



THE Link

December 2016

The news on what's happening in the life of Cameron Presbyterian Church.

Hanging of the Greens



Mike Younts makes a few final adjustments to the sanctuary Christmas tree, whose decoration was part of the church's Nov. 26 Hanging of the Greens at the beginning of Advent.

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From your Pastor



“STARward in 2017”

2016 has been quite a year for many of us, one full of unexpected joys and small moments of delight, and yet, one that seems punctuated by grief and loss. Some things we'd like to bring with us into 2017: resilience, courage and faith, to name a few. But others will simply not fit in our carry-on luggage: regret, bitterness and indifference. As we wander into 2017 with the joyful gait of a child or the begrudging stumble of a weary soul, one question arises for each of us and for our church: what will 2017 bring? Will it be somehow kinder to us; will *we* be kinder to us, for that matter? It's a big question, with an answer that might take more than 365 days to suss out. And so we need something, anything, to grasp onto as we journey into this new year.

Those wise guys who wandered in search of that refugee redeemer, that infant messiah, had something to guide them. It was something we have all the time, if we stop our nighttime fretting enough to look up. A star. That star showed them the way to the One who would bring life for us all. God could have used anything to guide them, but the steadfast light of an unusually bright star did the trick. Those who were used to reading the stars to imagine the future found one star that changed everything for them. We need a star, friends. Buckets of them, actually.

Thankfully, drawing upon the creativity of a former seminary classmate Marci Glass, we have them. Her congregation in Boise, Idaho, and now hundreds more across the country, observe epiphany by giving out stars to each worshipper. A star is selected at random, as you will do on January 1. On that star is a word, a gift like those gifts the Magi brought Jesus, to guide you through 2017. You may get the word conviction, forgiveness, contentment, imagination or humor, or another word. Then, you will have the chance to follow that star, and the guiding of the Christ child into the next year of your life. Perhaps God will reveal to you your deepest convictions, and let lesser

STARward (cont'd)

distractions fall away. Perhaps you will begin to forgive yourself for a long-past mistake, and extend that forgiveness to others. Perhaps contentment will come in the most unexpected way, through the most unexpected person. Who knows what 2017 will bring? God does. And stars guide us to God, and *to* one another, as we journey into the unknown with the light of hope guiding each step forward.

You may place your star wherever you're most likely to see it: on your refrigerator, in your car, on your laptop, or bathroom mirror. Any time you see it, remember this word as a guide and examine your life and faith through it. If you are not able to be in worship this Sunday, but would still like a Star Word to guide you through the coming year, I'll be happy to get one to you. May God bless, disturb, surprise, and delight us in this coming year, as we seek the Christ child together.

*Peace,
Rev. Whitney*



“Acceptance” was my Star Word for 2016. It was often amusing how apt that word was in given situations of my year.

Honoring Those Who Have Served Our Country

Photos by David Seiberling



There was good and enthusiastic attendance when congregation and guests shared fellowship after worship Nov. 13 and recognized veterans of U.S. military service with a soup and sandwich luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, which Julie Oksendahl's Fellowship Committee had decorated with a patriotic theme. The event included a salute from Hayes Harbour (below) and an impromptu sing-along of favorite tunes, with Music Director Mary Rush at the piano (below right).



Christmas Cantata: "Breath of Heaven" Was Heavenly Music

Our sanctuary choir performed Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith's cantata "Breath of Heaven" on Dec. 18 for an appreciative audience of members and guests. Larry and Christie Allen spoke the parts of Mary and Joseph; instrumental soloists were Cheryl Bacon (bass guitar) and Emily Whittle (violin). The audience enjoyed refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the cantata.



Festivity with Cakes and Carols



Worship on Dec. 4 was followed by a holiday treat: delicious mini-sandwiches and cupcakes in the parlor (here, at left, being enjoyed by Phyllis Frederikson, Lois Frazelle and Marcene Emerson) ... AND ...



David Seiberling (right) and his son, Ellis (visiting for Christmas from New Orleans), played trombone duets of seasonal music for the Prelude, Offertory and Postlude at our Christmas Day service of Lessons and Carols.

... meanwhile, Barbara Peiker sang a program of Christmas music in the sanctuary (right), accompanied by Music Director Mary Rush.





Come
Join Us!

CPC Helps with Food Drive



Joe McKay (left) and Bruce Phillips load a pickup with food boxes for distribution from Vass on Christmas Eve.

By Terry Kerr

Early in the morning of December 24 a substantial number of our congregation helped the Vass Lions Club deliver large boxes of food to needy families in northeastern Moore County. This annual project was initiated more than 50 years ago by long-time church member Aubrey Keith and a few other Vass Lion Club members. Initially they served about 15 local families, but by this most recent Christmas Eve that number had grown to more than 230. When Aubrey was no longer able to lead the project, his son Leon took over. Leon's leadership continued for many years, and he assumed the gargantuan task of drawing scores of maps by hand so that drivers could find their destinations. Leadership was then passed on to Terry Kerr, who produced computer-generated maps.

The food comes from a variety of sources. Six area schools collect food. Campbell's Soup Company donates several pallets of soup and juice. Our church collects non-perishable food. The local food bank provides about six pickup loads of food collected from local grocers, and the Lions Club purchases a large quantity of fresh food from Piggly Wiggly.

Congregational Meeting Elects Elders

The congregation elected three nominees—Shan Chase, Kathy Oldham and Linda Seiberling—for the Class of 2019 Elders and one nominee—Jane Ethridge—to fill the unexpired 2017 term at a Called Congregational Meeting Nov. 20 immediately after worship. They will be ordained/installed Sunday, January 8. In addition, the following members were elected to the 2017 Nominating Committee: Terry Kerr and Bruce Phillips, co-chairs; Jim Leiby, Tommy Trent, Patsy Keith and Rose Cooper.

The Session will next meet January 24. The annual congregational meeting will take place following worship January 29, with a covered dish lunch.



January

Matthew Cooper	Jan. 2
Mary Rush	Jan. 2
Rev. Whitney Wilkinson	Jan. 4
Kay Paul	Jan. 6
Lil' Bill Britton	Jan. 11
Bill Emerson	Jan. 11
Zacary Bettini	Jan. 12
Carol Thomas	Jan. 13
Erika Chase	Jan. 14
Claire Cameron	Jan. 27
Lois Frazelle	Jan. 27

February

Norma Loase	Feb. 1
Barbara Peiker	Feb. 7
Debbie Peele	Feb. 9
Jennifer Ethridge	Feb. 12
Larry Allen	Feb. 13
Lois Hendrickson	Feb. 15
Marilyn Huntress	Feb. 16

The Link needs your news! Please send items of interest to our church community to Sandy Leiby (sleiby@yahoo.com) or call 910-245-2535.



Working with DOT: You Can't Always Get What You Want

By Sandra Leiby

The front yards and old trees of Cameron's historic district will not be sacrificed to paved sidewalks or a "multi-use" pedestrian/bicycle path, according to Matt Day of Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO). That was the good news at a November 29 meeting between Day and a small group of town residents.

Although sidewalks and pedestrian/ bicycle routes appeared on the three maps Day distributed at the meeting, "getting funding for this stuff is very difficult," he conceded. "It's just not likely to happen. DOT won't ever come and tell you that you have to have sidewalks."

Day also confirmed that (1) the N.C. Department of Transportation has dropped State Highway 24/27 (Carthage Street) from a list of roads slated for eventual widening to four lanes; as a result, (2) a bypass around the village is also no longer in the cards. The reason: Traffic projections for 24/27 do not indicate a future increase to the point where widening and a bypass would be warranted.

With that established, said Day, "I'm here to talk about improvements you think would be good for the existing road through town."

Those in attendance had several suggestions, most of which turned out to be unworkable under current DOT policies. The primary issue for residents at the meeting

Try Some Low-Impact Yoga!

Do you want to get a little healthier this fall and winter? Join our yoga group on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Sunday School classroom. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in, and bring a yoga mat or large towel and a bottle of water. We will use low-impact yoga DVDs as we exercise together.

Join us! ■



DOT (cont'd)

was motorists speeding through town. "We have a full-time policeman, but he can't be everywhere all the time. It's shocking how fast some people go, even in the 25 mph zone," said Sarah Hillmer, a Town Council member. However, DOT won't sanction speed bumps at each end of the school zone (one suggestion) because it's against policy for a state highway. Similarly, the speed limit throughout town could not be lowered to 25 mph because 35 mph is standard for residential areas; only industrial or commercial areas are reduced to 25. Any variation from this norm would require a DOT survey of traffic through town and more bureaucratic red tape. "I will pass along your requests to DOT; I'm just telling you that's how they set speed limits," said Day.

As for a truck route directing big rigs around the village center, DOT only allows that if the route through town won't support trucks—for instance, because of an insufficient bridge or too-low overpass. How about crosswalks as a visual cue alerting motorists to slow down?— DOT will only institute crosswalks if there are paved sidewalks at each end of the crosswalk.

... and so on. The bottom line after an hour of discussion was that higher-visibility speed limit and stop signs, perhaps with flashing lights for the school zone, are a realistic objective within DOT policies. TARPO's draft plan should be complete and ready for discussion in county-wide public meetings in spring 2017. Day advised residents that the improvements they seek (such as better signage) might not appear on the plan. "But I will share them with the DOT Division Office," he said.

Our Vision

In response to feedback from our growing and changing congregation, we envision fulfilling our mission by:

- *Enhancing our facilities*
- *Expanding our programs*
- *Attracting and inspiring through worship*
- *Serving faithfully through our missions*

Elders

Class of 2016

Dawn Barber - Chair, Worship
(910)-947-3184
drb150drb@gmail.com

Andrey Bereznitskiy - Chair, Mission and Outreach
(910)-245-9996
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Dean Phillips - Chair, Building and Grounds
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Class of 2017

Terry Kerr - Chair, Christian Education
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Bruce Phillips - Chair, Member Care
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Class of 2018

**Cathy McRae - Clerk of Session
Budget and Finance, Interim Chair**
(910)-245-4929
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Julie Oksendahl - Chair, Fellowship
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Sandra Leiby - Chair, Administration
(910)-245-2535
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DATE NIGHT: Bacon-Wrapped Ricotta-Stuffed Dates

-- a recipe from Rev. Whitney Wilkinson

1/3 cup ricotta cheese
24 dates, pitted by pushing a toothpick through center lengthwise and removing pit
6 strips of bacon, cut into fourths widthwise
freshly cracked black pepper
toothpicks, to serve

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Mix ricotta with black pepper, adjusting seasoning as desired. There's no need to add salt because of the saltiness of the bacon. Place ricotta in a food storage bag and snip off a very small portion of a corner to make a piping bag. Fill dates with ricotta, then wrap in bacon, placing seam-side down 1 inch apart on a *rimmed* baking sheet. Bake for 8 minutes, then turn and bake for an additional 6 minutes or until bacon is crisp. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately. Makes 2 dozen.

I was once making these in a hurry for a holiday party and decided that a silicone mat might help the bacon to crisp completely without having to be turned. So, into the oven these little drops of delight went, sitting atop that slippery silicone ... on an un-rimmed baking sheet. The silicone, rather than helping cook the bacon evenly, provided a nonstick surface for that grease to rapidly drip right off the edge of the sheet...and onto the hot element of the oven. You guessed it—fire! One might think a silicone baking mat would be impervious to fire. One would be wrong, y'all. After putting out said fire with a huge amount of baking soda and a fair amount of flailing around, I finished those flambéed dates in a hot skillet. People at the party raved about them anyway! I tasted a particular smokiness I knew was not just from the bacon, but they were none the wiser. Each time I've served these sweet, chewy dates, stuffed with creamy ricotta and enclosed in a crispy bacon crust, people go wild for them. Go ahead, trust your friendly fire-starting pastor, and make these little gems for New Year's Eve parties. You won't regret it. Do keep a fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.



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Several New Trees Promise Future Shade for Memorial Park



New trees for the park have been purchased from Gilmore’s nursery in Liberty, N.C. using funds given to the town by the late Sue Phillips.

“We planted a tulip poplar, two willow oaks, an overcup oak, three dogwoods, and two redbuds around the shelter. A river birch was put near the bathroom. Near the shelter we also planted a black gum and two sourwoods. At the top of the hill after you cross the bridge you’ll see a fine live oak,” reports Sarah Hillmer of the Park Committee. Smaller trees were planted by volunteers including Sarah, her husband,

Fred, Laura Younts and her grandson Dylan. A landscaper was hired to plant the five larger trees.

It will be essential to water the new trees in the coming spring and summer, using water from the rest rooms at the park. The watering takes up to an hour and a half, says Sarah. “Any amount of help is welcome.” Anyone interested in helping with watering should feel free to call or email Sarah. Her phone is 245-2469 and email is sahil@centurylink.net.

