

December 21, 2003

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE .....(8:30 a.m.) Keri Carpenter; (11:00 a.m.) Christy Floyd
WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP ..... Ed Lewis
CALL TO WORSHIP

Leave your darkness at the door.

The season of light is dawning.

It is a time of celebrating.

The birth of hopes, the flame of compassion.

The cradle of wonder, the bud of peace.

The darkness is fading.

We are finished with waiting.

Bring in the season of light.

\*CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ..... No. 185

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, come quickly and lighten our darkness. Lift us from mindless repetition of well-known carols. Enliven our reading of the familiar story. Prepare us to be comforted and confronted. Holy Child, Your coming will disturb us, will expose our failure to love, our lack of concern for others, our pride in the things we have earned and bought. Holy Spirit, descend upon us so we do not forget that it is You Who gives us our life, our security and our peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) .....Tune: Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH .....Bill and Terry Skeen (8:30 a.m.)

Don, Jerilyn, Meredith, Morgan and Donovan Fair and Philipp Metzger (11:00 a.m.)

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

A candle is burning, a candle of love, A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth, For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

The Sealing of God's Word (11 a.m.)

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

ANTHEM: "Candlelight Carol" ..... John Rutter

(Chancel Choir)

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-55 (pew Bible, page 53)

(8:30 a.m.) Judith Dellinger ; (11:00 a.m.) Lynelle Owen

\*CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"..... No. 180

SERMON: "Lessons Learned from the Wait Staff"..... Fred Coates

Responding to God's Word

\*HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" ..... No. 191

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: (8:30 a.m.) "What Child Is This?" ..... GREENSLEEVES

(Kristen Carpenter and Rebecca Auten, duet; Mary Ellen Auten, flute; Mark Auten, guitar)

(11:00 a.m.) "Manger Lullaby" ..... arr. Hart Morris

(Exaltation Ringers)

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION ..... (8:30 a.m.) Lynn Parnell; (11:00 a.m.) Kerry Miller

Bearing God's Word into the World

\*BENEDICTION

\*CAROL: "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" .....No. 194

POSTLUDE

Cassette tapes of the service are available at the sound console located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Calendar and Announcements

Sunday: 9:45 a.m. - Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall
2:30 p.m. - PYF will meet at the church to go to Brian Center
4:00 p.m. - PYF progressive Christmas party begins

Monday: 6:30 p.m. - Girl Scout Brownie Troop 794 in Room 313
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
- Presbyterian Women's Council at the home of Debbie Church
- Small group with Liz Price

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Johnny Rocket's
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers Christmas party at the home of Debbie Hyatt

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. - Cherub Choir practice
5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers in the Library
2:00 p.m. - Retirement party for Bart and Betty Shaw at Camp Grier

Guests: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this fourth Sunday of Advent. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad. You are invited to attend our next New Member Class on January 11 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 300.

The sacrament of baptism will be administered today at the 11:00 a.m. worship service to Courtney Lee Crouch, daughter of Chuck and Emily Crouch, 190 Hazelton Loop. J. D. and Kathryn Donelson will serve as sponsors.

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 to provide information and to receive your gifts.

**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be held in the sanctuary this Wednesday evening at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received, and childcare will be provided during both services. Invite your family and friends to attend with you.

**A Cherub Choir** (ages 3-7) will sing at the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be held in Room 217 this morning following the pageant and on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. in the Men's Bible Class under the sanctuary.

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

**Next Sunday:** While there will be an 8:30 a.m. service, the 11:00 a.m. worship service will be led by our college students as we observe Christian Student Sunday. In addition, the Session will ordain and install elders and deacons-elect. Following the 11:00 a.m. service a congregational meeting will be held to approve the church budget for next year and to fulfill any requirements of First Presbyterian Church, Inc.

**All college students** are invited to a complimentary lunch next Sunday at Pueblo Grande Mexican Restaurant. The group will meet in the church parlor immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please call the church office at 704-664-5275 to make a reservation. Bring a friend!

**Wedding:** Nancy Jane Buchanan and Franklin Jeff Davidson were united in marriage in our fellowship hall on December 13. They are making their home at 103 South Sherrill Street, Mooresville, NC 28115.

**"Twenty-something" Church School Class:** A new church school class will begin Sunday, January 3, at 9:45 a.m. in Room 310. The class is designed for young adults in their twenties, and will be led by members of the Friends and Family church school class. Please contact Jennifer Boger (704-660-0715) or Christina McElroy (704-664-4369) if you have questions about the class.

**Christmas Pageant:** Everyone is invited to a presentation of the Christmas story this morning at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The pageant will be presented by first through fifth graders, along with the 4 and 5 year-old church school class. Refreshments will be served, and a nursery will be provided for children under 3.

**The church office** will be closed this Thursday and Friday.

**Baptism** is next scheduled to be celebrated on January 11. If you desire baptism for yourself and/or your child(ren), please notify the church as soon as possible.

**Children's worship bags** with bulletins and helps for children and parents may be picked up from and returned to the basket at the rear of the sanctuary.

**Financially Speaking:** Take advantage of the end of this calendar year to fulfill your commitments to the church. Our church's ministries are dependent on your generosity. Questions about projects needing support and/or your contributions may be addressed to treasurer LuAnne Sledge at 704-664-5665. Offering envelopes for 2004 are available for all our members at the rear of the sanctuary. If you need envelopes but cannot find yours, please contact the church office or the church treasurer.

**Graduates:** Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to Katie McDonnell upon her recent graduation from the University of South Carolina. Please notify the church office of additional graduations.



## First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue  
Mooresville, North Carolina