

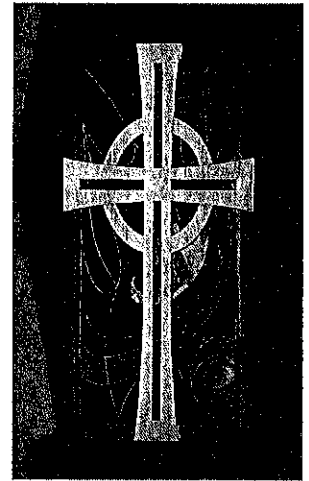
North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church

804 E Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

(336) 667-1288 ■ www.nwpres.org

Rev. R.C. Griffin, Pastor

December, 2019 Edition



Church Retreat 2019

October 25-27, thirty-one members of North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church traveled to the Valle Crucis Conference Center for the annual church retreat. It was a weekend of much meaning and insight for those who attended.

A weekend retreat “away” gives participants time to engage with one another in a relaxed setting, yet deeper level, as well as a chance to meditate on our faith and our commitment to NWPC. The beautiful scenery and delicious food are bonuses!

This year’s retreat leader, Rev. Paul Sink of Taylorsville Presbyterian Church, used scriptures from Luke 13:1-9 and Galatians 5:22-26 for the retreat theme, “God At Work Here.” Rev. Sink’s dynamic retreat sessions incorporated inter-generational discussions and hands-on art projects. A video of the adult parable, “The Prince Mammoth Pumpkin,” was viewed and thoughtfully discussed.

The group delved into the little-known parable of the fig tree and each participant gave much thought to their “fruit” of the spirit and how it could be used to benefit NWPC, and God’s kingdom.

For fun, activities for the young and the “not so young” included hiking to Crab Orchard Falls, a visit to Linville Caverns, rocking on the porch, games, puzzles, shopping at Mast General Store and s’mores over the fire.

Sunday morning, the sun came out during the participant-led worship service as the group sang, “Morning Has Broken.” During communion, we dedicated our “fruits” to God.

Throughout the weekend, God’s presence and guiding hand were evident. You won’t want to miss Retreat 2020, which is planned for Oct. 23-25.

THE PRESBY PRESS

The Newsletter of North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church

December, 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

"Do not be afraid" (Matt. 1:20). These are the first words uttered in the Gospel according to Matthew. They fall from the lips of an angel of the Lord who visits Joseph (yes, Joseph) after he made his decision to dismiss his soon-to-be wife, Mary, on account of her seeming infidelity – presumably, because of his own fear of his own present circumstance.

"Do not be afraid" (Matt 1:20). I'm always struck by just how much fear there is throughout the entirety of the biblical story, just how many times people are asked (or commanded) not to be afraid. In the Gospel of Matthew alone the exact words "do not be afraid" appear six times (and this doesn't include all of those other times when terms like "fear," "terror," etc. show up). But more than the mere utterance of words, I'm struck most of all by what those words – what those commands – do to people. The words "do not be afraid" are not meant simply to provide comfort in times of distress; rather, those words are meant to inspire action: do not be afraid *to* take Mary as your wife (1:18-25); do not be afraid of persecution *follow* God boldly (10:16-33); do not be afraid but *follow* Jesus to the cross (17:1-13); do not be afraid but *go and tell* everyone that Jesus has been raised (28:1-10).

"Do not be afraid" (Matt 1:20) – these are good words for us moving forward as well. Do not be afraid for Christ has come. Do not be afraid for Christ is coming. Do not be afraid for Christ is with us. Therefore, we can go into our unknown future together with courage and with confidence, boldly going wherever God asks us to go.

Peace be with you all, R.C.

Sympathies

We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to Tom Bowman on the death of his father who died on October 31, and to the family of Ruth McCachren who died on November 4.

Homebound Members

Our long time members who are unable to attend worship and activities would love to receive your visits, phone calls, and prayers: Coleman Ashley (home), Mildred Brooks (home), Jim Coats (Rose Glen), Jean Glass (home), Dulce Kite (home), Dot Lewis (home), Opha Manus (Villages of Wilkes), and Eddie Sturdivant (home). Please use the church directory or contact the church office for visitation information.

Whose Birthday Is it, Anyway?

Please plan to join your NWPC family for a Matthew 25-focused Advent Celebration and Potluck Supper on Sunday, December 1, from 5-7 p.m., sponsored by the Faith Formation Committee. Come for a laid-back time of making cards and simple Christmas ornaments to share with homebound members, nursing home residents and others, receiving information on alternative gift-giving to various charitable organizations in Wilkes and beyond, and taking time for quiet meditation and prayer centered around the manger. We will end our time together with a potluck supper-Thanksgiving leftovers welcome!!

Youth Schedule

Youth group meetings are now on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 p.m.

December 1 – Advent Celebration, No Youth Group
December 8 – Church Youth Rooms
December 15 – Church Youth Rooms (Christmas Party, dinner provided)

Wilkes Chambers Singers Present "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Wilkes Chamber Singers will present their annual holiday concert, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilkesboro and again on Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. here at NWPC. The performances are free; however, attendees are asked to bring canned foods to be donated to Samaritan Kitchen of Wilkes. A love offering will be taken.

Elderberries Luncheon

On Monday, December 9, the Elderberries will meet at the Olive Garden at 11:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship, lunch, and Christmas "Polite Santa" Gift Exchange. Please RSVP to Richard Collier.

Morning Circle

Morning Circle will have their meeting on Tuesday, December 10, at 11:00 a.m. at the Artisan Café for lunch. Please note change of date and time, as the 1st Tuesday was not available for lunch.

Kingdom Kids Christmas Program

Please join us on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. as our Kingdom Kids present their annual Christmas program, "Shepherds, Sheep, and A Savior".

"Festival of Lessons and Carols"

The annual Christmas worship service of music and scripture will be Sunday, December 22, at 11:00 a.m. The choir will be leading the service of carols, "Festival of Lessons and Carols." Make sure you put this date on your calendar and join us for this wonderful program of music and scripture.

Christmas Joy Offering

We will receive this offering on Sunday, December 22, during our worship service. Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or enabling deserving students to attend Presbyterian related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gift to the Christmas Joy Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

Christmas Eve Candlelighting and Communion Service

Join us on Tuesday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. as we gather with our church family and community friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior! A nursery will be provided.

The Matthew 25 Offering will be received during this service. It is used solely to alleviate human suffering in obedience to Christ's directive and will be administered by our church locally. There is a great need in our community.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Mark your calendars: the Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive at NWPC on January 9, 2020. Appointments may be made now online at www.redcrossblood.org or by contacting Ellen Lipscomb at (336) 262-3545 or ellenlipscomb@gmail.com.

News From the Wilkesboro Chapel

Worship begins at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning and is followed by Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during worship on December 1, 2019 and December 24, 2019 at the 7:00 Christmas Eve service.

Our Sunday school class will have a special Advent study from Thoughtful Christian named "Finding Our Place at the Manger".
The Presby Press - December, 2019

NWPC Sunday Schedule:

9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
5:30 p.m. - Youth Group Meeting

Wilkesboro Chapel Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School

NWPC Wednesday Schedule:

11:30 a.m. - Prayer Group
5:30 p.m. - Kirk Night Meal
6:30 p.m. - Kirk Night Program
6:30 p.m. - Kingdom Kids and Youth
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Ushers and Greeters for December:

David Bauguess, Mamie Collier, Margery Edgerton, Jo Green, Barbara Gregory, Ted Hall, Bill Lipscomb, Bud Mosley, Peg Mosley, Perry Snipes, and Bob Vickery

Elder at Wilkesboro Chapel Communion Table

December 1 - Pollye Pruitt
December 8 - Charlie Sink
December 15 - Andy Steele
December 22 - Bob Vickery
December 29 - Barbara Wiebel

December Schedule for Nurseries and Children's Worship

Baby and Toddler Nursery - Linda Kilby and
Linda Lankford
Children's Worship - Fran and Linda Grace York

October Financial Report

Receipts Year to Date: \$376,417.25
Disbursements Year to Date: \$409,866.84
Net Year to Date: (\$33,449.59)
Matthew 25 Fund: \$5,527.77

December Kirk Night Schedule

December 4 - Bill Bellinger on Alaska
December 11 - Committee Meetings
December 18 - Kingdom Kids Christmas Program

December Kirk Night Meal Schedule

December 4 - Dale's Chili Beans, Mexican Cornbread, and Dessert
December 11 - Bean with Bacon Soup, Grilled Cheese, and Dessert
December 18 - TBA

December Kirk Night Greeter and Drink Server Schedule

December 4 - Greeter (Caroline Czerkawski); Drink Server (Beth Huie)
December 11 - Greeter (Mike McNeil); Drink Server (Jo Green)
December 18 - Greeter (Alan Cole); Drink Server (Jean Cole)

December Dates to Remember

December 1 - Advent Celebration - 5:00 p.m.
December 2 - Noon Circle
December 8 - Session Meeting
December 9 - Elderberry Luncheon at Olive Garden - 11:30 a.m.
December 10 - Morning Circle at The Artisan Café - 11:00 a.m.
December 10 - Chamber Singers Concert - 7:30 p.m.
December 18 - Kingdom Kid's Christmas Program
December 22 - Christmas Cantata

December Birthdays

5 Kathryn Steele
5 Stanley Sanders
12 Tim York
14 Ellen Lipscomb
26 Dale Wayne
27 Zachary Matherne
30 Tom Musson