

**A community of faith!**

**Church Staff:**

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



**†FPC Mission Statement:** Seeking to be God's faithful people through worship, discipleship, service, and above all else, love!

**PONDERING STEWARDSHIP**



-Excerpted thoughts from Stewardship newsletter

Too many Christians assume that once they have told God how grateful they are for His blessings, they now have the right to use it all for themselves. But God gives to us not to make us thankful, but to make us generous and useful to Him and to others!

Genuine thankfulness and good stewardship are inseparably related. What a hollow ring it must sound in the ears of God when we proceed to hoard or self-indulge the blessings we have received as gifts.

Remember, joyfully and expectantly, why God blesses us with an abundance of good gifts from above: Not just to make us thankful, but to make us useful!

Commit a portion of your time – in worship, Bible study, in service to church and community, in prayer.

Commit your talent – whatever it may be – to be developed and used in God's service. Teach, cook, sew, organize, visit the home-bound, provide transportation – the list is endless!

Commit a proportionate share of your income regularly to the work of our congregation and all God's kingdom.

What we EXPRESS to God for His gifts is called "Thanksgiving."

What we DO with them is called "Stewardship."

**NATURAL DISASTER HELP:**

**Hygiene Kits:**

In case you missed it the first time!

We collected these hygiene kits once before and now you have a second chance to bring one in if you missed the first time.

Your Witness and Service Committee has set a goal of accumulating 50 hygiene kits to ship to ravaged areas around the world, including U.S. tornado and flood victims.

**A single kit consists of: 1 hand towel (approximately 16"x 28", no fingertip or bath towels), 1 washcloth, 1 wide-tooth comb (remove from package), 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards; remove from package), 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), 1 toothbrush (in original packaging), 6 Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit.**

**Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment to the disaster site. SEAL ALL INDIVIDUAL KITS IN A ONE-GALLON PLASTIC BAG WITH A ZIPPER CLOSER** and deliver to a designated collection area in the Fellowship Hall prior to the end of October.

**This is an ongoing project.**

# Tower Talk

**October 2011** Online at [www.fpcunion.com](http://www.fpcunion.com)

**Dimes for Hunger**

**OCTOBER IS DIMES FOR  
HUNGER MONTH!!**

**"LET'S SHARE WHAT WE HAVE"**

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

Return Service Requested

## Music Highlights:

## General Info:

**1st Presbyterian Music Note!**

Tommy Bishop



As I begin my 30<sup>th</sup> year this month as organist/director of music at First Presbyterian, I am reminded of God's goodness to us each and every day! I am thankful that God has blessed me with good health and enabled us to share many wonderful musical memories together during the past 29 years. I am truly blessed to have been associated with such a wonderful and caring church family for so many years, and I pray that I am able to serve with you for many more years to come!

During this transitional period without a full-time pastor, it is important that all members pull together and do their part to help strengthen the church. Attending worship services regularly is vital to this strengthening process! Music is such an important part of our worship services, so let us join together in great numbers and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

All of our choirs have resumed their regular practice schedules, and I encourage choir members to make attending rehearsals a priority, so that we may offer our musical best to God in our worship services. Early fall is a great time to join one of our choirs! Check the weekly bulletin calendar for rehearsal times.

Did you know that "the study of music develops the neurological pathways of the brain, helps unlock the creative spirit, and results in increased intelligence and learning capabilities?!"

"Music is the means of recapturing the original joy and beauty of Paradise." – Hildegard of Bingen

**Help Needed:**

Community Meal  
Saturday, October 15th  
5:30– 6:30 pm  
Menu:

***spaghetti, salad,  
bread, and desserts***

Volunteers should plan to be on hand from 5-7pm to help with welcoming, cooking, and serving the meal and then cleaning up after the meal. Other volunteers are needed to make desserts to share!

**Willing to serve or make dessert?**

*Please contact Mickey Connolly, Hassie Vaughan, or Sylvia Carson*

**Thanks for your help!**

**Presbyterian Women:**

**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 a.m.

**Mrs. Sue Gregory** is the Moderator for the Presbyterian Women.



## Christian Education:

## Overheard in Sunday School:

Abraham and Sarah announced the birth of their son Isaac in the Pre-school class. Malachi then announced that Ms. Kim would be having a baby the following Monday—he was sure that would mean more cupcakes, since that is how they celebrated the birth of Isaac!

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** continues its study of "Discovering Your Gifts." The study will conclude on October 12th. The next topic will be announced and will depend on the preference of our interim minister.

## Advent Devotions

**We had such good feedback about our "member-written" devotions that we are doing it again.**

Have you had a miraculous experience that you would be willing to share? "Experiencing the miraculous" will be the focus of the devotions as we wait through Advent to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord and help us realize that, with God, "all things ARE possible" (emphasis added). Please look for a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church.

**Sunday School Offering for October** will be added to our Dimes for Hunger Offering!

We have collected **\$376.44** for Thornwell Home for Children. Special thanks to the Young Men's Class who made a special donation to the cause!

Children & Youth:

**Partners  
in  
Christ**

FPC and Grace United Methodist will once again “Partner in Christ” to share in ministering to the youth and children of our churches. The two churches will share the responsibilities of leadership and planning for the Sunday Night Fellowships.

**Sunday Evenings  
5:00-6:30**

**Children at Grace**

**Youth at FPC**

**Children:**

**Youth:**

**Methodist/Presbyterian Fellowship**

(Grades 1-6)  
Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm at Grace  
The group kicked off the year with a party at Parties R Us!

**October highlights:**

Lessons center on “Heroes of the Bible,” combining Bible story, craft, and music.

No meeting on October 23rd.

**Pumpkin Patch Trip** on October 29th. Children will meet at Grace at 12:30 pm. Leaving Grace at 12:45pm.

No meeting on October 30th.

**Partners in Christ**

Fun—Food—Fellowship  
around whenever our youth get together.

When you add a healthy dose of God’s

Word, it makes the evening complete!  
Around eighteen young people came for the opening event after the UCHS football game on September 16th.

Special dates to remember:

- ◊ October 2nd, the group will travel to Bethelwoods to test our brains and cunning on the ropes course!
- ◊ October 23rd, no meetings because of school holiday on Friday the 21st
- ◊ October 30, cookout (meeting place to be announced later)

**Session Highlights:**

The Session met on September 11, 2011 at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. The Reverend Sanders Read served as moderator for the meeting.

The following items were discussed and approved:



- Noted concerns about the budget and expenses.
- The Community Outreach Fund is in need of donations and volunteers.
- Trudy White discussed plans for Stewardship emphasis during November.
- Approved Mike Fowler, Mike Todd , Sue Gregory, Amanda Gibson, and Nick Fowler to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Approved building use request from Amanda Gibson for a fundraiser/donations to be held on October 1st for Sybil Crow’s eye surgery and a request from the Union Music Club for September 13th.

**August 2011 Financial Report:**

More info in report on office bulletin board:



	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 14,371.85</b>	<b>\$ 148,812.11</b>
<b>Expenses :</b>	<b>14,239.72</b>	<b>152,807.08</b>
<b>Variance :</b>	<b>\$ 132.13</b>	<b>\$ (\$3,994.97)</b>

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As of the end of August, we have had contributions of \$148,812.11, which are **\$13,260.85 BELOW** the \$162,072.96 in contributions that were budgeted through the end of August. We have done a good job of controlling expenses due to the lack of contributions, so our actual variance at the end of August is only \$3,994.94 (\$148,812.11 in contributions vs. \$152,807.08 in actual expenses). Please consider this information as you make decisions concerning your contributions to the church.

*Italicized names are the daily prayer names*


\* Denotes Birthdays

Sanctuary Flowers - Helping Hands

MPF—Methodist-Presbyterian Fellowship

# October 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
						1 <i>Darla Love</i> 11 am-2 pm Fundraiser for Sybil Crow
2 <i>Paul Lunsford</i> World Communion Sunday *Malachi Gibson *Mary Virginia Blackwell Nurs: Mike Fowler Family Meals: Sanders & Kathleen Read Greeter: Tim Barnado Guest Pastor: Rev. Charlie Horne 1 pm—Youth leave for Bethelwoods	3 <i>Spiller McCoy</i>	4 <i>Elsie McGill</i> 7:30am-Prayer 1 pm—Staff Meeting 5:30pm— Admin. Comm.	5 <i>Brandy McNeace</i> 10:15am— Oakmont 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	6 <i>Rodney McNeace</i> *Emily Hill 6pm-Open AA Meeting	7 <i>Chris McWhorter Family</i>	8 <i>Brad Morris</i> *Michael Fowler
9 <i>Barry O'Dell Family</i> Guest Pastor-Rev. Janet Alford Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: Gary & Sandra West Greeter: Sylvia Carson 5 pm—Youth at FPC; MPF at Grace	10 <i>Clarke Perrin Family</i> *Karen LeBlanc 4pm— Circle 1	11 <i>Frances Powell</i> *Frances Powell 7:30am-Prayer 10am- Circle 2	12 <i>John Rampey Family</i> 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	13 <i>Sanders Read Family</i> 6pm-Open AA Meeting	14 <i>Ray Robbins</i>	15 <i>John Robbins Family</i> 7am- Mt. Vernon Clean –up Day! 5:30pm-Comm.Meal 
16 <i>Woody Sanford Family</i> Mt. Vernon Sun. 11:15am -Worship followed by dinner on grds. Guest Pastor: Rev. Charlie Horne Meals: Louis & Beverly Jordan Pres. Meeting: Grace Pres, York 5 pm—Youth at FPC; MPF at Grace	17 <i>Doug Shields Family</i>	18 <i>Betsy Skipper</i> *Louis Jordan, Jr. 7:30am-Prayer 10:30am— 3rd Tuesday Together 1 pm—Staff Meeting	19 <i>Raymond Sligh Family</i> 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	20 <i>Bryson Stoddard</i> *Grant Harris *Nate Husser 12pm— Nov. Tower Talk Due 6pm-Open AA Meeting	21 <i>William Stoddard, Jr. Family</i>  No School	22 <i>Bill Stoddard, Sr. Family</i> * Isolde Husser
23 <i>Lloyd Sutherland</i> Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: John & Sylvia Carson Greeter: Trudy White Guest Pastor— Rev. Marty Simmons 2 pm—Witness & Service Committee	24 <i>Sara Sutherland</i> *Lucy Fowler *Doug Shields *Beverly T. Jordan 6pm—Cong. Care Comm.	25 <i>Laura Leigh Todd</i> 7:30am-Prayer	26 <i>Mike Todd Family</i> 5:15-8:45pm- WNL	27 <i>James Vaughan Family</i> 5pm-Worship Comm. 6pm-Open AA Meeting	28 <i>Jessie Walker</i> 10am— Ellen Sagar Praise & Prayer	29 <i>Gary West Family</i> MPF to Pumpkin Patch—Time TBA
30 <i>Kevin West</i> *Bill Stoddard, Sr. 12:15-Dimes for Hunger Luncheon Nurs:Darla Love & Grant Harris Meals:Mike & Tracey Fowler Greeter:Cynthia Baker Guest Pastor: Rev. Jim Lowry	31 <i>Charles Whitaker, III.</i>  'All Hallow's Eve'			<b>WNL Schedule:</b> 5:15-6:00 Hand Bell Choir 6:30-7:30 Bible Study "Gifts of the Spirit" Fellowship Hall 7:45-8:45 Chancel Choir		