

October—December, 2017



# THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

What images come to your mind when you hear the word God?

The truth is that a lot of the time the images we have in our mind about God say a lot more about us than they do about God. The reason for that is that there is a natural human tendency to want to understand things. We want to have answers, not questions; we want explanations, not mysteries.

And so, when it comes to something as big and powerful and loving and mysterious as God, well, sometimes we try to water things down a bit, make God a little easier to understand. We “anthropomorphize” God, which is a fancy way of saying we try to make God be more like us, at least in our minds.

The funny thing about this is that what we end up with really isn’t much like God at all, and we seem to be satisfied with that. As C. S. Lewis once observed, when it comes to thinking about sacred things we are like “a child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.” We are, Lewis says, “far too easily pleased.”

A number of years ago a theologian named J. B. Phillips wrote a little book called *“Your God Is Too Small.”* It’s a nice book, easy to read, it’s still in print and I highly recommend it to you. In it, Phillips set out to deal with the issue of our much too small understandings of God. Some the images he described are God as resident policeman, God as a grand old man, and God as a managing director, among others.

But the one that is perhaps the most interesting is the idea of God in a box. Here we try to make God seem much more neat and tidy than God appears to be in scripture. This is a view of God that offers all the answers and doesn’t confront us with any mystery, a God who has been, as Phillips puts it, captured and tamed and trained to our own liking. No risk here, no this is a God that we can get our minds around, that we can explain, but in being able to explain this God we have created a God that is too often just the way we want God to be.

As J. B. Phillips points out, these God’s are just too small. They are too small because, they can never love us the way God in Jesus Christ can. Because that love is bigger and greater and more powerful than anything we can ever create ourselves.

It’s bigger than anything we can even imagine.

And if God loves us like that why on earth, or in heaven, would we want to imagine anything else?

Yours in Christ,

John Pruitt

## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church  
611 Oakhurst Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358  
Fax: (336) 993-5526  
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt  
Minister

Mrs. Amy Evans  
Director of Christian Education

Ms. Jane Johnson  
Church Secretary

### Services:

The Gathering — 6:00 p.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month)

Café Faith — 9:00 a.m.  
(Sundays September — May)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



## Birthdays

### October

2 Andy Hodges  
14 Megan Tincher  
23 Fran McKinney

### November

8 Sam Henderson  
8 Tom Parker  
19 Vivian Stowe  
19 Yvonne Bolen  
22 Scott Forrest  
23 Spencer Sharp  
24 Marjorie Bailey  
24 Priscilla Henderson  
26 Drew Tincher  
30 Lisa Newton

### December

4 Lynne Forrest  
7 Donna Myers  
9 Margaret Burks  
11 Elizabeth Kerr  
13 Rosalie Nicholson  
16 Chess Maxwell  
23 Ellen Watts  
30 William Bolen

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## Anniversaries

### October

Nothing on File

### November

1 Nick & Jean Nitkin

### December

8 Jim & Yvonne Bolen  
28 Mark & Amy Evans

*If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## First Presbyterian Church Session Members

### Class of 2017

Priscilla Henderson  
Rusty Sudderth  
Rich Tincher

### Class of 2018

Nancy Bolen

### Class of 2019

Lorna Foster  
Jean Nitkin

# Growing Together in Faith

Once again fall is upon us, and as we say a farewell to summer, we should be filled with the excitement that fall brings to us....football, tailgating, bonfires, the chill in the air, the vibrant colors of the fall leaves....And just as the seasons change, things will be changing here at First Presbyterian....Cafe Faith has gotten back underway, Adult Sunday School class will continue the study of the book of Matthew, and we will begin to prepare for the 2017

Holiday Market and the Advent season. Regarding Holiday Market, as most of you know, we have tried to get an early start on the Holiday Market projects, and have had some success along that end, but with roughly two months till the market takes place, we need for our project “ pros “, ( knitters, woodworkers, crafters, painters, etc....), to really get focused on their craft projects over the next few weeks, so we can make this upcoming Holiday Market the best one ever....Also, with school having started back, the need for our Backpack Ministries will be back on our missions agenda...There is a growing need within the community for this outreach project, so PLEASE consider volunteering to work with this program.....As Jesus ask Peter, “ Do you love me, then feed my sheep “.....Now, going back to the Holiday Market, we will be looking for volunteers to help set up the room for the market, and we will need pancake flippers, servers, dishwashers, short order bacon and sausage cooks, and more to run this event smoothly and efficiently, so please consider where your talents lie, and volunteer to be a part, a large part, of Holiday Market 2017.

I would like to continue to invite members and their guest to be a part of “ The Gathering “, which takes place the second Wednesday evening of each month, with a biblically based program, followed by a meal to share and time to connect as a fellowship community. We have been fortunate to have various members of our congregation take part as worship leaders for this event, as well as people from outside the walls of our church as well. Please consider sharing a message with us at one these programs, ( you can choose the topic ), or just come and try and bring a friend, so we can expand our message throughout the community. We continue to have Men’s Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 am, and we invite all men who can attend to come and participate. We learn as we go, and each of us can offer new and different insights into our group discussions. We also have a Men’s Bible Study that meets on Saturday mornings at Tom Parker’s house, ( for those who may not be able to make the Wednesday morning class work for them ), and a Women’s Bible Study that meets on Saturday mornings at Kitty Thach’s house. We invite you to please take part in one or more of these educational opportunities to deepen your faith, and to connect with other members of our faith community, because we are better when we are connected, to each other, to God’s word, and to our world at large.

With Christ’s Peace,

Amy Evans  
Director of Christian Education

# Worship Service Schedules

## October 2017

### Greeters

1 *Comm* Lynda Self  
Norman Self  
8 Lorna Foster  
Winnie Theobald  
15 Bob Myers  
Donna Myers  
22 Anne Waddell  
Dale Watts  
29 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram

### Ushers

1 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow  
Kae Mattingly  
8 Bernie Krecklow  
Kae Mattingly  
15 Bernie Krecklow  
Kae Mattingly  
22 Bernie Krecklow  
Kae Mattingly  
29 Bernie Krecklow  
Kae Mattingly

### Lay Reader

1 *Comm* Marge Birmingham  
8 Tom Parker  
15 Nancy Bolen  
22 Rusty Sudderth  
29 Donna Myers

### Element Preparation

1 *Comm* Lynda Self  
Norman Self

### Assisting Elders

1 *Comm* Nancy Bolen  
Lorna Foster  
Dale Watts  
Faye Hodges  
Kerry Kerr

## November 2017

### Greeters

5 Becky Collins  
Burch Idol  
12 *Comm* Millie Vernon  
Bernie Krecklow  
19 Rusty Sudderth  
Kae Mattingly  
26 Bob Myers  
Donna Myers

### Ushers

5 Winnie Theobald  
Lorna Foster  
12 *Comm* Winnie Theobald  
Lorna Foster  
19 Lorna Foster  
Winnie Theobald  
26 Winnie Theobald  
Lorna Foster

### Lay Reader

5 Sam Henderson  
12 *Comm* Kerry Kerr  
19 Marge Birmingham  
26 Nancy Bolen

### Element Preparation

12 *Comm* Dee Barham  
Nancy Bolen

### Assisting Elders

12 *Comm* Kae Mattingly  
Millie Vernon  
Jean Nitkin  
Rich Tincher  
Dale Watts

## December 2017

### Greeters

3 Lorna Foster  
Winnie Theobald  
10 *Comm* Lynda Self  
Norman Self  
17 Becky Collins  
Burch Idol  
24 *Comm* TBD  
TBD  
31 TBD  
TBD

### Ushers

3 Dale Watts  
Faye Hodges  
10 *Comm* Dale Watts  
Faye Hodges  
17 Dale Watts  
Faye Hodges  
24 *Comm* TBD  
TBD  
31 TBD  
TBD

### Lay Readers

3 Dee Barham  
10 *Comm* Lorna Foster  
17 Dottie Roudabush  
24 *Comm* TBD  
31 TBD

### Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush  
Bernie Krecklow  
24 *Comm* TBD  
TBD

### Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Sam Henderson  
Priscilla Henderson  
Kerry Kerr  
Anne Waddell  
Lynda Self  
24 *Comm* TBD  
TBD  
TBD  
TBD  
TBD