

December 2024

Third Presbyterian Church



Pastor's Note: Reflecting on the True Spirit of Christmas

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas, I invite you to ponder Dietrich Bonhoeffer's profound words:

"Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness." God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas.

In these words, Bonhoeffer calls us to recognize that the true celebration of Christmas is not found in grand displays of wealth, power, or prestige, but in the humble posture of surrender. The Savior of the world is born in the quiet stillness of the manger, not in royal splendor but in a lowly, vulnerable state. It is there that we are given the most glorious revelation of God.

To celebrate Christmas correctly is to let go of the things that elevate our egos and keep us self-centered. It is to approach the manger with humility, recognizing that God's glory is revealed not in prideful greatness but in the profound humility of the Christ child. Jesus, the King of the Universe, chose to enter our world in this way—lowly and vulnerable—to show us the nature of true greatness.

As we look upon the child in the manger, we are invited to lay down all our "power," our need for recognition, our pursuit of status, and our pride. In the simplicity of the manger, we see the profound glory of God—who, in his infinite love, lowered himself to reach us.

This Christmas, let us remember that the way to true celebration is not by exalting ourselves but by humbling ourselves before the Savior, letting go of all that we hold on to and surrendering it to Him. As we gaze upon the child in the manger, may we see the glory of God revealed in his lowliness, and may our hearts be filled with awe and worship.

Merry Christmas and may our celebration of His birth reflect the humility and glory of the One who came to save us.

In Christ,

Don+

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY
IN-PERSON AND LIVE STREAM AT 11 AM**

Below is the Zoom link where you will be able to see those leading worship and along with parts of our liturgy. Below is the most updated link, phone number and password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/605837516?pwd=V0R5VmNCQ2Mraml1TFdOVXpGMepiQT09>

If you do not have computer access, you can call in with your home or cell phone using Zoom's dial in option.

Meeting ID: 605 837 516

Password: 23518

Phone: 312-626-6799

COVENANT PASTOR AGREEMENT COMING TO AN END

As the year begins to wind down, so is our Covenant Pastor Agreement with Rev. Don Martin. Don will be with us through all of Advent and Christmas. His last Sunday with us will be December 29th. Please take some time between now and then to let Don know what his ministry with has meant to you.

In the monthly newsletter, there will be a list of Commissioned Pastors and/or Supply Pastors that will be leading us in worship each week. Below is the beginning of this list. If you have any questions, please see Amy Griffin.

PULPIT SUPPLY LOOKING AHEAD

January 5th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

January 12th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

January 19th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

January 26th – Rev. Martha Mitchell

February 2nd – Rev. Martha Mitchell

February 9th – Rev. Martha Mitchell

February 16th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

February 23rd – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington

March 2nd – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington

March 5th – Ash Wednesday

March 9th – TBD

March 16th – TBD

March 23rd – Rev. Melissa "Lissa" Long, Transitional General Presbyter

March 30th – Rev. Leigh Gillis

April 13th, Palm Sunday - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

April 17th, Maundy Thursday - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

April 20th, Easter - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FOR 2025

Sunday, November 24th was Dedication Sunday for our pledges/commitments for 2025. To date, we have received **13 pledges totaling \$61,940 towards our proposed budget of \$104,250.**

If you have forgotten to turn in your commitment form or if you still need more time to prayerfully consider your part in the ministry and mission of Third, you may still turn in your pledge card. There are additional cards and envelopes on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Amy Griffin, Financial Secretary. Thank you!

CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

Our choir will be presenting their Christmas music program during worship on Sunday, December 22nd. Immediately following the worship service, we will be having a Christmas reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendar now and invite your family and friends to join us to celebrate.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th AT 5:30 PM

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus during worship for Christmas Eve.

PW BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER 10TH, 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY

The author describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts." We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

Join us Tuesday, December 10th for lunch, (bring a sandwich or snack) lively discussion and fellowship. We meet in the church conference room at the end of the hall and have zoom access if you are unable to join us in person. Please let me know if you need zoom access so I have the computer set up.



MOST ASKED FOR ADDRESSES

Teri and Ken Howard
109 Windsong Drive
Macon, NC 27551
757-274-3311 - Teri

Dot Grandstaff
The Gardens of Virginia Beach
5620 Wesleyan Drive #247
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-583-2244

Peggy Russell
Aspire at West End
5020 Sulky Drive, # 415
Henrico, VA 23228
Phone: 757-387-9301

Lexi White & Marc Cahill
89 Winchester Dr.
South Kingstown, RI 02879

Judy & Tim Cook
2909 Arc Road
Mobile, Alabama 36605-4466
251-385-0615

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people and families in your prayers, that they might be lifted up through your conversations with God:

- Claudia Cary
- Jessica and Ray Fitzgerald
- Ginny Davis
- Steve & Claudia Glover
- Carol Maxwell's Mom
- Darlene Pick
- Holly Gaff
- Nancy & Steve Babor
- Toy Hefner
- Heather Sipe
- The Family of Larry McKinney
- The Family of Sandy Campbell
- The Family of Patricia "Anne" Basnight
- Our Pastor - Don
- Our Church
- The Session
- Our Community
- Our Nation

Happy Birthday!!!

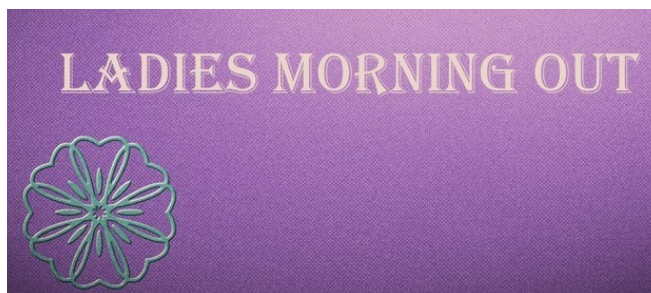
- December 1st - Ryan Ratcliff
- December 2nd - Debbie Platte
- December 3rd - Kenny Howard
- December 5th - Claudia Cary
- December 13th - Alexis White
- December 13th - Brandon Griffin
- December 13th - Inda Ratcliff
- December 13th - Ron Ratcliff
- December 14th - Holly Gaff
- December 14th - Teri Howard
- December 15th - Morgan Howard
- December 17th - Artie Derrenbacker
- December 21st - Teresa Gibbs
- December 23rd - Kenneth Howard
- December 25th - Cheryl Holtz

Happy Anniversary!!!

- December 5th - Artie & Milinda Derrenbacker
- December 11th - Nancy & Steve Babor
- December 17th - Teresa & Michael Gibbs
- December 18th - Cheryl & Fred Holtz
- December 24th - Carol & Tom Maxwell



LOOKING AHEAD.....



Ladies' Morning Out
"UNSTUCK.....it's like a spa for your soul"

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Great Bridge Presbyterian Church
333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA

Gathering – 8:30 AM Program – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Praise and Worship! Inspirational Speakers! Continental Breakfast!
Speakers – Paula Bass and Carol Miller

Mark your calendars now. More information to follow as we move closer. Transportation from Third to Great Bridge will be coordinated. If you have questions, please contact Amy Griffin at 757-618-3006.

For more information about the program, call Paula Bass at 757-482-2460.

CHURCH OFFICE

If you need assistance, please feel free to call 757-587-7576 and leave a message (phone is being forwarded to an elder), send an email to (thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com), or call one of the elders or the pastor. Thank you!

OFFERINGS

November 3rd – \$3,185.00
November 10th – \$2,771.00
November 17th – \$670.00
November 24th – \$2,745.00



SHEPHERD'S LIST 2024



Amy Griffin

757-618-3006

*Dee Glover

*Steven and Claudia Glover

Ginny Davis

Nancy and Vernon Barham

Dorothy Grandstaff

Marguerite Duke

Peggy Russell

Teri Howard

Teri Howard

757-274-3311

Don Martin and Tony Crudup

Darlene Pick

Debbie and Ray Platte

Amy and Dennis Griffin

Di Ricks

Sybil Crooks

Joseph Bray

Tom Maxwell

757-531-9851

**Brittany French

Dave and Jenni Joyce

Holly Gaff and CJ Jones

T.J. McKinney

Lexi White and Marc Cahill

Deb King

The Rapacon Family - Amanda,
Manny, Christian, Samantha, Rachel,
and Peter

*no email-please call

**Text

Stacy Apelt

757-583-5872

Nancy Babor

Jim Rudiger

Carol and Tom Maxwell

Mary Ann Shepard

Kayla and Bryson Shepard

Margaret Chewning & Dan Cudney

Margaret Chewning

757-581-0428

Jessica Fitzgerald & Family

Cheryl and Fred Holtz

Ginny Keisel

Claudia Cary

Artie and Milinda Derrenbacker

Stacy Apelt and Judy Floyd Apelt

Mike Gallond

Calvin Presbyterian Church

2901 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA
23518

(757) 587-1591

• Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Third Saturdays of the month
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**The food pantry serves Norfolk
zip codes 23518 and 23503.
Those in need of assistance
may obtain a referral from any of
the participating churches.**

Pantry Wish List:

- 25 oz Apple Sauce
- 16 oz Baked Beans
- 24 oz Beef Stew
- 15 oz Peas
- 15 oz Green Beans
- 1 lb 13 oz Canned Fruit
- 32 oz Jelly
- 18 oz Peanut Butter
- 32 oz Pancake Mix
- 24 oz Syrup
- 1 lb Rice
- 8.25 oz Tuna Helper
- 6 oz Tuna
- 15 oz Spaghetti O's
- 15 oz Thick Soup
- 64 oz Juice
- 12 oz Luncheon Meat
- 7.25 oz Macaroni & Cheese
- 13.75 oz Mashed Potatoes
- 13.7 oz Oatmeal Individual Packs
- 16 oz Spaghetti Noodles
- 26.5 oz Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Milk, Individual Packs

Please, no baby food, coffee, tea, sugar, pickles, olives, condiments, tomatoes, cranberries, canned milk, crackers or mushrooms.



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11 am Worship Communion In-person and Virtual	2	3 6 pm Bible Study 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	4 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	5 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	6 7 pm Derrenbacker's 60 th Anniversary Cele- bration	7 2 – 5 pm Fellowship Hall reserved
8 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	9	10 12 pm PW Lunch and Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study 6:30 – 10 pm	11 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	12 7 pm Civic League	13	14 10 am Clothes Closet Vocal Concert (Chewing)
15 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	16	17 6 pm Bible Study 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	18 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	19 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	20	21 9 am – 2 pm Choir Dress Rehearsal
22 11 am Worship Choir Christmas Music Christmas Reception In-person and Virtual	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Communion	25 Christmas Day 	26 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	27	28
29 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	30	31 New Year's Eve				





Third Presbyterian Church
8065 Carlton Street
Norfolk, V23518

CHURCH STAFF

Don Martin, Covenant Pastor
Lexi White, IT Facilitator
Joseph C. Bray, III, Organist/ Choir Director
Clara Barnes, Sexton
Teri Howard, Clerk of Session
Holly Gaff, Treasurer
Amy Griffin and Teri Howard, Financial Secretary

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Men

Tom Maxwell, President
Fred Holtz, Vice-president

Memorial Committee

SESSION

Building & Grounds

Stacy Apelt

Stewardship

Teri Howard

Witness & Outreach

Tom Maxwell

Worship

Amy Griffin

Administration and Personnel

Margaret Chewning