

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 9:45 am (during Sunday School hour)
9th graders – all Adults encouraged to attend

For the purposes of:

1. Electing a new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons
2. Electing a new class for the Officer Nominating Committee
3. Receiving as information possible financial updates
4. To revise Nomination and Election process document to include the following statement:
 "The Nominating Committee shall follow Biblical qualifications for Elders and Deacons as well as the EPC Book of Order in consideration of nominees, as outlined in 'Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church: Elders and Deacons.'"

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY today are given by Norma Roberts and family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wilson David "Dee" Roberts.

YOUTH NEWS:

636: All high school boys are invited for a time of early morning fellowship this Tuesday, December 5th. The guys will join Shane at Biscuitville on Old Forest Road at 6:36 am.

FNL: It's time for Friday Night Lights! All 7th grade girls are invited for dinner, games, and fellowship this Friday, December 8th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Place TBD. Parents, please let Josh know if your daughter is coming or you would like to host!

HANGING OF THE GREENS, DECEMBER 3rd, AT 6:00 pm: Our Sanctuary will be adorned with Christmas greens as we sing hymns, hear Scripture readings and enjoy presentations by the youth strings and the Cherub Choir.

CIRCLE 4 will meet Tuesday, December 5th, in Country Gardens at 10:15 am. Following the meeting, there will be lunch off-site.

"CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS": A Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra Sunday, December 10th at 6:30 pm. Nursery provided through age 3.

CIRCLE 1 will meet Tuesday, December 12th, in the Library at 10:00 am.

FLORAL FUND & CHRISTMAS MISSIONS PROJECT

Christmas floral decorations in our Sanctuary are made possible through the contributions of members, in memory or in honor of loved ones. Contributions may also be made to the **Christmas Missions Project**, which will go to support REPC's City Life Fund. The City Life Fund helps our Rivermont/Lynchburg neighbors through an extraordinary financial crisis. If you would like to contribute to either fund, please clip and complete the form below and send it with your check to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, December 17, 2017. All contributions in memory or in honor of loved ones will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Floral Fund/Missions Project Contribution

Donor's Name: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Floral Fund \$ _____

Missions Project \$ _____

Please make checks payable to REPC with notation:
"Floral Fund" or "Christmas Missions Project"
Due 12/17/17

Announcements (continued)

60 PLUS/MINUS: Celebrate the joys of Christmas with our luncheon on Wed., Dec. 13th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a musical program presented by Mrs. Ginger Paris and the Bedford Hills Elementary School Strings of Lynchburg City Schools. They will perform both classical music and Christmas Carols. **Please make your reservations by noon, December 11th**, on the sign-up sheet by the Library or by calling the church office.

RINGING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL: Please sign up in the Cheatham Center to ring the Salvation Army Bell at the Kroger store on Timberlake Road. Our ringing days are December 19th through December 23rd. Please call Brian or Lyn Nash with any questions at 384-2071. Thank you in advance for answering this call to serve!

URGENT NEED FOR TEACHERS FOR MK'S: Are you a teacher? Would you consider using your skills for a year or more to help missionary families stay in North Africa? Teachers are needed for an International Christian elementary school and a secondary homeschool co-op. If interested, get in touch with Pastor Brett at 846-3441.

NAMES OF JESUS ADVENT CHAIN packets are still available in Ann Knight's office.

HELP NEEDED: We are in need of two helpers to assist in cleaning on Monday morning following the Sunday communion service. If you are willing to help, please contact Dot Barker at (434) 582-1321.

ALL NATIONS CHRISTMAS MISSION OPPORTUNITY: All gifts need to be wrapped, tagged and returned to the church no later than December 10. Please place them on the table in the John Knox. Thank you for your loving support to this ministry.

Calendar

Sunday, December 3
 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship with the Lord's Supper
 9:45 am College Hour
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am Bearing Burdens (Library)
 10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
 11:00 am Worship with the Lord's Supper
 3:30 pm CWMC
 4:30 pm Youth Music Practice (Youth Center)
 4:45 pm RIMC Meeting
 6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 4
 9:00 am Preschool
 10:00 am Prayer Group (Family Room)
 6:00 pm Young Life (The Q)

Tuesday, December 5
 6:30 am Dawn Patrol
 6:36 am HS Boys' 636 (Biscuitville)
 9:00 am Preschool
 10:15 am Circle #4 (Country Gardens)
 4:00 pm Shepherd and Care Meeting (204)
 5:30 pm Relational Discipleship (Conf. Room)
 6:45 pm No Walls Prayer Meeting (All Nations)

Wednesday, December 6
 9:00 am Preschool
 12:00 pm Elder Luncheon (Country Gardens)

Wednesday, December 6 (Continued)
 3:45 pm Rivermont Ringers (206)
 4:15 pm GriefShare (Room 202)
 4:30 pm Praise Ringers
 5:00 pm B & G Meeting (Conference Room)
 5:15 pm Carillon (206)
 5:15 pm New Song (301)
 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 7
 9:30 am CBS Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
 9:30 am OASIS (Cheatham Center)
 5:00 pm MJC (Library)

Friday, December 8
 6:00 pm MS Friday Night Lights (7th grade) (TBD)

Saturday, December 9
 9:00 am Orchestral Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 12:00 pm No Walls Second Saturday Picnic (HRCC)

Sunday, December 10
 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship
 9:45 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
 11:00 am Westminster Canterbury Service
 11:00 am Worship
 4:30 pm Youth Music Practice (Youth Center)
 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Cantata (Nursery to 3 yr.)

Contact Us

MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue
 Lynchburg, VA 24503

PHONE: (434) 846-3441

FAX: (434) 846-1002

EMAIL: donna@rivermont.org

WEB: www.rivermont.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/rivermontepc

OFFICE: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
 Saturday 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

MINISTRY STAFF

David Weber | SENIOR PASTOR

Ron Cox | EXECUTIVE PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

Brett Eubank | PASTOR OF OUTREACH AND ASSIMILATION

Mike Palombo | PASTOR OF RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Shane Whelan | PASTOR OF STUDENT FAMILIES

Peggy Bettcher | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Ann Knight | DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Josh Dempsey | DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Matt Bradner | REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CAMPUS OUTREACH

Alisha Meador | CARE COORDINATOR



OUR MISSION

REPC SEEKS THE RENEWING OF LIVES THROUGH GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE
 IN LYNCHBURG AND THE WORLD.

First Sunday in Advent | December 3, 2017 | 8:30 AM ☺ 11:00 AM

Order Of Worship

The prelude is a time for the body of Christ to spiritually prepare to enter into His presence in worship. As the prelude begins, please assume a quiet, prayerful and reverent attitude of worship. (Please silence your mobile devices.)

PRELUDE: **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **Rivermont Chimes**
 Julia Sansone - Director arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:
 ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Who orders all things in heaven and in earth, and Who made all ages a preparation for the coming of Your Son: prepare us by Your Holy Spirit for the coming of Him Whom You sent, that we may behold His glory and receive the fullness of Your blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Pastor Eubank**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 40:3-5 (responsively)**
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low;
And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken!

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #194 (vs. 1-4)** **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** VENI EMMANUEL

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
8:30 am: John and Gracie Lewis
11:00 am: Jonathan & Laura Ashton, together with their children
Victoria and Holly
 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed: we have not loved You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength; neither have we loved our neighbor as ourselves, nor one another as Christ has loved us. We confess our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and self-pity, our faithless anxiety and willful waywardness; our lack of compassion toward others; and all the sinful affections and impure secrets of our hearts.

Have mercy upon us, O God; and forgive what we have been. In your great goodness and love, and by the sanctifying power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to amend what we are; and, for the sake of Your glory, direct what we shall be; that we may walk in the light of life, living lives pleasing in Your sight; through Your Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ; in Whose name we pray. Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:**

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come" (vs. 1 & 3) ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

***THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
(Romans 15:7)*

SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES:

The Chapel Choir

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Brad Nix

Lori Flowers - Director; Charis Jantomaso - Accompanist

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children’s Church.
8:30: Pre-K thru First Grade meet in the ORANGE room, #115
11:00: First Grade meet in ORANGE room, #115;
Pre-K/K meet in RED room, #114

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (pg. 1014)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "Living Hope and Great Mercy" Pastor Cox

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (in unison)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***THE GLORIA: "Praise and Glory to the Father"**

REGENT SQUARE

Praise and glory to the Father, praise and glory to the Son,
Praise and glory to the Spirit: ever Three and ever One;
One in might and One in glory, while unending ages run!

THE RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

Sanctuary Choir

"Of the Father's Love "

arr. Barry Talley

Of the Father’s love begotten, so the world began to be.
Of the things that are, that have been, and future years shall ever see.
He is the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, He.
Of the Father’s love begotten, born for you and me.
O that birth forever blessed, Mary filled with grace.
By the Holy Ghost conceiving bore the Savior of our race.
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer first revealed His sacred face.
Of the Father’s love begotten in that lowly manger place.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Now He shines the long expected, let creation praise its Lord.
Of the Father’s love begotten, evermore and evermore.
O ye heights of heav’n adore Him, angels sing His praise.
Powers and dominions bow before Him, songs of adoration raise.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev’ry voice in concert ring.
Of the Father’s love begotten, born to us our heav’nly King.
Born to set His people free. Born to us our heav’nly King.

Julia Sansone – Accompanist

***THE COMMUNION HYMN: #193**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (vs. 1 & 2) PICARDY

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

If you are not a member of this congregation but are a baptized believer who is welcome to receive Communion in your home church, then you are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper with us. Baptized children of this congregation are welcome to receive the Sacrament after they have received instruction and admission by the Session.

The Words of Invitation and Institution

The Prayer of Consecration, concluding with The Lord’s Prayer: (in unison)

Our Father, Who art in heaven: hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Bread and Cup

The Concluding Communion Prayer

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #194 (v. 5)**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL RESPONSE (sung by all):**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***POSTLUDE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.
Lyrics and music reproduced under CCLI#64526.

Concerns of the Church

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank and Whitney Cairns on the birth of their daughters, Charlotte Mae and Felicity Grace, who were born on November 29th.

IN THE HOSPITAL: Whitney Cairns

RECUPERATING: Barbara Shaughnessy, Celeste Wasserman

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:

- Paul & Eileen Lass in the death of Eileen's brother, Martin Brian Hildenberger, who died on Friday, November 24th.
- Norma Roberts in the death of her husband, Dee Roberts, who died on Friday, November 24th.
- Pastor Emeritus Lowell Sykes in the death of his sister, Sarah Ruth Sykes, who died on Thursday, November 30.

IN APPRECIATION: *Thank you to everyone who volunteered for our annual Red Cross blood drive this year! From food donations, registration, setup, tear down, kitchen staff and donor walkers. We collected 33 units of blood, thanks to everyone's hard work. A special thank you to Adrienne Scruggs and Peggy Hooks for their efforts in getting everything organized and keeping it running smoothly. And a huge thank you to everyone who donated. It's one of the most important gifts you can give. Alisha Meador*

THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The offering for Sports Outreach from our Thanksgiving Day service was \$516. Attendance was 87.

ATTENDANCE: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: 289; 11:00: service: 335.
Total: 624. Sunday School: 395.

USHERS SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10: Head Deacon: Mark Smith

Assistant Deacon: Mary Byrd Denham **Morning Only:** Calvin Dameron

8:30 am: Larry Shackleton, Chuck Spruill, Rosemary Sulc, Alec Terrell

11:00 am: Isaiah Bradner, Matt Bradner, Ray Ganthner, Billy Giles

6:30 pm: Paul Denham, Simeon Purvis

General Fund As of October 31, 2017:	
(June 30 Year End)	
Budget to date:	\$593,822
Budget Shortfall:	\$ (31,826)
Year-to-date contributions:	\$561,996
Year-to-date expenses:	\$547,945
Contributions over expenses:	\$ 14,051
Organ Chamber Wall Rebuild	
Anticipated Cost of Rebuild:	\$324,305
Campaign Goal:	\$250,000

SERMON NOTES

1. Born again . . .

2. To an inheritance . . .

3. Kept in heaven . . .

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: RAY AND KAY BAKER

Ray and Kay Baker serve in Stockholm, Sweden through Greater Europe Mission. As chairperson of the board for Scripture Union Sweden, Ray has helped develop a number of resources to help teach children the Word of God, including a Bible App for Kids, a large graphic timeline of the Biblical story as well as a card game to help families, classes and youth groups study the Bible in fun, creative ways. Pray for Ray as he prepares a series of sermons on Daniel for a conference in Burma with Eric Vess in January. Pray for Kay as she continues preparing for the big SHARE Family Education Conference in Hungary at the end of February.