yet one that never gets old because it communicates the mysterious and gracious nature of God's love. May we prepare our spirits, our hearts, and our minds for that wonderful truth throughout this Advent season!

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore

Sermons for Advent/Christmas 2018

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

Sunday, December 2 The 1st Sunday of Advent Jude 17, 20-25

This Sunday, we will light the candle of hope on the Advent Wreath. Jude speaks to the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. For centuries, God's people hoped for a Messiah and we met our Savior in God's Son, Jesus Christ. As people of faith, we anticipate the Christmas season with great hope, for we need Christ's peace today.

Sunday, December 9 The 2nd Sunday of Advent Malachi 3: 1-4

The prophet Malachi asks many good questions, encouraging God's people to examine their faith and to seek God's ways. The questions we ask and seek to answer are important in our development as Christ's disciples. Malachi anticipates God's plans to send a Messiah and instructs us to purify ourselves with the refiner's fire.

Sunday, December 16 The 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.

Sunday, December 23 The 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.

Monday, December 24 (5 pm) 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.



Christmas at Outer Banks Presbyterian

Saturday, December 1
5:00 pm

Sunday, December 2
5:00 pm

The Outer Banks Presbyterian Church invites you to attend their 11th annual “Christmas at Outer Banks Presbyterian” musical presentations. The concerts will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 1st and 2nd – both beginning at 5 pm. The choir, under the direction of Nonie Booth and Jason Evans, has been working on the presentation since September.

The first portion of the concert will be an assortment of Christmas favorites sure to get you in the Christmas spirit – and don’t forget to bring your voice – there will be opportunities for you to join in song too! The second portion of the concert will feature a work written by Joseph Martin, *The Winter Rose*, presented in a more symphonic setting. *The Winter Rose* incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the score presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion.

The musical will be conducted by Nonie Booth and narrated by Barbara Hardy. Soloists will include Elaine Spencer, Shannah Boone and Nick Hodsdon. The orchestra will be comprised of; Steve Blackstock, organ; Jason Evans, piano; Timothy Briggs, electric bass and cello; Reid Stockdill, timpani/percussion; George Graham, drums; Leslie Erickson and Shannah Boone, violin; Sue Waters, viola; Suzanne Blackstock and Katie Blanchard, flute; Christi Briggs, clarinet.

The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill love offering will be received and an on-site nursery will be provided. Outer Banks Presbyterian Church is located at 907 S. Croatan Highway (Milepost 8.5) on the bypass in Kill Devil Hills. For more information you may visit our website at www.outerbankspresbyterian.org or contact the church office at 441-5897.

Outer Banks Chorus Christmas Concerts

Saturday, December 15 | 6 pm | St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Nags Head

Sunday, December 16 | 3 pm | Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Kitty Hawk



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 24
5:00 pm

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

Sunday School: 9:00 am Worship: 10:00 am

December 2017

Elder of the Month: Varies - Please see the Bulletin!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Note: There are sessions of AA that meet Monday-Saturday at 7:30 am & 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.</i></p>					<p>30</p> <p>8:00 am: Men's Study</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir/Orch. Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am: Choir/Orch. Rehearsal</p> <p>Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert 5:00 pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 am: Christian Ed.</p> <p>Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert 5:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 pm: Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:00 pm: Officer Training</p> <p>6:00 pm: Choir</p> <p>6:30 pm: Adult Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am: Dorcas Circle</p> <p>5:00 pm: Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 am: Men's Study</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 am: Called Session Meeting</p> <p>3:00 pm: Stamp Club</p> <p>4:30: Youth Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am: Faith Knitters</p> <p>6:30 pm: Stated Session</p> <p>6:30 pm: Cub Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am: Lydia Circle</p> <p>5:00 pm: Stewardship & Generosity Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm: Choir</p> <p>6:30 pm: Adult Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 pm: Hope, Faith Love Circle</p> <p>5:00 pm: Girl Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 am: Men's Study</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Christmas Reception 11:15 am</p> <p>4:30: Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Noon: Third Thursday Lunch</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am: Men's Study</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 Offices Closed</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm</p>	<p>25 Offices Closed</p>	<p>26 Offices Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 (Sun.)</p>	<p>31 (Mon.)</p>					

CHRISTMAS



OFFERING

Supporting Past, Present & Future Leaders

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers (ministers, educators, missionaries) in their time of need, and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There will be a bulletin insert & special envelope on Dec. 16. Please give prayerful consideration to your gift for these special groups of people.

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone are currently being accepted. The cost is \$10.00 each. Order form envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. The last day for placing your order is Sunday, December 9, 2018.



Christmas Reception

The Annual Christmas reception will be Sunday, December 16 following the morning worship service. The Fellowship Committee will host this event and requests that finger foods be brought for refreshments. Please sign up on the sheets provided in the Gathering Space. Come - celebrate the season with your church family!

Faith Knitters

Faith Knitters celebrated Veterans day in honor of all of our Veterans who have served with a donation of 68 prayer shawls that will be given to the Veterans who are residents of Barco nursing home and the VA Hospital in Hampton Virginia. Many of the shawls were in patriotic colors of red, white and blue. The Rev. Jody had a special blessing of the shawls at the morning worship service. It is an honor and a privilege for all of the Faith Knitters to be a part of this very special ministry. The ladies who so graciously made the shawls are Judy Swanson, Karen O'Brian, Susan Smith, Lynn Miller, Jean Sias, Gayle Goetschius, Ellen Carrico, Barbara Nock, Clara Ann Baker, Judy Whittle, Karen Corbett, Barbara Nowland, and Veronica Reich. Thank you ladies for all your hard work and dedication. If anyone would like to become a part of the Faith Knitters just call Barbara Nock at 252-255-5979 or email nocktwice@embarqmail.com for more information.





News from the Presbyterian Women

The monthly circle meetings for the Presbyterian Women of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church will be held as follows:

DORCAS CIRCLE

Thursday, December 6 | 9:30 am
This meeting will be held at the home of Sharon Moore.

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE CIRCLE

Thursday, December 13 | 5:30 pm
This meeting will be held in the church conference room.

LYDIA CIRCLE

Wednesday, December 12 | 9:30 am
This meeting will be held at the home of Jean Basnight and Rosalyn Pugh.

2018 Angel Tree



The Presbyterian Women are again sponsoring the Angel Tree. It is a community-wide project to provide Christmas gifts for needy children. Please take a minute to select a special angel.

The gifts need to be returned to the church, unwrapped with the angel tag attached no later than December 2. They will then be delivered to the Baum Center to be processed for distribution.

Thank you in advance for being an angel and making Christmas special for a child. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Moore (757-508-1657) or Evelyn Webb (540-829-3515).

The Sacrament of Holy Communion



Join us on Sunday, December 2, 2018 as we observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This Sacrament is a true reminder of God's sacrificial love for us by dying on a cross to save us from

our sins and resurrecting that we might spend eternity with him. The elements for Communion will be provided by Louise Roberts and Barbara Nock.

Room in the Inn News

The Room In the Inn has been offered space in a building in Nags Head. It can hold 12 guests and 2 chaperones, has single and shared bedrooms with beds, a kitchen, a couple bathrooms with showers, a couple rooms with TVs and an elevator. The RITI Board, after talking and meeting with churches involved, has agreed to use this facility. While a couple churches have opted to house guests at their own church, the building has allowed many other churches to participate.

Our church will be responsible for the guests February 10-17. This will involve getting volunteers to help with nightly chaperoning, and meals. Charlie and Nancy Huff will be in charge of the chaperones. Jeanne Martie will be in charge of the meals. Guests check in each evening at the RITI office in Manteo, and are then transported to the facility. Meals include dinners (although Charlie's experience has been to have the first meal at KFC, which the guests really like), breakfast (since guests have to vacate by 7 am, this will be a casserole or two, toast or bagels or muffins, cereal), and fixings for the guests to pack a bagged lunch. Snacks and soda will also be needed.

So, you have some time to think about how you can help us and RITI. We will make definite plans after New Year's Day.

Please do not forget the wonderful fundraiser planned for Friday, November 30th at Sugar Creek. Festivities will begin at 5:00--more than 20 restaurants are donating food. Music will be provided by "Lasso the Moon," and silent auction items will be available for bidding on. Jeanne Martie and Lynda Wood have tickets. If you contact the church office, tickets can be left for you there.

Did you know?

Did you know that the chopping down of the Christmas tree represents the death of Christ and putting it back up again represents the resurrection of Christ? Did you know that the wreaths we hang are never ending circles, which represent eternity? Candy canes were made to look like shepherd hooks and the colors... Red, for Jesus' blood, White for purity. The gifts, represents the 3 gifts the wise men brought for Jesus. So when you are running around trying to get the "perfect gift", stop yourself, take a deep breath and remember we have been given the perfect gift, Jesus Christ was given to us to remove all of our sins...MERRY CHRISTMAS!

News from the Youth Group!

On Sunday evening, October 28, the OBPC youth group held it's annual Halloween costume party with a delicious dinner served by the Presbterian Women of the church!



Each year, our youth group packages shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has tried to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. They are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. Operation Christmas Child is just one way we can support this ministry. This year there were 23 shoe boxes packaged. We thank all who participated in this worthwhile endeavor.



Gloves and Grace

By Bob Ritzema, *The Banner*, pg. 36, November 2018

The Winter started out gently but became progressively more discourteous. At least this Sunday's forecast didn't threaten snow. After church, the sun greeted us as if trying to distract us from the lacerating cold.

"Not wanting to linger outside, I squeezed into my car and drove away, waiting for the car's heater to puff out some warmth. I had gone just far enough to feel the first breath of warm air when I saw a panhandler standing by the road. Holding up a sign, he had positioned himself near a traffic light, hoping for spare change from drivers detained there. I stopped, fourth or fifth in line, and noted with relief that the snow was deep enough to prevent him from walking up alongside the row of cars. It's not that I had never offered anything to roadside panhandlers. I was ambivalent about such drive-by charity, though. Better not to be regarded as a potential source of hope.

"The light turned green. Driving past, I glanced in the man's direction. He had a decent winter coat, but his hands, ungloved, looked raw and red. I felt a pang of empathy. How cold his fingers must be! I thought fleetingly of giving him my gloves but quickly concluded I wasn't that kind of saint. Then I remembered – I had extra gloves with me! Months earlier I had stuck them in, of all places, the glove compartment, thinking they might come in handy sometime. Now here was someone who desperately needed them.

"I parked in the first spot I could find, about a block away, and located the gloves. Walking back to where the man was standing, I pulled out a few dollars to go with my gift. I thought I would say something spiritual like "God bless you" just so he would know he was being assisted by a believer. It seemed like the Christian thing to do. I anticipated that he would be appreciative, and that made me happy.

"I handed him the money and said, "I have some extra gloves. Why don't you see if these fit?" He pulled them on, exclaiming, "Yes, they fit perfectly!" Then, before I could pronounce my benediction, he turned to me and said, "God bless you!"

"That didn't quite follow my script. I stammered something like, "And may God bless you too," and we parted. I thought about our exchange later that afternoon. Why was I so startled by his blessing? Perhaps because he said the words I had planned to say but with a sincerity that I lacked. During the course of a block, after I grabbed the gloves and exited my car, I had constructed a little skit in which I was the pious Christian helping the needy beggar. I wasn't going to bless him so much as bask in the acclaim I imagined the heavenly host and God himself would express toward my act of charity. The warm glow I felt wasn't love; it was sanctimony.

"So this man got a pair of gloves, and I got a blessing. I think I came out ahead. His words of grace reminded me that God speaks his grace to me when I do the right thing for the wrong motive, when I do the wrong thing for the right motive, and even when I do the wrong thing for the wrong motive. They reminded me that I too am a beggar alongside the road. God comes along and offers me not just gloves, but every blessing I need, now and forever.

"What wondrous love is this!"

Congregational Care Message from John Rickers

"Thankful 30"

Greetings to you and may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you all His blessings and great peace of heart and mind.

Thanksgiving Day in November and **Christmas Day** in December remind us to thank God for all the good things in our lives. By way of November and December, look for something to be thankful for and write it on the calendar.

Look for Good Things

Here are a few Good Things that will help you from day to day.

- **Things that remind you of God's love**
- **People who love you**
- **Things that make you laugh**
- **Things you love to do**
- **Favorite places in your memory**
- **Things you like to learn about**
- **Things you appreciate most**
- **Favorite events in your memory**
- **Thanks for this day**
- **Thank you, Lord, for good thoughts**
- **Thank you, Lord, for being here**
- **Thank you for coming and please hurry back**

When you See It, Say It

Don't keep thankfulness to yourself--Say It! Pray thanks to God, say thank you when someone is kind to you, look for ways to be kind to others.

Look Back

When December arrives, look back at all the things you were thankful for in November. In December, start all over again.

Adapted from article by Sandy Swartzentruber in The Banner, November 2018

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