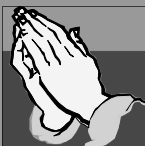


A wonderful  
community of faith!

### Sunday Schedule

9:45 am  
Sunday School

11:00 am  
Worship Service



*Please Note: The church has ordered only 20  
poinsettias so this will be on a first come basis.*

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias,  
wrapped with bows at \$13.00 each.

Total amount enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to First Presbyterian  
Church and place it in the offering plate along with  
this form. Note on check "for flowers." Orders have  
to be in no later than Tuesday, December 14th .

In Honor Of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*PLEASE BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA(S)  
AFTER THE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.**

#### †FPC Mission Statement

Seeking to be God's faithful people through worship, discipleship, service, and above all else, love!

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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

#### 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

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December 2010

Online at [www.fpcunion.com](http://www.fpcunion.com)

January 2011

### "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus, Born to set  
Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our  
rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the  
earth Thou art;

Dear desire of every nation Joy of every longing heart.

#### Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 118

From the Pastor's Pen:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have just completed our midweek study of I Peter. The final chapter includes the well known verse, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." (I Peter 5:7) As I have talked with people over the last several weeks and months I have seen that many of us would do well to remember this verse, for many of us are anxious. Anxiety comes from feeling some threat of loss or separation and every human experiences it to some degree.

Anxiety can come when we are sick or someone we love is sick. Anxiety can come when someone moves away from home. Anxiety can come when the stock market slides or gas prices rise. Anxiety can come when we feel far away from loved ones or from God. Loss of health, income, livelihood, and relationship can all lead to anxiety. Fear leads to anxiety because of the appearance of the loss of peace and freedom. We all have experiences of loss and separation and therefore are all susceptible to anxiety.

As we enter the Advent season I have been wondering about the biblical narrative and the characters from that narrative. What were their anxieties? How did the people of Israel feel under the rule of Rome as they waited for the promised Messiah? How did Elizabeth and Zechariah feel about having a child in their old age? How did Mary feel about the angel's message that she was carrying the Son of God – the Savior of the world? How did Joseph feel about marrying a woman that had been impregnated by someone else? How did they feel about making the long journey to Bethlehem during Mary's pregnancy? How did they feel about not being able to find a decent place to have the baby? Were there anxieties? Certainly there were. And yet the angel announced over and over again, "Fear not!" Even Herod had anxieties, for he worried about this baby born in Bethlehem who would one day take his throne and become King of kings and Lord of lords.

As we enter this season of Advent and hear the stories and the carols that accompany us to the manger, may we find that we journey in the company of the people of God and of the Lord God Almighty – who loves us and cares for us in such a way that he would come to us in the person of Jesus Christ to give us life. And may we respond in faith rather than fear as we witness the working out of God's marvelous plan around us. In Jesus Christ we have peace with God, peace with one another, and can be at peace with ourselves.

When you feel the anxieties rising because of some fear of loss or an actual loss – whether health, ability, relationship, income, or time – remember to cast those anxieties upon the Lord because He cares for you and will never let you go!

To God be the Glory!

Peace in Christ!



Pastor Robert

Christian Education

**Older Adults:  
Third Tuesday Together  
Christmas at the Billy  
Graham Library  
December 9th**

Join us as we celebrate this wonderful season with a trip to the lights and sounds of the Billy Graham Library.

Meet at the camp between 10:00-10:15 am.

Cost of \$5 includes transportation. On December 14th, the group will meet at 10:30am. for the annual gift exchange. Everyone is welcome and is asked to bring a wrapped gift to exchange. Christmas lunch will be served. Cost is \$9.50

To sign up for either event call 803-366-3722 or email Jacquie at [jacquie@bethelwoods.org](mailto:jacquie@bethelwoods.org).



**Advent  
Devotion Booklets**

A compilation of reflections by members of our congregation is available to use as a devotion book for the season of Advent. Look for a copy in the vestibules of the church.



**4th Annual  
Chili Cook-off**

**Sunday, January 16th  
5:00-6:30 pm**

We have some of the greatest chili cookers in Union County right here in our church! Are you one of them? Bring a pot of chili to share and someone will be "aproned" Champion Chili Cooker!

While the chili is being judged, we can all show our Bible "smarts" by competing in the **Bible Knowledge Bowl!**

Come eat, laugh, and hopefully learn a little something as we fellowship together!

**December Sunday School offering**

will go to the fund to purchase new pew Bibles for the Sanctuary. Be a part of a lasting gift that will encourage everyone to participate in the reading and the hearing of the Word each Sunday.

**January offering** will be used to purchase more canned goods for the "Souper" Bowl of Caring collection the first Sunday of February.

Children and Youth:

# Youth Group

## Christmas Retreat At Bethelwoods

**December 18th-19th, 2010**

What have you missed most about summer camp ... the great food, your counselors, canoeing on the lake, arts and crafts, singing in worship, or learning about God in Bible Study? Or maybe you have not been to summer camp at Bethelwoods yet, but have heard about all the fun and would like to try it out yourself? Good news - you don't have to wait until summer to enjoy all the fun! Come celebrate the reason for the season at Bethelwoods and enjoy all your favorite camp activities. The Christmas Retreat is open to all youth in 1st-12th grade regardless of church affiliation. The cost will be \$45.00. This includes all meals, snacks, program supplies, counselors, and lodging for the weekend. Check-in will begin Saturday December 18th at 11:30-AM and pick-up and closing program will be Sunday December 19th at 2:30PM. Register with the Bethelwoods office to reserve your spot for this awesome retreat!

Combining with Grace has been a positive move for our youth! Larger groups and more leadership—great!!!

- Dec 5 - 3:30- 7:30**—Meet @ Grace Group will travel to Spartanburg to shop for Secret Santa then go out to eat.
- Dec 12 - 5:00-6:30**—Meet at FPC Regressive Dinner -Desserts, Main Course, Salad, Appetizers
- Dec 19 - no meeting** (Joy Gift Program)
- Dec 20 - 5:30-7:00**  
FPC—Community Christmas Dinner
- Jan 9– 5:00-6:30** Lesson and Meal @ Grace
- Jan 16-5:00 until ?** Outing... Bowling
- Jan 23-5:00-6:30** FPC House,  
Meal and speaker
- Jan 30-5:00-6:30** Mission - Can food drive

# Presbyterian Pals

**Save the Date: December 19th  
Joy Gift Program  
"The Christmas Puzzle"  
6:00 pm**

Our children are working very hard to provide a great message of Christmas joy. Each week they study Scripture and songs to prepare. Plan now to attend! Members are asked to bring finger foods to share following the performance.

## Session Highlights:

The Session met on November 14, 2010 at 6:30 in the Church Conference Room.



The following items were discussed and approved:

- Approved a request from the Worship Committee to accept the bid of Darwin Shaver to complete the much needed work and cleaning on the organ in early 2011. The cost is between \$15,000-18,000 if Tommy helps, and the work is able to be completed in two weeks. The cost could rise to \$23,000 if the work takes three weeks, and other problems are found. This work is necessary to maintain the condition of the organ, and needs to be performed every thirty-five years.
- Discussed the 2011 Challenge Budget and concerns about current attendance and income. Twenty - nine pledge cards were received on Stewardship Dedication Sunday. Members are encouraged to turn in a card, even if an amount is not pledged. The session will meet again about the budget in two weeks.
- Approved a request to allow Ryan Smith to perform a piano concert in the sanctuary to support the Water Project Ministry of Cane Creek.
- Approved any fundraisers needed to offset the cost of a proposed mission trip to Honduras in the spring.
- The Alternative Christmas Market collected nearly \$2,700 for various charities.
- The Session and Witness and Service Committee will continue to review and discern the work of the Community Outreach Ministry.

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



December Devotion: Ken Hill

Meal: Herb Johnson

All men of the church are invited on December 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. and January 4, 2011 at 6:30 p.m..

## Presbyterian Women:



### 2010-2011 Bible Studies

**Circle 1:** Bible Study by Rev. Williamson

**I Peter**

**Circle 2:** Bible Study from **Horizon**

**Revelation**

\***Circle 1** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

\***Circle 2** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00

## October 2010 Financial Report: More info in report on office bulletin board:

	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
Income:	\$ 19,871.84	\$ 196,877.41
Expenses :	16,661.50	200,159.44
Variance :	\$ 3,210.34	\$ (3,282.03)



**Opportunity to Give:****Community Outreach Ministry**

Thank you to those who came and shared thoughts about our Community Outreach Ministry. There was a lot of helpful sharing and clearly more ideas than we can possibly handle on our own. Much of what we discussed centered around the importance of sharing the love of Christ through creating meaningful relationships with our neighbors. This allows us to understand one another better and discern what God is doing in one another's lives. It also provides space to discern what needs might be present beyond what seems obvious to us.

We discussed the importance of education as it relates to literacy, financial management, and healthy life choices. These are things that we have talked about for a couple of years now, but have not pursued with any great urgency. The Witness and Service Committee is considering ways that we might enter into a period of intentional discernment for the direction of our ministry. Look for more information about that.

In the mean time, we will continue providing food by partnering with Jimmy's Galaxy, serving our monthly Community Meal, and delivering meals for Sunday lunch. We encourage your financial contributions as well as your hands on involvement in any or all of these areas. Thank you for your interest and in your willingness to share your blessings with others. If you would like to help us on Thursday mornings, we need help setting up around 8:30 a.m., hosting the snack table, and visiting with neighbors.

**Organ Maintenance**

At its last meeting, the session approved a recommendation by the Worship Committee to accept a bid for needed maintenance to the church's organ. This beautiful instrument represents a significant investment on the church's part and we need to care for that investment. The total cost of the work is not known but the estimates indicate that it might be done for less than \$20,000. We currently have a little over \$8,000 in our Organ Maintenance Fund.

Many of you have commented in the past about how much you appreciate the music ministry of this congregation and specifically the organ. Perhaps you would be interested in helping to fund this maintenance with an extra gift to the church. The work will likely be performed sometime in February.

Keep in mind that at the time of writing this we are nearly \$20,000 below budget in our giving for the year. We recognize these are difficult times. The session believes that this maintenance has been put off long enough and needs to be done in order to properly care for this beautiful instrument. Any help you can provide would be appreciated. Thank you.

**General Information:**

**†Community Christmas Dinner-** Mark your calendars now for our annual Community Christmas Dinner. This year's dinner will be in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 20, 2010 from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. Come join us for this joyful holiday tradition as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior by sharing a bountiful meal and fellowship with our community. A volunteer sign-up display will be posted in the connector between the educational building and the west vestibule. Be a part of the celebration!



**Mission to Honduras – We Need You!!-** Witness and Service is planning a Mission Trip to Honduras and we would like you to go...but we need to know if you are interested ASAP!! Here are the details.

Who: Rising High School Seniors and older

When: May 28 – June 4, 2011

Where: Tegucigalpa, Honduras

What: Mission to work with the Diamante Boys Home. Light construction and maintenance as well as building relationships with the children at the home. We will stay at a nearby camp called Villa Garcia which is owned and operated by Tim and Gloria Wheeler, our PC(USA) Mission Partners in Honduras.

How Much: Approximately \$1300

This may be offset by fundraisers depending on the need. There will be several preparatory meetings leading to the event as well as a need for passports and immunizations. We need to have at least 6 people to make the trip so please contact the church office by phone or email to indicate your interest by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Parents' Night OUT!**

Friday, December 10th from 5-9p.m. a *parents' night out* will be scheduled. A nursery will be available for the younger children and a light meal will be provided for the event. Please sign-up so that we can plan accordingly. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

**If there is no response by Dec. 5th no nursery will be provided!** Thanks

**Note:**

Looking for a beautiful and meaningful Christmas gift for a special person? Consider underwriting one of our new pew Bibles at **\$18** each to honor a friend or loved one. A book plate will be placed on the front inside cover designating the honoree and the giver. You may give your money and information to Vicki Grady in the church office or mail to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 672, Union, S.C. 29379.



JAN 2011 Calendar space

Jan. 2011 Calendar space



*Italicized names are the daily prayer names*

\* Denotes Birthdays

# December 2010



Sanctuary  
Flowers:  
Circle 2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>The Chancel Choir will present special Christmas Music during the 11am worship service on Sunday December 19th.</p>			<p>1 <i>John Carson Family</i> 10:15am– Oakmont 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45 WNL</p>	<p>2 <i>Kim Carson Family</i> 9am– Community Outreach 12pm-Comm. Prayer (Gazebo) 4:30pm– Van leaves for Charlotte “Magic of Christmas”</p>	<p>3 <i>Rose Chewing</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Joe Chibbaro Family</i> 7pm-Christmas at PC</p>
<p>5 <i>Clarence Chrisawn Family</i> *Morgan Hathcock 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent / Communion Nurs: Mike Fowler Family Meals: Lloyd Sutherland Greeter: William Holcombe 3pm-Christmas at PC / 3:30pm- Youth Group (Grace U.M.Ch ) shop for Secret Santa</p>	<p>6 <i>Lindsey Connolly</i> *Will Holcombe 5:15pm-Administration Committee</p>	<p>7 <i>Mickey Connolly Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer 6:30pm-Presbyterian Men</p>	<p>8 <i>Charlotte Cranford</i> 5:15-8:45 WNL</p>	<p>9 <i>David Cranford</i> 9am– Community Outreach 10am-Third Tuesday Together at Billy Graham Library 7pm-Chancel Choir Party</p>	<p>10 <i>Mickey Creach Family</i> *Tracey Fowler 5-9pm– Parents’ Night Out</p>	<p>11 <i>Lynn Crow Family</i></p>
<p>12 <i>Bill Davis Family</i> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Nurs: Jenny Alexander &amp; Kayla Jones Meals: Brock Dillard Greeter: Thom White 5pm-Youth Group Regressive Dinner 5:15-Assembly Night/ 6:30– Session Meeting</p>	<p>13 <i>Brock Dillard</i> 4pm-Circle 1</p>	<p>14 <i>Richard Duncan Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer 10am-Circle 2 10:30am- TTT annual gift exchange</p>	<p>15 <i>Peggy Duncan</i> 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45 WNL</p>	<p>16 <i>Lisa Epps</i> 9am– Community Outreach 7pm– Palmetto Master Singers at USC-U</p>	<p>17 <i>Randy Fleming Family</i> 10am– Ellen Sager Praise &amp; Prayer School Out for the Holidays</p>	<p>18 <i>David Flint Family</i> 10am– Pres Pals Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30pm-Union Christmas Parade Bethelwoods Christmas retreat</p>
<p>19 <i>Loren Flint</i> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent / 6pm– Pres. Pals Joy Gift Program/Joy Gift Offering (<i>light meal follows</i>) 11am– Chancel Choir Special Christmas Music Nurs: Darla Love &amp; Erin Connolly Meals: Robert Guess Family Greeter: Trudy White No Youth Activities Bethelwoods Christmas Retreat</p>	<p>20 <i>Michael Fowler Family</i>  5:30-7pm– Community Christmas Dinner</p>	<p>21 <i>Norris Fowler Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer</p>	<p>22 <i>Ramsey Fowler</i> *Pat Littlejohn No WNL Activities</p>	<p>23 <i>Rogers Fowler</i> 9am– Community Outreach</p>	<p>24 <i>Duane Gibson Family</i> Christmas Eve! 7pm-Christmas Eve Communion Service Office Closed</p>	<p>25 <i>Yates Giles Family</i> Christmas Day! </p>
<p>26 <i>Ellen Gregory</i> *Harriett Howell *Kiki Sanford *Charner McNeace 1st Sunday after Christmas/ Guest Minister Nurs: Grant Harris &amp; Erin Connolly Meals: William Holcombe Family Greeter: Cynthia Baker No Youth Activities</p>	<p>27 <i>Tony Gregory Family</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>28 <i>Julia Guess</i> *Kathleen Read 7:30am-Prayer</p>	<p>29 <i>Robert Guess Family</i> *Keith Bailey *Annie Willard No WNL Activities</p>	<p>30 <i>Brandi Harrell</i> *Jordan Leonhardt</p>	<p>31 <i>Jimmy Harris Family</i> *Glenn Johnson</p>	