

**The First  
Presbyterian Church**  
16 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV  
25301-2487

**EMAIL: firstpresby@  
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www.firstpresby.com

**Bill McCoy**  
Pastor

**Jim Roberts**  
Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care

**Bob Newman**  
Director of Lay Academy

**Richard Lamb**  
Parish Associate

**Jim Buckalew**  
Fellowship, Recreation  
and Property

**Robin Harlow**  
Visitors/New Members

**Barbara Hopta**  
Director of Child/Family  
Ministry

**Jackie Lilly**  
Business Administrator

**Mary Odin**  
Director of Music Ministry

**Ginna Taylor**  
Preschool Director

**Sue Webster**  
Community Ministry

**Kathy Bruner**  
Child Care Coordinator

**Debbie Eads**  
Children's Choir

**Tom Daugherty**  
Librarian

**Fred Gaul**  
Organist

**Beth Leister**  
Interim Youth Ministry

**FACILITY STAFF**  
Lee Richardson, Supervisor  
Sherry Ball  
Claude Churchwell  
Howard Johnson  
Kim Moles

**SUPPORT STAFF**  
Ina Armstrong  
June Mills  
Jenny Pitchford  
Marilyn Walbe

**MISSION WORKERS**  
Carl Agsten & Leslie Clay-  
Nicaragua  
Art & Sue Kinsler-Korea  
Jolana & Stefan Nather  
-Slovak Republic  
Presbyterian Fair Trade Project

**MINISTERIAL  
CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS**

Kate Hopta  
Robert Peterson

**PASTORS EMERITI**  
Thornton W. Tucker  
P. Douglas Heidt  
A. D. Ellison

# First Presby News

**December 2010** • Volume XLIII, Issue 12

*First Presbyterian Church will strive to be a welcoming home, a beacon of  
Christ's light arising from inspiring worship and loving discipleship.*

**Sunday Worship Times: 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Radio Broadcast at 11:00 a.m. on 580 AM WCHS**

Phone: (304) 343-8961 Fax: (304) 343-8970

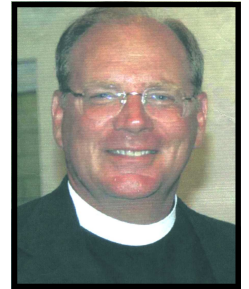


## FROM THE PASTOR:

If you are of the World War II generation or if you are a World War II history buff, you will likely know of the rescue of the Allied defenders of Bastogne in December, 1944. The German military had launched a surprise winter counter offensive to reverse their losses. They desperately needed the crossroads of Bastogne but the American 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, The 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, and elements of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division got there first and, surrounded and greatly outnumbered, held on. That is where the Brigadier General McAuliffe famously answered the German demand for surrender with one word, "Nuts!" General George Patton's Third Army launched into battle having moved more soldiers farther and faster than any other military unit in history. It was an astounding rescue mission of a group of soldiers heroically holding strategic ground, vital to the reclaiming of the free nations of Europe.

It is interesting that it all happened at Christmastime when, in essence, we celebrate the arrival of God in our world as one of us, come to carry out the greatest rescue mission in all of history: the rescue of the human race, locked in battle, struggling to secure and live in our God-given life and liberty of mind, soul and spirit. That is a battle which we cannot, and can never, of ourselves, win either individually or corporately. Just as the Battle and Rescue of Bastogne is revered because of the great heroism and cost of its victory, in the sacrifice of life, so we recognize that the rescue mission we celebrate each Christmas is one of infinite heroism which cost Jesus Christ more than we can imagine or understand. Christ came on a rescue mission for you and for me. As such He experienced the joys and challenges of growing up, falling in love with this life and its richness of family, friendships and fellowships, only to willingly lay it down for us, you and me, in the greatest rescue and the greatest gift given and received in all of human history. As we once again enter the hustle and bustle of giving and receiving gifts this year, as we celebrate the gift of family and friends, may it be a reminder of that infinitely precious gift given to us by God in the coming of Jesus. And may His grace fill your life.

Bill McCoy



*Merry Christmas!*

*Bill*

Bill

**The LIGHT  
Shines in the  
DARKNESS...**

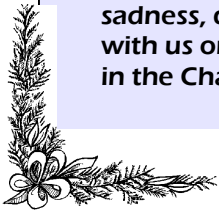


## PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Our Preschool parents and families are always thrilled and inspired during the Preschool Christmas worship. Join them in the sanctuary on December 14 or 15, at 12:15 p.m.

### THINKING YOU MIGHT HAVE A "BLUE CHRISTMAS?"

If Christmas reminds you of some loss or sadness, come and worship with us on December 9 in the Chapel at 6:45 p.m.



## WE ARE PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

**Thomas Bond Love**, daughter of Emily and Chad Love, was baptized on November 21, 2010.

We congratulate this family and welcome their child into this family of God.



## GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER

Congratulations to Gini Lucas on the birth of her first great-granddaughter, Alexa Rose Obers, on November 5. Alexa and her parents, Jennifer and Scott Obers, live in Dublin, Ohio.

## Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 15, will include an early Wednesday Connections supper at 5:30 followed by a Christmas Celebration in the Sanctuary at 6:15. **Christmas Caroling aboard the Trolleys starts at 7:00.** Cookies and hot chocolate will be served in the Recreation Room from 7:45-8:15.



## PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

- Captain Gene Seiter**, Army near Kabul, Afghanistan, nephew of Carolyn Sturgeon
- Eric Wilson**, Navy
- Frankie Bottorff**, Navy, San Diego, CA
- Brian Leister**, Citadel
- Ryan Hovis**, United States Coast Guard, Yorktown, VA, son of Tammy Hovis
- Shelly Park**, Iraq, granddaughter of Sarah and Mac McGriff
- 2nd Lt. Stephen Bruner**, Army, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA
- 1st Lt. Matthew M. Bruner**, Army, Fort Stewart, GA
- Edwin Anderson**, US, cousin of Mary Odin
- Airman 1st Class Caitlin Workman**, Omaha, NE, granddaughter of Pat Workman
- Airman 1st Class Franz S. Workman IV**, Moody AFB, GA, grandson of Pat Workman
- Warrant Officer David McDarmont**, Iraq, son of Liz O'Finan
- Owen Brown**, US Navy, Pensacola, FL, son of Earle Brown
- David Rucker**, Germany, nephew of Barbara Brown
- Donald Boylen**, VA, grandson of Dick and Becky Smith

*Please call the church office to keep this information current. Thank you.*

## SIX GREAT DATES: Date # 3 December 10

With this the third of our "Six Great Dates" we invite you to come and learn how to enrich your marriage. We are using Dr. Lowery's *Balanced & Blessed* DVD series. **The topic will be "The Difference Your Differences Can Make."** With his usual humor, **Dr. Lowery will address the issue of "Why you're so normal and your mate is so weird."** Jim and Diane Roberts will facilitate the discussion following the video. This program is for couples of any age. After the discussion, you have the next two hours for your date du jour.

Remember that we have free child care from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. We **DO NEED** you to call the church to make a child care reservation. This allows us to plan how many child care workers we will need.

It's okay if you missed the previous Great Date. You can "catch up" on what you missed by reading that lesson in the participants book (\$5 each). Contact the church office for a book.

See you on Friday night, December 10!

- Jim Roberts

## BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK

If you haven't had your blood pressure checked recently, please stop by the church library on Sunday, December 12. A parish nurse will be ready to assist you.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations to the following who will be celebrating a "90 and over" birthday during December:

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Mary Williams     | Dec. 3  |
| James McLaughlin  | Dec. 7  |
| Margaret Shepherd | Dec. 8  |
| Mattie Bowling    | Dec. 15 |
| Helen Marble      | Dec. 25 |

# CHILD AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Prayer

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the love You have shown us in Jesus. Help us to "be Christmas" in the way we put our feelings into action and care for others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## Blessing for Meals

Thank you for the world so sweet;  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing;  
Thank you, God, for everything!

## Bible Verse

You, LORD God, bless everyone who cares for the poor, and You rescue those people in times of trouble.

(Psalm 41:1 CEV)

## Word of the Month: Care

When we put our feelings of wanting to help others into action, we show that we care for them. The Christmas story reminds us that God came to us in Jesus Christ to show God's care for all people.

## What You Can Give

The Christmas Joy Offering provides help and care for our racial ethnic schools and colleges. It also helps our older members who need housing or nursing care. One way to say thank you for God's gifts in your life is to show God's care for others by sharing your gifts. Remember to share what you have as you set aside coins for the Christmas Joy Offering.

## Did You Know?

The twelve days of Christmas are from Christmas Day through January 5. January 6 is Epiphany, when we celebrate the wise men coming to see Jesus. The season of Advent, a time of preparation, begins this year on November 28. As you prepare for Christmas this year, try taking a few moments each day to reflect on the day. Where did I see God today? For what am I thankful today? How can I spread God's love tomorrow?

(Portions taken from 2010 Children's Mission Yearbook)

## A Christmas in Bethlehem

Can you imagine being in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve? Mission co-worker Doug Dicks lives in Jordan now, but he used to live in Bethlehem. He decided to go to Bethlehem for Christmas last year. He loved seeing old friends and feeling the excitement in the air as the town got ready for the annual Christmas celebrations.

On Christmas Eve, the local scout troops marched up Star Street, an old, narrow street with an ancient archway. It is believed to be the entrance into Bethlehem at the time when Joseph and Mary would have arrived there right before Jesus was born. People from all over the world gathered to watch the scouts and religious leaders parade into Manger Square to start the official Christmas season.

As Doug attended a Christmas Eve service, the congregation sang one of his favorite carols, "On the Night of Christmas." The words filled him with joy.

*"When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person, we are in Christmas. When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes, we are in Christmas. When we cushion a hopeless heart with love, we are in Christmas. On the night of Christmas...hatred will vanish...the earth blooms...war is buried...love is born."*

Let this be our song in the season of Christmas and throughout the whole year!



## Advent and Christmas Events

**Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 5, at 9:45 a.m. in the Dining Room:** The Child/Family Committee invites you to this annual event. Children of all ages, their parents and others are invited to create ornaments, angels, nativities, cards, and wrapping paper using various art media.

**Children's Christmas Tableau:** Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are needed to register for the Tableau, our annual 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship service. Complete the return postcard you receive in the mail, or call the Christian Education office by December 6. Tableau costuming will take place on December 12 at noon following 11:00 worship. Come and be fitted on the third floor classrooms. (We rehearse on Sunday, December 19 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.)



**On Sunday, December 19,** "the class" will present "Open Hearts in Bethlehem" at 9:45 a.m. in the Dining Room. This reader's theatre is a Christmas musical drama by Kenneth E. Bailey. All children, youth, and adults are invited to attend. (Young children's classes will meet as usual.)

**Sunday, December 19:** Tableau rehearsal 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

At 4:00 the Tableau participants will gather in the Ruffner Room, one hour prior to the worship service.

**Christmas Tableau at 5:00 p.m.**

**Candlelight Worship at 11:00 p.m.**



## FINANCE DIVISION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2010



<u>Month of October</u>	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 85,000	\$ 81,241	\$ (3,759)
Trustee Funds:	6,950	7,380	430
Other Revenue:	10,020	9,882	(138)
Total Income:	101,970	98,503	(3,467)
Expenses:	116,133	116,533	400
<b>Net Income (loss):</b>	<b>\$ (14,163)</b>	<b>\$ (18,030)</b>	<b>\$ (3,867)</b>

<u>Year to date: 2010</u>	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 860,000	\$ 831,339	\$ (28,661)
Trustee Funds:	255,745	254,694	(1,051)
Other Revenue:	148,822	142,192	(6,630)
Total Income:	1,264,567	1,228,225	(36,342)
Expenses:	1,303,625	1,284,426	(19,199)
<b>Net Income (loss):</b>	<b>\$ (39,058)</b>	<b>\$ (56,201)</b>	<b>\$ (17,143)</b>

### LIVING CARBON-NEUTRAL LIVES

The 217th General Assembly PC(USA) 2006 strongly urged all Presbyterians to live carbon neutral lives and to act boldly to lead the way in reducing our energy usage. This included reduction of emissions in transportation, food production, packaging, and shipment.

**In 2008 the 218th General Assembly approved an overture requesting Presbyterian congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly Styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable shopping bags, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles.** Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.

Styrene in Styrofoam and the metabolites and byproducts of many plastics can have toxic effects on humans. Traditional plastic bottles can take 1,000 years to degrade. In the US, more than 40 million bottles a day become trash. We can both reduce the number of plastic bottles we purchase and recycle the ones we do buy.

**In October, the Session of First Presby passed a policy to utilize washable dishes, cups and utensils when possible (in the Dining Room, in classrooms/meetings rooms) and to use disposable goods which are made from recycled products and/or are biodegradable when possible.** In the Dining Room, washable cups, saucers, mugs will be used. Coffee carts may use disposable cups. We are trying out 8 oz. hot cups made from renewable resources that are BPI certified compostable.

We are also challenged in our everyday lives. Remember not to purchase bottled water, but instead to carry along a container of tap water. How about re-using that fast food drink cup? Some restaurants will discount the cost of your soda when you bring back the cup. Have in your car one cup from each fast food establishment you frequent so that you may reuse it.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENTERS ITS FIFTH YEAR

**Next year, 2011, will be the final year of our 5-year Capital Campaign.** To date we have received \$4,685,513 of the \$5,390,800 pledged to the campaign. The capital improvement component of the campaign included the sanctuary exterior and stained glass window restoration, the installation of new, energy-efficient windows in the Education Building, upgrades to the sanctuary sound system, and replacement over 10 years of the 70 HVAC units in our classrooms and offices.

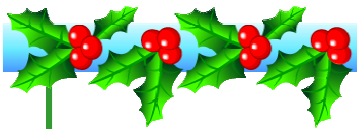
**A second component of the Capital Campaign is the funding of an endowment to produce annual income for all of the HVAC needs of the church.**

The original target for this fund was \$1,200,000. However, since the total goal of the campaign was not attained, the full funding of that account will most likely be nearer to \$950,000.

**The final component of the campaign is a 10% tithe to mission.** As recently reported in the newsletter and bulletin the Session awarded over \$434,000 in mission grants this fall. Recipients ranged from local organizations such as Union Mission and Rea of Hope, to international groups such as the Firelight Foundation and Mayan Families. Several projects will be implemented directly by our members such as a Habitat for Humanity build and Living Waters for the World installations in Nicaragua.

As we continue to receive the final \$660,000 in contributions next year, those dollars will complete the HVAC unit replacement and endowment fund, with 10% continuing to be set aside for additional mission projects.

God has truly blessed our church family, and provided us with many opportunities to bless future generations at First Presby, in West Virginia and around the world.



You are invited to the

## Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

December 16, 12:00

Featuring Our Own Dynamic Duo:

Mary and Wayne Odin



Also join us for Prayer at 11:30 a.m. in Room A-201.

Call the church at 304-343-8961 by  
December 13 for a lunch reservation.



### JOIN PW AS WE STUDY THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

DATE	NAME	CIRCLE CHAIR	PLACE	TIME
Dec. 9	Mary	Betty Damewood 346-4417	Edgewood Summit	10:00 a.m.
Dec. 9	Martha	Kay Lamb 744-2444 Ruth Hayes 346-1723	E-406, Bring a "brown bag" lunch.	
Dec. 8	Rebecca (Dinner)	Jarve Currence 746-0615 Sarah Roach 342-3353	A-201. Call to make a dinner reservation.	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Hannah	Orita Bonnett 744-9745	A-204	<del>10:30</del> 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 16	Ruth	Betty Ann Morton 344-4507 Ruth Pitchford 346-8494	A-201	<del>10:30</del> 10:30 a.m.

## NOTE OF "THANKS"

Over the year many of you have provided reception cookies. Your wonderful baking and your heart-felt help has been appreciated. You have stirred, layered, baked, and packaged delicious sweets. Your comfort food has helped many families during times of grief.

Please accept this note of thanks from your church congregation:

**"Thank you!"**



### DAILY BIBLE VERSES

- ~~12/1:~~ Luke 10:1-30 a.m.
- ~~12/2:~~ Psalm 23 10:30 a.m.
- ~~12/3:~~ Matthew 7:24
- ~~12/4:~~ Psalm 27:14
- 12/5:** Isaiah 30:19-20
- 12/6:** Philippians 1:9-10
- 12/7:** Isaiah 35:3-4
- 12/8:** Psalm 63:6-8
- 12/9:** Isaiah 40:31
- 12/10:** Isaiah 54:10
- 12/11:** Isaiah 48:17-18
- 12/12:** Psalm 80:3-4
- 12/13:** Zephaniah 3:17
- 12/14:** Psalm 34:18-19
- 12/15:** 1 Peter 2:9
- 12/16:** Luke 6:38
- 12/17:** Matthew 7:21
- 12/18:** Psalm 71:16-17
- 12/19:** Luke 1:38
- 12/20:** Luke 1:45
- 12/21:** Luke 1:51-53
- 12/22:** Mark 1:1
- 12/23:** Matthew 1:20b-23
- 12/24:** John 1:14
- 12/25:** Luke 2:8-12
- 12/26:** Philippians 2:5-7
- 12/27:** 1 Peter 2:9-10
- 12/28:** 1 Peter 2:20-23
- 12/29:** 1 Peter 3:15
- 12/30:** 2 Peter 3:8-9
- 12/31:** Hebrews 13:8

### PARTNERS IN PRAYER

We pray for churches in our Presbytery and in the Presbytery of Nyeri in Kenya, Africa.

**December 5:** Pickens Presbyterian Church; Riverlawn PC, St. Albans; The staff of the Presbytery of WV; Muthuaini PC, Kenya.

**December 12:** Summerlee PC; First PC, Nitro; First PC, Williamstown; Philip Naganatha Memorial PC, Kenya.

**December 19:** First PC, Bluefield; Highlawn PC, St. Albans; First PC, Whitesville; Wandumbi Special School for the Mentally Retarded.

**December 26:** Bridgeport PC; Belle PC; South Park PC; Gatumbiro PC, Kenya.

Congratulations! If you have prayed for the list of churches each month, you have prayed for all of the churches and chapels in the Presbytery of West Virginia!

### SICK, HOSPITALIZED, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER?

Let your church family know of any needs you have. The church has a telephone/e-mail prayer chain, a "pray for" list in the newsletter, and prayers during worship.

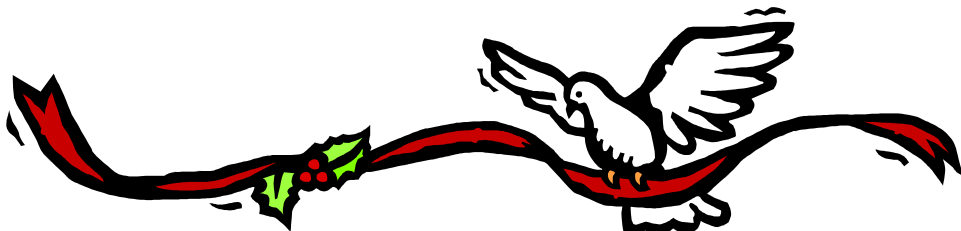
Tell us your concerns or ask a friend to inform us. If you want to tell us about someone else, a friend or family member, be sure to respectfully ask their permission first. You can also confide in one of the pastors and request it be kept confidential. Rev. Jim Roberts maintains the "pray for" list. Please call him at 304-343-8961, ext. 118.

**Christ,**  
the Newborn  
**KING**

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY

### CAN YOU MAKE A DESSERT FOR MANNA MEAL'S CHRISTMAS PARTY?

Manna Meal will have their Christmas party on Saturday, December 18. **We are asking the congregation of First Presby to supply the desserts for 250 people (or 32 desserts).** If you would be available to make a dessert, please contact Vic Burkhammer at **304-543-0119** to let him know. Desserts need to be dropped off at Manna Meal on Friday, December 17 between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or Saturday, December 18 between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. Thank you.



## DECEMBER OFFERINGS

### Sunday, December 19: *Christmas Joy Offering – What Child Is This?*

In the season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.



### Friday, December 24: *Urgent Needs Offering – Joyfully give to those in our Community.*

A portion of the Urgent Needs Offering goes directly to the Emergency Assistance Program operated by Covenant House to be able to provide rent, utilities, travel, medicine, clothing or food for people in the Kanawha Valley who are in a crisis situation. The other portion allows First Presby to provide Charleston Housing rental assistance for people that Covenant House refers to us. At the end of October 2010 there was a 47% increase in the number of people who received Urgent Needs funds from the total number served in 2009. Please give generously.

### Sunday, December 26: *Cents-Ability Offering – Come Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!*

Continue to collect your cents at each meal and bring your collection or loose change to church on December 26 when the Cents-Ability Offering will be received. Twenty-five percent of our Cents-Ability Offering is given to the Covenant House Food Pantry to help with hunger relief in our own community. The balance of the Offering is used for hunger needs within our Presbytery and is also sent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, broadly designated to be used in Africa.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AND

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Middle School Youth (grades 6 – 8) meet in the Activities Building, Room 109. (Directly across the hall from the gym.)

High School Youth (grades 9 - 12) meet in the Youth Lounge, ground floor of the Activities Building. (Across the hall from the Recreation Room.)

Join us for real faith talks  
about real life. And fun!

*Beth Leister, Mary McCoy and others*

### DECEMBER YOUTH GROUP

While details are being worked out, watch your email, call Beth Leister at 304-342-3051, or email [youth@firstpresby.com](mailto:youth@firstpresby.com) for more information.

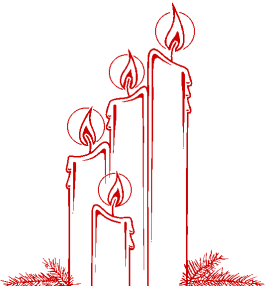
### BAD WEATHER POLICY

If Kanawha County Schools close or dismiss early, church activities are cancelled, unless you are directly notified to the contrary. If schools open late, check with the church office. On days when school is not in session, listen to WCHS-AM 580. When in doubt, please call the church office at 304-343-8961. **PLEASE NOTE: SUNDAY WORSHIP ALWAYS TAKES PLACE.**

### MANNA MEAL NEEDS HELP

Manna Meal will renovate its 1930's kitchen at St. John's Episcopal Church. The renovation will take five months. **During this time, they are looking for groups to prepare one meal a month for them. Manna Meal will provide the food.** The meal may be prepared in advance.

If you, your friends, your Sunday School Class or PW Circle are able to do this, please call the church office at 304-343-8961. Thank you.



Do you want to simplify your life this Christmas?  
Let First Presby be your one stop  
for Corporate or Personal Gifts

### Fair Trade Baskets Make Great Corporate Gifts!

- ✦ We are now taking orders for gift baskets filled with Fair Trade coffee, chocolates and teas.
- ✦ Pam Kuyk prepares the baskets with festive holiday flair. Linda Elliott keeps track of the orders.
- ✦ **Contact Linda at koffeelade@gmail.com today to get started on your corporate giving needs.**

### Imported Olive Oil also makes a wonderful corporate or personal gift.

- ✦ 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil processed the same way it was during ancient times. Fresh and outrageously flavorful! The price point is just right to share with many office employees, your book club friends, or make a beautifully presented gift by wrapping a bottle of Olive Oil in a colorful MayaWorks wine bag. This makes a great hostess gift. You have many options.
- ✦ The fabulous Zatar spice is also available to be given with the olive Oil. Olive Oil and Zatar as well as MayaWorks woven bags are available in the church office.
- ✦ **Please come to the church office for assistance or look for our Olive Oil table set up in the church hallway after worship services on Sundays.**

### Alternative Gift Opportunities

- ✦ Alternative gifts are perfect for the person who has everything, the person who is difficult to shop for, or the person for whom you would like to give a wonderful expression of love. The organizations featured are:
  - ✦ **Bethany Christian Services**
  - ✦ **Children's Home Society of West Virginia**
  - ✦ **International Justice Mission**
  - ✦ **Living Waters for the World**
  - ✦ **La Escuelita (The Little School in Managua, Nicaragua)**
  - ✦ **Mayan Families**
- ✦ All price ranges are available to meet your needs. You will receive a decorative card and/or organization information to send to the person you are honoring. This truly provides a wonderful way to give a personal and impactful gift.
- ✦ **Alternative Gift forms are located in the church hallway or in the church office. Take the completed form to the church office and get a gift card.**

### Nicaraguan Flood Response: Cupola with Cross Photos

- ✦ As a way to raise money for the flood victims, Curt Marble is offering reprints of his photos of the new cross atop the cupola. Beautiful!
- ✦ Two sizes (5 x 7 and 8 x 10) will be available.
- ✦ **See the photo display in the church hallway. Place your order in the church office.**



## OVERSEAS MISSION NEWS: "A MARVELOUS THING" IN NORTH KOREA

Sue Kinsler is one of the mission workers partially supported by First Presbyterian Church. Sue and her husband, Art, have been living in South Korea for many years. Art is now a "retired" pastor doing volunteer work.

**Last May, Sue took a group of eight Korean-Americans on her third trip this year to North Korea.** The trip was at the time the Korean peninsula was in turmoil over the explosion that sank the South Korean naval ship Cheonan. Visiting with the helping hands of Christians, Sue's group kept on with their planned visit to help needy North Koreans and further peaceful relationships, convinced that this is the Lord's work.

They were met by three officials of the Overseas Koreans Aid Committee at Pyongyang Airport. Despite the international tension, they found once again a warm reception and helpful cooperation.

Sunday worship included more than 50 foreigners and 300 local members at Pyongyang's Bongsoo Church. Invited to give a musical number, Sue and Elder Shin sang "Have Thine Own Way Lord." The pastor commented that Sue Kinsler visits so often that she is like a church member!

**Their visit included time at Mirim Orphanage-School** with its 580 orphans, where rice, flour, cooking oil and kitchen utensils have been sent by Sue from Seoul.



Students at Kangwon School, one of 11 special education schools helped by the Kinslers, are learning sign language.

**They also visited the Potonggang Sheltered Workshops,** where Sue and organization officials talked about the North's interest in increasing similar workshops to train more persons with disabilities in response to the high quality of tailoring, hair dressing, watch and shoe repair done at the workshops.

At the nearby city of Kaeseong, they celebrated with Kwonsa Grace Lee, who was now able to visit her hometown after 60 years.

**In the city of Sariwon, the group handed over 350 sets of clothes and bath soap** brought in their luggage for young orphans in two orphanages.

In Wonsan, they stopped at the Kangwon School for the Hearing Impaired and visited in each classroom. The school is expanding their student body and programs such as computer, handicraft and artwork training. for boarding young persons 12 to 22 years old.

Also in Wonsan, they saw three-wheel motorcycle delivery carts controlled only by hand, some of which had been paid for by the repeat visitors on this trip. "What a blessing to talk with those who had lost legs to accidents but now could be gainfully employed! Those with artificial legs drive delivery motorcycles with hand controls!" wrote Sue.

Back in Pyongyang they saw pictures verifying the arrival of the 100 wheelchairs donated by Elder Park, which had been sent ahead, along with 25 tons of corn flour. They were hosted by the department head of the inviting agency for a dinner and discussion of how they shine God's light by helping needy children and the disabled, even in the face of the difficult political situation.

**This work of giving humanitarian aid is able to continue despite other tightening restrictions, because the need for food and other necessities is as great as ever.**



Kwonsa Mina Won embraces some of the orphans she has been helping by providing food and other needed supplies.

"As Christians we feel constrained to help the least ones in North Korea, who are in so many ways victims. We ask for your prayers and support," wrote Sue and Art.

Escorting concerned persons to North Korea takes a lot of contacting and phone calls to set up, but God moves people's hearts when they see with their own eyes those in need and are welcomed by those serving to make the projects work — both government-provided project staff and officials. Permission to visit is easiest when Sue takes overseas Koreans to visit.

**"Somehow in this work,"  
Sue and Art wrote,  
"God has been doing a  
marvelous thing - providing  
food that after several years  
makes the children healthy,  
demonstrating that people  
with disabilities can make  
a contribution, and  
bringing relationships  
that enhance the hope  
for peace on the  
peninsula."**

**Yours in the name of Jesus  
who makes us all one,**

**Sue and Art Kinsler**  
kinsler@gmail.com

## HAVE A "GREEN" CHRISTMAS!

"It's estimated that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans generate an extreme one million tons of waste a week." (Green Guide. National Geographic) A week! One way to describe going "green" is to reduce the amount of natural resources we use and reduce the amount of waste. Below are some ideas to consider this holiday season.

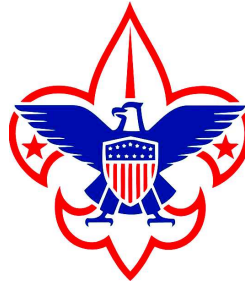
### GREEN GIFTING IDEAS

- Choose durable, earth-friendly gifts.
- Buy children's gifts that are made from natural materials.
- Make gifts or buy those made from recyclable, recycled materials.
- Buy Fair Trade-Certified gifts.
- Give gifts that spread the word about conservation.
- Reuse boxes, gift containers, gift wrap, ribbons and greeting cards.

### GREEN CELEBRATION IDEAS

- Choose green cards and decorations.
- Buy recycled paper or tree-free cards and wrapping paper. (Example: <http://interfaith.equalexchange.com>)
- Make your own from recyclable and recycled materials. (About.com has lots of ideas.)
- Avoid plastic and synthetic decorations.
- Look for organic, locally grown food.
- Enjoy a live potted holiday tree and decorate it with energy-efficient lights and homemade ornaments.
- Buy cut trees locally and re-cycle or re-purpose them.

## BOY SCOUTS: TROOP 5 NEWS



In 2007, the membership in Troop 5 had dropped to dangerously low levels (5 boys). Today, a mere 3 years later, Troop 5 is back on its feet and moving forward. The roster this fall included 14 boys ranging in age from 11 to 16 years of age.

This fall, the boys have been working on rank advancements and have gone camping in Kanawha State Forest and taken a day trip to Fayetteville, WV for a day of Zip Lining.

**On Tuesday, November 30, Troop 5 held a Court of Honor in the Chapel where 10 boys were awarded 46 merit badges that were primarily earned during summer camp and during this fall.**

In addition, ten boys in total will be recognized for completing the necessary requirements to move on to the next rank. **The following list gives the names of boys advancing in rank and the rank they received.**

Perry Nassif	Scout
Matthew Callaghan	Tenderfoot
Evan Kerr	Second Class
Tait Taylor	Second Class
Austin Clark	First Class
Davis Giles	First Class
Taylor Giles	First Class
Adam Kerr	First Class
Noah Hackman	Star
Jacob McLaughlin	Star



**If you want to join the conspiracy - the Advent Conspiracy - to take back Christmas from consumerism and mindless spending, we encourage you to consider giving a gift that makes a difference in someone's life.**

**One way to do this is to make a donation in honor of a family member or a friend. Read below for alternative gift ideas that are a part of our congregation's mission involvement.**

Living Waters for the World provides clean water to communities in Nicaragua.

International Justice Mission secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation, and other forms of violent repression by working with local officials to ensure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, prosecuting perpetrators, and promoting functioning public justice systems.

Bethany Christian Services and Children's Home Society of West Virginia provide meaning and hope to at-risk, neglected, abused, and otherwise homeless/hopeless children both in West Virginia and around the world.

Maya Families, in the Highlands of Guatemala, operates a variety of programs including education, medical assistance, food, and front-line assistance during natural disasters, providing a hand-up to needy Mayan people within their communities.

La Escuelita (The Little School) provides medical checkups, basic education and school supplies, and a hot lunch every day to children in Managua, Nicaragua.

**Through alternative gift-giving we, as a congregation, can make a significant difference.**

Yellow order forms are available from the main hallway information table.

**Christmas can still change the world!**



## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

JOIN A MUSICAL GROUP, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER!

### FROM MARY ODIN

The Covenant Kids are learning the Ten Commandments, and several weeks ago we discussed the one about graven images. Most of us never feel the faintest urge to worship the carved image of an animal, so it can be hard to imagine breaking that commandment. Yet we do, in our own ways, just about every day.

Recently, a church member asked me to play a Bach fugue for his father's funeral, just two days away. There was a time in my college years when I practiced ten or eleven hours every day. I skipped classes and took breaks only for occasional meals and for 2½ hours of orchestra rehearsals every afternoon. I was there when the practice rooms opened at 6:00 a.m., and I was there when they closed at 11:00 p.m. So the other day, I sat at the bench and recalled my old practice skills, determined to use my limited hours efficiently: Learn the fugue subject in all four voices, in all keys, forward, backward, upside-down, double-time, half-time; master the exposition, find the large arc of the work, identify moments of stress and release, pace and polish the ending. So much work, so little time.

J.S. Bach was a church organist and choirmaster in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some people think of him as a big, fancy composer of high-brow music, but he identified himself primarily as a Christian and wrote his music for worship out of gratitude and devotion to his Creator. He was one of us.

As I practiced, I found every run more beautiful than the one before. When the final chord sounded, I began again without missing a beat. Over and over, it was beautiful, complex, and irresistible. The hours flew by. I skipped lunch. I drove home and practiced through dinner. I practiced into the night while the Babies were sleeping. I got up early to practice for an hour before going to church. At church, the power went off for a few hours, so I practiced in the chapel by candlelight. *Just like my brother, Bach*, I thought. My fingers flew through the darkness, and the fugue subject finally became second-nature to my normally sluggish left hand. The four strands chased one another across the page, up and down, in loops and lines, faster and faster. Whole sections now seemed to play themselves. *Thank God for musical notation, or I couldn't be doing this. My brother, Bach, and I are making music together, across almost three centuries. How intoxicating!*

*Engravers, the Holy Spirit whispered, made this image on the page for you. Enjoy its form and beauty, but only as it points to Me, the Creator of all that is beautiful. Throw yourself into the work, yes, but remember the One Who gave it to you.*

So much of what we see and do during December is only an image. Even our favorite family traditions have the potential to become idols for us. When nostalgia and good feelings draw us in, we should enjoy them fully, but we must look beyond them in gratitude to the One Who gave them. **Everything good—all the food, the Christmas carols, the happy times past and present—are ours only because that Baby came.** Remember the One Who gave Himself to you.

*Merry Christmas!*

### GENEVA CHOIR

Geneva Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 in the Choir Room. Last month, we helped raise nearly \$3000 for the Davis Child Shelter when we hosted the Fourth Annual Charleston Area Choir Festival. This month, we will sing in Lessons and Carols worship on December 12 and in the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. To join us, just come to rehearsal!

### WORSHIP TEAM

This ensemble uses voice, guitar, and other instruments to accompany congregational song at both worship services on Sundays. We rehearse on Wednesdays. This month, we also plan to play at Oglebay Park on December 5 and in the Christmas Celebration on Wednesday, evening December 15 at 6:15 p.m.

### CHERUB CHOIR AND MUSIC OF THE ANGELS

Our children's choirs rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir (grades K-2) meets downstairs with Debbie Eads in the Susie Early Room. Music of the Angels (grades 3 and up) meets in Room E-305 with Mary Odin. We will rehearse on Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Both choirs will sing in Lessons and Carols worship on December 12 and in the Tableau service at 5:00 p.m. Dec. 24.

### FPC LYRES CLUB

Our folk harp players rehearse in the Ruffner Room on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. On December 14, we will play for Kanawha County Seniors after lunchtime in lieu of our evening rehearsal. To join us, contact Mary Odin at [modin@firstpresby.com](mailto:modin@firstpresby.com). No previous experience is necessary; instruments and music are available through the church.

### PRESBY THESPIES

This group offers dramatic gifts to God in worship and other settings. To add your name to the list of actors available for occasional, short-term commitments, contact director Carole Carter. All ages are invited.

### CAPELLA BELL CHOIR

The Capella Bells rehearse on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with director Kathy Lynch. This month, we will play in Lessons and Carols worship on December 12 and at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service.

### 2011 Montreat Worship and Music Conference: June 19-25, 2011

Eleven of our 19 beds in Chestnut Lodge are filled. **Let Mary Odin know your plans to attend this life-changing week of worship, Bible study, music, and the arts near Asheville, NC.** Adults, youth, and children (rising grade 4 and up) may register; Child care and clubs for ages 6 months through high school is free for all children of conferees. Room and board costs are around \$150 for the week; the conference ranges from \$250 (child/youth registering early) to \$460 (adult registering late). Scholarships are available. **Conference registration begins on Dec. 15.** Leave your \$100 housing deposit in the church office.



# December 2010

*Rejoice*  
Emmanuel has come!

			WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			<b>1</b> 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Property Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:15 Christian Education Div. 5:45 Wednesday Connections 6:45 Deacons 6:45 Mission Division 6:45 Personnel Division 6:45 Worship Division 7:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 Worship Music Team	<b>2</b> 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore study 10:00 PW Coordinating Team 11:30 PW Bible Moderators <b>5:15 Coordinating Council</b> 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Geneva Choir	<b>3</b> 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Ruffner Class Luncheon 2:00 Senior Exercise	<b>4</b> Presbytery meeting at First Presby, Bluefield
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY				
<b>5</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Advent Workshop 11:00 Worship	<b>6</b> 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Ballroom Dancing	<b>7</b> 9:30 Tuesday Study Group 5:30 Lyres 7:15 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Elder Examination 5:00 Finance Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:15 Child and Family Committee 5:30 PW Rebecca Dinner Circle 5:45 Wednesday Connections <b>6:45 Session</b> 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	<b>9</b> 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's study 10:00 PW Mary Circle at Edgewood Summit 10-1:00 Shepherd's Center programs and luncheon 12:00 Martha Circle 5:30 Bell Choir <b>6:45 Blue Christmas Worship Service</b> 7:30 Geneva Choir	<b>10</b> 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise <b>6:00 Six Great Dates</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent:</b> <b>Lessons and Carols</b> 8:45 Worship 9:45 Inquirers' Class 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Stop by the Cablish Room for a blood pressure check. <b>12:00 Tableau Costuming</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Ballroom Dancing	<b>14</b> 9:30 Tuesday Study Group <b>12:00 Preschool Christmas Worship</b> 7:15 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics <b>12:00 Preschool Christmas Worship</b> 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Fellowship and Rec. Div. 5:00 Visitors/New Members Div. 5:15 Children's Choirs <b>5:30 Wednesday Connections dinner</b> <b>6:15 Christmas Celebration,</b> <b>7:00 Caroling on Trolleys</b> <b>7:45 Hot Chocolate, Rec. Room</b> (January Newsletter Deadline)	<b>16</b> 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore Study 10:30 PW Hannah Circle 10:30 PW Ruth Circle 11:30 Prayer Group <b>12:00 PW Luncheon</b> 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Geneva Choir	<b>17</b> 7:00 Men's Group 8:30 Aerobics 11:30 Trinity Class Luncheon 2:00 Senior Exercise	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent:</b> <b>Christmas Joy Offering</b> 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 2:00 Tableau Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9:30 Tuesday Study Group <b>7:00 Alzheimers Support Group</b> 7:15 Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise No Wednesday Connections	<b>23</b> 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Beth Moore Study 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Geneva Choir	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Urgent Needs Offering and Worship:</b> <b>5:00 Tableau and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 
<b>26</b> <b>Cents-Ability Offering</b> 11:00 Worship (No Sunday School)	<b>27</b> Church Buildings Closed	<b>28</b> Church Buildings Closed	<b>29</b> Church Buildings Closed	<b>30</b> Church Buildings Closed	<b>31</b> <b>"Goodnight" Musical Program</b> <b>6:00-10:00</b>	

# Merry Christmas

PEACE • LOVE • JOY • PEACE • LOVE • JOY

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### SYMPATHY TO:

Jimmy Dale King on the death of his aunt; Zack Mazey on the death of his father; Jo Ann Sparks on the death of her brother; Lance Wolfe on the death of his father.

### CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS:

Jim Scherr; Doug Chambers' father; Donna Hawkins, mother of Les; Hattie Alford, mother of Dawn Hawkins; Larry and Nancy Moles, friends of Roger Kerr; Del Preslar; Coleen Kimball, sister of Jackie Lilly; Mary Helen Tully's mother; Carolyn and Ron Vogelbach; Libby Cowgill, sister-in-law of Candy Strader; Jon Stoecklin; Naomi Jones, friend of Claude Churchwell; Paul Trotter; Rebecca, sister of Marilyn Biggers; Louise Stephenson; Shaina Riggall, friend of Nancy Winefordner; Roy Robertson, uncle of Mary Helen Tully; John Friend; Celia and Walker Hinkle, baby twin cousins of Steve Slack; Patrick Pezoulas; Marlin Hall; Vicki Bridges; Lesley Haddad Meadows, friend of Candy Strader; Judy Mathews Schulze, twin sister of Frank Mathews.

## EXTENDED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Pat Miller; Karen White's son-in-law; Helen Blair; Ruth Gates; Betty Childers.

## LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Barbara Klingler, mother of Chris; Sophia Slack, daughter of Sandy and Steve Slack; Teresa O'Connor, daughter-in-law of Lisa and Otis; Ruth Pitchford; Leslie Meadows, neighbor of Jenny Pitchford; Traci McVey, granddaughter of Ruth Gates; Helen Davis, mother of Anne Keller; Susan Slater, friend of Claude Churchwell; Marsha Cornell, friend of Amy Keller; Janet Riddle, friend of Sally Slicer; Cleo Kennedy, mother of Barbara Brown; Jeanne Weil, friend of Barbara Brown; Steve Carcaterra, friend of Bill McCoy; Jane and John Lewis, friends of Bill McCoy; Craig Christensen, nephew of Dave Christensen; Kim Thompson, friend of Sandy Zando; Mary Murphy, mother of Perry Keller's friend, Tim; Rhea Essa, her son Ramsey, and her brother, Jeff, friends of Toni Clendenin; Susan Petryszak, friends of Marie and John Nesius; Michelle Swanson, Dick Golden's step granddaughter; Leigh Ann Hesson, friend of Sandy Zando; Kathy Goble; Sue Place, friend of Sandy Zando; Mary McFarland, sister of Sarah McGriff; Sandy McGriff, daughter-in-law of Sarah and Mac; Phyllis Dowd, friend of Lindsey McCoy; Eleanor

Hemphill, mother of Barbara Hopta; Kara Bruning, friend of Barbara Gessner; Sylvia Grandall; Betty Holland; George Hamrick; Aaron Owen, son of Tammie; June and Art Turner, and their son Jarrod, friends of Bob Welty; Jeanne Persinger, sister of Truman Chafin; Tammy Rhodes, friend of Pat Doumaux; Dr. Audrey Farley, daughter of Elizabeth and John Lambros; Eleanor Scott; Edwin Scherr, father of Jim; Laura, daughter of Tom Bulla; Chaun Rong Tsao, brother-in-law of Howard Doumaux; Jack Gastineau; Candy Galyean; Joseph Sprouse; Charles Hendricks; Charlie Young.

### *In Memoriam*

**Louise B. Rosenbaum**

*October 29, 2010*

**Phillip H. Goodwin**

*October 30, 2010*

**Betty Ann Morton**

*November 9, 2010*

**John A. Hopkins III**

*November 10, 2010*