



# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

## Chronicles

### December 2020



14391 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193  
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>  
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People of the Church, Ministers  
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor  
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director  
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist  
Rebecca and Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors  
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director  
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor  
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director  
Homer Detrich, Sexton  
Kim Parker, Office Manager

#### From Pastor Adam



*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.*

Are you tired? Already tired...and it's just the beginning of "The Holidays." It's been an altogether different kind of year: masks, isolation, divisions in our nation, fear of the future...

It makes us weary.

You could even say that being weary and worn out is an acceptable place from which to approach this Advent season. Advent exists to remind us that, while darkness surrounds us and troubles exist, the hope of Christmas isn't far away.

It may seem distant. It may even seem impossible this year for you to feel hopeful. You might have lost your job. Or, maybe you're feeling isolated from those you love. You may have even grieved the loss of a family member or friend.

Continued on Page 2

Looking around, all you might be able to see right now is darkness. You try to adjust your eyes, blinking into the night, yet there seems to be no light. The weight of sickness, death, injustice, and pain seems too heavy.

Or, maybe you're just tired. Numb. Are you ready to pull the covers over your head and try this whole Christmas cheer thing again next year? Don't feel guilty. Instead, acknowledge the very real darkness of this world and you'll have eyes to see Advent through the same lens as the people waiting for a Messiah thousands of years ago.

It had been 500 years since the people of Israel had heard anything from God about their redeemer. God's chosen people must have cried out to Him, asking how long it would be before their hope, their salvation, would arrive. It was dark, and God seemed to be silent. Has God seemed silent to you this year?

Though God may have seemed far away to them, God was so much closer than His people knew— lovingly planning Jesus' entrance into the world in the most unexpected way.

This Advent, I encourage you to journey with your church family through this season of expectant and prayerful waiting, by using our 2020 Advent Devotional Booklet, found on our church website. This devotional booklet was written entirely by members of our church family. Special thanks to Charlotte Stultz, our 2020 Advent Devotional Coordinator, and Kim Parker, our Office manager, for making this dream become a reality for a second year in a row.

To me, nothing is more exciting than the fact that the people who contributed to this devotional booklet are the same people who are gathering together virtually each Sunday to worship our Lord and Savior from their homes. They are our friends and neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope and pray that using this devotional booklet will become a treasured part of your Advent season.

Like last year, this is a traditional daily devotional booklet with scripture and thoughts for each day of the week starting the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, November 29. Each day's devotional will take less than five minutes to read, and I know that it will be a blessing to you. If you have never done anything like this before, I encourage you to take up this spiritual discipline of reading scripture and spending time with our Lord each day. I think you will be surprised by the results! Also, if you are technologically challenged, or just like to hold paper in your hands, please contact the church office and we can arrange a safe and socially distanced pick up for you.

In all the jumble, stress, and even hurt during these weeks ahead, the Advent truth of our daily readings reminds us that, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2) We are reminded that we are a people who have "a thrill of hope" because God did not leave us to wallow in the darkness, but instead has sent His son, the Light of the World, to make all things right. Yes, friends, "for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn." That is our Advent hope, and it gives us the peace that passes all understanding, a joy that is indescribable, and a love that is eternal. I pray that you, in your weariness, have a holy and meaningful Advent this year, as you reflect upon this truth.

On the Journey with you,  
Pastor Adam

## Session Notes

### November Session Report:

At the stated Session meeting on November 24, the Session certified the results of the November 8 Congregational Meeting in which the Pastor's salary and benefits package was approved.

The vote was 84 yes votes and 1 no vote.

They also certified the results of an electronic vote by Session to approve the Un-Trim-A-Tree program as a fund-raiser. The vote was 13 yes votes, all of those voting.

Gary Smith was elected to a one-year term as Treasurer of the congregation and Sara Porter was elected to a one-year term as Clerk of Session. The Finance and Administration committee was approved to reset the church's budgeted goals and to reallocate funding as required for the 2021 calendar year.

An anonymous family has pledged the funds to replace our current outdoor sign with an electronic sign. A task force headed by Bruce Gilbert, with members Bob Chamberlin, Gaylene Guest, Joe Willever, Diane Fulton and Rick Mitchell was approved by the Session. This process will take at least a year due to all of the county regulations and processes to be completed.

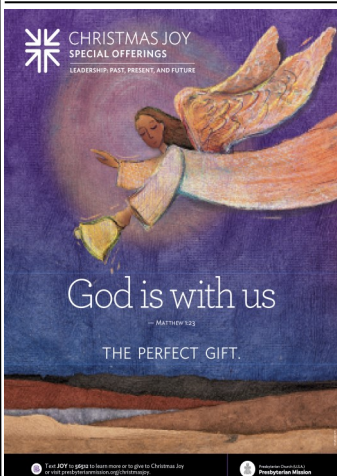
A task force to research and recommend upgrades to the church's audio/visual capabilities led by Norman Cobb with Chris Martin, Colin MacKenzie, Marti Hall, Mike Gundel and Cathy Albrecht was approved at the November 10 called Session meeting.

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected on Christmas Eve. Checks or electronic designated giving should be marked "Christmas Joy" and can be sent now through December 31, 2020.

Finally, the Personnel committee was authorized to issue staff contracts for 2021.

*Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session*

## Christmas Joy Offering



The Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have least. Christmas Joy reflects the ministry of “being with,” just as Matthew’s gospel proclaims that Jesus is “God with us.”

These efforts bring the whole church together to be with church workers and their families in critical financial need due to illness or a lack of resources. It also equips students of color through leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to maximize their God-given potential as they become future leaders in our church and in our world.

The Christmas Joy Special Offering is our way of being with our brothers and sisters to impact lives in dramatic ways. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.

# DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

## 2020 BOARD OF DEACONS

### A Ministry of Compassion and Service

#### Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa  
Debbie Folly  
Lisa Fortner  
Kathy McNeely  
Carol Schwalm  
Celine Sonkwa

#### Class of 2021

Amy Bean  
Karen Elliott  
Liz Goolgasian  
Peggy Heins  
Therese Same  
Charlotte Stultz

#### Class of 2022

Bob Albrecht  
Sandy Chamberlin  
Claudia Cunningham  
Pam Emert  
Ellen Nuemberger  
Tracy Stevens

Ellen Nuernberger, Co-Moderator ..... 703-878-0009

Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

*We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Carol Schwalm or Ellen Nuernberger by calling the numbers listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).*



# DEACONS

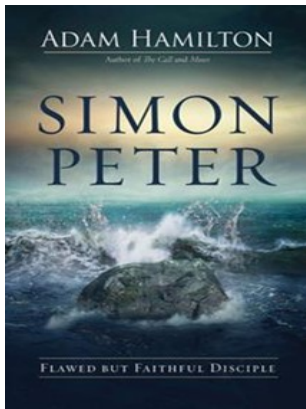
# Adult Education

## Winter Adult Education Classes

### Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

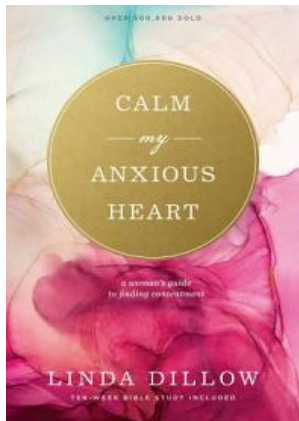
Pastor Adam's Bible Study on Wednesday at 7 PM, via Zoom, will continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew. This study will meet **December 2, 9 and 16**. It will resume on **January 13**. All are welcome.

### Sunday School Class:

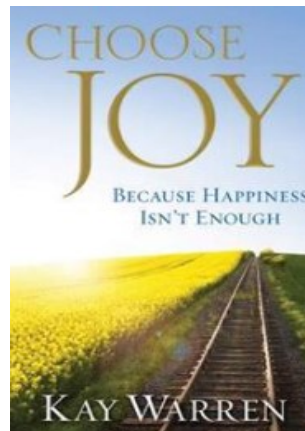


Starting **January 3**, we will look at **Simon Peter: the Flawed but Faithful Disciple**. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. This is a six-week study utilizing material developed by Adam Hamilton. Class will meet Sundays at **8:30 to 9:30 AM** via Zoom. All are invited to participate. Contact Peter Glycer, 703-590-0856 or [peterglyer@gmail.com](mailto:peterglyer@gmail.com) for additional information.

### Women's Monday Bible Study also known as Bible Buddies:

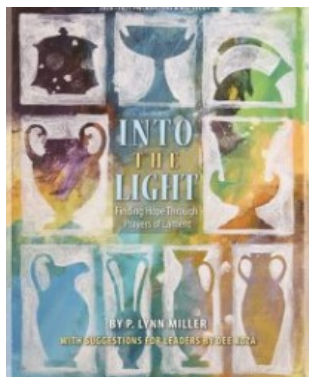


The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study **will complete Calm My Anxious Heart** by Linda Dillow on Dec. 14, 2020. Zoom Along with the Monday Night Ladies Bible Buddies **every Monday at 7:00 PM** for Bible Study and Fellowship. Please contact Betty Matthews, 703-618-9127 or [bettysmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:bettysmatthews1@verizon.net) for more information.



The Bible Buddies next study will be **Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough** by Kay Warren beginning on **January 4**. Illness, financial worries, relational problems, loneliness, anxiety—we all deal with challenging issues. But Warren says that a joy-filled life is within reach, no matter what your circumstances!

### Horizons Monthly Bible Study:



The Horizons Monthly Bible study for **September 2020 through June 2021** is **Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament**. We meet on the **second Monday of the month**, via Zoom for discussion and viewing of the video. The emphasis is on the hope we can find in the scriptures even as we lament circumstances. If you would like to join this study, please contact Sara Porter, [saraporter@comcast.net](mailto:saraporter@comcast.net) or 703-670-8737.



## Stewardship Committee

As we approach this very special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we still live in a world that has changed in 2020. But, while our church building may be closed, our church is still open and FUPCDC continues to be blessed with a generous and giving congregation. A sincere thank you to all who have submitted your pledge in support of His work at FUPCDC, in our community and across the world.

During this special season, in addition to FUPCDC's continuing Mission and Outreach ministries, your financial support and hands-on service will **Impact Lives** by providing Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets for residents of the Lake Ridge Fellowship House, gifts for our brothers and sisters at three Good Shepherd Housing Group Homes, monthly donations to ACTS and the GPW Health Center, and presents that can make a child's holiday special through our support of Un-Trim-a-Tree.

If you have not submitted a 2021 pledge, it is not too late. You may still return the pledge card you received in the mail to the church or you can complete your 2021 pledge commitment on-line at <https://fupcdc.org>. If you need a pledge card or have any questions, please contact Pat Manalio, Stewardship Elder at 703-283-2948 or [pmanalio@comcast.net](mailto:pmanalio@comcast.net).

During this time when we are gathering virtually, you are reminded that you can continue to support the ministries, staff and programs of FUPCDC either by mailing your gift to FUPCDC, 14391 Minnieville Road, Woodbridge, VA 22193 or by giving on line at <https://fupcdc.org/give-online>.

As we consider this year's Stewardship theme, "**Impacting Lives**", we see that while the ways we do things may be new or different, together we will make 2021 a special year in our lives, in the life of our church and in the lives of those in the world around us. Our prayer for you is that you have a safe and blessed holiday time and that your life will be impacted by those gifts you give to others as well as the gifts you receive.

Blessings and Joy,  
Your Stewardship Committee

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)





**FIRST UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** *of Dale City*

To show my/our commitment to God through the missions of FUPCDC ***Impacting Lives***, I /we make the following pledge for 2021. This pledge is a statement of intent; it can be increased or decreased as circumstances require.

I/We wish to pledge: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per Week                      Month                      Year

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to receive giving envelopes.

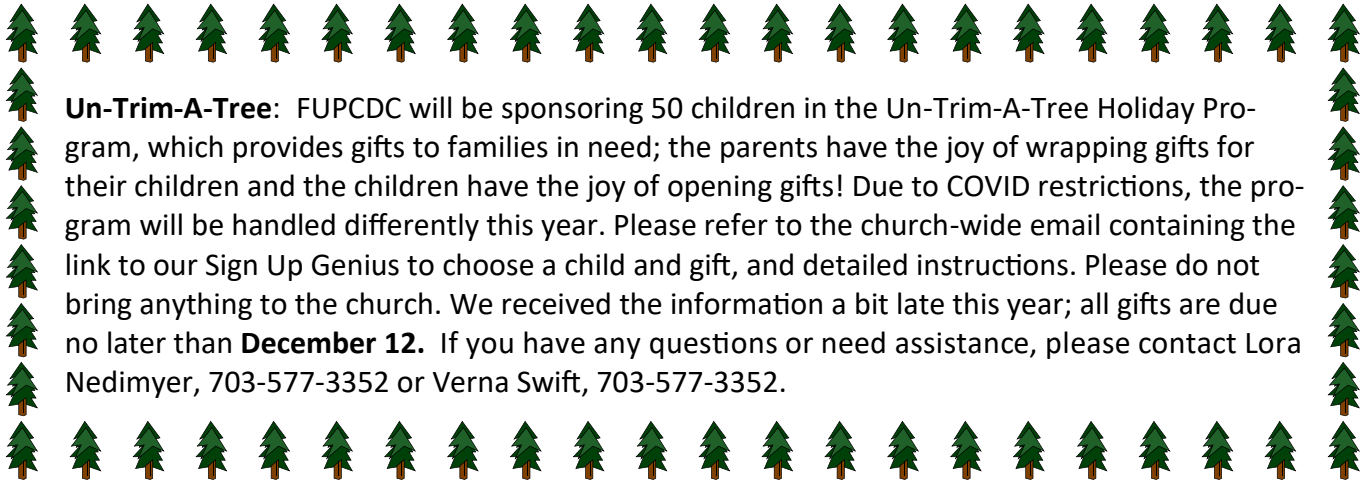
***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”  
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)***

# Mission and Outreach Committee

Each resident at **Lake Ridge Fellowship House**, a community for low-income seniors, received a small fruit basket during the week of Thanksgiving. The sincere appreciation that was shown when we delivered the baskets was amazing and made it clear that we are **Impacting Lives** at this community.

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: The Blanket Drive, normally held on Christmas Eve, is cancelled this year. Those who we support with : this effort are currently being housed in the Ferlazzo Building so the blankets are not needed at this : time. As there is an urgent need for food in Prince William County we encourage you to donate healthy, : non-perishable food to the ACTS Hunger Prevention Center. You can take your donation directly to ACTS : or donate to FUPCDC for a collective donation to ACTS. If you donate by mailing a check to FUPCDC or : through your bank bill pay please write *ACTS* in the memo line of the check; if you give online please : enter *ACTS* in the notes section. If you will be taking food to the ACTS Hunger Prevention Center check : on their website, [www.actspwc.org](http://www.actspwc.org), for hours and directions. :  
.....

Thanks to your generous giving, FUPCDC will be spreading Christmas Joy to residents in the 3 group homes of **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation**, one of the new groups we are ministering to. Each of the 15 residents will have a package to open plus a stocking filled with a variety of gifts (toiletries, puzzle books, socks, and goodies) as well as a hat and scarf set made by the FUPCDC Spread the Warmth team, and a face mask made by members of our congregation. Although 2020 has challenged many of us, FUPCDC - through your joy, warmth, and love - will be spreading Christmas in the community. Many thanks to the Spread the Warmth group and mask makers for sharing your time and talents.



**Un-Trim-A-Tree:** FUPCDC will be sponsoring 50 children in the Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Program, which provides gifts to families in need; the parents have the joy of wrapping gifts for their children and the children have the joy of opening gifts! Due to COVID restrictions, the program will be handled differently this year. Please refer to the church-wide email containing the link to our Sign Up Genius to choose a child and gift, and detailed instructions. Please do not bring anything to the church. We received the information a bit late this year; all gifts are due no later than **December 12**. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Lora Nedimyer, 703-577-3352 or Verna Swift, 703-577-3352.

**Continuing Support**  
Financial support to **ACTS** and **GPW Health Center** is currently being provided on a monthly basis.



## Mission and Outreach Committee



From Pat Johanson, Good Shepherd Housing Foundation:

“Everyone loved the candy and said thank you. When I walked in with it I saw how delighted they were and the staff said ‘No, we save it till later this evening’. This reminded me of my kids at Halloween who wanted to eat it all immediately!! The picture turned out great. Thank you!”



“Thank you FUPCDC for the wonderful fruit baskets that were delivered to us this week. We are so thankful to be remembered and blessed by you”.

~ The Residents of Lake Ridge Fellowship House



### SPREAD THE WARMTH - 2020

Thank you to all the folks who helped create a lot of warm hats and scarves for our friends who are homeless, as well as hats for those in treatment or recovering from cancer. This year we received 52 hats, 30 scarves, 16 hat and scarf sets and 45 cancer hats. The work now begins for the following year. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Elizabeth Glycer at [lizglyer@gmail.com](mailto:lizglyer@gmail.com)



### NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2021

The 2021 flower chart is now hanging in the Narthex Welcome Center. If you would like to sign up, please contact Kim in the church office to check availability. The cost remains \$40.00. We need to know the week you would like them, who you would like them in honor or memory of, and if you would like to keep the flowers or donate them to the flower ministry. If you wish to donate them, they will be given to members of the congregation to share God’s love and cheer them up. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Cobb at [gailcobb@gmail.com](mailto:gailcobb@gmail.com).

## Congregational Connections

### Sharing Our Christmas Memories

Please mark your calendars for a virtual gathering on December 20 during the ZOOM Coffee Hour following the worship service. We're asking you to share a Christmas memory, special ornament or Christmas decoration. Maybe you would just like to offer a Christmas greeting from you to your FUPCDC family.

We don't know how many will join us, so please plan to talk no longer than 2-3 minutes each. We want to ensure that each family or individual has an opportunity to participate. We look forward to sharing memories with you. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Gilbert, 703-343-3921 or [betsy.gilbert24@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.gilbert24@gmail.com)



### Calling all FUPCDC children, youth, and grandkids!

**Zoom with Santa! Sunday, Dec. 6, 6:30 - 7:30 PM Register today!**

Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule to Zoom with the children, youth, and grandkids of [First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, VA](#). He will talk with your children/youth, answer some of their questions (submitted ahead of time), and read "[Twas the Evening of Christmas](#)" by Glenys Nellist, which talks about the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ!

**Register by Thursday, December 3, 2020 to secure your spot on the Zoom call!**

**Grandchildren who might not live locally are welcome to attend!**

**Note:** We suggest you try joining the Zoom call at 6:15 PM to be ready for Saint Nicholas!

**Questions:** Contact the [Rev. Adam C. Bowling](#), who has connections with the North Pole.

**Sunday, Dec 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

### Youth Mystery Zoom Competition

RSVP by **TODAY** to have supplies delivered to your porch before the Zoom Competition. Supplies cannot be opened until everyone is on Zoom, or you will be disqualified. What will happen? What will be in the box? Who will win? Do you have what it takes? Register today to find out.

**Contact Afton Schwalm, Youth Elder**  
**[bulldogz89@yahoo.com](mailto:bulldogz89@yahoo.com), 571-221-0778.**



## North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Tracks Santa

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homelands. On Dec. 24, they have the very special mission of also tracking Santa.

NORAD has been tracking Santa since 1955 when a young child accidentally dialed the unlisted phone number of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, believing she was calling Santa Claus after seeing a promotion in a local newspaper.

Air Force Colonel Harry Shoup, the commander on duty that night, was quick to realize a mistake had been made, and assured the youngster that CONAD would guarantee Santa a safe journey from the North Pole.

Thus a tradition was born that rolled over to NORAD when it was formed in 1958. Each year since, NORAD has dutifully reported Santa's location on Dec. 24 to millions across the globe.

Thanks to the services and resources generously provided by numerous corporate contributors and volunteers, NORAD Tracks Santa has persevered for more than 60 years.

Though the program began due to a misdialed number, NORAD Tracks Santa has flourished and is recognized as one of the Department of Defense's largest community outreach programs.

Each year, the NORAD Tracks Santa Web Site receives nearly fifteen million unique visitors from more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Volunteers receive more than 130,000 calls to the NORAD Tracks Santa hotline from children around the globe.

This year, children and the young-at-heart are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.





Fun for Kids of All Ages!

