

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.



<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

I. **Illumination** (vv. 2-5)

II. **Incarnation** (vv. 6)

III. **Implication** (vv. 7-9)

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. Plier  
J. Patrick Stutts  
Vacant

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff  
clay@moorevillefirstpres.org

The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care and Missions  
fred@moorevillefirstpres.org

The Rev. Tyler J. Domske, Associate Pastor for Youth  
tyler@moorevillefirstpres.org

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Alan Sledge, Director of Music  
alan@moorevillefirstpres.org

Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education  
ellen@moorevillefirstpres.org

Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool  
nancy@moorevillefirstpres.org

LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer  
luanne@moorevillefirstpres.org

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 21, 2008 ♦ 11:00 A.M. ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.....Clay Brown

Welcome and Announcements  
Invocation

PRELUDE: *O Come, O Come, Emanuel*..... Callahan/MacNutt  
Joanne Daykin

\*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 (based on Isaiah 9:2-7)  
Leader: Behold, we are a people who dwell in darkness.  
People: Our understanding is dim, a mere shadow of  
truth.  
Leader: In a land of deep darkness, we await light from our God.  
People: In faith we see but a faint reflection of God's  
glory.  
Leader: Illumine our darkness by the light of Christ.  
People: Then we shall see and be radiant,  
Leader: When the true Light which enlightens everyone has come  
into the world.  
People: Amen, let it be so!

\*HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*..... 185

**THE ADVENT WREATH:** Love..... The Stutt Family  
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We light again the candles of hope, peace, and joy to show that hope, peace, and joy come only through Jesus Christ.

**People: Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. He is the Prince of Peace. He brings true joy.**

Leader: The fourth candle is the candle of love.

**People: God loves us so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus.**

Leader: So that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

**People: We are preparing for the days spoken of by the Apostle Paul, when God's love will reign supreme. For love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends. Faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.**

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

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

**ANTHEM:** *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*..... arr. Dobrinski  
Exaltation Ringers

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**..... Kim Streb

**\*HYMN:** *What Child Is This*..... 184

**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: *Sleepers, Wake!*..... Bach/Burroughs  
Exaltation Ringers, Janet Aultman, Flute

\*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 9:2-7 ..... p. 606  
*A Child Is Born!*..... Fred Coates

**\*HYMN:** *The First Noel* (vv.1-3)..... 229

**\*GOING IN GOD'S NAME**

Invitation  
Charge and Benediction  
Response: *First Noel* (v. 6)..... 229

**\*POSTLUDE:** *For Us He Was Born*..... Near

**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.

**The flowers in the vestibule** this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Victor Johnston.

**A congregational meeting** for the purpose of reviewing and approving the changes in the terms of call for the pastoral staff and reviewing the budget approved by the Session for 2009 has been called for January 4, 2009, following the 11:00 a.m. worship 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:** Dean Washburn; 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.

**Christian sympathy** is expressed to Helen Johnston, Mabel Lee Johnston and the Johnston family in the death of Victor Johnston on December 12.

***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. 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 will be gratefully received.

**Logos/MSM Registration:** Please contact program director Gretchen Little (704-528-9796) or assistant director Lisa Davidson (704-662-9393) to register for the Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM) program. Logos/MSM 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. The registration deadline for second semester is Wednesday, January 7, and second semester begins Wednesday, January 14.

**Cherub Choir:** A Cherub Choir (preschoolers and kindergarteners) will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and will practice this morning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210 immediately following the Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall. The choir will be directed by Lisa Davidson and Jen McNeely.

**Angel Tree:** A reception to distribute Angel Tree gifts to the recipients will be held today at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**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 basis. Please contact the church office to set up a date and time.

**Preschool registration** is available to church members. Please call Nancy Kortright at 704-664-2701 to register your child

**December Contributions Important:** Please remember the church with your tithes as well as your special gifts and offerings in December as we seek to end 2008 in the black. Your contributions make a difference.

**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 two Sundays (December 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.

#### In Memoriam

**Victor Allison Johnston, Jr.**

February 17, 1935 – December 12, 2008

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13*

#### Calendar for December 21 - 28, 2008

Sunday, Dec .21	9:00 a.m. - Early Worship 10:00 a.m. - Christmas Pageant 10:30 a.m. - Cherub Choir practice 11:00 a.m. - Worship 3:00 p.m. - Angel Tree Reception 5:00 p.m. - PYF Christmas Party
Monday:	7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
Wednesday:	5:00 p.m. - Family Friendly Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service
Thursday:	<b>Christmas Day</b> (office closed)
Friday:	<b>Christmas holiday</b> (office closed)
Sunday, Dec .28	9:00 a.m. - Early Worship 10:00 a.m. - Church School 11:00 a.m. - Worship