



PresbyPress

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

December, 2011

The Pastor's Pew

At our home in our bookcase, there is a small angel figurine. This was given to us by a family member who has passed away; and so it has a very special meaning and we keep it in the bookcase year round. But a few years ago an accident occurred, and the tiny angel fell to the floor and was broken. Tears were shed, and at first I thought the piece was lost, but I agreed to try to glue the angel back together. Surprisingly enough, the pieces fit well enough, and when I was finished, we were very pleased. Now, standing and facing the bookcase in a normal way, you cannot tell that anything is wrong. However, if you pick up the angel, you can see the flaws. The angel is no longer perfect. There are cracks. There are imperfections.

All of us are like that angel. We are not perfect. We have fallen. In casual conversations we may look good, but get up close and you see the imperfections. We may think that our flaws are hidden. But God looks upon the human heart, and God sees us for what we really are.

***And the message of Christmas is quite simple.
God saw our brokenness and it moved God to tears.
God wanted to pick up the pieces of my life.
And God wanted to put me back together again***

The good news of Christmas is that God provides the glue to heal us, mend our flaws, our brokenness. It is not enough to say, Well, this is the way I am and you cannot teach an old dog new tricks. Not true. The good news of Christmas is that God has sent Jesus into the world and Jesus, as the Son of God, can change you. Wants to change you.

***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 2012. 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 simply mail it to the church office today. May God bless your tithes and gifts.



Season Finale!

***Wednesday Night
December 7!***

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|---------|---|
| 5:45 pm | Dinner for All
Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread
Spumoni Ice Cream |
| 6:30 pm | MAD Wednesday (<i>Music & Drama</i>) |
| 6:35 pm | Adult Bible Study |
| 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 \$15. 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 14.



2011 Advent Season

<u>Sunday, Dec. 4</u> 2 nd Sunday in Advent	Holy Communion	10:55 am
<u>Monday, Dec. 5</u>	Christmas Dinner for All Children's Chorus	6:00 pm
<u>Friday, Dec. 9</u>	Christmas Basket Assembly (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 pm
<u>Saturday, Dec. 10</u>	Christmas Basket Distribution (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 am
<u>Sunday, Dec. 11</u> 3 rd Sunday in Advent	Festival of Lessons & Carols Presby Pealers Handbells	10:55 am
<u>Sunday, Dec. 18</u> 4 th Sunday in Advent	Christmas Pageant Joy Gift Offering	10:55 am
<u>Saturday, Dec. 24</u> Christmas Eve	Candlelight Worship Special Music	7:00 pm
<u>Sunday, Dec. 25</u>	Christmas Sunday Worship	10:55 am



Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins and Our Community

All Ages are invited to join us
on Sunday, December 18th

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

December 9th: Assemble Food Baskets

You are invited to help assemble Christmas Food Baskets for 50 families of our community Friday, December 9, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Food Baskets will be given out on Saturday, December 10, 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 \$3,000 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 25 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 11th: Festival of Lessons and Carols

Do not miss our sixth 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 18th: Christmas Pageant

Join us during morning worship on Sunday, December 18, for this wonderful pageant featuring our children and teenagers.



Christmas Eve

Worship Service, 7:00 pm.

Special music by Trio Giocoso
and our Adult Choir

The ever-popular Festival of Lights.

Bring your family and be sure to invite a friend !
*This is a very meaningful worship service
and you do not want to miss it!*

We give thanks to God for those who
placed flowers in the sanctuary on
Sundays in November



Aaron & Cathy Johnson placed flowers in the
sanctuary to the glory of God, and in honor of
their **25th wedding anniversary**

Dave & Becky Smith placed flowers in the
sanctuary to the glory of God, and in honor of
David on the occasion of his birthday

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

Joe & Roberta Cooper placed flowers in the
sanctuary to the glory of God, and in celebration
of their **40th 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, who is Head of Staff). Please place your contributions in the offering plate or mail to the church no later than Thursday, December 15. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women



Council December 1, 1:00 pm, Mizpah Room

Circle of Faith December 8, 12:00 pm Mizpah Room

*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.

Circle of Love December 13, 7:00 pm, Parlor

It's time to celebrate the birth of Christ together at Circle Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. Bring yourself, a friend, and a snack. Let's praise God with fellowship and Bible Study. We love to have visitors, so please come and join us!

Presbyterian Women Projects

Ringing-of-the-Bells for Heart & Hand will occur Friday, December 9, 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 4 and December 11. These are small, unwrapped items that are to be placed under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.



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 15 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, stuffed animals, purses, stationery, craft kits, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, barettes, head bands, and scarves. Deadline is December 4.

Cookies Wanted: Cookies and punch will be provided to the Special Children's Chorus after their performance at the church Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 5. 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.



Memory Plaque

A plaque in memory of Oscar “the candy man” Fudge will hang inside the door of our cabin at Bluestone for all to see. This memorial plaque was donated by the Presbyterian Women. Edna Cobbs, daughter of Oscar Fudge, requested a Bluestone Fund be established for scholarships for children to attend camp and improvements to our First Presby Bluestone cabin.

Oscar was a long time member of our church and loved children. After Sunday school and church, Oscar always had candy and a big smile to give to the children every week, his special gift to children

News from the Pews



New Members

We welcome into our fellowship
Leigh Ann Adkins by re-affirmation of faith
Zeb Taylor by re-affirmation of faith.
We look forward to their Christian ministry among us.



Night of Music!
Special Children's Chorus
featuring children from
Piedmont Elementary School
and West Side Elementary School

Monday, December 5
Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm

Menu

Prime Rib Roast
Butter-Chive Potatoes, Carrots
Merry Christmas Jello Salad, Rolls, Variety Cake
Adults \$ 7.⁰⁰ , Children \$ 3.⁰⁰

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 18. 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.

Invitation to Service



The Elders invite all persons, all ages, members and friends of 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
Care	Outreach, New Members, Visit 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



The Chancel Choir will meet
at the Melton home
for their annual Christmas Party
7:00 pm
Saturday, December 17



Dec 2	Annabelle Hoppe
Dec 5	Jan Powell
	Jonathan Bailey
Dec 12	Tina Amburgey
Dec 18	Margaret Byer
	Von Carter
Dec 20	Bob Cruickshank
Dec 25	April Hall
	Sharon Titus
Dec 30	Emily Smith

A Chrismon Tree

A Chrismon Tree has been placed in our Sanctuary. The word Chrismon is a blend of CHRISt and MONograms; and they are symbols to communicate the faith and the Christmas story in particular. Early Christians often had to use symbols as a way to encourage friends in a world of persecution. All Chrismons are made in either white or gold, or a combination of the two. White suggests innocence, purity, and perfection of our Savior. Gold suggests royalty, glory, and majesty of Christ. In 1957, Mrs. Frances Spencer of the Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, Virginia, created the first Chismons. She desired to honor the Child, the Son of God.

First Presbyterian Church
508 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

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