

A community of faith!

Church Staff:

Rev. Robert M. Alexander,
Pastor

Thomas E. Bishop,
Organist/Director of Music

Lori Todd,
Program Director

Vicki S. Grady,
Secretary

Michael Jones,
Custodian

Sunday Schedule

9:45 am

Sunday School

11:00 am

Worship Service



**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Easter Sunday
Sharing resources, changing lives**

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. Please be in prayer as you consider what you can give. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday during worship.



'When they call to me, I will answer them.'

– Psalm 91:15

Earthquake. Tsunami. Nuclear meltdown. Any one of these disasters could be catastrophic. Rescue efforts continue in Japan following the March 11 tsunami and earthquake and the growing nuclear crisis. Thousands have been confirmed dead, tens of thousands are missing, and hundreds of thousands have been evacuated. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding through [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) and our ecumenical and mission partners. Already, \$100,000 from the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering has been sent to provide immediate relief. While Japan is among the world's most advanced countries, the damage caused by the unprecedented scale of these multiple disasters is beyond imagination. You can make a difference in bringing God's healing to this devastated nation, where Presbyterians have been engaged in active mission work since 1859.

What you can do:

GIVE — Financial support for relief efforts wherever disasters occur can be [designated to DR000148](#). Support exclusively for these disasters can be [designated to DR000117](#). Donations may also be made to One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports PDA. [Gifts can be made online](#), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by mailing a check to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

ACT — Congregations and individuals can put together Gifts of the Heart hygiene kits and baby kits. Stay informed through the PDA website and Rapid Information Network e-mail reports.

PRAY — Join with others in lifting up the people of Japan and those

Tower Talk

April 2011

Online at www.fpcunion.com

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

*O sing a song of Cavalry,
Its glory and dismay;
Of Him who hung upon
the tree,
And took our sins away:
For He who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven
adored,
Is mighty now to save.*

Presbyterian Hymnal, pg. 308

Return Service Requested

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
101 West South Street
Union, SC 29379

From the Pastor's Pen:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently the cover of a national magazine asked the question, "Apocalypse Now?" Certainly many people are wondering with all of the recent events in the world - earthquakes, tsunamis, wars, famines, and the economic crisis – if the end of the world isn't just around the corner. There are many reasons why people fear such possibilities and one compelling reason why we should not. *We are not people of fear!*

If you have been a part of our midweek study on Mark you will remember that the word *apocalypse* literally means an unveiling or a disclosure of something. Apocalyptic literature tends to reveal something to us about the final outcome of things. When Jesus was asked about such things he plainly told his followers that he didn't even know when it was all going to happen. "About that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32) He wasn't scared about it though and neither should we be. All of these things are in God's hands and so are we. That is the safest place to be.

In a few weeks we will remember the final days and hours of Jesus earthly life. We will remember his final meal with his disciples. We will hear his words of comfort and encouragement. We will hear him tell them in the face of his own impending death, "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33b). We will see his love lived out as he walks to Calvary and is nailed to a cross of wood. We will hear his compassion and mercy expressed as he cries out "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:32). We will anxiously wait with the disciples through Friday night and Saturday morning and night and into Sunday morning when we will greet the dawn with words of triumph, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

In these words we find our source of hope and faith. Jesus Christ was crucified, he died, and he was buried and on the third day he was raised to new life giving us victory over sin and death and hope for abundant and eternal life. Friends, there is nothing to fear when we are in Christ!!

In the mean time, while there are earthquakes, famines, and wars; while there is suffering and oppression and hardship; while the earth and the people of this world are groaning as if in labor pains, we must trust that God is on the move bringing about a New Heaven and a New Earth. We must work with one another, bound together by the power of the Holy Spirit, to further God's Kingdom, to share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and to make every effort to faithfully follow our Lord Jesus Christ wherever he would lead us. This may make us tired, but it should never make us scared. For God is good...all the time! May you rest in God's grace and goodness each and every day and trust our Lord in all matters – through your Good Friday and on into Easter Sunday and beyond!

To God be the Glory!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Robert



Christian Education

Destination: Disciples

One of the learning objectives for our youth as they journey toward discipleship is to "recognize the greater importance of prayer in personal life." What does that statement mean to us? Do we recognize the importance of prayer? Do we treat prayer as a "life preserver" - only grabbing on when we feel we are sinking? Do we treat prayer as chitchat—sharing with God as we go through our daily routine? Do we make a date—intentionally setting aside time to be in communion with God and to present our joys and burdens? Prayer can and should consist of all these things. Scripture tells us to "pray without ceasing." If we are to engage in this activity at all times, it must be important! Take time now—pray!

Older Adult of the Year

It is time, once again, to recognize one of our members for his or her outstanding contributions to our congregation over the past year. Please consider which of our "older adults" (that is over the age of 60) you would like to nominate. Forms will be available in the vestibule and the recipient will be honored on May 1st by our church and again by the Presbytery later in the year. Nominations must be in by April 24th.

April Sunday School offering will be given to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** for the aid of those in Japan affected by the tsunami. In February, \$109 was collected for the 4th Grade Bible Fund!



Save the Date!

VBS

June 26—30

VBS will require a lot of helpers!!! Will you be among them? Please contact Lori if you are willing to help with this year's program!!!

Children and Youth:



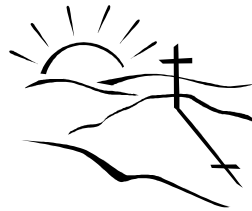
Easter Celebrations

April 23rd
11 AM-1 PM
Mt. Vernon

Families (with or without children) are invited to be a part of a fun filled morning celebrating the joy and promise the Resurrection of Christ brings to us all! Come hunt eggs, hear a story, play games, and, of course, EAT (we are

Presbyterian after all).

If you need directions to Mt. Vernon, please contact Lori Todd or the church office! See you there!



Easter Morning:
Christ is Risen
He is Risen Indeed



9:00 Fellowship
Breakfast

10:00 Intergenerational
Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship
Flowering of the Cross
(Bring a flower to change the
cross from a symbol of death to a
symbol of new life)

Youth Group

(Grades 6-12)

Sundays from 5-6:30 pm

April Activities!!! Check out what the youth have on the calendar:

April 3—5:00 at FPC—Picnic!

April 10—5:00 at FPC

April 17—Service Project—time TBA

April 24—No meeting—Easter Sunday

Need a host for the meal for April

10th! Please contact Lori if you are available to help!

Presbyterian Pals

(Ages 5 thru Grade 5)

Wednesday Nights 6:50-7:30 pm

“Won’t you be my neighbor?”

Sound familiar? Presbyterian Pals are studying about the idea of loving our neighbors and just exactly who our neighbors may be. Considering the story of The Good Samaritan, the children are acting out ways the story could play out today. Be on the lookout for them to share their findings!

Session Highlights:

The Session met on March 13, 2011 at 6:30 in the church conference room.

The following items were discussed and approved:



- Sylvia Carson attended the Presbytery meeting on March 3, 2011 as commissioner and she gave a report from the meeting.
- Tommy Bishop and Darwin Shaver discussed the progress of the cleaning and tuning of the organ. The work will be completed soon and the cost is within the original bid.
- Approved a personnel policy manual for church employees.
- Voted not to change the Sunday School and worship schedule during the summer months.
- The worship committee reminded members to sign up for a time to read the Bible aloud in the sanctuary during Holy Week.
- Accepted William Holcombe’s resignation from the Session due to health issues.
- Approved calling a congregational meeting on March 27, 2011 to elect new officers.

Note of Thanks

We deeply appreciate your many kind expressions of sympathy in our great loss. These expressions constantly remind us of the many reasons Jimmy loved this Church and its congregation. We are so grateful to each of you for your support, your cards, memorials, great food, flowers and most of all for your encouragement and prayers. Each of your blessings continues to touch our hearts and spirits.

Love in Christ,

The Family of Jimmy Harris

General Interest:



THORNWELL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS NINTH PRESIDENT OF THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN

We celebrate with the Thornwell Community the election of their next President.... Reverend Elliot M. Smith. On Friday, March 11, 2011, the Board of Trustees for Thornwell Home for Children announced the call of Rev. Elliot M. Smith as the 9th president of Thornwell. Smith was one of five top contenders selected for interview from a list of 200 qualified candidates considered by the Presidential Search Committee. Smith will assume his duties as president on June 1, 2011.

Smith earned a B.S. degree in Communication Disorders from Pennsylvania State University in 1981. In that same year, he bought the family dry-cleaning business. In 1985, Smith heard the call to ministry, sold the business, and enrolled in Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and Bellarmine University. He was the first student in Louisville Seminary history to earn both a M. Div. degree and a MBA degree simultaneously. Following graduation, Smith was called as an associate pastor at Wekiva Presbyterian Church, where he served from 1992 to 1996. He was recruited as Thornwell Home for Children's first development officer for Florida and Georgia in 1996 and was Vice President for Development for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Austin, TX, from 1998 to 2010.

Smith and his wife, Jill, have been married for 29 years. They have a son and a daughter who are twins, and a golden retriever named Annie. Jill has a degree in speech pathology, and has been working in accounting in recent years. The Smiths will live on Thornwell's campus in the President's home.



The Worship Committee will order 20 lilies to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter. Anyone wishing to purchase a lily or lilies as a memorial or honorarium may do so by contacting the church office or with the order form in the church bulletins.



February 2011 Financial Report: More info in report on office bulletin board:

	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
Income:	\$ 19,539.31	\$ 39,485.77
Expenses :	19,699.56	38,520.71
Variance :	\$ (160.25)	\$ 965.06



General Information:

Presbyterian Men...leading men into a vital relationship with Christ!

When: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
 Where: Fellowship Hall
 What: Dinner and Study for men of all ages.



In April, Woody Sanford is in charge of the meal, and Clarke Perrin will provide the devotion. **Come and find out more about our upcoming 24-Hour Men's Retreat at Bethelwoods and our trip to Thornwell in May. Also, help us in our plans to honor the women of the church at the Mother-Daughter Breakfast.**

This is an opportunity to grow in faith with men of all ages in the congregation. Come and share your gifts as we "sharpen one another" towards the end of more faithful discipleship.

24-Hour Men's Retreat

All men are invited to an overnight retreat at Bethelwoods on April 15th. We will gather at camp at 6 p.m. for dinner, enjoy fellowship and worship on Friday night, time for personal spiritual renewal on Saturday and a work project at Bethelwoods to help with their ministry. Breakfast and lunch are provided on Saturday and we will return mid afternoon. The cost is \$30. If you are interested, please submit payment of \$30 by April 10th or contact the church office.

Presbyterian Women:

2010-2011 Bible Studies
Circle 1: Bible Study by Rev. Williamson
1 Peter
Circle 2: Bible Study from **Horizons**
Revelation



***Circle 1** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m.
 ***Circle 2** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00a.m.

Opportunity to Grow:

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

As we conclude the Lenten Season we will continue to reflect upon the treasures that we discover on our journey with Christ. These treasures are part of the many blessings with which we are equipped in our new life with Jesus Christ. May we use each one for the glory of God as we move into Eastertide. You are encouraged to take time to read the sermon text before coming to worship each Sunday. Ask God to give you an openness to the Holy Spirit and enter God's sanctuary with eagerness and anticipation that God will work in you.

April 3	1Samuel 16 and John 9	"Eyes Wide Shut"
April 10	Ezekiel 37 and John 11	"Can These Bones Live?"
April 17	Psalm 118 and Matthew 21	"Who Is This?"
April 21	Exodus 12 and John 13	"Do You Know What I Have Done To You?"
April 24	Isaiah 25: 6-9 and Colossians 3: 1-4	"Seeking Things Above"

Mid-Week Bible Study - APRIL

Please join us for our midweek Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are finishing a study of Mark. The following scriptures and themes will be covered during this month.

April 6	Lesson 8	Mark 14: 53 - 72	"The Mystery Forsaken"
April 13	Lesson 9	Mark 15: 16-41	"The Mystery Solved"
April 20	Lesson 10	Mark 16: 1-8	"The Mystery Precedes"
April 27	HYMN SING AND PRAYERS		



Holy Week Schedule – Participate in our Special Services

Please join us for the many wonderful worship/nurture opportunities during Holy Week.

April 17-21	Read Through the Bible begins at Noon on Palm Sunday (Sanctuary)	
April 21	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion (Sanctuary)
April 21	8:00 PM	Prayer Vigil – Come for an hour or more
April 22	Noon	Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)
April 23	11:00 AM	Children's Easter Program and Cook-Out (Mt. Vernon)
April 24	7:00 AM	Community Easter Sunrise Service at Foster Park
	9:00 AM	Easter Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 AM	Multi-Generational Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 AM	Celebrate the Resurrection in Worship

General Interest:

Read Through the Bible

The Lenten season is an excellent time to increase Bible reading and devotion time. As a way to encourage the reading of God's Word in its entirety, the worship committee has organized a **Read Through the Bible** event during **Holy Week**. Beginning at Noon on Palm Sunday, the Sanctuary will be open for a straight-through reading of the Bible. All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate by either signing up to read for an hour or a portion of an hour, or simply listening in the sanctuary as the scriptures are being read. A sign-up sheet is available in the west vestibule. Please choose an hour or multiple hours and place your name on the list. This will require the participation of many people, so please come and sign-up soon. Don't wait until the last minute or the times that are best for you may already be taken. Join with your church family in reading through the Bible during **Holy Week**.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Mother-Daughter
Breakfast**

All Women
of the church
are
Invited to the
Mother-Daughter Breakfast
on May 7th at 9 a.m.

There will be good food, great service, and entertainment. If you have daughters, nieces, granddaughters, aunts, or any others you would like to invite, you are welcome to do so.

Please RSVP to the church office by May 1st.

**Holy Week
Prayer Vigil**


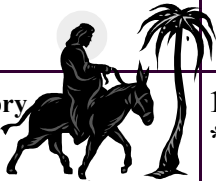

Sign up to participate in our annual Prayer Vigil. It begins after worship on Maundy Thursday and concludes with our Noon service on Good Friday. There will be opportunities for you to experience a variety of different types of prayer and meditation. You are invited to enter the sanctuary through the ramp entrance by the Chapel. A host will welcome you and will explain the various "prayer stations" that are available. The host will be present to answer any questions that you may have during your stay and to pray with you if you so desire. Come help us keep vigil during the late night hours.

Italicized names are the daily prayer names

* Denotes Birthdays
Sanctuary Flowers - Circle 1

April 2011

First Presbyterian Church
101 West South Street or
Post Office Box 672
Union, SC 29379
Office: (864) 427-8319
Fax: (864) 427-8342

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday Schedule: 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Group	WNL Schedule: 5:15 Handbell Choir 7:45 Chancel Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:20 Children's Choir 6:30 Adult Bible Study 6:50 Presbyterian Pals				1 John Carson Family	2 Kim Carson Family *Mickey Connolly *Rogers Fowler PW Spring Gathering (Unity, Fort Mill)
3 Leigh Chesno Valle Communion 4th Sunday of Lent Nurs: Mike Fowler Family Meals: Sanders & Kathleen Read Greeter: Cynthia Baker 4pm- Cong. Life Committee 5pm-YouthGroup (FPC picnic)	4 Rose Chewing 9:30am- Handbell Choir	5 Joe Chibbaro Family 7:30am-Prayer 5:15pm-Adm.Comm. 6:30pm-Presby. Men	6 Clarence Chrisawn Family 10:15am- Oakmont 12pm-Lenten Service (Grace) Rev. Bill Strong 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	7 Lindsey Connolly *Deborah Flint 9am-Community Outreach 12pm-Staff Meeting 12pm-Comm.Prayer (Gazebo) 5pm-Chr.Edu.Comm.	8 Mickey Connolly Family	9 Charlotte Cranford *Melissa Husser *Sara Sutherland
10 David Cranford 5th Sunday of Lent Nurs: Darla Love & Wade Flint Meals: Gary & Sandra West Greeter: Erin Connolly 5pm-YouthGroup (FPC) 6:30pm-Session Meeting	11 Mickey Creach Family *Tracy Connolly 4pm-Circle 1	12 Lynn Crow Family *Lee Cantey 7:30am-Prayer 10am-Circle 2	13 Bill Davis Family 12pm-Lenten Service (Grace) Rev. Joe Wilson 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	14 Brock Dillard *Garris Hendrix *Benjamin Hill 9am-Community Outreach 12pm-Staff Meeting	15 Richard Duncan Family 6pm- 24 hr. Men's Retreat (Bethelwoods)	16 Peggy Duncan *Tehya Moody 5:30pm- Community Meal 
17 Lisa Epps * Ellen Gregory Palm Sunday 12pm-12am- Read Through the Bible Nurs: Erin Connolly & Grant Harris Meals: Louis & Beverly Jordan Greeter: Betty Davis 4pm- Worship Committee /TBA-YouthGroup	 18 Randy Fleming Family *Mike Todd 6am- 12a.m.- Read Through the Bible	19 David Flint Family 6am- 12a.m.- Read Through the Bible 7:30am-Prayer 10:30am- 3rd Tues. Together	20 Loren Flint 6am- 12a.m.- Read Through the Bible 12pm-Lenten Service (Grace) Rev. A.L. Brackett 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	21 Norris Fowler Family *Kevin Hendrix *Sarah S. Holcombe *Jacob Robbins 6am- 12a.m.- Read Through Bible 12pm-Staff / May Tower Talk due 7pm- Communion 8pm- All Night Vigil	22 Michael Fowler Family All Night Vigil cont. Earth Day/ Good Friday Office Closed 10a.m.- Ellen Sagar 12 p.m.-Good Friday service	23 Ramsey Fowler 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Easter Celebration at Mt. Vernon 
24 Duane Gibson Family Easter Sunday 1Great Hr. of Sharing / Flowering of the Cross 7am-Comm. Sunrise Serv./ 9am-Cong. .Breakfast 9:30a.m.-Handbell Choir/ Children's Choir 10am- Intergenerational Bible Study Nurs: Jenny Alexander & Kayla Jones Meals: Robert & Jenny Alexander Greeter: Mike Fowler 5:30p.m.- Witness & Service Committee NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES	25 Yates Giles Family 6pm- Congregational Care Committee	26 Ellen Gregory *Mickey Adkins *Stefan Leonhardt 7:30am-Prayer	27 Tony Gregory Family 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	28 Julia Guess *Vicki Grady 9am-Community Outreach 12pm- Staff Meeting	29 Robert Guess Family *Trudy White	30 Brandi Harrell Family *Michael Kicidis