

Forecast



Winter 2020-21

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

I saw a trailer for the new installment of “Back to the Future.” Michael Fox is standing in an old Western town while the vehicle--a souped-up Santa sleigh--turns in the air and then blasts into the future. Fox’s line is, “Whatever you do, kid, don’t go to 2020.”

We know exactly what he means! And even though this has been a tough year, we now come to the Holidays. We will celebrate (in a socially distanced manner!). We will be thankful. And we will, once again, consider the love of God that came to us in the most fragile and remarkable way. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

This season we have multiple ways to be thankful and to give back to our community. Shoeboxes and The Giving Tree are two opportunities. You can read about those and more elsewhere in this issue. We want to bless our community and the various ministries we support this season as we lift the name of Christ.

My prayer for each of us is that this year, with the hustle and bustle of Christmas necessarily toned down, when there is less travel away or guests coming in--that Christ himself will shine more brightly for us. The truths of Christmas will stand out more. And the presence of the Lord will be

clearer for each and every one of us this season. I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a beautiful Christmas and a new year full of promise and the promises of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Stuart



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Music Ministry	Page 2
Missions	Page 3
Education Ministries	Page 4
PNC Update	Page 8



As 2020 comes to an end I am reflecting on how this year started. Stuart had just joined us and we were getting to know each other. His dedication to our God and our church was a welcomed gift, and I was happy to have him join in

our worship offerings by playing percussion. I was also looking forward to collaborating more with Kimball Lutheran after the success of our joint Christmas Cantata. Then, suddenly in mid-March everything changed for everyone. We were faced with challenges of how to move forward as a church. The learning curve was high, but thanks to Stuart and the rest of the staff we transitioned from live streaming the service into Stuart's office to pre-recording to opening the church back up and live streaming in the sanctuary. Although I am not able to have a choir or handbells right now, I have been blessed to bring in some of my talented colleagues, musicians, students, and friends to bring meaningful worship experiences to you. A special highlight for me was when in July Amy played piano and Margaret Petty, a former Greater Europe Mission missionary was our guest cellist. I hope you have been able to draw closer to our God through the music ministry.

On October 18, I offered a spiritual concert. If you were unable to attend you can listen to the concert on the First Presbyterian Church Kannapolis YouTube channel. Just navigate to the channel and search for *His Name So Sweet*. I was delighted to hear my friend and colleague soprano Teresa Moore-Mitchell say, "This is exactly what my soul needed. Thank you for organizing this." The musical caliber of my colleagues and friends was impressive. The pianist made his Carnegie Hall piano solo recital debut at the age of 25 and has been on the accompanying staff for the University of Miami at Salzburg, Austria Summer Festival for the last twenty years. The clarinetist has played with the likes of Al Jarreau and Ronnie Milsap. The credentials and experience just go on and on for the others, too. We were blessed to have them share their gifts.

On December 10, I will once again be joined by pianist Zaiba Sheikh, and her husband and violinist

David Russell, and Margaret Petty on the cello for a special pre-recorded live stream of music by Beethoven, as 2020 is the 250 anniversary year of his birth. Many of you know that Amy and I attended Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and sat under the great retired pastor Tim Keller. Although the music in the church reflected a myriad of genres and styles, Beethoven's music was a fixture there. From his *Ode to Joy* to the *Missa Solemnis* to *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, the church echoes Beethoven's genius. The music director at Redeemer wrote an article on Beethoven and Jesus. He wrote how Beethoven wanted his music to reflect Jesus Christ. I quote him here, "*In Beethoven's music something is right in the world, something that checks throughout, something that follows its own law consistently, something that we can trust, something that will never let us down.*"

Despite COVID-19, the election, or any turmoil in our world, Jesus is right in the world, Jesus checks throughout, Jesus follows His own law consistently, Jesus is who we can trust, Jesus will never let us down!

David Hamilton

Director Of Music



Missions Donations! Due to your generosity, the Missions Team has been able to bless several organizations this year. We are so thankful for the heart that our congregation has to reach the ends of the earth with the Good News of Jesus Christ! Donations made to-date include:

Moscow Evangelical Seminary ---- \$1,500

Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association ---- \$1,500

Habit Missions (including local efforts) ---- \$1,482.64

Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief ---- \$1,000

Salvation Army Center of Hope - \$1,000

Shield a Badge with Prayer ---- \$500

Cabarrus Women's Center ---- \$500

Wehmeyer Missionaries ---- \$500

Kannapolis City Schools ---- uniforms, socks and shoes, school supplies

Cooperative Christian Ministry ---- food, rice and bean packing

Kannapolis Police Department ---- law enforcement appreciation bags

We ♥ Shoeboxes! Thank you to all who donated to our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection efforts! A total of ---- **boxes** were either donated or purchased online. We blessed those boxes with prayer during our worship service on November 22. What a wonderful representation of your love and God's love for the child God has already picked to receive them! Please continue to pray for the children around the world who will be impacted by this ministry, and those carrying it out. Your faithfulness and support are *so* appreciated!!!

Shoeboxes!!! Whether packed physically or online, these boxes will serve as a tangible expression of God's love to children who desperately need to hear the Good News. We praise God for your faithfulness and His provision! Please continue to pray that the boxes will arrive safely and be a blessing to each child who receives them. Thanks to your generosity, First Presbyterian was able to "pack" **349**

Giving Tree returns during Advent! Donations for this year's Giving Tree will benefit Kannapolis City Schools and Cooperative Christian Ministry. Tags on the tree, which is in the narthex, will feature items requested by these organizations. You may also participate by signing up to purchase items at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AABAC2EA1FB6-giving>.

Donations may be dropped off under the tree **until December 24**. If you need assistance getting your donations to the church, please contact a Missions Team member. Thanks as always for your support of our neighbors in need!



Christmas Eve Love Offering!

Our Christmas Eve Service will be held on Thursday, December 24 at 5:30pm. This year, the offering received will be donated to support Habit Missions' local efforts.



Souper Bowl of Caring coming February 7, 2021! Bring canned or dry goods with you to church this day and place in the red and white collection barrel outside the Fellowship Hall. Monetary gifts will also be accepted – please designate your offering for "Souper Bowl of Caring." Donations will benefit the Cooperative Christian Ministry of Cabarrus County.



**Men mark your calendar
8:30 am
Saturday, December 12**

**In the Fellowship Hall
Social Distancing will be observed
Coffee-Biscuit-Fellowship**

Christian Education:

Men's Fellowship meetings continue on the Second Saturday of each month. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast sandwiches and devotional time. Contact Pastor Stuart or Dave Argabrite for more information.

Women's Ministry Opportunities are plentiful this winter!

Saltshakers Women's Bible Study continues its focus on the Minor Prophets. They meet virtually on Mondays at 6pm. It is not too late to join in and learn what God tells us through His prophets. You will be amazed at how timely God's Word is to our world today. For more information or to join contact Sharon Cranford - skcranford@yahoo.com.

The "Bad Girls" Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the the Church Sanctuary. They are currently following "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" by Dr. David Jeremiah. Kay McAllister leads this group of wonderful ladies.

Women Without Reservations is beginning an Advent Study, "The Weary World Rejoices," from Lifeway Women. Meetings are virtual, on Sunday evenings at 7pm. In the new year, they will explore "Truthfilled: The Practice of Preaching to Yourself Through Every Season," by Ruth Chou

Simons. Contact Raegan Swaringen or Michelle Walker for more information. The Circle of Women plans to resume meetings beginning January 11 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings include a brief Bible story presentation, support of members with cards/other projects, and lots of great fellowship. See Sharon Cranford



Sunday School is available for all ages!

A combined adult class meets each Sunday at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. Guest speakers and church members lead the class, which is also streamed on our YouTube channel. If you would be willing to teach a Sunday or as part of a rotation, please see Pastor Stuart or Michelle Walker.

Lessons for Preschoolers through High Schoolers are provided in packets for youth to complete at home with their families. They can be picked up in the Church Office or delivered to you, if needed. Please let Michelle know if you would like lessons for your child.

Wednesday Night Life takes kids on a trip through the parables! Preschoolers and Elementary students are invited to join Michelle online each Wednesday at 7pm for lessons on Jesus' teachings of the parables. A link is emailed weekly to parents.

**Advent worship begins
November 29 with
Wildwood Honey**



Band! This group of talented ladies will lead us in worship through their beautiful harmonies and “folk-grass” sound. Continuing in Advent, our talented youth will bless our services with their worship offerings of song, reading, and teaching. Join us this Advent, in person or on-line, as we focus our attention on the coming of our Savior and truly “prepare Him room.”



Live Nativity coming Sunday evenings in Advent! Please visit our Live Nativity beginning this Sunday, November 29th. Church members will portray the Holy Family each Sunday in Advent from 7-9pm. Take time to reflect on the reason for our celebration as we “prepare Him room” in our hearts and lives this Christmas.



The Kings from the East

by Heinrich Heine

"Dear children," they asked in every town,
Three kings from the land of the sun,
"Which is the road to Bethlehem?"
But neither the old nor the young

Could tell, so the kings rode on:
Their guide was a golden star,
Which glittered ahead of them, high in the air,
So clear, so very clear.

The star stood still over Joseph's house,
They all of them stepped in:
The good ox lowed and the little child cried,
And the kings began to sing.



Office Manager Angela Simpson:

I am thrilled to be a part of the staff here at First Presbyterian of Kannapolis. You all have made me feel so welcome, and I look forward to getting to know all of you more in the future. I am here to help in any way I can as far as the office services of the church go, I will do my best to get things you request or need answer for as quickly as possible. I know 2020 has been quite the odd year, but I wish all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving as we have so much to be grateful for and a Joyous Christmas Season! May 2021 bring us all a renewed sense of Life and purpose for His glory!



We are overjoyed at the wonderful collection week we had for OCC! Our drop-off site collected a total of 854 shoe boxes from churches and individuals from all around our community. Thank you to the volunteers who came and helped with every detail. We could not have been so successful without you! We look forward to next year being an even greater success for us as an official drop-off location.



Volunteers: (L to R) Kay Yates, Sharon Stricker, Bill Stricker, Chariti Lowder & Phil McLain



The Drop-Off

Welcome & Greeting

Here volunteers could pray with folks dropping off boxes and offer them help unloading.





December

9- Thomas & Dawn Cavin
 12- Richard & Jean Roberts
 24- Jean & John Bost
 26- Randy & Donna Whitley
 30- Lee & Lynn Effird

January

29- Steve & Judy Goodnight

February

16- Kelly & Craig Semcho



December

6- Barbara Hancock
 7 - Chance Williams
 Peggy Snider
 8- Hudson Craft
 10- August Williams
 16 - George Linn
 Sharon Cranford
 18 -Becky Seaford
 19- Bill Stricker
 Lily Efird
 Lynn Sechler
 23- Jason Eddings
 John Bost
 27- Katie Satterfield

January

1- Emily Griggs
 3 - Judy Goodnight
 4 - Randy Whitley
 6- Ronald Lisenby
 William Cranford
 9 - Buster Perry
 10 - William Baker
 13- Susan Baker
 18 - Debby Reed
 19 - Karen Pless
 24- Debra Dandro
 25 - Christy Heintz
 27- Andrew Baker
 Peggy Gibson
 28 - Lindsey Leece
 29- Garrett Brady
 30-Tracy Caskey
 31-Amelia Caskey
 Richard Roberts

February

1 - Jennifer James
 2 - Dawn Cavin
 5- Jeffrey Barnhardt
 11-Edward Bell
 12-Lee Effird
 13-Malania Meeks
 14- Bob Faust
 Norman Baker
 16- Shelia Grey
 17- Bill Goodnight
 18- Alice Jeanes
 21- Jean Bost
 23- Emily Martens
 Jean Roberts
 24- Connie Lisenby
 25- Craig Semcho
 26- John Hammond
 27-Jane Jacobs

L is for "laughter" we had along the way.

O is for "optimism" you gave me every day.

V is for "value" of being my best friend.

E is for "eternity," a love that has no end.



Budget to date as of October 2020	\$230,245
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$207,668
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$213,894
October Income (for budgeted items)	\$16,644
October Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$19,478
If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.	

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