

CREED & DEED

First Presbyterian Church

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A NOTE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Come Christmas

As children, my brothers and I always eagerly anticipated our church's annual Christmas pageant. Each year, I would don a halo of golden garland, and my brothers would dress in bathrobes with towels wrapped around their heads – elaborate costuming for our parts as angel and shepherds in the play. We loved it! (Especially the year that I finally graduated to be the “head angel,” bringing good tidings of great joy to the shepherds.)



But I have to confess, it all pales in comparison to the year that we abandoned the traditional nativity play in favor of our own production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Truth be told, it wasn't much of a children's play. We children were barely in it! A mom served as the narrator. One of the dads played the part of the Grinch. Teenagers were cast as Max (the dog) and Cindy-Lou Who (who was not more than two). And we children populated Whoville, dressing in bright, mismatched colors and sporting “bed head” hairstyles or multiple cock-eyed pigtails, doing our best to look as Suessian as possible. There were no shepherds, no angels, no babe in the manger. And yet, in all sincerity, it was our best Christmas pageant ever.

You know the story. Dreading Christmas, with all the noise, all the feasting, all the festive singing, the Grinch determines that he must stop

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Christmas from coming. So he poses as Santa Claus on Christmas Eve to un-do all of the Whos' Christmas preparations. He steals their presents. He empties their iceboxes. He even stuffs their trees up the chimney. He hauls every single sign of Christmas out of Who-Ville and up to Mt. Crumpit, pausing only to listen for the "boo hoo" of the Whos. But the sound the Grinch hears isn't sad. It is merry! "Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, was singing! Without any presents at all!" Despite the Grinch's best efforts, Christmas had come to Who-ville!

But more importantly, Christmas had come to the Grinch. When he realizes that Christmas "doesn't come from a store," when he realizes that Christmas "means a little bit more," the Grinch experiences a conversion. Dr. Seuss doesn't say it, but our Christmas play version certainly did: the Grinch discovers the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ. The Grinch discovers that the true joy of Christmas comes not from festive parties, grand feasts, and frantic gift-giving. In fact, sometimes, those things just get in the way.

This Christmas, amidst the busy rushing of the season, set aside a few moments to remember the simple joy of Christmas: Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us. Pick up a copy of our Advent devotional, *The Lord is Near*, and spend a few moments each day reflecting upon the Word made flesh. Pare down your shopping by giving "alternative gifts" (charitable donations in honor of your loved ones) to those on your gift list who already have everything. Bake one less batch of cookies (there will be enough). Come to church. Sing. Experience the wonder of God drawing near. Have a truly blessed Christmas.

Joyfully, Kristin

Advent Devotional: The Lord is Near — These writings of Henri Nouwen are our gift to you, in hope that, as we enter this busy season leading up to Christmas, you will take a moment each day to pause and reflect upon the Christ who is coming into the world.

Special Services During Advent



Christmas Cantata—Sunday, December 18

The adult choir will present its annual Christmas cantata during the 11:00 a.m. morning worship Sunday, Dec. 18. This year, the musical offering is entitled “Tapestry of Light”, by composer Joseph M. Martin. Subtitled, “A Celtic Christmas Celebration.” It will feature traditional carols from the British Isles joined with scripture readings, and candle lighting. The choir is currently working very hard to perfect this work, and would greatly appreciate your support on the 18th.

Gratefully, Tony Dunlap, Music Director

Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, December 24, we will have our
Candlelight Communion Service at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25

(Combined Service—No 9:00 Service)

9:30 Fellowship — 10:00 Christmas Service

On Christmas Day, we will all worship as one beginning with a fellowship at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Bring some of your Christmas goodies for this time of sharing. At 10:00, our church family will gather in the sanctuary for the singing of carols and reading of the Christmas story.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.

LOGOS invites all children of the church to participate in our Christmas Pageant on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. We ask the congregation to bring finger foods and desserts to share afterward, the church will provide drinks. Practice is Dec. 7 & Dec. 14 during LOGOS. On the day of the pageant, children will come to LOGOS at the regular time at 3:30. If you would like to help your child dress or need to bring them anything, please come after 5:00. Preschoolers and toddlers who would like to be animals (boys) and angels (girls) do not have to practice as they will be holding an older shepherd or angel's hand on the 15th. Call Kelly Brown for more info. at 899-7898. Please bring an item for our food pantry & place in the basket in the atrium.



Presbyterian Womens'
Christmas Party
Monday,
December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

It's holiday time!
Let's celebrate together
with our Sisters-in-Christ.
All women of the church are invited
for fun, food, fellowship.

We'll see you there!!!!

Old Fashioned Christmas Sing-a-Long Thursday, December 15, 11:30 a.m.

The PRESS Club will have an old fashioned Christmas Sing-a-Long and luncheon. We'll have guitars, banjos and piano featuring our very own ensemble. Signup so we know how many to prepare for. The menu will be soup, chili, cornbread and dessert.



All ages are invited to come sing and enjoy the fellowship.

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR BERKELEY'S NEEDY

This is the third year that a group of First Presbyterians have furnished food boxes for 30 needy seniors. Last year we also donated 32 boxes for extremely "at risk" student's families at Berkeley Middle School.

This year the same number of boxes are needed for Berkeley Seniors but only 15 are needed for the school. The money requirement for this is about \$900 — \$1000.

As before, each box will contain a 3lb cooked canned ham, 8-10 cans of vegetables, macaroni/cheese mix, fruit, bread, dessert and a First Presbyterian brochure.



If you would like to help with the outreach, please give your donation to Jerry Stuckey, 899-4477 or me, Hugh Smith, 899-6420, or leave it at the church office designated to one of us.

Thank You — Hugh Smith

SHOP TILL YOU DROP!!!

**DATES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED
ONE MORE WEEK THROUGH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**



Please do your Christmas shopping with our Presbyterian Women and the 10,000 Villages Sale.



This is a great time to purchase Christmas presents for your friends, wife, husband, children, teachers, secretaries, co-workers, etc. Bring the children to shop for their gifts.

Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. The income artisans earn helps pay for food, education, health care and housing.

Scheduled Hours Through Dec. 4

Monday thru Friday	11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Scheduled Hours Dec. 5 thru Dec. 9

Monday thru Friday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 10 — Closed

Dec. 11 — 12:00 — 3:00

Please call Mickey Smith at 899-6420 to schedule shopping during other times or for more information. Cash or check, please.

Worship Committee News

Over a year ago, the Worship Committee conducted a church-wide survey regarding our worship services. One of the concerns that we heard, echoed again and again, was the challenge of juggling a number of bulletin inserts every Sunday morning. Our response to this concern began this summer, when we added the blue hymnals to the pews, eliminating the need for most hymn inserts at the 11:00 service. And it continues in January, as we introduce a new bulletin design!

For several months, the Worship Committee has been collecting bulletins from other churches, reviewing layouts, considering dimensions, and experimenting with different paper weights, textures, and colors. On January 8, 2012, we will unveil the fruits of our labors: a tri-fold bulletin on 11x17 paper that, in theory, will eliminate our need for inserts!

The new bulletin design will allow us to streamline all of the information in our bulletin onto one sheet of paper. Any words to hymns that we do not have in our hymnals will be printed in the bulletin. When available, the words to Choral Anthems will appear, that you might meditate upon them as the choir sings. We will even have room to print the words to the Doxology, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, for the benefit of guests to our worship service. And all of our announcements, prayer concerns, and the church calendar will be included, as well.

We are thrilled to present this simplified bulletin format, and eager to begin its use. It is our prayer that this new bulletin will augment our worship, and be a blessing to you.

The Worship Committee
Laurie Carter (chair), Ellen Berry, Sue Cook,
Jeanne Foreman, Carl Marjenhoff, and Margie Roberts

For Unto Us a Child is Born



December

- 2 Meredith Bell
- 3 Jeff Baumann
Bryant Davis
Rica Gause
- 5 Roland Nettles
- 6 Kathy Baumann
Michael Bayless
- 7 Matthew Dalton, Jr.
- 8 Ashley Huggins
Hampton Weathers
Davis Weathers
- 9 Heather Boyd
Codi Orvin
- 10 Justin Robinette
Larry Moorner
Bill Shipley
- 12 Libby Nelson
- 13 John Nelson
- 16 Pam Brogdon
- 17 Christopher Wilson
- 18 Nichole Markham
- 19 Nancy Stuckey
- 21 Cadie Gooch
- 22 Melissa Jackson
- 23 Cyndy Britt
- 26 Laura Edwards
- 31 Hugh Murchison

Ushers for December

Dave Soderberg 9:00 Service

11:00 Service
Steve & Mary Nettles
Dillon & Dalton Infinger

Acolyte for December

Danielle Quick



Flowers for December

Dec 4. Acie & Laura Edwards
Dec. 11-25 Flower Committee

First Presbyterian Note Cards Make Great Christmas Gifts

First Presbyterian Church Note Cards are on sale in the hallway outside the church office. These beautiful cards are a project of the Presbyterian Women. The pack of 12 cards and envelopes are \$5.00. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women. All profits on the cards are used directly towards the Presbyterian Women's mission projects.

Women's Retreat with Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church Jan. 27-29, 2012

The Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church has invited Pastor Kristin to be the retreat leader at their upcoming Women's Retreat. And they have invited the women of our congregation to attend, as well! The Women's Retreat is January 27-29, 2012 at Pawley's Plantation on Pawley's Island. The cost of \$180 per person includes two nights lodging, **Registration/deposit deadline has been extended to Dec. 30.** Please call Ginny Fields for more info., 209-4410.



The Doings of the PRESBYTERIAN Men

We invite all men of the church to attend our breakfasts on the second Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m. **Our December breakfast is Sunday the 11th.**

“Wild Game” Night Monday, Dec. 5 at 6:00

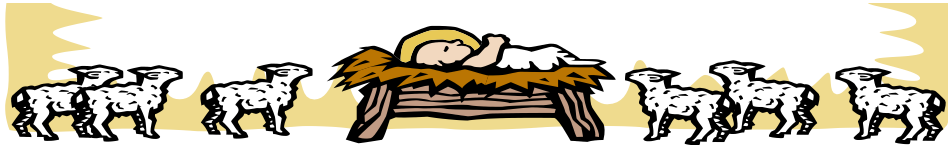


The Presbyterian Men will have “Wild Game” night at Washington Hunt Club. The menu will include dove breasts, venison, wild turkey, quail and fish stew. The cost is \$10 per man and sons and grandsons are welcome and free.

Congratulations!

The following students deserve a special pat on the back. They all attend First Presbyterian and are on the Berkeley Middle School Honor Roll.

8th Grade — Grey Livingston & Andy Ferez
 7th Grade — Anna Brown & Kenzie Knight
 8th Grade — Brant Bayless, Nicholas Ferez,
 Robbie Fleming, Evan Hulst,
 Jane Hulst, Emma Livingston,
 Philip Mims, & Christopher Wilson

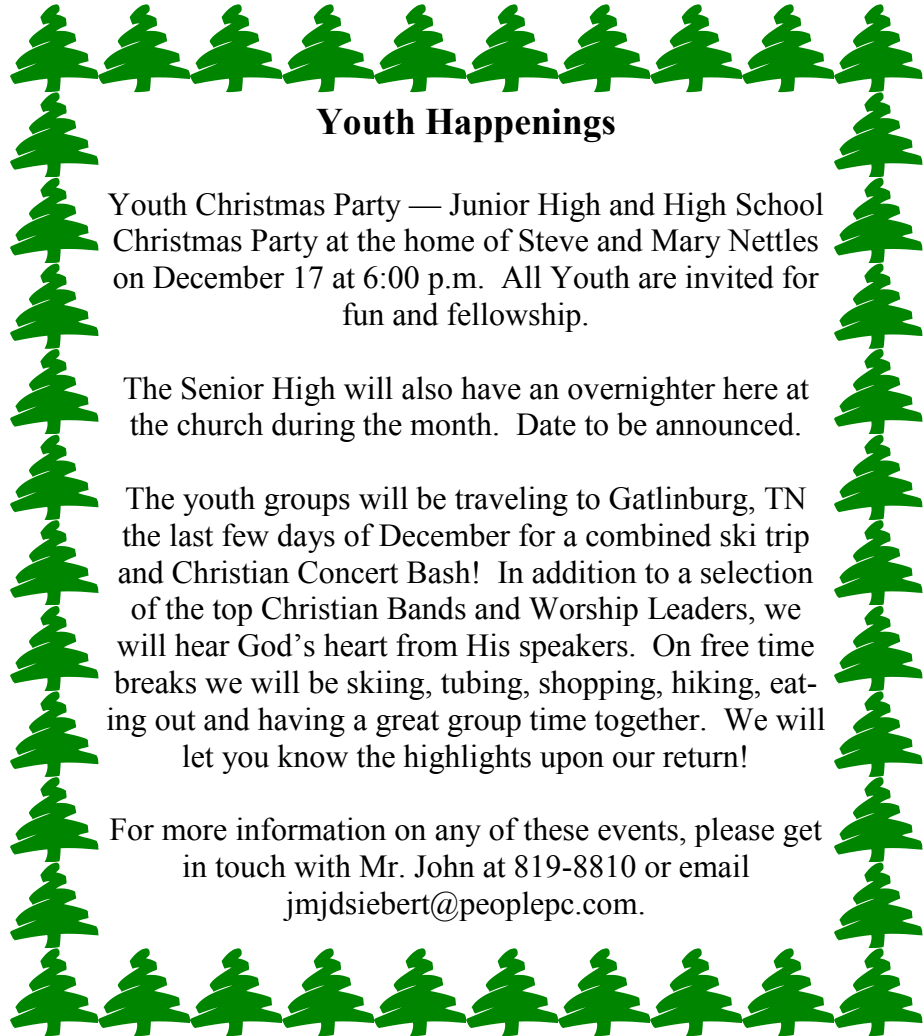


What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

Please consider giving generously to this important cause. The Christmas Joy offering will be received Sunday, December 18 and on Christmas Eve, December 24.



Youth Happenings

Youth Christmas Party — Junior High and High School Christmas Party at the home of Steve and Mary Nettles on December 17 at 6:00 p.m. All Youth are invited for fun and fellowship.

The Senior High will also have an overnigher here at the church during the month. Date to be announced.

The youth groups will be traveling to Gatlinburg, TN the last few days of December for a combined ski trip and Christian Concert Bash! In addition to a selection of the top Christian Bands and Worship Leaders, we will hear God’s heart from His speakers. On free time breaks we will be skiing, tubing, shopping, hiking, eating out and having a great group time together. We will let you know the highlights upon our return!

For more information on any of these events, please get in touch with Mr. John at 819-8810 or email jmjdsiebert@peoplepc.com.

*You are invited to the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
Christmas Drop-In*



*Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
in the Presbytery Office
2421 Ashley River Rd., Charleston*

*Please let us know if you plan to attend by Monday at noon:
843-766-4219 or bburger@capresbytery.org*

Church Ushers for 2012

If you would like to be part of this ministry for our church, now is the time to signup. As an usher, you are many times the first face our members and/or guests see before the service. Ushers greet guests, visitors, and members with enthusiasm and a smile. This is an important ministry as you make them feel welcome in our church. Your willingness to serve the Lord is what helps our church grow. There's a sign up poster in the atrium. For more information, contact Mike Lucas at 899-6417.

We Need Help, Help, Help!!!

We need volunteers for our Flower Committee. If you have a talent or an interest in arranging flowers, please consider giving some of your time to the church. If we get enough volunteers, you will only need to help three or four times a year. Please consider helping with the committee and beautifying our sanctuary for the Glory of God. Please call Marie Bowles at 825-3310 or 901-9813 for details.

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas, please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or place in the Presbyterian Women's box in the hallway **along with your check**. Flowers are \$10.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women and designated Poinsettias.



Deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 7

Memory of: _____

Honor of: _____

From: _____

No. of Poinsettias _____ Amt. Paid _____

“And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger;
because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Organization of 2012 Flower Ministry

The shared responsibility by members and friends for the Flower Ministry adds greatly to the worship services. It also provides an opportunity to honor someone or to present an arrangement (or plant) in memory of a loved one. Please complete the form at the bottom of the page and return to the church office or leave in the PW box in the hallway. A new schedule will be sent to you as soon as it is available. Questions, call Marie at 825-3310.

Thank You, Marie Bowles

Flower Schedule for 2012

_____ I prefer to place flowers on a designated Sunday.
Which Sunday? _____

_____ I prefer to contribute to the Flower Committee and have them place flowers for me.
Which Sunday? _____

Please enclose check payable to Presbyterian Women, designate “flowers” and drop in box in hallway or give to Sally, church secretary. The average cost of an arrangement is \$35.00, but we welcome any contributions.

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ I would like to serve on the Flower Committee.

_____ Check enclosed for \$ _____

Signed: _____