

January—March, 2019



THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends:

Well, it's the time of year when our thoughts turn to making New Year's resolutions.

I'm sure many of you have made resolutions this year, and that's a good idea, of course. Pledging to be better in some way is always a good thing to do, so making them is a good thing. But there is a problem with resolutions as well.

When we make resolutions we think we know what to expect in the New Year, but experience shows that when we think we know what to expect we often get the unexpected. We can make all the resolutions we want, but the fact is, there is a chance that the unexpected might happen, and what do we do then?

One of the texts we hear often during this time of year is Matthew 2:1-12, the story of the wise men. We know that story of course, but there's a line right at the end, almost a throw-away line, that we might not have noticed. It says "having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

"They left by another road." I wonder if there is an analogy in there for us. Could it be that Herod represents the powers of the world and, having encountered Jesus, the wise men found a new and better way home. In other words, a new and better way of walking through this world?

Maybe what's going on here is we are being called to see there is another way of walking through life. Maybe we are being called to see that once we, like the wise men, have met Jesus Christ we will finally realize that the reason the unexpected throws us for such a loop is that we just aren't good enough, or smart enough, or strong enough to make our way through this world on our own. Maybe we'll realize that trusting our own earthly powers is just not enough to make our lives be what we expect or want them to be.

There are two roads home, you see. Our road and God's road.

It's not too late to resolve to take God's road this year, to follow the path that God has set before us, instead of the route we want to take.

And doing that is a resolution well worth making.

Let me conclude with a word of appreciation. I was so very, deeply touched by your incredible generosity to me and my family by remembering us this year with your Christmas Love Offering. It is difficult for me to express how much I appreciate your gift, but even more so your love, support, and friendship. I am so very grateful to serve as your pastor and look forward to the coming year.

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.
(2nd 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

January

1 Jean Nitkin
1 LeRoy (Skip) Smith
2 Diana Chaplin
6 Barb Hall
8 Lucille Dillon
24 Bradin Routh
29 Jeanne Murray
30 Betty Norman

February

1 Chandler Forrest
2 Irene Mahood
9 John Pruitt
17 Ed Downing
19 Anne Waddell
22 Kylie Downing
23 Jim Bolen
24 Lorna Foster
25 George Murray

March

1 Rita Barger
5 Bernie Krecklow
12 Paige Evans
13 Jim Nicholson
14 Ginger Clark
14 Becky Collins
28 Faye Hodges
30 Hamp Langdon

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

Anniversaries

January

16 George & Jeanne Murray
19 Floyd & Konnie Conrad
22 Kerry & Ruth Kerr
30 Scott & Lynne Forrest

February

Nothing on file

March

2 Norman & Lynda Self
3 Andy & Faye Hodges

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

First Presbyterian Church Session Members

Class of 2019

Lorna Foster
Lynda Self

Class of 2020

Sam Henderson
Rich Tincher

Class of 2021

Rusty Sudderth
Kerry Kerr

Growing Together in Faith

As we prepare to say farewell to 2018, and await the start of 2019, make us ever mindful of all that we have shared together as a family, a family in Christ this past year. We have seen new faces added to our congregation, and we are thankful for all Christ has sent our way. We welcome the opportunity to be a part of their spiritual journey, and hope we can grow into friendship as well as in discipleship. We

celebrated another successful year of eggs, and so appreciate all of those from the community who helped with their hearts and hands to serve our community. We had another successful holiday market, which provided us the opportunity to help a number of families within our community, who without our church, might not have felt the warmth of Christ's love at Christmas. We celebrate the continued success of our monthly Gathering service, both for its message and a chance to for us to gather for a meal as a family, since that is what we are. We, of course, miss those who we lost this past year, Norma Stikeleather, who was a longtime member and supporter of our church, and the loss of our beloved organist, Kay Sudderth, who's loss we feel every day. On the positive, we have the births of Megan Tincher's son Raylan and Adam Tincher's son Lenny. Hopefully new members in training.

Now, as we approach the new year, let's carry forth all the hope, the joy and the love that has filled our hearts and homes at Christmas, and put these attributes forward into the community at large. Let us continue to be Christ hands and feet with the Blessings Box, sharing with our brothers and sisters in need, that with which we have been so graciously blessed. Let us be focused on that Christ came to save all of us, because we are all in need of a Savior. And to quote a line from one of my favorite Christmas hymns, "O Little Town of Bethlehem", where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in. My hope is that during this Christmas season, the dear Christ has entered into your hearts and souls, and that you, like I, look forward to each and every opportunity in 2019 to show and tell others of his mercies, grace and love, so He may enter their hearts and souls as well.

With Christ's Peace,

Amy Evans
Director of Christian Education

Worship Service Schedules

January 2019

Greeters/Ushers

6 Millie Vernon
Rich Tincher
13 *Comm* Sam Henderson
Priscilla Henderson
20 Bernie Krecklow
Dale Watts
27 Joy Lynn Budkey
Jim Ingram

Lay Reader

6 Dottie Roudabush
13 *Comm* Dee Barham
20 Lorna Foster
27 Kerry Kerr

Element Preparation

13 *Comm* Norman Self
Lynda Self

Assisting Elders

13 *Comm* Faye Hodges
Ellen Watts
Kerry Kerr
Rich Tincher
Lynda Self

February 2019

Greeters/Ushers

3 Rusty Sudderth
Anne Waddell
10 *Comm* Dale Watts
Bernie Krecklow
17 Joy Lynn Budkey
Jim Ingram
24 Lynda Self
Norman Self

Lay Reader

3 Tom Parker
10 *Comm* Donna Myers
17 John Mills
24 Jean Nitkin

Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Nancy Bolen
Dottie Roudabush

Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Rich Tincher
Millie Vernon
Sam Henderson
Priscilla Henderson
Lorna Foster

March 2019

Greeters/Ushers

3 Millie Vernon
Faye Hodges
10 *Comm* Rich Tincher
Lorna Foster
17 Priscilla Henderson
Lorna Foster
24 Millie Vernon
Faye Hodges
Rusty Sudderth
Dale Watts
30

Lay Reader

3 Dee Barham
10 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush
17 Kitty Thach
24 Kerry Kerr
31 Tom Parker

Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow
Priscilla Henderson

Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Kerry Kerr
Ellen Watts
Anne Waddell
Rusty Sudderth
Dale Watts