

THE COLUMNS



December 2019, Volume 57, Issue 12

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-Worship Service, Sanctuary

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30

Thursday - 8:00 - 4:30

Friday-Closed

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 1- First Sunday of Advent

December 15@11:00am - Lessons & Carols

December 15@3:00pm - Taizé-Style Worship

December 24@7:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

No Services December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 29@11:00am - Christmas Hymn Sing



In the Chapman household when I was growing up, the Christmas season assumed the form of Moravian sugar cake, Christmas cookies and an annual viewing of the modern classic *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. Myra's family would visit with neighborhood friends every Christmas morning for brunch and a reading of Christmas poems. It's safe to say we all have our Christmas routines. Perhaps the most wonderful thing about the Christmas season is how the celebration of Jesus' birth is global phenomenon, celebrated by Christians of every conceivable denomination around the world. In many ways, it's one of those rare traditions which unites us as believers of a common faith. However, this is not to say that we all celebrate Christmas the same way. Indeed, many Christmas observances draw together a variety of cultural influences native to their respective communities. So, if you are tired of your same old Christmas routine this holiday season, I present you with just a few samples of unusual celebrations from around the world that you may want to consider for the future:

- While practicing Christians represent only about one percent of the population in Japan, Christmas remains a popular holiday for many. And because holiday turkeys are rare, in 1974, Kentucky Fried Chicken began a successful advertising campaign with the slogan *Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii* or "Kentucky for Christmas". With no established Japanese Christmas traditions, Colonel Saunders dressed as Santa Claus quickly became a



Colonel Saunders rings in the holiday cheer with people in Japan.

holiday staple. It has been estimated that nearly 3.6 million Japanese households celebrate Christmas with a bucket of KFC.

- Many of you may already be familiar with Krampus, the mythical demon creature which has been part of Central European Christmas traditions for many centuries. Krampus would act as a counterpart of Santa Claus, for while St. Nick would bring bags of toys and candy for good children, bad children would be visited by the half-goat, half-man Krampus, who would place them in his sack and carry them off. No one knows the true origin of the Krampus myth, although some believe some variation of the figure to have pre-Christian, pagan origins.
- In Caracas, Venezuela, where the majority of the population is Catholic, a popular Christmas tradition is to rollerskate to mass on Christmas morning. The tradition has become so popular that police close off downtown streets in the morning to accommodate the many skaters. Given that Caracas is a highly diverse city with a variety of cultural influences, no one is quite sure how the tradition got started, but some suspect that skating to the Christmas mass serves as a substitute for sledding, which you will have to admit, can be difficult to do in a tropical climate where temperatures never get below freezing!
- The people of Norway have a several unusual traditions to celebrate Christmas. The first of these is to hide all the brooms in the house on Christmas Eve to prevent witches from stealing them and taking them for a joyride. The second involves setting out a bowl of porridge for a gnome named *Nisse*, whose job it is to protect the family farm from misfortune. Thirdly, the Yule Goat is a common Christmas symbol in Norway, deriving from ancient Norse mythology and pagan solstice celebrations. (Thor's chariot was pulled by two goats.) Lastly is the practice of *Julebukking*, where costumed singers go from house to house seeking treats and trying to have people to guess their identity.
- For the people of Ukraine, the spider-web is a traditional Christmas symbol. There are several versions of the tale, but according to tradition, there was once a poor widow who did not have enough money to decorate her Christmas tree, so in the middle of the night, a spider spun beautiful webs over the tree which reflected the morning light at sunrise. Spider's webs are regarded as a sign of good luck in Ukraine, and it is considered bad luck to destroy one before the spider is safely out of the way!
- Other random Christmas traditions around the world include: The people of Greenland celebrate Christmas with a traditional Inuit meal of frozen or pickled whale blubber (*Muktuk*) and fermented waterfowl (*Kiviak*). The festival of *Mari Lywd* in Wales features a mare's skull on a wooden pole paraded throughout town. In the Czech Republic, some single women toss their shoe over their shoulder to see if they will find love that year. Oaxaca, Mexico, celebrates the holiday season with an annual contest to make sculptures from radishes.



Holiday skating celebrations in Caracas, Venezuela



Norwegian Nisse keeping close watch over the livestock.



Traditional Inuit Muktuk (Just like Mom used to make!)

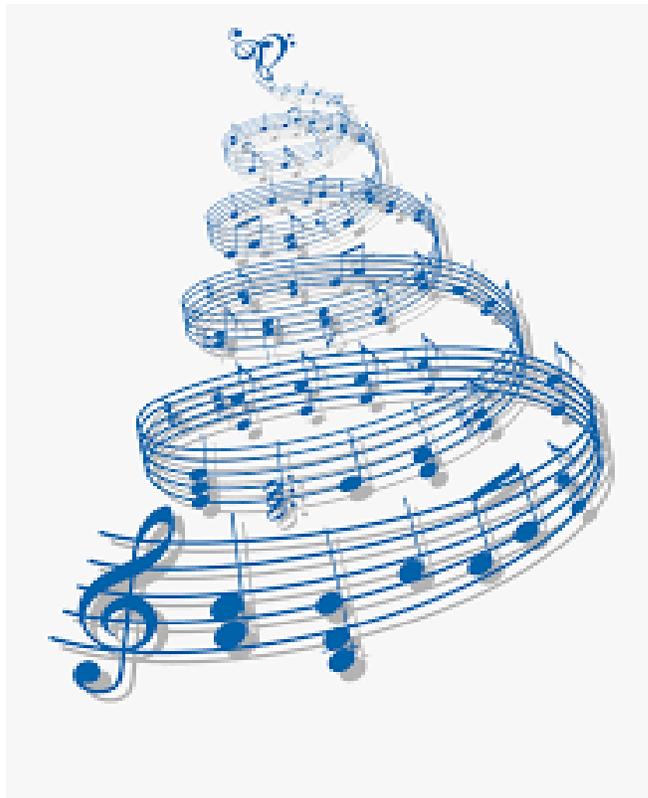
As the final Sunday of the month is a “fifth Sunday,” we celebrate Christmas with a Hymn Sing! Choose your favorite carols of the season from pages 108-156 in the *Glory to God* hymnal and have them at the ready for the 11am service!

Other events this month include the final *First Friday Concert and Light Lunch* of 2019 on Friday, December 6. Please come and hear our wonderful 1893 Woodberry and Harris pipe organ at 12:15pm, followed by fellowship with friends.

On Saturday, December 7th, the city of Waynesboro will hold its annual Christmas Parade. For the last few years, First Presbyterian Church has opened its doors for a Christmas Carol Singalong in the hour prior to the parade. Come to the church between 5 and 6 and sing some of your favorite carols prior to experiencing the excitement of the parade!

We remain thankful for the incredible support that the music program receives from First Presbyterian Church. May you have a blessed and comforting Advent and Christmas season!

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Session Meeting on November 12, 2019.

- A Session Retreat was held October 27, 2019, in lieu of an October Stated Session Meeting.
- Joan Berry was elected Commissioner to the Shenandoah Presbytery meeting on November 19 at Opequon Presbyterian Church in Winchester.
- There have been 20 applications and 3 interviews for Preschool Director.
- Session approved a FPC Preschool Fundraiser.
- Attendance is down at Sunday School and Bible Study.
- The church Thanksgiving dinner is set for November 20. In addition to a food item, attendees are invited to make a financial contribution to the Salvation Army
- There will be a Minute for Mission on November 24 on holiday Alternative Giving.
- Decorating the sanctuary and grounds clean-up will take place Saturday, December 7.
- There was a report from the committee working on kitchen remodeling.
- All session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

Session minutes are available for any church member by request.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019, AT OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Condensed: Full agenda and minutes available online at www.shenpres.org)

- The 184th Stated meeting worship welcomed to the pulpit, Kes Amena, President, Illubabor Bethel Synod, of our Ethiopian partnership. Communion was celebrated.
- Teaching Elder Rachael Crumley of Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 2019 Presbytery Moderator, presided.
- An overture from Trinity Church concerning fossil fuels was distributed for study to be voted on in February.
- Newly honorably retired pastors Bob Osborne and Sarah Hill and CRE Bill Moore were recognized. Frank Wyche is taking a new call.
- New pastors were welcomed: Patrick S. Ryan at Tinkling Spring and Gusti L. Newquist at Shepherdstown Church.
- The Matthew 25 Bible Studies and worship material were encouraged.
- How Moffett Grant funds continue to help feeding the poor was shared.
- Assoc. GP Nancy Meehan Yao discussed Per Capita and our responsibility to take part.
- New presbytery committee members and Commissioners to the Synod, General Assembly and Youth Advisory Delegate were elected.
- The education hour was led by Virginia Interfaith Power and Light on Environmental Justice. The annual lobby date at the Va. General Assembly is January 22, 2020.
- A balanced budget for 2019 is anticipated. The 2020 budget passed.
- All presbytery meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

TO ALL CHURCH OFFICERS

Our annual summit of Elders & Deacons will take place following worship on December 8 in the Fellowship Hall (12:30pm). Trustees are also invited. Lunch will be provided. Any questions? Please call the church office.

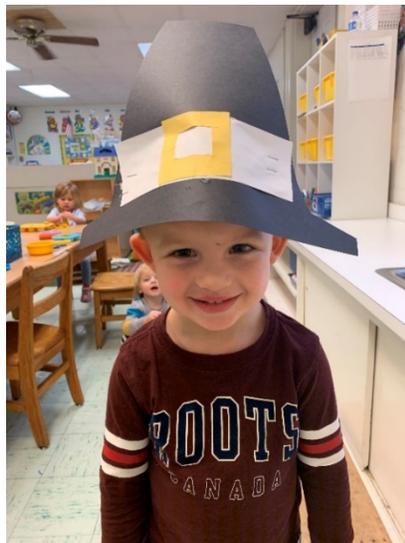
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please note there will be no 9:45 Adult Sunday School class 1/5 through 1/26. We will be taking a break for the month of January.

Stay tuned for an opportunity to complete a short survey on the Sunday School class. We will be asking current participants and anyone who is interested in participating in the future to provide some feedback. We will use that information to gauge interest and plan for 2020. Thank you!

November Fun in the Preschool

The Preschool spent the month of November learning about Fall, Thanksgiving, Pilgrims and Native Americans. December will be fun and exciting as we concentrate on all things Christmas. We're working hard on our Christmas program. Come join us on Thursday, December 19, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall!



Did you know you can help support FPC's preschool by simply buying groceries?

That's right! First Presbyterian Church Preschool is registered through **Kroger Community Rewards**. All you have to do is link your Kroger Plus Card to our organization and then swipe your card each time you shop. Voila! Kroger will be donating to FPCP based upon a percentage of your sale.

The web link you visit to set this up is: www.kroger.com/communityrewards.

You select that you are a customer who would like to enroll in Community Rewards (on the left). The preschool is listed as "First Presbyterian Church Preschool" in Waynesboro and our specific identification number is: **QP321**.

If you have trouble or need to update your card information, you can visit kroger.com or call 1-800-KROGERS, OPTION #3.



Kroger is donating
\$4 million
to local organizations

Use your Kroger Plus Card and help us grow!

Supporting our organization has never been easier — just shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Here's how to enroll*:

1. Visit **KrogerCommunityRewards.com**
2. Sign in to your online account, or create an account
3. Find and select your organization, and click "Enroll"

You'll start earning rewards for your organization right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card! Learn more at **KrogerCommunityRewards.com**, and thank you for your support.

*Remember, you'll need to re-enroll every April.



Thank you for all you do to help support our Preschool and its students!

FAITH & FICTION BOOK CLUB
Potluck Luncheon at the home of Anne Johnson

How many years ago did you read *Anne of Green Gables*? Take another look-through, choose a favorite passage, and add your voice to the discussion at the Book Club meeting on December 19.

Published in 1908 by Canadian author Lucy Montgomery, this classic children's novel was written for all ages. It's the story of an eleven-year-old orphan on Prince Edward Island. The book has been translated into 36 languages and sold over 50 million copies.

The meeting will start at 10:30 instead of the usual 10:00. Carol Powers will lead devotions and Anne Johnson the discussion. If you haven't signed up already, let Anne (942-3222) know what you'd like to contribute to lunch.

MISSION COMMITTEE

'TIS THE SEASON to be filled with warm hearts and lots of cheer! There are a number of opportunities for mission as we move into Advent and celebrate Christ. Here is a list:

Disciples Kitchen

Christmas Gifts:

We have been asked to donate at least ten \$10 Walmart gift cards as gifts for teenagers. There is also always a need for warm socks and gloves for adults. Gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 15.

Alternative Giving

PC(USA) offers an amazing program that allows us to 'purchase' a gift for families or communities in need around the world. We simply choose the gift and send in the money and PC(USA) Mission takes care of getting the gifts to the recipients. These gifts are available for purchase year-round. Making purchases at Christmas are a great way to honor those you love while cutting down on all the 'stuff' that tends to build up so quickly in our lives. It's also a great way to keep Christ in Christmas by thinking of others less fortunate when giving your gifts. 2019-20 Giving Catalogs are available in the narthex. Jen Jones will be present during the holiday season to help introduce you to the program.

Church Gift:

As a church we have a goal of \$450 to purchase a cow. A dairy cow can provide a family with a reliable source of income and nourishment. This gift also supports training in care taking and sustainable breeding of livestock, improving the food and income security for families and villages in Kenya for years to come.

Individual/Family Gifts:

Catalogs are available in the narthex. You can make purchases through the church or directly through PCUSA (mail and online). These gifts can be given as honorariums or memorials. You can also make a 'purchase' just to help others.

FPC Preschool

Mark Henderson has successfully completed the 12.6km hike on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He is inviting sponsors for his walk to raise funds for the Preschool. You can sponsor by the kilometer or in a lump sum. The one thing that is certain: it goes to a great cause! These funds will support scholarships and supplies for our fantastic Preschool program.

A CHRISTMAS ALPHABET POEM

Author Unknown

A is for Angels, appearing so bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas night.
“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host.” Luke 2:13

B is for Bethlehem, crowded and old, birthplace of Jesus by prophet foretold.
“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, out of thee shall he come forth unto me
that is to be ruler in Israel.” Micah 5:2

C is for Cattle, their manger His bed, there in the trough where He laid his head.
“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger.” Luke 2:7

D is for David and his ancient throne promised forever to Jesus alone.
“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest,
and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32

E is for East, where shone the bright star which Magi on camels followed afar.
“Behold, there came wise men from the east asking ‘Where is the king of the Jews?’”
Matthew 2:1,2

F is for Frankincense, with myrrh and gold, brought by the Wise Men as Matthew has told.
“And when they had opened the treasures, they presented unto him gifts
gold, frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

G is for God, who from heaven above sent down to mankind the Son of His love.
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever
believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

H is for Herod, whose murderous scheme was told to Joseph in a nocturnal dream.
“The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying,
Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt...
for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” Matthew 2:13

I is for Immanuel, “God with us,” for Christ brought man back to his Father’s house.
“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

J is for Joseph so noble and just, obeying God’s word with absolute trust.
Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him,
and took unto him his wife.” Matthew 1:24

K is for King. A true king He would be, coming in power and authority.
“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem;
behold, the King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation.” Zechariah 9:9

L is for Love that He brought down to earth God enfleshed in lowly birth.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” I John 4:9

M is for Mary, His mother so brave, counting God faithful and mighty to save.

“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” Luke 2:8

N is for Night, when the Savior was born for nations of earth and people forlorn.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” Luke 2:8

O is for Omega, meaning “the last;” He’s eternal present, future and past.

“I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” Rev 22:13

P is for Prophets, when living on earth foretold His redemption and blessed birth.

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel.” Numbers 24:17

Q is for Quickly, as shepherds who heard hastened to act on that heavenly word.

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” Luke 2:16

R if for Rejoice. The sorrow of sin is banished forever when Jesus comes in.

“And you will have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at his birth.” Luke 1:14

S is for Savior. To be this He came; the angel of God assigned Him His name.

“She will bring forth a son, and you will call his name JESUS,
for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

T is for Tidings of joy, not of danger, telling of Him who was laid in a manger.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” Luke 2:10

U is for Us, to whom Jesus was given to show us the way and take us to heaven.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

V is for Virgin, foretold by the sage, God’s revelation on prophecy’s page.

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:23

X is for Christ. It’s X in the Greek, Anointed, Messiah, mighty, yet meek.

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with powers.” Acts 10:38

Y is for Yes, called God’s Yes in His Word; God’s answer to all is Jesus the Lord.

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen,
unto the glory of God by us.” II Corinthians 1:20

Z is for Zeal as it burned in Christ’s heart. Lord, by thy Spirit to us zeal impart.

“And his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of your house has eaten me up.” John 2:17



December 4 Jean Hashagen
 December 10 Burnie Powers
 December 12 Connie Sachlis
 December 14 Nancy Garber
 December 14 Roger Daggy
 December 19 Campbell Epes
 December 24 Joyce Tipton
 December 27 Hunter Trimble
 December 27 Judy Tomey



December 5 Mark & Jean Droughman
 December 28 Mitch & Edie Lawrence



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

2019-2020 PW Horizons Bible Study
Love Carved in Stone

Lesson Four: Words of Love: Honor the Life-givers
The Fifth Word

Scripture: Exodus 20:12 and Luke 9:57-62

Purpose: To explore the gift of life and our responsibility
 to those who bring us to life.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Meeting location: Brunswick Dining Room at Summit
 Square

Lesson: 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Chapman

Lunch (optional): 11:30 a.m. - Choose from Tavern Menu

Not restricted to members of First Presbyterian Church



Our Sympathies to the family and friends of Bobbie Poland, who passed away November 4.
 Our Sympathies to the family and friends of Carol Barksdale, who passed away November 11.

Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

Kings Daughters Nursing & Rehab: Mary Frost

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Baldwin Park: Lily Tichenor

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Aileen Kennedy, Ray & Ruth Quillen, Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence

Friends and Family: Kaiser family (Anne Harris), Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds, Steve Dowdy (Cunninghams), Nancy Vilain (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Carolina Obando (Jen Jones), Josh Scott (Anne Vest), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Sara Verwymeren (Hashagens), Kathy Doyle (Rodger & Cynthia Doyle), Carroll Grove (Connie Sachlis), Nancy John (Elizabeth Miller), Grayson Coleman (Colleen Cash)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson



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

December Calendar

Sunday, December 1

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

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

2-4 PM Food Bank

Friday, December 6

12:15 PM First Friday Concert & Light Lunch

Saturday, December 7

10:00 AM Fall Clean-up and Christmas Decorating
5:00 PM Christmas Sing-a-long

Sunday, December 8

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 Worship Service Sanctuary
12:15 PM Elders/Deacons Lunch Meeting

Tuesday, December 10

2:30 PM Session Meeting Room 208

Wednesday, December 11

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women
6:00 PM Bible Study Room 212
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Sunday, December 15 Lessons & carols

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 Worship Service Sanctuary
3:00 PM Taizé Service

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

10:30 AM Faith & Fiction Book Club Anne Johnson's Home
2-4 PM Food Bank

Sunday, December 22

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 Worship Service Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 PM Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 29 Hymn Sing

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

First Presbyterian Church of

Waynesboro, Virginia

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8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Audio/Visual Technician

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

Custodian

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

Child Care Attendants

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Karalvn Rudin