

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 2, 2007

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

Welcome and Announcements
Invocation

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

Prelude

“Jesus Your King Is Born”
Middle School Handbells

arr. Callahan

*Opening Sentences

*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymnal, No. 154

*Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

*Silent Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

Anthem

“He Is Born”

French Carol

Jeannette Cox, harp

Children's Sermon

First Advent Candle

“Hope”

Kristen and Thomas McMillan

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming, and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. The candles on the Advent wreath remind us of God's hope, peace, joy, and love.

People: The first candle is the candle of hope. In Christ we find hope for today, for tomorrow, and for all time.

Leader: We are preparing for the days spoken of in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

People: Today we light the candle of hope and celebrate the hope God gives us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for his marvelous gift!

*Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymnal, No. 198

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“Noel, Noel, A Boy Is Born”

Sleeth

Logos Choir and Middle School Handbells

*The Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymnal, No. 34

*Prayer of Dedication

New Testament Reading

Mark 6:1-6 (ESV)

Insert

Sermon

“Who Is This Man? Receiver of Ridicule...”

Dr. Brown

Prayer of Response

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All who trust and follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, regardless of church membership or denomination, are invited to participate. Please commune as you receive the elements.

*Invitation and Benediction

*Response

“The Lord's Prayer”

Hymnal, No. 740

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.

*Postlude

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

J.S. Bach

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* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and pick up a “Welcome Home” folder in the Parlor.

You can become a member of First Presbyterian TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with a pastor during the time of refreshments following today's service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Assisted listening devices are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary. Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Tom Deal and Susan Smith by Becky Deal.

OFFICERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Clay Brown, Moderator

Class of 2007

Mildred M. Amon
W. Brent Curtis
William B. Harris, III
Richard A. Omohundro
Lynelle C. Owen
Alan T. Sledge
Paul S. Trimble

Bob Campbell, Moderator

Class of 2007

Robert E. Campbell
Mike Ladd
William H. McIntyre, III
Jennifer S. McNeely
Eric Puer
Becky H. Rader
Mike Toma

2007 SESSION

Dr. Frederick A. Coates

Class of 2008

C.P. Chappell
Roger Hyatt
Bill Lackey
Scott Mauney
Eddie Nelson
Trent Newell
Steve Robinson

2007 DIACONATE

Class of 2008

Don Copeland
Neil Faulkenberry
Gretchen Little
Carol McClure
Jim McDonnell
Scott Ray
Susan Williams

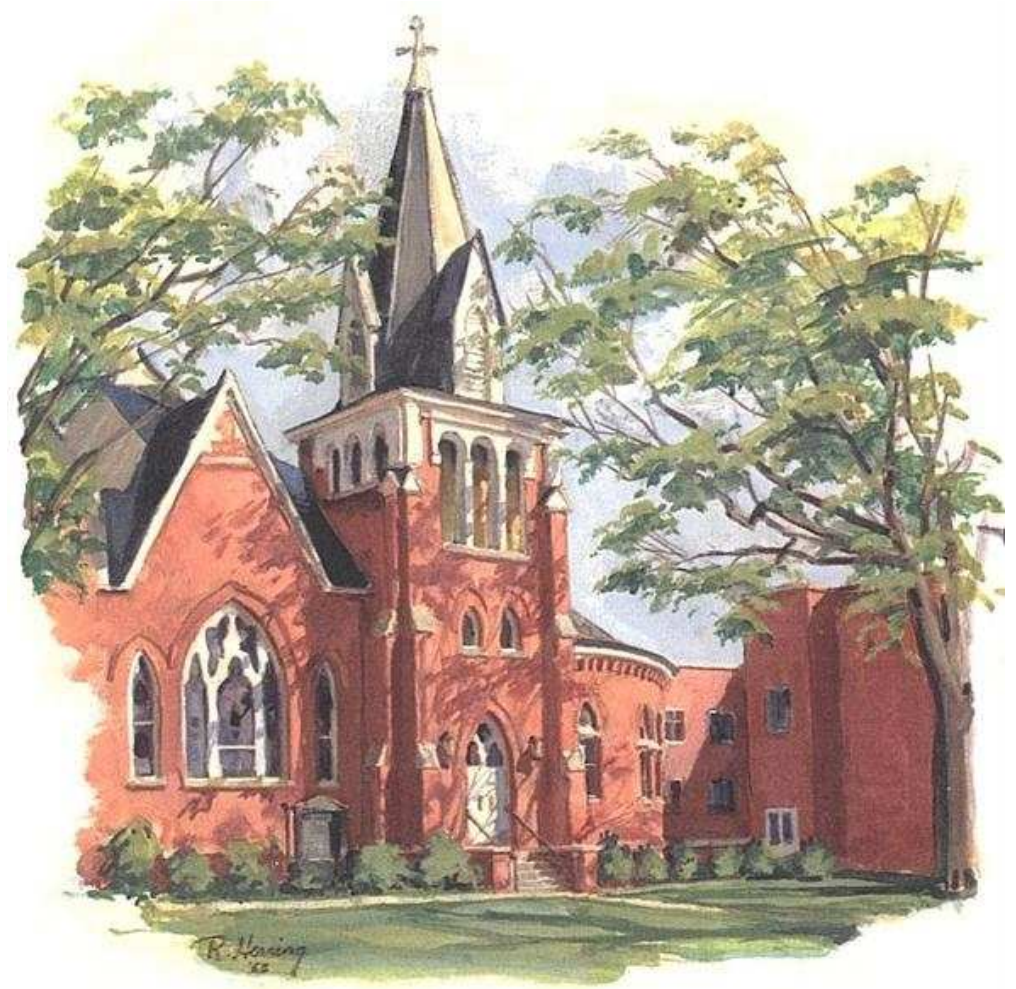
CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2009

Christine B. Ahearn
Karen D. Brawley
F. Michael Campbell, MD
Philip L. Heilman
Weldon M. Hitchcock
Thermond E. Thompson
J. Scott Vaughan

Class of 2009

Dale W. Brawley
John G. Donelson
Judy L. Cole
Eric H. Estes
C. Marshall Horsman, Jr.
Kathleen H. Irwin
Julie R. Morrow



Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

December 2, 2007

11:00 A.M. Worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
(704) 664-5275 ♦ www.mooresvillefirstpres.org

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PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff..... clay@mooresvillefirstpres.org
The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor..... associate@mooresvillefirstpres.org
Associate Pastor for Youth/Youth Director (Vacant—Search in Progress)

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Alan Sledge, Director of Music/Interim Youth..... musicdirector@mooresvillefirstpres.org
Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education..... dce@mooresvillefirstpres.org
Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool..... preschool@mooresvillefirstpres.org
LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer..... treasurer@mooresvillefirstpres.org
Nellie Goodman, Secretary..... secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org
Billy Black, Sexton Jerilyn Fair, Hostess Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist

Calendar (Week of December 2 -9, 2007)

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship with Baptism
9:45 a.m. - Church School
9:45 a.m. - Advent Workshop
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Logos/MSM
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - *Moms in Touch* in the Session room
2:00 p.m. - Library Committee in the Library
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos *Christmas celebration*
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club at *Showmars*

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Roger's home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 p.m. - Sisters in Christ (No. 2) in the Library
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - "Walk Thru Bethlehem" at the Brawley mansion
7:00 p.m. - St Peter's Choir Concert in the sanctuary – tickets needed)

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - "Walk Thru Bethlehem" at the Brawley mansion

Sunday 12/9 8:30 a.m. - Worship/Christmas Cantata
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Church School
9:45 a.m. - Pageant practice (grades 1-6)
11:00 a.m. - Worship/Christmas Cantata
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Parlor
4:00 p.m. - Pastors' Open House at the Manse until 6:00 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF Christmas Party at the Brooks' home
7:00 p.m. - Worship and Music Committee

Recent Prayer Requests: Rick Omohundro; Libby Greene; the Waddell family in Mwandia; Jan Stillwell's father; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Curtis Blake, Cathy Brown's father; Martha Andrews; Charles Dixon; Sr. A Tim Irwin, USAF; and QM 3 SW Laban Thompson and shipmates on the USS Guardian.

Announcements (continued)

Operation Christmas Child: A group of volunteers is scheduled to go to Operation Christmas Child's Charlotte Processing Center on Tuesday, December 11, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The group will be processing shoe boxes for shipment overseas. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) if you would like to participate.

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Announcements

Share Christ with a Christmas Book You Can Give Away! Christmas is perhaps the best time of year for evangelism. This Christmas, we will have a low-stress, high-touch, non-threatening way to share the gospel with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members. Lee Strobel, former atheist and newspaper reporter turned Christian author and minister, has written *The Case for Christmas* to communicate the meaning of Christmas in a clear, insightful way. This Sunday, please take with you copies of this book along with information about the Advent and Christmas activities of FPC. These books are free. As you give them away, please invite the recipients to attend our Advent and Christmas events as a witness of your faith in Christ. We believe the Lord will provide both the people to whom you should give a book and the funds to cover the costs—approximately \$2 per book—yet the books are meant for you to pass out as a free outreach of FPC without passing on any costs. Your kind donations will be gratefully accepted.

Please turn in your 2008 pledge cards and Time & Talent inventories as soon as you are able. Extra pledge cards and Time & Talent inventories are available in the Parlor. Please step out in faith as Jesus leads, joining him in his mission of *Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples*.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath: A longstanding custom at First Presbyterian Church is the weekly lighting of candles in an Advent wreath during worship services. In addition to adding to the spirit of the season, there is also much symbolism in the wreath that you may not recognize.

- The wreath is in the form of a circle, a traditional Christian symbol for God. As a circle has no beginning and no end, it represents the One is eternal and without beginning or end.
- The Advent wreath is made from evergreens. These branches are “ever alive,” and thus symbolic of Christ, who died but who is risen and alive today and forevermore.
- Entwined around the circle of evergreens are red holly berries, resembling drops of blood. These represent the blood shed by Christ for humanity, reminding us that Christ came into this world to die for us and to redeem us.
- The wreath has around it four candles, corresponding to the four weeks of the Advent season. Each candle represents a core characteristic of the gospel—hope (week 1), peace (week 2), joy (week 3), and love (week 4). In the wreath’s center is the Christ candle, symbolizing Jesus as the Light of the World and the central focus of God’s redemptive plan.

Help with the Walk Thru Bethlehem: we need donations of cases of bottled water (for the cast members and other volunteers) that may be brought to the church kitchen by Thursday, Dec. 6th. Everyone is encouraged to support WTB with their presence and their prayers.

Advent Workshop: Everyone is invited to attend the annual Advent Workshop this morning from 9:45-10:40 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come enjoy Christmas crafts, making Advent wreaths, and holiday refreshments.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet next Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Logos/MSM Registration: Second semester Logos/MSM registration will take place in the parlor on Sundays, December 2, 9, and 16. Information about our Logos/MSM program may be found at the registration table. Second semester begins Wednesday, January 9; registration deadline is Wednesday, January 2.

Announcements continued on the Calendar page.

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NEW TESTAMENT READING: Mark 6:1-6

¹ He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. The Scandal of the Gospel: What Is It? (vv. 1-3)

II. The Scandal of the Gospel: What Are Its Effects? (vv. 4-6)

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