

Announcements

FLOWER CALENDAR: For those who wish to donate flowers for the Sanctuary, please sign up on the bulletin board beside the Library. If you have a special date in mind, be sure to place your name by your preferred date while it is available!

CIRCLE 4 will meet Tuesday, January 2nd, in Country Gardens at 10:30 am.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS: All visitors and new attenders to REPC are invited to meet some of the pastors at our "Coffee with Pastors" on January 7th from 9:45 am to 10:30 am in the Cheatham Center.

CIRCLE 1 will meet Tuesday, January 9th, in the Library at 10:00 am.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY: The OASIS Thursday Morning Women's Bible Studies will begin January 11th at 9:30 am. We will start a new study on Philippians using an inductive study guide called Joy by Keri Folmar. Newcomers are welcome. Please call the church to sign up or just drop in. Questions? Email Andrea Adams: daadams@comcast.net or Eleanor Webb: etwebb@gmail.com.

PARKING AND OUR NEIGHBORS: With the blessings of wondrous attendance on Sunday mornings, one practical challenge each Lord's Day is parking. We occasionally block a neighbor's driveway or damage a yard. Memphis Avenue, which runs parallel to Rivermont Avenue and perpendicular to Quinlan Street has become a recent concern. Graciously, Randolph College allows use of three parking lots: Maier Museum and the Upper Gym lot (accessed from Quinlan) and the Lower Gym Lot (accessed from Norfolk Avenue). Please serve one another in love and respect our neighbors by allowing a little extra time on Sunday mornings and by parking in designated areas.

GETTING TO KNOW RIVERMONT: Pastor Brett and Pastor Ron will host an eight-week introductory class about the life, mission and ministry of Rivermont EPC during the Sunday School hour - beginning January 14, from 9:45 am to 10:40 am in Room 203. This class is designed for the curious, as well as for those desiring to pursue formal membership at Rivermont EPC. Please call Janet at the church office (846-3441) for more information or to register. You can also register online at <http://www.rivermont.org/gtkr-registration>.

NEW ELECTED OFFICERS: Last Sunday, December 17, the Rivermont covenant family enjoyed Christ-centered unity in the annual congregational meeting to elect a new group of ruling elders, deacons, members of the Officer Nominating Committee.

Elected to serve as Ruling Elders (Class of 2020), we welcome: *Randy Davy, Paul Denham, David Harker and Carey Roberts*

Elected to serve as Deacons (Class of 2020), we welcome: *Andrea Adams, Kelly Crawford, Ken Dunn, Larry Langhans, Russ Matney, Alan Pettigrew, Susan Pettyjohn and Mike Ritchie*

Members elected to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee (Class of 2019) are: *Jacob Caldwell, Norman Darden, Blair Nelligan, Treasa Plude and (Class of 2018) Lori Flowers*

Returning members in the Class of 2018 are: *Hermann Ulrich and Brigetta Eshleman.*

Being recommended to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2018 is: *Lori Flowers.*

We recognize those officers who completed their service on the Session and the Diaconate effective December 31. Those elders are: *Bert Murphy, Chuck Shaughnessy, Andrew Shields and Earl Weaver. The Deacons include Clay Atkins, Susan Crawford, Eric Kistler, Blair Nelligan, Lee Newland, Dan Schepens and David Thornburg.*

General Ministry Fund as of November 30, 2017 (June 30 Year End)		Organ Chamber Wall Repair and Rebuild: As of December 24, 2017	
Year-to-Date Receipts:	\$ 731,659	Anticipated Cost:	\$324,305
Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$681,595	Campaign Goal:	\$250,000
Receipts Over Expenses:	\$ 50,064	Donations Received:	\$160,540
Year-to-Date Budget:	\$742,278	Remaining Need:	\$ 89,460
Year-to-Date Receipts:	\$731,659		
Budget Deficit:	\$(10,619)		

Concerns of the Church

IN THE HOSPITAL: Carl Coleman, Anna Wade

ATTENDANCE December 17: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: 316; 11:00: service: 351. Total: 667. Sunday School: 269. Mission Service: 17.

USHERS SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31: **Head Deacon:** Eric Kistler
Assistant Deacon: Patrick Yeatts **Morning Only:** Andy Morse
8:30 am: Michael Emanuel, Scott Wade, Dave Young, Ginny Young
11:00 am: John Blanks, Danny Boyers, Earl Weaver, Ryan Webb

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS & YEAR-END DONATIONS: Church offices will be closed December 23 through January 1 and will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, January 2.

For tax purposes, year-end contributions must be postmarked by Saturday, December 30th or received by Sunday, December 31st. During the week the offices are closed, donations may be dropped in the locked black box at the end of the back entrance ramp until 5:00 pm on Dec. 31st. If you wish to make a stock donation, please contact Kelly Nelson at 846-3441. For fast and secure online contributions, go to www.rivermont.org/give.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: RUSH HOMES

Rush Homes provide affordable and accessible housing opportunities for low-income people with disabilities in Lynchburg and surrounding communities. They are currently building a new development, Old Forest Village, that will provide 28 more affordable, accessible homes for folks with disabilities. We give thanks to God for the advocacy and support they provide for the disabled and disadvantaged in our community. Pray that God will continue to provide additional properties they can turn into housing for the disabled. If you'd like more info on what they do, you can find it on their website, which is www.rushhomes.org.

Calendar

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Fellowship (No Sunday School)
Nursery to 3 years old.
10:20 am Youth (grades 5-12) Parent Meeting (Q)
10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
(Nursery to 3 years old)
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service
(Nursery to 3 years old)

December 24 (continued)
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service
(No Nursery)

Monday, December 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY!)

Sunday, December 31
8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
8:30 am Worship
9:45 am College Hour
10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room)
11:00 am Worship

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

Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a group of churches whose beliefs are summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. For more information, go to www.epc.org.



OUR MISSION

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent | December 24, 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:

"Mary Did You Know?"

Chris Wygal, piano

Mary Lowry arr. C. Wygal

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Almighty God, Whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, promised to come again to receive His people to Himself: keep us ever watchful for His glorious appearing. Help us to set our emotions on the things above, and to live as those who wait for their Lord; that when He shall appear, we may be made like Him and see Him as He is; for it is in His name that we do pray. Amen.

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Eubank

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** John 10:2-3; Psalm 100:4 (responsively)
He Who enters by the door is the Shepherd of the sheep.

The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.

I am the good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me.

Just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father.

I lay down My life for the sheep.

Let us then enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #213**

"What Child is This"

GREENSLEEVES

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love

8:30 am: Ron and Bonnie Adams

11:00 am: Erick and Cassie Petersen together with their children, Caroline Ella, Liam, Oliver and Louisa

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:9-11)

May we grow in love as we await Christ's return.

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" (vs. 3)

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:5-9 (responsively)

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

ALMIGHTY AND HOLY FATHER, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You, by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts and minds. We have not loved You wholeheartedly, nor our neighbors as ourselves, nor one another as Christ has loved us. We confess our sins of selfishness and pride, ingratitude and envy, faithlessness and willful disobedience; and all the ways that we have displeased You by our forgetfulness of Your love and power. Our only hope is in Your mercy and grace. Forgive us, O Father, according to the promise of the gospel. We look again to Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, Who came into the world to save us from our sins. We plead His blood shed for us, for the cleansing of our sins; we plead His righteousness as our own, by Your grace alone. And through Him, we seek the assurance of Your steadfast love and mercy, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, so that we may now follow Jesus more faithfully and serve You more fully, living for Him Who died and rose again for us, and Who now reigns at Your right hand for us; to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Silent Night! Holy Night!:" (vs. 4)

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night! Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light,
With the angels, let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

*THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come." (Rev. 1:4)
Even as the Lord greets us in His word, let us greet one another.*

SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church.

8:30 and 11:00: All children meet in the ORANGE room, #115

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 (pgs. 613-614)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"An Unwanted Gift"

Dr. Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, #1 (responsively)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

My only comfort is that I belong, body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself, but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. At the cost of His own precious blood, He has fully paid for all my sins, and has set me free from the dominion of the devil. He also watches over me so well that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. Indeed, all things must work together to His purpose for my salvation. Therefore, because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly ready and willing from now on to live for Him. Amen!

*THE GLORIA:

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)

GLORIA

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o!
(meaning, "Glory to God in the highest" - Luke 2:14)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER, 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 RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Sanctuary Choir

arr. Craig Courtney

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.
What shall I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.

Julia Sansone - Accompanist

*THE DOXOLOGY:

OLD HUNDREDDTH

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

Almighty and gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for all Your goodness to us and over all creation; but above all, we give thanks for the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in Whom alone we have life and peace and everlasting joy. In His name, we offer our hearts to You, eagerly and entirely; and we pray that You will bless and multiply these tokens of our lives, and use them for the sake of Your kingdom throughout the earth; to the glory of Your name. Amen

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #200 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* CAROL

*THE BENEDICTION

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

"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

*POSTLUDE:

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. Harold DeCou

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

SERMON NOTES

1. Shocked by our need.

2. Shocked by His appearance.

3. Shocked by His work.

4. Shocked by His life.

5. Shocked by His control.

Christmas Eve Services at REPC

5:00 pm – Family Worship Service

(Especially for families with young children)

7:00 and 9:00 pm – Traditional Communion Services

(Special brass and string prelude beginning at 6:30 & 8:30 pm)