

The Sampler

January 2016

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From the

PASTOR

The Favor of the Lord

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Luke 1:46-48

As the new calendar year begins, let us all resolve to rejoice in the Lord as **Mary sang and to live with the reality of God's favor for us.** With the holiday bustle and festive gatherings mostly over, we must make time for reflection and thanksgiving. We need to consider all our blessings received in December and throughout the past year.

Yes, bad or sad events were probably also part of the last 365 days, but let them go. Nothing can be done to change them. What can be accomplished is focusing on all the good instead so our spirits can rejoice in the Lord. Life is not fair or easy but it is filled with the love of the Lord. We just have to let it in, to accept it.

Have you ever wondered if something you are working on is really going to turn into something worthwhile? The truth is that we, all of us, live somewhere in the midst of the past, the present, and the future: longing for the golden moments of days gone by, trying to navigate through the time that is here and now, and wondering what it will be like on down the road and when we are going to get there.

This life of ours is a journey, with twists and turns that can and will take us in many different directions. But as Christians, there is one thing of which we can be absolutely certain: we do not walk alone, for God has sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to come alongside us, to guide us and provide us with all that we need. And through His life and His love, His grace and His forgiveness, His death and His resurrection, our Lord has promised to lead us toward our final destination, where **we and all of God's family of faith will live together, forever, in that place we call heaven.**

Mary sings about the favor of the Lord when she tells her cousin Elizabeth about being pregnant with the baby to be called Jesus, Emmanuel, Messiah. While we have not been favored with such an event, God has blessed us in so many other ways. Let us rejoice and be glad in this new year.

Join me in singing praises each and every day!

Pastor Barb

January
2016

A decorative graphic for the January 2016 issue. It features the word 'January' in a large, elegant script font, with '2016' below it in a similar but smaller font. To the right of the text is a stylized black silhouette of a dove with its wings spread, surrounded by small snowflake icons.

Inside this issue:

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Session met on December 9, 2015, with the following report.

- Session approved the recommendations of the W&P Committee that the installation of elders be held on January 10, 2016, and that the next communion date be January 24, 2016.
- Session approved sending \$2000.00 to Presbytery as our pledge for 2016.
- Session will study the CAT report at its January 13, 2016 meeting.
- The 2015 Church Audits are to be completed by January 20, 2016.
- Session's Annual Review of Membership resulted in 16 members being moved to inactive status, leaving 91 active members.
- The 2015 PC (USA) Annual Statistical Report will be completed by the Pastor, Treasurer and Clerk by the first of February, 2016.
- Session elected the following for 2016: Beverly Keadle as Clerk of Session, Vida Simon as Treasurer, and Mary Glenn as Assistant Treasurer.
- Stated meetings of Session for 2016 will be the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. A retreat will be scheduled for the beginning of 2016.
- Session approved Offering Counters for 2016.

Dear Church Family,

Hopefully by the 4th of January I will have completed my 7th and final Chemotherapy treatment. I feel truly blessed to have suffered very few side effects. I feel my recovery can be attributed to all your many caring and loving thoughts and prayers. I am so appreciative for all the constant flow of get well and encouragement cards and letters, telephone calls, visits, friends supplying me with various foods, soups and the like. Support in so many ways. I have been astounded by all the outpouring of love and caring thru your many cards especially.

Words are inadequate to express my sincere appreciation during these past months of treatment and for all your thoughtfulness of me.

*May God richly bless each one of you and wishing you a healthy and happy New Year.
Sincerely, Anne Hill*

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Our Members: Bob Allen, Judy Buckbee, Diane Crane, Anne Hill, Sally Kuykendall, John and Margritt Mason, Beulah Mayhew, Barbara and John Pancake, Joe Pancake, Magdalene Sitar, Ward Voit

Missionary Support: Mark Hare in Haiti and Kristi Van Nostran in El Salvador

Our congregation extends its deepest Christian sympathy to the families and friends of Margaret Ashelman, Margaret and Sam High, Tilden Hunt and Mike Steward.

Also: Herb and Sandee Adrian, Mary Margaret Barbe, John Bowers, Dona Brown, Cheryl Buck, Gabrielle Clower, Boyd Corbin, Elsa Culler, Ashley Destel, John Duncan, Sr., Jane Fulton, Karina Gray, Harriett Griffith, Vicki and Carl Haines, Mary Alice Bonar Hannah, Shirley Heavner, Barbara Jamerson, Mike Jenkins, Junior Kuykendall, Alma Lear, Laura LeRoy, Dee Orndorff, Lexi Orndorff, Maria Reppert, Rusty Rice, Landon and Nolan Rinker, Steven Rogers, Tom Stump, Michael Terry, Joshua Wagner, Grant Walls, Emily Warner, Linda Willows, Addie Wood, Charlotte Wood

Please provide updates when available to keep this list as current as possible.

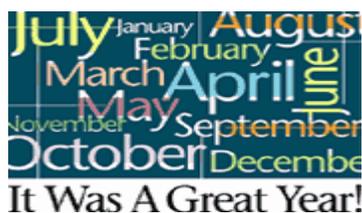
Congratulations to Kelsey Kiser granddaughter of Garry and Bonnie Long. Kelsey was the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award given recently at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Ceremony. She is on the soccer and swim teams and runs cross country at Greystone Charter School in Albemarle, North Carolina.

ADVENT WORKSHOP It's amazing how a beautiful large tree with sparkling lights magically appears in the Fellowship Hall every year on the first Sunday in Advent! Actually, Scott and Laura Staley and family have been responsible for this important mission in our church for several years. Many who worship at RPC, both in town and at St. Luke Chapel along with several friends gathered on the afternoon of November 29 to prepare the town church for the Christmas season. Thanks to Kathy Kuykendall, craft materials, directions and samples of ornaments were available to help everyone make snow people, ribbon candy, doves of peace, light bulb shapes and the traditional red and green paper chain to hang on the tree. The sanctuary and vestibule also became more festive with the addition of Nativity scenes, a tree and wreath with Chrismon's, and hurricane shades with candles and greenery on the window sills. The afternoon event ended with pizza, snacks and drinks shared by all who truly helped to "prepare ye the way."



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES The spirit of community was evident on the morning of December 12 at the Army Reserve Armory as many gathered to prepare Christmas Food Boxes. Volunteers from various churches, scouts, and 4-H Clubs gave their time to fill boxes that were distributed to 250 families in Hampshire County. Many thanks and much appreciation are given to John and Margritt Mason who have been heading this very worthwhile year long program since 2008. They have done a tremendous job!

The annual **CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** put on by the Sunday School Classes was on December 13, 2015. The hard work done by all was greatly appreciated to make such a great program. The program commenced with an opening prayer and the Advent Candle lighting by Evan Staley. Then the audience was entertained by stories, poems, readings, and singing by the Sunday School children. The audience was kept involved by singing traditional Christmas songs with a history and Bible reading related to the song preceding them. At the end of the program, the Youth Choir put on an excellent performance singing "Carol of the Donkey." The program finished with our annual tradition of singing Happy Birthday to Jesus. It was complete with a birthday cake with red candles, an angel, and a star, all representing different aspects of Jesus' birth. Special thanks goes out to the Staleys, the Sunday School teachers, Kaitlyn Hartman who illustrated the cover for the program handouts, and everyone else who helped to make our annual Christmas program a success.



Romney Presbyterian Church
110 West Rosemary Lane
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Return Service Requested

Back issues of the Sampler are available on our Website www.romneypresbyterianchurch.org.
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