

Announcements

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS: Last Sunday, December 16, 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 2021), we welcome: *Gary Helm, Sam Mizener, Ben Moomaw, and Dave Young.*

Elected to serve as Deacons (Class of 2021), we welcome: *Clay Atkins, Judy Aylor, Sheree Britton, Mike Emanuel, David Faidley, Eddie Ivins, Todd Scruggs, and Eleanor Webb.*

Members elected to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee (Class of 2020) are: *Becky Griffith, Lori Flowers, and Ben Moomaw (Vice Chair).*

Returning members in the Class of 2019 are: *Jacob Caldwell, Norman Darden (Chair), Blair Nelligan, and Treasa Plude.*

We recognize those officers who completed their service on the Session and the Diaconate effective December 31. Those elders are: *Tom Chaffin, Ray Ganthner, Mike Lovell, Larry Shackleton.* The Deacons include: *Ron Adams, Calvin Dameron, Baxter Gordon, Jeff Griffith, Paul Lass, Shane Pinder, Mark Smith.*

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS AND YEAR-END DONATIONS: Church offices will be closed tomorrow, December 24 at noon through January 1 and will reopen with regular hours on Wednesday, January 2. For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2018 must be received or postmarked by Monday, December 31. There are several ways to make your donation. You may drop your offering in the mail or in the offering plate, set up a bank ACH transfer, or transfer money securely online by going to our e-giving tab on the church website (www.rivermont.org). If you need an update on your donations before the end of the year, please contact Kelly at the church office: (434) 846-3441 or kelly@rivermont.org.

PARKING AND OUR NEIGHBORS: As we remember to love our neighbors as ourselves, this is a friendly reminder not to block our neighbors' driveways when we park for worship. Please also reserve closer parking for our visitors and senior saints, particularly during this Christmas season. Graciously, Randolph College allows use of three parking lots: Maier Museum, the Upper Gym lot, and the Lower Gym lot. Thank you!

EMAIL COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHURCH: During the month of November, the church began receiving notifications that emails sent from the church to our members were not being received. The church staff has confirmed with our internet provider that outbound messages have been sent, yet new filters on some carriers have blocked our messages. Please check your filters.

CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP: As a reminder, we will **not** meet tomorrow since it is Christmas Eve. We will reconvene next month on January 28. Merry Christmas!

NURSERY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: The Nursery is in need of volunteers for the 5:00 and 7:00 evening services tomorrow. If you are able to help, please see Toni or email her at toni@rivermont.org. Thank you!

YOUTH NEWS: There are no youth activities this week. Merry Christmas from your student ministry leaders!

CATHEDRAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE: DVD copies of the Sanctuary Choir's Washington National Cathedral performance on September 30 are now available for purchase! Please see Ciera Dempsey in the front office on weekdays to pick up your copy. Cost per disc is \$5.

Announcements (Cont.)

RECUPERATING: Dot Barker

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:

- Pastor David Weber and family in the death of his grandfather, Rod Sowders, who died Monday, December 17. He was from Washington state.
- Dr. Kathy Carwile-Johnson in the death of her mother, and Heather Quintero in the death of her grandmother, Kathryn Hanlin, who died on Tuesday, December 18. She was from Lynchburg, Virginia.

IN APPRECIATION: *Dear REPC family, what a blessing it is to have such a loving community to surround us with prayers, support, and all manner of caring during my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you for being the hands of Jesus. In Christ's love, George and Linda Paulson*

UPCOMING USHER SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services Tomorrow:
5:00 pm: Head Deacon: Calvin Dameron **Assistant:** Michele Dameron
Ushers: Pheby Dameron, Russ Matney
7:00 pm: Head Deacon: Jeff Griffith **Assistant:** Kenn Dunn
Ushers: Andrea Adams, Kelly Crawford, Beth Dunn, Todd Scruggs, Lisa Sosin, Pat Yeatts
9:00 pm: Head Deacon: Baxtor Gordon **Assistant:** Todd Matthews
Ushers: Susan Pettyjohn
**We are still in need of one usher for this service.*

Next Sunday, December 30:
Head Deacon: Ron Adams **Assistant Deacon:** Russ Matney **Morning Only:** Michele Dameron
8:30 am: Terry Beckloff, Keith Mascher, Chris Matney, Hermann Ulrich
11:00 am: Scooter Harris, Daniel Lass, Charlie Mitchell, Simeon Purvis

ATTENDANCE: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: 400; 11:00 service: 314; Total: 714.
 Congregational Meeting/Sunday School: 256. Evening Cantata Service: 374.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: The Dodd Family
 Be in prayer for the Dodd family as they return to Guatemala on December 29 with Project Hope to serve in a poor and remote mountain village where malnutrition is a big problem. While sharing the gospel, they will also help provide the food these families need. (The Dodds have a table in the Cheatham Center today which you may visit to learn more about their trip and any ways you may help.) May the Lord use the medical and nutritional gifts of this team to further His work among the people of Guatemala. May Jesus Christ be praised!

Contact Us

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EMAIL: ciera@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 MINISTRY
 Josh Dempsey | DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES
 Matt Bradner | REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CAMPUS OUTREACH
 Julia Sansone | DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS AND ACCOMPANIST
 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 23, 2018 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Order Of Worship

The prelude is a time for the body of Christ to prepare spiritually 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: **"Canon"** **Praise Ringers**
"Bells Ringing, Angels Singing" Pachelbel, arr. Andrea Handley
 (Ding, Dong Merrily on High/Angels from the Realms of Glory) arr. Dan Edwards

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 Mike Palombo**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalms 43:3-5 (responsively)**
Send out Your light and Your truth;
let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in tormoil within me?
Hope in God;
for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #213 "What Child Is This" GREENSLEEVES**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love
8:30: Josh and Carrie Alley together with their children Eden, Lily, Asher, Knox, and West
11:00: Dwain and Rebecca Eckberg

"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)

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 PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Almighty and holy Father, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You, by our deeds, 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: John 3:16**

***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!

(8:30) COMMISSIONING OF THE GUATEMALA AND NEPAL MISSIONS TEAMS

Guatemala: The Dodd family; Nepal: Pastor Brett Eubank and Eric Vess

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

"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come."

(Revelation 1:4)

THE ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

New Song

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry, Greene, arr. Fetteke

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've delivered will soon deliver you?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby Boy has walked where angels trod,
And when you kiss your little Baby, you've kissed the face of God?
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!
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby Boy was heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great, the Great I AM?
Mary, did you know?

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to the orange room, #115.

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:22-27 (page 1041)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "The End of Light" Dr. David Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

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 fit 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:

The Sanctuary Choir

"Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing"

Elaine Hagenberg

Sweetest music, softly stealing through the silence of the night;
To the shepherds now revealing, Christ is born the Son of light.
Glory unto God the Father Who has sent His only Son
To gather those from all the nations 'round His feet and make them one.
Shepherds, to the stable hasten, there your Savior Christ is born,
Son of Mary, lowly maiden, on this first glad Christmas morn!
He from highest heav'n descending comes on earth your woes to heal
That, your every want attending, love of God He may reveal.

***THE DOXOLOGY:**

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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: "Overture from 'Unto Us a Child Is Born'"**

J. S. Bach

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

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 and 8:30 pm)

Prayer Usher Ministry - Prayer Ministry teams are available after each morning service for those who would like someone to pray with them about a personal need. The Prayer Ushers will meet you at the Family Room off the Cheatham Center. They will be identified with name tags. This ministry is available to visitors as well as members. All prayer requests are confidential.