

First
Presbyterian
Church
Whiteville,
North Carolina

“Seeking to be a light in our community, reflecting Christ’s love and compassion”

First Sunday after Christmas
January 1, 2017



As We Start the New Year

Rev. Drs. Beverly and George
Thompson
Interim Co-Pastors

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Our Life Together

On each pew is a Friendship Register. Please pass this register down the row for each person to sign and then return it to the center aisle.

Welcome, Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Choral Prayer "As the Deer" Choir

*Call to Worship

One: Come, all who are faithful and all who seek faith.

Many: It is the season to sing and rejoice.

One: The symbol of new hope and peace shine.

Many: We will share this hope and peace for God's promise is fulfilled in the birth of the Christ, who has come and will come again.

All: The Christ who is born calls us to a new life of faith. Together let us worship God.

*** Hymn 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Call to Confession

When Jesus was born of Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. **May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways.** Let us confess our sin first in self-searching silence.

Prayer of Confession

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation: we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound

**creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love . . . Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer. We wait upon You with ready hearts. Reveal Yourself in ways that
we can understand and receive. Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Congregational Response 134 vs 3,4

“Joy to the World”

Assurance of God’s Grace

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to
become children of God. **Let us claim that right in this moment.**

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you all, **And also with you!**

Proclaiming the Word

A Word with the Children and Youth

Bob Hankins

Prayer for Understanding

**Grant that we may hear with understanding and be moved to compassion. Knit
us together, that our varied talents may be fully engaged in your service. Send
your Spirit upon us, that we, like Jesus, may preach the good news of liberation.
Amen.**

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

“A Two King Christmas”

Bob Hankins

Responding to the Word

***Affirming Our Faith in Song 134 vs 1,2**

“Joy to the World”

Invitation to Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all the resources at our disposal to receive
God’s blessing and fulfill God’s purposes. **In joyous gratitude, we bring more than
money: we bring ourselves as an offering to God.**

Offertory

“That Boy-Child of Mary”

Hymn 139

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer

Lord's Prayer, 35

***Sending Hymn 450**

“Be Thou My Vision”

***A Christmas Affirmation**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the Shepherds saw the sign, but for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom Kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest glory is giving your life for others.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change, if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

***Benediction and Blessing**

Go now into the world, carrying Christmas with you into everyday life. Open the inn within you and make room for that gift of gift, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**You are invited to stand if you are able*

WELCOME! We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May today's worship open you to God. *Your entire family is welcome*, but we do offer a nursery for children birth to 3 years of age, located in the education building behind the sanctuary.

Prayer Concerns: Bob High, Grace Palmer; Rhonda Scott; Nancy Thurston; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Geraldine Becker **Assisted Care:** Kenneth Smith; Ellen Thurston; Charlene Hinnant; Anna Jane Collier **Friends:** Reta Hinson; Donna Parker; Carole Short; Mary Bair; Hollis Salyer; Joe Youngblood; Jean Turner; Ed Jackson; Shandell McPherson; Christy Stuckey; Mary Cherry; Billie Joe Conrad; Shari Dutton; Rex Ros; Brenda Walters; Hobert Wicker; David Gore; Daphne McLeod; Gail Moye; Melinda Powell; Jerome McPherson; Nancy Wilson; Pat Allen; Benny McBride; Shelby Hodge; Frank Youngblood; Barbara Shepherd; Annette Caldwell; Doris Hudlow, Beverly's mother. ***Please notify the church office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list, and then again when the name may be removed.**

Bob Hankins, the son of a United Methodist Pastor, spent his early years in southwest Virginia and east Tennessee. He graduated from high school in Marion, Virginia. He graduated from Asbury College in Kentucky and Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey in preparation for his years of service as a Pastor in the United Methodist Church.

He served as a Student Pastor from 1955 until 1960 when he was ordained. During his years in ministry he served churches in Ohio (3 years), Connecticut (7 years), and New York (35 years). He has also served as a Chaplain at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Montrose, New York for 9 years.

In retirement in North Carolina, he served the United Methodist Church in Hallsboro as an interim pastor for a year. At the Whiteville United Methodist Church, he has been a member of the Chancel Choir and has taught a Church School Class (Christians Under Construction) for 15 years. He has also taken an active part in leading work teams to Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He lives on West College street with Carolyn, his wife of 54 years.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

Tuesday: NETworX of Hope	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Thursday: Chicks with Sticks	10:30 a.m.
January 2: Evening Circle with Diane Scott	7:00 p.m.
January 3: Morning Circle	11:00 a.m.
January 7: Session Retreat	
January 8: Ordination and Installation of Elders	
Children's Team: 1/1-Sally Medford	1/8: David and Susan Smith
Head Usher January: Fuller Royal	