

# Forecast



Winter 2019-20

Our mission is to know Christ, to serve Him, and to make Him known.

Dear Church Family,

Cindy and I have ourselves pretty much in place in terms of what goes where and how to navigate a (much) smaller kitchen. We also feel "well begun" in terms of saying hello. Several of you were so helpful in reminding me of the correct pronunciation of Kannapolis. I would say, more than a dozen! But it was all in good fun. In the days to come, I look forward to knowing you better. I invite you to give me a call for no particular reason (518-321-8055) or send me an email ([dr.stuartbond@gmail.com](mailto:dr.stuartbond@gmail.com)).

We begin our time together with the Christmas Season. I haven't worked out all my messages yet, but I am pretty certain they will speak to the birth of Jesus, not only then and there, but here and now. One of my favorite sayings of Christmas is, "Our lives are His birthplace; our hearts are His home." Let me also say, this is a great time to invite a friend to church. And, if you do, I would be pleased to greet them.

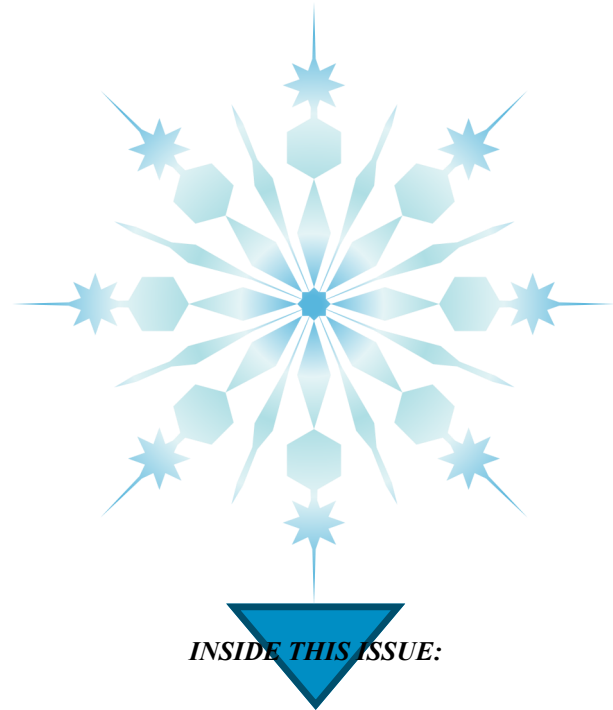
During these early months one of my objectives is to more or less see what is "under the hood" of this ministry. I hope you can take a few moments to share your thoughts with me regarding where the church is doing well and where you see opportunity for strengthening. I'll also be engaging the

Session in that discussion as we, together, seek the mind of Christ for our church.

I'll end this by sending Cindy's and my wish that each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very merry, very holy Christmas.

In Christ,

*Pastor Stuart*



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The advent season is upon us. We have become so transfixed by the pressures of the commercial world and all that is communicated to us to make sure we get everything done before Christmas is here, that we all too often lose our focus on why this time of year is about hope and expectation. Why are we hopeful? Why are we expectant? It is so easy to lose sight of the fact that Jesus is calling us to focus on Him. Phillipians 2:6 comes to mind: "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" This is the Gospel. God did not have to humble Himself and be born for us in the meekest way possible. Let us consider this. Instead of thinking about the hope and expectation of a Christmas to do list, let us focus our hope and expectation on Jesus Christ taking action and becoming our Savior born in a manger. He did not have to be born for us, but He loves us that much that He was willing to humble Himself and be born in a manger. This is why the season is so exciting and hopeful!

I have enjoyed exploring new ways to lead our music ministry in the past few months. The hymns of the month have been a way to keep the traditional hymns that we all love with a small praise chorus that I hope many of you have found yourself humming from time to time throughout the week. Music is a powerful way for us to worship together. I know that we all have different tastes and preferences in regard to music. Music is one of the elements in worship that is constantly under attack. I am the first to admit that

sometimes my preferences in music have gotten in the way of choosing our music for worship. My hope is that the music will honor and glorify Christ no matter the genre or style. I urge you to keep an open mind and pray with me that our music will always accomplish this. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians that he will sing with his spirit and his mind. What does this mean? It means we should sing things that stir our affections and emotions to glorify Christ (more modern songs that we may hear on K Love), and we should also sing songs that stir our intellect to glorify Christ (classical traditional music that may be challenging for us to learn and sing). My point is that all music must glorify Christ, be it modern or ancient.

Some modern songs only stir our affections for ourselves, while some are more theologically reverent and focused on Christ. Likewise, some ancient music stirs our affections for ourselves and can be elitist, while some glorifies Christ. Our preferences should not sway us.

## Sounds of the Season



On Sunday December 15 the Chancel Choir will perform the Christmas cantata *Behold a Savior* at the 8:30 service at Kimball Lutheran Church, and then at our 11 am service. We will combine with Kimball's choir and our friend Don Simmons to perform these stories and songs of the season. I strive to collaborate as much as possible with our downtown churches. With the revitalization of downtown Kannapolis it is more important than ever that we collaborate with our neighbors. As we hope to draw more people into our church let us work side by side with all church bodies.

It is my prayer and hope that we truly find the hope and expectation of the season in Jesus Christ our Savior.

David

# Welcome our New Transitional Pastor!

Stuart Bond has served in ministry his entire adult life. This will be the second time he has served as a Transitional Pastor. He completed his prior assignment in August in Corinth, New York outside of Saratoga Springs (where he notes the temperature has been 0 degrees!).

Prior to this, Stuart has served in a number of capacities. He was a youth pastor for a decade in Southern California. "It was the most exhausting and exhilarating ministries of my life. One of my favorite tasks was leading youth groups of over a hundred on many home building projects in Mexico. Seeing the youth come together as teams and seeing the faces of the families as we handed them the keys at the end of the week was spectacular."

His next, major assignment was in the Pacific Northwest. "I became the Executive Pastor for a church that grew from 250 to 1700 during my time there. It was such a complete 'God thing.' It was God who got me the job. Long story, but true. It was God who introduced me to Cindy there. And it was God who allowed that ministry to prosper."

Since then he returned to Southern California to serve a church. During that time, ECO was born. Stuart was there for the "Inaugural Address" by John Ortberg. "I thought, this really could be exciting!" However, it was not to be. After a protracted discussion, that church chose to stay within the PCUSA. Stuart then moved to Southern Oregon where the church he served chose to move into ECO.

It was two years afterwards that Stuart sensed the call to seek out Transitional Ministry. His time in Corinth, NY was a great opportunity. "This loving, quirky, delightful church in Upstate New York turned out to be a great place for us. We met friends there, like everywhere we have been, that we hope to stay in touch with for life."

When that position was filled, Stuart considered retirement. "But I knew I still loved doing this and that I was gifted. And Cindy was tired of having me hang around the house." He responded immediately when the committee placed the opportunity on the ECO Job Board. Over a period of two and a half months, the Session's discernment led them to invite Stuart to our church.

"I am impressed by the genuine faith and the good hearts of the people of this church. There are a lot of names to learn and stories to hear, but I am ready and willing!"



Stuart wants his preaching to help us apply God's Word to our everyday lives. To accomplish that, he combines the insights from study with observations about the craziness and beauty of life. "I want people to take a journey with me. I start from where we are. I get at that through humor, through honesty, through simply being an observer of life. But then we move into the truth of the Word, and how it speaks to this very moment in our lives. My great hope is that we leave with 'something in our pocket.' I want people to be able to answer the question, 'What am I supposed to do?' and/or 'What do you want me to

know?'" when the sermon is over.

Stuart considers Cindy his greatest support and most wise counsel. "Cindy is just an amazing sounding board for me." Cindy has worked with young moms and taught parenting and sometimes joins Stuart in counseling. "She is also a fantastic cook." says Stuart.

They have been married for 25 years and have raised four kids together. "When we met, I had two and she had two," said Stuart. "So we became a blended family." Those four kids are now adults living in Oregon, California, New York and Virginia Beach. Cindy and Stuart have three grandchildren --two in Virginia and one in California. And there is one more child they share: Max is a Labradoodle who is excited to wear his new, NC State scarf!



# EMPOWERED

The Christian Education Team was pleased to continue our fall theme of 'Living Empowered!' with our Fall Vespers Service. Ryan Walker and helpers prepared a delicious barbecue dinner, while Ron Lisenby provided a devotional based on our key scripture verse:

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' "

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

The Jones Sisters Band of Linwood, NC ended the evening with a wonderful selection of bluegrass and gospel music. The event was a great opportunity for fellowship with our church family and friends!!!



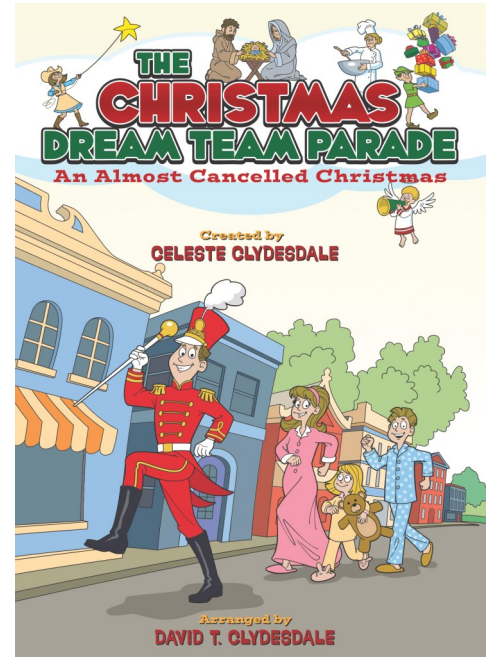
Fun was had by all at our Wednesday Night Life Fall Festival on Oct. 30!





We are pleased that Rev. Dr. Stuart Bond and his wife Cindy began their time with us on Sunday, November 17. A welcome reception was held in their honor following worship that day. Dr. Bond will serve as our Transitional Pastor. Please extend your greetings to them!

The Youth of First Presbyterian are proud to present **“The Christmas Dream Team Parade: An Almost Canceled Christmas”** on Sunday, December 8! Dinner will be served at 6:00p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The congregation is asked to bring a well-filled basket to share with church members and our guests. The musical will begin at 7:00p.m. in the Sanctuary. Mark your calendar for this special opportunity to support our Youth and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas!!!



Please join us for Wednesday Night Life Family Nights in December!!! Dinner begins each night at 5:30pm. Activities scheduled are as follows:

•**December 4: Gingerbread House Workshop**  
 \*\*\*Please RSVP on our website or by calling the church office by **Dec. 1**, so each child will have a house to decorate!\*\*\*

•**December 11: Kannapolis City Schools Outreach at Spintastic Laundromat**  
 (2202 N Cannon Blvd, Kannapolis, NC 28083)

•**December 18: Christmas Caroling to shut-ins**

There will be NO Wednesday Night Life on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Activities will resume on January 8, 2020.





**tacklehunger.org**

Cooperative Christian Ministry for our neighbors in need.

The Missions Team is continuing its support of Kannapolis City Schools during Wednesday Night Life on December 11. After a quick meal at church, we will travel to Spintastic Laundromat at 2202 N. Cannon Blvd. Families from Jackson Park Elementary and Forest Park Elementary that are in need of laundry assistance will be given tickets to bring to that location between 5:30 and 8:00pm, where our church members will greet them and hand out gift cards they can use to complete loads of laundry. We will take coloring or other activities to keep little ones occupied and hand out gift bags provided to us by The Salvation Army. Please join us as we extend God's love into our community!!!



A Missions Team traveled to Southport, NC on Nov. 6 – 9. The team worked with the United Methodist Committee on Relief at a home on Boiling Spring Lakes that suffered flooding during Hurricane Florence. They were able to replace flooring in most of the home, which is occupied by a widow and her aging mother. They also painted sheet rock in the garage. The homeowner was very grateful for their help. If you would be interested in another trip to assist with Hurricane recovery, please let a Missions Team member know!!!



Thanks for your support of Socktober – 45 pairs of socks were donated to help children in need in Kannapolis City Schools!

THANK YOU to all those who donated or helped pack 400 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes this year!!! Our shoeboxes were packed with love on Wednesday, Nov. 20, and blessed during the worship service on Nov. 24. We'll let you know where they arrive – please continue to pray that God will send them where they are needed most, and that they will touch the lives of a child, a family and a community!!!



Thank you to all who supported our Missions Meal on Sunday, November 24! First Presbyterian was proud to host Heath Burchett of Habit Missions, as he debuted 'Hungry for Love', a documentary on their ministry. A total of \$1,386 was collected to go towards Habit Missions ministries.







# WINTER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Tom & Dawn	Cavin	12/09
Richard & Jean	Roberts	12/12
Jean & Darrell	Bost	12/24
Randy & Donna	Whitley	12/26
Lee & Lynn	Efird	12/30
Tony & Connie	Rary	12/31
Steve & Judy	Goodnight	01/29
Kelly & Craig	Semcho	02/16

Barbara	Hancock	12/06
Peggy	Snider	12/07
Chance	Williams	12/07
Hudson	Craft	12/08
August	Williams	12/10
Sharon	Cranford	12/16
George	Linn	12/16
Becky	Seaford	12/18
Lily	Efird	12/19
Lynn	Sechler	12/19
Bill	Stricker	12/19
Darrell	Bost	12/23
Jason	Eddings	12/23
Katie	Satterfield	12/27

Emily	Griggs	01/01
James	Goodnight	01/02
Judy	Goodnight	01/03
Randy	Whitley	01/04
Hank	Cranford	01/06
Ronald	Lisenby	01/06
Buster	Petty	01/09
William	Baker	01/10
Susan	Baker	01/13
Debby	Reed	01/18
Karen	Pless	01/19
Debra	Dandro	01/24
Erica	Efird	01/24
Christy	Heintz	01/25
Andrew	Baker	01/27
Peggy	Gibson	01/27
Lindsay	Leece	01/28
Garrett	Brady	01/29
Tracy	Caskey	01/30
Amelia	Caskey	01/31
Richard	Roberts	01/31

Jennifer	James	02/01
Dawn	Cavin	02/02
Jeff	Barnhardt	02/05
Edward	Bell	02/11
Lee	Efird	02/12
Malaina	Meeks	02/13
Norman	Baker	02/14
Bob	Faust	02/14
Sheila	Grey	02/16
Jerry	Phillips	02/16
Bill	Goodnight	02/17
Alice	Jeanes	02/18
Jean	Bost	02/21
Emily	Martens	02/23
Jean	Roberts	02/23
Connie	Lisenby	02/24
Craig	Semcho	02/25
John	Hammond	02/26
Jane	Jacobs	02/27



Budget to date as of October 2019	\$236,193
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$216,398
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$195,464
October Income (for budgeted items)	\$17,097
October Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$22,945
If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.	



# Session Notes

Conducted a search for a Transitional Pastor. Concluded the search by formally calling Rev. Dr. Stuart Bond to serve as Transitional Pastor effective November 11, 2019. This call has been approved by the ECO Ministry Partnership Team.

Obtained guest speakers for November 3 (Rev. Jason Sentas) and November 10 (Mike Ruffin).

Re-established the personal elder program. Each covenant partner now has an assigned personal elder who can be contacted with prayer requests, concerns, or questions.

Began taking communion to home bound covenant partners who request it on

communion Sundays. To request that communion be brought to you, contact the church office or your personal elder.

Approved a mission offering on World Missions Sunday, to be divided between Salvation Army and Heath Burchett's Habit Missions.

Approved a mission's lunch on November 24, with donations going to Habit Missions.

Approved a motion to rename the Session Room in honor of Bill Jolley for his years of teaching and service.

Published an updated membership directory.

Building & Grounds met with the cleaning service to establish a new schedule of items to be cleaned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff Barnhardt*



## Forecast

**First Presbyterian Church**

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Kannapolis, NC 28021-4383