

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 9, 2007

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 A.M.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

Invocation

Prelude

“Personent Hodie” arr. K. Lee Scott
Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist

*Opening Sentences

*Hymn **“Angels from the Realms of Glory”** Hymnal, No. 189

Second Advent Candle

“Peace”

The Carpenter Family

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We light the candle of hope to remind us that true hope comes only through Jesus Christ.

People: The second candle is the candle of peace. Christ brings peace into our hearts, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

Leader: We are preparing for the days spoken of in Isaiah 2:4, “And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

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

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

Offertory

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

Held

*The Doxology **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”** Hymnal, No. 34

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Cantata “Sing the Songs of Bethlehem: A Service of Lessons and Carols”

Insert

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Soprano

Lynn Brooks
Dorothy Campbell
Judy Cole
Shirley Crowley
Lisa Davidson
Joan Gibson
Kathy Mowery
Jen McNeely
LuAnne Sledge

Alto

Chris Ahearn
Margaret Auten
Sharon Culp
Jill Herring
Martha McDonnell
Liz Rader
Nancy Smith
Ginny Swedenberg

Tenor

Gene Auten
Jim Davidson
Cathy Irwin
Bill Lackey
Jordan Sledge

Bass

David Brooks
Mitchell Mack
Will McIntyre
Mark McNeely
Harry Weyer

*Invitation and Benediction

*Response **Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”** Hymnal, No. 188
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Postlude

“Gloria Peru”

Porter

+++++

* **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..

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Barbara B. Morgan by Walter and Madeline Morgan and the flowers in the vestibule are in honor of our daughter-in-law, Karen D. Brawley, on her birthday from Ray and Billie Brawley.

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 CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2008

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

Class of 2009

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

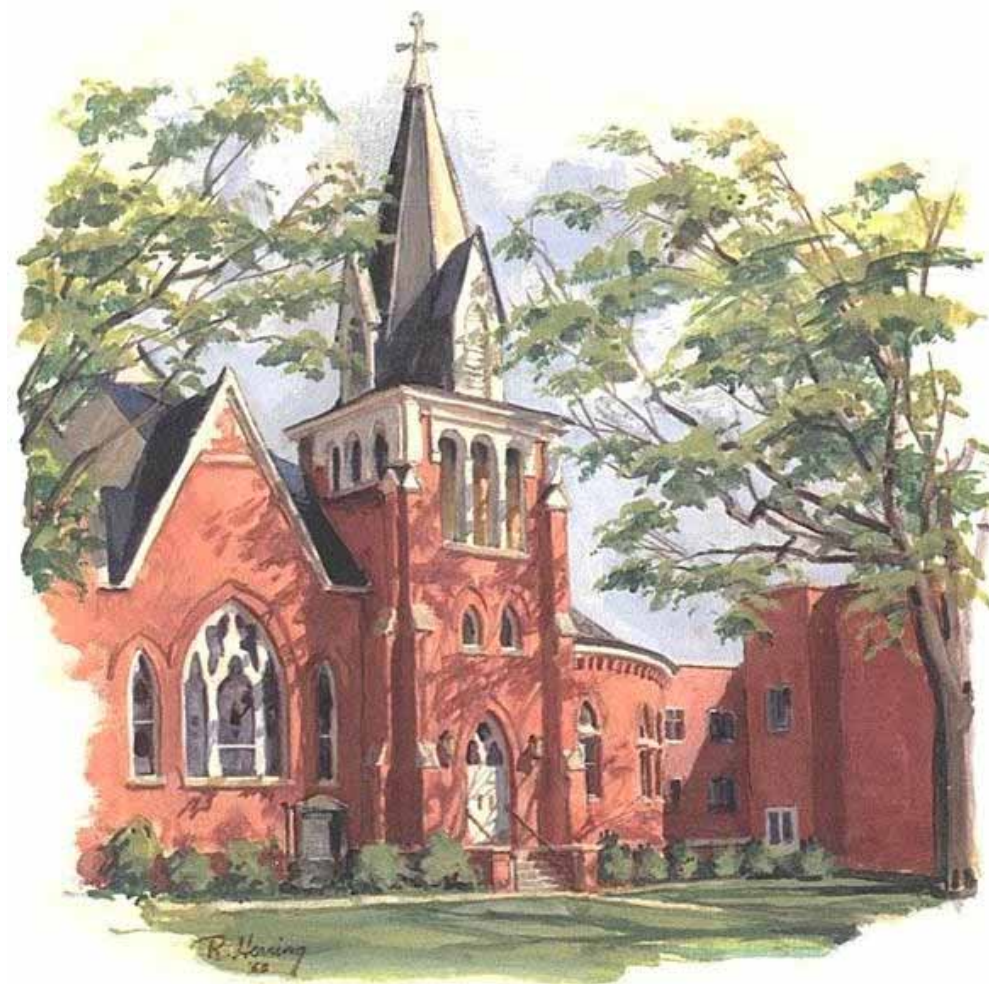
2007 DIACONATE

Class of 2008

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

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 9, 2007

8:30 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

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 who 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.

Weekday Preschool is in the process of registration for the 2008-09 school year. Church members will have an opportunity to enroll their children in December beginning on Sat., Dec. 8th. They can contact the Preschool by phone (704 664-2701), email, or fill out the form in the church office

A Kid-Friendly Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.: The past few years, attendance at our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service has been as large or larger than our 7:30 p.m. service. This is great! To help more families with children to worship together on Christmas Eve, we are making this year’s 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve our “Kid-Friendly Family Service.” The order of service will reflect this shift. We’ll still sing the carols and light the candles as we do at 7:30 p.m., but the tone and setting for the service will be lighter on liturgy and more helpful to families with younger children and shorter attention spans. We want families to worship together during this service, even the little ones. While no nursery will be provided, the Parlor will be available as an excellent “cry room” if you need it!

Announcements continued...

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Announcements continued...

Calendar (Week of December 9-16, 2007)

Sunday: 8:30 am. - Worship with Christmas Cantata
8:30 am. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:45 am. - Church School
9:45 am. - Pageant Practice
11:00 am. - Worship with 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 & Music and Personnel & Administration Committees

Monday: 2:00 p.m. - Circle No. 1 in the Parlor
6:15 p.m. - Circle No 3 - Blessed in Christ in the parlor
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 8:00 am. - Volunteers to Operation Christmas Child
9:00 am. - *Mansin Taudh* in the Session room
10:00 am. - Circle of Faith (No.4) in the parlor
11:45 am. - Circle 5 meets at church to carpool to meeting
12:00 p.m. - Circle 5 (Women of the Word) at the home of Carolyn Brawley

Wednesday: 11:00 am. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club at *Chick-ff-A*
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir Christmas party

Thursday: 9:30 am. - Weekday Preschool Christmas Program
9:30 am. - Bible Study at the Roger's home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers

Friday: 9:30 am. - Weekday Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday 12/16 8:30 am. - Worship
9:45 am. - Church School
9:45 am. - Pageant practice (grades 1-6)
11:00 am. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
5:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF
7:00 p.m. - "Testify" Concert in the Sanctuary - refreshments following in the FH

Recent Prayer Requests: Margaret Sanders, Carole Donaldson; Rick Omohundro; Libby Greene; 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.

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Announcements (continued)

This Sunday, December 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m., your pastoral staff and spouses will host a come-and-go Christmas open house at the Manse, 114 S. Academy St. Everyone is invited to take advantage of this opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas with a new tradition. So please drop in for a few minutes, enjoy Christmas goodies, and celebrate the joy of the season with others!

Marti Estes 5K - Mooresville Community Walk of Faith, April 19th, 2008. The Diaconate is proud to announce that First Presbyterian will be serving as lead sponsor of this inaugural event in 2008, thanks to the wonderful generosity of a Church member who has donated the lead sponsorship fee of \$1500.00. Gold, Silver, and Bronze level sponsorships are still being reserved for Church members, but you are encouraged to act fast as these limited sponsorships will soon be made available to the broader community. Sponsorship info is available in the Church parlor or contact Bob Campbell at 704-662-8286 or 704-491-2289 for more information.

Operation Christmas Child: A group of volunteers is scheduled to go to Operation Christmas Child's Charlotte Processing Center this 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.

Logos/MSM Registration: Second semester Logos/MSM registration will take place in the parlor today and next Sunday, December 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. Second semester tuition payment of \$45 is due on January 9. Parent meetings (for new participants and any parent who did not attend a first semester parent meeting), will be held next Sunday, December 16, at 12:15 p.m. and on Wednesday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

Christmas Eve Nursery: Volunteers are needed to help in the nursery during the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Please call the church office (704-664-5275) if you are available.

Cherub Choir: All children, preschool age through kindergarten, are invited to participate in a Cherub Choir during the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Practices will be held during church school. Please contact Ellen Auten or Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.



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