

I. The Comfort of Your God...

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

II. ...Through His Revealed Glory

³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

III. ...Through His Enduring Word

⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

IV. ...Through His Great Power and Compassion

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

2008 SESSION

Dr. Clay Brown, Moderator

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

Class of 2010

David W. Brooks, II
vacant
Donald F. Howie
Joyce S. Johnson
Thomas R. Kirkland, Jr.
W. Smith Kirk
Mark E. McNeely

2008 DIACONATE

Jim McDonnell, Moderator

Class of 2008

Don Copeland
Neil Faulkenberry
Gretchen Little
Carol McClure
Jim McDonnell
Lucy Hastings
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

Class of 2010

Kathy B. Ballard
Laura E. Bates
Lynn T. Brooks
Rebecca B. Deal
Janice S. Plover
J. Patrick Stutts
Vacant

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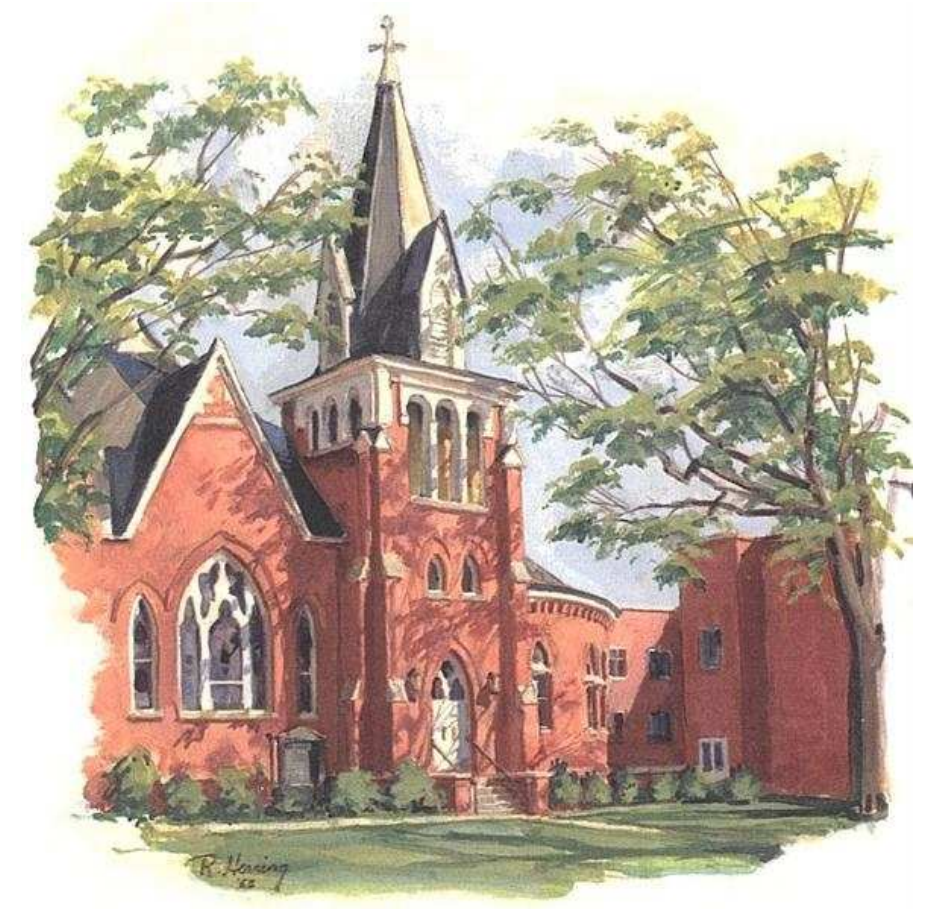
LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer
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Nellie Goodman, Secretary
nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org

Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

Joanne Daykin, Interim Organist



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooreville, North Carolina 28115
704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

December 7, 2008 ♦ 11:00 A.M. ♦ Second Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Clay Brown
Welcome and Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: *Angels and Shepherds* arr. Holländer
Middle School Handbells

***THE DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*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.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***HYMN:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 153

THE ADVENT WREATH: PeaceSusan Meade
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

Leader: We light again the candle of hope to show hope comes only through Jesus Christ.

People: Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.

Leader: The second candle is the candle of peace.

People: Christ brings peace into our hearts.

Leader: He will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

People: We are preparing for the days spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, when the nations 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 any more.

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the peace we have in Jesus Christ..

People: We are the people of peace. Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: *Why Do the Angels Sing?* Carter
Logos Choir

CHILDREN’S SERMON.....Fred Coates

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*180

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.....Tyler Domske

Confession
Thanksgiving
Intercession
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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: *Come and Hear the Joyful Singing*.....Perry
Logos Choir and Middle School Handbells

*Response: Refrain of *Angels We Have Heard on High*.....188

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Comfort of Your God..... Clay Brown

***HYMN:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (vv. 1-3).....189

***GOING IN GOD’S NAME**

Invitation
Charge and Benediction

Response: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (v. 4).....189

***POSTLUDE:** *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*..... Held

If you are our guest today, welcome! We’re so glad you’re here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a “Welcome Home” folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with a pastor following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

Recent Prayer Requests: Bedo Culberson; Aimee Culler’s father; Lottie Massey; Don Fair; Mary Voils Aven; Bob Davidson; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Cathy Brown’s parents; David Ortwein, Ken Bernd’s nephew; Martha Andrews; EO3SW Laban Thompson and all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Church Supper and Christmas Concert tonight, starting at 6:00 p.m. The menu will be an Italian dinner and the concert will feature soloists, instrumentalists, as well as favorite carols for congregational singing. This will be a seasonal home grown concert by our church family and a fantastic opportunity for fellowship. Nursery provided.

***Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas* Book giveaway - Copies to give away available today. Donations of \$3 per book requested**

Christmas is perhaps the best time of year for evangelism. So many people are open to hearing the story of Jesus and how we may be forgiven and have new life from God. This Christmas, we will have a low-stress, high-touch, non-threatening way for you to share the gospel with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members. Renowned author Max Lucado has written ***A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas*** to communicate the meaning of Christmas in a clear, insightful way. Beginning today, please take with you copies of this book along with bookmarks containing information about our Advent and Christmas activities. The 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—\$3 per book—yet the books are meant for you to pass out as a free outreach of FPC without passing on any costs. Your donations will also fund the delivery of these books to our neighborhood residents along with a gift bag from the church. So your kind and generous donations, if you choose to give them, will be gratefully received.

Christmas Open House at the Manse December 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m.: On Sunday, December 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m., the pastors and families will host a come-and-go Christmas Open House at the Manse. They invite everyone in the congregation to take advantage of this opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas with one another. So please drop in for a few minutes on December 14 and enjoy Christmas goodies at 114 S. Academy St.

Christmas Pageant: Elementary classes will begin rehearsals for the Christmas pageant **today**, from 10:00-10:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Cherub Choir: A Cherub Choir will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and will practice the following two Sundays at the beginning of church school in Room 210, and on Sunday, December 21, immediately following the Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall. The choir will be directed by Lisa Davidson and Jen McNeely.

The stated Session meeting will take place on Sunday, December 14, 7 p.m., in Room 300. The primary item on the agenda for this meeting at

present is the examination of new officers as well as any additional and needed business related to church life.

Circle News: Circle No. 5 will meet at the home of Carolyn Brawley on Tuesday, December 9 at noon. They will carpool from the Academy Street parking lot at 11:50 a.m. Circle No. 4 will meet at the home of Margaret Sanders on Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Orientation and training for church officers-elect will take place on Friday, December 12, 2008, and Saturday, December 13, 2008. It will begin Friday at 6:30 p.m. with a meal with all the elders and deacons elect in the Fellowship Hall. The cost of this meal is \$5 per person. The remainder of the evening will be spent in training related to those aspects of church officer service that elders and deacons hold in common. Then on Saturday, board-specific training will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fred will meet with the deacons elect in Room 300, while the elders elect will meet with Clay in Room 301. After the training, officers elect will be examined by the Session. **This examination is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, 7 p.m., in the Parlor.**

Communion for Shut-ins in December: The pastors and elders of the church would love to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper with our shut-in church members sometime in December on an appointment-only basis. Please contact the church office to set up a date and time with you or with your loved one or friend.

If you have not yet been able to turn in your 2009 pledge card or your 2009 Time and Talent brochure, please do so as soon as you can. Your pledges help our Budget and Finance Committee and the Session to determine the 2009 church budget. Your responses on the Time and Talent brochure help us to put people in the right places for service. You can find pledge cards and Time and Talent brochures in the Sanctuary, Parlor, and the church office. If you like, let us know and we’ll send you another set.

Logos/MSM Registration: Registration for 2nd semester Logos/MSM will be held in the parlor for the next three Sundays (December 7, 14, and 21). The Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM) program is a mid-week program of Christian nurture for children and youth in grades 1-8. Held on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-7:15 p.m., the program consists of recreation, worship skills, Bible study, and dinner. Cost for the program is a \$30 registration fee and a \$50 per semester tuition fee. Scholarship help is available upon request. Please contact program director Gretchen Little (704-528-9796) or assistant director Lisa Davidson (704-662-9393) with questions. The registration deadline is Wednesday, January 7.

Tyler and Adrien Domske want to extend their sincere thanks to those who were able to make it to their open house last month! The turnout was amazing, and they are truly honored and blessed by the welcome that they have received from the congregation, and loved sharing their house with the you all! Special thanks to all those who helped out with food and preparation, and to all who gave such great house warming gifts. Thanks again to all for making them feel so at home and welcome in this church. They feel like they are exactly where God was leading them and look forward to the future here in Mooresville!

**** The weekly church calendar is located on the back of the *Angel Tree* insert in this week’s bulletin.**

Calendar for December 7 - 14, 2008

- Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School/Pageant practice
11:00 a.m. - Worship
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl ministry
5:00 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Church supper and Christmas Concert
- Monday: 2:00 p.m. - Circle No. 1 in the parlor
6:15 p.m. - Circle No. 3 at the home of Kim Streb
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the Coates' home
- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle No. 4 at the home of Margaret Sanders
12:00 p.m. - Circle No. 5 at the home of Carolyn Brawley
2:00 p.m. - Circle No. 6 in the parlor
6:00 p.m. - Circle No. 2 in the parlor
- Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Prayer group in the library
11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
6:15 p.m. - HS SupperClub @ Bojangles
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Friday: 6:00 p.m. - *Walk Thru Bethlehem* at Camp Wesley
6:30 p.m. - Officer Orientation & Training
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Officer Orientation & Training
4:00 p.m. - *Walk Thru Bethlehem* at Camp Wesley
- Sunday, Dec. 14 8:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Early Worship with Christmas Cantata
10:00 a.m. - Church School/Pageant practice
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Christmas Cantata
4:00 p.m. - Christmas Open House at the Manse
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Diaconate
7:00 p.m. - Session