

The Newsletter of  
Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church  
francismakemiepc.org  
&  
Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church  
nmpreschurch.org

DECEMBER  
2024  
VOLUME 2  
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GLAD TIDINGS



## Future Hope

I found this story from the Brazilian theologian Rubem Alves interesting. Let us consider the frontiers of our future in a way we may never have dreamed.

Rubem called hope *“the suspicion ... that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the limits of the present.”* Who among us doesn’t sometimes imagine our future based solely on present-day obstacles? Even biblical heroes did so.

Abraham and Sarah laughed at God’s promise of a child, seeing only their present circumstance of old age. Only in hindsight could Joseph see how God turned slavery in Egypt into great good.

At first another Joseph, learning his fiancée was pregnant, believed his world was limited to two possibilities: shame Mary publicly or divorce her quietly. But his heart was open to God’s message: *“What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [Her] son ... will save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:20-21, NIV). How exceedingly far this future must have seemed from the limits of Joseph’s present.

Christmas is a reminder that God calls us all into frontiers of the future we never could have dreamed!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Monica*

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Nursery Worker-Jaqueline Diaz,  
Treasurer-Rick Turner, Patty Davis,  
Clerk-Jennifer Stapleton  
Elders:2026 Suzanne Rogers, Kate Baird,  
Judd Everhart 2025 Jennifer Stapleton,  
Bill Baird, Patty Davis, 2024 Ron May,  
Linda Arvidson, Rick Turner  
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Tammy Mason, 2025: Paul Hughes, 2026 Kathy Boggs,  
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DECEMBER



# HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## DECEMBER

Debbie Ryon	12-01
Ted Ames	12-03
Monica Gould	12-04
Nina Moring	12-05
Bethany Shea*	12-08
Molly Arvidson	12-12
Debbie Holland*	12-21
Julie Chuquin	12-30

### Welcome Friends, to Advent 2024

As we begin this period of anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth, we would like to offer you this daily devotional booklet and a few simple tokens to remember the meaning of this special time in the life of God's people.

This Advent booklet gives us a picture of how important hospitality is to God in His relationship with us. Included with the devotional are 5 ornaments. One depicting the theme of each week of the Advent devotional readings and a fifth especially for Christmas Day.

These ornaments can adorn your tree, a wreath, a doorknob or a mantle. The ornaments are simple, but the message is great....The Word Was Made Flesh, and became our light, our life, and our rock.

Welcome Rowan Grace Nock to our church family. Born November 10, Rowan is the daughter of Skylar Stapleton and Gabe Nock. She joins big sister Raelynn



Have a Blessed Advent  
Donna, Nina and Kate  
Your Christian Education Team



December 2024	December 2024	December 2024	December 2024	December 2024	December 2024	December 2024
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	Wednesday	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	November 25	26 Yoga 5:45-6:45	27	28 T 	29	30
<b>1 ADVENT</b> 9:15 FMPC 11:00 NMPC Decorate church	2 Presbyterian Women 11:30-1pm	3 Yoga 5:45-6:45 OBICA 5:30	4	5 Prayer meeting Choir 4:30-6	6	7
<b>8 ADVENT</b> 9:15 FMPC 9:45 Sunday School NMPC 11:00 NMPC	9	10 Yoga 5:45-6:45	<b>11</b>	12 Book Club 1-3 Choir 4:30-6	<b>13</b>	14 <b>NMPC open house</b> for Christmas in Onancock 10-4
<b>15 ADVENT</b> 9:15 FMPC 11:00 NMPC Christmas Cantata & Children, Cookie exchange Caroling @ 4	16 Session @ manse 5:30	17 Yoga 5:45-6:45	<b>18</b> Pot luck 5:30 p.m. Movie 6:00 p.m. Discussion to follow! <b>A Christmas</b>	19 Prayer meeting Choir 4:30-6	20	21
<b>22 ADVENT</b> 9:15 FMPC Christmas program 9:45 Sunday school	23	<b>24 Christmas EVE</b> Candlelight & Communion NMPC 7 pm FMPC 11 pm	<b>25</b> 	26	<b>27</b>	28
29 9:15 FMPC 11:00 NMPC	30	<b>31</b>	<b>2025</b> January 1 New Year's Day	2 	3	4

## Our Chrismon Tree Has New Life Thanks to Our Own Jean Beard!

Our Christmas tree in the narthex has a spectacular new look this yuletide season, thanks to the artistic talents of NMPC member Jean Beard.

Jean has handcrafted dozens of new Chrismons for the tree, replacing the old Styrofoam ones that seen better days. Jean used felt fabric, sequins, beads, and embroidery in these beautiful new creations, which she has been working on since summer.

What's a Chrismon? Glad you asked. They're ornaments shaped into early Christian symbols — for example, a dove, a fish, a cross, a shepherd's crook, a chalice, and others. The tradition of the Chrismon tree, which represents eternal life, originated right here in Virginia: In 1957, Mrs. Harry W. Spencer of the Lutheran Church of the

Ascension in Danville, created the first one. Today, churches around the world use them!

One of Jean's favorite symbols is the dogwood flower. "It represents the cross in its shape, and Jesus' sacrifice with the red tints on the flower petals," she says. "I also love the dove, which represents the presence of God."

Jean wasn't quite "alone" in her craftsmanship. She inherited all kinds of sequins and beads from her mother, Joyce, when she passed. "And I thought, I should use these."

Jean, who also makes felt Christmas ornaments to sell at craft shows, says she found the project "enjoyable and very gratifying. I'm very happy to use the sewing skills my mother taught me to create these for the church, something that can be used for many years."

And something we'll all enjoy for many years too. Thank you, Jean! By Mark Moring



**December 1st at NMPC** we'll dedicate the new Chrismons in worship. After worship we'll decorate the church for with trees, wreaths, and nativities.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe that the first semester of Sunday School is almost complete. Attendance has been wonderful in all three classes, but there is always room for more to join us! The pre-school, youth and adult classes meet the 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month beginning at 9:45am.

**December dates are the 8 th and 22 nd and in January we will meet on the 12 th and 26 th !**

Continued on page 8



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent December 1, 2024**

**FMPC 9:15 am-** Advent wreath lighting

**NMPC 11:00** Advent wreath lighting

*NMPC Hanging of the greens*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent December 8, 2024**

**FMPC 9:15 am-** Advent wreath lighting

**NMPC 11:00 am-** Advent wreath lighting

*NMPC Congregational Meeting* immediately following worship

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent December 15, 2024**

**FMPC 9:15** Advent wreath lighting

**NMPC 11:00** Advent wreath lighting *Christmas Cantata & Children's Program*

*Cookie Exchange* NMPC during fellowship hour bring a tin of cookies and take home a tin of different cookies  
*Christmas Caroling 4:00* at Commonwealth Senior Living, Memory Care 23610 North St Onancock.  
Followed by fellowship at the home of Rick Turner.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent December 22, 2024**

**FMPC 9:15 am-** Advent wreath lighting

*Children's Program*

**NMPC 11:00 am-** Advent wreath lighting

**Christmas Eve December 24, 2024**

**NMPC 7 pm** Candlelight Communion service

**FMPC 11 pm** Candlelight Communion service

The NMPC Presbyterian Women will soon be selling **small desk calendars** featuring pen and ink drawings of various sites in Onancock.

Calendars will be available in early November. Cost for a 2025 refill is \$5.00. A complete 2025 calendar sells for \$10.00.



**Congregational Meeting at NMPC December 8** after worship for the purpose of electing elders, and approving pastor package, and being informed of 2025 budget.

## MISSION GIVING for DECEMBER



**Christmas Joy Offering.** God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place. This Offering addresses the support for leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. It helps support retired ministers who are not able to afford senior living housing.

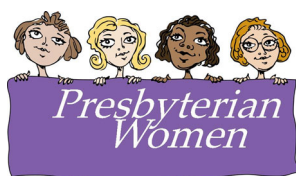
**Collecting cash for Food Lion gift cards** to help the seniors on the Shore who suffer from Food Insecurity. We are hoping to collect enough cash to **provide \$75 cards to 40 seniors.** Please send your checks to **FMPC PO Box 680 Accomac, VA 23301** Thank you for your support. Check with Paul Hughes for further information.



**NMPC** will have the angel tree set up with gift selections for a family from the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Instructions will be given at the tree when picking up an angel.



**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18**  
A special Christmas telling of an old story.  
A Christmas Carol with Patrick Stewart.  
Potluck 5:30 pm  
Movie at 6 pm.  
Discussion to follow.



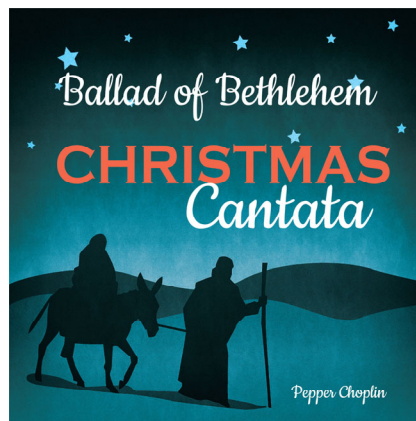
Meets the **first Monday of the month at 11:30 am.** Bible study followed by bag lunch and a business meeting.



FRANCIS MAKEMIE has always had a beautiful lamp adorning her front porch. During an extra windy storm the lamp fell from its position and needed repair. It also needed something stronger than a chain to keep it in place to withstand any further storms. Thank you Rick Hall for finding the right person with the right design to bring the beautiful lamp back to her home. We look forward to seeing her shine at our Christmas Eve service at 11 pm.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

NMPC choir and children will present the BALLAD of BETHLEHEM cantata on **Sunday December 15 at 11 am.**



FMPC will have the Children's Christmas Program on **Sunday December 22 at 9:15 am**



## Christmas Cookie Exchange



**Sunday at NMPC December 15 as part of fellowship hour.**

Bring a dozen or so of *your favorite holiday cookies* and a tin to collect some in. Even if you're not a baker, come join in this special holiday treat and take home a dozen or so variety of cookies.



**Christmas Caroling Sunday December 15 Leaving from NMPC at 3:45** to sing at 4pm at Commonwealth Senior Living. This is followed by singing to shut-ins. If you have a family you would like us to sing to please let us know as soon as possible.

## Sunday school, continued from page 4

Many thanks to all of our teachers for their time and creativity and for sharing their faith with the classes!

So far in the Preschool Sunday School class we have started our Bible stories by learning about the story of creation, Adam and Eve leaving the Garden of Eden and how God rescued Noah and his family in an ark and his promise displayed by a rainbow. Each student has received their own Bible to follow along with the stories. Lessons also include singing, crafts to help review the stories and some play fun! ....Jean Beard and Joan May

Our youth have been getting to know people from the Old Testament who had significant encounters with God. The stories of Moses, Joshua, Jonah and Daniel have taught us about perseverance, trust and faith, how to deal with difficult situations and the depth of God's love and forgiveness. We take these lessons and bring them forward and apply them to our own lives and our interactions with family and friends. We also looked closely at the meaning of Communion and the privilege of receiving Jesus' invitation to join him at God's Joyous Feast

We also helped prepare the elements and set the table for World Communion Sunday.

.....Kate Baird

The adult class has been continuing their study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We have recently been discussing the uselessness of worry and the hypocrisy of judging others. We will soon be looking at seeking and finding, the narrow and wide gates and the tree and its fruit. We enjoy learning together, sharing our thoughts and hearing those of others. We invite you to join us for these lively and faith growing discussions. ....Bill Baird



During the festivities in Onancock on **Saturday December 14 NMPC will be open** to the public to come visit the church decorated for Christmas and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies.

