

The PRESSbyterian

December 2011

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 4:** Advent Breakfast
Dec. 7: Christmas Pageant
Dec. 14: Handbell Program
Dec. 18: Special Music
Dec. 20: Primetime Lunch
Dec. 21: GTF Dinner
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service
Jan. 15: Sunday Morning Fellowship
Jan. 29: Community Fellowship Service

From the Pastor

Christians,

I am always excited when I see the people of God moved to ministry, mission and action. It is truly amazing what can happen when members of the church have directed discussion with each other, compassion for those who are in need and an interest in taking action. This Advent, a season where we commemorate the birth of Jesus and look expectantly for His return, three different ministries have emerged as a result of the "Advent Conspiracy" study we conducted for three weeks in GTF. The mission opportunities are:

- 1. ADOPT-A-FAMILY.** Each Advent, FPC provides an opportunity for church members to adopt a family, child, individual or others who are in need. This year, under the leadership of Retta Guthrie, Phyllis Buie and Jennifer Turner, we are expanding this program. They ask that you visit the Centre, sign up for a person or family in need and purchase a gift. Do not wrap your gift. Instead, on **Sunday, December 11, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Centre**, we will have a light dinner, collect the gifts and wrap them as a church. This will be a time of fellowship and allow the church, not just individuals in the church, to be a part of adopt-a-family. Please see their article in this month's *PRESSbyterian* (page 2) for more details.
- 2. On WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**, the Wednesday before Christmas, FPC will host a dinner for the children, parents and volunteers of the Good News Club, a Christian after-school program that teaches the basics of faith and builds relationships with those who are underprivileged. Also invited to the dinner are the Samaritan House residents, the children and staff of Connie Maxwell (a local orphanage) and some seniors from the Council on Aging. Please see the article in this month's *PRESSbyterian* (page 3) for more information.
- 3. ADVENT COLLECTION.** We are collecting your pocket change for the Free Medical Clinic here in Orangeburg through January 5, 2012. A collection jar labeled "Advent collection for Free Medical Clinic" will be located in the Centre. Please see the article in this month's *PRESSbyterian* (page 5) for more information.

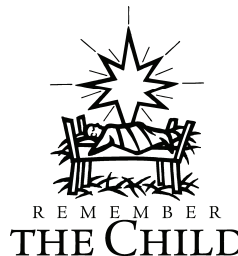
I encourage you to support these ministries and missions. They have emerged out of your comments and stirrings of the Holy Spirit to be an active agent in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world! Through ministries like these, Christians will always be the light of the world. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,
Jud

Church Office
Congregational Care
Prayer Chain
534-0088

Church/Fellowship Hall
533-1235

FAX
534-1242





Chrismon Program

Our annual Chrismon program will be held Wednesday night, November 30th, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All three children's choirs will sing, and the children will decorate our two Chrismon trees. The youth will participate also, reading about some of the Christian symbols we use during the Advent and Christmas seasons.



Handbell Concert

The Middle School, High School, and Adult Handbell Choirs will ring Christmas music on Wednesday night, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. This annual program will be held in the sanctuary. Settings of favorite carols will be performed by over 30 handbell ringers.



Chancel Choir Music

The adult choir will present *Holy Light*, a service of Christmas music, on Sunday morning, December 18th. Arrangements of familiar carols by Robert Hobby will be presented. Poetry written by Susan Palo Cherwien will be read by choir member Beth Nichter.

Sylvia Trimmier

Adopt-A-Family 2011

In Matthew 5:46-48 God tells us to move outside of our comfort zone and beyond loving just those who love us.

"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

Let's be faithful to the true meaning of Christmas and show our Christian love to those who need a helping hand and a shining light. Who knows? We may even find a new, deeper meaning ourselves.

The Adopt-A-Family Committee is offering a variety of opportunities and options this year. You may:

- Adopt an entire family
- Adopt a child or children within a family
- Adopt a foster child who needs someone to care
- Provide a gift or two for a mother struggling to care for her family
- Provide household goods for a family in need
- Provide a gift card from a grocery store or Wal Mart for a family
- Provide wrapping paper, bows, tape, etc.

Come by the Centre to sign up!

Posters and instructions will be along the walls of the Gym. Do this as a family. Do this as an individual. Do this as a Sunday School Class. Do this with your Circle. Do this as a Prayer Group. Do this with a friend...or two. **JUST DO IT!** And do it soon.



We will wrap it all up on Sunday, December 11th, at 5:00 p.m. Bring your gifts to the Centre for the first ever Presbyterian "wrapping party." Afterwards we will enjoy a light supper. See you there!

In Christ,
Phyllis, Jennifer and Retta

Orphan Awareness Month

November was designated as Orphan Awareness Month. Please be in prayer for the many children both in the United States as well as other countries throughout the world who have no family or home. Let us be mindful of the welfare of those who cannot care for themselves, as James 1:27 instructs us to look after orphans and widows in their distress.

Cheryl Laing



Growing Through Fellowship

First Presbyterian Church, Orangeburg, SC

Growing Through Fellowship, or GTF, was begun to strengthen the bond of friendship and fellowship within the members of First Presbyterian Church. It's more than a meal or hearing an interesting topic ... it's being a part of a community of believers, **our family**.

- December 7** Children's Christmas Pageant (p. 3)
Program will be at 6:00 p.m., followed by the meal at approximately 6:45 p.m.
- December 14** Handbell Concert (p. 2)
- December 21** Dinner with guests from the community (p. 3)

Please note that reservations for the meal must be made **by noon on Monday** of each week. The total count is given to our caterer at that time and it cannot be changed.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

6:00 p.m.

Prime Time Lunch

December 20, 2011 - Noon in the Centre

Reservations are important for this special day!
Please call the church office (534-0088).

Presbyterian Women

Circle Schedule ❖ Tuesday, December 13

- Circle 1:** 11:30 a.m. Centre
- Circle 2:** 10:00 a.m. Conference Room
- Circle 3:** 6:00 p.m. Jane Shuler
250 Keitt
- Circle 4:** 7:00 p.m. Nancy Runager
516 Rutledge

GTF On December 21

Based on the responses from the survey after the GTF programs on Advent Conspiracy, we will have GTF on the 21st and have guests from the community. We are inviting the children from our Good News Club and their parents, the GNC volunteers, residents from Samaritan House, children and staff from Connie Maxwell and maybe some seniors from Council on Aging. Please join us and help demonstrate the love of the Holy Spirit and friendliness of FPC. We will have a meal, sing Christmas carols, and fellowship. All are invited.

Kaye Borgstedt



All children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews from 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to participate in our Christmas pageant. Our only practice is on Sunday, December 4th, at which time costumes will be given out. If your child can not be here, please see me for a costume and song sheet. **NOTE: The pageant is at 6:00 and supper is afterwards so all pageant participants must be here at 5:30.**

Kaye Borgstedt
534-0088

Sunday Mornings in December

ADVENT BREAKFAST

Our Advent breakfast and program is on Sunday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the Centre. We will have breakfast and a short program so folks can still meet with their Sunday School class.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Join us in the Centre at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 11, for coffee, juice, danish and fellowship before the Youth drama, "Impersonating a Christian."

IMPERSONATING A CHRISTIAN

If you were charged in a court of law with impersonating a Christian, how would you plead and would the "evidence" support your plea? Our Youth have been researching this question and have prepared a drama giving the results. The youth, their teachers and "court" resources have been working diligently on this drama, so let's support them on Sunday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. immediately after the Sunday morning fellowship. This is a learning opportunity for our entire congregation.

Kaye Borgstedt

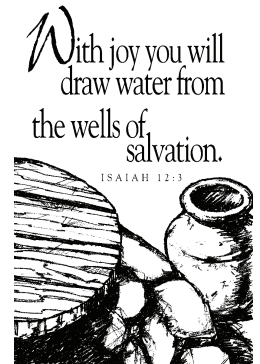
John Knox Sunday School Class Breakfast



December 4, 2011
9:15 a.m.
at the home of
Ted and M.C. Evans

The Well

For the serious and the curious, *The Well* is a new adult Sunday School class that will include a short devotion, intercessory prayer and Bible study. The class will begin January 8 with a study of the Gospel of Mark. Couples, singles, young and mature are all welcome. Come with your Bible and a desire to learn together what it means to know Jesus as Lord of life. Class will meet upstairs in the Centre at 9:45. For more information, contact Harris Murray at hcmurray1955@gmail.com or at 531.2498.



Children's Church and Nursery Schedules

	Infant Nursery	Two-to-Four Year-olds	Children's Church
December 4	Morgan Clark	Dee Anne and Logan Miller	Earl and Lillian Whalen
December 11	Logan Miller	Erin Bowers/Ginger Weigle	Melissa and Tripp Plummer
December 18	Lauren Arant	Margaret and Riley Frierson	Tracey and Robbie Myers

Memorials

Given in Memory of

John Murphy Virginia McCormick Leslie McCormick

Given by

Kingsville Baptist Church Mrs. Ruth McCormick

Note of Thanks

Dear church family,

Thank you so much for your care and concern for Anna Kate and William. We really appreciate all your phone calls, visits, cards, and meals. It is so wonderful to be cared for by so many! We really felt your prayers! God bless you all.

Love,
Beth, William, and Anna Kate Kuck

Youth News

- The Youth are pleased to invite the *Primetimers* to join us during our regular Sunday night fellowship on December 4 from 6:00-7:30. We are looking forward to sharing a meal and participating in some games and activities. Last year's event was a lot of fun, so I hope you'll join us. If you would like to ride on the church bus, please call Sarah (534-0088).
- From November 30 – December 11, the youth will be participating in *Socks for Santa*. This is a drive to collect new socks for our young friends at Mellichamp Elementary. Please help provide this basic essential by bringing new socks (children's and adult sizes) to a labeled box in the Fellowship Hall. We are also taking donations of new and gently used belts (children's and adults sizes). Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Youth Events

December 4	Youth and Primetimers Meal
December 11	Youth Caroling
December 18	Zoo Lights

Sarah Coggins

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Children's Party

- ★ There will be a children's Christmas party (2nd–5th grade) on **December 21** from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be eating lunch and doing Christmas activities. If your child is planning on attending, please let Sarah know by December 15.
- ★ The party for 4K–1st grade will be **December 20** from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a snack and will be doing lots of fun Christmas activities. If your child is planning on attending, please let Sarah know by December 15.

Sarah Coggins



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 18. This annual PCUSA offering assists retired and current church workers who experience urgent financial needs, and helps to support Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

December Birthdays

12/02 Hugh Hicklin	12/18 Paula Paul
Ryan Denman	Geni Gillespie
Anna Brake Plummer	Clay Lee
12/03 Warren Albergotti	Eric Laux, Jr.
12/04 Frances Lytch	12/19 Caroline Bryant
12/05 Ashton Gue	12/20 John Brailsford
Jay Plummer	Amber Hutto
12/09 David Allen	Debbie Gramling
Christopher Gramling	Amy Holt
12/10 Joyce Hicklin	Cap Thackston
Jimmy Guthrie	12/21 Riley Frierson
12/12 Bill Medders	12/23 David Gillespie
Taylor Marcus	Cameron Gramling
12/13 Jill Kelley	12/29 Carol Farnum
Vivian Bryant	Ricky Pooser
12/15 Austin Salley	Lee Ann Wofford
Mark Dudley	12/30 Carolyn Moe
Angela Thompson	Tripp Garick
Robbie Mims	Kyle Crabb
12/16 Frank Farnum	Kayla Mims
12/17 Jack Rash	12/31 Alice Flansburg
Brantley Boltin	
Council Burroughs	

GTF Advent Conspiracy Results

Results from the Advent Conspiracy survey:

- Give money on Wednesday nights (19)
- Buy one less present and donate that money (24)
- Donate loose change (20)
- Collect soup, etc. for Council on Aging (21)
- Invite Good News Club members and Samaritan House residents for a meal and fellowship (26)
- Give any money collected to the Free Medical Clinic (an overwhelming number).

Kaye Borgstedt

Productive Waiting

How many times every day do you have to wait --- stoplights, checkout lines, doctors' offices, carpooling and the list goes on and on. What do you do while waiting? We have options: either we can fuss, complain and get angry or we can be productive. Obviously the positive choice is to be productive. How? While waiting at a stoplight, pray for those waiting with you and for those "going." In checkout lines, smile and greet those around you while observing to see if there is someone who needs help and again, pray for them. In offices or other places, if it is possible, why not keep a devotional book with you and study the Word of God while waiting?

You can think of many more instances of waiting and being productive. We have all been taught that Advent is a season of waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. We know that a productive use of this time needs to be spent in preparation. Preparation for what? Just to celebrate on Christmas? Just to go to church especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Just go somewhere and be taught?

Preparation includes all of these things but we must remember we need to prepare ourselves. We must spend time on our knees in prayer asking God to prepare our hearts and minds. We must spend time in Bible study searching God's Word for direction for our lives. We must remember that Jesus was a King who intentionally left His kingdom to be born in a manger and to die on the cross for me and you. We must concentrate on the sacrifices Jesus made for us as we leave the hustle and bustle of the world view of Christmas and quietly and simply focus on the Christian world view. After all, Jesus gave His very life to die for our sins and was resurrected to save us. How can we not spend some quiet time EVERY day with Jesus? What is 20 minutes out of 24 hours to devote to Him who

gave His life for us? Try it and set the habit so that you continue after Advent.

We are supplying Advent/Epiphany devotion books as well as Advent "logs" and activities for children and youth. Our prayer is that you will use them for yourself and as a time of family worship as you prepare for Christ and Epiphany. Then, let's continue the practices of prayer, Bible study, and worship individually, as a family and corporately and maybe add some of the spiritual disciplines such as fasting, meditation, etc. as each of us resolves to grow deeper in our relationship with our Savior. Remember the last question we were asked at the revival, "Who is in control of your life---you or the Holy Spirit?" We know the Holy Spirit is our resource and empowers us as we spend the time in "growing deeper." The Holy Spirit gives us the power for transforming lives as we fulfill the will of God for each of us.

Answers to some previous questions.

- Jesus and Elijah spent 40 days in the "desert."
- Psalms, with 150 psalms is the longest book in the Bible while 2 John is the shortest with 13 verses.
- Jude and Philemon both have 25 verses.

New Questions: Who are the Major Prophets?

- Barak told what prophetess that he would not go into battle for the Lord against Sisera unless she went with them? Did she?
- Why was Barak not successful and what woman was? See Judges, chapter 4.

Kaye Borgstedt
Christian Educator Coordinator



PRESSbyterian Deadline

January Issue: December 12, 2011

Community of Character

December Character Trait: Leadership

Watch Your Mailbox !

Your 2012 Contribution Envelopes will be mailed the week of 12/27/11 in time for Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Thank you so much for using your envelopes! It is a great help to the counting team!

Thank You!!

- ★ Many, many thanks to Jimmie Paul for his hard work with the **Kirkin' o' the Tartans**. God bless you and your family.

Worship Unit

- ★ **The Thanksgiving Box Team** would like to thank everyone for their help in making this ministry a success once again this year. With all of your support, we were able to deliver 67 boxes to needy families this year. We would like to give a special thank you to those who volunteered their time to help deliver the boxes. What a blessing to see the gratitude on these families' faces when we arrive to deliver these boxes. It is a humbling experience to witness how needy these families are, and how grateful they are for our help. What a blessing to serve with such a caring church family.

Michelle Arant

- ★ **Advent Thanks To**

- ★ Jack Dudley for making the Advent Logs for our church family
- ★ Renn Guthrie for the cover art for the Advent/Christmas devotion book
- ★ Billie Alexander for typing and compiling the book
- ★ each "author"
- ★ Denise Seymore for printing it

Kaye Borgstedt

The Trees

The trees stand so straight and tall,
The young men placed them so they wouldn't fall.

The lights and Chrismons were placed with care,
As so many participated to do their share.

The trees could tell a story on so many events -
As the grief of a funeral or the joy of a wedding lent.

The little children as they re-enacted the Christ child's birth.
The joy in their eyes and hearts as the trees tell their past worth.

Then there was Christmas Eve with Communion shared by all,
Remembering His birth and life and the greatest gift of all.

The lighting of the Advent Wreath as the tall trees add their glow,
But the stories the trees tell will live in our hearts for all to know.

Each Chrismon tells its story of long hours of loving work,
That brought memories of loved ones whose chores they did not shirk.

They will take their place on the trees as each Christmas Season nears,
And will hold in our hearts forever those we love so dear.

Nancy Runager

Prayer Team

A group meets in the sanctuary on Mondays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in directed prayer, praying for revival—individual and corporate, our congregation, our pastor and leaders, our denomination, and families. We have prayer guides and the sanctuary is open for each person to find a "prayer spot" for their prayers (no one has to pray aloud) from 9:45 until 10:30 at which time we meet in the parlor for any discussion and closing benediction. We would love for you to join us—if not every Monday, then the Mondays you are available. Please call Kaye Borgstedt (534-0088 ext. 108), if you need more information or are interested in joining us in this rewarding ministry.

Kaye Borgstedt

You Are Invited

to the
Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
Christmas Drop-In

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

11:30a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the Presbytery Office
2421 Ashley River Road
Charleston, South Carolina

Please let the presbytery know if you plan to attend.
843.766.4219 or bburger@capresbytery.org.

First Presbyterian Church December Calendar

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27



9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Trees placed in sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Youth I Handbells
5:00 p.m. Youth II Handbells
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study: *McDonald's*
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Centre
11:00 a.m. Mother Goose on the Loose
11:30 a.m. 30-Minute Fellowship Service
6:00 p.m. G.T.F. Dinner
6:30 p.m. G.T.F.—Chrismon Program
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:15 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study: *IHOP*
9:30 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
10:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Basketball: Centre

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4



9:15 a.m. John Knox Class Party
9:30 a.m. Advent Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Youth I Handbells
5:00 p.m. Youth II Handbells
6:00 p.m. Youth & Prime Timers Fellowship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:45 a.m. Prayer Team: Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *Kuckery*
11:30 a.m. Pastor's Lunch at *The Oaks*
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting: Parlor
6:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7



7:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study: *McDonald's*
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Centre
11:30 a.m. 30 Minute Fellowship Service
6:00 p.m. G.T.F.—Christmas Pageant
6:45 p.m. G.T.F. Dinner
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:15 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study: *IHOP*
9:30 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
10:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Basketball: Centre

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Youth Drama
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Youth I Handbells
5:00 p.m. Youth II Handbells
5:00 p.m. Adopt-a-Family Wrapping Party
6:00 p.m. Youth Caroling

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:45 a.m. Prayer Team: Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *Kuckery*
10:00 a.m. Circle 2: Conference Room
11:30 a.m. Circle 1: Centre
6:00 p.m. Circle 3: Jane Shuler
7:00 p.m. Circle 4: Nancy Runager

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14



7:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study: *McDonald's*
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
11:30 a.m. 30-Minute Fellowship Service
6:00 p.m. G.T.F. Dinner
6:30 p.m. G.T.F.—Handbell Concert
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:15 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study: *IHOP*
9:30 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
10:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Basketball: Centre

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18



9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship: Special Music
5:00 p.m. Youth: Riverbanks Zoo lights
6:00 p.m. Caroling: Adult Choir

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:45 a.m. Prayer Team: Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *Kuckery*
12:00 p.m. Prime Time Lunch: Centre
3:00 p.m. Christmas Party: 4K-1st grade

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Christmas Party: 2nd-5th grade
11:30 a.m. 30-Minute Fellowship Service
6:00 p.m. G.T.F. Dinner

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:15 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study: *IHOP*
9:30 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
6:30 p.m. Basketball: Centre

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *Kuckery*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
11:00 a.m. 30 Minute Fellowship Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:15 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study: *IHOP*
9:30 a.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
6:30 p.m. Basketball: Centre

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Orangeburg, SC

Permit No. 401



And he will
be called...
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

December 2011



Merry Christmas

from all of us to all of you!

Church staff