

December, 2017
Volume 55, Issue 12

The COLUMNS



First Presbyterian Church
Waynesboro, VA

First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:45 AM—Communion Worship Service; Barksdale Room

11:00 AM—Traditional Worship Service; Sanctuary

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30

Thursday - 8:00 - 4:30

Friday - Closed



Origen of Alexandria (c.185-254) was born in Alexandria, Egypt, to Christian parents. As a youth he was provided a traditional Hellenistic education and later studied under Clement, the local bishop. Under Roman Emperor Septimus Severus, Origen's father was martyred in local persecution and Clement was forced to flee the city. According to tradition, the young Origen wished to follow his father into martyrdom; however, he was prevented from doing so after his mother hid his clothing. At age eighteen Origen assumed the helm as teacher of Clement's Christian school in Alexandria, where he gained a considerable following among Christians and philosophers alike.

Origen practiced a life of extreme asceticism, living off the sale of books from his family's vast library. Some historians, such as Eusebius (c.260-340), have even claimed that he went as far as to castrate himself based upon a literal reading of Matthew 19:12 ("there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven") although scholars dismiss this as political hyperbole. Regardless, Origen established his reputation as a teacher and scholar in Alexandria and other parts the Empire where he traveled. Around 212 he converted a wealthy nobleman, Ambrose of Alexandria, from Gnosticism to orthodoxy. In gratitude, Ambrose would finance the promulgation Origen's writings to the wider church community.

Civil unrest prompted Origen to leave Alexandria for Caesarea in Palestine. He returned three years later to spend the next decade and a half teaching and writing, before the local bishop in Alexandria (perhaps jealous over Origen's growing fame) attempted to expel Origen from the local church. Around 231, Origen settled back in Caesarea, where he was officially ordained and continued his scholastic endeavors. Political attacks would continue as the church leadership in Alexandria sought to excommunicate him, but the vast majority of churches refused to acknowledge this. Renewed persecution from Roman authorities caused Origen to once again briefly relocate, from Caesarea to Cappadocia. He returned to Palestine to found a Christian school which taught the sciences and humanities as well. He preached several days a week, sometimes daily. Still, Origen's orthodoxy was routinely called into question; yet he was able to counter these attacks through his teachings and his writings. Indeed, many in the church relied upon Origen to refute many prevailing heresies of that time. In the wake of an outbreak of a plague in 251, the Emperor Decius renewed the widespread persecution of Christians in the empire's urban population centers. Origen became swept up in the violence, suffering a series of tortures from local authorities. He survived the persecution, but died several years later from injuries he sustained.

Origen made monumental contributions to the development of church doctrine during his lifetime and in the centuries which followed. Perhaps his most important contribution was in the area of exegesis, or the interpretation of scripture. He was among the first to propose a canon of New Testament texts. His exegetical works helped establish the concept of sola

scriptura (“scripture alone”) as the sole authority of church witness and teaching. Still, Origen rejected scriptural literalism, regarding biblical accounts as stories - not intended to teach historical fact, but to lead people to spiritual truth. He was also an accomplished theologian, applying principles of Greek philosophy to his understanding of Christ.

Throughout his writings Origen consistently affirmed an orthodox understanding of scripture, as well as the teaching and authority of the church; however, as a teacher, he saw it as his duty to challenge students by pushing spiritual and theological boundaries. His reliance upon Greek philosophical method and terminology aroused suspicion among Origen’s critics, who claimed that he blurred the lines between competing strands of belief. Other theological speculations such as the immortality of the soul, the possibility of reincarnation and the universal reconciliation of all things (and all persons...including Satan) were also found highly controversial. In some of his writings Origen appeared to suggest a “subordinationalist” theology, where the Son (as a created being) was subordinate to the Father. This concept would gain support among the Alexandrian and Palestinian churches, culminating in the Arian Controversy at the turn of the fourth century. For this reason, in spite of his vast contributions to the formation of Christian belief, Origen has never been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

Among Origen’s most famous works is his compilation of the Hexapla, a Greek translation and transliteration of Hebrew Old Testament texts, which took into account textual variations, additions and omissions. Origen wrote extensive commentaries on biblical texts, but very few survive in their entirety. The majority of Origen’s exegetical work is preserved in various sermons, of which several hundred survive either partially or in their entirety. Of Origen’s theological works, his treatise On First Principles perhaps offers the best glimpse of his most developed theological ideas. Like many Early Church Fathers, Origen devoted considerable effort defending Christianity as an apologist. Another prominent work, Against Celsus, refutes accusations brought against the Christian faith by the philosopher of the same name. Origen also wrote a multitude of epistles during his lifetime, but of these, only three survive intact. Even though the majority of Origen’s writing has been lost to time, the fraction which remains still makes Origen one of early Christianity’s most prolific writers. Recently a collection of twenty-nine original sermons by Origen on the Psalms was rediscovered in a 12th century Greek manuscript and published in June of 2012.

“If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed.”

—I Timothy 3:6

Grace, Peace & Merry Christmas!

George





December Music Notes

It's the most wonderful time of the year, especially when it comes to music! And this month there are plenty of delightful pieces we're offering for the season.

On Saturday, 2 December, the church opened its doors prior to the Christmas Parade for a Christmas Sing-Along, complete with carols and cider. Perhaps we've created a new tradition!

For our anthems this month, we open the season of Advent on Sunday 3 December with Johann Sebastian Bach's *Zion Hears the Watchman Calling*. On the second Sunday of Advent, 10 December, the choir will sing William Rowan's setting of the famous Isaiah text, *Prepare the Way of the Lord*, featuring Warner Sandquist. At 3:30 that afternoon, there will be an Advent season *Taizé* service in the Barksdale Room.

Sunday 17 December will be our annual Lessons and Carols service, and this year we will present a setting of the *Magnificat* for choir and instruments by Johann Pachelbel (composer of the famous *Canon*). The quartet will be sung by Jean Hashagen, Terry Crickenberger, Maximilian Daggy and Kimberlea Daggy. The instrumentalists joining us that morning will be violinists Liane Campbell and Jake Roege, violist Diane Phoenix-Neal and cellist Carl Donakowski, who both teach at JMU, as do flutist Beth Chandler and oboist Jeannette Zyko. Rounding out the ensemble will be Ryan Romine, who teaches bassoon at Shenandoah Conservatory. In addition to Pachelbel's *Magnificat*, we will sing familiar carols and hear readings for the season.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and the choir is ready for a musical day! Both services will feature Gustav Holst's setting of the 15th century tune, *Personent Hodie*, for the Introit. In the morning the choir will sing *Calypso Carol* by Michael Perry and Allen Pote. In the evening our musical offerings include Harold Darke's beloved *In the Bleak Midwinter* (voted the most popular Christmas tune in Great Britain) and John Stevens' setting of the Anonymous 13th century tune, *There Is No Rose*.

We close out 2017 on Sunday 31 December with our semi-annual Hymn Sing. And, as it will be Christmas season, our hymns will be culled from that section of the hymnal. As we did during the last Hymn Sing, some of the music will be chosen in advance and other hymns will be chosen by members of the congregation in attendance that morning.

We are so grateful for all the support the music program receives from First Presbyterian Church. May you all have a blessed holiday season!

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



PRESCHOOL NEWS

What a fall it's been, and what a wonderful winter it's sure to be!

In mid-November I joined the FPCP team as Director. I immediately fell in love with the program. Our teachers and aides are amazing, and their dedication is admirable. They give so much to these kids every day. And the kids... oh, these beautiful children! My heart swells every morning with all the hugs and smiles and stories. These children are our future, and seeing them nurtured in such a positive environment fills me with incredible hope and happiness.

Looking forward, our big news for the church in December is the Christmas program! They have been working daily for quite some time now, and we'd love to share their performance with as many folks as we can! Everyone is invited, and we do hope you'll come join us. (I haven't found much that puts a smile on my face quite like it... Boiling over with cuteness!) The details:

FPCP Christmas Program
Thursday, December 14
6:30 pm
FPC Fellowship Hall

In December, all the classes will be learning about the birth of Christ. Lots of special ornaments will be in the works, in addition to other Christmas activities and crafts. All of the classes will continue both guided and experiential learning throughout each day. The two-year-olds will be incorporating the shape of the star with the Christmas story as their shape of the month, and their color focus will be red. The three-year-olds will be exploring the smells of Christmas, and will also be learning about baking... for example: what goes into sugar cookies? The four-year-olds are looking forward to baking and decorating cookies and celebrating with a Christmas party.

All in all, the coming weeks look to be filled with lots of learning, fun and the Holy Spirit. Thank you all for the support you continually give this wonderful program. We are grateful for you! We hope you'll be able to join us for our performance and we look forward to seeing you soon!

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT OUR PRESCHOOL

Welcome new Preschool Principal Jen Jones

Fond Adieu to Interim Preschool Principal Cary Bennett

As elder in charge of the Christian Education Committee in 2016-2017 and an active member of P&M, Cary Bennett worked closely with our Preschool. Among other things he was responsible for the Yard Sale netting over \$1900 for the Preschool. After Evelyn Napier's retirement the end of May this year, Cary quietly assumed leadership.

In July Committees and assignments were changed, and Cary assumed full responsibility of the Preschool, at his request. He has worked diligently with the teachers and aides throughout the summer and fall, spending a great deal of time on site. Meanwhile he was keeping an eye out for a permanent Preschool Director.

He found one in Jen Jones, a member of our church and active deacon, who took over the job November 15. Not everybody gets to choose his/her replacement!

We look forward to watching Jen in action in the days and months ahead. Already she has expressed ideas for promoting the school and keeping the congregation engaged.

It's hardly a "goodbye" to Cary who continues as Session contact. Words cannot express the gratitude we owe him, but it's worth a try. Be sure to thank Cary when you see him, and give Jen a great Big Welcome. Our church is blessed to have these two at the helm.

~Betsy Ruehl

Trick or Treat Fun



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Meeting on November 14, 2017.

MOTION: Steve Doherty was elected Commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting November 28 at Third PC in Staunton.

MOTION: Session accepted a bid to fix our telephone system.

MOTION: Session accepted a bid for operating capability with our computer system.

MOTION: Session approved renewing HVAC contract with Nelke Heating & Cooling.

The P&M Committee is exploring sale of grass parking lot.

Barbara Bombassaro intends to retire June 30, 2018.

MOTION: Session enthusiastically affirmed the hiring of Jen Jones as Principal of the Weekday Preschool, effective November 15.

MOTION: Session elected Warner Sandquist as Church Treasurer, for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2018, to replace Danny Leech who has resigned effective that date.

The annual Joint Elder/Deacon meeting will take place after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, December 3, in the Fellowship Hall.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayer.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

THANK YOU to everyone who tutored at William Perry Elementary School during the October-November session. You made a huge difference in the lives of children. Several of you plan to continue tutoring for a while, and many of us will return on February 5 after the school evaluates the program. In the interim, principal Tammy Hipes deemed the following as appropriate if anyone wants to stay in touch:

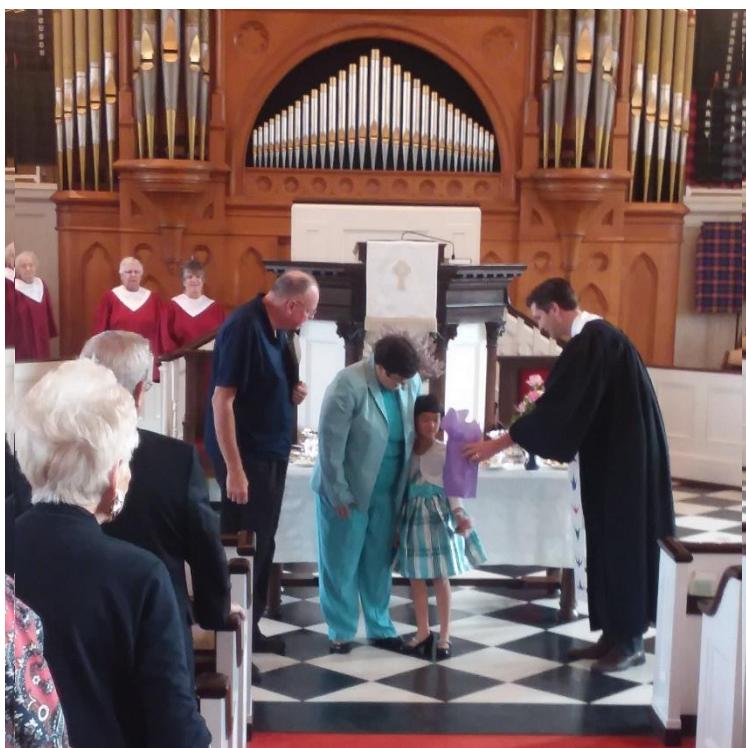
- > * A small gift to your child or children - pencils or a book, for example
- > * A card of encouragement to those with whom you worked (December)
- > * School supplies for the school in January - specifically glue sticks, durable (thick) pocket folders, crayons, three-ring binders
- > * Clothing for their clothes closet - sweatpants sizes 6-adult, shoes for girls sizes 6-8 and for boys sizes 8-10, boys' underwear from size small to large (shopping at Goodwill or Valley Mission is fine)

Body wash for women and children for the Disciples' Kitchen Christmas party will be delivered by December 10. Thank you for your contributions! We'll serve lunch there November 28 and December 28 and would welcome your joining us to help and to eat.

- >
- > We will serve dinner for the WARM shelter at Westminster on Thursday, December 14. Please pray for the homeless and for those who house them on cold winter nights.
- >
- > Thank you for your contributions of \$599.75 to the Salvation Army at the Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 15. We gave, in gratitude for God's bountiful blessings to us, to those who have greater needs. Additional gifts to Salvation Army may be given to Barbara during the holiday season.
- >
- > We know that this is a busy mission time as we continue with Springdale magazines and gear up for Meals on Wheels and cookies for Fishburne cadets in January. We applaud your generosity and perseverance.
- >
- > In Christ's love from your Mission Committee (Betsy Ruehl, Sandy Bellamy, Jeannie Curry, Jennifer Jones, Polly Bare, Terry Crickengerger, Ed Carr, and Betty Dixon)
- >

“Gotcha Day”

Celebrating five years of Amber joining the Brown family as well as the First Presbyterian family



Taizé Service

Please join us on December 10 at 3:30 p.m. for a Taizé-style worship service in the Barksdale Room. Taizé is an ecumenical religious community in France. Taizé worship focuses on prayer, responsive readings, mediation, and song. This brief service is modeled on a traditional Taizé worship service and will provide the opportunity to center ourselves during this holiday season and renew our focus on the birth Christ. During the service we will be accepting optional, small offerings of items for babies that can be distributed at our Food Bank. This may include travel-size items such as baby powder or baby wipes, diapers, a onesie, socks, a hat, etc. Refreshments will be served. Please join us and invite your friends! All are welcome!

COLUMNS Staff

Editor—Betsy Ruehl (etruehl@ntelos.net) **Layout**—Colleen Cash

Reporters—Members of the Congregation & Staff

COLUMNS Mailing List

Anyone unable to pick up the monthly COLUMNS at the Church the beginning of each month may request that the newsletter be mailed to them. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news.

Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or church@firstpresway.com)

Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website: firstpresway.org

Deadlines: *COLUMNS*: 20th of the month **Bulletin:** Wednesday



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet at Summit Square on December 12 at 10:30 for Bible Study with George and lunch to follow at 11:30.

The study this month is “In the Community with God’s Message”. It is appropriate that we should use this season to study Hebrews’ take on angels. Angels are included as another stone in our supporting wall of the community of faith and as part of the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us.

Lunch menu: Garden Vegetable Soup, Chicken Salad Plate, Fresh Fruit, Apple Muffin and Chocolate Caramel Mousse Pie. Cost is \$10.50.

Please notify Ruth Kelley (540) 337-2665 no later than December 5 if you plan to attend and if you are staying for lunch. We need both counts!!!

FAITH & FICTION BOOK CLUB
Soup Luncheon 10:30 a.m. 2nd Thursday

The Faith & Fiction Book Club will meet at the home of Joyce Neufeld on Thursday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m. (note date and time change). Ann Nelson will provide devotions and Joyce will lead discussion of Max Lucado's *Christmas Stories*. In his compilation of eleven Christmas tales one meets richly drawn characters who encounter the miracle of Christ's birth in their unique settings and are forever transformed. (Editor's note: Even if you're not a Book Club member, I highly recommend these stories for a unique experience this Christmas season. If you have the time, savor each story on its own, before proceeding to another.)

Author of over 100 books, the author is known as a preacher with a storyteller's gift. His basic message is: God loves you; let him. He and his wife Denalyn are the parents of three grown daughters and live in San Antonio, Texas, where he serves Oak Hills Church.

A Soup Luncheon will follow the discussion. Attendees may bring their choice of side dish. For further information or directions, contact Joyce at (540) 471-7610.

The Book Club is saddened at the loss of active participant and long time member Ella Mae Epes. She took a major fall early the morning of the November 16 meeting. Before leaving for the Emergency Room she called a neighbor to say that she would leave her planned devotions on her porch for someone else to present.



12/3 Erwin Berry
12/4 Jean Hashagen
12/8 Ed Carr
12/10 Burnie Powers
12/12 Connie Sachlis
12/14 Nancy Garber
 Roger Daggy
12/19 Campbell Epes
12/24 Joyce Tipton
 Margaret Newham
12/27 Hunter Trimble
 Judy Tomey

12/5 Mark & Jean Droughman
12/28 Mitch & Edie Lawrence
12/28 Charles & Bobbie Poland

Our Deepest Sympathies to the family of

Ella Mae Epes
April 30, 1933 - November 24, 2017

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2017 giving/pledge fulfillments must be received in the office by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, January 2, 2018. All money received by mail that day or afterwards will be posted in 2018.

Thank you all for your extreme generosity to this Church in terms of both financial and time given. God Bless you all.

-Barbara Bombassaro

**2018 Pledge Cards may be deposited in the box in the narthex
or sent to the Church Office.**

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent - 8:45 & 11:00 services
Sunday, December 10 - 8:45 & 11:00 services and
Taize Service at 3:30 p.m. in the Barksdale Room
Sunday, December 17 - 11:00 service - Lessons and Carols
Magnificat by Johann Pachelbel with choir and instrumentalists
Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - 11:00 service and
traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 31 - 11:00 service - Hymn Sing

“When it comes to goodies and candy, cherub checks and red noses, go to the North Pole.
But when it comes to eternity, forgiveness, purpose and truth, go to the manger....”

-Max Lucado

Memorial or Honor Poinsettias



To remember a friend or relative , return the insert in the bulletins or call Colleen at the office (949-8366) to purchase your poinsettia.

The cost is \$12.00, deadline for purchases will be December 10.

December Calendar

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Early Communion Service Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary
12:30 PM Deacon/Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 PM Bible Study Room 212
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Early Communion Service Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary
3:30 PM Taize Service

Tuesday, December 12

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Bible Study Summit Square

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 PM Bible Study Room 212
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Thursday, December 14

10:30 AM Faith & Fiction Book Club Home of Joyce Neufeld
2-4 PM Food Bank
6:30 PM Preschool Christmas Program Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 17

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Lessons & Carols "Magnificat"

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary
7:00 PM Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed

Thursday, December 28

2-4 PM Food Bank

Sunday, December 31

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary

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Church Office Hours

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8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Thursday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Mrs. Barbara Bombassaro
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Director of Music

Mr. Roger Daggy
rogerdaggy@gmail.com

Music Associate

Mrs. Kimberlea Daggy
kimberleadaggy@gmail.com

Audio/Visual Technician

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

Nursery Attendant

Miss Sarah Watson

Custodian

Mrs. Caroleia Strandburg



Crunchy & Smooth Peanut Butter, Jams & Jellies, Canned Fruit

The Christmas season reminds us of how thankful we are for the many blessings bestowed on this Church. I, personally, am thankful for all of the people who help make our Food Bank a Church community run ministry. If it were not for Polly Bare, Ed Carr, Jeannie Curry, Terry Crickenberger, Jake Harner, Cynthia Hoover, Ruth Kelley, Norm Neufeld, Bill & Nancy Phillips and Dan Woodworth, this mission would not be able to operate. Also thanks to Phyllis Hanna, Anne & Art Johnson and Joe & Ruth Molony who helped in past years. If it had not been for the leadership of Walt Flora, this Food Bank would never have even started.

Thank you all for making my job in organizing our Food Bank so easy. God Bless you all. Barbara Bombassaro

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Father, I thank thee for the many joys of Christmas,
and I pray that I may find ways to make the day happy for others.

I thank thee for the sweet scented pines, aglow with lights,
and for the manger scene of lovely mystery.

I thank thee for the wonder in children's eyes
as they see their Christmas tree and find their full stockings;
for their solemn, shining faces as they sing "Away in a Manger" and 'Silent Night'.

I thank thee that we have this day to show our love for family and friends
and others, far away, whom we may never see or know.

May all our festivities be in the memory of thy great gift
and all our gifts given in the thought of the Christ Child. Amen

~Josephine Robertson