

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

[If you have a prayer concern or joy to share during the week, please email Rev. Ellen at ellen@bethpagechurch.org.]

December 4

Joys: Prayer Shawl Ministry (Christel Josey)

Concerns: Paul Robert Tucker (Janice Morgan's nephew), Family of Rickie Stutts (Jenny Linebarrier)

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

Sunday, December 11

ADVENT III
 Deadline for ordering Lights of Love
 8:45 – 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 9:00 AM – Covered Dish Breakfast & Hymn Sing in BPC Fellowship Hall
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 2:00 – 6:00 PM – Parents Afternoon Out in BPC Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 12

4:30 PM – Stewardship Committee
 7:00 PM – Gathering Time
 7:15 PM – Ministry Area Teams

Tuesday, December 13

6:00 PM – Property Committee
 6:30 PM – Personnel Committee
 7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, December 14

Deadline for ordering Poinsettias
 5:45 PM – Supper
 6:20 PM – G.I.F.T. Supper
 7:15 PM – Choir

Thursday, December 15

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – “Suds of Love” at Harris Laundromat
 6:00 – 9:00 PM – “Suds of Love” at Harris Laundromat

Friday, December 16

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM – KAPM's Annual Boston Butt BBQ at BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 18

ADVENT IV
 Christmas Joy Offering received
 8:45 – 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 9:00 AM – Sunday School
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Private Event in BPC Fellowship Hall
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, December 19

7:00 PM – Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 21

No Supper or G.I.F.T. Program today!
 7:15 PM – Choir

Friday, December 23

Church office closed

Saturday, December 24

8:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
 9:55 AM – Christmas Day Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 – 4:00 PM – LMCS in BPC Fellowship Hall & Pavilion



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Church office hours: 8:30 AM -3:30 PM, M-F

Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner:

704-431-3700 (cell) 704-934-3457 (home)



Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

December 11, 2016

**“A family of faith
 yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”**

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. If you are a visitor, please pick up a church information brochure, found in the pew holders. Please, let us get to know you a little better by filling out the information card, inside the brochure. You can drop it in the offering plate. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!

DAILY LECTIONARY

Sunday, December 11	Monday, December 12	Tuesday, December 13	Wednesday, December 14	Thursday, December 15	Friday, December 16	Saturday, December 17
Morning: Psalms 24; 150 1 st Reading: Isaiah 13:1-13 2 nd Reading: Heb. 12:18-29 Gospel: John 3:22-30 Evening: Psalms 25; 110	Morning: Psalms 122; 145 1 st Reading: Isa. 8:16-9:1 2 nd Reading: 2 Pet. 1:1-11 Gospel: Luke 22:39-53 Evening: Psalms 40; 67	Morning: Psalms 33; 146 1 st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 2 nd Reading: 2 Pet. 1:12-21 Gospel: Luke 22:54-69 Evening: Psalms 85; 94	Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11 1 st Reading: Isaiah 9:8-17 2 nd Reading: 2 Peter 2:1-10a Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Evening: Psalms 53; 17	Morning: Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 1 st Reading: Isaiah 9:18-10:4 2 nd Reading: 2 Peter 2:10b-16 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 Evening: Psalms 126; 62	Morning: Psalms 102; 148 1 st Reading: Isaiah 10:5-19 2 nd Reading: 2 Pet. 2:17-22 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15 Evening: Psalms 130; 16	Morning: Psalms 90; 149 1 st Reading: Isaiah 10:20-27 2 nd Reading: Jude 17-25 Gospel: Luke 3:1-9 Evening: Psalms 80; 72

The Service for the Lord's Day
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

9:55 A.M.

THE GATHERING

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
(RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP/PRAYER CARDS)**

***WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE**

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Karvonen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Scarborough Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in preparation

People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

Leader: We gather in expectation

People: for joy is about to explode in our midst.

Leader: We gather in celebration

People: for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate, in actual human flesh, for others,

Leader: yes, to the wholeness of God.

ALL: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

***HYMN 2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** - based on Psalm 126

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things — our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness! Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.
(Please take a moment to confess your sins.)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN 579**

"Glory to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHRISTIANS

ANTHEM "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" Sleeth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Kim & Leslie Gibson

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35:1-10 (Bible, OT p. 663)
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 11:2-11 (Bible, NT p. 11)
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON "JOY" Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner

***HYMN 20** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" ABERYSTWYTH

***ASSURANCE OF FAITH** from The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I belong- body and soul, in life and death- not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of His own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, the Holy Spirit has also assured me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Young
*Doxology 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

***HYMN 23** "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Hancock

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship, and we ask that you sign our Ritual of Friendship as it is passed along the pew. We hope that you will return to worship with us again! We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership all who love Jesus Christ, accept him as Lord of all life, and seek to serve him as part of his body in the church. We invite you to speak to one of our elders, greeting you at the door as you leave the worship service.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Presbyterian Psychological Services is an integrated, interdisciplinary center for psychiatry, psychology, pastoral counseling, career counseling, and community education. We are committed to empowering all individuals, couples, and families in our community to heal and grow in an atmosphere of safety and clinical expertise. Contact info: 704-554-9900 or www.presbypsych.org.

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	USHERS
Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner, <i>Moderator</i> Roger Hamilton, <i>Clerk of Session</i> Dennis Graybeal, <i>Treasurer</i>	HEAD USHER Roger Hamilton
CLASS OF 2017	USHERS Jill Hamilton, Kevin Hamilton, Eric Hamilton, Aubrey Tarlton
Steve Gaskey, <i>Fellowship</i> Kim Gibson, <i>Stewardship</i> Carrie Paxton, <i>Christian Education</i>	LECTOR
CLASS OF 2018	Kim & Leslie Gibson
Sherry Childers, <i>Personnel</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Eric McKnight, <i>Communications</i>	CHILDREN'S NURSERY (Worship only)
CLASS OF 2019	Linda VanPelt & Peggy Overcash
Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Mark Gurley, <i>Property</i> Christel Josey, <i>Nurture</i>	CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
	Glenda Kirkman & Heather Kirkman