

# The Messenger

P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor The Rev. Shannon Hendricks, Associate Pastor The Rev. Sandy Shaner, Associate Pastor

E-Mail: office@fairfieldpcusa.org

Web Site: www.fairfieldpcusa.org

Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

#### December 2021



Dear Friends,

We, as the Christian Church, have entered a new year. For us the Season of Advent is the start of our Christian calendar. During the course of the year, the

various seasons and holy days will carry us through a primer of the Christian faith. It is a wondrous journey for us that allows us to renew our faith and deepen our understanding.

What an appropriate place for us to begin than with the eager expectation of something new. Of course, we know that Advent leads us into Christmas where we celebrate the Incarnation of God With Us: the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. But it also is a season to remind us that One Who came and dwelt among us will return. Our lesson in the Christian faith is one that begins and ends with the full cycle of hope.

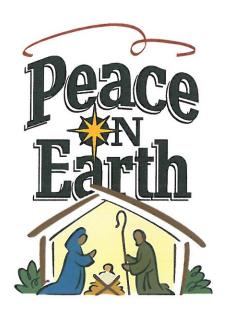
During this year's Advent, we will be going back to the basics in our sermons. We will be doing a series entitled "Advent in Four Voices" as we look at the four key words that we center this season around. You know them from the Advent candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. I hope you will make every effort to worship with us to hear the stories that these four wonderful words share with us.

Regular attendance during the Season of Advent will help you keep your heart ready for the Good News of Christmas. There are so many competing forces to draw us away from the True

meaning of this season. The discipline of regular worship will help you immensely as you try to keep your focus on the coming of the King of Kings.

In Christ's love,

p.s.: many of you have asked about our recent move. It has gone well, and we are happily in our smaller and simpler home. We don't have a home phone any longer, but voice mails left for me at the church come immediately to me and you can always call me on my cell phone. I enjoy the drive in from the new house and it is actually only ten minutes or so longer that the ride from our old house.



#### Member News

Congratulations to **Kelley** and Eric Spott on becoming parents again! Kelley had a baby girl on November 20 and her name is Alayna Jame Spott. Alayna was welcomed by her older sister Hailey and older brother Carson. We also congratulate Cindy Cattoi on becoming a grandmother again!

Our sympathy goes out to **Mary Beth Adams** on the death of her sister-in-law Evelyn Bailey who passed away on October 19th. Please keep Mary Beth and her family in your prayers.

**Joyce Nuckols** has moved. Her new address is 1499 Shore Lane, Lottsburg, VA 22511. Her phone number is (804) 746-9135.

Steve and Debby Starzer have moved to their new home. The address is 129 McRee Way, Aylett, VA 23009. They do not have a land line. You can call Steve here at the office and it will go to his cell phone or just call his cell phone number!

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: Laura Arnette, Jack Briel, Myra Compton, John Crowe, Gloria Dunham, Willies Fishburne's son, Brett and his wife Joanne, Gerry Miller's sister-in-law Marguerite Whitmere, Jack Mitchell, Myrtle Muire, Joyce Nuckols, Calvin and Barbara Pearson, Gene Rosen's niece, Tracy, Louise Setchel, Buford Wade, Jack and Beverly Ward, Deborah Wood's friend Courtney, Dale Woodfin's daughter Stacy, Beth Young's brother Bill and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.

Please remember our members who are unable to get to church due to illness or limited mobility: Ann Barlow, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Ruth Gatewood, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Joyce Nuckols, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, and Bootsie Stevens.

Our Covenant Woods friends: Carl & Ann Barkley, Margaret Barlow, Marie Blatt,

Elizabeth Davis, Walt & Jan Fadeley, Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh, Mary Gayton, Bill & Phyllis Kerns, Doris McCalla, Glenn & Gerry Miller, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Rick & Diane Richardson, Bob Stevens, Libby Taylor, Richard Walden, Billy and Nancy Walls.

(Please update Pastor Steve or the church office as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)



In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to say a "big thank you" to my church family for your many expressions of concern as I've recovered from my broken ankle. Knowing that so many of you were praying for me was a blessing. May God bless each of you.

Gratefully, Gerry Nuckols

Dearest Fairfield Friends,

I had the best time when I returned to visit and spend time with you on October 17<sup>th</sup>! It was a wonderful day for me - full of reminiscing and catching up. The happiness and the warm glow lasted me for days and days! Thank you for the lovely reception and for all of you who came. I was the grateful recipient of a nice check, as well as a beautiful silver tea service that came complete with it's own humorous back story. My love for you goes on and I look forward to keeping up with your forever. You are a wonderful group and I'm so thankful for each of you. Blessings to all of you!

Jane Welborn

I would like to express my gratitude for having such a supportive church family. I appreciate all the cards, notes and personal expressions of sympathy I have received since the death of my husband, Ned. I will cherish the beautiful prayer shawl always.

Marge Wantz

The Men of the Church would like to thank the congregation for the food donated and the contributions for gift cards. They were able to help our 11 families this past Thanksgiving.



In lieu of putting together shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year, we simply asked for donations to send to the organization. We never expected to collect \$1,350! Our

church members are simply awesome! Thank you so much for your donations. I'm sure the people at Samaritan's Purse will be able to put this money to good use for the children that receive the shoe boxes. What a joy this will be!



Terri Helfrich Noah Clark Dana Franklin Terri Joyce Sheri Wodwaski	December 5 December 7 December 7 December 7 December 8
Matthew Leigh Jim France	December 9 December 11
Madeleine Letourneau	December 11
Heather Brady	December 12
Allen Boyle	December 16
Donna Hohman	December 16
Larry Rigsby	December 17
Ayron Young	December 17
Darlene Shegogue	December 18
Matthew Trexler	December 18
Carson Street	December 19
Amanda Ciejek	December 20
Herb Coulter	December 20
Sara Gaston	December 20
Eric Spott	December 21
Reggie Crump	December 22
Lucas Settle	December 22
Marie Blatt.	December 23
Angela Schwartz	December 24
Su Ling Trexler	December 24
Laverne Longest	December 26
Karen Couch	December 29
Phyllis Kerns	December 29

Jack Mitchell Chris Sorensen Rusty Hale Pam Wells December 29 December 30 December 31



Tim & Julie Sutton
Ryan & Emily Westphal
Courtney & Randy Street
Stephen & Kristen Leigh
Jerry & Sheree Duggan
Sam & Bonnie Penny

December 4
December 10
December 15
December 19
December 24
December 28

## Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5
- Third Sunday of Advent. December 12
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19
- · First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31



Our **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** will be held on Sunday, **December 19th at 6:30pm**. For those who have had losses – a loved one's passing, a relationship broken, a job lost, or other circumstances, we offer this special worship service. Let the holidays become a time of peace and reflection. We will pray and sing and light candles in celebration of life and for hope and healing in Christ, the Light of the World. Please join us.

# Light of the World Advent Study

Please join us as we dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ. We will be studying the book "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will be learning more about the traditional Christmas stories, the events leading up to the birth of Christ, as well as some of the key people who played important roles in these stories. Our associate pastor, Rev. Shannon Hendricks, will be leading us in this study.

If you are interested in joining this study, please call Vicky Brady (804-938-1770) to let us know that you are interested. Once we have compiled a list of those who are interested, then we will get a consensus from the group concerning an evening that would work for our meeting time. Books will be available in the Narthex, and donations will be accepted to defray the cost of purchase. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we joyfully anticipate our celebration of the birth of Christ.

Vicky Brady

#### Attention All Ladies!



On December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Heritage Hall, the Fellowship Day Circle will reconnect with each other. All are invited! The Bible

study will be very active as we study the line and lineage of Jesus as recorded in Matthew and angels.

Following our study on this date, we will go to Anna's Restaurant and enjoy our Christmas lunch! Don't forget to bring your gifts for Covenant Woods!

**Beverly Burts** 



The Joyful Readers Circle will meet on December 14th in the Heritage Hall at 6:30pm. We will review the book "The Christmas Doll" by Elvira Woodruff.

After our meeting we will have enjoy our Christmas Dinner in the Heritage Hall. Our circle always welcomes new members and if you would like to try us out, come meet with us on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>! Ladies, don't forget to bring your gifts for Covenant Woods!

Barbara Wash



Prayer will meet again on Shawl Wednesday, December 1 in the Barlow Parlor at 10:00am. If you like to knit or would like to learn how to, come see us on **December 1**st.

Anna Barrowclough



The **Super Singles** will be getting together on **December 12**<sup>th</sup> and will be going to Francos Italian Restaurant located at 7225 Bell Creek Road. Everyone is welcome to join us! We will meet right after the 11:00am service and go to the restaurant. Call Melanie Rubeck (730-5994) if you have any questions about the Super Singles.

# Angel Tree

As a congregation, we have adopted six children in two

Cold Harbor Elementary families to provide gifts for Christmas. We will be helping three girls and three boys experience the joy that comes on Christmas morning when they unwrap presents that your funds have provided. The members of the Mission Committee are grateful for your contributions to the Angel Tree Fund and look forward to reporting on the gifts that will be given to the children in the January newsletter. Make your donations by **December 5**<sup>th</sup> and enjoy that warm feeling you'll receive because you have helped to brighten Christmas for these little ones!

Blessings and joy,

The Mission Committee

# December Nursery Schedule for 8:45am Service

Dec. 5 Nikki Glass & McKenna Blue
Dec. 12 Majken Whitaker & Abbey Glass
Dec. 19 Allison Letourneau & McKenna Blue
Dec. 26 Anne Young & McKenna Blue

Looking for a new place to recycle your plastic grocery bags? You can bring them to church! Place them in the marked bins located in the Narthex and outside the Family Center. They will be used in



delivering meals for Meals on Wheels. Please contact Janet Chelette for any questions.



"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David as Savior, who is the Messiah, "the Lord." Luke 2 verses 10 & 11

As I write this article, we are about to enter into the season of Advent and Christmas. As we get into the busyness of the holiday season, let us always remember that we are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ which is the real reason for celebrating.

In the midst of this Christmas season please take the time to slow down, reflect and enjoy some of the Christmas reading that you will find in our libraries. Look for <u>The Christmas Light</u>, <u>An Amish Family Christmas</u> and <u>No Room At the Inn</u>. In the children's library you will find <u>Christmas Angels</u>, <u>The Littlest Angel</u> and <u>The First Christmas</u>.

These wonderful treasures are in the libraries for you to enjoy. Christmas peace and joy to you and those you love.

Elizabeth Covington



The Deacons continue to collect the following items to create a prepackaged helping hand for those in need. A resource card wil

also be included with numbers for assistance for physical, counseling and housing assistance. If you feel led, please drop off the following items in the blue buckets in each narthex. Once the items are collected, they will be put together and you will be able to pick up a few to have on hand for instances where you see a need. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

dark knee socks small bottle of hand sanitizer \$5-10 gift cards to common fast food chains small bottle of water



This year we will be offering three Christmas Eve Services to help reduce crowding so everyone can come to worship. All services will be held in sanctuary.

5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve

Traditional Service

11:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service

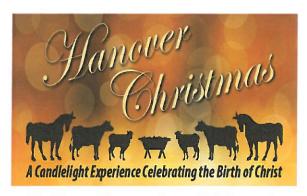


Once again this year, we will be decorating our beautiful sanctuary with poinsettias at Christmas. We are currently taking orders until **December 12.** The poinsettias will be displayed on December 19 and Christmas Eve. Look for order forms in the bulletins or call the church office.

# No Room at the Inn Church of the Redeemer

Please come celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, our shelter of Joy and Hope in our weary world. No Room at the Inn - an exhibit of 200 Nativity sets from around our world will be held at the Church of the Redeemer, 8275 Meadowbridge Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116 from December 3 - December 5th. A Preview Gala will be held Friday, December 3rd from 7:00pm until 10:00pm. The evening will feature the Nativity Exhibit, refreshments, music, and live/silent auctions. Tickets for the event are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door (if available) and may be purchased at the Church of the Redeemer or online at churchredeemer.org. The exhibit will open on Saturday, December 4th from

10:00am until 8:00pm and on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 4:00pm. A children's area will be offered in addition to the Nativity exhibit. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children/students 18 years and younger. Proceeds from the exhibit will benefit My Path Forward, Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions emergency housing program, and our mission to Haiti. For details visit churchredeemer.org/no-room or call 730-7980.



# Friday, December 10th and Saturday, December 11th

A magical night of music and drama celebrating the birth of Jesus.

A candlelit trail winds through the woods, transporting you back in time. Along your journey, meet other travelers, shepherds, kings and angels. Immerse yourself in the greatest story ever told...

Open to the public from 6:00pm to 9:00pm each evening, this event is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. More than "just another live nativity," you'll experience musical performances, dramatic re-enactments and fellowship with others while leisurely strolling a candlelit wooded path. A donation of \$10 per person to the Annual Fund for Camp Hanover is appreciated.

You're invited to stay overnight and experience the hospitality of this place apart. Enjoy a Holiday Brunch the following morning. To reserve overnight lodging, get more information or learn how you can be a part of this program, call (804) 779-2811 or visit www.CampHanover.org.

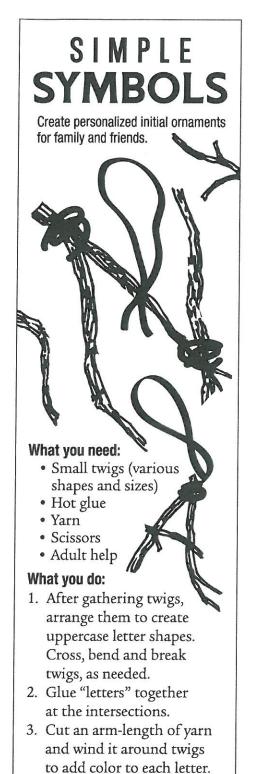
### Notes from your Session

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, your Elders met in Session and they:

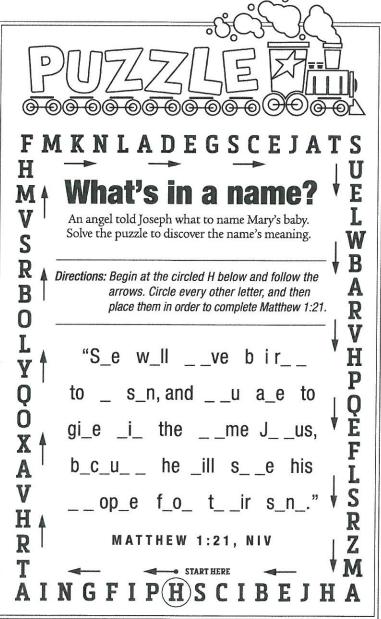
- Met jointly with the Deacons for a discussion on the elements of poverty led by Professor Dr. John Jones of VCU.
- Convened with prayer
- Joyfully received the letter of transfer for Caroline Carneal from Christ Presbyterian Church
- Happily learned that the Presbytery Commission on Ministry approved our election and commissioning of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
- Gladly learned that the COM also approved the Parish Associate arrangement between ourselves and Dr. Keith Curran to serve as Minister in Residence.
- Humbly received a correspondence from the Presbytery's Readers of the Minutes, complimenting us for our faithfulness and wisdom during the worst of the Covid pandemic
- Heard from Steve concerning his move into his new home
- Commended the Nominations Committee for their excellent and timely work filling all the leadership positions
- Learned from the Stewardship Team that while we had some major expenses in October, we are still
  in good shape financially because of the faithfulness of our membership
- Were excited to learn of the Advent Bible Study written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine to be held during Advent
- Affirmed our support for Molly Zweckbronner to be nominated as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 2022 General Assembly of the PC (USA)
- Celebrated the success of the Fall-O-Ween event. Approximately 50% of the attendees were guest of the church
- Worked to organize the communion for the rest of 2021 and early 2022
- Adjourned with prayer to reconvene on December 21<sup>st</sup>



# Under-Age Thinking...



4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

# Youth Group News

Dec. 5 No Youth Group

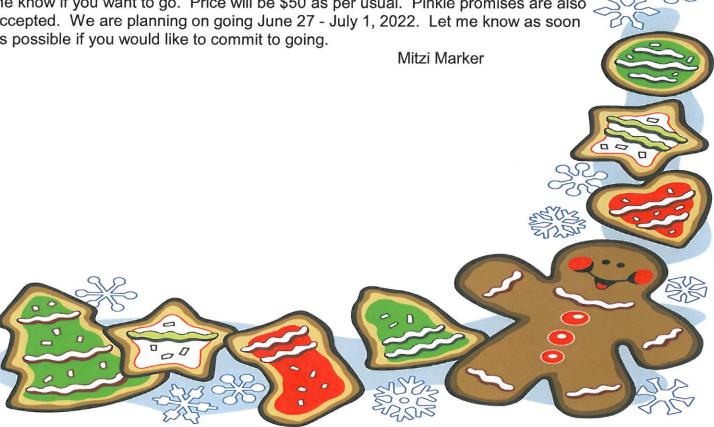
Dec. 12 Caroling at Covenant Woods and coming back to church for

Pizza afterwards

Dec. 19 No Youth Group

Dec. 26 No Youth Group

**SUMMER MISSION TRIP** - We have decided to go back to Altoona Pennsylvania for our mission trip again this year. I need to make reservations ASAP, but I need firm commitments on who is going. As a result I need you to check your calendars and let me know if you want to go. Price will be \$50 as per usual. Pinkie promises are also accepted. We are planning on going June 27 - July 1, 2022. Let me know as soon as possible if you would like to commit to going.





#### A Gift Opens Doors — Proverbs 18:16

#### The Perfect Gift

In the story of God, as we tell it, there is a barrier that exists between the Created world and its Creator. A wall. Sin, we say, separates us from God, and separation from God is unbearable.

And our story goes on to say that God, seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of getting over, or through or around what separates us, offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

#### What a gift!

But the story goes on to say that Jesus is the *perfect* gift; not only opening a door but coming through it. Our story says God is with us.

In Jesus, God joined with humanity, pointing the way to the end of our separation. And in his life, death and resurrection, so our story of God goes, Jesus *is* the door, now standing open. The giving continues because God is with us, still — and always.

Because being with us is part of God's story, being with others is part of our call.

The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts — doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise.

Proverbs, a book of wisdom sayings, states that it's a person's gift that opens doors. As we give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek to not only meet needs, but to meet people, to come through the door that generosity opens. We open the door to celebrate "God with us!" We open the door with each and every student who will soon inspire and lead the world. We open the door with each and every church worker who helps us share God's story with the world.

The story of God, as we tell it, is not about a barrier, but about a gift. It's not about the separation, but about the gift of "being with." Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering, in celebration of God's perfect gift to us. Give because it brings us together, to open doors of relief and opportunity and to relationships that are part of God's story, a part of God's perfect gift to us.

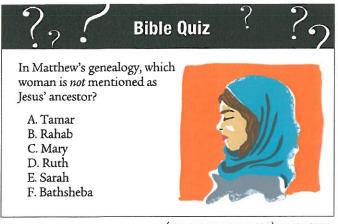
#### Let us pray:

God, with us, we are grateful for your perfect gift, Jesus Christ. May we learn, through your open door to us, to be open to others and offer ourselves to those in need. **Amen**.

We will collect the Christmas Joy Offering on Christmas Eve at each service. A special bulletin will be in your bulletin for your offering.

#### **DECEMBER 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Advent Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)		30	1 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	2 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		4 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hanover Garden Club (Heritage Hall)	6 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	7 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE (Family Center) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	8 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	9 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	10	11 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
12 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:30 PM Super Singles (Franco's Restaurant) 4:30 PM Youth Group goes Caroling	13 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	14 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fellowship Circle (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	15 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#19) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	16 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)	17	18 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 6:30 PM Blue Christmas Service (sanctuary)	20 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	21 First Day of Winter 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Heritage Hall)	22 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		24 Church Office Closed Church Office closes at noon 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (Sanctuary) 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Service (sanctuary) 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Service (sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	27 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		29 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir	PM New Beginnings	1 New Year's Day 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)



Answer: E (See Matthew 1:1-17.)

# Fairfield Church P.O. Box 1088 Mechanicsville, VA 23111 Return Service Requested

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#### **Church Staff**

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Hendricks
Associate Pastor Rev. Sandi Shaner
Minister In Residence Rev. Dr. Keith Curran
Intern Caroline Carneal
Administrative Assistant Donna Carson
Children's Ministry Assistant Angela Blue
Music Director Amy Wenninger
Choir Director Celeste Underdown
Organist Dave Starzer
Praise Band Leader Matt Wenninger
Custodian John Longest