

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



February 6th, 2011



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MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those whit out even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring, It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

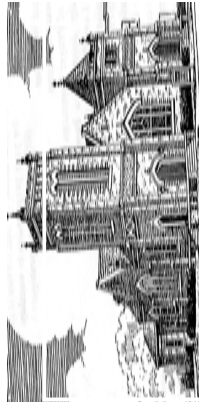
Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference n the world- as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar goes to

Local Meals on Wheels and the food pantry at the Department for Disabilities and Special Needs

our 2011 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

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Tower Talk

February 2011 Online at www.fpcunion.com

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*  
*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart."*  
*Written by Charles Wesley, 1747  
Presbyterian Hymnal #376*

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

Address Service Requested

†FPC Mission Statement

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

## From the Pastor's Pen:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I am writing this letter we are preparing for our Annual Report and our Annual Congregational Meeting. This time of year always gives us an opportunity to look back over the past year and consider the many ways that we have been challenged and the many ways that we have grown. There have been many opportunities provided for you to worship, be nurtured in your faith, and serve. Our Church's mission statement emphasizes these three elements specifically. "We are seeking to be God's faithful people through worship, discipleship, service, and above all else love!"

We demonstrate love in a variety of ways. We pray for each other, we visit each other, we send cards and prepare food and give rides. We offer words of encouragement and gratitude. I always feel like the church is at its best when someone in the church is in some kind of need. This church is generous and caring and loving. Hopefully all that we do in the name of Jesus Christ is done in a spirit of love.

We often celebrate love on February 14<sup>th</sup>. It isn't a day just for candy hearts and chocolate kisses. It is a day to remember the most wonderful gift of all, a gift born in the heart of God and transplanted into our hearts by God's amazing grace.

In the great commandments of the Bible, Jesus reminds us that our most important work is love. We are called to offer the entirety of ourselves to another, first to God, and then to our neighbor. The more we are able to think of God and neighbor without being motivated by any thought of self (how will I benefit, how will I be affected, how will I anything), the more we will be caught up in the wonderful world of love as we are intended to experience it.

We cannot keep from thinking of ourselves, but we do not have to be motivated by the results of those thoughts. As Jesus was preparing to go to the cross He certainly thought of how it would affect Him. He asked that the cup might pass away from Him and then was willing to endure that cup for the sake of His love for His Heavenly Father, for you, and for me.

I pray that as you consider what it means for you to be a child of God and a member of the Body of Christ, that you will be less and less motivated by how that impacts you and more and more motivated by how it impacts others. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

"Love is in the air!" And that air is a gift from God...it is God's very Spirit. Breathe deep! To God be the Glory!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Robert

## Christian Education



**January Bible Knowledge Bowl Champions:**  
Erin Connolly, Kristopher Jones, Laura Leigh Todd, & Trudy White

### 4th Annual Chili Cook-off

**Winner: Tracey Fowler**



**February Sunday School offering** will be added to the 4th Grade Bible Fund! We have three rising fourth graders coming up this year!

## Destination: Disciples

Becoming faithful disciples of Jesus Christ is an ongoing journey for every member of the church. The Christian Education Committee has put together a booklet of the scope and sequence (a list of age-appropriate objectives) that is used as a basis for our church school program. It covers objectives for our children and youth through high school age. We hope that by providing parents with a "spiritual roadmap," they will better be able to insure that vital guideposts will not be missed as their children grow and mature in faith.

Although the booklet does not list goals for adults, it is very important that no Christian ever stops seeking to grow spiritually. Christian Education does not stop at the end of your teens. Every member needs to be involved in some sort of Bible study with fellow believers. Studying alone is important, but discussing it allows us to voice our beliefs and better enables us to share that faith with others.

So, let's journey together—all of us, as we read and study God's Word on our way to better discipleship!

If you would like a copy of the booklet, "Destination: Disciples," please contact Lori.

Children and Youth:

# Youth Group



## Ski & Snowboarding Trip, February 4-6

Keep our group in prayer while we ski or snowboard over this weekend. Pray for safe travel and safety on the slopes! Special thanks to the Guess family for allowing us to use their home on the mountain!

February is filled with fun!!! Check out what the youth have on the calendar:

Feb 4-6—Ski Trip (no meeting Sunday)

Feb 13—Love is in the air! Be at Grace at 5 pm!!!

Feb 20— Youth meet at FPC

Feb 27— Home meeting (location TBA)

*Willing to cook dinner for our youth? Contact Lori to find out how you can help! Need cooks for Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>.*

# Presbyterian Pals

Members of the congregation joined the Pals as they presented the Joy Gift program, "The Christmas Puzzle." Songs and drama helped remind us of the Christmas story and that we all are a part of the ongoing story of the Church.

Starting this month, the group will begin work on learning more songs and stories to present to the congregation! Keep on the lookout for the performance—you won't want to miss it!



Grandma (Carol Creach) and her "precious grandchildren," (Garris & Haleigh Hendrix, Madalyn, Anne, and Claire Alexander)!

We are all part of God's Picture Perfect Plan!



### Session Highlights:

The Session met on December 12, 2010, and January 16, 2011 at 6:30 in the church conference room. The following items were discussed and approved:



- Approved Version 1 as the 2011 budget.
- Approved the recommendation of the Administration Committee to discontinue Assembly Night, and that committees should schedule their meetings to work with the Session meeting schedule and the monthly Tower Talk deadline.
- Approved the dates for Communion in 2011.
- Approved a building use request from the Union Music Club.
- Mike Todd reviewed the 2010 financial results and budget.
- Heard reports from the E3 event at First Church in Rock Hill on January 9, 2011.
- Thom White gave a report on the October Presbytery meeting. The Belhar Confession was approved; three ordained ministers and one lay minister were examined, approved the call of a minister to Great Falls Church, and encouraged support for Thornwell which is in need of support in their work with at risk children.
- The "Destination Disciple" booklet was approved to give to families with children in the congregation.
- Approved the 2010 review of the church rolls.

Approved a request from the Nominating Committee that the church membership votes to reduce the class size of the Session from five to four at the annual congregational meeting on January 30, 2011.

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

	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
Income:	\$ 32,539.78	\$ 247,150.32
Expenses :	22,596.16	239,977.10
Variance :	\$ 9,943.62	\$ 7,173.22

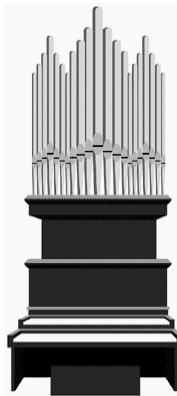


**General Interest:****Community Outreach Ministry:**

Every Thursday morning we gather to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. We are in need of someone to help with hospitality (setting out refreshments and making coffee, etc), someone to help with budgeting and financial management, and someone to provide counseling related to healthy life choices. If any of these are areas where you could assist, please contact one of our regular volunteers, Brock Dillard, Jim Vaughan, or Sylvia Carson. We are also always in need of financial contributions...especially this time of year when needs seem to be at their highest. Thank you for your generosity and caring spirit.

**Pipe Organ Maintenance Update:**

The cleaning, revoicing, and complete tuning of the Schlicker pipe organ is scheduled to begin on February 17th. The work will take approximately two weeks to complete, and we may be without the organ on Sunday, February 20th and 27th, depending on how they divide up and section off the dismantling of the pipe work. The work will be done by Darwin Shaver Pipe Organ Services of Charlotte, NC. Thanks to all those who have so generously contributed to the organ fund. We now have enough money in the fund to complete this long overdue project! Additional contributions to the organ fund are welcome for regular tuning and future maintenance.

**Tower Talk Distribution**

The Administration Committee has recently done a cost analysis of our Tower Talk distribution and we have decided to discontinue our bulk mailing. As a result we will be mailing the Tower Talk using 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail and therefore would like to reduce the number of paper copies that we need to mail, not only to save on postage but to save paper.

If you are willing to receive your monthly newsletter as a PDF file via email, or would be willing to access the Tower Talk on the church's website ([www.fpcunion.com](http://www.fpcunion.com)), please notify Vicki in the church office ASAP. All officers and staff will receive a hard copy in their church box unless they notify the church that they would like to receive it electronically.

This will assist us in our efforts to become better stewards of God's gifts. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**General Information:**

**Older Adults:  
Third Tuesday Together**

**February 15th - The Old Fogies at Bethelwoods-** The Old Fogies are back and ready to play some great Bluegrass Music!! Our time together will include a delicious lunch and fellowship at Bethelwoods as well as a performance by the Old Fogies. The performance will begin at 10:30AM and be followed by lunch. This will be a wonderful event so invite your friends to come!

Call **Bethelwoods @ 803-366-3722** for more information.

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

When: Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: Dinner and Study for men of all ages.

In February, Pastor Robert is in charge of the meal, Barry O'Dell will provide the Devotion, and Norris Fowler will provide a program on pruning techniques. We will hear about the group's wood cutting work at Bethelwoods and consider other service/mission projects.

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. **All men of the church are invited.**

**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

Opportunity to Grow:

**Come, Now Is the Time to Worship**

Worship is the most important thing that we do as God’s people. One of the Great Ends of the Church according to our Book of Order is “The maintenance of Divine worship.” We work hard to provide a meaningful worship experience each and every week. If you have suggestions for our staff or Worship Committee, please let us know.

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.

<b>February 6</b>	Isaiah 58: 1-9a	“A True Fast”
<b>February 13</b>	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12	“Wisdom from Above”
<b>February 20</b>	Matthew 5: 38-48	“The Spirit of the Law”
<b>February 27</b>	1 Corinthians 3: 1-9	“Serving Side By Side”



**Mid-Week Bible Study - FEBRUARY**

Please join us for our midweek Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the Gospel of Mark in an 10-week series. Books are available to assist in the study for \$9. You are not required to have a book but it will help you to dig deeper into God’s Word. The following scriptures and themes will be covered during February.

<b>February 2</b>	Lesson 2	Mark 3: 13-35	“The Mystery Discriminates”
<b>February 9</b>	Lesson 3	Mark 4: 1-34	“The Mystery Discloses”
<b>February 16</b>	Lesson 4	Mark 4:35-5:43	“The Mystery Calms”
<b>February 23</b>	Lesson 5	Mark 8:22-9:1	“The Mystery Scandalizes”

General Interest:

**Calling New Choir Members**

Chancel Choir practice resumed on Wednesday, January 26th. The beginning of a new year is a great time to join the choir..

We would much like to increase the size of the Chancel Choir to 20 regular members. The Choir with leadership 10



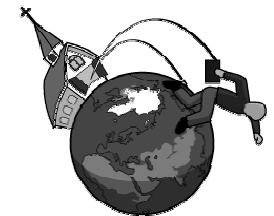
very to increase the size of the Chancel Choir helps in worshipping months

out of the year. Choir practice is on Wednesday nights from 7:45 – 8:45 pm in the choir room. If you would be willing to share your time and talent to help with this important ministry, please contact Tommy.

**MISSION- HONDURAS**

Thom White will join the Grace Presbyterian Church of York County on their mission Trip to Honduras February 5-14, 2011. Please keep this group in prayer while they serve God there.

Our own church has organized a group to go to Honduras the first week of June. If you would like to contribute to this mission to make it more affordable you may submit checks marked “Honduras Mission Trip”. Please keep this group in prayers also.



**Peanut Butter Pyramid**

Let’s build one!!!! In honor of the Souper Bowl of Caring, let’s build a pyramid of peanut butter for the food pantry at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs!!! Peanut butter is a great source of protein and is easy to serve and eat. It is one of the best staples for food pantries and we want to build a “Great Pyramid” of large jars in the front entrance. Bring the jars in as soon as possible and lets see how “great” it can get!!!!

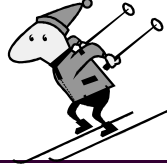




*Italicized names are the daily prayer names*

\* Denotes Birthdays

Sanctuary Flowers - Circle 1

# February 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
		<p>1 <i>Pat Littlejohn Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer 5:15pm-Adm.Committee 6:30pm-PresbyterianMen</p>	<p>2 <i>Patrick Littlejohn Family</i> *Tommy Bishop 10:15am- Oakmont 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45pm- WNL</p>	<p>3 <i>Darla Love</i> *Carrie Jones 9am-Community Outreach 12pm-Comm.Prayer (Gazebo) 5pm-Chr.Edu.Comm.</p>	<p>4 <i>Spiller McCoy</i> 5pm-YouthGroup Ski Trip</p> 	<p>5 <i>Elsie McGill</i></p>
<p>6 <i>Brandy McNeace Family</i> Souper Bowl Sunday / Communion Nurs: Mike Fowler Family Meals: Jimmy Harris Family Greeter: John Carson</p> 	<p>7 <i>Rodney McNeace</i> *Heather G. Barnado *Vanda Guess</p>	<p>8 <i>Chris McWhorter Family</i> *Tony Gregory 7:30am-Prayer 10am-Circle 2</p>	<p>9 <i>Brad Morris</i> *Michael Todd Harris *Dianne Sligh 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45pm -WNL</p>	<p>10 <i>Barry O'Dell Family</i> *Reagan Nicole Barnado  9am-Community Outreach</p>	<p>11 <i>Clarke Perrin Family</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Frances Powell</i> *Bruce Barnado</p>
<p>13 <i>John Rampey Family</i> Nurs: Darla Love &amp; Wade Flint Meals: John Robbins Family Greeter: Sybil Crow 5pm-YouthGroup 5:45pm- Cong. Life Comm. 6:30pm-Session Meeting</p>	<p>14 <i>Sanders Read Family</i> 4pm-Circle 1</p> 	<p>15 <i>Ray Robbins Family</i> *Windy Boyd 7:30am-Prayer 10:30am- Third Tuesday Together</p>	<p>16 <i>John Robbins Family</i> *Steven Broadbent *Kim Carson 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45pm -WNL</p>	<p>17 <i>Woody Sanford Family</i> 9am-Community Outreach 12pm- March Tower Talk  *Pipe Organ Maintenance Begins (2 weeks) *</p>	<p>18 <i>Doug Shields Family</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Greg Shields</i>  5:30pm- Community Meal</p> 
<p>20 <i>Betsy Skipper</i> Nurs: Erin Connolly &amp; Grant Harris Meals: Thom White Family Greeter: Richard Duncan 5pm-Youth Group 5:30pm- Worship Comm.</p>	<p>21 <i>Raymond Sligh Family</i> *Ken Hill  Presidents' Day</p> 	<p>22 <i>Bryson Stoddard</i>  7:30am-Prayer</p>	<p>23 <i>William Stoddard Family</i> 12pm-Staff Meeting 5:15-8:45pm -WNL</p>	<p>24 <i>Bill Stoddard Family</i> *John Carson 9am-Community Outreach</p>	<p>25 <i>Lloyd Sutherland</i> *Lindsey Connolly 10am-Ellen Sagar Praise and Prayer</p>	<p>26 <i>Sara Sutherland</i></p>
<p>27 <i>Laura Leigh Todd</i> Nurs: Jenny Alexander &amp; Kayla Jones Meals: Pat Littlejohn Family Greeter: Vickie Shields 5pm-Youth Group 5:30pm- Witness &amp; Service Comm.</p>	<p>28 <i>Mike Todd Family</i> *Billy Whitney 6pm- Congregational Care Committee</p>					