



PresbyPress

"Everyday...is the day the Lord has made—
Rejoice! and be glad in it!"

December 2009

The Pastor's Pew

Hans Lijle, a German pastor, was a prisoner of the Gestapo in Berlin on Christmas Eve, 1944. He requested that a brief worship service be held among the prisoners; and the man in charge very reluctantly permitted it.

It was just a bit of Scripture from memory and a prayer.

Through that short worship, Lijle was reminded that even though they were under the threat of death, God will shine a light from heaven to lead interested souls to Bethlehem.

Lijle later wrote:

***The promise of God remained true. Peace came among us.
It was real and present like a mighty hand laid gently upon us.***

Sometimes in moments when we least expect it we stumble across a starlight that leads us to the Savior of Bethlehem. When your night seems dark, God fills the sky with a light.

The Christmas season at its best
shines light on your darkness to give you hope and peace

In spite of difficult moments and discouragement
and because we live in a world often unfair and often unkind
Christmas declares that God will send a Light into the world
to shatter the darkness
and give us a Savior

***Jesus said, Where your treasure is stored,
there your heart will be***

Thank you for your tithes and your generous offerings. Thank you for submitting to us your Estimate of Giving for 2010. If you have not turned in a pledge card, this is your opportunity to recommit your life, time, talent, and financial resources to the Lord Jesus Christ and to share His Work in ministry through His Church. We give thanks to God for the treasure of life and the treasure of salvation in Christ Jesus, and we desire to share our blessed treasures with others. Please place your Estimate of Giving Card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. May God bless your gifts.



***Season Finale
WOW
Wednesday Night
December 10!***

5:45 pm	Dinner for All
Menu:	Chicken Broccoli Braid, scalloped potatoes green bean casserole, raspberry pecan salad sweet corn muffins, brownies
6:30 pm	MAD Wednesday (<i>Music & Drama</i>)
6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study "A Christmas Prayer"
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir

Poinsettias for Christmas and Music Ministry

This Christmas season you may make a poinsettia order or give to the Music Ministry Memorials. Poinsettias are \$10. Place in the offering plate or mail to the church, along with the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored. Recognition of memorials will be included in the bulletins at Christmas time. Deadline to order: December 6.



2009 Advent & Christmas Season

<u>Sunday, Dec. 6</u> 2 nd Sunday in Advent	Sacrament of Holy Communion 10:55 am Men of Praise featured
<u>Monday, Dec. 7</u>	Christmas Dinner for All 6:00 pm George Washington High School Choir (Fellowship Hall)
<u>Friday, Dec. 11</u>	Christmas Basket Assembly 6:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)
<u>Saturday, Dec. 12</u>	Christmas Basket Distribution 8:00 am (Fellowship Hall)
<u>Sunday, Dec. 13</u> 3 rd Sunday in Advent	Festival of Lessons & Carols 10:55 am Presby Pealers Handbells featured
<u>Sunday, Dec. 20</u> 4 th Sunday in Advent	Christmas Pageant 10:55 am Children & Teenagers featured
<u>Thursday, Dec. 24</u> Christmas Eve	Candlelight Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Cantata featured



Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins and Our Community

All Ages are invited to join us
on Sunday, December 13

We will meet at the church at 4:00 pm
All are invited to come & make a joyful noise!

December 11th: Assemble Food Baskets

You are invited to help assemble Christmas Food Baskets for 50 families of our community Friday, December 11, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Food Baskets will be given out on Saturday, December 12, starting at 8:00 am. If you would like to help assemble and/or distribute the baskets, please join us as we share in the joy of giving this Christmas!

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Christmas Basket missions project. Your support of Christmas Baskets through your generous time and financial contributions has allowed us to raise nearly \$4,000 this year. We especially want to thank all those helping hands who assisted with the luncheons, who have signed up to provide Christmas presents for 30 children, and those who are helping us collect and organize the baskets. As always, we could not do any of these things without your love and support. Thank you!

December 13th: Festival of Lessons and Carols

Do not miss our fourth annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, featuring the Presby Pealers Handbell Choir. Lessons and Carols is a format of Christian worship that remembers the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus as told in short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and the playing of handbells. Please bring a friend.



December 20th: Christmas Pageant

Join us during morning worship on Sunday, December 20, for this wonderful pageant featuring our children and teenagers.

CHRISTMAS! It will soon be time to make family Christmas plans at your home. This year as you make your plans, please put down the Christmas Eve Worship Service for 7:00 pm. Please note that this is a time change from last year. We are looking to the earlier hour so that most families will be able to attend. The Choir will perform a Cantata; and there will be much hymn singing, and the ever popular Festival of Lights.

Flowers



Glenn & Lee Snyder placed flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God, in honor of their **56th wedding anniversary**, and the **23rd wedding anniversary of Aaron & Cathy Johnson.**

Bill & Marsha Miller placed flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God, and in honor of their daughter, **Sarah**, in celebration of her **14th birthday**

Graham Shook placed flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God, in loving memory of his wife, **Leona**

George & Hersha Brown placed flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God, and in honor of **Anna Brown.**

George & Hersha Brown placed flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God, in celebration of their **4th wedding anniversary.**



Staff Christmas Gifts

You have the chance to show your LOVE for the members of our faithful, hardworking Staff of First Presbyterian. (These gifts do not include the Pastor). Please place your contribution in the offering plate or church office no later than Wed, December 17. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women



Council Meeting

December 3, 1:30 pm, Mizpah Room

Circle of Love

December 8, 7:30 pm, Parlor

It's time to celebrate the birth of Christ together at Circle Meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. Bring yourself, a friend, a gift for a Davis-Stuart girl, and a snack. Let's praise God with fellowship and Bible Study. We love to have visitors, so please come and join us!

Circle of Faith

December 10, 12:00 pm

*"Rejoice in the season and all of its grace.
Take heart in the blessings of comfort and faith."*

--T.J. Mills

Come celebrate with us the gift that God has given us, the gift of His beloved Son. All women are welcome to join us at 12:00 noon in the Mizpah Room. Marilyn Sherman will lead our Bible Study. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share (cookies, cheese ball, veggies, etc.).

Presbyterian Women Projects

Ringing-of-the-Bells for Heart & Hand will occur Friday, December 4, from 10 am until 4 pm. Please consider volunteering to help with this mission project; two volunteers are needed to fill each 30-minute slot

Mitten Tree: The Mitten Tree will be set up on the landing of the B Street church entrance to collect mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. **Stocking Stuffers** for Heart & Hand will be collected on two Sundays, December 6 and December 13. These are small, unwrapped items that are to be placed under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.



up on
to
be
and
under

Gift Bags for Davis Stuart: The Presbyterian Women are doing Christmas gift bags for the girls at Davis-Stuart, a Presbytery-supported home for troubled children. We are making gift bags for 17 girls this year. There is a box in the Mizpah Room for your donations. Please know the girls appreciate your gifts of love during this difficult time when they are away from their families for Christmas. If you wish to donate money, someone will be happy to do the shopping on your behalf. Suggested gift ideas include: Colored pencils, pens, makeup, jewelry, nail polish, jewelry, stationery, stuffed animals, purses, craft kits, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, barettes, head bands, and scarves. Deadline is December 6.

Cookies Wanted: Cookies and punch will be provided to the George Washington High School Chorus after their performance at the church Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 7. Please consider baking some cookies for this occasion. You may bring them to the church on Sunday. Any left-over cookies will be used for the baskets for the shut-ins.



Night of Music!
George Washington High School Chorus
Monday, December 7
Family Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm

Menu

Cornish hens with wild rice, green beans, corn, carrots
Waldorf salad, rolls, peppermint cheese cake

Adults \$ 6.00, Children \$ 3.00

George Washington High School Choir
Please call in your reservation to the church office.

Joy Gift Offering

We will receive our Joy Gift Offering during morning worship on Sunday, December 21st. Your contributions to this offering continue a Presbyterian tradition for over 70 years. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to provide support to retired church workers (before adequate pension plans) and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education.



With grateful hearts and generous gifts, Presbyterians reach out to members of our Christian family as God reaches out to us, saying,

Be not afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

News from the Pews



Thank You

I wish to thank my church family for their cards, visits, prayers, and kind thoughts, while I have been unable to attend church!

-Mildred Reger

Our Christian Sympathy and Support
to the family of Mary Ellen Brotherton

Address Update

Jim & Barbara Lyons

1704 Schiller Drive, Monroe, NC 28110

704-635-7494



Wednesdays, 6:35 pm
Mizpah Room

Ten Great Prayers of the Old Testament

For Those of Us Who Are Learning How to Pray

Dec 2	Job	Job 42
Dec 9	Luke	Luke 2

2010 Flower Calendar

The calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. We recommend that you sign up early if you desire a special date. Envelopes are located beside the calendar for your convenience. Place your completed envelope in the collection plate or drop it off in the church office. Cost is \$15.00 per arrangement.



The Elders invite all persons, all ages, members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston to share their time and talents.

Check out our Committees

Through eight committees, we share our gifts and resources. Together we “serve the Lord with gladness.” We ask that every person participate in a committee as a symbol of your desire to be an active member of this church fellowship. We are only as strong as the volunteers and dreamers who help us plan and prepare our church programming. You are needed. You do make a difference. Do not wait to be invited. One great thing about our church: There is something here for everyone.

Committees

A sample of what each does

Administration	Personnel, Evaluations, Nominations, Policies
Communication	Outreach, New Members, Shut-Ins, Sick
Education	Sunday School, Youth Group, VBS
Fellowship	Retreats, Bluestone, Meals, Wednesday Night
Missions	Local Projects, Evangelism, Mission Trips
Property	Buildings, Grounds, Repairs, Upkeep, Inventory
Stewardship	Budget, Campaign, Offerings, Long-Range
Worship	Music, Ushers, Communion, Guests

The work will not reach its full potential without you. Normally, committees meet each first Tuesday, except January, at 7:00 pm

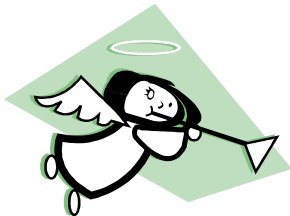
Breakfast with Santa

All children and their parents are invited to *Breakfast with Santa!* There will be food, games, reindeer rides, gift bags, and, of course, Santa. We invite you to bring your friends, neighbors, your grandchildren, and your camera. If you forget your camera, we'll be glad to take your picture with Santa.



Tickets are \$5.00 per person, children and adults, which includes breakfast. See Nancy Bennett, Sandy Melton or the CDC office for tickets.

Join us on Saturday, December 19, from 8:30 - 11:30 am. Come say hello to Santa, have breakfast, and support your Child Development Center.



The Chancel Choir will meet
at the Melton home
for their annual Christmas Party
7:00 pm
Saturday, December 12



Dec 2 Annabelle Hoppe
Dec 5 Jan Powell
Dec 12 Tina Amburgey
Dec 18 Margaret Byer
Von Carter
Dec 20 Bob Cruickshank
Dec 25 April Hall
Sharon Titus

First Presbyterian Church
508 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charleston, WV
Permit No. 81