



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

JANUARY 2018



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

Rev. Jeri Fields, Pastor for Interim Ministry
Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit, Parish Associate

Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Co-Directors
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbells Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Kim Parker, Office Manager
Justin Streletz, Accompanist
Dana Van Slyke, Choir Director
(Vacancy), Little Hands Preschool Director

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI



THANK YOU for your overflowing love and generosity this past Advent and Christmas (and throughout 2017). May the light of Christ continue to shine in you and through you and around you. You are an amazing congregation. God bless you as we embark upon following Christ in 2018!

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Generosity is grounded in gratitude, revealed in prayer, and lived in faith!
Your generosity was observed in many ways in December 2017.
How and where? Take a look at a *few* of the times. There were many more!



Un-Trim-a-Tree: 106 tags were replaced with the bright light of Christ shining through your giving to help children receive special Christmas gifts. God bless you and thank you!



The poinsettias given in memory of and honor of loved ones were magnificent this year. Thank you!

Continued next page,

*Passion for Christ—Compassion for Others
Loving God—Loving Others
Connect—Grow—Serve*



And there was much generosity with the giving of blankets and sleeping bags for distribution to those who are homeless: 27 blankets and 22 sleeping bags Thank you! God bless you!

And Children's Ministry received 322 pairs of adult socks, 80 pairs of children's socks; 8 - adult Hats, 2 - children's Hats. WOW!

And....there's more! You helped the Preschool collect 79 pairs of pajamas to be distributed throughout PWC with Scholastic Books donating a book for each pair of pajamas donated.



Gifts for baby Jesus at the Child-Friendly Christmas Eve service included many outfits for newborns up to 12 months, teething rings, bottles, etc. These were delivered to ACTS before a picture was taken...so here is a substitute picture. Thank you!



And on Christmas Eve you gave generously to the denomination's special Joy Offering. God bless you!

And through your generosity, we, as a church, end 2017 on another positive note with the 2017 budget having been made with a slight surplus.

Blessed to be a blessing, you have heard *and responded to the call of God to give generously of your time, talents, and treasures; remembering Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ~2 Corinthians 9:7.*

Giving thanks to God for who you are and all you do!

- Pastor Jeri

Remember Your Blessings!

HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you...



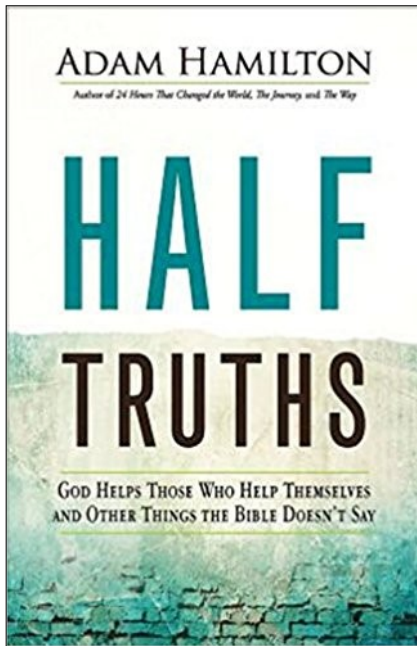
This January start the year
with an empty jar. Each
week add a note with a
good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty
the jar and read about the
amazing year you had.



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7 in Room 22, next to the Kitchen



Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

Join us in this 5-week Bible study to search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. The clichés include:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

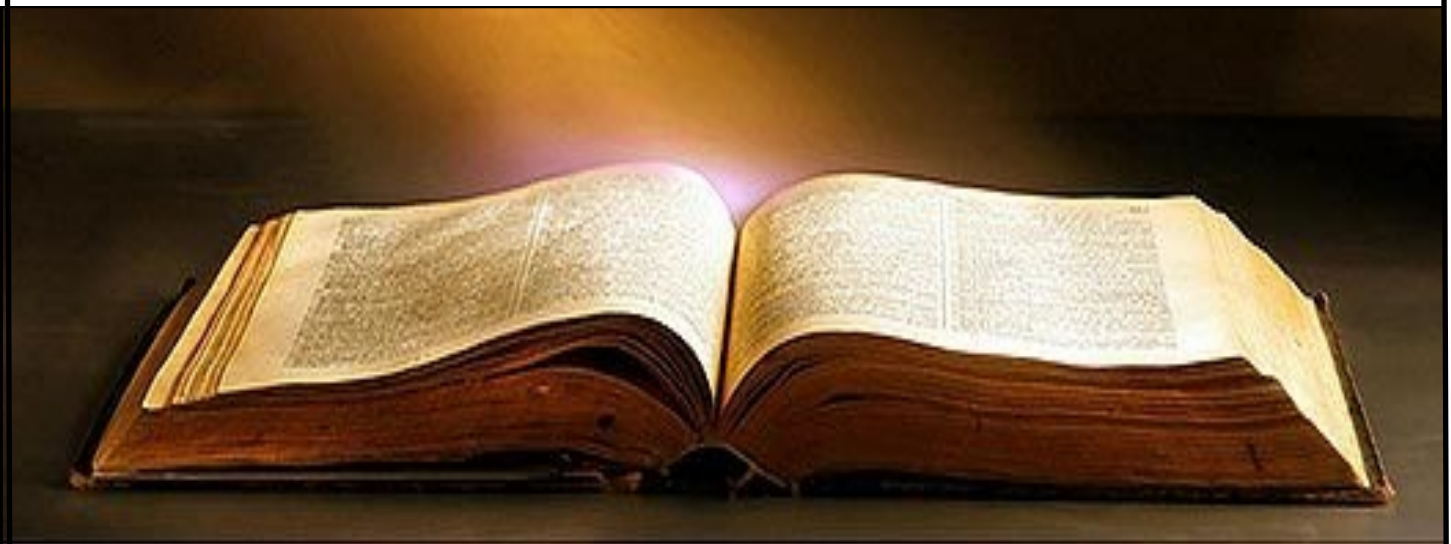
Books will be available on Sunday, January 7th. Cost: \$10. If cost prohibitive, free copies will be made available. If you want a copy, please let Pastor Jeri know.

LIVING FAITHFULLY BY STUDYING GOD'S WORD

Ultimately, the best biblical student is the one who not only seeks to understand but also is committed to applying the message of Scripture.

“Be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers,” ~ James 1:22.

May it be so for all of us!



NEW MEMBER CLASS



FUPCDC – 101



A 5-week new member orientation class under the leadership of Marti Hall, New Member Coordinator, will begin on Sunday mornings starting Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 9:45 AM in Room 19.

This gives you the opportunity to explore your faith, learn about Presbyterian history and beliefs, and understand how FUPCDC serves its congregation and community through worship, mission outreach, and church programs, and activities. You will meet members of the church and other newcomers to this congregation. Even if you are not sure about becoming a member at this time, you will find this class beneficial.

Child care is available for all classes.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to enroll in the class. You may also contact the church office at 703/670-7834 or Marti Hall at 703/626-2269 or email martihall@comcast.net for more information.

Session Report - December

The Session and the Board of Deacons met for a potluck meal on Tuesday, December 19th. This annual meeting of the Elders and Deacons is required by the Book of Order so that both groups can talk about how they can best serve the congregation. Out going Deacons Bob Albrecht, Kathy Cobb, Jeanette Gregory, Ashley Emert, and Ruth Washburg, along with outgoing elders Karen Attreed, Amy Greenslit and Nancy Hummer were thanked for their service and asked to give their advice to those coming on the Session and Board of Deacons. Incoming Deacons-elect Agnes Fokwa, Lisa Fortner, Kathy McNeely, Carol Schwalm, and Celine Sonkwa and Elders-elect Pam Cox and Peter Glycer were also recognized and welcomed. The group discussed their work in the past year and the ways that they could work together in the coming year.

When it reconvened, the Session approved the membership lists of the Elder Committees.

We have received 101 pledges so far, with 25 being new, for a total of \$384,600 which covers the amount of the proposed 2018 budget (spending plan).

Pastor Jeri's interim contract was extended for six months.

Funding for A Rise Against Hunger event scheduled for April 21, 2018 was authorized.

Building & Grounds reported that the cleaning contract for 2018 has been awarded and the parking lot was recently patched.

Our church insurer, Guide One, recently inspected the church for insurance risk and found only minor discrepancies.

Session approved the Mission committee's request to proceed in planning for an adult mission trip to Lumberton, NC from April 29 to May 5, 2018 for help in clean up and repairs after storm damage.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to connect and grow while enjoying a dinner each Wednesday night followed by Pastor's Bible Study and Chancel Choir rehearsal. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck, and on the following Wednesdays enjoy a delicious homemade meal. Salad, drinks, and dessert are also provided each week. Each month, on the first Wednesday, we celebrate upcoming birthdays!

There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation to help cover the cost of the food. Please join us for FOOD, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Jan. 3 Potluck Theme "A Healthy Start" (Healthier Food Options)

Jan. 10 Meatballs

Jan. 17 Turkey Chili

Jan. 24 Beef- Barley Soup

Jan. 31 Ham and Bean Soup



Mission and Outreach



P.O. Box 74
Dumfries, VA 22026
703-441-8606
Fax 703-221-3585
actspwc.org

December 4, 2017

Ms. Jean Peterman
1st United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Ms. Peterman,

On behalf of ACTS Domestic Violence Services, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of forty (40) \$25 gift cards that you brought to ACTS for our clients at the ACTS Domestic Violence Safe House. We understand that these gift cards were donated by the 1st United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. I can assure you that these gifts will be well-received by the people we serve and that the residents of the Safe House will be grateful for the care members of this community have shown towards them.

ACTS Domestic Violence Services' mission is to eliminate domestic violence by empowering victims to build lives free of violence. We offer a 24-hour crisis hotline, a domestic violence Safe House, one-on-one as well as group counseling, a behavioral intervention program, an award-winning court advocacy program, community education and awareness, and a Hispanic outreach program.

Through our programs, we have seen many lives changed for the better. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue in our mission.

Thanks again for your generous support and feel free to contact me should questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dotty Larson".

Dotty Larson, Director
ACTS Domestic Violence Services
P.O. Box 74, Dumfries, VA 22026, dlarson@actspwc.us
Tel: (703) 221-4460/4855, ext. 228

The portion of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 relating to IRS regulations requires that charities certify whether donations were made in consideration of a transfer of goods or services from the recipient agency. ACTS certifies that this donation was not accompanied by such transfer.

Stewardship

Stewardship – Karen Attreed

When my term as your Stewardship Elder terminates the end of December, I wanted, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, to thank the congregation for their generosity. The theme of this year's campaign, *Generosity Enhances Growth*, has truly been fulfilled. The asking budget has been met and exceeded through God's grace. This year, 2017, will end with a small surplus of funds. One could not be more proud of your support not only financially, but with items to support the many mission programs FUPCDC engaged in this season. Many shared their time and talents for our enjoyment. God continues to bless this congregation.

Adult Ministry

Welcome to 2018!

As 2017 came to a close Nancy Hummer completed her three-year term as Adult Ministry Elder. She is grateful to all the Adult Ministry students, teachers, and committee members, and Session members for their generous commitment, effort, and support. We all thank Peter Glycer for accepting his nomination as Adult Ministry Elder, and are delighted to welcome him and pledge our support to him in his new role. Welcome, Peter!

Growing in Love, Faith, and Joy through Bible Study and Fellowship:

Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM:

- † **Book of Romans:** Join Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter in the Triple Room as they begin the New Year with a study on the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, beginning 1/7/2018.

During the week:

- † **Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) Bible Study** is led by Pastor Jeri and meets in Room 22 at 7:00 PM whenever WNA is in session. All adults are invited whether able to attend regularly or drop-in on occasion. You are welcome to either first enjoy the WNA supper and fellowship starting at 6:00 PM or come for just the Bible study.
- † **Daytime Monthly Women's Bible Study** meets the second Monday in Room 22 at 9:30 AM. Join with other women of the church as Sue Porter leads this study of the Book of Hebrews.
- † **Evening Weekly Women's Bible Study** will resume in the spring.

Growing in Discipleship through Small Groups:

- † **Prayer and Praise Team** meets for prayer and praise at 3 PM every Thursday. Led by Sue Johnson in the Church Library.
- † **Devotional Fitness resumes on 1/13/2018:** Join us in the Sanctuary on Saturdays at 8:30 AM, free of charge, as we prayerfully focus on the Lord and His Word while stretching and strengthening our spiritual and physical bodies. View our schedule and sign up for classes on the [class signup page](#). Bring your exercise mat and a water bottle. Led by Nancy Hummer, nanhummer@gmail.com.
- † **Spreading the Warmth** meets monthly on the third Monday at 7 PM in the Church Library to knit and crochet items to share with those in need. Led by Elizabeth Glycer.

Fourth Annual Christmas Caroling Fellowship



Spirits were bright and antlers were sparkling on December 17th at 5:00 PM as our merry band of singers and ringers proclaimed the joy of Christ's birth to our neighbors. First, we gathered to pray, then we donned our bright hats and jingle bells, Christmas Carol books and flashlights, and warmed up our voices while heading down Minnieville Road towards Dane Ridge. As we strolled past each doorway singing and ringing our exuberant cherubs hung 120 candy cane invitations to attend our Christmas Eve services. Our joy was complete when several residents stepped out to greet us. Afterwards we warmed up in the Narthex with cocoa, cookies, and fellowship. Many thanks to all who attended, especially those who arrived after this picture was taken. We hope you'll join us next year!

Adult Ministry

Adult Mission Trip – Lumberton, North Carolina

LOCATION: Lumberton, NC (right off of I95 – about 4 ½ hours away)

DATES: April 29 – 5 May, 2018

HOSTING CHURCH: Chestnut Street United Methodist Church - 200 East 8th St, Lumberton, NC

POINT OF CONTACT: Sam Parris - samjparris@aol.com or (703-946-7226)

First united Presbyterian Church is planning an adult mission trip to Lumberton, North Carolina to assist with Hurricane Matthew relief/rebuilding efforts. Hurricane Matthew hit Lumberton in October 2015. Lumberton got 10 inches of rain as Hurricane Matthew moved in and sat down, taking its time about turning back to the east and heading out to sea. Some areas within the Lumber River basin received more than 14 inches of rain. Forecasts had called for 5 to 8 inches.

On Oct. 10th three days after Matthew's landfall, the Lumber River at downtown Lumberton peaked somewhere around 22 feet, 9 feet above flood stage.

The flooding went across the roads and highways, including I-95, first stranding motorists who drove into it, and then forcing the closure of the interstate and the circuitous detour of cars and tractor-trailers over miles of two-lane roads never meant to carry such heavy traffic. It covered up an electrical substation. It overtook the City of Lumberton's water treatment plant, leaving its nearly 22,600 people with no running water.

Four of the city's public housing developments were flooded, along with two of its Section 8 rent-assisted apartments, about 545 units total, housing about 1,470 people. That's nearly 7 percent of Lumberton's population, which is one of the state's most diverse: 40 percent white, 37 percent black and 13 percent Native American, mostly Lumbee Indian.

Before the hurricane, Robeson County already was consistently one of North Carolina's poorest, with a per capita income of \$15,321 and a third of its population in poverty.

Today they are still in great need of help. If you are interested in participating by attending, or contributing to this effort in any manner please contact Sam Parris (see above).



Children's Ministry

Happy New Year!!!! Halleluiah, Christ is born!

We've had a wonderful Christmas break and are excited for classes to start on Sunday, January 7th.

Please join us at 9:45 AM with Ms. Becky and at 11:00 AM with Ms. Cathy, Ms. Sue, Ms. Marlo, Ms. Nancy and Mr. Mark.

At 11:00 AM Kidz Church we begin our journey with Christ looking not only at the historical Jesus, but seeing him through the eyes of those around him as he goes through his life on Earth. We will be with him as he grows, and begins his ministry. But, we will be experiencing his Divinity through the eyes of others around him!

Our Nursery is available during the 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM worship services for infants and children up to early 3's. Early 3's are children who are not potty-trained and not quite ready for the 11:00 AM preschool class. Please note: There are no Kidz Church classes during the 8:30 AM worship hour. Children attend worship with parents. Worship bags are available in the Narthex.

Nursery is also available during the 9:45 AM Education Hour for infants and children up to age 4.

We accomplished quite a bit in 2017, but 2018 holds a great deal of new experiences! We will continue to grow with Jesus, and accompany him wherever he leads us!

Finally had an opportunity to count the socks. The hats were a pleasant surprise. 322 pairs of Adult socks, 80 pairs of Children's socks. 8 - Adult Hats, 2 - Children's Hats.

Children's Ministry would again like to thank everyone who donated socks and hats for our "Sock it" to Homelessness mission project. Distribution to Spreading the Bread will begin Sunday, December 31st.



This is part of King George VI's 1939 Christmas Day broadcast to the British people:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year
"Give me light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand
into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and
safer than a known way."

Shared by Liz Glycer

Submitted by Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder