



# First Light

Volume 27, Issue 10

Nov./Dec. 2017

“But Mary treasured...and pondered them in her heart.”

*“The Word of Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love. And just as you do not analyze the words of someone you love, but accept them as they are said to you, accept the Word of Scripture and ponder it in your heart, as Mary did. That is all....Do not ask ‘How shall I pass this on?’ but ‘What does it say to me?’ Then ponder this word long in your heart until it has gone right into you and taken possession of you.”*

**From Dietrich Bonhoeffer,  
Life Together**

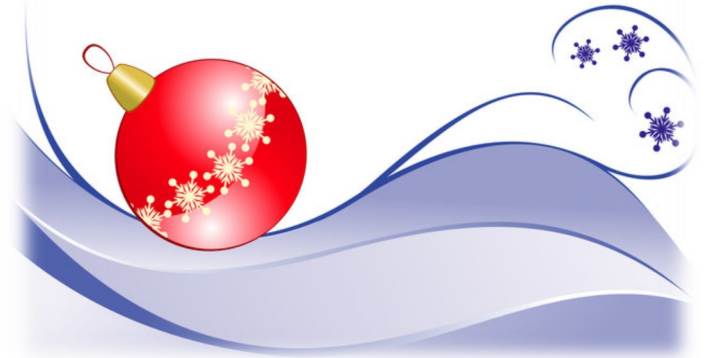
## Christmas Eve Services

~ Schedule ~

11:00 AM Service & Pageant

7:00 PM Traditional Service

11:00 PM Traditional Service



Please note our office closure dates

### November Closures

Thursday, November 23

Friday, November 24

**Happy  
Holidays**

### December Closures

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

547 Seventh Avenue ∞ Fairbanks, AK 99701

[www.fairbanksfirstpres.com](http://www.fairbanksfirstpres.com)

(907) 452-2406



## ~ First Monday Sew Social~

4PM - 8PM  
Dinner will be served at 6PM

Projects are provided,  
feel free to bring your own!

Everyone is welcome,  
sewing is not mandatory,  
Just come for fellowship.

First project...  
Andy and Mary's quilt

For more information please contact  
Amy Logan at: 817-721-7702



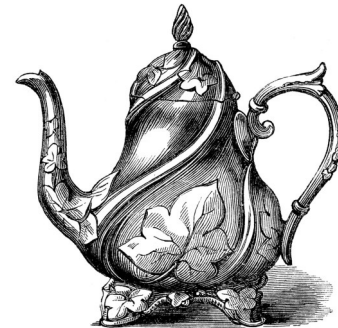
## November Birthdays

1	Sophie Strong	16	Jeanette Wrede
3	William Mullen	20	Katrina Nore
4	Shirley Kent	21	Deanna Morris
5	Brian Albert		Pam Hennessey
	Jack Morris	22	Vincent Eldridge
7	Dave Dreydoppel	23	Bonnie Johnson
	Barbara Schneider		Don Marsh
8	Ron Taylor	24	Owen Bunch
9	Joanna Jagow		Daniel Griggs
12	Hannah Ekblad		Henry Repasky
13	Jason Huffaker	26	Tristen Masterson
	Johanna Coester	28	Kathi Stevens

We wish our November and December birthdays a

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Please let the Deacons, or office, know if we have overlooked  
a birthday, or have the wrong date listed.



## SILVER TEA

Saturday, November 25, 2017

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Enjoy tea, baked goods and bazaar items

For over 80 years the women of our church  
have supported local missions using proceeds  
from the Silver Tea.

For more information please contact the  
church office at 907-452-2406

### First Light A Monthly Newsletter Publication of First Presbyterian Church

547 Seventh Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 452-2406

#### SENIOR PASTOR

Andrew Ekblad  
andrew.ekblad@fpcfairbanks.com

#### ASSOCIATE PASTOR

David Moody  
david.moody@fpcfairbanks.com

#### OFFICE MANAGER

Tillila "Til" Beetus  
tillila.beetus@fpcfairbanks.com

#### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

David McConnell-Booher  
david.booyer@fpcfairbanks.com

#### INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Heidi Van Harper  
heidi.vanharper@fpcfairbanks.com

Newsletter submissions must be received in the  
church office by the 20th of each month.  
Submissions may be dropped off or emailed to Til.

PLEASE NOTE:

Pastor Andy will be on vacation from  
Monday, November 20, 2017  
through

Monday, November 27, 2017

∞

The Well dinners are Wednesdays  
from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

∞

Children's Play Group is held on  
Thursdays from

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Please contact Amber Sunderland at  
(970) 497-9481  
for more information.

# Financial Report



**Through September 2017**

<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$434,226
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$468,040
<b>Net</b>	(\$33,814)

# MADE FOR MORE

## USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS THE WORLD AROUND YOU

FIND A CLASS NEAR YOU

Jan 16, 2018 through May 1, 2018

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm - 8:30pm

FPC Fireside Room

\$300 (Scholarships available from Mission Committee)  
Child Care is Provided

Register now: [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org)  
click "find a class near you" button.

*"Perspectives is, in my experience, **the single best discipleship course** to mobilize the church to  
God's mission.  
Perspectives gives people their first crucial steps, opening their eye's to God's work in the world  
and **God's call on their lives.**"*

*J.D. Greear. Pastor, Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, NC. Author, Gaining by Losing.*





## Sing-It -Yourself Messiah

Saturday, December 16, 2017

**3:00 PM**



# December Birthdays

1	Donna Brewer	15	Janie Feist
	Gretchen Wietgreffe	17	Christopher Cogley
2	Loriann Quakenbush		River Gates
3	Suzanne Black		Caleb Sunderland
4	Bennett Gilbert	18	John Fink
5	Keith Nore	19	Thelma Pierce
	Becky Fuller	20	Lindsey Dreydoppel
7	Eleanor Marsh		Cade Albert
9	Devin Perkins	21	Joanne Klaver
10	Bill Glocke	22	John Anderson
	Linda Mullen		Glenn Hackney
11	Brian Sunderland	23	Denis Gardella
	Brooks Gilbert	24	JoAnn Mills
12	Trevor Bunch	25	Joyce Tapper
	David Denton	27	Gayle Meurs
	Don Harpole	29	Shirley Albert
	Elizabeth Jones	30	Brenna McConnell-Booher
	Michelle VanHatten	31	Kristina Anderson
13	Bobby Perkins		Daniel Armstrong
14	Brian Rozell		Daniel Cogan

## Let Their Be Light

### Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday Morning Schedule

Parents, please see the children's kiosk for December rehearsals

**December 3**    **Music rehearsal for both services, costume fitting**  
**10:00 - 10:15**    **Fellowship Hall**

**December 10**    **Music rehearsal for both services, costume fitting**  
**10:00 - 10:15**    **Fellowship Hall**

**December 17**    **Music and play rehearsal for both services, work with narrators**  
**10:00 - 11:00**    **Fellowship Hall**

**December 23**    **Music and play rehearsal**  
**9:30 - 12:00**

**December 24**    **Meet in Sunday School classrooms**  
**10:00**    **Music in Basement**  
**11:00**    **SHOWTIME**

## Maturing Towards Christ-mas

*“By this the love of God was manifested among us, that God has sent his only begotten son into the world so that we might live through him.” (1 John 4:9)*

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that whoever believes him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17)*

Last week we hosted our weekly *Family Night* dinner in our home. This group is made up of six international students: three Buddhists, two from Sri Lanka and one from Japan, two Muslims from Iran, a Christian from New Zealand, and Mary, Hannah and me. We have been doing this each week since late September instead of hosting a life group because we want to live intentionally as *Christ lights* on behalf of the world that doesn't yet know Jesus. This is part of what it means to live the kingdom life, or to live eternal life. It is allowing the incarnate Christ to reborn in our lives so that the world might come to know the saving news of God's love.

This, however, doesn't come naturally to most of us. My hope and prayer is that learning to pass on the gospel would be the direction towards which we all are moving. The fact is, however, the longer we are Christians the more we tend to isolate ourselves from those who don't know the Father, Son, and Spirit. The longer we are Christians, the more our social circles tend to narrow and exclude those outside the church. If we're actually growing more like Jesus, however, it ought to be the other way around. We should be growing more missional, more in love with the world that doesn't yet know the Savior, and more in touch with the Father who broke into the world in Jesus that first Christmas.

What has happened in the church to make us turn inward upon ourselves is that we have mistakenly come to associate discipleship or Christian maturity with head knowledge, Bible knowledge, and the practice of good attendance at worship and Sunday school or life group. Now, I will be the first to say that growth in our knowledge of the things of God and faithful attendance in worship, life groups, and teaching opportunities is important, but in our Western thinking, we have come to mistakenly think of this as the whole enchilada of the spiritual life (of course including an active devotionally life). **Christian spiritual growth towards maturity, however, is the process of being formed into the image of Christ for the glory of God and the sake of the world.** If we, as Jesus followers, are not actively engaging the world for whom Christ died, something is terribly wrong. There is disconnect in our faith.

Christ Jesus came bearing the Father's saving love to you and to me personally, and his hope is that his heart, his life, his mission, his passionate love for the world might be *reproduced in and through us*. In other words, Christ came to us, in part so that we might go to others to bring good news of salvation. Nothing is more central to your purpose in life than this, to know God and make him known!

Back to last week at our Family Night. After sharing a meal and casual conversation around the table, we moved into the living room where Hannah drew a diagram describing the good news of salvation offered to all through Jesus. It was so fun and exciting to see the faces of our new friends as they listened and asked questions about this most important news. For them it was the first time anybody had ever explained the gospel of Jesus Christ and we had the privilege of being a part of that. It was Christmas happening all over again. God was taking on flesh and bones through our dinner and conversation to these friends. The love of God was being *manifested* and the lights of understanding were going on.

I tell you this to set an example for you and to encourage you to actively seek ways to engage the world that God loves with the message of the gospel. This is essential to Christian spiritual maturity. In many ways, **Christmas comes every time the Word, who is Jesus, takes on tangible form through our witness.** Will you love the ones who don't yet know the Savior? Show and tell the world that there is a God who loves them and has come into this world to bring them life.

May we all yield ourselves toward being formed into the image of Jesus so that we live for the glory of God and the sake of the world.

Christmas blessings!  
Pastor Andy



# Advent 2017

Once again, Advent is upon us. Webster's defines advent as "the arrival or emergence of a noble person, thing or event."

The season of Advent is the beginning of what is traditionally the church year— marking time based on events in salvation history centered on the person of our Lord and his church. During Advent we prepare ourselves for his coming- yes celebrating God's incarnation (enfleshment) in the baby Jesus and anticipating his return and the consummation of all history under his Lordship.

My prayer for our particular portion of the Lord's vineyard, for this Advent season- is that we would gain a greater sense of anticipation for God's inbreaking- into our lives, into this community, into history. I'm praying that for myself, and for you!

Did you know, God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose? Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. **The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any Christian.**

Perspectives is a fifteen week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" — Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose.

The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day.

The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.

And friends, for the first time ever, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is coming to Fairbanks! Thirteen top notch speakers, plus one not so top notch, but I am cheap- will bring their experience, knowledge and insight to our town. The course runs **Jan. 16- May 1**, with a week off for UAF Spring break. We meet Tuesday night from 6-8.30pm at FPC. Childcare is provided. The course costs \$300, the mission committee believes in this course so much though, we've set scholarship money aside for FPC'ers.

There is a registration and orientation class, Tuesday, 09 Jan from 6-7.30, and class begins the next week, 16 January at 6pm.

Visit [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org), click on 'find class' at bottom of page, click on Alaska and you'll find the class info with all the details. You can talk with me as well!

Grace & Peace of Christ you and yours,  
Pastor Dave

## Happy Advent!

Did you know that Advent is the beginning of the year in the Church Calendar?

What a wonderful way to start the year: anticipating the arrival of our Messiah! As we wait in our darkest time, the coming Light of Christ begins to shine. That's a pretty good foundation for our year, eh?

Just as the Church Calendar jumps out in lead ahead of the secular, so we too, are called to step out in leadership for the rest of the world. We are teaching and practicing our Youth to do just that - to step out with boldness, carrying the Cross of Jesus as an example of both servant leadership and radical grace and love into a world marred by darkness of sin.

It's no easy job, but when we come together as one body, relying on God's Word and Spirit and leaning on one another, our little mustard seed of faith can shake the mountains!

We want every student from 7th-12th grade to be a part of this Advent movement in our Youth Ministry! We meet regularly to work, study, play, and serve together - all little ways that add up to Discipleship and ongoing Christian Formation. Please come, bring your teenagers, and we can continue the work that Jesus, our coming Messiah, has called us to!

### Youth Ministry in December

Sunday School - 10am - Every Sunday EXCEPT December 24

Sunday Youth Group - 1 to 4pm - Every Sunday EXCEPT December 24

Wednesday Youth Service Project - 4 to 7pm - Every Wednesday

Meeting for ALL Parents and Youth - 1pm Sunday December 3, Lunch Provided

Friday FUN! - December 8 - 5:30 to 9:30pm - Meet at church - Heading to FLY Trampoline Park!

Youth Group Christmas Party! - December 23 - 3:30-7:30 - Meet at David and Brenna's House -

4519 Chena Hot Springs Road - Dinner, Games, White Elephant Gift Exchange, and PUPPIES!

Grace and Peace,  
David McConnell-Booher  
[david.booyer@fpcfairbanks.com](mailto:david.booyer@fpcfairbanks.com)

## Bible 101

Many Christians today do not enjoy a good understanding of the Bible. Until I was in my mid-thirties (a few years ago), I did not know how the Bible was organized, its origins, authors of the 66 books, and most importantly, some of the basic themes and messages that are timeless for all readers. You might find yourself in the same situation.

Are you comfortable with you basic knowledge of the Bible? Dave Dreydoppel and Jerry Cleworth will lead a 12 week class beginning January 7th during the Sunday School hour. This course will give you a good understanding of God's word so that you will feel comfortable reading and applying the Bible for your everyday life. We would greatly encourage you to take this step forward in your faith. We also guarantee it will be fun! If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Cleworth or Dave Dreydoppel.

**First Presbyterian Church**

547 Seventh Ave. at Cushman St.

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Return Service Requested

---

**Elders On Session**

**Bill Beaudoin**

**Terry Reichardt**

**Donna Brewer**

**Ted Riggs, Sr.**

**Jerry Cleworth**

**Brian Rozell**

**Dave Dreydoppel**

**Perry Schneider**

**Michelle Harpole**

**Joyce Tapper**

**Board of Deacons**

**Cindy Aldrich**

**Linda Mullen**

**Nancy Dreydoppel**

**Barbara Nore**

**Debra Foster**

**Keith Nore**

**Kathy Rahmandar Halfhill**

**Darlene Lundberg**

**Michelle VanHatten**

**Jonny Marney**

**Charlotte Wilbur**

**Michele Marney**