

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 11

Joys: Ronnie Hall, Fred (Amanda Ritchie)

Concerns: Doris & Darrell (Diane Mullinax), Anthony (Eric McKnight)

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday, December 26, 2016 –

Monday, January 2, 2017

Church office closed

Wednesday, December 28

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

Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year!
 10¢-A-Meal Offering to be 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
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 – 4:00 PM – LMCS in BPC Fellowship Hall & Pavilion
 6:00 PM – Young Adults Small Group at the Paxton's



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
 704-933-2209

website: www.bethpagechurch.org

e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

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

Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner:

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



Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

December 18, 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 18	Monday, December 19	Tuesday, December 20	Wednesday, December 21	Thursday, December 22	Friday, December 23	Saturday, December 24
<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 24; 150 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isaiah 11:1-9 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Eph. 6:10-20 <i>Gospel:</i> John 3:16-21 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 25; 110	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 122; 145 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isa. 11:10-16 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Rev. 20:1-10 <i>Gospel:</i> John 5:30-47 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 40; 67	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 33; 146 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isaiah 28:9-22 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Revelation 20:11-21:8 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:5-25 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 85; 94	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 50; 147:1-11 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isaiah 29:9-24 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Rev. 21:9-21 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:26-38 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 53; 17	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isaiah 31:1-9 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Revelation 21:22-22:5 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56) <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 126; 62	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 102; 148 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isa. 33:17-22 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:57-66 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 130; 16	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 90; 149 <i>1st Reading:</i> Isaiah 35:1-10 <i>2nd Reading:</i> Revelation 22:12-17, 21 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:67-80 <i>Christmas Eve Psalm:</i> Ps. 132 <i>Christmas Eve Psalm:</i> Ps. 114 <i>Christmas Eve Reading:</i> Isaiah 59:15b-21 <i>Christmas Eve Reading:</i> Philippians 2:5-11 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 80; 72

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

December 18, 2016

9:55 A.M.

THE GATHERING

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

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Sewell

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Barham Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: *The mighty God summons the earth, from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.*

People: Our God comes and will not be silent. God calls, and we respond to his love.

Leader: *The heavens declare God's righteousness.*

People: We tell out God's glories!

Leader: *Offer up to God your thanksgiving.*

ALL: And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us that we may come and worship God forever.

***HYMN 12** "People, Look East" BESANCON

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with sacrificial love, as Joseph did. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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 "Advent Carol" Wood

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Roger Hamilton

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 7:10-16 (Bible, OT p. 636)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 1:18-25 (Bible, NT p. 1)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "LOVE" Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner

***HYMN** (insert) "Thou Who Wast Rich" QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Barham Family

***WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Congregation: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in 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, OUR OFFERINGS
and OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Offertory "Hallelujah" Leonard Cohen
The Cox Mill High School Brass Choir: Brandon Curry, Christian Graham, Zach Harris, Brandon Holandez, Milton Jones, Jordan King, Josh Monto, Jacob Smith, Jake Sorrentino

*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 8** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "Postlude on 'ANTIOCH'" Handel

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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	Roger Hamilton
Sherry Childers, <i>Personnel</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Eric McKnight, <i>Communications</i>	CHILDREN'S NURSERY (Worship only)
CLASS OF 2019	Al Smith & Rhonda Jones
Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Mark Gurley, <i>Property</i> Christel Josey, <i>Nurture</i>	CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
	No Children's Worship