

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 23, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

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

Invocation

Prelude "Noel" Dandrieu
Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist

Opening Sentences

*Hymn "The First Noel" (Verses 1, 2, and 6) No. 229

*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.*

Children's Sermon Taylor Brown

Fourth Advent Candle "Love" The Chappell Family

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the candles of hope, peace, and joy again to remind us that true hope, peace, and joy come only through Jesus Christ. The fourth candle is the candle of love. Through Christ, nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God. We rejoice that the days spoken of in Isaiah 2:14 are here, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, God is with us."

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

*Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" No. 221

*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.

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 First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" Clawson
Chancel Choir

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

*Prayer of Dedication

New Testament Reading Matthew 1:22-25 Insert
Sermon "The Real Christmas Miracle: 'God with Us'" Dr. Brown

Prayer of Response

*Hymn "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (Verses 1-2) No. 191

*Invitation and Benediction

*Response "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (Verse 3) No. 191

*Postlude "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" DelloJoio

+++++

* 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

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

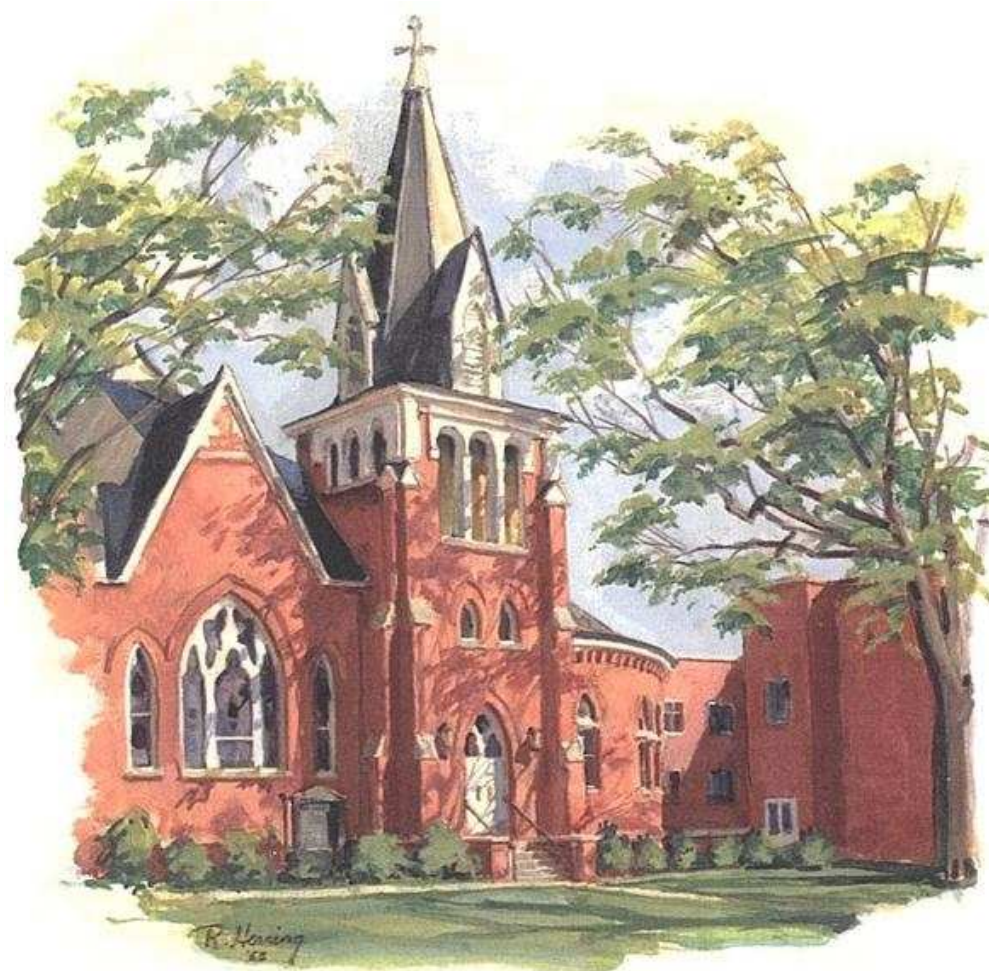
CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2009

Christine B. Ahearn
Karen O. 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 23, 2007

11:00 A.M. Worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue Mooresville, North Carolina 28115

(704) 664-5275 www.mooresvillefirstpres.org

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

SERMON NOTES ♦ DECEMBER 23, 2007 ♦ 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
The Real Christmas Miracle: “God with Us”

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 1:22-25

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. “All this took place...”

II. “The virgin shall conceive...”

III. “Immanuel (which means, God with us)”...

IV. “He [Joseph] did as the angel of the Lord commanded...”

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas Pageant in the fellowship hall
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday: 5:00 p.m. - Kid-friendly Family Christmas Eve Service
7:30 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday: **Merry Christmas**

Wednesday: Church Office Closed

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home

Sunday 12/30 8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Recent Prayer Requests: Homer Brawley; Dave Montgomery; Fred Hoke; Fred & Esther Kann; Rick Omohundro; 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

Christmas Pageant: Everyone is invited to attend the Christmas pageant this morning at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The pageant is presented by preschool and elementary church school classes. Refreshments will be served.

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!

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 Mvandi, will be joining us that evening. Watch for more information on this event. *(Continued)*

Announcements - continued

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. The choir will practice this morning in the fellowship hall, immediately following the Christmas pageant. Please contact Ellen Auten or Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.

Logos/MSM Registration: Please contact Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) to register for second semester Logos (grades 1-6) and Middle School Ministry (grades 7-8). Second semester begins Wednesday, January 9; **registration deadline is Wednesday, January 2.** Second semester tuition payment of \$45 is due by January 9. A parent meeting, for new participants and any parent who did not attend a first semester parent meeting, will be held Sunday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

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.

Women's Bible Study: A women's Bible study, *Life Management for Busy Women: Living Out God's Plan with Passion and Purpose*, will begin Friday, January 11, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. The study will be led by Ellen Auten; cost for materials is \$6. A nursery will be provided, with advance reservations. Please contact Ellen if you are interested in attending.

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.

Congregational Meeting January 6: As prescribed in the PCUSA Book of Order, the Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 6, 2008, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, to receive information about the 2008 church budget and to approve related changes in the pastors' terms of call.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers January 6: During the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 6, elders and deacons of the Class of 2010 will be ordained and/or installed. These new officers are: Elders—David Brooks, Diane Harrington, Don Howie, Joyce Johnson, Tom Kirkland, Smith Kirk, Mark McNeely; Deacons—Kathy Ballard, Laura Bates, Lynn Brooks, Becky Deal, Janice Plier, Patrick Stutts, Tony Woodring.

Announcements - continued

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. The choir will practice this morning in the fellowship hall, immediately following the Christmas pageant. Please contact Ellen Auten or Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.

Logos/MSM Registration: Please contact Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) to register for second semester Logos (grades 1-6) and Middle School Ministry (grades 7-8). Second semester begins Wednesday, January 9; **registration deadline is Wednesday, January 2.** Second semester tuition payment of \$45 is due by January 9. A parent meeting, for new participants and any parent who did not attend a first semester parent meeting, will be held Sunday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

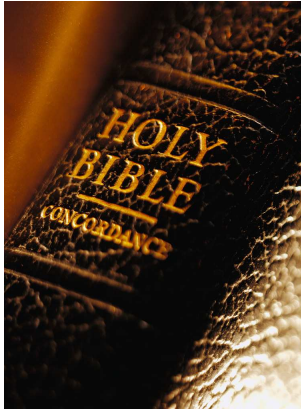
Church School New Year's Social: Everyone is encouraged to attend the Church School's New Year's Social gathering on Sunday, January 6, from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Biscuits, doughnuts, coffee and juice will be served. Come learn about church school classes, and get 2008 off to the right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

Women's Bible Study: A women's Bible study, *Life Management for Busy Women: Living Out God's Plan with Passion and Purpose*, will begin Friday, January 11, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. The study will be led by Ellen Auten; cost for materials is \$6. A nursery will be provided, with advance reservations. Please contact Ellen if you are interested in attending.

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.

Congregational Meeting January 6: As prescribed in the PCUSA Book of Order, the Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 6, 2008, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, to receive information about the 2008 church budget and to approve related changes in the pastors' terms of call.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers January 6: During the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 6, elders and deacons of the Class of 2010 will be ordained and/or installed. These new officers are: Elders—David Brooks, Diane Harrington, Don Howie, Joyce Johnson, Tom Kirkland, Smith Kirk, Mark McNeely; Deacons—Kathy Ballard, Laura Bates, Lynn Brooks, Becky Deal, Janice Plier, Patrick Stutts, Tony Woodring.



Lent in the Living Room Small Groups

- **Groups Start the Week of February 3-9**
- **Registration Begins Sunday, Jan. 20**
- **Looking for Hosts and Facilitators**

“Lent in the Living Room” is our annual Lenten small group and sermon series that connects small group discussions and studies held in homes and at the church with the sermons preached on Sundays in a very powerful and transformational way. Groups of 8-14 people (on average—some have more, some less) meet once a week during Lent for study, discussion, and fellowship.

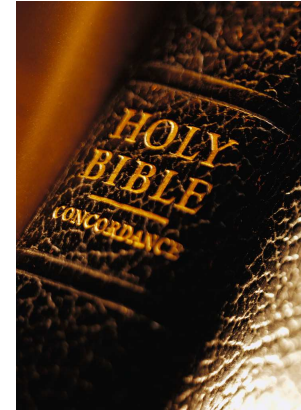
The theme of this year’s “Lent in the Living Room” study and sermon series is **“Journeying to Jerusalem,”** describing the ministry of Jesus in Mark’s Gospel in chapters 7 and 8.

We are making one important change in the timing of the program. In the past, the sermon was preached on Sunday and then the groups discussed the sermon passage the following Monday, Tuesday, or whenever. This year’s “Lent in the Living Room” will reverse that process. We will meet first in our small groups once during the week to discuss the passage, and then we’ll hear a sermon on the following Sunday about that passage. The chart below may help you follow this change:

WHEN GROUPS MEET	WHEN THE SERMON IS PREACHED
Week of Feb. 3-9.....	February 10 (1 st Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 10-16.....	February 17 (2 nd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 17-23.....	February 24 (3 rd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 24-Mar. 1.....	March 2 (4 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 2-8.....	March 9 (5 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 9-15.....	March 16 (Palm Sunday)

The reason for the change is two-fold: 1) it breaks us out of the rut of thinking that all we need to do in our discussion is somehow echo what the sermon said, and 2) it allows us to have Holy Week without any small group meetings, freeing up our calendars for events like our annual Maundy Thursday service.

We are looking not only for participants, but for more group “host homes,” people who will open their homes to a group meeting once a week, and for more “facilitators,” people who will lead in group discussion. If you’re interested in serving, please contact Dr. Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or pastor@moorevillefirstpres.org.



Lent in the Living Room Small Groups

- **Groups Start the Week of February 3-9**
- **Registration Begins Sunday, Jan. 20**
- **Looking for Hosts and Facilitators**

“Lent in the Living Room” is our annual Lenten small group and sermon series that connects small group discussions and studies held in homes and at the church with the sermons preached on Sundays in a very powerful and transformational way. Groups of 8-14 people (on average—some have more, some less) meet once a week during Lent for study, discussion, and fellowship.

The theme of this year’s “Lent in the Living Room” study and sermon series is **“Journeying to Jerusalem,”** describing the ministry of Jesus in Mark’s Gospel in chapters 7 and 8.

We are making one important change in the timing of the program. In the past, the sermon was preached on Sunday and then the groups discussed the sermon passage the following Monday, Tuesday, or whenever. This year’s “Lent in the Living Room” will reverse that process. We will meet first in our small groups once during the week to discuss the passage, and then we’ll hear a sermon on the following Sunday about that passage. The chart below may help you follow this change:

WHEN GROUPS MEET	WHEN THE SERMON IS PREACHED
Week of Feb. 3-9.....	February 10 (1 st Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 10-16.....	February 17 (2 nd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 17-23.....	February 24 (3 rd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Feb. 24-Mar. 1.....	March 2 (4 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 2-8.....	March 9 (5 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 9-15.....	March 16 (Palm Sunday)

The reason for the change is two-fold: 1) it breaks us out of the rut of thinking that all we need to do in our discussion is somehow echo what the sermon said, and 2) it allows us to have Holy Week without any small group meetings, freeing up our calendars for events like our annual Maundy Thursday service.

We are looking not only for participants, but for more group “host homes,” people who will open their homes to a group meeting once a week, and for more “facilitators,” people who will lead in group discussion. If you’re interested in serving, please contact Dr. Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or pastor@moorevillefirstpres.org.