

December 2022



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

Staunton, Virginia

December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm MBU Holiday Choral Festival Dress Rehearsal	2 7pm MBU Annual Holiday Festival Concert	3 7pm MBU Annual Holiday Festival Concert Reception afterward-FH
4 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live H.D. Scoggins preaching	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live H.D. Scoggins preaching Christmas Dinner after	12	13 7pm Session Meeting – Library	14	15 Newsletter Deadline– January 2023	16	17
18 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live H.D. Scoggins preaching	19 Deadline for 12/24, 1/2 bulletins	20	21	22	23	24 5pm- Christmas Eve Worship H.D. Scoggins preaching
25 Christmas Day (no worship)	26 Church Offices Closed	27 Heidi- off	28 Heidi- off	29 Heidi- off	30 Heidi- off	31

Pastor's Letter from Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins

Advent



Advent- it is about coming- the first coming in Bethlehem, but also a looking forward to the second coming at the close of the age. But coming where? The Messiah - God's anointed messenger - coming to God's people, coming in power and mercy to show us the way home. That is where Advent points us - to the

Christ and to home. Some of my most cherished memories of my youth was piling in my car with my sister and her family, and heading home for Christmas. Home for the holidays. What a blessing to see family and friends, eat some great food and be renewed in "home". Notice I said in, not at - for it was more than simply being at a place, but being immersed in all that home can mean. It was most meaningful when my grandparents were still with us, when my stepfather would roast a big pan of oysters, when the familiar ornaments on the tree would remind me of other ghosts of Christmas past as Dickens reminds us. I hope and pray for you all that this will be a true Advent. Celebrate those Christmases past - your past. Celebrate by coming home to your church - a place of love and healing, a place wherein we can find not only the Christ Child, but that child in all of us that belongs to him and to each other. Let his Advent be a time of healing, renewal, and rest in the arms of your church family.

Blessing and peace.

- The Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins

FIRST IMPRESSIONS is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Updates from Session

- ◆ Session met with Patrick Pettit for information on the search for an Interim Pastor.
- ◆ Training for Session members will take place early next year and Presbytery will be presenting the training.
- ◆ The library will be open on Monday, November 28 for the Christmas Parade. Anyone interested in helping should reach out to Sam Clem.
- ◆ The Christmas Dinner will be Sunday, December 11. Anyone interested in helping should reach out to Sam Clem.
- ◆ We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 29 for Christmas. The time will be announced. If you would like to help with that, please contact Amanda Avery or Mary Meade.



There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm in the Library.

COVID-19 News

According to the New York Times (eff. November 17, 2022):

Latest trends

- ◆ The community level of COVID-19 in Staunton is **medium** based on cases and hospitalizations, according to the most recent update from the CDC on November 10.
- ◆ The number of **hospitalized COVID patients** has fallen in the Staunton area. **Deaths** have remained at about the same level.
- ◆ Recent data on the test positivity rate in Staunton is not available.

People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.



Mary Katherine Potter

February 19, 1922-October 22, 2022

The former Mary Katherine LeNoir of West Point, Mississippi passed away October 22nd. Kay married her high school sweetheart, Garnett Steele Beattie, who gave his life for our country 9 months into their marriage. She later married the Reverend Richard Randall Potter, Chaplain Lt. Colonel, US Air Force, who died in 1962 while pastor of The First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, Virginia. Kay loved to plan events and entertain in the manse.

Kay was a resident of Avondale Estates for over 40 years. Later, she lived at Coventry Place where she loved to help with events and started a Wednesday night communion service with her pastor, Rev. Tom Haygood. Her last five years were spent at Medlock Gardens where she was well cared for.

Kay was a long-time member of Columbia Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed planning trips for the Prime Time group and volunteered with many of the church's ministries.

Kay also loved working in her yard, dogs, trips to Montreat, North Carolina with her family, and traveling all over the United States with three close friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, Sterling Franklin LeNoir and Eula Wilson LeNoir, and her two older brothers, Sterling Franklin LeNoir and Hugh Finley LeNoir.

Kay is survived by her son Randy Potter, daughter Peggy Clayton (Larry), her four granddaughters, Megan Clark (Jake), Heather Schutz (John Paul), Lindsey Van Leuvan (Justin), and the Reverend Lori Osborn (Matt), 6 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Church Info

Church Worship Info—December 2022

The Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins will be preaching during the month of December.

Christmas Eve Service will take place at 5:00pm on Saturday, December 24 with communion.

Christmas Flowers



It's that time of year again! If you would like to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas, we will have the poinsettias again during the Advent season. An insert has been provided in the bulletin by which you can give the name or names of the person(s) you wish to remember. Then put your check in the collection plate and mark it "Christmas Flowers." **The deadline for donating, and to be published in our bulletin insert, is Monday, December 5.** Thank you for helping our sanctuary look beautiful during this special season!

Christmas Decorating for Sanctuary



The Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas on Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome, so please come and help if you can!

Christmas Holiday

The church offices will be closed Monday, December 26 for Christmas. Heidi will be off December 23 and 24, the week of December 26, and January 1-2. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Christmas!



Upcoming News & Events

Mary Baldwin University Annual Holiday Festival Concert

Mary Baldwin University will present their Annual Holiday Choral Festival in our sanctuary on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 at 7:00pm. We hope you can join us!



Christmas Dinner After Worship on Sunday, December 11



Please join us for our Christmas Dinner scheduled for Sunday, December 11, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide turkey, taters, and green beans, and we ask members to bring a side or dessert to share. Please contact the church office to RSVP so we know how much food to prepare.

If you wish to volunteer to help or have any questions, please notify the office, who will relay the message to Sam Clem.

Please RSVP by **Monday, December 5** so that we can get a head count.

All are welcome. We hope to see you there!!

Newsletter Deadline for January 2023

The deadline for submissions for the January issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, December 15**. We need material, so please submit any info you would like to include by then. Heidi will be off Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 3, so this is a hard deadline. Thank you!

Upcoming Events & Info

December Birthday List

- 2 Duke Bumgardner III
- 3 Catty Clem
James Cooke Jr.
- 14 Barbara Richardson
- 18 Freya Poole
- 23 Jamie Morris
Sara Lewis Anderson
- 27 Donna Goble
Louise Whipple
- 31 Megan McAllister



Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA



When: Monday, December 5, 7:00pm
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

Where: Memorial Baptist Church
224 Taylor St., Staunton
540-885-8033

Featuring Local Musical Artists including: The Faithful Men, The Boogie Kings, Mr. Jefferson's Bones

Come join for a time of music, fellowship, and an offering to SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association).

A "Meet and Greet the Artists" time with refreshments will follow the concert.