

FPC News

First Presbyterian
Church

FPC News

December 1, 2006

Pastor's Corner

Ah, Christmas! Christmas sounds are in the air. Christmas lights shine before our eyes. Christmas aromas caress our noses, and even Christmas flavors tingle our taste buds. Christmas has become a very sensory-laden experience, it seems. The way our world celebrates Christmas caters to our feelings - not just the physical sensory perceptions, but also to our emotional feelings as well. For many people, Christmas is loaded with memories that spark sentimentality - complete with warm smiles and laughter, or with bittersweet tears. It seems to me that the way we celebrate this season tends to magnify our emotions, placing a focal point all too squarely on ourselves. What I'm getting at is that the focus of Christmas should not be on self, but on Christ.

What really should be the natural flow of the Christmas experience has become more of a challenge than it ought to be. Allow me to offer one very simple way of pursuing a more Christ-centered Christmas - Sunday School attendance. I know, I know, you were hoping maybe for some deep and clever spiritual insight or a radical new spiritual discipline to practice. In this regard, I suppose I am simply 'old school.' Yet, doesn't it make sense that we make every effort to get to know the One who's birth we celebrate, alongside others who share a common faith and a common desire to know Him and love Him?

Every time a child is baptized at church, we take a vow that we will do everything within our power to influence that child to grow to know and love and serve Jesus Christ. One of the most obvious ways to do that is right under our very noses. It is offered every Sunday. All you have to do is make sure that you and your children are there, too. It's not complicated at all. However, it does require one thing - plain old effort. I recall my parents taking my brother and sister and I to Sunday School very regularly - often in spite of our protests and complaining. I'm certain my parents sometimes wondered if it was worth all their hard work to get us there. It would have been so much easier for them to sleep in and rationalize that it was for the sake of "family time." Today, I believe my love for Jesus Christ was, in many ways, inspired by my parents' unrelenting dedication to our Christian education. Because THEY valued our Christian education, WE learned the value of Christian education.

So, this season, let Christian education become a priority. Don't let Christmas merely stir your senses and emotions. Let it become an opportunity to stir your mind and spirit! Yes, Christmas is so much more than warm memories, decorations, and gifts. Christmas transcends all our self-centered ways of celebrating the season. Christmas moves us beyond ourselves to Christ, the Son of God.

Peace and Joy,

Philip

Poinsettias are now on sale. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, please call the church office. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 24th. The cost is \$7.25 each. Orders will be taken until Friday, December 8th. All orders must be paid before December 15th.

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

We will be taking a collection on Sunday, December 24th. You may send a check designated to Christmas Joy Offering to the church office.

Most of you have probably seen the sign on the front yard of the church that says simply:

newdaymovie.com. What is it? The purpose of the sign is to attract and direct attention to a website that shows a short movie intended to lift a person's spirit, bring them Christ's message, and hopefully create an interest in the Church. It is part of a national PCUSA campaign. You will probably see the same sign in other Presbyterian church yards.

How does it work? Just go to the website, press 'play' and enjoy! Why are we doing this? As an outreach - to give people hope. Also, at the end of the movie is a link to find a Presbyterian church close to them. Why not mention the PCUSA in the name? We are trying to reach out to people who would not normally associate themselves with church, or who would otherwise not take church messages seriously. While it is a beautiful devotion for all of us, our goal is to promote our church to those people NOT already inside by meeting them where they are comfortable.

December Birthdays

Dec. 1 - Foss Knight, John Sperry
 Dec. 2 - Louise Berndt, Kathy Whitton, Bette Sucher
 Dec. 3 - Velner Jones, David Linney
 Dec. 5 - Robin Koury Jr., Brett Dymond, Sophie Davenport
 Dec. 6 - Kim Butts
 Dec. 7 - Kyle McDermott, Rhonda Lemon
 Dec. 10 - Tara Knight
 Dec. 13 - Tim Boyd, Blake Byrd
 Dec. 16 - Peggy Hendley, Mary Lynn Ingram, Jenny Proctor, Zach Angell, Neil Currens
 Dec. 17 - Rebecca Wilson, Charlotte Lutton
 Dec. 18 - Don Angell Jr., Brad Marin
 Dec. 21 - Joe Hinton, Anna Vann
 Dec. 23 - Clara Ussery, Vicki Register
 Dec. 27 - Matt Hinton
 Dec. 28 - Aaron Ellis
 Dec. 29 - Frances Smith, Lib Williams, Susanne Grace, Larry Phillips
 Dec. 30 - Margaret Foushee, Quenton Payne, Jonathan Westbrook
 Dec. 31 - David Register

A Helpful Reminder

Whenever you or your group has a meeting in the evening or on the weekend, please make arrangements at least 3 days beforehand with Lori to have the church doors unlocked. And as you leave the building at night, please make sure that 2 people with your group are assigned to 'sweep' through the building to assure that all lights are turned off and that all doors are locked. This will help to maintain the safety and security of everyone!

Important Officer Info

Pictorial photos of the officers will be taken at the following dates and times:

Elders: Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 12:05 pm in the Harper Center gathering area.

Deacons: Sunday, Dec. 3rd 12:30am in the Harper Center gathering area.

December**Meals on Wheels****Circle # 8****Church Flowers****Flower Committee**

The Festival Singers of
Lee County

Present

The 4th Annual
'Feast of Carols'

Sunday, December 3rd at
3:00 p.m.

The Harper Center

Many Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our "Growing Forward Together" stewardship season so great! Thanks to all our officers who hosted the fabulous supper on Nov. 12th - the Harper Center looked amazing, with all the people and all the decorated tables. We are grateful to the members of the stewardship campaign: Steve Morgan, Steve Huepper, Bob Law, Karen Miller, and Jennifer Tatum. Special thanks to Jennifer for all the work you did in coordinating the supper and the festivities. Our gratitude goes out the Peggy Golden for the beautiful decorations in the colonnade during the stewardship season - I trust everyone enjoyed the sunflower arrangements with all the trimmings! Thanks to the entertainers: Paul Kelly, Rhonda Lemon, Elizabeth Terrell, Jennifer Tatum, Karen Miller, and Helen Ogburn. We also are grateful to John Foushee who donated all those pots and all those flower bulbs and to Richard and Becky Cobb for printing the pledge cards to make the whole program complete! It was a superb celebration, with warm fellowship, lots of laughter, and a wonderful atmosphere of joy! Thanks to everyone!

Breadbasket News

We all know that the Thanksgiving holiday falls in November, yet we as Christians can be thankful for our many blessings on each and every day.

I continue to be grateful for my faithful volunteers who help prepare and serve needs at the Breadbasket.

This month my helpers

were William Wagoner, Rexine Lloyd, Helen Ogburn, Martha McGee, Helen Lynde and Lou VanBruggen. Together we served 140 plates of food.

Our menu for the day offered chicken and dumplings, roasted corn, buttered green peas, tossed salad, dessert and drink.

Please do consider volunteering at the Breadbasket. You will find the experience to be rewarding, and realize that it is a worthwhile service for our neighbors.

Emily Kelly
Hunger Enabler

Session Report - November

- **Sunday School classes will be decorating the church for Christmas.**
- **The budget for 2007 will be resource based. Committee chairmen are asked to provide Committee Budgets to the Stewardship/Budget Comm. by December 9th.**
- **Seventeen out of twenty new members attended the Stewardship Dinner.**

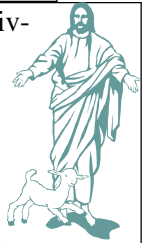
Shepherd's Corner

v. 8 - In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

v. 15 - When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

v. 17 - When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

Luke 2:8,15,17



Dear Friends,

Our Family has been overwhelmed by the love and concern so many of you have shown us about Marc's illness. We are particularly grateful for the prayers that we can feel holding us up every day. Please continue to pray for his healing and for God's blessings on him throughout his treatments. And may God continually uphold and enrich you with His love and grace.

With Love,
Betty Sherrod



Men of the Church

 The Men of the Church breakfast will be held Sunday, December 17th at 8am in the Harper Center. Join us for a delicious breakfast and a great program!

December Door

Greeters

- Bill Miller
- Jimmy Washburn
- Dave Martin
- Randy Robertson

Circles Meet on December 11th at:

- #1 - Dot Boaz, 2324 Radius Drive
- # 2 - Joan Edson, 1362 Maryland Court
- # 3 - Donna Robertson, 94 Donald Drive, Pittsboro
- # 4 - Eloise Berryman, 1314 Bragg Street
- # 5 - Betty Sherrod, 526 West Chisholm Street
- # 6 - Julie Lemon, 1202 Cotten Road
- # 7 - Rexine Lloyd, 511 Maplewood Drive
- # 8 - Officers Supper

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

- The Family of Nancy Goetsch, David Vann and Family in the death of his brother,*
- Clara Harris and Family in the death of her brother,*
- Kay Faucette and Family in the death of her mother,*
- Reggie Miller, Bill Miller & Sarah Mann and Families in the death of their sister-in-law,*
- J.C. Perry and Family and Flora Perry and Family in the death of his brother and her brother-in-law.*



Max Brown; Emily Buchanan; Katherine Cameron; Sally Chapin; Dorothy Foushee - Parkview; Margaret Foushee - Parkview; Mildred Johnson; Charlotte Lutton; Toni Mackey; Merlee McDonald - Pinelake; Bobby McIntyre; Janelle & Savanna Phelps; Margaret Poe - Parkview; Sallie Tatum; Joan Bland's stepfather - D.C. Holler; Melissa Boles; Jessica Brewer's mother - Linda Brewer and father - Winslow Brewer; Jerry Campbell's mother - Clarene Campbell; Carol Carlson; Christian Huffman; Joyce Mann's mother - Lorene Glasscock; Carole Petraglia's son - Philip Gregory Petraglia; Wanda Perry; Wilson Proctor's sister - Elizabeth LeCroy; Heather Riddle's grandmother - Dorothy LeClair; Burton & Betty Sherrod's son - Marc Sherrod; Sally Suther's niece - Amanda Mager; Lucretia Sperry's grandmother - Mildred Frady; Karen Tatum's father - Wesley Spence; Jennifer Tyndall's brother - Brian Tucker; Cameron Womack; Raymond Womble's brother - Wayne Womble

First Presbyterian Church

203 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford NC 27330
919-775-5216
919-775-4465 fax
919-708-9502 prayer line

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We're on the web!
fpcsanford.org

What's Happening in December???

Fri., Dec. 1 - 3pm -
9:30pm Pictures

Sat., Dec. 2 - 10am - 5pm
Pictures

Sun., Dec. 3 - 9am Con-
temporary Service; 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship/Children's Church;
1:30pm Middle School
Youth meet; 3pm Feast of
Carols; 5pm Administrative
Committee; 5pm Officers'
Training; 6pm Sr. High
Youth

Tues., Dec. 5 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 3pm Pictures; 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting; 7pm Sr.
High Advisors Meet

Wed., Dec. 6 - 6pm Keen-
ager Banquet

Thurs., Dec. 7 - Presby-
tery Meeting - Jacksonville;
9:30am Needlepoint Class;
6pm Cardio./Sculpting

Sun., Dec. 10 - 9am Con-

temporary Service; 9:45am
Sunday School/Family S.S.;
11am Worship/Children's
Church; 2pm Officers'
Training; 4pm Christmas at
FPC in Harper Center;
5:30pm Live Nativity

Mon., Dec. 11 - Deadline
for Salvation Army Gifts;
Circles Meet; 5:30 pm Dea-
cons Meet; 6:30pm Officers'
Supper; 7:00pm Elders Meet

Tues., Dec. 12 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting

Wed., Dec. 13 - 6:30pm
Contemporary Choir;
7:30pm Choir

Thurs., Dec. 14 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting; 7pm
CDC Christmas Program

Sun., Dec. 17 - 8am MOC
Breakfast; 9am Contempo-
rary Service; 9:45am Sunday
School; 11am Worship;
2pm Christmas Open

House at Manse; 5pm
Stephen Ministers/Leaders;
6pm Middle School Youth
at the Woodell's home; Sr.
High Youth at the Quick's
home

Tues., Dec. 19 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting

Thurs., Dec. 21 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting

Fri., Dec. 22 - 12pm
Church Offices closes

Sun., Dec. 24 - 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship; 5:30pm Christmas Eve
Service/Communion

Mon., Dec. 25 - Christmas
Church Office Closed
CDC Closed

Tues., Dec. 26 - Church
Office Closed; CDC Closed

Sun., Dec. 31 - 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship/Children's Church

Reminder!

Gifts for the Salvation
Army are due in the
church office by
December 11th.

Christmas Open House

Cam and I would like
to invite everyone to the
Manse for a Christmas
Open House. We ap-
preciate the opportunity
to be a part of such a
wonderful congregation!
Please join us on Sun-
day, December 17th for
refreshments between
2pm & 4pm.