



# First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

## December 2009

### Sing We Now of Christmas

#### Church night supper and Concert



The congregation is invited to a fellowship supper on Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Prepared by hostess Jerilyn Fair, volunteers from Circle No. 3 and the Board of Deacons, the meal will cost \$4 for adults and youth, and \$2 for children.

Following the supper, we will move to the sanctuary for a Christmas Carol Concert and sing-a-long entitled "Sing We Now of Christmas."

The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. Members of our own congregation will lead us in a Reader's Theatre telling the stories behind some of the most popular carols, as well as a few less known ones, concluding with soloists and congregational singing.

Come enjoy a delicious supper consisting of baked ziti, garlic bread, tossed salad and a Christmas surprise dessert; a seasonal home grown concert by our friends here at FPC and a fantastic opportunity to get to know other members of our church family. A nursery will be available for preschoolers during the concert.

Join us and begin the Christmas season with your church family and friends!

### Christmas Eve Services

**5:00 p.m. Kid-Friendly Family Service**  
**7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight & Carols Service**



### Advent & Christmas Schedule

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Nov 29

9:00 am-Worship with Communion

10:00 am-Advent Workshop

10:00 am-Church School

11:00 am-Worship with Communion



#### Thur, Dec 3

7:30 pm-"Magic of Christmas" concert at Belk Theater (tickets required)

#### Fri-Sat, Dec 4-5

6:00-9:00 pm (Fri) &

4:00-9:00 pm (Sat)- "Walk Thru Bethlehem" @ Camp Wesley

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 6

9:00am-Worship

10:00 am-Church School

11:00 am-Worship with Logos Choir and MSM Handbells

6:00 pm-Church Supper

7:00 pm-*Sing We Now of Christmas* Concert

#### Wed, December 9

2:00 pm-Volunteer at Operation Christmas Child Processing Center

#### Fri-Sat, Dec 11-12

6:00-9:00 pm (Fri) & 4:00-9:00 pm (Sat) "Walk Thru Bethlehem" @ Camp Wesley

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 13

9:00 & 11:00 am-Worship with Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir

10:00 am-Church School

#### Tues-Wed, Dec 15-16

9:30 am-FPC Preschool Program

#### Tues, Dec 15

12:30 pm-Saints Alive (senior adults) Christmas Luncheon

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 20

9:00 & 11:00 am—Worship

10:00 am-Church School

10:00 am-Christmas Pageant

5:00- PYF-Christmas Party & Caroling

#### Thur, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 pm-Kid-Friendly Family Service (no nursery)

7:30 pm-Traditional Candlelight & Carols Service



## *From the Pastor...*

### **Giving Yourself to the Christ of Christmas...**

I've been reading an interesting little book by Robert J. Morgan, author of *The Red Sea Rules* and *Come Let Us Adore Him*. The book is titled *On This Day: 365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories about Saints, Martyrs, and Heroes* (Thomas Nelson, 1997).

The book is true to its word. For every day of the calendar year, there is a brief story about a saint, martyr, or hero of the Christian faith. It is fascinating stuff!

But on occasion, Morgan chooses in the book to show us a different example. He tells the story of someone not too saintly, an anti-hero, so we may learn from a negative illustration as well. The story for Christmas Day, December 25, is one of these stories. Morgan writes:

Not all who sing Christmas carols are Christians. Superficial sentiment is sometimes substituted for genuine faith.

Take Clovis, for example. After the breakup of the Roman Empire, disorder reigned. Anarchy prevailed. Fifteen-year-old Clovis inherited a small kingdom in the corner of Gaul. King Clovis seized adjoining lands, united Gaul, moved his capital to Paris, and founded the nation of France.

In 493 Clovis married a Christian. When Queen Clothilde wanted to baptize their newborn son, Clovis agreed; but when the child died in his baptismal robe, Clovis blamed the Christian God. When a second child grew ill following baptism, Clothilde prayed earnestly, the child recovered, and the king was impressed.

When Clovis was 30, he was routed in battle. "Jesus Christ," he cried, "Clothilde says you are the Son of God and can give victory to those who hope in you. Give me victory and I will be baptized!" The tide turned, and Clovis, true to his word, entered the Cathedral of Rheims on December 25, 496. "Worship what you once burned," the priest told him, "and burn what you once worshiped."

On that day 3,000 troops followed Clovis in baptism. The army marched alongside a river where priests, chanting the baptismal formula, dipped branches into the stream and flung the water supposedly making them Christians.

This was a momentous day in church history, for it was the first of the great mass conversions that turned Europe into a "Christian" continent. Little change was detected in Clovis or his troops who were as pagan as ever, apparently viewing Christ merely as a war god who insured them victory. But the stage was set for many genuine believers who spread the message throughout emerging Europe.

Clovis' Christianity was apparently only skin deep. He went through the rituals of a profession of faith, but left behind no evidence that it was in any way genuine. My educated guess is that the vast majority of those soldiers' professions of faith were equally dubious. They went through the motions, but there it apparently stopped.

But are we any different today? It is so easy to sing the carols, to attend the services, to give the presents, and to do what you're supposed to do during Christmas, yet remain unconnected by faith to the Lord and Savior. After all, that is what Christmas is really all about. It is tragic, but indeed possible. Millions of people do this every year.

To all who read this column: I encourage you to do more than sing carols, attend services, and give presents. First and foremost, I encourage you to trust in Jesus, the God-made-flesh who came to earth on that first Christmas long ago, and to give him your life, heart, mind, and soul for his use, so that wherever he says "Go," you'll go, and whatever he says "Do," you'll do.

If you do this, I promise you a very Merry Christmas indeed!

Grace and peace,

*Clay Brown,*



*Come Let Us  
Adore Him*



## Christmas Pageant

To be presented December 20

Church school classes will be hard at work in December, preparing to present a Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Participants include children in the 4 year old and Kindergarten class, through the sixth grade church school class. Some extra practices will be required; attendance at church school will be sufficient for the children to know their roles. We will need some help with simple costumes and props; contact Ellen Auten to offer your assistance.



## Angel Tree 2009

This year we are continuing our support of the families being assisted by the Mooresville Christian Mission by sponsoring an angel tree for the children of some of those families. We have 130 angels on our tree in the parlor, representing 65 children in need of clothing and gifts this year. This is an important mission in giving back to the community that First Presbyterian holds dear and always responds generously to. Please help us in responding to this need this Christmas season. Members of the Missions Committee will be available in the parlor after the 9 and 11 a.m. services each week from Nov. 29 thru Dec. 13 to help assist you and answer any questions you may have. We request that all angel gifts be returned to the church by the end of the 11a.m. service on Dec. 13, so we may sort the gifts for distribution.

Merry Christmas to you all!  
The Missions Committee

## Operation Christmas Child

Many heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoe box project. Many needy and hurting children around the world will be blessed by your generosity, and will enjoy special gifts, along with being given the opportunity to hear about the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Our church collected 94 boxes as a congregation, which are on their way to the Charlotte Processing Center, then to far-away destinations around the globe. Thank you for giving generously to needy children.

A group of volunteers is scheduled to go to the Charlotte Processing Center on Wednesday, December 9, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. to help prepare the shoe boxes for shipment overseas. The group plans to leave at 2:00 p.m. and should return by 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275).



## Saints Alive

### December Luncheon

Join the Saints Alive group on Tuesday, December 15, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a festive holiday luncheon (\$4). We will enjoy a delicious holiday meal, followed by devotions. Our program will be presented by



Marsha Cornelius, who will provide information about Chrismons, including some newly designed Chrismons. This holiday season will be a good time to learn about the Chrismons ("Christ monograms") which hang on our sanctuary tree. Their designs are full of meaning and significance, and Marsha will share information about these beautiful handcrafted designs. Come and bring a friend to this holiday luncheon and program.

## A Page from the Library

Stop by the library and check out a book written by a member of First Presbyterian...

*Roses... Bluebirds... and Expressions of Love*, by Margaret Sanders, with paintings by Sam Sanders. This is a celebration of beauty, nature and love that is everlasting. Pictures include the River Jordan, Sea of Galilee and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Ellie Den Bleyker



## Cherub Choir

All kindergarten age and younger children are encouraged to participate in the Cherub Choir at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Rehearsals will be held at the following times: Sunday, December 6 and 13 – 10:00 a.m. in Room 210; Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m. immediately following the Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall.

Please call the church office if you have questions.



## To a loving and caring congregation....




My most sincere thanks. As I received a pacemaker device, I was thrilled at the love shown in calls, cards and a bouquet from the sanctuary flowers. Thank you for caring. Being on the prayer list is certainly a way to see the love of our congregation come to usher us through the challenges of life.

Sincerely,  
Don Howie

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday


Sunday		Monday	Tuesday
			1
			7:00pm Executive Committee
<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Pageant Practice 11:00am Worship with Logos and MSM 4:30pm <b>NoPYF</b> 5:00pm Worship & Music Committee 6:00pm Church Night Supper 7:00pm <i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i> Concert		2:00pm Circle #1 in the parlor 6:15pm Circle #3 at the home of Kim Streb 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Circle #4 at the home of Margaret Sanders 12:00pm Circle #5 at the home of Ellen Auten 2:00pm Circle #6 in the parlor 6:00pm Circle #2 in the parlor
			
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:00am Early Worship with Cantata 10:00am Church School 10:00am Pageant Practice 11:00am Worship with Cantata 4:30pm AlphaPYF 5:00pm OmegaPYF 5:00pm Dicaconate 7:00pm Session		2:00pm Circle # 1 in the parlor 6:15pm Circle # 3 at the home of Kim Streb 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>Preschool Christmas I</b></div> 12:30pm Saints Alive luncheon  <b>Saints Alive</b>
<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Christmas Pageant 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Alpha & Omega PYF Christmas party and Caroling	 	6:15pm Handbell Christmas party 7:00pm Boy Scouts	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
	Church Office closed		



**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Christmas Night</i> 6:15pm SupperClub @ McDonalds 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 7:00pm PW Coordinating Team 7:30pm "Magic of Christmas" Concert in Charlotte	 <p><b>Friday - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.</b> <b>Saturday - 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.</b></p>	

<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 2:00pm Volunteer at Operation Christmas Child 6:15pm SupperClub @ Pueblo Grande 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home  6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral	 <p><b>Friday - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.</b> <b>Saturday - 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.</b></p>	9:00am PYF Mission & a Movie 6:00pm Exaltation Ringers Downtown

<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Program 9:30a.m.	9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home		
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm SupperClub @ Zaxby's 7:30pm Chancel Choir Christmas party			

<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm SupperClub "Lite" @ Shiki	<b>Christmas Eve</b>  5:00pm Kid Friendly service 7:30pm Traditional Candles & Carols Service	<b>Church Office closed</b>  <p><b>Merry Christmas!</b></p>	

<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
		<b>January 2011</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

## Preschool News

The most wonderful time of the year is drawing near...hard to believe isn't it? I can assure you it's real as I see a little extra sparkle in the children's eyes, and the mere mention of Christmas brings forth a full recitation of what Santa might be bringing. We feel privileged to be working with children, and we seem to smile more than ever during this special season. Our little ones have been so very hard at work practicing for the Christmas programs which will be **Tuesday, Dec. 15 and Wednesday Dec. 16 at 9:30 in the sanctuary.** All family members and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend, and then following the program join us in the fellowship hall for a cookie and punch party, complete with a special guest!



All the Thanksgiving feasts were wonderful, and the rooms were filled with Pilgrim hats and Indian headbands. The children enjoyed feasting on their own child-made tablecloths or placemats and listening to stories about the first Thanksgiving. Almost before we had that celebration cleared away we had the classrooms in full-blown Christmas mode! The teachers and children are creating the most adorable gifts that will be heartwarming treasures.

Preschool registration for the 2010-2011 school year is now going on for children currently enrolled. Beginning on **Friday, Dec. 4, church members** may enroll their children. Please drop by or call 664-2701 to request placement for your child. Forms are available in the church office for the public to fill out to fill the remaining spots beginning in January. We appreciate your telling your friends and neighbors about our wonderful program. The Preschool will be closed from **Dec. 17 through Jan. 3 and will reopen on Jan. 4. Lunch Bunch will resume on Jan. 6.**

Please remember to send a coat with your child (with his/her name in the label) as we will take the children outside everyday, weather permitting. Hopefully the weather in December will be less rainy than in November!

We truly are thankful to have the opportunity to be with your little ones each day, and we rejoice as we tell the children the story of "Jesus, the Very Best Christmas Gift of All." I wish a most wonderful and joyful Christmas to all of you, and safe and happy New Year.

With love,  
**Mrs. Nancy**

# Merry Christmas!



## Walk Thru Bethlehem 2009

**Friday, December 4 and 11 6-9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5 and 12 2-9:00 p.m.**

Join us in this great multi-church event at Camp Wesley, 3090 Deal Road, Mooresville! We expect more than 3000 visitors this year. Help others find their way to Bethlehem... and to Christ! Plan to attend.

## Marti Estes 5K

**Mooresville Community Walk of Faith  
April 24, 2010**

The Marti Estes 5k planning committee is pleased to announce that the 2010 race will benefit the Health Reach Community Clinic and will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The Health Reach Community Clinic benefits families in the Mooresville, Troutman and Mt. Mourne areas that are in need of medical and dental services. Many doctors from our area volunteer their time and services to meet those needs.

There are many ways for you to get involved:

Race sponsorships are now being solicited so if your family or business would like to become a sponsor, the levels are listed below.

**Primary Sponsor - \$1,500**

**Platinum Sponsor - \$750**

**Gold Sponsor - \$500**

**Silver Sponsor - \$250**

**Bronze Sponsor - \$100**

**Mile Marker Sponsor - \$50**

In the near future the committee will need help in delivering information about the race to businesses and organizations around the community and generally getting the word out. There will also be many things to help with in the weeks leading up to the race.

You may want to begin your training now for those of you who plan on participating in the run/walk, but the main way for you to get involved immediately is with your prayers. Please keep this committee in your daily prayers as we prepare for next year's race. Our goal for the 2010 race is for it to be an even greater success than this year's race was.

Watch for regular updates in the monthly newsletters and Sunday bulletins as to the progress towards event day.

*The Marti Estes 5K Community Walk of Faith Committee*

# PYF News

## New Time on Sundays for PYF!

You might have noticed that there was a bit of a shift in the time of our Sunday night PYF gathering.

We are making a permanent shift in the schedule that should make things a bit better for the group as a whole, allowing for more time for fun and fellowship together. The new schedule will basically look like this:

- 4:30-5pm - Alphas Fellowship/Discussion
- 5-5:30pm - ALL PYF Meal
- 5:30-6:15pm - ALL PYF Music
- 6:15-7pm - ALL PYF Game/Funtime
- 7-7:30pm - Omegas Fellowship/Discussion

So remember from now on...

**Alphas (7th-8th graders): 4:30pm-7pm**

**Omegas (9th-12th graders): 5pm-7:30pm**

## PYF Mission Focus...

Most folks know about the annual PYF mission trip. This past year, the youth went to Washington, D.C. to spend a week doing mission in the city, working with all sorts of people in a culture that was very different than our own. Those summer trips are a great way for the youth to experience mission in a new way, one that challenges their boundaries and conceptions of what mission truly is.

However, many of you might not be aware of the regular local mission work that PYF does. Several times throughout the year, the group gathers on a Saturday for "Mission & A Movie," spending the morning helping in local mission projects, then enjoying some fellowship together at a movie when we're all finished. This past month, we spent time building sets and helping to prepare for Walk Through Bethlehem. In the past we have also helped out at the Mooresville Christian Mission, the Soup Kitchen, and even done "drive by raking." Through Mission & a Movie, the youth have been able to see that mission isn't just something that you need to travel across the country for, but is something that we can do every day in our own backyard. While there is great value in our annual summer mission trip, the local work we do helps the PYF to recognize the need locally, and their ability to serve year round.



## December PYF Events Calendar

- 2 Supper Club @ McDonald's, 6:15-8:30
- 6 No Regular PYF (Church Night Supper)
- 9 Supper Club @ Pueblo Grande, 6:15-8:30
- 12 Mission & a Movie 9am – 3pm
- 13 PYF: Alphas, 4:30-7pm; Omegas, 5-7:30pm
- 16 Supper Club @ Zaxby's, 6:15-8:30
- 20 ALL PYF Caroling & Christmas Party! 5-8:30pm
- 23 Supper Club "Lite" @ Shiki, 6:15-7:30
- 27 No PYF (Merry Christmas!)
- 30 No Supper Club (Happy New Year!)

If you know of local mission opportunities that you think would work well for a Mission & a Movie outing, or would like to join the PYF on one, contact Tyler.

## A Note from our Youth Pastor....

We wanted to take a little space to say Merry Advent (not quite the same ring to it...) and a joyous Christmas season to all the youth and families in the church. December is a great time for the church, but particularly for PYF. On December 20th will be our annual caroling and Christmas Party! As last year, the party will include a "white elephant" gift exchange, and plenty of fun. We also want to extend an invitation to the returning college students - come join us at PYF this month! We've got enough fun to share! And even though the year is winding down, we've got plenty coming up in early 2010 (ski trip, lock in, beach trip, and more!)



**TYLER**



## Presbyterian Men

December is a big month for the Presbyterian Men's Breakfast as we welcome wives and all FPC ladies to our meeting. In addition to a wonderful breakfast, we will enjoy hearing J.C Higgie speak to us about the wetlands in the Reeds Creek area. Come share in some holiday spirit and bring a member of the "fairer" sex along with you.



## Presbyterian Women

The holidays are upon us! The circles are busy with holiday plans as I'm sure you are too. We continue to collect food for the Mooresville Christian Mission. Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated. Baby food is always welcome too. A suggestion was offered that when you're shopping the BOGO's, keep one for yourself and give the other.

*Karen Brawley, PW Moderator*

### Logos/MSM December Dates

**Wednesday, December 2** – Logos/MSM Christmas Night

**Sunday, December 6** – Logos choir and MSM Handbells in 11:00 a.m. worship service

**Sundays, December 6, 13, 20** – Register for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Logos/MSM in church parlor



### First Presbyterian Church

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To be added to or subtracted from our mailing list, email:  
[secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org](mailto:secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org) or phone: 704-664-5275.

### Sunday Services

**9:00 a.m.** Early Worship

**10:00 a.m.** Church School

**11:00 a.m.** Morning Worship

# DECEMBER 2009

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