

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 16, 2007

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

Invocation

Prelude "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hofland  
Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist

\*Opening Sentences The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

\*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 182

\*Prayer of Confession

\*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 "Gloria in Excelsis" arr. Ivey  
Exaltation Ringers

Children's Sermon

Third Advent Candle "Joy" Karen and Chris Shore

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. We light the candles of hope and peace to remind us that true hope and peace come only through Jesus Christ.

*The third candle is the candle of joy. Christ fills our hearts with joy, and he will fill the world with his everlasting joy when he comes again.*

We are preparing for the days spoken of in Isaiah 55:12, "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

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

\*The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the*

*resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

\*Hymn "What Child Is This?" No. 184

Pastoral Prayer 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, for ever. Amen.*

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "The Wexford Carol" arr. Wagner

\*The Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 34

\*Prayer of Dedication

New Testament Reading Matthew 1:18-21 Insert

Sermon "The Real Christmas Miracle: Dr. Coates

'And You Shall Call His Name Jesus'"

Prayer of Response

\*Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verses 1-3) No. 180

\*Invitation and Benediction

\*Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verse 4) No. 180

\*Postlude "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Demessieux

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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.

**OFFICERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**2007 SESSION**

**Dr. Clay Brown, Moderator**

**Dr. Frederick A. Coates**

**CP Chappell, Clerk**

**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

**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**

**Bob Campbell, Moderator**

**Class of 2007**

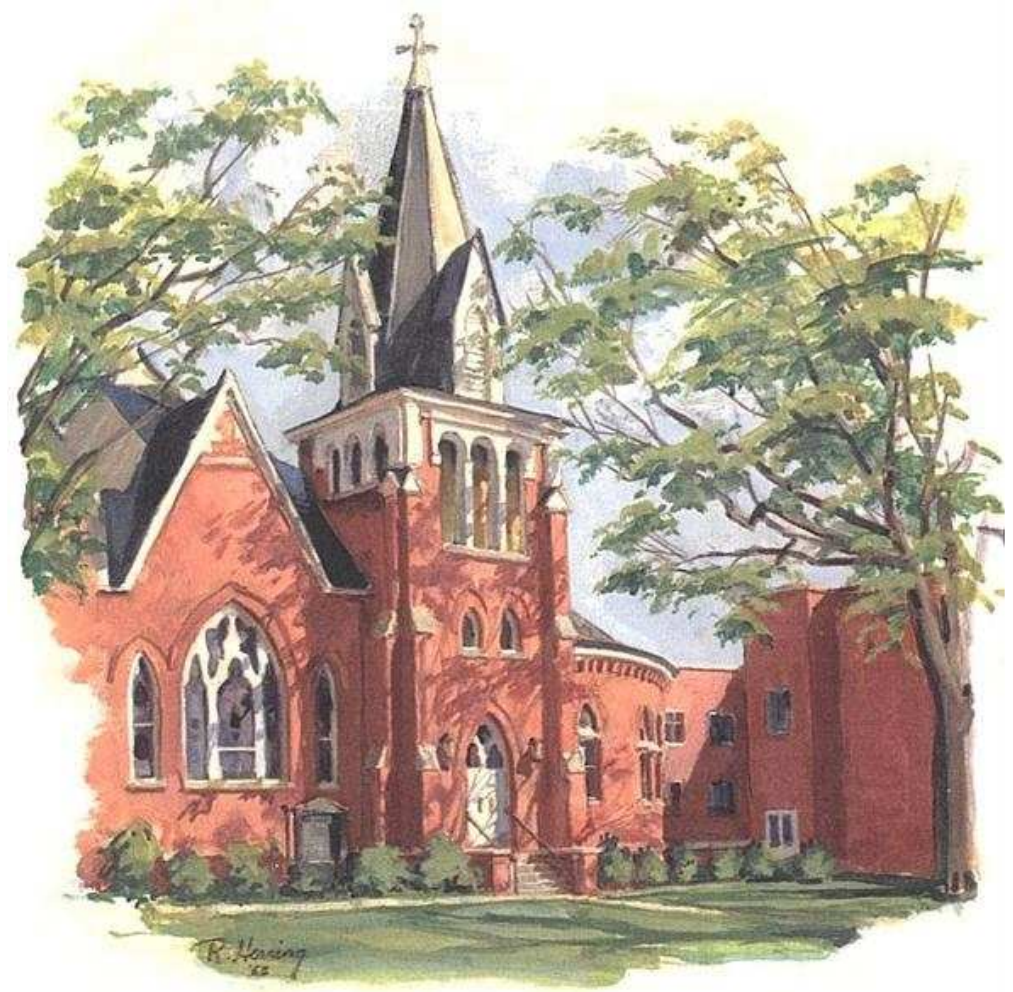
Robert E. Campbell  
Mike Ladd  
William H. McIntyre, III  
Jennifer S. McNeely  
Eric Puer  
Becky H. Rader  
Mike Toma

**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 16, 2007**

**11:00 A.M. Worship**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**249 West McLelland Avenue Mooresville, North Carolina 28115**

**(704) 664-5275 [www.mooresvillefirstpres.org](http://www.mooresvillefirstpres.org)**

**PASTORS**

*The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff..... [clay@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:clay@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor..... [associate@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto: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](mailto:musicdirector@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education..... [dce@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:dce@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool..... [preschool@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:preschool@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer..... [treasurer@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:treasurer@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*Nellie Goodman, Secretary..... [secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org)*

*Billy Black, Sexton Jerilyn Fair, Hostess Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist*

SERMON NOTES ♦ DECEMBER 16, 2007 ♦ 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
*The Real Christmas Miracle: “And You Shall Call His Name Jesus”*

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NEW TESTAMENT READING: MATTHEW 1:18-21

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

SERMON OUTLINE

I. The “problem” of Jesus’ birth (vv. 18)

II. Joseph’s “solution” (v. 19)

III. God’s intervention (v.20)

IV. A Miracle in a Name! (v.21)

*Calendar* (Week of December 16 - 23, 2007)

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
9:45 a.m. - Pageant practice (grades 1-6)  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
3:00 p.m. - Angel Tree reception in the fellowship hall  
4:00 p.m. - Session Meeting in Room 300  
5:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF  
7:00 p.m. - “Testify” Concert in the Sanctuary – refreshments following in FH
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
- Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - *Moms in Touch* in the Session room  
10:30 a.m. - *Exploring our Reformed Faith* study in the library  
12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive luncheon  
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner  
6:15 p.m. - HS SupperClub at *Pueblo Grande*  
7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
- Thursday: **Newsletter Deadline**  
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Roger’s home  
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers  
7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Committee
- Sunday 12/23 8:30 a.m. - Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas Pageant in the fellowship hall  
11:00 a.m. - Worship

**Recent Prayer Requests:** Fred & Esther Kann; 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.

## *Announcements*

**Your year-end tithes and offerings are important!** December is an important month for the financial health of First Presbyterian Church. More gifts are received in this month than in any other month. We are grateful for your continuing generosity. We appreciate your faithful stewardship of your tithes and offerings all year, and especially as 2007 comes to a close.

**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.

**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!

**Plan to join us for a Christmas concert** by the “Testify” choir this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to be followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Angel Tree Reception:** The Missions Committee is sponsoring a reception to present Angel Tree gifts to the families this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend, meet the families, and wish them a blessed holiday.

**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.

**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.

**Saints Alive Luncheon:** The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$4) for “older” adults will be held this Tuesday, December 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This month’s program, “Christmas Around the World,” will focus on Christmas customs and traditions around the world. Come and bring a friend to this festive holiday luncheon.

**Logos/MSM Registration:** Second semester Logos/MSM registration will take place in the parlor this morning. Information about our mid-week Logos (grades 1-6) and MSM (grades 7-8) 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 by January 9. Parent meetings (for new participants and any parent who did not attend a first semester parent meeting), will be held today at 12:15 p.m. and on Sunday, 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.

**Mark your calendar:** On Sunday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. the Missions Committee will sponsor the annual Chili Cook-off, so be getting your recipes ready. Keith and Ida Waddell, our missionaries serving in Mwandia, will be joining us that evening. Watch for more information on this event.

**Church School New Year’s Social:** Everyone is encouraged to attend the Church School’s New Year’s Social gathering on Sunday, January 6, from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Biscuits, doughnuts, coffee and juice will be served. Come learn about church school classes, and get 2008 off to the right start by attending church school on the first Sunday of the new year! Regular classes will follow the social at 10:00 a.m.

