

3rd Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2003

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE: "Prelude" from *Christmas Oratorio*..... Camille Saint-Saëns
WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP..... Ed Lewis
INTROIT: (8:30 a.m.) "Silent Night"Carson Bridges and Mikayla Ronnow
CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 12:2, 5-6)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"..... No. 153

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God:
You sent your Son into our world, so that his light would banish our darkness.
We claim to rejoice in his light, yet we have turned away from it in fear.
**Let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all selfishness and deceitfulness
that cause us to hide in darkness.**
**Enable us to live as children of light,
rejoicing in the hope and promise of our Lord's coming Kingdom.**
Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) Tune: GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Proclaiming and Responding to God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... (8:30 a.m.) Bill and Carolyn Brawley
(11:00 a.m.) Ralph Herring and Mac, Jill, Nell and Van Herring

*HYMN: "A Candle Is Burning" Tune: Mueller

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace, a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way; a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER..... Fred Coates
**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 for ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: "Alleluia" from *Christmas Oratorio*..... Camille Saint-Saëns

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... (8:30 a.m.) Jared Parnell; (11:00 a.m.) Vickie Eddleman

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-15 (pew Bible, page 55)

(8:30 a.m.) Terry Skeen; (11:00 a.m.) Tom Church

*CAROL: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"..... No. 189

Christmas Cantata

For Us a Child Is Born by Johann Sebastian Bach

Bearing God's Word into the World

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL CAROL: "Joy to the World" No. 179

POSTLUDE: "Gigue" Johann Pachelbel

Calendar and Announcements

Today: 8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast in the fellowship hall
10:00 a.m. - Cherub Choir Practice
2:30 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord Circle at the home of Diana Hyman
5:13 p.m. - PYF - Salteens
7:00 p.m. - Joint meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons in the Parlor

Monday: 5:30 p.m. - Girl Scout Daisy Troop 591
7:00 p.m. - Small Group "Breaking Free" with Liz Price
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study with Fred and Jean Coates

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - Weekday Preschool Christmas Program
12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive luncheon in the fellowship hall
5:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Cub Pack 166 in the fellowship hall
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. - Weekday Preschool Christmas Program
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Christmas party at the home of Debbie Church

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - Through the Bible study at the home of Peggy Rogers
7:00 p.m. - Sisters-in-Christ Circle (No. 2) in the Parlor

Friday: 7:00 p.m. - College Fellowship Dinner at the home of the McElroys

Visitors: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this Lord's Day. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

Fellowship: The Friends and Family Church School Class will serve coffee and cookies in the parlor following both worship services today.

Presbyterian Men will hold their monthly breakfast meeting this morning at 8:30 a.m.

Catechism Club Registration: Catechism Club (for children in grades one through six) registration will take place in the church parlor this morning, before and after the worship services, or you may call the church office (704-664-5275) to register. Information about Catechism Club may be found on the registration table in the parlor.

Saints Alive Luncheon: The monthly Saints Alive luncheon will be held this Tuesday, December 16, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall; cost is \$3. Special devotions, "The Christmas Story from the Star's Perspective," will be given by Lynelle Owen, and the program will be presented by Mary Morrow, featuring antique toys displayed at the DAR Museum in Washington, DC. You are encouraged to bring one of your oldest toys to the luncheon.

Logos/MSM registration for second semester will take place this morning in the church parlor, before and after the worship services. The Logos/MSM program is a mid-week program of Bible class, recreation, music, and dinner for children in grades one through eight. Returning participants should inform directors Christina McElroy or Jennifer Boger of their intent to return. New participants should pick up registration forms and program information. Fees include a \$25 registration fee (new participants only) and a \$40 per semester tuition fee. Second semester begins Wednesday, January 7, 2004; registration deadline is Monday, January 5. Scholarship help is available upon request. Please contact program director Christina McElroy (704-664-4369) or assistant director Jennifer Boger (704-660-0715) with questions about the program.

College Student Dinner: All college students are invited to a dinner this Friday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christina and Scott McElroy, 1061 Briarcliff Road. Please RSVP by calling Sue Parnell (704-892-5158) or Sondra Pettus (704-896-7963). Bring a friend!

Christmas Pageant: Everyone is invited to a presentation of the Christmas story next Sunday, December 21, during the church school hour. The pageant will be held in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m., and will be presented by first through fifth graders, along with the 4 and 5 year old class. Refreshments will be served, and a nursery will be provided for children under three.

Christmas Eve Nursery: Adult and teen volunteers are needed to assist in the preschool nursery during the 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Please notify the church office if you can help provide this important service.

New Members: Last Sunday the following were welcomed to the worship, work and fellowship of our church family:

Mr. and Mrs. Everett G. Andrews (Everett and Martha), 100 Kipling Lane, Mooresville, NC 28115, by transfer of membership from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Huntersville, NC.

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Brooks, II (David and Lynn), 117 Crumdale Lane, Troutman, NC 28166, by transfer from North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church, North Wilkesboro, NC.

Mrs. Yvonne R. Miller, 143 Picwyck Drive, Mooresville, NC 28115, by transfer of membership from North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church, North Wilkesboro, NC. Her husband, Dr. Tom Miller, is our parish associate.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Edith Brantley and family in the death of her husband on December 6, to Anne Telford and family in the death of her father on December 8, and to Scott Swing and family in the death of his brother on December 9.

Alternative Christmas Gifts may be given in honor of family and/or friends. Members of the Witness and Service Committee will be in the parlor following worship today and next Sunday to provide information and to receive your gifts.

Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church office by today.

Poinsettia orders (\$10 each) are due by this Wednesday, December 17.



In Memoriam
David Ernest Brantley

December 10, 1923 – December 6, 2003

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth...that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13

First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina