



First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort

**A Service for the Worship of God
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
11:00 AM**



*To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and need comfort,
To all who are lonely and need friendship,
To all who are glad and would serve their neighbors,
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,*

Sanctuary: 410 Church Street

Office, Education & Outreach Building: 1201 North Street

firstpresbeaufort.org

www.facebook.com/firstpresbeaufort

843-524-3051

info@firstpresbeaufort.org



Striking of the Hour

Prelude..... *Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken*
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Opening Words & Call to Worship (From Malachi 4) Geneva Baxley

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me;

**Suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking
will come to his temple.**

The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,

Says the Lord of heavenly forces.

Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap.

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

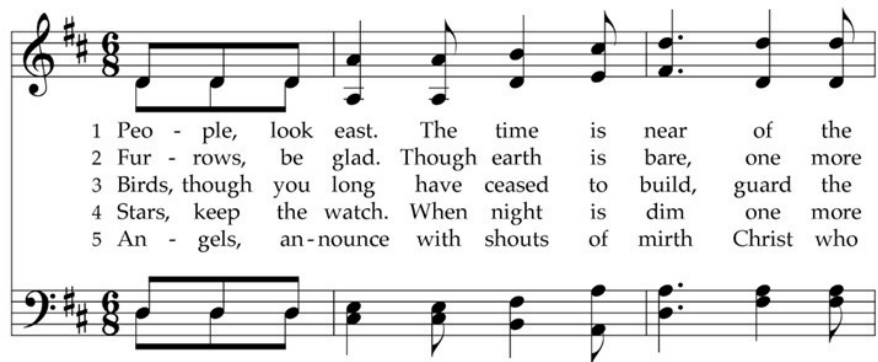
He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

They will belong to the Lord, presenting a righteous offering.

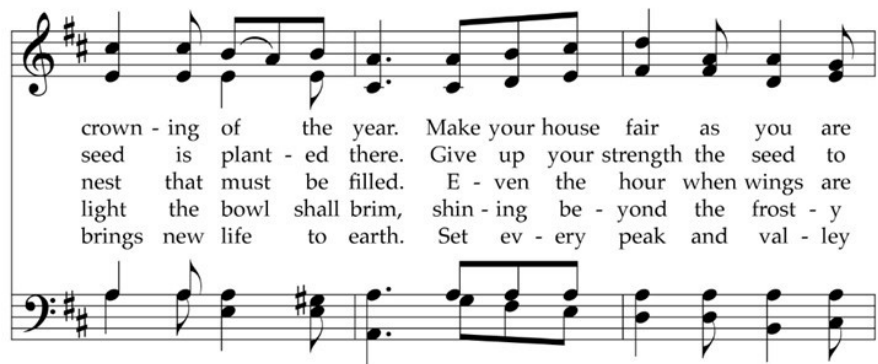
The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord

As in ancient days and in former years.

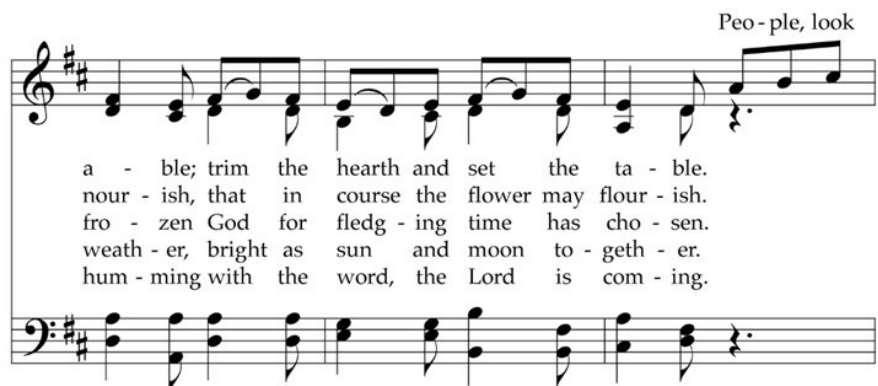
+*Hymn..... *People Look East*



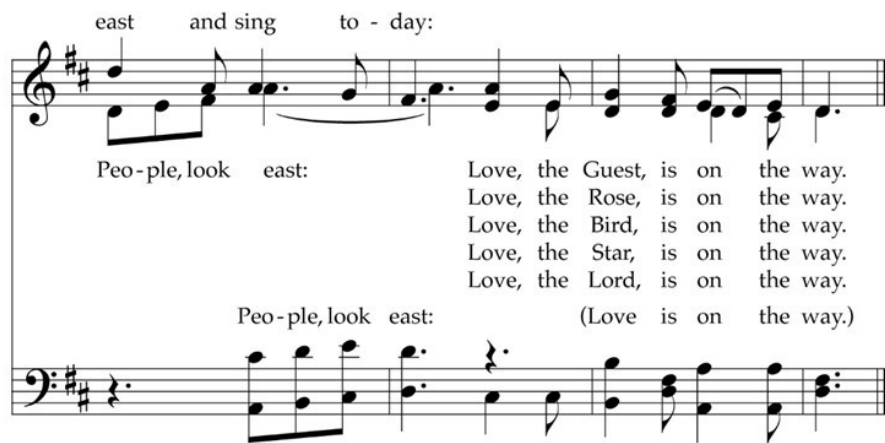
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look
a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Prayer of Confession

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord

(Let us continue in prayer silently)

Congregational Response Carol *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

*May we who kneel before the Lord,
Whose hearts confess our sin,
Find peace that comes from God alone,
As Jesus enters in.*

*Hear us, O God of grace and love,
As humbly now we bow,
Incline to us and wash us clean,
Reign in our hearts right now.*

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Lighting the Advent Wreath Michelle & Jeff Hiers Mary Hanna and Margaret

*Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*We light this candle in hope.
We light this candle for peace.*

Hear Zechariah's song of hope for peace to the Christ child. A reading from Luke chapter 1:

"You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Let us pray:

*God of hope, Prince of Peace,
You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody
your peace and live as peacemakers
that we may called children of God.*

God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

Children's Sermon Geneva Baxley

*(During Advent we will dismiss the children
while singing the refrain from The First Nowell.)*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-6

Anthem *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Vic Varner, *Music Director*

MCCLURE

Lily Cooper, *Organist*

Meredith Halopoff, *Cantor*

Epistle Lesson Philippians 1:3-11

Sermon **Prepare the Way**

Dr. Patrick Perryman

*Apostles' Creed

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

Giving and Receiving

Offertory *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS

*Doxology and Litany of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

O God our Creator, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, energy, money—

And asked us to use them to build your kingdom.

With thanks and praise we respond to your call.

We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, placing our trust in you.

**We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears,
our dollars and our hours.**

**We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love
and serve wherever you call.**

We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart,

mind, and soul.

**Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future,
that they may multiply
In faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

*Communion Hymn (verses 1-3) *Of Father's Love Begotten*



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

The Lord's Supper (see insert)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Our Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You set us in this world to love and serve you, and to live in peace with all that you have made. Though we turn from you, you do not turn from us. While we were slaves you delivered us to freedom. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us and one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing in human suffering. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great Is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Fill us with wisdom and understanding, knowledge and power, and grant that we may live in harmony with one another as we await the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever. We pray you receive the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer

*Hymn.....*Love Has Come*

7

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

*Benediction

Postlude..... *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
 WILLIAM HENRY MONK

*All Who Are Able Please Stand | + Ushers Will Seat Latecomers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to all who join us for worship today. If you are without a church home, you will be warmly welcomed into our fellowship. We are glad you are here! Please like us on Facebook and visit our website at www.firstpresbeaufort.org for sermons, news, and current events.

TODAY THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Advent Season.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIVITIES FEATURED THIS SUNDAY:

Local Beaufort artist Chris Nietert began making oyster shell crèches after seeing an old manger scene with shells propped up to replace missing figures while at an oyster roast. The organic shapes and markings of the shells seemed to convey a sense of awe, reverence and curiosity for the nativity. The shells on this crèche, titled "Buried Treasure", were pulled from an old pluff mud bed that was exposed by erosion on Hunting Island. These shells had been beneath the sand where the cabins once stood for decades after the creation of the park in 1935. These shells were beautifully preserved underground and embellished by the mud dwellers. Each shell Chris finds "speaks" to her as to what part it will play in her creations. We are so grateful for all the beautiful pieces Chris has shared with us year after year.

Willow Tree® Artist Susan Lordi is known for figurative sculptures that speak in quiet ways to heal, comfort, protect and inspire. She hand-carves the original of each figure from her studio in Kansas City Missouri. Her artistic process is rather intuitive, she "sketches" in clay as she forms and carves each piece. Pieces are cast from her original carvings, and individually painted by hand. Expression is revealed through gestures only.....a tilt of the head, a turn of the body, placement of hands. Notice the "Blessings Angel". Susan Lordi's vision and detailed work are expressed beautifully in this wonderful nativity shared with us today by long time FPC member Andrea Coulter.

AS WE PREPARE THE 2021 STATISTICAL REPOST the 2020 Statistical Report is available for anyone who wishes to read it. Included in the folder are the statistical report dating back to 2010. The labeled file with the reports are located on a shelf to the left of the door to the Church Library.

POINSETTIAS WILL BE USED TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR WORSHIP.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, please return this completed form to the church office or place in the offering plate with \$13.00 for each one ordered. Poinsettias must be paid for in advance and may be picked up after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 19th or after the Christmas Eve services.

All orders must be received no later than Sunday, Dec. 12th

\$13.00

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

- ☐ Cash
☐ Check

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

Giving Opportunities

Pastors' Discretionary Fund: We are able to help Beaufort County residents who are in need financially during the year. However, Christmas is when we get the most requests for financial help, and with limited funding we have to turn people away. This Christmas we would love to be able to help more families financially, but we can't without your help. Support by donating toward this fund. Please feel free to drop a check in the offering plate or by the office noting *Pastors' Discretionary Fund*.

NOC Snack: FPC is partnering with Neighborhood Outreach Connection by helping to provide healthy snacks for their students during the after school program. We would love to be able to bless them with snack options. They are looking individually cookie packs, soft granola bars, nutri-grain bars, and fruit snacks. Please drop off all snacks in the **Blue NOC Snack Box in the Education Building by Dec. 30th**.

Joy Offering: By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. This offering also helps develop our future leaders at these Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You can drop a check in the offering plate or by the office noting *Joy Offering*.

Toys for the Church of God Pavilion of Liberty: Several years ago a couple of PW members asked if we would consider donating the toys we brought to our Christmas Luncheon to a Hispanic church in their neighborhood. Stopping at the church one day they met Pastor Torres and were so impressed hearing of his work with the church and outreach to his community. That year was the beginning of our relationship and partnership with Church of God Pavilion of Liberty. The following year Pastor Torres and his wife Maria joined us at our Christmas Luncheon to express his gratitude for our support. There were a few tears shed hearing stories he shared how the presents had brought so much joy not only to the children but the parents as well. He was so humbled and continues to be humble and grateful for our generous support. His church has grown through the compassion and loving care he spreads to his community.

We are all disappointed we will not be gathering for our Christmas Luncheon but we do not want to disappoint the children and families of Church of God Pavilion of Liberty with our donation of toys. We are asking for your continued support of this PW Christmas Mission. PLEASE drop off your donations to the church office by **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9**. Nora will tell you where to put them. If you would like them picked up just contact me. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make your check out to **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** "note Christmas Mission in memo" and mailed to:

**Deb Noll, 2415 Hermitage Rd, Beaufort, SC 29902 or
drop at the church office in the Christmas box marked for PW Christmas Mission.**

The list below has the age groups of the children for your help selecting gifts:

Ages 1– 3 (6 girls & 4 boys)
Ages 4 –6 (5 girls & 3 boys)
Ages 7—8 (1 girl & 7 boys)
Ages 9 - 11 (3 boys)

If you have any questions please contact Donna
Sheetz, donnaleesheetz@gmail.com or 609-408-8467.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to Elect Officers and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee to be held following worship on **Sunday, December 19.**

Candidates for Elder



AnnMarie Bowden grew up in picturesque Maine, surrounded a loving family and the rocky coastline of New England. She ventured south to attend college, earning education degrees from Clemson and UGA. After teaching in Atlanta for 10 years, she and her husband, Brad, left their city life behind them, choosing Beaufort as the place to raise their two children, Claire and Charlie. AnnMarie assisted Brad in opening the Beaufort branch of Gooding Contractors and then turned her attention back to education and helped found Riverview Charter School, where she spent the next decade focused on teaching and learning. She has served on the Youth Committee at First Presbyterian since 2013 and has had the privilege to travel with the youth on many mission trips. AnnMarie and Brad knew they found their church home at First Presbyterian the first time they heard Dr. Perryman preach, and they are eternally grateful for the love and support the church has given their family over the years.



AK Harper grew up in Macon, Georgia and has lived in Beaufort since 1996. She joined First Presbyterian Church shortly after moving to town. AK has served as a Deacon, Elder and Member of the Youth Committee. Ak has two children, Kate (16) and Henry (19). She taught special education in Beaufort County Schools for most of her career, and currently serves as Special Services Coordinator at Riverview Charter School. She enjoys shelling, boating, running, reading and spending time with family.



Donna Lee Sheetz and her husband Steve moved to Beaufort 11 years ago from Cape May, NJ. They share 3 daughters and a son who have blessed them with 11 grandchildren and recently a great grandson. From the warm greeting she received on her very first visit to FPC she knew she had found a new church family. A past Deacon, Donna Lee is a member of TNT Circle and the Bell Choir. She is a member of the PW coordinating team and has served as PW Mission Coordinator, Vice Moderator, Moderator and Nativity Committee Coordinator.



Gene Rugala is a retired Special Agent of the FBI and prior to his retirement, he was the Unit Chief of the Behavioral Analysis Unit, (BAU), made famous in the movie "Silence of the Lambs" and television series "Criminal Minds" and "Mind Hunter". He is President of Eugene A. Rugala and Associates LLC, a behavioral consulting business for the past 16 years which he runs out of his residence here in Beaufort.

Gene and his wife Edie Smith have lived at 2003 North St for almost 17 years and have been members of First Presbyterian for 4 years. At First Pres, he has been on the Outreach and the Mental Health Committee. Gene And Edie have four children spread throughout the country and 6 Grandchildren.

Gene has been on a variety of non-profit boards and commissions over the years to include Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail and Hopeful Horizon. Gene has been a past member of Beaufort County's affordable housing consortium, the city's redevelopment commission and was co-chair of the City's Short term rental task force and downtown parking committee to name a few.

Candidates for Deacon



Penny Abbott is a native of St. Simons Island, GA and a graduate from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism. She and her husband Will moved to Beaufort from Atlanta to operate their own Hospice agency in 2010. Penny became a stay at home Mom after the birth of their first son, Wilson (7) in 2014 and they welcomed their second son Charlie (3) into the world in 2018. The Abbott family joined First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort in December of 2019 and have enjoyed participating in the multitude of family oriented activities such as VBS, Anchor Kids and Grace Circle. Penny has served on the Children's Ministries and Membership committees and is currently volunteering as one the lead teachers for Anchor Kids. She also enjoys teaching group fitness classes, spending time outdoors and anything music related. The Abbotts appreciate being welcomed into First Presbyterian with open arms and Penny is looking forward to serving as Deacon to give back in service and further enhance her relationship with God and this congregation.



Shep Caldwell grew up in Macon, GA. He graduated from Stratford Academy and then attended The University of Georgia. After graduating from UGA, he bounced around a little bit and then settled in Savannah, GA. While living in Savannah he did a good bit of work in Beaufort and always loved the town. His wife Shannan and he visited several times while they briefly lived in Charleston and ultimately decided to make Beaufort their home sooner rather than later. After visiting FPC a few times, they were drawn by the message and the family that makes up the church. They were proud to have their daughter, Marion Faye, Baptized here in 2018. He looking forward to further serving the church and the community.



Ben Coppage grew up in rural Ware County, Georgia with his loving, patient, and relentlessly devoted parents. He was blessed to be surrounded by great church families in Methodist churches in Waycross, Georgia, Clemson, and Macon, Georgia. He is grateful to have found the same at First Pres. He is constantly in awe of and inspired by his wife, Allison's, sedulous dedication to and love for her family and community, by his son, Harris's, knowledge of nature and compassion for others, and his daughter, Bette's, wit and determination. He practices law and enjoys playing music.



John Myrick is originally from Allendale, SC. He graduated from Allendale Academy and has a psychology degree from the University of South Carolina. John Married a native Beaufortonian Sandra Aimar in 1993, and they have an amazing Daughter Frances. He has been an insurance agent for 24 years and is a Certified Senior advisor and is certified in Long Term Care. He is employed by Turbeville Insurance Agency on Lady's Island. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, reading and travelling. John regularly travel's to his family's property in Ulmer, SC on the Salkehatchie river. John has previously served as a Deacon and an elder.

Candidates for Nominating Committee – At-Large Members



Wm. Swinton Anderson, Jr. was born, raised in a Baptist family and graduated from John's Island school then attended Clemson University attaining a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, started a career at the Charleston shipyard assigned to Polaris missile submarines as a civilian.

After marriage to then Beverly Ballentine in the Batesburg Presbyterian church, joined the Second Presbyterian church in Charleston and were blessed to have two wonderful, sons.

In 1965, relocated to Spartanburg, SC for employment at Kohler Company became active in the Westminster Presbyterian Church as a Deacon and Elder plus Youth Club co-director, coaching youth teams, mobile meals, Sertoma Club.

In 2005 they moved to Distant Island, and joined First Presbyterian Church. In 2009 Beverly passed away. Two and half years later, he was blessed to meet Lynn Free thru her niece Mary Tatum (matchmaker of the first out of 100 tries) and was married at FPC by Dr. Perryman.

Switon, has been involved at FPC doing video recording of services, serving on

Property Committee, Second Helping, mission trips to West Virginia, and Mobile Meals- going for over 38 yrs.

The most rewarding experience in all the years in the church was serving on the pastor search committee which lead to the selection of Dr. Perryman to come to FPC. It was such a wonderful year working with fellow church members and had a successful ending by bring Dr. Perryman into our church family



MJ Simmons is a lifelong Presbyterian growing up in this church, and recently served as a Deacon. Born and raised in Beaufort she loves now raising her children here. She and her husband Rob have 3 children; Marion (10), Wallace (7), Julia (5).MJ works at USCB in the Osher Life Long Learning Institute and is on the board at Riverview Charter School. She loves the summer and spending time on Edisto Beach with her family. She is an avid little league baseball fan and nothing brings her more joy than watching her boys play!



Kim Cope was born in Fayetteville at Fort Bragg to an army helicopter pilot and middle school teacher, grew up in Greenville, SC where both large families (mom and dad) are from; blessed w a grandmother, aunts and uncles living within walking distance on family land. I went to Wade Hampton High school in Greenville then on to the College of Charleston and finished w an art degree from USC. I bought worked as a graphic designer there until I married Lee Cope who started his own law firm on Johns Island. We lived on very rural Wadmalaw Island and transformed from Southern Baptists into good Presbyterians, attending Rockville Presbyterian Church. Four years later we moved back to Lee's hometown of Hampton and Grace appeared. Our 3 kids are Gracie Landon (19), a sophomore at USC; Sarah Annslee (almost 13!) and Gibbs Deer (10), both of which attend Holy Trinity Classical Christian School in Beaufort. We live in Seabrook and Brunson, SC. We loved FPC the first time we visited and knew it was the place for us! Lee and I are both ordained elders in the Presbyterian Church having previously attended Estill Presbyterian.